

Durable Solutions Technical Working Group (DSTWG) – Summary of Meeting #32 on 12 July 2023

Meeting Chair: NRC

Co-chairs: IOM

Members attended: NRC, REACH, WFP, Save the Children, IOM, OCHA, NRC, PIN, Secours Islamique

Overview and Agenda

- DS Update
- REACH - Informal Sites Profiling & Movement Intentions Assessment 2023
- DS Compact Update and Next Steps: Lisa Monaghan
- A.O.B.

May 2023 Meeting Recap and Action Points

- No pending action points from the last meeting.

DS Updates

Subgroup Updates

Livelihoods Subgroup

- The three Thematic Task Forces (TTFs) are working on their respective TOR to define the scope as well as the work plan that highlights the key events and deliverables until the end of this year. The TORs will be discussed and endorsed by the Livelihood Subgroup members during the next monthly meeting.
- Government engagement: Four partners are selected from the Subgroup to develop a strategy on how to engage the relevant government counterparts at Fed Iraq and KRI. Despite their commitment, the participation of the representatives from the government is limited. In rare cases, the Chamber of Commerce from Erbil is attending the monthly meetings.
- The next meeting for the Livelihood Subgroup will be organized on 26th of July

DSTWG MoMD Workshop on Local Integration

This is the second workshop following the Baghdad workshop. This workshop was held in Erbil on June 21-22, 2023 and participated by MoMD staff from Central and Northern Governorates.

Objectives

- Work towards the development of coherent SOPs for registration and disbursement of grants for IDPs opting for local integration and relocation building current SOPs
- Sharing of best practices and learning outcomes towards a better understanding of national and international frameworks

Participants

- MoMD HQ staff and Branch Heads of northern, central, and KRI governorates (20 MoMD)
- DSTWG members, NRC, IOM, REACH
- IOM supported DSTWG with funding to host the event

Key Challenges

- Lack of awareness about local integration process. Some IDPs are reluctant to change their residence document for fear that they would lose out on benefits they have in their AoO, such as property compensation.

- Lengthy and complicated procedures for IDPs. Local integration is lengthy and costly process for IDPs and they need to get approval from several offices.
- Complications surrounding the transferring of residency cards.

Key Recommendations

- Awareness brochures to be distributed to families explaining the local integration process.
- Simplifying the procedures where possible, with uniformity across branches.
- Authorities to facilitate the issuance of missing documents.

The final report containing further outcomes is currently being finalized, and can be circulated once completed.

ABC Updates

POA Revision

- Draft PoA received from Mosul, Sinjar, West Anbar, East Anbar, Kirkuk and Salahadin.
- Final revision ongoing.

REACH - Informal Sites Profiling & Movement Intentions Assessment 2023

Context

- Context: As of July 2022, 79,470 IDPs resided in 376 informal sites in Iraq. Most of the informal settlements are in central and northern Iraq.

Methodology/Objectives

- The assessment looked at living conditions, needs, access to services and movement intentions.
- Data collected between 14 February and 1 May 2023. Respondents were from 126 informal settlements in 25 subdistricts in 8 Governorates.
- The results are representative with a 90% level of confidence and 10% margin of error at the sub-district level.

Key Findings

- Movement intentions: 12% HH are undecided about their movement intentions in the 12 months following data collection.
- Barriers to return: lack of housing in areas of origin (87%), lack of livelihood options (72%) and lack of financial means (58%)
- Priority needs: Shelter support (82%), health care (61%), livelihood (51%), food (46%), repaying debts (43%).

Multi-sectoral Needs and Vulnerabilities

- The most commonly reported priority needs of IDPs living in informal sites were shelter (82%), healthcare (61%), livelihood (51%), food (46%), and repaying debts (43%).

Protection, security, and social cohesion

- 14% HH reported missing civil documentation
- 10% HH reported not feeling safe from harm and violence.
- 65% HH reported being concerned about exposure to hazards (floods, extreme temperatures, fires, and drought).

- 15% reported that host community accepted them.

Housing Land and Property.

- 4% HH reported tenancy security.
- 24% HH reported eviction risks.

Movement intentions

- 82% HH reported that they intend to stay/remain in their current locations.
- Only 4% HH reported that they want to go back to their Areas of Origin (AoO) willingly.
- 8% HH reported that they tried to return to their AoO but this did not work. Reasons included security concerns in AoO Houses damaged/destroyed, lack of livelihood and lack of financial means.
- A relatively high proportion of HHs residing in Markaz Falluja, Markaz Al Musayab, Markaz Abu Ghraib, Al Yousifya, and Markaz Ramadi reported intending to return to AoO willingly, compared to other sub-districts.
- HHs originating from Heet, Al-Mussyab, and Falluja were most likely to report an intention to return (up to 23%). Main reasons: Emotional desire to return (up to 66%); Stable security situation in AoO (up to 22%); Challenges in their current locations such as the lack of livelihood opportunities (up to 66%).

Barriers to return

- 59% of HHs reported having access to enough information about their AoO to reach a decision on whether to return or not.
- Barriers with protection implications: Lack of security forces in AoO (37%-60%); Fear or trauma associated with AoO (37%-53%); Fear of discrimination or rejection from the community in AoO (11%-47%); Lack of safety for women/girls in AoO (21%-36%); House in AoO occupied (19%-31%); Ongoing community tensions (13%-33%).

Case Study: Al Shamal

- Top 3 priority needs: Livelihood support (97%); healthcare (66%); Food (63%)
- Most reported factors that would enable HHs to return to AoO: Basic Services (81%), Reconstruction of Homes (78%), Livelihood Opportunities (58%).

Conclusion

- The nature of informal sites impedes service provision to HHs and a range of basic needs reportedly remain unmet, as illustrated by high levels of vulnerability.
- The majority of IDPs in informal sites in Iraq do not intend to return to their AoO in the next 12 months, with substantial proportions reporting protection-related barriers.
- HHs originating from Heet, Al-Mussyab, and Falluja Districts were most likely to report an intention to return (up to 23%).
- HHs living in informal sites in Al Shamal Sub-District were most likely to report that they remained undecided about their movement intentions in the next 12 months (up to 58%), whereas HHs originating from Khanaqin District were most likely to report that they remained undecided about their movement intentions (up to 42%).
- Stark sub-national differences are obscured when only considering nationwide averages. For instance, in Markaz Tikrit, 72% of HHs reported being at risk of eviction, whereas this was "only" reported by a quarter (24%) of HHs overall.



DS Compact Update

- The Compact discussions are ongoing.
- In June, there were discussions with Government, with MoP/MoMD agreeing to lead the process from the government side.
- Relevant agencies and organisations are to engage with their line ministry counterparts in the coming months to negotiate the final content of the compact and discuss common areas of concern. We hope that this will culminate in a validation workshop with the relevant ministries, that will create the action plan for the compact.

AOB

- None