



Durable Solutions Technical Working Group (DSTWG) – Summary of Meeting #44 on 9 October 2024

Meeting Chair: IOM

Co-chairs: UNDP

Participants: OCHA, DRC, Iraq Cash Forum, IOM, GIZ, IMPACT Initiatives, UN-Habitat, RCO DS Advisors, CEDO, UNMAS, IRC, ICRC, World Vision, UNHCR.

Overview and Agenda

1. Tour de Table
 2. Action Points from the September Meeting
 3. DSTWG Update
 - DS Update
 - Subgroups Update
 - DSTWG NGO Co-Chair - results
 4. Discussion :
 - IDSF Project update – *‘Strengthening data systems to improve the management of internally displaced persons referral systems in Iraq’* (UNH-IOM)
 - ASG Robert Piper’s Guidance book on solutions to internal displacement (RCO)
 5. AOB
- **September Meeting #43 Action Points:**
 - DSTWG to reach out to EJCC, BCF and the Hamdaniyah authorities to invite them to the assessment of Hasansham village (Completed)
 - DSTWG to circulate an email to all partners, inviting participation in the assessment and organizing a preparatory meeting (Completed)

DS Update

- **DSTF meeting update:**
 - The DSTF met on September 18th, focusing on discussions related to the High Committee meeting held on August 12th. Key topics included initiatives underway in Sinjar and an update from IOM-DTM on camp departures.
 - IOM-DTM reported a significant reduction in the number of families leaving camps. The decrease is attributed to uncertainties surrounding MoMD’s plans. MoMD has not initiated registration for Duhok camps, while there are mixed reports regarding the Erbil camps and EMCs, with indications that registration may have resumed or never ceased.
 - The DSTF discussed the need for clear criteria to measure progress towards DS, particularly regarding local integration. Questions were raised about when returnees could be considered part of the host community (e.g. after three to five years of residency). A suggestion was made to establish a Task Force within the DSTWG to address these criteria and provide a clear framework for measuring DS.
- **DSTWG update:**
 - NRC recently withdrew from its role as the DSTWG NGO Co-Chair. DRC facilitated the selection process for a new NGO Co-Chair, resulting in the appointment of Bring Hope Foundation (BHHF). BHHF focuses on humanitarian assistance, climate resilience and women’s empowerment.



- Members were asked to endorse the selection during the DSTWG meeting, with no objections raised, the DSTWG will forward the decision to the DSTF for final endorsement. The newly appointed representative, Karzan Obeid, will join the DSTWG at the next meeting.
- **Resident Coordinator Office updates:**
 1. **JCFs:**
 - a. JCFs have continued with monthly meetings. Kirkuk and Ninewa JCFs with six and seven meeting held in 2024, while meetings in Diyala, Anbar and Salah ah Din were less frequent due to local Government formation delays but resumed in September.
 - b. The Kirkuk new Deputy Governor for organizational affairs replaced the former JCF Co-Chair, as confirmed by an administrative order. Additional members from the Government side, including Provincial Council representatives, have joined.
 - c. Discussions in the last meeting of the Diyala JCF focused on returns to Al-Khailania and Nahar al-Imam villages. A joint needs assessment mission is scheduled for October 10th.
 - d. In Salah ah Din JCF, the situation of returnees and IDPs in Tuz Khurmato District was extensively discussed, and a needs assessment mission is planned for October 13th.
 2. **Sinjar ABC:**
 - a. The last meeting took place on September 19th at Sunrise Organization's office, with Deputy Governor Ali Omar in attendance. He announced the initiation of reconstruction projects under the Reconstruction Fund, including a water project in Kocho and Tal Banat areas, in collaboration with UNDP. The next ABC meeting is scheduled for October 15th.
- **Subgroup updates:**
 3. **M&A Subgroup:**
 - a. The ActivityInfo Guidance Note and Subgroup ToRs have been finalized and will be shared shortly. Updates to the Subgroup contact list are ongoing. IOM is in the process of appointing a new Co-Chair.
 4. **Sustainable Livelihoods Subgroup:**
 - a. The Subgroup continues updating the service mapping (4Ws) for climate change, agricultural livelihoods, ... the Guideline on climate resilience and agricultural livelihoods has been translated into Arabic and is under review by Government entities in both KRI and Baghdad. A finalized version is expected within 2 weeks, with plans to make it available in Arabic, English and Kurdish.
 - b. To avoid duplication of efforts and streamline information sharing, an informal group for actors working on climate change, agriculture and livelihoods has been proposed. This group will facilitate communication and sharing of assessments, reports and experiences. It will operate under the DSTF as an informal communication platform.
 5. **HLP Subgroup:**
 - a. The Subgroup is mapping housing and HLP activities nationwide with the aim of creating a dashboard for partners.
 - b. Efforts are underway to collect and standardize HLP guidelines used by partners, with a focus on improving tenure security. Lessons learned are also being compiled for dissemination.

Action Points:

- DSTWG to submit the endorsement of BHHF to the DSTF for final approval.
- ActivityInfo Guidance Note to be shared with the members once finalized.

IDSF Project update – ‘Strengthening Data Systems to improve the management of Internally Displaced Persons referral systems in Iraq’

- The Project is jointly implemented by IOM and UN-Habitat, and aims to strengthen the GoI’s data systems to improve IDP case management, and enhance data analysis capabilities to support better policy-making, resource allocation and service delivery for affected populations.
- The Project officially commenced in April, with initial efforts focused on communication and coordination with relevant Government Ministries. The Steering Committee members have been appointed, including technical representatives such as heads of Information Management and Statistics Departments.
- **Output 1 – Mapping and Assessment:**
 - Initial meetings held with key counterparts: JCC and MoMD. An assessment tool was developed to evaluate current data management processes and identify capacity gaps.
 - A desk review and key informant interviews are planned to further assess needs and identify areas for improvement.
 - UN-Habitat has initiated the process of engaging with the Central Compensation Committee to appoint focal points for more detailed technical coordination.
- **Output 2 – Enhancing data analysis capabilities:**
 - Initial capacity assessments and organizational structure reviews have been conducted, including an evaluation of the technical staff’s skills.
 - JCC submitted a proposal identifying key needs, such as reporting tools, analytical skills development, coordination mechanisms and SoPs for data management.
 - Planned shadowing exercises will involve MoMD’s Information Management staff working closely with IOM’s team to optimize data analysis processes.

Discussion:

- **IOM/DTM** clarified that the IDSF Project focuses on IDP registration rather than the census, which falls under MoP. The latest information suggests the census is scheduled for October-November, with questions related to IDPs and migrants, including displacement due to conflict.
- **UNHCR** confirmed that refugees will be included in the census and will verify the inclusion of IDPs, noting that MoMD is reassessing its data usage, particularly the database that was used for the 4 million grants.
- **UNHCR** highlighted concerns about the reliability of data from the survey in camps between November and January, with reports indicating that the survey was not fully implemented across all camps, such as in Duhok.
- **IOM-DTM** will follow-up to confirm MoMD’s current data usage directives and the status of the survey results.
- **IOM-DSTWG Co-Chair** noted that the survey results had not been shared despite requests from the DSTF and RWG, and there may be a need to revalidate the data given recent changes.



Action Points:

- IOM-DTM to follow-up with field teams and MoMD to verify directives related to data usage for settlement grants and the survey's implementation status.
- UNHCR to double-check IDP inclusion details in the census and report back to the DSTWG.
- DSTWG to coordinate with the RCO for additional information on the survey conducted by MoMD.

ASG Robert Piper's Guidance book on solutions to internal displacement

- The RCO briefed the DSTWG about the ASG Robert Piper's initiative on Solutions to internal displacement.
- The mandate for ASG Piper's initiative is nearing its conclusion by the end of this year, and as part of the final stages, the office of the Special Advisor is focused on developing a Guidance Book that will serve as a practical tool for UNCTs and UNHCTs. The Guidebook will assist future practitioners when displacement remains a priority issue, response or crisis within a country.
- The RCO emphasized Iraq's rich history of efforts addressing displacement and the various trials, progress and learnings accumulate over the years, stressing the importance of Iraq's contribution to the Guidebook. Three primary areas are being targeted for inclusion in the Book:
 - The Book will cover discussions on how to measure when displacement truly ends and the effectiveness of solutions, also reflecting on past contributions, such as the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Indicators established in 2010.
 - There will be an emphasis on strategies for preventing displacement from reoccurring and ways to leverage past documents and tools.
 - The Guide will explore the conditions required for effective engagement in displacement resolution, such as:
 - Political leadership and commitment
 - Inclusion of IDPs in strategy and planning
 - Financing mechanisms for displacement solutions
 - Data-driven approaches for decision-making and strategy formulation.
- The RCO invited practitioners in Iraq who worked on Durable Solutions to contribute to the development of the DS Guidance Book, and will distribute further information in the coming days, including a document outlining the thematic areas to be covered in the Guidance Book.

Discussion

IOM/DTM acknowledged the importance of the DS Guidance Book initiative, and inquired about how the Book's content would relate to similar initiatives in other countries and globally, citing the work of the IGRIS Working Group and various Agencies, and whether the DS Guidance Book would contribute to harmonizing approaches across different countries.

The RCO explained that contributions to the Guidance Book come from multiple sources, with Iraq positioned to offer substantial input due to its robust data and experiences. While the focus of the Book is focused on the 15 pilot countries, some tools developed by IOM, UNHCR and UNDP at a global level may also be relevant.



IOM-DSTWG Co-Chair reiterated the open invitation for stakeholders to participate in shaping the Guidance Book, and encouraged to join brainstorming sessions to address specific questions around displacement classifications.

UNHCR raised a question regarding updates on the High Committee's recommendations related to IDPs, which had been submitted to the PMO.

RCO indicated that no formal progress had been made on the recommendations, which included the implementation of the Sinjar Agreement. The recommendations were with the Prime Minister's Advisor for legal review. The situation is further complicated by the elections in KRI. Despite recent checks with the PMO, MoMD, JCC and other stakeholders, no substantial movement was reported. Advocacy efforts are ongoing, with updates to the advocacy position paper.

Action Points:

- The RCO will circulate initial documentation outlining the focus areas by mid-next week.
- The RCO will continue refining the advocacy position paper and share it with stakeholders for further input.

AOB

- The next meeting will be **on 13 November 2024** as per the standing calendar invite.