

EAST ANBAR DURABLE SOLUTIONS PLAN OF ACTION REVISION

2021-2024



In March 2021, the Ministry of Planning (MoP) and the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD) presented the **National Plan for Getting the Displaced Back to their Liberated Areas** (National Plan) to the Council of Ministers Secretariat (COMSEC). The National Plan provides a national framework to address displacement by identifying priority population groups, activities—along with their estimated costs, and assigns specific responsibilities between the executive branches of government and local government.

Building on the National Plan, the humanitarian, development, stabilization, and peace community in Iraq is committed to supporting the Government of Iraq assist displacement affected communities through the Humanitarian Response Plan, United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and Inter-Agency Durable Solutions Strategic and Operational Framework (Operational Framework). Together, these mechanisms enhance existing efforts to support internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees and other displacement-affected populations to pursue and achieve sustainable solutions to displacement.

The National Plan and the Operational Framework recognize that durable solutions outcomes are pursued at both the national and local levels, as effective durable solutions planning is area-based. An initial set of eight Area-Based Coordination Groups (ABCs) have been identified, including (1) east Anbar (Fallujah and Ramadi); (2) west Anbar (Al-Qa'im, Heet and Haditha); (3) Sinjar; (4) Ba'aj (5) northern Salah al-Din (Baiji and Shirqat); (6) Diyala (Muqdadiya, Jalawla and Saadiya; (7) Hawija and (8) Mosul, all in priority displacement-affected governorates as outlined in the National Plan. The main task of the ABCs is to develop, implement, and monitor area-level durable solutions Plans of Actions (PoAs) jointly with authorities, displacement-affected communities, and a wide range of additional stakeholders (other organizations working in the area and local government departments). The PoAs aim to provide a joint and coherent basis for all relevant actors – federal and regional authorities, humanitarian, recovery, development and peacebuilding organizations and donors and communities – to identify, plan and implement durable solutions at the operational level in a collective and coordinated way, under the leadership of the Government.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The East Anbar PoA focuses on 5 districts and 11 initial target locations: Al-Tash, Al-Hmera, Jazerat Al-Ramadi (Ramadi district), Khaldyia or Jazerat Al-Khaldyia (Habaniyah district), Saqlawiyah, Low-cost housing complex, Al-Shuhadaa neighborhood (Falluja), Markaz Garma/ Al-Sijar, Al-Khairat, Al-Sijar (Garma) and Husai (Amiriyat Al-Samoud district). The priority locations comprise urban, semi-urban, rural as well as informal settlements that are currently hosting internally displaced persons and returnees. As affirmed in the initial plan of action, the priority target populations include IDPs, returnees and vulnerable host communities.¹

In consideration of the large geographical coverage of East Anbar, the capacity of partners, and the persistent gaps, the initial target locations shall be maintained. Further expansion is not anticipated in 2023 given the impact of the deactivation of the humanitarian IASC cluster system and until adequate progress toward addressing identified gaps is made. This strategy seeks to consolidate and expand the gains made by both the government and partners in achieving durable solutions for IDPs.

The current membership of the East Anbar ABC comprises 8 UN organizations, 13 international NGOs, and 6 national NGOs with ICRC as an observer. In 2022 the East Anbar ABC held 32 consultations with community representatives, government technical departments, and with Anbar government leadership. The consultations aimed at understanding ongoing recovery and development work undertaken by both the government and development partners in pursuit of durable solutions for the affected communities in Anbar. Furthermore, during the consultations, the ABC sought to understand the gaps preventing durable solutions and sharing those gaps with the government in pursuit of collaborative efforts to address them.

There is recognition of the progress made by both the government and development partners over the last two years. This progress has provided an enabling environment to support durable solutions to internal displacement. According to the IOM displacement tracking matrix, out of 1,678,328 people who were displaced from Anbar, 1.5 million IDPs (92%) have returned home, and 76% returned to either Fallujah or Ramadi districts. The rate of return is the highest in the country. Of the 35,316 IDPs displaced within Anbar, 75% are from Anbar while the remaining 25% are from Babylon. A further 68,570 IDPs from Anbar are displaced in Erbil governorate.

In 2022, initiatives by aid actors and the government contributed to supporting IDPs and returnees to pursue and achieve voluntary, safe, dignified durable solutions in East Anbar. Since the initial POA, partners operating in East Anbar have implemented 65 projects.² The districts of Amiriyat Al-Samoud, Al-Habaniyah, Al-Fallujah, and Al-Ramadi have made progress toward the restoration of civil authorities, security, infrastructure development, and the restoration of functioning markets. In addition, improvements in other parts of Anbar such as Heet and Al-Ka'im related to reconstruction, restoration of electricity networks and reopening of small businesses have allowed some IDPs to return to their areas of origin. DTM reports that 660 individuals returned to various locations within East Anbar due to improvement in the restoration of basic services and infrastructure development. In 2023 (Jan-April), 12 individuals have returned to areas of origin from within Anbar. This indicates a stagnation in the returns compared to 2021.

- 1 See East Anbar POA page X. Following the area-based approach, IDPs in East Anbar, living in informal sites and IDPs from East Anbar displaced outside of East Anbar. Returnees, those living in hotspot locations with limited services, returnees in critical shelter, including those with perceived affiliation, at-risk groups, female-headed households with limited income due to community negative perceptions. Host community who did not displaced and the community members who reside in the initial target locations as they also share common needs with IDPs and returnees.
- 2 See 3. Overview of Activity Mapping. Most projects were in the sectors of Basic Services, Social cohesion and livelihoods.

Despite this commendable progress, significant challenges and gaps remain that require continued concerted efforts by government and the aid community. Education, health care delivery, livelihoods, and the lack of reconciliation amongst different tribes and segments of the communities continue to present challenges toward full recovery, development, and peaceful coexistence among communities. Addressing the main obstacles for IDPs from blocked areas such as Jurf Al-Nasr in Babylon, Al Ewesat, Akashat and Al Masharea in Anbar will help IDPs to find solutions. For some, addressing obstacles such as lack of livelihoods or access to basic services and the provision of services may instigate the expansion of government initiatives to allow IDPs to choose other pathways such as local integration and relocation. In parts of Anbar, decisions to allow local integration or relocation have been a contested issue. In subsequent years, political will from the government of Iraq and sustainable support from development partners will be key factors in supporting communities in Anbar to fully recover from the conflict of the past decades.

2. SITUATION AND CONTEXT ANALYSIS

2.1 Displacement Overview

IOM DTM estimates that 1.6 million people displaced from Anbar during the conflict with the Islamic State in Levant. Ramadi and Falluja account for 76 percent of the 1.6 million individuals who were displaced and have returned to their homes. Furthermore, Ramadi and Fallujah districts account for a significant number of IDPs from Anbar who remain displaced countrywide.³ Within the whole governorate, these two districts host the highest number of IDPs in the governorate, the majority of whom are from Anbar and a significant number from Babylon.

Figures 1 and 2 below represent current statistics of displaced and return figures in EEast Anbar by sub-districts. Al-Amiriyat sub-district in Fallujah district is currently host to 78 percent of IDPs in East Anbar, followed by Markaz Ramadi with 8 percent of East Anbar's current IDPs caseload. In terms of the number of returnees by sub-districts, Markaz Ramadi in Ramadi district tops with 50 percent, followed by Fallujah Markaz and Al-Garma with 40 percent and 29 percent respectively.



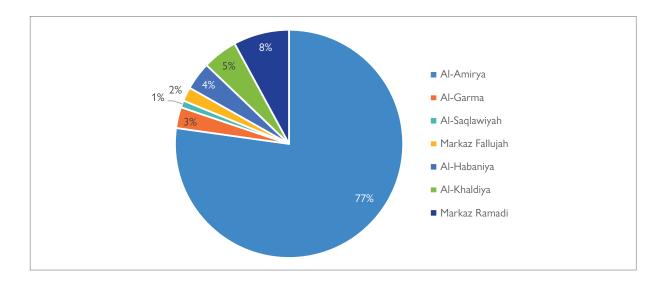
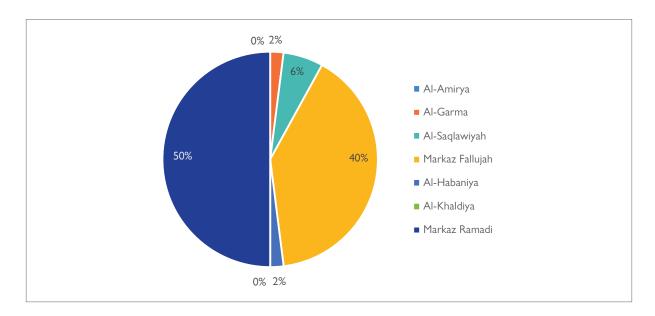


Figure 2: East Anbar Returns Statistics



In terms of vulnerability status, the majority of IDPs settlements in Anbar are classified into either high severity (consisting of 16,962 individuals) or medium severity (consisting of 12,036 individuals); making them some of the most vulnerable displaced individuals in the country. In East Anbar, there are 21 informal settlements where the majority of IDPs live. They include Amiriyat Al-Fallujah (AAF), Kilo 7, and Al-Karama complex. Some of these settlements have little or no systematic services provision thus, residents depend on either handouts or daily labor in nearby urban centers for income generation. According to the IOM DTM location assessment VII, these 21 informal settlements comprise about 2,780 IDP families and 175 returnees' families. Most of these families hail from Al-Garma, Amariya Al-Semoun, Fallujah and the West of Anbar including Al-Qaim. Returnee families living in high severity conditions is an indication of the need to continue supporting families not only when they are displaced but also when they return to their places of origin or when they relocate to other areas.

2.2 Movement Intentions and Obstacles to Durable Solutions in Anbar

To understand the movement intentions of IDPs, in Anbar, the following data is extracted from the IOM DTM Integrated Location Assessment (ILA) (April to June 2022). In the below analysis, the national average has been compared to movement intentions within the Anbar governorate to better understand trends. Only the longer-term (beyond the next 6 months) intentions have been presented in this POA. Furthermore, comparisons of potential barriers to returns are analyzed as follows.

In Figure 3, the national movement intentions average is presented, while in Figure 4, the movement intentions average for Anbar governorate is presented. Making a comparative analysis between the two provides a valuable insight as to where Anbar is positioned in terms of sustainable returns and reintegration of IDPs.

Figure 3. National Average Intentions

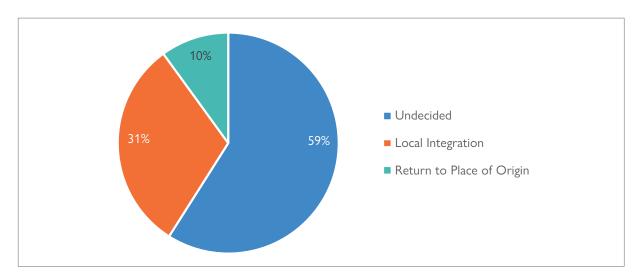
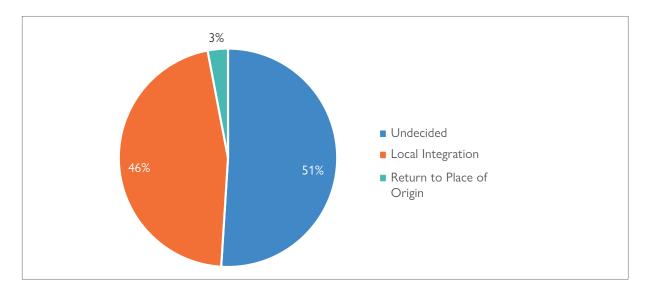


Figure 4. Anbar Average Intentions



To further understand movement intentions amongst IDPs, the ILA provides an analysis of the reasons that drive IDP intentions. The following analysis focuses on IDP perceptions of basic services provision as indications of progress toward recovery. Often these are the indicators that tend to drive the decisions of families to stay, return or relocate. More specifically, 32% in Anbar compared to 13% of the national average responded that they always get water through water trucking, which is not a sustainable source of water. In terms of access to agricultural areas and resources, 39% in Anbar compared to 51% of the national average could safely access and use them. Meanwhile on the assessment of freedom of movement in Anbar, 70% and 75% of IDPs and returnees respectively reported that they can move without a special permit, compared to the national average of 87% and 90% respectively. Thus, Anbar still has restricted movements in many areas, particularly areas of Western Anbar and Al-Garma that consist of the deployment of non-state armed groups with different lines of commands who often require individual clearances for movements. Similar trends are also reported for livelihoods and other sectors, which explains why the majority of those who are currently displaced in Anbar are either undecided or prefer to locally integrate rather than

return to their places of habitual residence. Similarly, the majority of IDPs from Anbar who currently live outside the governorate are undecided about their return intentions, while a portion of them opt for local integration. Therefore, these intentions imply that partners need to work with the government to address the obstacles faced by IDPs related to blocked returns, livelihoods, housing challenges, and access to basic services. Some of these obstacles are also the same reason why returns are precarious in parts of Anbar.

2.3 Movement Intentions and Obstacles to Durable Solutions for IDPs outside of Anbar

Besides IDPs who currently reside within Anbar, there are others who are from Anbar but still reside in other parts of the country, more specifically in Erbil and Sulaymaniyah governorates (about 10,437 in Erbil and 944 in Sulaymaniyah reported from Anbar). Amongst the remaining IDP households in Erbil, the majority of IDP households (83%) are in locations where most of the displaced community are undecided as to their movement intentions for the period up to January 2022 and beyond. Otherwise, 12% of households are in locations where the majority intend to locally integrate in their current location while 5% intend to return to their area of origin.

2.4 Return Context Analysis

The number of returnees to Anbar is the second highest in the country, following Ninewa governorate. DTM reports that 92% of the displaced IDPs have returned to their areas of origin within Anbar. Ramadi and Fallujah in East Anbar account for 12% (602,334 individuals) and 11% (572,538 individuals) respectively of all returns that have taken place in Iraq.4 Since the initial POA, the return context can be characterized by stagnation as between 2019 and 2023, the return rate in Fallujah has remained between 92% in 2019, 92% in 2021 and is currently at 93% as of April 2023 data. The same can be said of Ramadi with 89% in 2019, 90% in 2021 and currently 91%. However, for Al Rutba the return context has been negative with 85% in 2019, 83% in 2021 and 80% in 2023.

As the table below indicates, a significant number of returnees live in high severity conditions and would need sustained support to enhance reintegration. Figure 5 represents the number of individuals by location categorized in high severity conditions across East Anbar.

4 IOM Iraq DTM Return Index, June 2022

ALBO JAHISH

AL-GERTAAN



ALBO RESHA

ALBO BALI

Figure 5. East Anbar High Severity Returnees

AL-KHAIRAT

ALBO TERE

There are 6 locations in East Anbar with returnees living in high severity conditions, and these locations are all rural settlements. The statistics speak to the rural-urban divide highlighted by many of the community members during the East Anbar ABC consultations. Communities in rural areas lack most of the basic social services such as access to health care, water, and sanitation facilities, solid waste management and desludging services, and education. Most of the government development initiatives are concentrated in urban settlements. To put this into context, in Al-Khairat which is host to the highest number of high-severity category returnees, the community noted constant power outages in the areas since most homes and public facilities are connected to the Baghdad power grid. The government planned electricity intervention will prioritize urban settlements. The gap would remain in semi-urban and rural settlements, thus, the need to expand the electricity supply to the population through the installation of additional poles, transformers, and cable lines. Similarly, the authority in Al-Garma proposes to install 6 new water treatment plants (WTPs) and rehabilitate the existing 6 WTPs across Al-Garma general area. The current water facilities are inadequate to serve the population. There is a real need to supply and install RO units.

DTM captured only one location in East Anbar, specifically in Fallujah, where return could not be possible due to security concerns. In the coming year, the East Anbar ABC shall work with relevant actors, both the government and durable solution partners to address those barriers. In such instances, high-level government advocacy will be required.

3. OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITY MAPPING

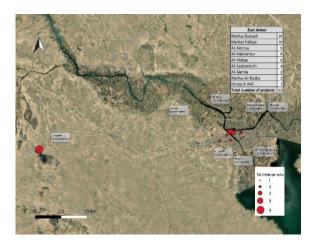
In 2023 there are 84 durable solutions related projects being implemented in eight sub-districts. As at the writing of the POA, 32 of the projects have been completed, 48 ongoing and 4 projects are planned. The highest number of projects were implemented in Markaz Fallujah and Al-Ramadi respectively, followed by Al-Amiriyat, Al-Habaniyah, and Al-Wafaa with 9, 6 and 6 projects respectively. Comparatively, East Anbar has fewer projects documented in 2023; this is a significant reduction compared to 268 projects that were documented in the 2022 Plan of Action, while 217 of those 2022 projects have been completed. Table 1 below provides the summary of 2023 activities.

Table 1. Activities Implemented by DS Objectives

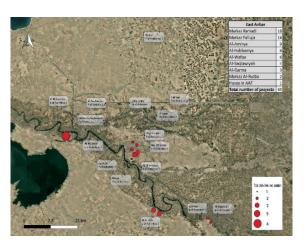
Durable Solution-Specific Objectives	Activities Description	Number of Projects
SO-1	Government Leadership	7 projects
SO-2	Housing Land and Properties	19 projects
SO-3	Livelihoods	10 projects
SO-4	Basic Services (WASH, Electricity, Health, Education, etc.)	30 projects
SO-5	Documents and Rights	4 projects
SO-6	Social Cohesion	12 projects
SO-7	Safety and Security	1 project
SO-8	Protection	1 project

Table 2. DS Activities Beneficiaries and Budget by Sub-Districts

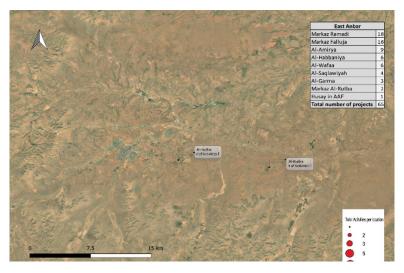
Sub-District	Number of Beneficiaries Targeted	Activities Budget by Sub-District in USD
Al-Amiriyat	22,789	\$946,938
Al-Garma	10,250	\$170,000
Al-Habaniyah	13,535	\$403,832
Al-Saqlawiyah	15,755	\$163,000
Al-Wafaa	2,001	\$2,106,000
Al-Ramadi	2,343,725	\$3,770,316
Al-Rutba	75,000	\$1,248,372
Al-Fallujah	64,809	\$12,034,744
TOTALs	2,547864	\$20,843,202



Map 1. Activities Map of Al-Fallujah



Map 2. Activities Map of Al-Ramadi



Map 3. Activities Map of Al-Rutba

The above statistics suggest an overall reduction in activities and an uneven distribution of DS activities across the region. Al-Wafaa sub-district of Ramadi currently benefits from the highest DS program investments in East Anbar. However, it has the second lowest number of targeted beneficiaries (2,001). This, suggesting the dollar to the beneficiary ratio (average of 1 beneficiary to \$1,052), is disproportionately higher in Al-Wafaa compared to other districts such as Garma and Rutba (with an average of 1 beneficiary to \$17). Amiriyat sub-district which hosts 78% of the current IDP caseload in East Anbar proportionately receives low DS programs investments. Similarly, the dollar-to-beneficiary ratio (\$39) in Amiriyat is relatively low.

Over half of the DS program interventions are in the Ramadi and Fallujah districts which are hosts to the highest caseloads of returnees. This can explain why DS program investment in Fallujah and Ramadi is high as well as suggesting the shift toward supporting the reintegration of returnees rather than people that remain in displacement.

These statistics are representative of the changing environment, which can be explained by three factors a). Overall reduction of donor funding to Iraq, b). The shift in donors' focus from emergency response to durable solutions, and c). The government policy shift, to end displacement and abolish all IDP camps in Iraq. These policy shifts will determine in the coming years the extent of DS programming interventions in East Anbar and Iraq as a whole.

4. OVERVIEW OF SECTORAL NEEDS AND CHALLENGES

From June to November 2022 the East Anbar ABC conducted extensive consultations in all the initial target locations to understand projects undertaken by both the government and durable solution partners. During the consultations, the ABC assessed completed, ongoing, and planned projects. Furthermore, the following gaps were identified. In the below tables, the identified gaps have been summarized by districts and locations.

District/Sub-District	Al-Garma
Location	Al-Sijar and Al-Khairat
Specific Objectives	Identified Gaps
Basic Services: Education	In Al-Sijar there is a need for additional classrooms and school facilities, and classrooms are overcrowded. To address this gap, the education authority proposed 7 additional schools in the area. Education authorities also highlighted limited teaching staff, lack of stationery, and the need to upgrade the primary school curricula.
	In Al-Khairat there are 28 schools, yet the authorities reported that 3 additional schools are needed to adequately cover the school-going age population. In Al-Garma there are high fees of transportation, and lack of income for families to buy scholastic materials (books, bags, uniforms, etc.).
Basic Services: Electricity	There are constant power outages in the areas since most homes and public facilities are connected to the Baghdad power grid. The government planned electricity intervention will prioritize urban settlements. The gap would remain in semi-urban and rural settlements, thus, the need to expand the electricity supply to the population through the installation of additional poles, transformers, and cable lines.
Basic Services Health	There will be a gap in the provision of medical supplies for the UNDP-planned PHCC (under construction). The current shortage of equipment and supplies in the public healthcare facilities of Al-Garma, most notably X-ray machines and basic medical supplies such as bandages, needles, and beds.
Basic Services: Infrastructure	There is a lack of recreational facilities for children and youth.
Basic Services: WASH	The underground water is not drinkable, there is a need for a purification station and the installation of underground pipes. To fully cover the need of the district, the authority proposes to install 6 new water treatment plants (WTPs) and rehabilitate the existing 6 WTPs across Al-Garma general area. Additionally, WASH partners have identified the following needs: Solid waste management (SWM), desludging services, supply and install RO units, Solid waste recycling factory, sewage water treatment, and sewage networks.
Housing HLP	Government-level advocacy required fast-track construction compensation payments to affected families. None of the returnees received compensation for the damaged property.
	43 households were identified to be living in tents as their homes need rehabilitation. Furthermore, some families cannot return to their places of origin due to the conflict among the security actors, especially in the Al-Soor area.

District/Sub-District	Al-Garma
Location	Al-Sijar and Al-Khairat
Specific Objectives	Identified Gaps
Documents and Rights	Capacity building to the department's civil document is needed. The gap is largely covered by INGOs, which is not sustainable.
Livelihoods	Smallholder farmers who largely depend on farming for their source of food and income have been affected by the government policy to reduce the land area by 50% which could be used for agriculture production since the district has experienced significant water shortages in the past years. This policy accordingly to the farmers directly impacts food production capacity as well as capacity for income generation for households.
	Communities that heavily depend on agriculture for food and income generation see other types of micro-business support as viable alternatives for income generation and have expressed the need for support in this area.
Safety and Security	There is a conflict among the security actors, and this results in preventing some displaced families from returning. Particularly those communities bordering Baghdad which are under the control of PMF. High-level advocacy is needed to remove the obstacles to returning.
Protection (not a standing-alone SO, but better to distinguish it from safety/ security)	Gaps identified in legal services provision, HLP, case management, PSS, GBV, and CP.
	The coverage for social cohesion activities is limited in both locations. There is a need for increased coverage and support of government-led efforts.
Social Cohesion	Furthermore, there is a need for intensified work in tribal engagement efforts to address tribal tension that prevents some families from returning to the area.
Government Leadership	Increasing government interventions needed to address issues such as housing compensation and provision of basic services to semi-urban and rural populations.

District/Sub-District	Al-Fallujah
Location	Al-Shuhadaa, Jubail and Al-Saqlawiyah
Specific Objectives	Identified Gaps
Basic Services: Education	There is a need to construct secondary and primary schools in the Al-Mamoon neighborhood. The area needs additional primary and secondary schools to cope with the growing size of the school-going population. A huge number of pupils and students remain without proper classrooms and the seating capacity is poor. A minimum of 5 schools are needed to cover the increasing number of schools going age population. School furniture workshop is available in the district, but it remains without the proper tools to be able to rehabilitate the broken class-room furniture.

District/Sub-District	Al-Fallujah
Location	Al-Shuhadaa, Jubail and Al-Saqlawiyah
Specific Objectives	Identified Gaps
	The sub-sectors of Al-Shuhadaa (Al-Mansoor, 16, 19, 21, 24, and 25 areas) need electricity power upgrades (installation of transformers, wires, and poles). According to the Department of Electricity, the whole southern sector needs a 33 KV transformer power station to reduce the load from the overloaded eastern and southern stations. Furthermore, this will ensure the power needed to run potable water complexes operation, sewage, and rainwater drainage stations.
Basic Services: Electricity	The current electricity network is outdated and not functioning properly. The lack of routine maintenance also results in damaged wiring among other issues. According to the Department of Electricity, the whole southern sector needs a 33 KV transformer power station to reduce the load from the overloaded eastern and southern stations which will also ensure the power needed to run potable water complexes operation, sewage, and rainwater drainage stations.
	The rural locations of the sub-districts remain with no proper electrical network and power shortages are common. These areas need prioritization by new power supply interventions.
Basic Services: Health	The area has a limited capacity for health services provided to the population. There is a need to rehabilitate and expand the existing health center and equip it with medical staff and provide essential supplies including medicines. Furthermore, there is a need for rehabilitating latrines in the center and deploying essential medical equipment.
	The only health center in the area needs rehabilitation and equipping with medical equipment and essential supplies including a regular supply of medicines. The facility has the following needs.
	 Patients with medical emergencies are normally referred to Markez Fallujah for medical care.
	 Residents expressed the need for a 50-bed hospital to address the medical needs of the population.
	Furthermore, 4 primary health centers are needed to cover the new areas of Al-shahada and Al-Jam'aeyah
	Water distribution networks and sewage systems need upgrades. It requires a 10 kilometers water network facility and 5-kilometer sewage.
	The need to construct, furnish, and staff a 50-bed hospital to cover the huge gaps in health services delivery.
	Rehabilitation and construction of electricity networks as stated in the sections above.
Basic Services: Infrastructure	Residents identified the construction of paved roads as an infrastructure priority. Most inner roads except the main streets are unpaved.
	Furthermore, education infrastructure is limited and cannot cope with the growing population. There's a need to build more schools and upgrade the existing ones.
	An additional water network connection is needed to have full coverage of the area. The current connection is inadequate.
	There is a need for constructing recreational parks, small sports stadiums, and centers to host community events.

District/Sub-District	Al-Fallujah
Location	Al-Shuhadaa, Jubail and Al-Saqlawiyah
Specific Objectives	Identified Gaps
	The sewage networks need rehabilitation in most parts of the areas.
	The district needs a wastewater treatment station. The current method of dealing with wastewater is to flush directly into the river and open canals resulting in bad odors and diseases.
Pagic Samuigagi NAASH	A potable water distribution network needs rehabilitation. According to the director of the water depth of Fallujah, the many small potable water complexes located in the southern area of Fallujah lack routine maintenance services.
Basic Services: WASH	Limited power supplies during summer affect the ability to do maintenance services. Therefore, a standby generator is required. To resolve this problem and meet the need of communities in Southern Fallujah, the Department of Water recommends the construction of one central potable water system with a capacity of 5000m3/hr like the one in the northern area to meet the needs of the southern areas of Fallujah (Al Shuhadaa and Jubail). Additionally, WASH partners have identified the following needs: Solid waste management (SWM), desludging services, supply and install RO units, solid waste recycling factory, sewage water treatment, and sewage networks.
Housing HLP	HHs identified living in tents or unfinished buildings without basic services. Approximately 6,000 families currently live with other extended family members due to a lack of shelter, as their homes were destroyed in the war. Additionally, 20,000 homes are partially damaged and need support to rehabilitate them. Advocacy is needed at the national level for the settlement of compensation claims.
Documents and Rights	Many families cannot cover the legal fees associated with document renewals. Furthermore, there are a huge number of HHs who need unified cards, but they are unable to obtain them because of complicated procedures in the civil department. Additionally, the community reported that many widows in the area cannot afford the cost of renewing legal documents, which has resulted in an inability to access their late husband's benefits and denied them access to other public services.
	Families allegedly affiliated with ISIS find it difficult to get civil documents. Reported complications obtaining any type of documents from government offices
Livelihoods	The unemployment rate is at its highest level with the lack of job opportunities for youth, new graduates, and female-headed families. Cash-based interventions and income-generating projects might help to mitigate the high rate of unemployment.
	Interventions from MoLSA and DS partners are needed to address high unemployment and other social problems faced by female-headed households. Interventions in technical vocational education and training could support youth and women's skills development and promote local entrepreneurship
Safety and Security	There are currently no police and fire stations in the area. Increasing drug abuse among youth is a security concern that needs attention.

District/Sub-District	Al-Fallujah
Location	Al-Shuhadaa, Jubail and Al-Saqlawiyah
Specific Objectives	Identified Gaps
Protection (not a standing-alone SO, but better to distinguish it from safety/ security)	Many protection actors provide different protection services to the general Fallujah areas; they cover Al-Shuhadaa, Al-Saqlawiyah, and Al-Jubail as well. However, communities complained that protection services are sometimes far from their residents thus access becomes a problem. There is a need for increasing protection program funding to enhance the decentralization of activities at sub-districts and neighborhood levels.
Social Cohesion	There might not be any issues raised concerning families affiliated with ISIL yet because there are still families who remain in displacement. Raising community awareness and social cohesion projects are essential to prepare the host community for a reunion.
	The coverage of social cohesion activities is limited. There is a need for increased coverage and support of government-led efforts.
Government Leadership	Budget allocation for planned development projects.
	Processing and payment of housing compensation claims.
	Address acute needs in education and health services delivery.

District/Sub-District	Amiriyat Al-Somoud
Location	Bzeibez, AAF and Al-Husai
Specific Objectives	Identified Gaps
Basic Services: Education	The district needs additional primary and secondary schools to cope with the growing size of the school-going population. A huge number of pupils and students remain without proper classrooms and the seating capacity is poor. Particularly in both Albu Hawa & Al-Jifah in Al-Husai, residents raised gaps for educational materials and furniture such as stationary, desks whiteboards, etc.
	The current electricity network in some areas of the district is outdated and not functioning properly. The lack of routine maintenance also results in damaged wiring etc. Mainly the rural locations of the sub-districts remain with no proper electrical network, while power shortages are common. These areas need prioritization by new power supply interventions. The Department of Electricity listed below the urgent support needed to bridge the gaps.
Basic Services: Electricity	50 Electrical power transformers
	1,000 poles with 50,000 M of wires.
	Four maintenance vehicles are used by the maintenance division which only covers 50% of the existing gap.
	 Husai's current electricity distribution network required expansion to cope with the growing power supply need of the population.
Basic services Health	Rehabilitation of four primary health centers in Bzeibez, Tell Ghattas, and Humaideen areas as these centers are providing health services for thousands of returnees and host communities' families.
	Five health centers required lab materials for usual tests in addition to five tooth chairs.

District/Sub-District	Amiriyat Al-Somoud
Location	Bzeibez, AAF and Al-Husai
Specific Objectives	Identified Gaps
Basic services: Infrastructure	Residents identified the construction of paved roads as an infrastructure priority. Most inner roads except the main streets are unpaved.
	Many of the irrigation channels need cleaning, especially the primary channels with different lengths as that will enhance the local authorities and farmers to provide more services for their communities.
	A water distribution network needs rehabilitation.
Basic services: WASH	According to the director of the water depth, the many small water complexes located in these areas operate for short hours. 30 additional stations are required to cover the need. The following areas need urgent attention. Al-Zuwayiha, Albu Salih Al-Batraa, and Al-Heraimat.
	Additionally, WASH partners have identified the following needs: Solid waste management (SWM), desludging services, supply and install RO units, Solid waste recycling factory, sewage water treatment, and sewage networks.
Housing and HLP	Some families cannot return to their places of origin due to either existing tribal conflicts or conflicts among the security actors.
Documentation and rights	Many families cannot cover the legal fees associated with document renewals, such as unified IDs. Large numbers are without new unified IDs, for example, there are about 1,500 families in Bzeibez who reported the need for unified cards, but they are unable to obtain them because of complicated procedures in the civil department.
Livelihoods	Due to limited livelihood support, many families and households are without a stable income, and rely mainly on daily labor-intensive works such as construction in nearby urban settlements. Sustaining donor funding is required to support families and individuals needing income generation support. Support to agricultural and manufacturing projects would ensure long-term sustainable income generation opportunities for these households.
Safety and Security	There were no major security concerns raised, though the residents requested police stations to be established in proximity for easy access to security personnel in case of need.
Protection (not a standing-alone SO, but better to distinguish it from safety/ security)	Many widows exist in the area and need financial and legal support. There is a need to invest and expand MoLSA's social protection programs that could assist widows and orphans.
	There is a need for intensified work in tribal engagement efforts.
Social cohesion	Therefore, it's necessary to have a center for conducting and hosting such activities noting that the communities highlighted this issue as one of the main priorities. Community engagements are excellent forums to address tribal and affiliation-related issues and could be helpful in the social reintegration of IDPs
	Budget allocation for planned development projects.
Government leadership	Processing and payment of housing compensation claims.
	Address acute needs in education and health services delivery.
District/Sub-District	Al-Habaniyah
Location	Al-Khaldyia, Jazerat Al-Khadiyah, Angor and Al-Mijer
Specific Objectives	Identified Gaps

District/Sub-District	Amiriyat Al-Somoud		
Location	Bzeibez, AAF and Al-Husai		
Specific Objectives	Identified Gaps		
	The district needs additional primary and secondary schools to cope with the growing size of the school-going population. A huge number of pupils and students remain without proper classrooms and the seating capacity is poor. More precisely, the residents listed the following gaps.		
D . C	Rehabilitation of Mansour and Al-Zahawi Schools		
Basic Services: Education	Rehabilitation of WASH facilities in many of the schools		
	Revision of school curricula.		
	Lacking PSS services in schools		
	Increase and training of teachers		
	The current electricity network in some areas of the district is outdated and not functioning properly. Lack of routine maintenance also results in damaged wiring etc. Mainly the rural locations of the sub-districts remain with no proper electrical network and power shortages are common. These areas need prioritization by new power supply interventions. More precisely, the department of electricity listed the below as urgent support needed to bridge the gaps.		
Basic Services: Electricity	Rehabilitation of the electricity network in the Al-Gatran area		
	 In Angor and Al-Mijer there is a need for major rehabilitation including the installation of new poles, cables, transformer, and power regulator station. 		
	 Similar gaps exist in the Khaldyia-Sdegyia areas with the need to install new poles, cables, and transformers. 		
	The area has a limited capacity for health services provided to the population. There is a need to rehabilitate and expand the existing health centers and equip them with medical staff and provide essential supplies including medicines. Furthermore, there is a need for rehabilitating latrines in the center and deploying essential medical equipment. The following specific gaps have been identified by the Department of Health.		
	 In Jazerat Khaliya the furnishing, training of staff, and rehabilitation of bath- rooms for the health centers. 		
Basic Services:: Health	 In Angor and Al-Mijer, areas the following gaps were identified: 		
Basic Services:: Health	No adequate medicines especially for chronic diseases.		
	2. Limited tests available such as x-rays.		
	3. No maternity services for women.		
	4. Lack of staff, no doctors, only medics working in the center.		
	5. Partial rehabilitation is also required.		
	 In Khaldiya—Sdegyia there is no existing health facility. The community expressed the need for a health center and availed land for that purpose. 		

District/Sub-District	Amiriyat Al-Somoud		
Location	Bzeibez, AAF and Al-Husai		
Specific Objectives	Identified Gaps		
	Residents identified the construction of paved roads as an infrastructure priority. Most inner roads except the main streets are unpaved.		
Basic services: Infrastructure	Many of the irrigation canals need cleaning, especially the primary channels, and more frequent and systematic collection of garbage is needed.		
	The municipality department expressed a need for staff capacity building in various technical areas of their work.		
Basic services: WASH	Water distribution networks need rehabilitation. These include the water treatment complexes in Albu Bali, Al-Hamamiyat, Al-Karabila, and Albu Souda. Additionally, the water treatment plant and RO station in Angor, the water treatment plant in Al-Mijer, and the water treatment complex and sewage network in Khaldiya - Sdegyia are all in need of rehabilitation. Additionally, WASH partners have identified the following needs: Solid waste management (SWM), desludging services, supply and installation of RO units, solid waste recycling factory, sewage water treatment, and sewage networks.		
Housing and HI P	Advocacy to accelerate compensation payments by the local and federal government for affected families whose homes have been destroyed due to the armed conflict.		
Housing and HLP	Work with the departments concerned to provide legal support to replace missing civil documents.		
	History of mines in the environment, residents need mine risks education.		
Documentation and rights	Some residents need unified ID cards, but they are unable to obtain them because of complicated procedures in the civil department. They noted that issuance of unified s usually takes 4-6 months. This document is printed only in Baghdad which makes the process take that long.		
S	Many of the residents do not have awareness of the process of obtaining legal documents. Therefore, programs for legal guidance and representation would be essential.		
	Most of the communities are rural settlements and the inhabitants are farmers and fishers. The provision of greenhouses, support for livestock production, and cleaning irrigation canals for farming irrigation would go a long way to support the recovery of these settlements.		
Livelihoods	Furthermore, the communities noted the limited supply of fuel for fishing boats as the government prohibited the fuel stations from selling to fishing boat owners for fishing. Additionally, fishing communities have been affected by the low water levels in recent years. These situations resulted in some residents seeking work outside their areas of habitual residents since one of the primary sources of food and income has been affected.		
	There are currently no police and fire stations in the area.		
Safety and Security	Increasing drug abuse among youth is a security concern that needs attention.		
	The risks of mines have been raised by residents as another major concern needing support from both government partners.		
Protection (not a standing-alone SO, but better to distinguish it from safety/	There are reports of many school drop-outs due to either parents' inability to pay for the cost of children's education, or sometimes due to lack of interest.		
security)	Need for case management support i.e., MHPSS for widows and orphans.		

District/Sub-District	Amiriyat Al-Somoud	
Location	Bzeibez, AAF and Al-Husai	
Specific Objectives	Identified Gaps	
	Support the community by building systems for dispute resolution.	
Social cohesion	There is a need for intensified work in tribal engagement efforts.	
	Community engagements are excellent forums to address tribal and affiliation-related issues and could be helpful in the social reintegration of IDPs.	
Government leadership	Residents recommend active government engagement with various communi initiatives. They want local authorities to frequently consult with communities about development programs, which they said are currently lacking. According to the residents of the districts, the suggested approach would reinforce the government's position and promote cordial dialogue with citizens.	

District/Sub-District	Ramadi	
Location	Ramadi center, Jazerat Al-Ramadi, Al-Rahaliay and Al-Tash	
Specific Objectives	Identified Gaps	
Basic services: Education	Education authorities in the district identified additional school facilities, revision of the existing curriculum, the introduction of PSS activities in schools, and teacher training as priorities in the education sector needed to cope with the growing size of the school-going population. More precisely the residents listed the following gaps by location.	
	Jazerat Al-Ramadi : Proposed to construct two new schools in Al-Trabsha, rehabilitate the Zwiya community school, and construct a new school in the Albu Eitha community.	
	AI-Rahaliay: Education authorities in the sub-district highlighted limited teaching staff, limited supply of stationery, and the need to upgrade the primary school curricula.	
	Al-Tash 1, 2, and 3 villages: Construct kindergarten, elementary and high schools for girls.	
Basic services: Electricity	There are constant power outages in the areas since most homes and public facilities are connected to the Karblaa power grid, this is mainly for the Al-Rahaliay sub-district.	
	Additionally, the current electricity network in some areas of the district is outdated and not functioning properly. Lack of routine maintenance also results in damaged wiring etc. Mainly the rural locations of the districts remain with no proper electrical network and power shortages are common. These areas (Kilo 7, Al-Zaytoun, Al-Qadisiya 1, Al-Sufiyan, Al-Sijariyya, and Al-Tash) need prioritization by new power supply interventions.	

District/Sub-District	Ramadi			
Location	Ramadi center, Jazerat Al-Ramadi, Al-Rahaliay and Al-Tash			
Specific Objectives	Identified Gaps			
Basic services: Health	The health facilities in the area need rehabilitation and are equipped with medical equipment and essential supplies including a regular supply of medicines. More precisely the district health officials have listed the following gaps.			
	Ramadi Center: A regular supply of essential medicines and equipment for medical centers, training of the staff, and rehabilitation of PSS unit within the referral hospital.			
	Jazerat Al-Ramadi: Construct a hospital and build a maternity center, and to regularly supply essential medicines and equipment as well as other non-medical supplies.			
	Al-Rahaliyah: There is a noticeable shortage of essential equipment and supplies, while the physical space is limited in the public healthcare facilities. Health authorities proposed to construct a pediatrician unit and a birthing Hall, in addition to equipment including X-ray machines and basic medical supplies such as bandages, needles, and beds.			
	AI-Tash 1, 2, 3 villages: Congestion of existing health unit, needs rehabilitation/expansion.			
Basic services: Infrastructure	Generally, most urban and semi-urban areas of Ramadi have seen significant improvements in infrastructure development, particularly roads, electricity, and water facilities. The need for additional infrastructure development such as irrigation canals and road pavement was requested for the rural areas of Jazerat Al-Ramadi, Al-Rahilya, and the Al-Tash areas.			
Basic services: WASH	The sewage networks need rehabilitation in Kilo 5 and Zaytoun areas. Jazerat Al-Ramadi needs water treatment plant rehabilitation. Other areas including Al-Rahaliyah, and Al-Tash prioritized water distribution network rehabilitation. According to the director of the water department of Ramadi, the many small water complexes located in the district lack routine maintenance services. Limited power supplies during the summer affect the ability to do maintenance services. To resolve this problem and meet the need of communities in rural Ramadi, the Department of Water recommends the construction of one central water system. Additionally, the training of cadres for managing water stations was prioritized. Additionally, WASH partners have identified the following needs:			
	Solid waste management (SWM)			
	Desludging services			
	Supply and installation of RO units			
	Solid waste recycling factory			
	Sewage water treatment			
	Rehabilitation of sewage networks.			
Housing and HLP	Advocacy is needed at both the governorate and national levels for the settlement of compensation claims. For example, in Jazerat Al-Ramadi, there are reported families with damaged homes from the armed conflict. They have filed for claims but were not paid.			
	Furthermore, the lack of legal documentation and the process for obtaining them was reported as major challenges.			

District/Sub-District	Ramadi	
Location	Ramadi center, Jazerat Al-Ramadi, Al-Rahaliay and Al-Tash	
Specific Objectives	Identified Gaps	
Documentation and rights	The community reported that many families, especially families that were displaced and have returned are finding it difficult to renew legal documents including birth and citizenship documents, title deeds for land properties, etc. Furthermore, most of the affected individuals and families have little awareness of the process to obtain legal documents and often in government offices there are no clear procedures in place. The process of obtaining documents can range from 1-6 months depending on personal contacts.	
Livelihoods	During community consultations, residents of Ramadi identified high unemployment as a major gap, particularly for the youth. Furthermore, the agriculture sector is underdeveloped, and production is very low compared to the potential in the sector. For example, the fishing sub-sector could be a major contributor to economic activities and could provide jobs and income for many households. However, there has been no major investment to boost the sector.	
	Vocational training for women and youth, and an income generation empowerment program could be a valuable support for the local communities. Cash for work could serve as a medium for a short-term cash injection and empower vulnerable households to cope with the shock of economic uncertainty.	
	In Ramadi, there are still some areas such as Kilo 7 where many properties were destroyed during the ISIS crisis. The debris has not been removed, and the risk of UXOs remains.	
Safety and Security	In the center of Ramadi residents expressed concerns about the spread of criminal activities and drug abuse among the youth population. Therefore, there is a need for awareness programs for the community and campaigns to encourage communities' initiatives to address such problems.	
	In Jazerat Al-Ramadi, residents name police stations as a need to quickly respond to incidents of crimes, etc.	
Protection (not a standing-alone SO, but better to distinguish it from safety/security)	In Ramadi, the main protection concern identified by the communities relates to child labor. Disempowered women (particularly widows) would normally send children to be engaged in street selling or begging. The community members observed that many youths that end up in drug abuse are those constantly involved in street activities.	
"	There is a need for PSS and livelihoods support for vulnerable families including headed female-headed households.	
Social cohesion	The IOM Tribal engagement team has documented tribal issues that are preventing some families from returning to their places of origin, specifically in the Kilo-18 area of Ramadi. The affected community members asked for programs and initiatives that support social cohesion and encourage the setting up of community volunteer groups. Furthermore, there is a need for intensified work in tribal engagement efforts.	

District/Sub-District	Ramadi Ramadi center, Jazerat Al-Ramadi, Al-Rahaliay and Al-Tash Identified Gaps	
Location		
Specific Objectives		
	Residents requested the government to address gaps in education and health care deliveries. Also, they want the government to address concerns related to housing compensation.	
Government leadership	The residents of Ramadi recognized the efforts being made by the government to restore basic social services and infrastructure. However, they noted that ongoing development initiatives discussed are not discussed with communities. Therefore, they recommend active government engagement with various community initiatives. They want local authorities to frequently consult with communities about development programs, which they said are currently lacking.	

5. INITIAL TARGET LOCATIONS

Al-Garma

In the sub-district of Al-Garma, two locations have been prioritized. They include Al-Sijar and Al-Khairat. Al-Garma is predominately an agricultural community. During the East Anbar ABC consultations, communities reported an acute shortage of water; a condition that is impacting multiple levels including food security and agriculture, as well as hygiene and health. The Department of Agriculture and smallholder farmers reported that the government instituted a policy to reduce farming land by 50%. This policy is in direct response to the ensuing water crisis in the district, thus impacting food production capacity as well capacity for income generation for households. There is also conflict reported among the security actors which often results in preventing some displaced families from returning, particularly those communities bordering Baghdad (Al-Khairat area) which are under the control of PMF. The local authority in Garma has reported significant progress on road infrastructure and restoring security in most parts of the sub-district.

Al-Fallujah

The East Anbar ABC prioritized three locations in the Fallujah district, namely Al-Shuhadaa, Jubail, and Al-Saqlawiyah. According to the Director of the Department of Water in Fallujah, the many small water complexes located in the southern area of Fallujah lack routine maintenance services. Limited power supplies during summer affect the ability to do maintenance services. Therefore, a standby generator is required. To resolve this problem in the long-term and meet the needs of communities in Southern Fallujah, the Department of Water recommends the construction of one central water system like the one in the northern area to meet the needs of the southern areas of Fallujah (Al Shuhadaa and Jubail).

Amiriyat Al-Somoud

Al-Amiriyat district is currently host to 78% of the IDP population in East Anbar. Bzeibez informal IDP settlement hosts the largest IDP population in the district. The majority of the existing IDP population in this area originates from Jurf Sakher and Awisat (areas that are considered blocked locations). Other locations in the district that are hosting IDPs include the AAF informal site.

Through the IOM-facilitated voluntary return program, several IDPs from AAF informal sites have either returned to their places of habitual residence or relocated to other areas. Relocated cases have been settled mainly in other settlements within Amiriyat, Fallujah, Garma and Ramadi.

Al-Ramadi

Ramadi district is the political headquarters of Anbar governorate. The East Anbar ABC has prioritized 6 locations in Ramadi, and they include Al-Rahaliyah, Jazerat Al Ramadi, Al-Tash, Humaira, Kilo 7, 9, and 18, and Markaz Ramadi. Through the East Anbar ABC consultations in Ramadi, it was established that the district has made significant progress compared to other districts in Anbar in terms of economic, social, and infrastructure development. Security conditions are stable, which is potentially a reason for the huge number of returns in the past years. Locations such as Jazerat Al-Ramadi, Al-Tash, Humaira, and Markaz Ramadi have seen a boom in economic activities, increasing public services provision and improving infrastructure development in recent years. These developments from the ABC assessment necessitate a review of ABC's initial priority locations in Ramadi. Kilos 7, 9, and 18 and the rural area of Al-Rahaliyah are still among the priority locations where continuing interventions by durable solutions partners could be justified. Other locations demonstrate less need for interventions.

Conclusion and recommendations for DS Interventions:

Due to the Iraqi government's policy of removing IDP camp status in 2022, all IDP camps in East Anbar were re-classified to informal sites. With the announcement of the government, these settlements technically lost IDP camps status. This development impacted the ability of humanitarian organizations to provide assistance to the population that resided therein since much donor funding has been mainly tied to supporting IDPs in camps. Subsequently, IDPs living in those settlements continue to experience difficult conditions, with minimum support, thus exacerbating the deteriorating living conditions they have endured for years.

In the coming months and years, durable solutions partners will have to increase engagements with the government authorities for continuing targeted support to IDP families who cannot return home or be relocated for various reasons. For example, regardless of the efforts made, there remain families within AAF and Bzeibez who cannot leave those settlements either because of security concerns in their areas of habitual residence or have been denied access to areas that they intended to relocate to. The East Anbar ABC has remained engaged with the Anbar authorities in finding practical solutions for IDPs that are denied access to relocate and those having security concerns not allowing them to return home. Continuing advocacy and government engagements will continue to be the focus of the ABC to address these issues that IDPs are facing.

Other locations in East Anbar where DS interventions would be required include (Al-Ramadi) Kilos 7, 9, and 18 and the rural area of Al-Rahaliya; (Al-Fallujah) Al-Shuadah; (Al-Habaniya) low-cost housing, (Al-Garma) Sijer and Al-Khairat; (Al-Amariya) Husai.

6. INTER-AREA COORDINATION

The East Anbar ABC currently has a membership of 27 organizations, which comprise the 8 UN agencies, 13 International NGOs, and 6 National NGOs. In 2022, IOM, Mercy Hands, and UNHCR led East Anbar ABC coordination. Monthly ABC meetings have been held to discuss priorities of the ABC such as community consultations, government engagements, and identifying IDP-related concerns for ABC's immediate actions.

In 2022, the Governor of Anbar designated the Directorate of Planning as ABC's direct point of contact and main coordination counterpart with the government. Since then, the East Anbar ABC has maintained a close working relationship with the planning directorate; frequently sharing information about ABC activities. The Directorate of Planning has also supported and led ABC initiatives including the hosting of discussions on consolidated deep dive findings for Al-Garma and Fallujah districts and mapping out actions for the implementation of government recovery and development projects.

In 2023 and beyond, East Anbar ABC shall focus on coordinated joint planning, joint implementation, and joint reporting of activities aimed at promoting durable solutions for the internally displaced. It is anticipated that coordination with local authorities will be further strengthened both at the governorate and district levels with the establishment of the Joint Coordination Forum which will operate at the governorate level. The inter-area coordination in implementing this PoA will emphasize coordination with the local government in each initial target location, with partners who implement durable solutions interventions as well as with the host and affected communities. The coordination will also be extended to partners who support IDPs outside East Anbar, including Baghdad, Sulaymaniyah, Erbil, and other governorates such as Babil.

ANNEX A: IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

To be updated based on Kobo data indicating which activities have been completed in 2021/22 and which new activities are planned for 22/23.

ANNEX B: MONITORING AND TRACKING

To be updated with a new monitoring framework with indicators.

EAST ANBAR DURABLE SOLUTIONS PLAN OF ACTION REVISION 2021–2024

