

Durable Solutions Technical Working Group (DSTWG) – Summary of Meeting #41 on 12 June 2024

Meeting Chair: IOM

Co-chairs: UNDP, NRC

Participants: IRC, OCHA, GIZ, UN Habitat, REACH, UNHCR, WFP, IOM, RCO DS Advisers, HLP sub-group, Water scarcity CoP-ACF, Iraq Cash Forum, UNMAS.

Overview and Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Agenda and Action Points from May Meeting
3. DSTWG Update
 - DS Update
 - Subgroups Update
 - Endorsement: Camp Solutions Update
4. Presentations and Discussion
 - Reach Camp Profiling
 - Water Scarcity Community of Practice
5. AOB

March Meeting #40 Action Points

- UNDP to share Data workshop report (Completed)
- DSTWG co-chairs to reshare Inter-agency Camp Solutions document, UNHCR and other agencies to review and provide feedback before endorsement at next meeting (Completed)
- CLRA TF chairs to share invite for Climate Change validation workshop (Completed)
- M&A Subgroup to present on TOR and to share ActivityInfo guideline (Pending)
- DSTWG co-chairs to share 1 pager Roadmap concept note (Completed)

DSTWG Workplan 2024-2025

IOM meeting chair presented on the DSTWG workplan progress and updated the meeting participants on 3 different activities:

- 1- Advocacy related to livelihood: Revamp of the market system and the private sector engagement task force which was done recently, IOM would support in establishing linkages for interested agencies/NGOs in participating in the task force.
 - IOM is supporting the development of private-sector engagement guidelines that will be shared after consolidating all inputs from the most recent workshop.
- 2- Strengthening capacity building: One workshop was conducted in May for Ninawa JCF.
 - Developing guidelines for DS activities reporting is still pending.
- 3- Engagement with Gov: activities are underway pending coordination with RCO & JCFs.
 - DSTWG supported the development of HTO.

To increase synergies, Participants were encouraged to review the DSTWG work plan and see where they can lead or provide support.

Subgroup Updates

- **Sustainable Livelihoods**

- *Climate Resilience/Agriculture Task Force*: The Task Force Co-chair (IRC) reported the following:
 - i. The climate change guideline development process is now complete. The guideline shared with TF members for review and endorsement before June 28th (the date is flexible). The draft was also shared with the DSTWG members prior to the meeting. Following approval, the guideline will be translated into Arabic and potentially Kurdish to assist the Ministries of Environment in GoI and KRI with their revisions.
 - ii. On May 27, a climate change study was presented at an event attended by NGOs, UN agencies, and government representatives. Valuable feedback was provided, which will be taken into consideration for the final version of the study.

Water Scarcity CoP chair enquired about coordination with the National Committee of Water Environment regarding water scarcity and its impact. IRC responded that they are only coordinating with the climate change department as it was the entity the government proposed as the key entity for engagement.

- **HLP subgroup- Mariana** updated that UN-Habitat has nominated a co-chair for the subgroup. Additionally, a meeting is scheduled for the upcoming week to review the Terms of Reference (ToR) and discuss membership.

Action Points:

- DSTWG members to share feedback on the climate change study before the 28th of June.
- HLP subgroup co-chairs (UN Habitat and IOM) to hold a meeting to revamp the subgroup.

Endorsement of the Inter-agency Camp Solutions Plan

UNHCR updated on the implementation of cabinet resolution related to camp closure.

- Sulymania: Tazade camp was closed in March. Regular returns are taking place from Ashti camp to their area of origin in Salah Al-Din and Ninawa.
- Erbil and Duhok: Departures are increasing due to a rise in applications for the facilitated voluntary movement program.
- EMC: increased interest in return due to the cabinet decision incentives and the situation inside of those camps. There is standing concern related to the cease of federal services and assistance for in-camp IDPs mainly MoMD fuel, food and water. Lack of services in the area of return making the situation harder for IDPs to return and some of them are thinking of going back to the camp. Education support will continue to be provided.

IOM mentioned that the only thing implemented from the cabinet resolution was the 4M IQD return grant. However, the livelihood opportunities, crucial for returnees to gradually go back to normal, were not implemented.

IOM meeting chair enquired if DTM is still tracking the departure of IDPs.

IOM responded yes, DTM is still tracking the movement and here is the [link](#) for the latest emergency tracking.

WFP has expressed interest in collaborating with members to assess areas of return and has inquired about the next steps for advocacy, such as scheduling a high-level advocacy meeting with authorities.

The RCO Advisor mentioned that they have made progress in developing the interagency advocacy messages and sharing important advocacy messages with the government.

The RC held a meeting with the Prime Minister's Advisors to understand their efforts to visit the IDP camps in Erbil and Dohuk, as well as the areas of return (mainly Sinjar), Mosul, and to see how the Prime Minister's office will be involved in this process.

On June 12th, the RC met with the MoMD Minister to discuss camp closures, the East Mosul camps, and the situation in Sinjar.

The areas of return in Salahdin lack standards for dignified living. There is a need for collaboration with authorities to come up with solutions regarding access to services and compensation, as well as social protection. RCO met with the COMSEC directorate of compensation and agreed to start a collaboration with MoMD to identify returning families to Salahdin with challenges such as lack of documentation and the number of families applying for compensation.

RCO is currently focusing on discussing the accelerated support for returnee families with the MoMD minister. They are also considering how to support the in-camp IDPs in accordance with the COM's decision, as well as the out-of-camp IDPs, and how the government plans to address their needs by the end of July.

Action Point:

- The finalized Inter-agency camp solutions document will be re-shared along with the meeting minutes. If there are no major objections, this document will be considered endorsed.
- RCO team to share updates on the advocacy meeting conducted by the RC with the PM Advisor, the KRG and the MoMD minister.

Closure Update

Regarding East Mosul Camps, **RCO DS Adviser** mentioned that they tried to communicate with the Supreme Judicial Council on how to find solutions for the caseload of the former detainees in those camps and taking into consideration the Council of Minister Decision as they have mentioned that the Supreme Judicial Council is working closely with the security and judicial authorities in KRI. This issue will also be discussed with MoMD Minister on the 12th of June and KRI Minister of Interior on the 13th of June with the hope of getting a consensus on how to move forward with this matter, additionally, this will also be discussed with the judicial council after Eid.

WFP emphasized the importance of assessing areas of return beyond those where members are currently working. They also stressed the need to keep all members updated on future advocacy efforts. Additionally, they inquired about the intention survey and asked about the possibility of postponing the camp closure deadline.

UNHCR reported that internally displaced persons (IDPs) within the camps lack sufficient information about the future of the camps and the assistance available to make well-informed decisions regarding their return.

IOM emphasized that the goal should not be to only advocate for postponing the closure of the camp. The focus should also be on finding a durable solution for both the returnees and those willing to stay in the camps. It is important to reassess the situation at the end of the current plan to close the camp by the end of July. Both governments and aid agencies should work together to find durable solutions for internally displaced persons (IDPs) after conducting an intention survey when there is no longer a threat of camp closure.

Action Point:

- RCO to update DSTWG members on meetings with MoMD & KRI Mol Ministers regarding the caseload of former detainees.

REACH camp profiling

Lee presented the durable solution findings from the camp profile assessment that was conducted in 2023.

IOM Co-chair enquired about the high proportion of IDPs willing to remain in their area of displacement. Lee responded that 62% of households reported that they are willing to return someday in the future.

UNHCR mentioned that this date could be used to advocate with authorities on how to improve IDPs' living conditions in camps noting their longer-term intention to return.

IOM co-chair mentioned that as DS actors, we need to look at what the government should do in areas of origin to ensure the return is dignified and sustainable.

Water Scarcity Community of Practice

The Water Scarcity Community of Practice chair presented the objectives of the CoP and how to improve coordination with DSTWG. For more information, please check the attached presentation.

IRC clarified the process of coordination with different ministries, each ministry has an NGO branch which could establish a link with a relevant focal point within the ministry.

For more information, please feel free to reach out to Waleed at wstcoordinator@iq-actionagainsthunger.org and Asmaa at hodwash@iq-actionagainsthunger.org

AOB

- The next meeting is scheduled as per the standing calendar invite for **10th of July**.

Summary of Action Points

- **DSTWG members** to share feedback on the climate change study before the 28th of June.
- **DSTWG Co-Chair** to share the finalized Inter-agency document along with the meeting minutes. If there are no major objections, this document will be considered endorsed.
- **HLP subgroup** co-chairs to hold a meeting to discuss revamping the subgroup and follow up on the members list and priorities for 2024/25
- **RCO** to share outcomes of RC advocacy meetings at the next meeting
- **RCO** to update DSTWG members on meetings with MoMD & KRI MoI Ministers regarding the caseload of former detainees.
- **M&A subgroup co-chairs** to present on the TOR and to share the Activity Infor guidelines.
- **UNDP** to share the summary of the UNDP data workshop.