



Present

Co-chairs: Giorgi Gigauri (IOM); Ghimar Deeb (UNDP)

Participants: William Chemaly (UN Special Advisor Office on Solutions for IDPs), Lisa Monaghan (IOM), James Munn (NRC), Kenneth Grant (ECHO Erbil), Clementine Favier (IOM), Ary Syamand (KOHRW), Mads Oyen (UNICEF), Samar Aboud (IRC), Monique Maani (OCHA), Wa'el Al Asshab (UN Habitat), Santhy Iyyakkunnel (SDC), Raeda Nimrat (SDC), Irene Bernabeu (RCO)

Secretariate: Dennis Schleppe (UNDP), Precillar Moyo (IOM), Mohamed Osman (IOM), Mohammed Chalabi (RCO)

Opening and Agenda by Co-Chairs

- The co-chairs welcomed the members, provided some opening remarks and shared the agenda:
 - (i) DS Update – Coordination Updates for DSTWG, RWG, ABCs
 - (ii) Presentation of Iraq DS Compact and Progress to date
 - (iii) AoB

DS Coordination Updates (DSTWG co-chairs)

*See presentation for full details

- The DSTWG co-chairs provided a summary of the work of the DSTWG, the RWG and the ABCs for the month of March.

DSTWG Updates

- ABC focal points presented on key takeaways from roundtable discussions with authorities during the monthly DSTWG meeting.
- DSTWG members shared feedback on Joint Coordination Forum, with concerns mainly linked to duplication, overlap. Recommendations have been shared with the office of the RC.
- Advocacy points have arisen through ABC engagement in Anbar and SAD, which can be flagged for the attention of the RC or colleagues who engage often with authorities. The majority of families in some of these sites are from locations where families are blocked to return.
 - Anbar: Eviction by authorities in HTC site. Only two families out of 39 have returned to their areas of origin, while the rest have been secondarily displaced to locations close to HTC.
 - SAD: Evictions ongoing in Samarra Train Station, a school, and AL-Muaskarat area which belong to the army.

RWG Updates

- REACH presented Area Based Assessment for Latifiya
- OCHA presented on Humanitarian Transition Overview
- REACH presented Returns and Durable Solutions Governorate Profiles for Ninewa, Salah al-Din, and Diyala

ABC Group Updates

- ABC groups have been working revising the DS plans of action.



- 6 of the 8 ABC groups have conducted roundtable meetings with authorities to work on the revision of the plans of action for 2023. SAD and Diyala dates to be confirmed.
- Outreach has also been ongoing at the community level through community consultations.
- Deadline for draft PoA: 23 April 2023

Iraq DS Compact Progress

- **William** provided an overview of the progress on the Iraq DS Compact:
 - Commended IOM and REACH for their work on the data processes, NGOs and the donor community for their feedback, and everyone involved for the fast progress being made.
 - The ambassador of Iraq to the UN in Geneva has agreed to do a presentation to Member States in Geneva on the intentions of the government to sign the compact.
 - There are administrative and procedural commitments which are important to advance in the compact to show the progress being made and to build positive momentum.
 - Some issues need money/political negotiation, and these are important to lock in and commit to resolving.
 - Other issues are very difficult to resolve as they require people within the government, others outside the government with influence, and current ministers to shape them in. It is important to have space for these in the compact.
 - Throughout the drafting process, some commitments may need to be restructured and some may need to be merged together.
 - Having the draft compact is not enough, as a political engagement strategy is needed.
 - A negotiation process needs to be developed for the conversations that will be had with the government.
 - Some of the solutions to displacement which need large reforms, such as legal/structural reforms, should be referred to in the compact but not locked in as commitments as they do not fall within the scope of the compact.
 - Example provided by **Lisa**: One recommendation being made is the complete reform of the land tenure system. This is a huge structural reform, so it can be referred to but should not be a commitment in the compact which focuses on IDPs and vulnerable returnees.
 - **Action Point**: DSTF co-chairs to invite the UN Department of Political Affairs to join DSTF meetings in the coming period, as they have shown their commitment to being a part of this process which they are highly interlinked with.
- **Lisa** provided an update on the drafting process of the compact:
 - Agencies participated in an initial drafting group meeting and put together an initial framework for the 13 compact commitments.
 - Realization that 13 commitment areas with the government are too many.
 - Those with clear duplication areas can be rationalized along the process.
 - Some are very politically sensitive and will need a lot of consideration.
 - A second drafting group meeting is scheduled for April 5th, while a third to ideally take place the following week.
 - The completion of the initial draft is planned for April 20th.
 - Engagement is ongoing with the protection platform to use their knowledge and expertise, for the development of the compact as well as its monitoring.

Discussion



IOM asked how the naming of the compact can be used to show the commitment behind it, and how government commitment can be assured?

William responded by explaining that the Arabic translation almost translates to ‘agreement paper’, and all parties will be accountable as all parties will have to sign it.

UN Habitat explained that PMT will have a midterm review of the cooperation framework on the 10th and 11th of April with government counterparts and line ministries led by the Ministry of Planning.

UNICEF recommended the narrower approach, as otherwise a much wider consultation will be needed with counterparts who haven’t been involved as much. The narrower approach would also increase the chances of success.

UNICEF explained the importance of highlighting the issue of access to education, as it wouldn’t entail a reforming of the education system but would focus on resolving the access problem for IDPs which could be a very meaningful victory.

IOM asked what the tentative plan is in terms of government engagement, and whether the current engagement is focused more on the strategic level or if they’re involved in other aspects, such as providing data for some of the commitments?

William responded by explaining that current conversations are more focused on planting the idea of the compact across the board in the government, ensuring Kurdish authorities are included in the process, and figuring out the composition of negotiations. Only after these bases are covered can the focus shift towards the next steps.

Lisa added that REACH and DTM colleagues are working hard on putting the data substance behind the document, and acknowledged the hard work they are putting into the process.

Summary of Action Points

Action Point 1: DSTF co-chairs to invite the UN Department of Political Affairs to join DSTF meetings in the coming period, as they have shown their commitment to being a part of this process which they are highly interlinked with.