

- **Meeting Date:** 25 July 2023
- **Meeting Time:** 11:00 am-12:30 pm
- **Location:** IOM Conference Room, Erbil & Remote connection via Teams

Attendance: RWG/ IOM, WFP/ Head of BAG Field Office, International Medical Corps, IVY Japan Organization, UNAMI - Development Support Office, UNOCHA, UNAMI- DSO, NPA, IOM, AGO, NRC, Tdh – Laussane, GIZ, NCCI, Blumont, ACF, Malteser International, UNICEF, WRO, NRC/DSTWG, IRC, CESVI, Baghdad Organization of women and children, REACH, War Child, MSF Switzerland, and Mercy Corps.

Agenda:

1. **Introduction and adoption of minutes:** Review of June minutes
 2. **Context Update:** DTM Updates: Climate Emergency Tracking and Sinjar Emergency Tracking; and RWG Field Update.
 3. **IRC Presentation:** IRC Iraq's Protection Needs Overview: October 2022 – March 2023
 4. **IOM DTM Presentation:** Progress Towards Durable Solutions Survey for Sinjar District
 5. **DSTWG Update:** DS Updates
 6. **AOB**
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1. **Introduction and adoption of minutes:** Review of previous minutes; Follow up on action points from the previous meeting.
 - No pending action points.
 - Endorsement of the previous meeting minutes.

2. **Context Update: DTM Updates: Climate Emergency Tracking and Sinjar Emergency Tracking; and RWG Field Update**

(Please refer to the full presentation link for further details)

Climate Emergency Tracking – Trends and Updates

Shelter

- Primarily displacing to urban areas
- Largely residing in private housing
- Critical shelters continue to be concentrated in Afaq, Diwaniya, Hamza in (Qadissiya), Al-Midaina in Basrah.

Time trends

- As of June, slightly fewer individuals displaced in 2023 compared to June 2022
- Based on 2022 patterns, we expect to see a large increase next round (June-Sept 2023)

Discussion

- Question: Concerning the water quality information, such as the drop in inflow from about 1200 to 160, was an analysis done on how it has been in past years since the reduction of water during the summer is not uncommon?
 - DTM: The data was collected from the local government; DTM is going to determine whether there are comparisons with previous years and get back to you.
 - IOM TRD: It is worth noting that REACH conducted a study last year on the impact of climate change and the displacement as a result of climate change, in collaboration with ACF. The study included maps that show the changes in the water level, vegetation, and precipitation.
- Question: Has the difficulty of accessing infrastructures, namely WASH facilities or other services been mentioned as a reason for people to decide to leave the camps since such services will be handed over to authorities?
 - DTM: Limited Access to infrastructure has been classified as a protracted displacement concern in DTM Tracking, rather than as an independent indicator/reason for departures.
- Question: Partners in Mosul and Sinjar Area-based coordination groups were inquiring about how to obtain this information from DTM on a monthly basis, for example, to learn about the progression of returns, particularly in the Sinjar area.
 - DTM: Please contact iraqdtm@iom.int with your request and DTM can provide the data set at the location level.
- Question: The number of returnees per month obviously decreased from June to July. Has DTM observed an underlying trend in lower returns, or is it simply that the data just covers the first two weeks of July?
 - DTM is unable to make such a determination. The figures reflect a large number of locations, but DTM still lacks the capacity to cover every area with each update. However, roughly 60% to 70% of the area was covered. Additionally, the June figures are now fully displayed in the July updates. Thus, you might probably find data for July in the August update.

- Question: Does DTM know if the partners are mostly implementing pre-shock initiatives to mitigate and avoid climate-inducing displacement or whether they are primarily implementing post-shock responses?
 - DTM: There are certain initiatives being carried out by partners, such as drilling wells. It is anticipated that significantly more individuals will be displaced in the upcoming month. IOM also offers certain services and activities in the South Central in response to climate-induced displacements.
- Question: Can DTM provide an explanation for why the returnees' DTM data and MOMD data don't match?
 - DTM: It is incomparable since MoMD and DTM each use distinct registration and location assessment methods and criteria, respectively. Families with missing documents, such as a QI card, are not considered for registration, although the IOM counts them. Consequently, IOM often has a bigger number than MoMD figures. The sample applies to returns. Many IDPs have returned to their neighborhoods, however, they are still not registered with MoMD as returnees.

RWG Field Update

Evictions from Mu'skarat Camp

- SAD government has gotten all approvals from the security agencies to move the 55 families from the Al-Mu'sakarati camp to the low-cost camp in the district of Alam in the SAD.
- The eviction is supposed to be carried out at the end of July or August.
- Ministry of Defense is supposed to take the location to accommodate the 21st division of the Iraqi Army.
- IDPs are facing political, security, livelihood, and housing challenges to return to their AoOs, mostly Kirkuk and SAD.

Discussion

- Question: When it comes to the East Mosul camps, families who are missing their IDs cannot leave the camp and return to their areas since MoMD cannot issue them a return certificate, correct?
 - RWG: Unfortunately, they are unable to depart. MoMD needs any document with a photo to process the departure letter, with the exception of children, who may use a letter of support from the camp administration, There is no requirement for all household members to have an ID to pass the checkpoint, but just the head of the household to cross the checkpoint, and actors operating in the camps, mostly UNHCR, ought to strive to provide households with at least the head of the household with a document to cross the checkpoints.
- Question: Do you differentiate between those who return to their region's origins and those who relocate elsewhere?
 - RWG: When there are moves through the FVM relocation, IOM TRD does not label the relocation as secondary displacement since it is a voluntary decision made by the household and they anticipate relocation as a preferred durable solution pathway.

3. IRC Presentation: Iraq's Protection Needs Overview: October 2022- March 2023

(Please refer to the full presentation link for further details)

Basic Needs

The majority of households reported facing difficulties in accessing public services, with no significant improvements over the 6-month monitoring period. Cost of services and transportation costs are significant barriers. Livelihoods and healthcare are primary needs in communities.

Vulnerable Populations

- Q1 2023 showed that 41% of respondents witnessed exploitation against specific groups or individuals, a vast increase from Q4 2022.
- Around 14% of respondents indicated that the security situation in their areas was 'unsafe' or 'very unsafe', with women and girls reporting risks of SGBV.
- PWDs continue to face heightened vulnerabilities such as restricted movement, lack of appropriate services, and far distance of services.

Displacement

Majority (47% in Q4 2022, 55% in Q1 2023) of respondents indicated a lack of willingness to return to areas of origin, due to lack of shelter, lack of livelihoods, lack of access to services, and community tensions.

Civil Documentation

In Q4 of 2022, 60% of HHs reported missing civil documentation with the highest needs in IDP returnee communities. Q1 of 2023 saw improvement, with only 27% of respondents indicating missing civil documentation. Increased access to documentation, however, did not translate to the ability to register with MOMD or MOLSA for services (Q4 '22=40% not registered, Q1 '23=52% not registered).

Discussion

- Question: For the protection monitoring data collected for returnees, how representative is the sample of individuals who have left J1 and J5, and is IRC able to access the whole data or contact the households?
 - IRC: From a methodological perspective, the extrapolation is based on who contacts IRC, IRC's areas of operations, and observation rather than a scientific sampling methodology for the returnees from J5 and J1. IRC previously disseminated the IRC Protection hotline, and hence the majority of the calls that IRC received from J5, the contact details of the households were registered.
- Question: The findings revealed that regarding child labor, on average 30% of surveyed households had at least one child working who was involved in any informal trash collection or hazardous activities. Is there a breakdown of the types of Labor that children are involved in and is there any kind of indication?
 - IRC: The overview IRC made available to the public is generic. IRC has further breakdowns in some circumstances, therefore, if you have specific requests for further breakdown. You can email IRC directly at Samar.Abboud@rescue.org.
- Question: On individual members of families who are affiliated with ISIS, could IRC elaborate on what further challenges that particular group is facing?
 - IRC: The majority of the surveyed returnees were families with a perceived affiliation with the extremist group. The challenges they confront included being unable to return to their original areas and the community's rejection. As a result, some were secondary re-displaced to the informal displacement side. These groups encounter the risk of arbitrary arrest and are unable to review any government directorates. Aside from, local NGOs refusal to support them.

4. IOM DTM Presentation: Progress Towards Durable Solutions Survey for Sinjar District

(Please refer to the full presentation link for further details)

- This project aims to measure the progress towards achieving durable solutions for the displaced population to understand where they stand five years after the end of the conflict.
- This assessment goes across five domains: 1) safety and security; 2) adequate standards of living; 3) access to livelihoods; 4) restoration of housing, land, and property and compensation and 5) personal documentation and participation. As such, it considers not only IDPs' and returnees' quality of life but also their ability to exercise their rights and obtain justice for harms linked to their displacement, such as housing destruction.

Discussion

- Question: Is the benchmark for measuring if progress has been made the index rating of the stayees indicated in the initial slides?

DTM: This new sort of methodology that DTM is piloting in Ninawa, now in SAD with the notion being that there has been a lot of discussion in Iraq about when this reintegration ends, and when displacement ceases. There has been a lot of posturing around, well, if individuals reach the same level, benchmark. There have been previous attempts to do so using data from 2012 and other approaches, but it is not DTM's position to make that case. It's more like, here's where the evidence shows us the degrees of bring integration that DTM has or integration across at a very granular level. Now there are differences, particularly in different areas of the criteria, and moreover, those Stayees aren't meeting all of the 8 sustainable criteria for reintegration or integration themselves, even though they weren't displaced. So DTM just bringing evidence conversation, DTM is building more qualitative information around this, but at least we have something solid to rest on in terms of statistical evidence on this.

DTM took a sample of stayees out of 8500 collected across Ninawah, with 30- 35% of them being stayees. When we compare IDPs, Returnees, and Stayees, we can see that 1.5 in several domains is roughly at the same level.

5. DSTWG and ABC Updates

(Please refer to the full presentation link for further details)

DS Compact

- The Compact discussions are ongoing.
- In June, there were discussions with Government, with MoP/MoMD agreeing to lead the process from the government side.
- Relevant agencies and organizations are to engage with their line ministry counterparts in the coming months to negotiate the final content of the compact and discuss common areas of concern.

MoMD Workshop on Local Integration (Northern, Central, and KRI)

- Work towards the development of coherent SOPs for registration and disbursement of grants for IDPs opting for local integration and relocation building current SOPs
- Sharing of best practices and learning outcomes towards a better understanding of national and international frameworks

6. AOB

- Following the immediate re-displacement that occurred on April 17th in Jeddah 5 Camp, the needs of the 185 families that are based in the four villages of Hawasim remain substantial and continue to deteriorate, particularly amidst the sweltering summer heat, with minimal response in the location. RWG is urgently seeking any available resources, specifically Non-Food Items (NFI) and cash assistance, to provide support to these families.
- Next RWG meeting is scheduled for **August 29, 2023**.