



Durable Solutions Technical Working Group (DSTWG) – Summary of Meeting #30 on 14 June 2023

Meeting Chair: IOM

Co-chairs: UNDP, NRC

Members attended: NCCI, UNDP, IOM, ICRC, OCHA, UNMAS, FAO, RCO, PIN, SEDO, REACH, Save the Children, Secours Islamique

Overview and Agenda

- May 2023 Meeting Recap and Action Points
- DS Update
- DTM Presentation - Measuring Progress Towards Durable Solutions: Ninewa HH Survey Report
- DS Compact Update
- A.O.B.

May 2023 Meeting Recap and Action Points

- No pending action points from the last meeting which looked at the J5 departures, and JCF presentation.

DS Updates

Subgroup Updates

Livelihoods Subgroup

- 3 Technical Task Forces have been established, with 3 priorities:
 - Market Systems Toolkit Development (Led by Mercy Corps, CRS as co-lead).
 - Private Sector Engagement (Led by Mercy Corps, CRS as co-lead).
 - Climate Resilient Livelihoods/Agriculture (Led by IRC)
- Ongoing efforts by the 3 TTFs:
 - Define scope of work.
 - Analysis of existing capacities, gaps, and how to develop/adapt materials if already available.
 - Identify/prioritize key deliverables for each TTF in the second half of 2023.
 - Based on preliminary discussions/analysis, present proposed ideas to the subgroup.
- Collaboration with Iraq Cash Forum is continuing.
- Engagement with relevant ministries to lead and own the process.

Discussion

UNDP: For the TTF on Climate Resilient Livelihoods – is the approach being taken more about adaptation or mitigation? Furthermore, apart from agriculture, which other sectors are being looked into by this TTF?

- **Save the Children (Subgroup Co-Chair):** The scope of the TTFs should be clearer following the next round of meetings as they will be presenting their positions and the scope of work they're proposing.
- **DSTWG:** Note that the Sustainable Livelihoods subgroup has taken the initiative to broaden up their membership, so if any DSTWG members would like to be involved they can reach out to Gezahegn at gezahegn.eshete@savethechildren.org.

M&A Subgroup

- M&A subgroup will proceed with the monitoring and reporting system for the ABC members and other partners (despite the phasing out of the ABCs over the next months). This remains important:
 - To support harmonized approaches to progress tracking.
 - To facilitate joint analysis of available data to achieve consensus of key findings and gaps.



- Subgroup to expand membership to serve as a platform for sharing information products to support evidence-based durable solutions planning.
 - Upon request and within capacity, to provide technical support on information and data assets.

REACH Cross-Cutting Needs Assessment (CCNA)

- Household-level multi sectoral needs assessment among displacement affected population groups in Iraq.
- Traditionally used to inform the HNO processes, while many indicators are integrated in the durable solutions M&A framework.

Recap: MCNA X

- Households reported limited improvement in access to basic services compared to the MCNA from 2021.
- National averages across key indicators obscured stark sub-national differences.
- HHs appear to have been economically less resilient compared to previous MCNA.
- Little indications of large-scale voluntary returns.
- Vulnerable groups such as female-headed HHs continue to face much higher needs.

Objectives of CCNA

- To understand if and how multi-sectoral needs of displacement-affected HHs may have changed in Iraq and top provide comprehensive data on the severity, magnitude, variants, and drivers of needs to allow for evidence-based prioritization of humanitarian aid development assistance.
- To enable durable solutions planning through robust data regarding movement intentions and report barriers to achieving durable solutions.
- To provide nationwide robust data on key information gaps.

Household Surveys

- 61 districts and 25 IDP camps to be covered between mid-July and mid-September.
- In total, the intention is to do almost 12,000 surveys over the course of the summer.
- At this moment, it won't be possible to cover host community households which was done last year.

Partner Support

- Each year, partners are relied on for roughly 10% of data collection.
- As in previous years, support from partners is needed in Al-Ba'aj, Al-Hatra, Al-Rutba, Balad, Al-Amadiya, and Soran districts. If partners are able to support in these districts with data collection, please reach out to: ard.vogelsang@impact-initiatives.org.

Discussion

DSTWG Co-Chair: Will the data collection also cover informal sites?

REACH: Informal sites will be included but it's not like camp profiling where they will be specifically surveyed. It will be informal sites sampled through the IOM DTM which will be posed the same questions as other out of camps IDPs.

DSTWG MoMD Workshop on Local Integration

- Two-part workshop for MoMD on SOPs for local integration.
 - 1st workshop pertained to governorates in the southern and middle Euphrates, on 28-29 May 2023.
 - 2nd workshop will be held on the 21st and 22nd of June, for northern and central Iraq and KRI.

- Main objective of the workshop was to support MoMD to come up with coherent SOPs for local integration for IDPs.
- The workshop also provided an opportunity for DSTWG to share best practices and a better understanding of frameworks around durable solutions.
- Participants include MoMD HQ staff and Branch Heads, DSTWG members, NRC, IOM, and REACH.

Key discussions in 1st workshop

- Directives issued in October 2022 to facilitate other solutions pathways for remaining HHs who did not intend to return.
- Governorates of focus during this workshop have a much smaller IDP caseload, so MoMD decided to use these governorates as a pilot on how they can successfully start registering IDPs for local integration to see some of the challenges that might arise.
- The directives which had been issue need buy-in from the governors to allow local integration, and all governors present in the workshop were supportive of local integration except for one.

Challenges

- There is a requirement for three proofs of residency for the entire process to proceed, and in some cases IDPs struggle to prove residency.
- Challenge regarding how MoMD would count IDPs who have returned and IDPs who locally integrate, as some families initially register as displaced through the head of HHs but over time, sons can get married and have their own family. This raises the question of whether these families should be registered as it affects the database and numbers.
- Another challenge is how to deal with families where the head of HH are imprisoned, and if their families are able to locally integrate despite being registered under the name of the imprisoned male head of HH.
- Lack of field teams and lack of equipment in field offices generally delay the disbursement of grants.

Recommendations

- Amendment/simplification of the process and required documentation.
- Legal department within MoMD to issue directives on how to address some of the challenges which have been flagged.
- Information campaigns to inform IDPs about the process.

JCF Terms of Reference

- TORs endorsed in the previous DSTF meeting with minor amendments, and the updated version has been shared with DSTF members.
- DSRSG has held several meetings at Baghdad-level and KRG-level, explaining the aim behind establishing the new coordination mechanism as part of the transitioning from humanitarian to development and a more government-led approach which was welcomed by the authorities.
- Official letters have been sent by the DSRSG to COMSEC and MoMD requesting support and directives to establish the JCF.
- Next steps would be for COMSEC to distribute the TOR to the targeted governors' offices, and for the initiation of the JCF in collaboration with the aid community.

ABC Updates

- All ABCs currently revising their plans of action, and most have been received by the DSTWG core team who have set a deadline to review them until June 30th.
- Advocacy points and guidance notes for DSTWG to share their thoughts on include continued eviction threats in some governorates such as Anbar and Salah al-Din.
- There was a request from local authorities in Kirkuk to allow participation of members of Parliament into ABC meetings.
- Need to think about how the ABCs can be supported to hand over to the JCFs over the next months.

DSTWG Workplan

- Many tasks reflected in the workplan have been moved into the DS compact, such as issues linked to blocked areas and the response plan for those areas.

Discussion

- **DSTWG:** How was the JCF received by the KRG?
- **RCO:** KRG authorities have verbally welcomed the idea and have promised to provide a written response.
- **UNDP:** When the JCF is rolled out, how will it be ensured that the gains at district level are not lost and what kind of role with the RCO play in this?
- **RCO:** The DSRSG explained to the federal government and the KRG how the JCF will be replacing the GCM and how the ABCs at the district level and some at the governorate level will be connected to the JCF in the transitional period of the phasing out of the ABCs.
- **Secours Islamique:** Given the lack of engagement of the local authorities at times within the ABCs, this raises some concerns about whether authorities will actually participate/lead the JCF meetings.
- **DSTWG:** The issue of members of parliament participating is important point to consider for the ABCs but we cannot speak for the JCFs, once they are in place perhaps the authorities can decide on who can attend since the forum will be government-led.

DTM Presentation: Measuring Progress Towards Durable Solutions – Ninewa HH Survey Report

Context

- Ninewa has the largest returnee population in Iraq (40% of the overall caseload), with the total stock figure at 364,107 HH.
- 11% of the caseload are still at the location of displacement, while 89% have returned.
- The waves of displacement happened in two stages, with the largest in 2014 (64%) followed by another large wave in 2017 (19%).
- 95% of returnee HHs prefer to stay at the location of return, while only 58% of IDP HHs prefer to stay and 31% prefer to return.

Methodology/Objectives

- The rationale behind this project was to focus on measuring progress towards durable solutions through 8,000 HH surveys conducted in November 2022.

Criteria Used to Measure Progress

- Based on the IASC criteria, the following domains are used as the criteria measuring progress towards durable solutions:
 - Safety and Security
 - Adequate Standards of Living
 - Access to Livelihoods

- Restoration of Housing, Land, and Property
- Access to Remedies and Justice
- Personal and Other Documentation
- Participation in Public Affairs
- Progress is measured by calculating an arithmetic average of the indicators met by HHs in each domain. For example, the safety and security has 3 indicators meaning it has a maximum possible value of 3, and the average calculated in this domain for IDPs was 2.94.
- The criteria where living conditions were relatively the same among IDPs, returnees, and stayees are safety and security, and personal documentation.
- Restoration of HLP and Compensation is the domain where the differences were most prominent.
- Access to Livelihoods is the domain which is most problematic across all three groups.

Factors Impeding Progress & Conclusions

- HHS who only met 1 criterion or none are categorized as 'low progress' (10% of IDPs and 3% of returnees), while those who met 2 or 3 criteria are categorized as 'medium progress' (74% and 51%) while those who met four or all five criteria are classified as 'high progress' (16% and 46%).
- Results show that 24% of female-headed HHS are classified as low progress groups, which is higher than the 12% classified as medium progress and 11% classified as high progress. The same tendency is found in households with 10+ members.
- 47% of Kurd Yazidi IDPs are categorized as low progress groups, while 49% of Kurd Yazidi returnees are classified as low progress groups.
- There is a correlation between time spent in the same location and preferable solutions and progress.
- Lack of proper housing, documentation, and stable income are the main factors impeding progress
- Home destruction remains the most common reason for not having returned, followed closely by the lack of livelihood opportunities at the origin.
- The following dashboard can be accessed to view further data which can be filtered at a district and sub-district level: <https://iraqdtm.iom.int/ProgressTowardsDurableSolutions>.

Discussion

DSTWG: When measuring access to livelihoods, what type of factors did the survey look into?

DTM: The indicators used were having at least one employed HH member, the HoH having a stable source of income, and the HH being able to face unexpected expenses of up to IQD 440,000.

DSTWG: Regarding the restoration of HLP, to what extent was HLP not in place or not correct before the conflict?

DTM: The three criteria for this domain is having legally recognized documentation that would allow them to prove ownership, if they are not at risk of eviction, and if they have home destruction and entitlement to compensation.

DS Compact Update

- In March and April, an in-house version of the compact was developed, and a review of the compact areas was developed along with a summary document which was shared with the government.
- Since April and May, the DSRSG has been taking the time to sensitize the government in terms of the compact and to get their buy-in into the process.
- On the week of the 19th of June, there will be meetings with the Prime Minister of Federal Iraq and hopefully some meetings with the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Planning, and the KRG PM.
- Following these meetings, there will be increased engagement with technical line ministries.



- Validation workshop tentatively planned to take place in July to create the Compact action plan, hosted by UNDP and IOM.
- On May 30th, an inter-agency workshop took place to reflect on the main contextual issues for people living in areas where people are facing complex barriers to solutions.
 - Reflections from this workshop include that there is a need to discuss how options other than return can be put forward to the government, as the government place an emphasis on return in their perception of solutions.
 - Participants advocated for a prioritization of informal sites of eviction, engagement on camp consolidation efforts and the impact on displacement, and advocacy on locations with high movement restrictions.

AOB

- Dennis Schleppi, from UNDP and part of the DSTWG team, announced that this will be his final DSTWG meeting as he will be moving on. He expressed his gratitude to the group and his pleasure for seeing how far the work on durable solutions has come and wished the best of luck to the group for the future.