

**Minutes of the Sinjar ABC Group Meeting  
on 13 August 2024 in Sunrise Office – Sinjar  
11:00 – 13:30**

**Co-Chairs:** IOM- FP

**Participants from Government:** Mr. Ali Omer the Deputy Governor of Ninawa for the Displacement and Organizations Affair, and Mr. Hassan Motaz the deputy of Sinjar MOMD office.

**Sinjar ABC Members Present in Person:** UNDP, Sunrise, IOM – DS, Hope Makers, IRC, ICRC, and Nonviolent Peaceforce.

**Sinjar ABC Members Present online:** RC office, OCHA, UNAMI-OPA, ECHO, REACH-INITIATIVE, AVSI, Dorcas, NRC, Welthunger Hilfe, UNHCR, WFP, UN-Habitat, UNFPA, Samaritan's Purse, GIZ, Yazda, IOM – DSWG,

**Note Taker:** Najat Abdullah - UNAMI-DSO

**Sinjar ABC Members Absent:** JRS, ACF, TGH, HOC, Youth Bridge Organization, UNICEF, Humanity and Inclusion (HI), Mercy Corps, Nadia's Initiative, PUI, IVY, UPP, Malteser International, Dary Human, House of Coexistence, ACTED, Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), Shareteah Humanitarian Organization (SHO), TDH, and MAG.

**Agenda**

- Welcome and Introduction of Participants
- Follow-up on Action Points from the Last Meeting - Secretariat
- Update from Government - Mr. Ali Omar
- Update on Recent Returnee Movements - MOMD
- Update on the Sinjar ABC group survey- IOM FP
- Information Sharing (Updating Mailing List and Ninewa Service Map) - Secretariat
- Q&A and Discussions

**Welcome and follow up on the action points of the last meeting - Secretariate.**

Task Description	Responsible Entity	Status
Mr. Ali Omer to provide the number of IDPs from Sinjar in both camps and outside camps in Dahuk and Erbil governorates within two weeks.	Mr. Ali Omer	Mr. Ali Omer has provided the numbers for Dahuk Governorate; however, these figures changed over the weekend. The numbers for Erbil Governorate have not yet been obtained.
Mr. Ali Omer to share the report from the special committee on drilling wells and identifying issues in Sinjar.	Mr. Ali Omar	Mr. Ali Omer with share the report after the meeting.
All Sinjar ABC group members to update their activities and projects on the Sinjar and Ba'aj online service map within three weeks.	All the Sinjar ABC group members	Ongoing

### **Update from Government - Mr. Ali Omar.**

Mr. Ali Omar confirmed that the return of displaced persons from Dohuk to Sinjar had been progressing well until it was paused due to the formation of a higher committee. This committee, led by the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MOMD) and including members from relevant central government ministries and representatives from the Kurdistan Regional Government, is tasked with developing a new action plan to address displacement and initiating a new procedure for registering returnees.

Mr. Ali highlighted that recent event in Sinjar, particularly misunderstandings and the spread of hate speech, caused significant concern and led to the return of many displaced persons from Dohuk camps to Sinjar. This situation was unfortunate and required intervention from both local and federal governments, as well as various organizations, to help de-escalate tensions. Fortunately, the situation has now stabilized.

However, the hate speech incident from Thursday to Friday was alarming, as it was fueled by extremists and those exploiting the crisis for political purposes. This poses a serious threat to society. Throughout the crisis, Mr. Ali remained in close contact with the Governor of Ninewa, MOMD, Mr. Najat Abdullah (Secretariat), and various NGOs. The issue was not centered in Sinjar but rather in the distorted messages reaching extremists in the Kurdistan Region, which exacerbated the situation.

There have been varying reports on the number of returnees, making it essential for MOMD to provide an accurate count. The return of displaced persons occurred suddenly, without proper planning or adequate provisions, leaving them in a vulnerable situation. Immediate support from both the government and organizations is crucial.

Regarding infrastructure and service projects, some needs have been identified through the Nineveh Joint Coordination Committee. Organizations will be requested to address these gaps, while government budget allocations continue according to official procedures.

During the last Ninewa JCF meeting on 1 August, Mr. Ali reported that between May and July 25, a total of 3,155 families had returned from IDP camps in Dohuk to Sinjar. Additionally, 968 families returned from outside the IDP camps in Dohuk to the Sinjar district during the same period. Furthermore, on 27 and 28 July, 155 families returned to Qahtaniyah, and 92 families returned to the Hatun complex and Al Shimal (Sinuni) sub-district under the IOM program.

### **Update on Recent Returnee Movements - MOMD**

The deputy head of the MOMD Sinjar office reported that due to the heightened tensions and incidents on Friday and Saturday, MOMD formed a crisis management team, led by Mr. Khaled Abdul Karim, to address the situation in Sinjar district immediately. Two teams were established: one at the entrance to Sinjar to welcome returning families and reassure them of MOMD's support, and another at the office headquarters to receive and register the families. The work continued until 11:30 pm to ensure all families were attended to.

MOMD is tasked with implementing Cabinet decision 2343, which mandates the closure of camps. Aid distribution and checks have been processed, with approximately 700 checks, each worth 4 million dinars, distributed to returning families on 12 August. Additionally, about 162 income-generating projects have been initiated since Friday. Some families have visited the MOMD office due to noticing new registration efforts. MOMD is actively receiving and registering all visiting families and will crosscheck new registrations against existing MOMD data to prevent duplication. Therefore, MOMD must complete the data verification process to determine the accurate total number of returnees. As a result, MOMD cannot currently differentiate between families returning due to recent hate speech and those who returned earlier.

For families who fled from Dohuk to Sinjar and have not yet closed their files in Dohuk, MOMD will register them in Sinjar. After verifying that they are indeed new returnees, MOMD will send a staff member to the Dohuk MOMD office to close their displacement files, enabling them to receive their entitled support in Sinjar.

#### **Update on Ber Shereen Village - Halat NGO and ICRC**

Regarding the 15 families in Ber Shereen village, Halat NGO, an IOM partner, has visited and registered the families. However, the completion of the registration process is pending approval from the mayor. Meanwhile, the ICRC has also met with these families and requires them to confirm whether they plan to return to the camps in Dohuk or remain in the village.

During the meeting, the ICRC confirmed that they had visited Ber Shereen village and other nearby villages three months ago and conducted an initial assessment. Today, the ICRC is conducting a final survey with the 35 families who returned to the village over the last two years. Based on this assessment and the ICRC's criteria, support will be provided in the form of livestock, cash, or agricultural projects.

However, the ICRC reported that they will not be providing any assistance or support to the 15 new returnee families. The ICRC is uncertain if these families will remain in the village or eventually return to the camps, as they left behind all their belongings and the aid they received at the displacement sites. No organizations at the meeting confirmed that they would provide emergency aid assistance to these new returnees.

#### **Higher Committee Meeting - 12 August**

The new Diwani resolution of the Council of Ministers: The Governor's assistant provided a briefing on the new Diwani order and the expected development of the humanitarian plan in coordination with UN agencies. He referred to the High Committee meeting on August 12th and anticipated new directives regarding the closure of camps and the resettlement grant.

#### **UNHCR and Sharya IDP Camp Update**

The Sinjar ABC focal point confirmed that UNHCR reported a visit by a committee from Baghdad's MOMD to the Sharya IDP camp in Dohuk. The committee met with IDPs to gather information on the recent hate speech incidents and assess the conditions of the IDPs. The new registration process will be communicated to the camp management and IDPs, especially those registered to return through the IOM program.

#### **Update from Sunrise Local NGO**

Sunrise local NGO reported that 8 families in Adnaniyah sub-district, who returned on 25 July 2024, are currently residing in a recently rehabilitated school by the Directorate of Education. These families are not new returnees and are part of the IOM program. IOM has confirmed that they will follow up with these families. MOMD will also follow up to provide durable goods to them.

Sunrise also reported that USAID visited the Adnaniyah sub-district and confirmed they will implement activities to support the returnees.

#### **Update on the Sinjar ABC group survey- IOM FP**

During the last Sinjar ABC meeting on 9 July, Martijn (UNAMI-DSO) suggested holding the next Sinjar ABC meeting in Ba'aj. In response, the Secretariat conducted a survey among Sinjar ABC members to gather

feedback on this recommendation, including who would be able to host and attend in person, and how many would support moving the venue from Sinjar to Ba’aj.

The Sinjar ABC focal point provided a brief on the survey results: only two NGOs have offices in Ba’aj and expressed readiness to host the meeting. Additionally, 80% of the members recommended keeping the meetings in Sinjar city. Based on this feedback, the focal point emphasized that the meetings would continue to be held in Sinjar city.

### **Information Sharing (Updating Mailing List and Ninewa Service Map) – Secretariat**

Mr. Najat Abdullah, Sinjar ABC Secretariat, emphasized the importance of information sharing among all parties within the Sinjar ABC group. To facilitate this, an online platform has been established for tracking projects in Nineveh Governorate, categorized by district. This is the link to the platform: [[Ninewa Governorate Service Map](#)]. The platform is regularly updated by UN organizations and agencies.

However, it was noted that only a small number of these entities have listed their projects on the platform. As a result, when the local government or the Resident Coordinator's Office requests a comprehensive list of projects by UN organizations and agencies in the governorate, the Secretariat is unable to provide a complete overview due to missing information.

All UN agencies, international, and local organizations are therefore required to list their projects for the years 2023 and 2024, as well as any planned for 2025, on the electronic platform.

Mr. Najat also requested that all agencies and organizations inform the Secretariat of any changes in their contact information. This will ensure that the list of members of the Joint Coordination Committee in Nineveh, as well as the email distribution list, is continuously updated and that all parties are promptly informed of relevant Committee topics.

### **Attendance and Participation - Sinjar ABC Group**

The Sinjar ABC Focal Point reported that some UN agencies and NGOs have not been attending the monthly meetings. In accordance with the Terms of Reference (TOR), the Sinjar ABC Focal Point and Secretariat will follow up with these organizations. If any organization fails to attend three consecutive monthly meetings, they may be removed from the group.

### **Q&A and discussions**

**Question:** What are the developments regarding the delay in the construction project of Kojo village due to the request of state real estate for the price of the land?

**Answer:** The Prime Minister’s order has been issued regarding the allocation of land for the project without a price. Procedures are now in place to transfer ownership of the land to the municipalities and begin implementing the project. The foundation stone will be laid on 15 August 2024

**Question:** What are the developments regarding Sinjar University?

**Answer:** Mr. Ali Omer is in ongoing communication with Dr. Khalaf, the Advisor to the Prime Minister, to secure final approval from the State Real Estate. Next week, Dr. Khalaf and Mr. Ali Omer will meet with the Dean of Ninewa University to finalize the necessary paperwork and officially initiate the Sinjar University project.

**Question:** Who will support the new returnees in transporting their furniture from the camp to the return area?

**Answer:** There are two options available to the returnees:

**MOMD Support:** Once the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MOMD) has closed the returnees' files in Dohuk, they will issue a letter to facilitate the transportation of their furniture. MOMD will then handle the transfer process.

**IOM Program:** Alternatively, returnees can opt to receive support through the IOM program. The choice between the two options is left to the discretion of the returnees.

### Action Points

- Sinjar ABC members should contact the focal point if they have activities in areas where returnees are settling, to coordinate their support efforts.
- MOMD will share the action points from the recent higher committee meeting with the Secretariat, who will then disseminate this information to Sinjar ABC members.
- IOM will follow up with the 8 families currently residing in the rehabilitated school in Adnaniyah.
- The Sinjar ABC Focal Point and Secretariat will reach out to USAID to extend an invitation to join the Sinjar ABC monthly meetings.
- The Secretariat will share the updated Sinjar membership contact list with all members and request that they verify and update their contact information before 15 August 2024.
- All members are reminded to update their activities on the [Ninewa Governorate Service Map](#), to ensure comprehensive tracking and coordination.