

Minutes

Sinjar ABC Group Ad-Hoc Meeting
Sunrise Office, Markaz Sinjar, Al-Shuhadah neighborhood, Sinjar, Ninawa
14 March 2024 11:30 – 12:30

Participation:

Chair: Mr. Ghulam Isaczai, DSRSG/RC/HC
Government: Mr. Ali Omar, Deputy Governor of Ninawa for Displacement and Organizations Affair, and Mr. Khalid Abdul Kreem, MOMD Ninewa branch Director.
in Person: UNICEF, IOM, UNAMI- OPAA, UNAMI- DSO, Sunrise, NRC, DRC, Nadia's Initiative, Youth Bridge, UNDP, UNHCR, House of Coexistence, Norwegian Church Aid, UBDO, Hope Makers, and RC Office.
Online: REACH, OCHA, WFP, Nonviolent Peace Force, UN-Habitat, AVSI, Welthunger Hilfe, Dorcas Aid International, UPP, Samaritan's Purse (SP), Humanity and Inclusion (HI), IRC, ACTED, PUI, IVY, and Mercy Corps.
Absent: Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), ECHO, GIZ, YAZDA, Action Against Hunger, THG, UNFPA, Malteser International, DARY, and MAG
Note Taker: UNAMI- Najat Abdullah, Secretariat.

Main Points:

The meeting opened with a warm welcome from Mr. Ghulam Isaczai, DSRSG/RC/HC to the attendees and especially to Mr. Ali Omar, Deputy Governor of Ninawa for Displacement and Organizations Affair, and Mr. Khalid Abdul Kreem, MOMD Ninewa branch Director.

Mr. Ghulam Isaczai, DSRSG/RC/HC

The RC expressed his satisfaction in personally chairing the meeting in Sinjar, noting the unique importance of the Sinjar ABC in coordinating efforts within the district. He elaborated on the decision to restructure other ABCs, aiming to expand coordination to cover the entire governorate and establish a Joint Coordination Forum across five governorates, with the inclusion of the Governor and Governor Assistant to enhance government involvement in Durable Solution efforts. The RC provided insights from missions conducted to camps, and informal settlements in KRG, and Sinjar, engaging with IDPs, returnees, and humanitarian agencies to address the impending closure of IDP camps in KRG by July 31, 2024. He highlighted collaborative efforts with the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MOMD) and Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) to develop a Durable Solution roadmap endorsed by the High Council in Baghdad, with ongoing efforts to gain KRG endorsement. Recognizing challenges posed by the government's timeline for camp closures, the RC assured flexibility while reaffirming UN support for return efforts. Following discussions with returnees, challenges including shelter, services, livelihoods, and security were emphasized. The RC underscored the importance of conducting a comprehensive needs assessment in Sinjar, emphasizing the need to prioritize these needs in collaboration with the government.

Government:

Mr. Ali Omar expressed his warm welcome to the DSRSG/RC/HC in Sinjar, extending gratitude for approving the government of Ninewa's request to retain the Sinjar ABC group, citing its critical role in district coordination. While acknowledging the RC's identification of shelter, services, and livelihoods as primary impediments to return, Mr. Ali Omar contested the notion of security being a concern, asserting Sinjar's stability despite security challenges being politically motivated. He reported the Prime Minister's insistence on closing the displacement file in Sinjar during his visit on March 4th. The establishment of the Sinjar Reconstruction Committee, chaired by Mr. Zedan Khalaf, was announced, with an initial annual

budget of fifty billion dinars allocated for projects spanning the Ninewa Plain, Sinjar, Qahtaniyah, Zummar, and Qairawan.

Mr. Ali Omar provided updates on healthcare facilities, stating that the Sinjar and Sinone Hospitals (each with 100 beds) are undergoing tender processes, while Qahtaniyah Hospital is included in the plan. He highlighted efforts to prioritize services in Qahtaniyah and Qairawan due to the low returnee rates in Qahtaniyah. The significant challenge of shelter shortages, with 80% of shelters demolished, and the scarcity of services were underscored.

The government of Ninewa initiated a committee, chaired by the Director of the Directorate of Municipalities, tasked with conducting a comprehensive service needs assessment in Sinjar. The resulting plan, addressing infrastructure and service gaps, was shared with UNAMI-DSO and subsequently with the RC office. Mr. Ali Omar appealed to the RC for support in implementing projects beyond the government's capacity, particularly in shelters and livelihoods. Regarding shelter, a proposal to reconstruct demolished houses prioritized specific locations based on the needs of selected IDPs instead of establishing new compounds. The proposed plan includes the construction of 800 houses in the Al-Shimal (Sinine) sub-district, 100 in the center of Sinjar, 250 in Tal Al Qasab, 200 in Tal Al Banat, 500 in Adnaniya, 350 in Al-Jazeera, and 300 in Qahtaniyah, awaiting federal government approval.

Lastly, the Prime Minister's decision to reallocate 3,000 - 4,000 salaries from social care to returning individuals in Sinjar was lauded, emphasizing the imperative for UN agencies and NGOs to support government efforts in addressing significant gaps in shelters, livelihoods, and services.

The RC requested Mr. Ali Omar to share the government's prepared needs assessment and its intended dissemination to partners, elucidating which projects could be undertaken by UN agencies and NGOs, thereby managing expectations, and facilitating the formulation of a collaborative plan.

Mr. Ali Omar affirmed the exceptional level of cooperation and coordination achieved between the government of Ninewa, UN agencies, and NGOs, particularly since 2020.

Mr. Khalid Abdul Kreem asserted the ongoing progress in return efforts, emphasizing the clarity and specificity of decisions, notably Cabinet Resolution No. 24007 of 2024 aimed at closing camps, comprising 12 defined articles. He assured seamless implementation, highlighting strong coordination with KRG and IDP camp management.

Sinjar ABC Focal Point.

The Sinjar ABC FP affirmed the existence of the Sinjar Plan of Action (PoA) requiring updating. A proposal for a contingency plan was made during the previous Sinjar ABC meeting, alongside the establishment of the [Sinjar ABC Service Map](#), an online platform exclusively for Sinjar ABC members.

Sinjar ABC Secretariat

The Sinjar ABC secretariat stressed the importance of the Government of Ninewa sharing the prepared needs assessment with them, including a list of planned government projects. This would enable the secretariat to identify gaps and needs, facilitating collaborative planning within the Sinjar ABC group to address these gaps effectively.

Action Points:

- The Government of Ninewa is requested to share the government needs assessments (infrastructures and services) in Sinjar District with the secretariat, to conculcated and prepare the joint assessments with the Sinjar ABC partners.
- The Sinjar ABC partners are requested to update their activities in the [Sinjar ABC Service Map](#).