

Durable Solutions Technical Working Group (DSTWG) – Summary of Meeting #26 on 12 January 2023

Co-chairs: Precillar, Rene, and Susan

Members attended: UNDP, IOM, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, REACH, ICRC, SIF, NCCI, OCHA, Cash Working Group/PIN, GIZ, NRC, RCO Office, DSO

Overview and Agenda

- Tour de Table
- Action Points from the December Meeting
- Presentation and Discussion – Sinjar Land Ownership Developments (UN Habitat)
- DSTWG General Updates
 - DSTWG Update
 - Subgroup Updates
- ABC Groups General Update
- A.O.B.

Action Points from December 2022

- DSTWG co-chairs to disseminate DSTWG workplan for members to volunteer to take some of the work streams ([done](#)).
 - IOM have volunteered to take the workstream on the response plan for blocked areas, and is willing to work with other organizations on this.
 - DSTWG will re-circulate the workplan for members to indicate their interest in taking up the workstreams they deem fit.
- DSTWG to follow up with the post cluster sectors on potential linkages with the DS structure (pending).

UN-Habitat Presentation – Supporting Yazidi’s Land Rights in Iraq

Approach of UN-Habitat in supporting Yazidi’s HLP rights

- To respond to immediate needs while preparing for comprehensive, durable, and long-term solutions.
- Mapping and registering the HLP claims of the Yazidi minority.
- Strengthen the capacity of municipalities with regards to land administration, including registrars and cadasters.
- The deployment of the Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM).

Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM)

- STDM is a pro-poor, participatory, and affordable land tool for mapping, registering, and capturing people to land relationships along the continuum of land rights.
- The tool allows for:
 - The creation of linkages between land units and data
 - Importing and creating maps and boundaries of land parcels
 - Defining tenure relationships between persons, institution, and plots
 - Assessing tenure relationship
 - Designing reports and certificates

Mapping of Claims

- Using mobile technologies to map and register HLP claims of HHs on the spot/land/house.
- Demarcation/plot boundaries were marked on satellite map.



- Boundaries presented and discussed with neighbors and community leaders for validation.
- Data integrated into the STDM tool to facilitate the recognition of informal rights.
- Data verified with local authorities.

Delivery of Certificates

- Certificates include a map of the plot, photo and names of the family, an explanation of the occupancy right nature of the document, and signatures by co-occupants/co-owners as well as local authorities at various levels.
- The certificates have several security layers including an automatically generated barcode to ensure there is no chance to duplicate or forge the certificates.
- The project places a strong emphasis on gender, with the wife and husband registered as co-owners for the first time. All family members are also registered as a joint-ownership to ensure all their HLP rights are protected.
- Occupancy certificates are also validated by the federal government.
- So far, more than 14,500 occupancy certificates have been issued to Yazidi HHs, with 11 collective townships included in the program.
- 668 occupancy certificates have been issued to female-headed households, while 1,436 have been issued to disabled individuals.
- All property data has been handed over to local authorities and to the Council of Ministers, while local authorities have also been trained by UN-Habitat on land management and land governance to ensure that authorities are able to work directly with Yazidi households in the future.

Recognition of Yazidi HLP Rights

- On 27th December 2022, the Council of Ministers approved the legal decree to grant HLP rights to Yazidis.
- The next steps would be working with local authorities and donors on how to implement and formalize the decree.

Discussion

- Sinjar DSO: According to the municipality director of Sinuni, there is a restoration fee of IQD 10,000 per square meter, and many people are unable to pay this amount.
 - UN-Habitat: UN-Habitat is working closely with the local authorities on finding a modality to cover this amount, to ensure that Yazidis don't have a financial burden which they are unable to pay.
- Sinjar DSO: Since the mentioned displacement started in 1975, if one family was displaced at that time, now the family would have branched to 20-30 families with just one person having the right for the registration and ownership of the land. This can be a cause of conflict between these families.
 - UN-Habitat: Land rights have been registered on behalf of the husband and wife as well as all family members. Therefore, in the 11 collective townships that have been covered, there is no case where land rights have been registered to one person.
- Sinjar DSO: The municipality director also explained that 8,500 HHs have registered in the complexes, but about 21,000 houses are informal. The government's instructions would be to remove these houses, while they have the right for ownership over the land.
 - UN-Habitat: In Sinuni alone, 8,500 HHs have been registered while across all 11 collective townships, 14,500 HHs have been registered. This is an ongoing process which should be completed for the 11

townships in two months. Regarding those residing outside the 11 collective townships, UN-Habitat has brought this to the attention of the government, while it should be kept in mind that the decision issued in 1917 very much related to the 11 collective townships. Previously, the government hasn't authorized registration outside these townships, but following the success of the project, discussions are ongoing with the government to map and register the land rights of houses and lands outside the boundaries of the 11 collective townships.

- UNDP: Following the step of issuing the occupancy certificates, what will the next steps entail and possible timelines and what has been the general feeling of the government on this project?
 - UN-Habitat: The local authorities and federal government have been extremely supportive and welcoming of this process. Next steps, following the legal decree, a committee is now being established with the government, local authorities, and the governor of Ninewa on developing a strategy, modalities, and roadmap. Since 2018, 14,500 claims have been mapped and registered, but with this experience and lessons learned, the process moving forward should be even faster.
- IOM: What are the implications of the new law on the properties in the villages of origin where people came from to the collective townships?
 - UN-Habitat: The legal decree specifically emphasizes that the ownership will only be given to the HHS or owners who own property in the collective townships, and explicitly names the collective townships. Therefore, the legal decree is not applicable outside of the collective townships. People who are from different areas who own a property within the collective townships will indeed have their land rights recognized and formalized.

DSTWG General Updates

Subgroup Updates

Housing & HLP Subgroup

- Working on "Housing and HLP in Informal Settlements" document.
 - This document will explain what informal settlements are, what kind of informal settlements exist, how Iraqi law deals with informal settlements and incorporates them into formal settlements, the sites of informal settlements in Iraq, and guidelines for aid actors on providing basic services in informal settlements.
 - Housing and HLP partners will be working with local authorities and the communities to make sure that humanitarian principles and do no harm principles are protected, with no negative consequences when services are provided

For any questions on this update or the presentation above, please contact Muslim Qazimi at muslim.qazimi@un.org

TCC Subgroup

- Next TCC meeting on January 23rd.
- Main issues being worked on is the slight disagreement between the NSA and MOMD regarding the AI-Hol and J1 reintegration file.
- TCC is working with UNCIEF and the UN Institute for Disarmament Research on a research partnership to monitor the reintegration process of returnees with perceived affiliation.
- Social cohesion and conflict assessments have been shared, and are live documents for the ABCs primarily but can be accessed on the DSTWG focal points teams group.

- January 17th: Civil Society Engagement event to take place with Mosul ABC focal points, aiming to engage with civil society and understand the perceptions on conflict drivers as well as how civil society engages with durable solutions.
- January 22nd: There will be a brief to the UN Working Group and the TCC on social cohesion recommendations.
- January 24th: Event looking at social cohesion and conflict sensitivity with ABC focal points.

Sustainable Livelihoods Subgroup

- NGO and UN members of the subgroup were endorsed during the last meeting
 - NGOs: Women Empowerment Organization, Harikar, Save the Children, IRC, Oxfam
 - UN agencies: UNHCR, UNDP, IOM, WFP
- Emails have been sent to government representatives from the Chamber of Commerce in GOI and KRG, who seem interested in participating in the work of the subgroup.
- The subgroup has also reached out to representatives from ILO and USAID for membership as the 5th UN agency representative.
- USAID has joined GIZ as donor representative of the subgroup.
- First meeting to focus on the election of the co-chairs (one UN agency and one NGO as per the TOR).

DSTWG Update

- The Humanitarian Transition Strategy, shared by OCHA, has been circulated with partners for inputs.
 - OCHA: Inputs have been provided by most agencies, with the deadline on January 5th which was extended by a few days for late agencies. Once approved by the HC, the strategy will be shared widely.
- Drafting of the option 6 paper ie the Joint Humanitarian Development Government Transition Paper is ongoing, and is being supported by Lisa Monaghan (monaghanlisa@outlook.com). She may reach out to DSTWG members for information or inputs.

ABC Groups General Updates

- All 8 POAs are completed in English and Arabic, and can be found on the Iraq Durable Solutions website (<https://iraqdurablesolutions.net>).
- POAs are currently undergoing a revision process
 - Kirkuk: Roundtable meeting scheduled for February 1st, where the revision of the Hawija POA will be discussed as well as the drafting of the Debes and Daquq POA. Community consultations are ongoing.
 - Salah al-Din: Roundtable meeting scheduled for January 22nd. Community consultations are ongoing.
 - West Anbar: Roundtable meeting was scheduled for January 17th, but has been postponed until further notice. Community consultations are ongoing.
 - East Anbar: Roundtable meeting date TBC, community consultations are ongoing.
 - Ba'aj: Meeting on January 15th to discuss POA revision and community consultations.
 - Diyala: Meeting on January 11th with government officials, followed by a separate meeting to take place to discuss roundtable meetings and community consultations.



AOB

- IOM: Reminder for comments and feedback on the research concept on the promotion of private sector engagement in the pursuit of achieving durable solutions, which was shared with the minutes of the November meeting and to be shared with the minutes of this month. Asking that inputs are provided as soon as possible.
 - The objective of this research concept is to better understand the challenges and entry points for the private sector to participate in durable solutions, and to take a more active role beyond non-financial contributions such as livelihood job creation.
- DSTWG: The Center for Competence on Humanitarian Negotiation has partnered with IOM and is having a workshop between **February 27th and March 2nd 2023** focusing on **humanitarian negotiation and negotiating returns and other durable solutions for Iraqis**. DSTWG members are encouraged to participate. Registration will be open from now until 12 February on the [link here](#).
- NCCI: Can DSTWG re-circulate the workplan for 2023 to remind members of the items that are yet to be taken?
 - DSTWG: This will be re-circulated with the minutes of the meeting.