



Durable Solutions Technical Working Group (DSTWG) – Summary of Meeting #35 on 11 October 2023

Meeting Chair: IOM

Participants: OCHA, Reach Initiative, IOM, Iraq Cash Forum, SEDO, UNHCR, NRC, DRC, DSTWG technical support team, PIN, GIZ.

Overview and Agenda

- Action Points from the September Meeting
- DS Update (DSTF, RWG, Subgroups, ABCs)
- Discussion-2024 planning
- A.O.B.

September 2023 Meeting Recap and Action Points

- **Completed-** M&A subgroup updated the meeting participants on the activity info session and meeting on expanding membership.
- **Completed** – DSTWG circulated DS structure TORs with NCCI after last month's meeting and the election process is ongoing currently.

DS Updates

DSTF Updates

- The DSTF meeting wasn't conducted in September.
- Roadmap drafting team planning for several meetings between the RC office and PM office, MOMD, and MoP. There is a plan to conduct the supreme committee meeting on Thursday 12 October to discuss the road map and start preparations for the workshop that is supposed to be conducted between the 24th and 27th of October.
- The drafting team mentioned that there are seats for three (3) DSTWG members to participate and to exclude the ones that were part of the drafting team. The seats would go for ICRC, GIZ, and one NGO. The DSTWG co-chairs will reach out to NGOs to discuss who would represent them during the workshop.
- Because of the workshop, there is a plan for advisers from Robert Pipers team to visit Baghdad next week and the following week.
- The next DSTF meeting is on the 19th of October.

RWG Update:

- RWG shared a survey to conduct DS training. There were two main questions 1) preference to conduct it in English, Arabic, or Kurdish and 2) whether the preference is to conduct it online or in-person.
- A total of 126 respondents, the majority preferred in-person English training.
- The plan is to conduct an English session in the first week of November. Then Arabic training (probably online due to individuals being distributed in different governorates).
- There are 30 slots available for the upcoming English training.

ICF: Who will be the audience for DS training?

- **DSTWG:** RWG is conducting this training on an annual basis and usually it is an online training (only one training was in person in Mosul).
- The training is targeting Iraq partners/UN/NGOs to provide them with a better understanding of what DS approaches, how we see it in Iraq, and government policies that are relevant to DS. It is considered a basic intro to DS training.
- ICF suggested announcing the training through their platform to reach out to more audiences.



Subgroup Updates

M&A subgroup

First meeting with the members attended by eight members.

- It was obvious that participants are interested in sharing information and coordinating with each other when it comes to research exercises, assessments, and other data collection activities which is in line with the subgroup objective.
- Some NGOs were registered to join the subgroup. The subgroup is available to discuss issues with other interested NGOs bilaterally.
- The main discussions were around:
 - o Interest in more research assessments on climate mobility including climate displacement.
 - o Capacity building for local NGOs in terms of monitoring and analysis including research methodologies, data collection, assessments, etc.
 - o Holding monthly meetings on a regular basis, the next meeting will be conducted on the 7th of November.
 - o Planning to conduct training on activity info. The subgroup may need support from DSTWG, they will reach out bilaterally to check the approach and what is needed.

DS Livelihoods Sustainable Sub-group

- Discussion around creating the work of different task forces under the subgroup. Currently, there are two task forces dealing with three topics (private sector engagement & market system development and climate).
- In order not to have multiple meetings for all these task forces and all the different topics, the subgroup is using the rotating chairmanship because they are in the phase of figuring out what deliverables they want to achieve at the task force level.

Iraq Cash Forum

- There was an interest in the cash harmonisation for the approach and transfer values. Different ICF members are using different transfer values based on a slightly different logic. They created a task force due to the interest of members and they conducted one session to revise the SoP for cash for work which might be relevant for NGOs implementing DS activities.

ABC Updates

- Monthly meetings are still held where advocacy points are still raised.
- 6 out of 8 ABCs completed their Plan of Action (PoA). West Anbar is completely finalized and endorsed by the authorities. The English and Arabic versions can be accessed on the Iraq DS website via this [link](#).

JCF Update

- For GoI, Still waiting for the directives to be dispatched to the Governor's office.

- For KRI, communicating the JCF establishment with JCC and the MoI. They endorsed the TOR verbally and in general, they welcomed the idea.
 - The approach is to have one JCF at the regional level. JCC will be co-chairing JCF with one UN agency (the UN agency will be identified by the RC).
 - There might be a meeting between the RC and MoI and they expect the kick-off meeting for KRI JCF to happen soon.

UNHCR: JCF was not planned to be created in KRI similarly to ABC, what caused this shift?

- **RCO:** In the ToRs, it is clearly mentioned that ‘there is a possibility of JCF expansion into additional governorates as needed’. The RC introduced the concept to the KRG and it was positively received. In the beginning, it was meant to have three JCFs in KRI but in the end, the request from the KRI authorities was to have only one regional JCF.
- **Action point:** to share ToRs with DSTWG members.

IOM: Do we know if any responses were received after an invite circulation for the different JCFs, any feedback, and deadline?

- **RCO:** we received some responses from NGOs and agencies in different governorates. It wasn’t presented to the RC yet while waiting for the directives to reach the governors’ offices.

DSTWG Planning 2024

- Last planning session for the DSTWG members was in November 2022, and produced the 2023/24 workplan. The current plan has ten priorities which cover the development of operational strategies for DS, coordination of area-level intervention, reinforcing advocacy under the leadership of DSTF, and enhancing government engagement at the national level.
- There has been a shift during the year, ABCs are phasing out with the JCF establishment. Some groups have achieved some of their tasks and others have not.
- A request for an in-person (one or two days) workshop to be conducted before the end of November in Erbil for DSTWG members to structure next year’s planning (last year’s priorities and thoughts for 2024).
- DSTWG members suggested waiting until the roadmap workshop is conducted before reviewing the DSTWG next year’s plan and priorities.
- We would probably carry over some priorities from the 2023 to 2024 plan and include a discussion point around PWG 5 and JCFs structure.

Summary of Action Points

1. RCO to circulate amended KRI JCF ToRs.
2. DSTWG co-chairs to reach out to NGO members to identify the participants for the workshop.
3. DSTWG co-chairs to arrange DSTWG planning session after Roadmap workshops and launch.

AOB

DSTWG: The next meeting will be on the usual second Wednesday of the month as per the standing calendar invite.