

MoMD Implementation of the Council of Ministers Decision to close camps in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq

Ministry of Migration and Displacement

Returns Working Group Meeting

10 March 2024

وزارة الهجرة والمهجرين
وهزاره تی کۆچ و کۆچبه ران

Ministry of Immigration's plan to close camps

- The plan was drafted by the Ministry of Migration and Displacement and approved by the Council of Ministers.
- Setting July 30, 2024, as the deadline for closing the displacement file, and there is no information on the possibility of extending this date.
- The plan aims to focus on areas of return and intensify governmental and international efforts to provide an appropriate environment for the stability of returning families.
- The plan was prepared according to the National Plan for the Return of IDPs for 2020 approved by the Ministry of Migration and Displacement and the Ministry of Planning.

National Plan Obstacles faced by In camp IDPs

- War damage to public service structures and housing destruction
- Lack of livelihoods and economic opportunities
- loss of family members.
- Lack of documentation
- Social cohesion among tribes in Sinjar
- Administrative issues in Sinjar district

Due to the work under the National Plan, the current MoMD plan is built on 3 elements :

- ✓ Understanding IDP intentions and obstacles
- ✓ Supporting IDPs to overcome the obstacles they face
- ✓ IDP choices and preferences to 3 pathways of return, integration or relocation to a third place

Components of the MoMD camp closure plan

Core elements of government action include the following:

1. Compensation or support for destroyed houses
2. Provision of a return/integration grant.
3. Income-generating projects
4. Addressing tribal and security obstacles
5. Coordination among supporting government departments (Ministry of Labour, Education, Health, Judiciary, Transport, etc)
6. Media campaigns to inform IDPs, coordination with the regional authorities and security authorities.



Intentions Survey, Communication with IDPs and Coverage of the Plan

- An intentions survey has been conducted at the household level in all the 23 KRI camps.
- The survey results can be requested by an official request to the Ministry.
- The MOMD has an accurate number of the families intending to return, locally integrate or move to a third location.
- Consultations with IDPs have been done through the ministry representatives and branch offices in the previous years. A media campaign is underway through media, social media and information brochures will be shared in the coming weeks.
- IDPs can also obtain additional information through the MoMD branches and number and through the Citizens Affairs number
- Currently the plan is limited to in camp KRI IDPs and those in the informal sites can apply through the usual return processes.

Timeline and financial allocations

- There are successive stages implemented one after the other, for example, security audit, return, distribution of the return grant, referral of files to the various ministries such as the Department of Social Welfare, the Department of Labor and Vocational Training, compensation, etc.
- There is no timetable for the disbursement of the return grant (4 million), but the priority will be in terms of financial allocations for returnees/integrated/relocated from the KRI camps. The grant will be given immediately after the return.
- There is adequate allocations for return grants in the general budget for 2024 which is 81 billion Iraqi dinars

Timeline and financial allocations

- All the relevant supporting ministries have good allocations according to the 2024 budget and have submitted their public projects in each governorate to develop and rehabilitate the sectors of roads and bridges, water, electricity, health, education and others.
- Government is currently working on the reconstruction of Sinjar to provide services
- For now, there is no extension expected (July 30, 2024)

Security concerns

- Sinjar: More than 6,000 families have been returned to Sinjar so far, which is an indication of the stability of the situation in terms of security
- The multiplicity of security agencies in Sinjar does not affect the return or stability of families.
- Families who are unable to return to their areas of origin can settle in the area of displacement or a third place (e.g. return to Babylon province and not Jurf al-Sakhar specifically).
- Determining joint operations with a time limit (one month only) to obtain security approvals.

Note: With regard to the issue of psychological trauma, international and local organizations are requested to provide the Ministry with lists of individuals and families registered with them in order to refer them to psychological rehabilitation support teams.

Note: Regarding the subject of documents, international and local organizations are requested to provide the Ministry with lists of individuals and families registered with them in order to refer them to the legal support teams.

Coordination with KRG

- Coordination with the regional government is carried out at all stages of the implementation of the plan.
- Meetings were held to coordinate efforts and approximate point of views.
- Families registered in the region have the right to settle in KRI according to their desire, in accordance with regulations specified by the regional government, to obtain residency, which are guaranteed by the Iraqi constitution.
- Any decisions to provide services or not by some federal ministries in the region are decisions of the ministry itself and MoMD has no authority over these institutions.

Recommendations to the Aid community

- Align programs and efforts with the MoMD efforts
- Focus efforts on supporting returnees in order to encourage returns.
- Share organization plans with the Ministry integrate roles, reduce efforts and reduce losses.
- Holding continuous meetings with international organizations.

Questions & Answers

Axes of the Ministry of Immigration's plan to close the camps

First: Destroyed houses

Second: Paths of solution (return, integration, moving to a third place)

Third: Return Grant

Fourth: Tribal and Security Problems

Fifth: Income-Generating Projects

Sixth: Coordination with supporting government agencies (Ministry of Labor, Education, Health, Judiciary, Transport, etc.)

Seventh: Additional measures (media campaign, coordination with the region, coordination with the security authorities)

