



**Present: Co-chairs:** Auke Lootsma (UNDP); Caroline Henderson (OIC, IOM)

**Participants:** Rima Ali and Monique Maani (OCHA); Anna Domaranska (IOM); Wa'el Al Asshab (UN Habitat), Muslim Quazimi (UN-Habitat); Santhy Iyyakkunnel and Raeda Nimrat (SDC); Adesoji Adeniyi (FCDO/UK); Arefu Araki (UNHCR); Najat Al-Dawody (NCCI); Christophe Reltien (ECHO); Asaad Ibrahim (Special Advisor to RC); Ekram Elhuni (WFP); Kat Echeverria (BHA), Valentina Bacchin (IOM)

**Secretariat:** Rene Dierkx (UNDP); Dennis Schleppe (UNDP), Susan Detera (NRC), Precillar Moyo (IOM), Mohamed Osman (IOM), Mohammed Chalabi (RCO); Mohammed Abdelrazzak (RCO)

### Opening and Agenda by Co-Chairs

- The co-Chairs welcomed the members - gave opening remarks - and shared the agenda
  - (i) Tour de Table
  - (ii) DS Update – Action Points May meeting; DSTWG; RWH; and ABC Updates
  - (iii) DTM Presentation on Measuring Progress towards DS: Ninewa HH Survey (IOM)
  - (iv) DS Iraq Compact Update
  - (v) Any other business

### Action Points previous meeting

- **DS Compact:** summary, timeline, Arabic/Kurdish translations of Compact – **completed**
- **JCF TORs:** sharing of amended TOS with the DSTF members for final comment – **completed**
  - Joint Coord. Forum's TORs were endorsed with minor amendments in the previous DSTF meeting.
  - The finalized, amended TORs have been shared with DSTF members.
  - DSRSG/RC/HC has communicated and shared the TORs with Federal Government (SG COMSEC & MoMD), who welcomed the new coordination structure.
  - The TORs have also been communicated and shared with KRG, JCF in KRI Govs (second stage).
  - Official letters, by RC, seeking support and directives to establish the JCF in five conflict-affected Governorates have been sent to COMSEC and MoMD.
  - COMSEC to distribute the TORs to the targeted Governors' offices, request for the initiation of the JCF in collaboration with the Aid Community

### DS Update

- DSTWG/MOMD Workshop on Local Integration
  - Objectives:
    - Develop coherent SOPs for registration & disbursement of IDP grants; opt for Local Integration - work on the basis of current SOPs that are designed for IDP registration and return
    - Share best practices and provide a better understanding of (inter-) national frameworks for DS.
  - Participants:
    - MoMD HQ staff and Branch Heads of southern & middle governorates (20 MoMD)
    - DSTWG members, NRC, IOM, REACH
    - IOM supported DSTWG with funding to host the workshop
  - Discussions:
    - Directives issued Oct 2022 facilitating local integration for remaining HH who will not/cannot return
    - Middle/south. Govs. have smaller IDP caseload (a pilot for areas with higher/complex caseload
    - Need for approval agreement of Govs in all areas, eg. 1 Gov. refused to approve local integration
  - Challenges:
    - Three residency letters required by different authorities, making the process challenging for IDPs
    - Split families (Head of HH applied but family has grown in displacement, e.g., sons have married
    - Families with the Head of HH who are in prison
    - System challenges-lack of adequate field teams and equipment in field offices
    - Delay in disbursement of the MoMD grants
  - Recommendations:
    - Amendment/Simplification of process, required documentation (residency proof)

- MoMD discuss/issue instructions: legal procedure for HH with perceived affiliation/split families
- Need for info campaigns for IDPs on the process (prev. support RWG on Return CWC materials)
- Recognize delays in financial disbursement of return grants may affect local integration grant
- Sharing of registration guidelines for all branches and uniformity of process for all pathways
- DSTWG Meeting
  - DS Sub-groups
    - Sustainable Livelihoods: 3 Tech Taskforces set up to work on key priorities for this year
      - Market System Development; Private Sector Engagement, Climate Resilient Livelihoods
    - Monitoring and Assessments: Form created for activity reporting against indicators
    - REACH MCNA now Cross-Cutting Needs Assessment, previous year have including data for IDP/Returnee and Host Communities, DSTF assisted in 2022, and currently gap in funding
    - Workplan update: components, included in DS compact and those focus on the quarter
  - RWG Meeting
    - Moved forward to 20 June due to Eid
- ABC Update
  - Plan of Action revision
    - All ABCs are revising their POAs, drafts received from most
    - Deadline for review **30 June 2023**
    - Handover for the transition phase
  - Advocacy and other points
    - Continued eviction threats in some governorates
    - Kirkuk ABC invitation by the government to MPs

**Discussion:**

**ECHO: Enquired** about involvement of other line ministries in addressing some of the issues that arose during the workshop eg, the Ministry of Justice or Ministry of Interior especially for those issues of families with perceived affiliation with ISIS

DSTWG co-chair: responded that the participants in the workshop had explained that the Minister was part of an inter-ministerial committee which included the Ministry of Interior and others who worked with the MoMD legal unit to provide guidance to branches on how to tackle the difficult cases. The co-chair offered to follow up with the MoMD at the next workshop and to share feedback.

**DTM presentation on measuring progress towards DS: Ninewa HH Survey**

- Reports are available at: <https://iraqdtm.iom.int/DurableSolutions/ProtractedDisplacement>
- Dashboard: Available at: <https://iraqdtm.iom.int/ProgressTowardsSolutions>
- With reference below to the data mentioned in the accompanying .PPT presentation by DTM
- What did we find out - main barriers
  - Correlation: time-spend-in-location & pref. solutions/progress: Instability stops advancing to solutions/scenario
  - Lack of proper housing, documentation, and stable income are the main factors impeding progress.
  - Home destruction is common to not returning and lack of livelihood opportunities at the origin.
  - Access to livelihood is problematic for all three groups.
- Background
  - Tracking/monitoring IDP figures from Dec 2013 via the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Master List. The collection of returnee figures began Apr 2015, but also been retroactively reported since Oct 2014.
  - Displacement Index & Return Index also as a tool to monitor IDP & Returnees living conditions at the location level across domains, like livelihoods, housing, services, safety, social
  - Since 2015 a **longitudinal study** implemented 'Access to DS in Iraq' on how IDPs build lasting durable solutions.
- What we didn't know:
  - Progress across IASC DS criteria
  - Comparison between three groups (data on those that stayed)

- Measuring progress with a specific tool
- Household-level data (ex. preferable solution, discrimination, and IDPs origin at the location level)
- Findings at the subdistrict level
- **Context: displacement in Ninewa**
  - Ninewa Gov. has largest returnee pop. in Iraq (39% of total caseload) jointly with 2nd largest IDP pop. (21%)
  - Total figure is **364,107 HHs**, 11% are still at displaced locations and 89 per cent returned to their place of origin.
  - IDPs can be divided in **2 groups**: largest fled by **2014** (67%), incl. HHs from **Al Ba'aj, Mosul, Sinjar, Telafar** District
  - Second wave was triggered in **2017** by re-taking operations (19%) and incl. HHs from **Mosul, Al Ba'aj** and **Hatra**.
  - **Multiple displacements** are very common among IDPs (58% of IDPs versus 30% of returnees).
  - **Home destruction**: common reason for not returning AoO (70%), followed by lack of livelihood at origin (65%)
  - Most returnee HHs (**95%**) **prefer to stay** at location of return; 58% HHs prefer to stay and **31% prefer to return**
- **Methodology and Objectives**
  - **What?** measuring the progress towards durable solutions.
  - **How?** HH survey for comparing 3 groups and generalizing findings at sub-district level. **8,042 HHs interviewed.**
  - **Why?**
  - Examine obstacles/characteristics impeding DS progress DS: compare IDPs, returnees, those who never left AoO
  - Define IDP & Returnee proportion that have overcome displacement- or return-related vulnerabilities.
- **What are the criteria to measure progress?**
  - IASC framework: safety & security; adequate living standards; access to livelihoods; restoration of housing, land and property rights; access to remedies & justice; personal & other docs; participation in public affairs
- **How to measure progress?**
  - IDP & Returnee living conditions, compared to those of stayee HHs of 5 crit. using av. value of 'passed' indicators
  - Criteria where living conditions are the same across 3 groups are (1) safety & security and (5) docs and participation.
  - The criteria where differences are most prominent are (4) restoration of HLP and compensation.
  - Overcoming vulnerabilities related to (2) adequate standard of living is more challenging for IDPs than returnees.
  - Criterion (3) access to livelihood is problematic for all three groups.
- **How many HHs have or are close to – solutions?**
- **What are the factors impeding progress?**
  - Length of displacement and return
    - Instability prevents advancing toward solutions.
    - HHs with multiple displacements, failed attempts to return and fewer years in the same place more often show low progress in overcoming vulnerabilities
  - Housing situation
    - Instability is shown in housing situations, especially in insecurity of tenure and fear of eviction.
    - Fear of eviction is more common, although to a larger extent among IDPs than returnees
    - Formal rental agreement is very rare in 'low progress' group comp. to 'medium' and 'high'.
    - Ownership of accommodation is the main difference between IDP and returnee households.
    - Overall, the housing situation is where you can see the biggest difference.
    - The portion of IDP and returnee households living in good conditions is considerably smaller in the 'low progress' group than in 'medium' and 'high'
  - Livelihoods
    - Unstable livelihood situation is another obstacle impeding progress.
    - **'Low progress'** group had the largest portion of households where no one has paid work compared to the 'medium' and 'high' categories.
    - Furthermore, most households have an unstable source of income (95%).
    - Only a small portion (6%) can cover unexpected expenses
  - Documentation

- Missing documentation is more common for ‘low progress’ group.
- In most cases: national/unified ID, followed by Iraqi nationality, birth cert. and PDS card
- The main obstacles are expenses and time.
- Most cited problems incl. the inability of children to attend school, movement restrictions, and difficulties accessing social welfare.
- What is a preferable solution?
  - Most returnee households prefer to stay in their current location.
  - Preferable solutions among IDP households vary across groups with different levels of progress indicating the correlation between progress and severity of their vulnerabilities.
- What are the main obstacles?
  - HHs. in ‘low progress’ group are more frequently reported **home destruction** (83%) as main obstacle to return compared to ‘medium’ and ‘high’ categories (73% and 50%, respectively).
  - Same with **inadequate services or infrastructure** at origin (53%, 38% and 32%, respectively).
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> most common reason is **lack of livelihood** opportunities (46%, 65%, 75%, respectively).
  - Also, 15 per cent mentioned a failure to obtain **security clearance** among main obstacles, this is more often than in ‘medium’ and ‘high’ categories (6% and 3%, respectively). The last one is possibly linked to their lack of documents.
- What is the origin?
  - Most HHs who prefer to return originate from:
    - Al-Qahtaniya in **Al-Ba’aj** and to a lesser extent from
    - Markaz Sinjar and Qaeyrrawan, in **Sinjar**,
    - Rubiya in **Telafar** or
    - from Al-Qayara and Markaz Mosul in **Mosul**.

**Discussion:**

**DSTF co-Chair** (UNDP): will the survey be rolled out to other Governorates as well?, **DTM/IOM**: Currently, apart from Ninewa, we are doing the same in Salah al-Din with the aspiration to roll the survey out in Anbar, Diyala where we have the most need for this data and preparing a proposal in this regard; **DSTF co-Chair** (IOM): we would require funding to roll out the survey in these locations.

**UNDP**: the HLP issue is complex following the conflict but was the lack of documentation to some extent already the case before the conflict following the conflict it became worse due to the land administration not being in order, and so forth. **UN-Habitat**: before the conflict, everything was more or less the same as it was paper based, with many informal transactions and many people did not have HLP documentation pre-conflict and what made it worse is when ISIL destroyed what was in the cadaster (official land register), but an official copy has remained in the National Bank of Iraq hence the Gov and Cadaster are working on its restoration. However, what we are trying to do now is to work on the digitization process of HLP documentation with the Gol and eventually in the Governorates. **UNDP**: is that part of the land ownership certificates? **UN-Habitat**: No, that is a different story and aiming at ownership certificates for the Yazidi. HLP for IDPs and Returnees will be a totally different project

**IOM**: Does the Gov has a specific budget to allocate adequate resources to address the issue of compensatory grants to assist those families that need to repair or rebuild their houses? **UN-Habitat**: Over the last two years we never received any information from the Government of how much money was allocated in particular for the compensation – there are 6 types of compensation but only one is tailored to HLP Rights. Also, the Gov has no available data on how many people were compensated or are scheduled to be compensated. We are now discussing this with the Min of Finance to obtain more information on how much is the budget allocation for this year. Over the last years, the allocation was adequate only to assist 1-1.5 per cent of the population.



### DS Iraq Compact Update

#### ➤ Political Engagement Strategy

- 11-24 May: Meetings with PM HR Advisor, KRG MoI and MoMD for briefing on the draft compact outline
- 19 June: Potential meeting with PM of Federal Iraq (followed by a meeting with PM KRG), and MoF/MoP
- Once the meetings take place, increase engagement with technical line ministries. Joint strategy to be discussed next week.
- Validation workshop to take place (indicative) July to create Compact action plan- hosted by UNDP/IOM

#### ➤ Establish Tripartite Forum [GoI/KRG/UN]

- Plan solutions for those facing complex barriers: people in camps, informal settlements, blocked areas.
- **30 May** – inter-organization workshop to discuss context updates, potential prioritization frameworks and points of engagement for people facing complex barriers to solutions.
- We are heavily affected by the Government's perception of the solution, which emphasises return.
- Very few frameworks in place in Iraq to show a working model of alternative solutions
- Compact could work to confront the political and financial issues – it's not a case of 'no movement' at an operational level but of slow movement.
- Participants advocated for prioritisation of informal sites at risk of eviction, engagement on camp consolidation efforts and the impact on displacement, advocacy on locations with high movement restrictions including Debega and east Ninewa camps (including for the political detainees) and for communities from Jurf al Sakhar.
- It is a shift from multi-sector needs-based advocacy to community-based advocacy. Different communities have different needs and intentions, and different urgency to the solutions they need. Ongoing reflections on prioritisation and opportunities can guide this.
- **Workshop report available**

### A.O.B.

No points under A.O.B.

### Summary of Action Points:

No Action Points following this DSTF Meeting