

---

**Present: Co-chairs:** Ghulam Isaczai (DSRSG/RC/HC), Giorgi Gigauri (IOM), Raj Kamal (OIC UNDP)

**Participants:** Santhy Iyyakkunnel (SDC), James Munn (NRC), Abdalqadir Yassin (OIC OCHA), Arefu Araki & Jean-Nicolas Beuze (UNHCR), Layth Salman & Jacquelyn Foster (NCCI), Pedro Rojo Gacia (ECHO); Asaad Ibrahim (Special Assistant RC), Ally Raza Qureshi (WFP), Katie Nealan (BHA), Clementine Favier (IOM),

**Secretariat:** Susan Detera (NRC), Precillar Moyo (IOM), David Videira (UNDP), Mohammed Chalabi & Mohammed Abdelrazzak (RCO)

### Opening and Agenda by Co-Chairs

- The co-Chairs welcomed the members and outlined the meeting agenda
  - (i) Tour de Table
  - (ii) Opening Remarks and DS Compact Update – DSRSG
  - (iii) Previous Meeting Action Points and DS Update --- Secretariate
  - (iv) Briefing on returns to Hasansham 13 Villages ---- UNHCR
  - (v) Any other business

### Action Points previous meeting

- **DS Compact:** summary, timeline, Arabic/Kurdish translations of Compact – **completed**
- **JCF TORs:** sharing of amended TORs with the DSTF members for final comment – **completed**

### Opening Remarks and DS Compact Update by DSRSG

- The RC provided an update on the political engagement since the last DSTF which had been in June.
  - The idea of the DS Compact has been shared with Government authorities both at the Federal and KRG level. The 3-page summary prepared by the drafting team and translated has also been shared first with MoMD and with KRG for their comments and feedback. No comments and feedback from both although initial feedback was positive. Through the Office of the SRSR the Compact has also been shared with the Office of the Prime Minister who committed to sharing some feedback and comments via a letter. Letter and comments not yet received.
  - Initial sensitization of the Compact also shared with the Advisor to the Prime Minister (Human Rights). In the last month, it has appeared that the idea behind the Compact was not well understood based on back and forth discussions with MoMD, MoP and MoFA.
    - Questions arose related to the 1.2 Million number of IDPs and locations which are focused on in light of the understanding that in federal Iraq no formal IDP camps remain save for J1 for returnees from Al Hol.
    - Compact was misunderstood as competing with the GOI National Plan and why would the international community come up with another plan when one already exists?
    - Compact was perceived as a funding proposal, ignoring the technical part of the engagement which does not require funding but has to be done by the government.
  - To address some of these questions, confusion and misunderstandings, some discussions with the SRSR and the Special Advisors Office (Robert Piper) have taken place on repackaging and re-engaging with Government. To do this the RC has met with MoMD, the MoP and will be meeting with the Office of the PM Advisor to explain what the Compact is and what it is not and this is slowly sinking in. This will require a new round of political engagement with Government.

#### Key messages to Government:

- The Compact is not competing with the National Plan but our effort to operationalize the National Plan under the Government. The Compact makes it clear that it will operate under the National Plan but this may have been missed in the reading of the summary.
  - The Compact is not a funding tool, it is a framework to ensure consistency and coordination with Government and how to bring the KRG into the discussions.
- **Tri-partite** forum references in the Compact

- The intention was to convene the KRG and GoI but this was misunderstood due to the sensitivities that go beyond IDP issues, oil, and budget.
  - GoI insists that there is a Supreme Committee that the KRG is involved in and when it comes to durable solutions should engage in that forum convened by MoMD.
  - The aid community in KRI will need to engage in parallel with the authorities to ensure the KRI is engaged.
- **Next Steps:**
- Informally and formally as part of our re-engagement we will need to drop the word 'Compact' due to the confusion it is associated with by the Government.
  - MoMD Minister agreed to re-engage/repackage the same areas of intervention and call it a roadmap/framework/Implementation Roadmap for the National Plan.
  - Instead of too many pieces, commitment areas, annexes, and costing, everything has to be in one document.

**What does repackaging mean:**

- Drafting team (Lisa, William, Mohammed A with others) have to sit down and come up with a new timeline for steps that need to be taken for engagement and drafting. Engagement also includes KRG if this needs to be done separately.
- Ask MoMD to convene the Supreme Committee to present the Roadmap to the Supreme Committee and engage the Ministries early on in the process. This will make the line Ministries aware of the Roadmap this will facilitate the bilateral discussions that the Agencies are currently having or will have. This is anticipated for early September for feedback and comments.
- By the end of September there would be a new draft Roadmap followed by a validation workshop at end of September/early October convened by MoMD.
- Once validated would be finalization and launch of the Roadmap.

**Request for endorsement of the DSTF on the next steps and plan ahead**

**Discussion:**

**UNHCR: Thanked the RC** for effort to include the KRG and reminded the DSTF about the specific request from Minister Rebar for KRG to be considered on an equal footing. UNHCR as lead on IDP camps will try to engage with KRG going forward. Questions: (i) Numbers which the UN is using is this still an issue? (ii) Some work has already been done by the drafting team from the 12 initial commitment areas down to 9, are those areas still on the table? (iii) Fundraising document issue, some will require some funding, a way to analyse what is the extra budget needed by the line Ministries to be directed against the commitment areas.

**The RC** responded that (i) for the numbers. There is a perception that there is a gap between the UN numbers and the Government numbers. There was a suggestion for us to sit down with the Government team to form a small technical team with MoMD. We cannot move forward without settling the numbers issues. (ii) On the commitment areas, we need to link them to the National Plan to anchor it in the National Plan what is not articulated in the NP and is in the Roadmap we should keep it and explain it to the Government given the work that we have done. (iii) Explained that we would do a costing exercise, budget planning that each component would cost X amount based on a component that the Government has.

**UNHCR raised** a caveat on a potential disagreement on approaches between the GoI and KRG, that the GoI approach in the National Plan appears to be camp closures but the KRG has made it clear that they have no intention of closing camps in the KRG particularly those in Dahuk until there is implementation of the Sinjar Agreement.

**NCCI asked** if in the revision there will be some engagement with civil society and what needs to be included in the Roadmap.

**The RC** responded that Civil Society will be engaged in the revision process and also that NCCI's presence in the DSTF is part of engagement with civil society in its representative capacity. It was also noted that NCCI would be part of the validation workshop.

**NCCI** followed up on why the civil society would be included after the fact and why not from the beginning. The RC reiterated that the NCCI is part of the DSTF and has always been part of the discussions.

**UNHCR and NCCI** mentioned that the drafting team has engaged with civil society from the onset, through the Agencies and also during the drafting process through Lisa and William through workshops and meetings from the initial stages of the 12 commitments to the 9 commitments.

IOM raised the issue of the last commitment which looks at the complex caseload and combined commitments which focused on camps under UNHCR, informal sites and blocked areas under IOM brought together because of the need for high-level political engagement. IOM proposed that specific discussions on these issues alongside UNAMI continue in light of the ongoing trend around informal site evictions and blocked areas.

**The RC agreed** and noted that he has kept the SRSG on the complex caseloads which may require tailor-made processes.

**DSTF Co-chair** asked for further clarity on the next steps related to numbers.

**IOM offered** to present the methodology related to the UN numbers at the next DSTF and confirmed availability to engage with the technical team with MoMD, PMs Human Rights Advisor to discuss the numbers.

**UNHCR asked for this** to also include the KRG in the numbers discussion and noted that the Supreme Committee might be too high for the technical discussion.

**RC** confirmed that the numbers discussion would not be the Supreme Committee but at the more technical level with MoMD who could also invite other entities whom they deem necessary.

**DSTF co-chair** put a question forward on whether with time if the DSTF will in the future include all IDPs including climate-induced IDPs, and earlier pre-2014 IDPs although approaches may be different.

**UNHCR agreed** on the point and noted the importance of also considering some of the urban poor in the informal settlement in non-conflict affected areas.

Endorsement of RCs proposed way forward on Roadmap and discussion on the use of comprehensive IDP numbers to be placed on DSTF agenda for future meetings.

**Action Points:**

1. IOM to facilitate the set-up of the technical committee on numbers to engage with MoMD and for presentation at the next DSTF meeting on methodology.
2. Drafting committee to proceed with work on a new timeline and Government engagement.

## DS Update

➤ DS Coordination Meetings

○ DSTWG:

- M&A Subgroup is expanding its membership
- UNHCR presented on returns from East Mosul Camp
- Meetings every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the Month

RWG:

- Presentations from DTM on Climate Emergency Tracking and Sinjar Emergency Tracking
- Ninewa Pilot Focus on Sinjar District
- IRC presentation on Iraq Protection Needs Overview
- The next meeting will be on 29 August 2023, every last Tuesday of the month.

ABC:

- Notification of FP resignations for Anbar, SAD and Kirkuk UNHCR
- ABC activity Dashboard on DS Website
- 6/8 of the ABCs have completed a revision of POAs in prep for handover to JCFs

➤ JCF

- JCF ToRs engagement with COMSEC
  - Feedback received from COMSEC SG mostly related to the reporting line.
- Next Steps
  - Diwani Order to be issued and disseminated to the Governor's Offices
  - NGO/UN co-chair nominations
  - JCFs' Co-chair half-day Workshop
  - ABC phase-out to start from JCF rollout

**Likely** Sinjar ABC might be maintained with a reduced TOR due to the needs in that district, the same ABC might also look at Ba'aj. Will be restricted to the district level depending on needs.

**Discussion:**

**UNHCR** enquired about the costing plan and if this would be a template of sorts which would be discussed with all Agencies. **RCO** confirmed that it will be.

**NCCI** asked what would happen to the DS structure once the ABCs are phased out and concerns related to the space/forum for Agencies to discuss sensitive issues.

**DSTF co-chair** noted that a similar issue had been raised in the TAG, while it is important for us to move towards a Government leadership model, it would be key to maintain a space for discussion for challenges linked with Government.

**IOM asked** about the feasibility of embarking on a Call for Interest for the Focal Points if their resignation was due to prioritization following the announcement related to the phase-out of the ABC groups. There is a need for clear criteria for which ABCs will remain and which will not. A lack of clarity may mean there might be no ABCs by the time the JCFs start. UNHCR added that it was also a conceptual issue related to a development agenda. UNHCR does development for refugees and has no expertise and could not co-lead a development agenda. **RCO conceded** that the announcement may have influenced the ABCs but may be linked to the downsizing of UNHCR in these Governorates and noted the need for Government led forums. There is no mechanism yet but will monitor how effective the JCFs will be and what needs may exist for area-based coordination at the district level.

**OCHA asked** if the Government would link the establishment of the JCF with the roll-out of the Compact. **The RCO** responded that at present the situation is unclear, as the Government, even at the national level, does not have a clear picture of the Compact/roadmap, but once the Governorate level receives the Diwani order the situation would become clearer. RCO also asked Agencies and NGOs to share their interest to co-chair the JCF.

**UNDP**, related to the non-government forum referred to comments made by the RC during the TAG and in discussions with the Secretariat, noted the possibility to have a pre-JCF meeting which would be UN/NGO forum without the Government.

**Action Points:**

2. Secretariat to share the new TOR circulated to the TAG from the RCO for UN agencies and NGOs to express interest in co-chairing the JCF.

**Decisions:**

3. No call for new replacement FPs to be made for now.

**New Membership Application: Italian Agency for Development Cooperation**

- Italian Agency for Development Co-operation applied to participate in the DSTF. Please refer to slides for more details.

**Decision:**

IADC accepted for membership. Secretariat to inform IADC.

**Briefing on Return to 13 Hasansham villages by UNHCR**

- **Following the decision by KRG to allow families to return to 13 villages in July 2023**
  - Families living in the camps have been allowed to return to the villages which are in the disputed areas.
  - Some villages are completely destroyed and others are in a fair state and have some families already returned there.
  - UNHCR and IOM trying to advise authorities to conduct the process in a principled manner.
  - UNHCR has written to MoMD to urge authorities to provide services.
  - Other groups of IDPs include about 8,000 individuals suspected of perceived affiliation with ISIS. Reintegration of HH remains a concern, e.g. those families from Sinjar. Possibilities of other pathways for those who cannot return. Social security plans and reintegration packages. Feedback from IOM received on the document UNHCR shared, awaiting feedback from UNDP.
  - Estimates of more than 400 former prisoners. Challenges of potential double jeopardy for these former detainees.
  - UNHCR to share documents with the DSTF on these different groups.
- **Discussion:**
- **RCO** enquired about where the 8,000 individuals are from. UNHCR responded these are from Ninewa, Anbar, SAD and can be compared with the Barghouz group.
- **The Secretariat (IOM)** asked if there was a reason why this case load would be treated as the Al-Hol HH rather than the families who left J5 as the process was smoother.
- **UNHCR** responded that it will depend on NSA's decision and what they agree with Assayish but noted that if they can treat them like J5 that would be positive.
- **IOM added** that the J1 process should not be taken as ideal given that so far, the Ninewa authorities have agreed to use the J5 process which they are well-sensitized on and advocacy should propose a process which will not block or delay departures.
- **UNDP asked about the** information which UNHCR was waiting for from UNDP. UNHCR explained that an email was shared with Auke and hopefully feedback will be provided.

#### **A.O.B.**

Welcome to Pedro (ECHO) replacing Christof and David Videira replacing Rene.

#### **Summary of Action Points and decisions:**

1. IOM to facilitate the set-up of the technical committee on numbers to engage with MoMD.
2. DTM to present to next DSTF meeting on methodology around numbers contra Government numbers.
3. Secretariat to share the amended TORs of the JCFs including criteria for NGO/UN co-chairing of JCF from RCO.
4. UN agencies and NGOs to express their interest in co-chairing the JCFs by sending an email to RCO (chalabim@un.org). The email should include the candidate's name, position level, and a summary of candidate experience as well as the Governorate.
5. Future discussion in DSTF on inclusion of non-conflict IDPs in numbers and discussions for solutions.
6. Secretariat to communicate with the Italian Agency.

#### **Summary of Decisions:**

1. Endorsement of re-engagement plan and next steps as proposed by RC. Drafting committee to proceed with work on a new timeline and Government engagement.
2. No Call for Interest for replacement ABCs for the moment.
3. Consideration of pre-JCF meeting which would not include Government to provide space for discussion.
4. Membership application for Italian Agency for Development Cooperation.