



Co-chairs: Ghulam Isaczai (RC), Auke Lootsma (UNDP), Carlotta Panchetti (IOM OIC)

Participants: Leanne Rios (UNDP), Raeda Nimrat (SDC), Minako Kakuma & Inge Zondag (UNHCR), Malek Akchour (DRC), GRANT Kenneth & Pedro Rojo Gacia (ECHO Erbil), Raimondo Bono & Martina Disanto (AICS), Ali Hussein (IRC), Samuel Rothenberg and Seyoum Meseret (PRM), Cal Hudson & Ruth Coverdale (FCDO), Vicent Museke (UNAMI), Abdalqadir Yassin (OCHA), Rhitu Siddarth (RCO), Rainer Gonzalez (IOM).

Secretariat: David Videira (UNDP), Nawal El Kaakour (IOM), Mohammed Abdelrazzak & Mohammed Chalabi (RCO).

Guest Presenters: Mohammed Jalo, Isabella Cordua, Alaa Ayoob, Karine Kassis (IOM).

Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome and agenda by DSTF co-Chairs (Co-chair UNDP)
2. Opening Remarks (DSRSG)
3. Previous Meeting Action Points (RCO)
4. Update on Return from Camps/Challenges
5. DSTF Advocacy Positions in preparation for High Committee Meeting
6. AOB

Opening Remarks DSRSG/RC/HC

Advocacy efforts:

The **DSRSG/RC/HC** engaged with key Iraqi and KRG officials, including the Prime Minister's Advisors, the KRG Minister of Interior and the Minister of Migration and Displacement, to advocate for extending the camp closure deadline. There has been no official directive to extend the deadline, but neither has the Government moved forward with closures.

A new Committee led by MoMD will now oversee the IDP file, with representation from KRG and other Ministries.

The **DSRSG/RC/HC** shared the Roadmap for Durable Solutions with both the Federal Government and KRG, receiving positive feedback. The hope is that this document will guide the new Committee's work.

The first meeting of the High Committee as per Diwani order 24261 is scheduled for August 12th, where the UN is expected to attend.

Benefits such as the 4 million IQD grant for IDPs wishing to return were suspended as of July 30th, pending the new Committee's decisions.

Engagement in Sinjar:

The Government has made decisions to build a university and allocate land for the Kocho village, supported by UNDP and IOM.

There is a focus on developing a comprehensive area-based plan for Sinjar, integrating various projects and Donor contributions, with a significant amount of funding available, including \$40 million specifically for Sinjar.

A planned meeting with Donors and development partners will further discuss the Sinjar reconstruction efforts.

Salah ah Din Roadmap:

The Salah ah Din Governorate is being used as a pilot for implementing the national Roadmap for Durable Solutions, focusing on compensation, housing and services for returnees.

IOM and UNHCR highlighted the fluid situation and the potential deterrent effect of suspending the 4 million IQD grant on voluntary returns. Communication with IDPs is critical to managing expectations and providing clarity.

The DSRSG/RC/HC advised against setting another hard deadline for camp closures, suggesting instead a focus on achieving Durable Solutions.

British Embassy mentioned rumors of a two-month extension for camp closures, but the **DSRSG/RC/HC** has pushed back against committing to another hard deadline.

Lessons from Sulaymaniyah camps closure include the importance of communication, provision of incentives upon departure and monitoring of secondary displacement.

Action points from DSTF meeting #24 (RCO)

1. RCO to share the compiled recommendation once MoMD provides feedback with the KRG and with the DSTF to enable the DSTF to see how it can contribute and reinforce the Roadmap: RCO is translating the Action Plan into English, and will share it with the DSTF. Ongoing.
2. Secretariat to share the DSTF advocacy messages with the formulation of advocacy points on improved coordination between the JCF and the Supreme Committee and budgetary allocation for local authorities from nation government. Completed.

Update on Return from Camps/Challenges (IOM)

IOM presented the findings of their Protection monitoring exercise:

- Purpose: to understand the needs of families returning to their areas of relocation or origin.
- Methodology: Household interviews with a random sampling method, covering demographic factors such as gender, age, marital status and Governorate.
- Recent data: monitoring conducted for 27 households departing Ashti camp in May and 600 households in July. A total of 448 households were contacted, with additional interviews planned for 139 more households by the end of the month.

Key findings:

- 92% of families contacted returned to their areas of origin; 2 experienced secondary displacement.
- **Shelter:**
 - 34% of families are staying in their own homes.
 - 27% are staying with relatives.
 - 40% are in rental houses.
 - 19% are living in tents or informal sites.
 - 75% of families identified shelter as an immediate need.



- *Basic services:*
 - 41% faced difficulties accessing food; 49% lacked access to drinking water.
 - 38% lacked access to electricity.
 - 33% lacked access to education.
 - 69% reported inability to access health services; 77 families had health or welfare issues, with 13 reporting disability within the household.
- *Legal and civil documentation:*
 - 35% lacked access to legal services.
 - 11% reported missing core civil documentation.
 - 18% reported missing some core documentation.
- *Financial aspects:*
 - 72% identified income-generating activities as an immediate need.
 - 55% relied on daily labor; 16% on pensions; 11% on family support.
 - Issues accessing return grants reported by 4 households due to procedural delays.
- *Safety and security:*
 - 22 households faced difficulties such as long waiting times at checkpoints, harassment or discrimination.
 - 2 families were refused entry to their areas of return.
 - 12 households felt unsafe due to structural issues, fear of security actors or tribal tensions.
 - 5 households reported incidents related to ethnic and tribal conflict, lack of documentation or destruction of property.
 - 2 households reported restrictions on freedom of movement within their return areas.
- *Advocacy points:*
 - Ensure voluntary, safe and dignified returns with coordinated efforts among Government and security actors.
 - Facilitate access to health, education, water and electricity for all returnees.
 - Strengthen efforts to issue civil documentation and ensure non-discriminatory access to services.
 - Address challenges faced by returnees to improve safety and access to services.

The DSRSG/RC/HC suggested preparing a short version of the findings for the High Committee. He inquired about the inclusion of families in social safety nets and suggested exploring this in future monitoring.

The British Embassy recommended focusing advocacy points on specific Ministries and their barriers rather than generic issues.

UNDP highlighted the need for continued monitoring and evaluation to understand the long-term impact on returnees and their reintegration.

ECHO raised concerns about local integration and the challenges faced by those who did not return to their places of origin but stayed in other regions. They also suggested exploring options for local integration and addressing barriers such as residency permits.



IOM informed that a two-day meeting was being planned in September with Duhok authorities to map barriers to integration and provide more detailed information.

DSTF Advocacy Positions in preparation for High Committee Meeting (RCO)

UNHCR proposed preparing a written document to clearly convey advocacy messages to the High Committee.

The DSRSG/RC/HC agreed on the need for a written document with key messages, to be shared with the High Committee and KRG representatives.

UNICEF raised concerns about the closure of MoE branches and its impact on education for children of IDPs.

Summary of Action Points

1. RCO to share the compiled Roadmap Action Plan once translated from Arabic.
2. RCO to develop a written advocacy document incorporating input from the meeting and share with relevant stakeholders (MoMD, KRG)