

Durable Solutions Technical Working Group (DSTWG) – Summary of Meeting #34 on 20 September 2023

Meeting Chair: IOM, NRC

Co-chairs: UNDP

Participants: NRC, NCCI, UNICEF, OCHA, REACH, Secours Islamique, UNHCR, IOM

Overview and Agenda

- Action Points from the August Meeting
- DS Update (DSTF, Subgroups, ABCs)
- JCF Timeline
- NCCI Update
- A.O.B.

August 2023 Meeting Recap and Action Points

- **Completed** – DSTWG team followed up with the RC and he clarified that Sinjar ABC would remain after the establishment of the JCFs due to the high number of IDPs from the district and the ongoing needs. This ABC would also look at Ba’aj which has comparable needs/concerns. The RC stated that the phasing down of the ABCs will start upon the government sending the Diwani orders to the governorates.
- **Completed** – The IOM and UNHCR Hasansham assessments were circulated with the minutes. Planning around the joint assessment is ongoing, so far 10 organizations responded to the call to participate, with 60 participants from the 10 organizations. All names have been shared with authorities. Final confirmation is awaited from Ninewa and Erbil’s side.
 - **DSTWG:** Assessment tools have been designed and finalized, with thanks to participants for providing comments and inputs. Awaiting final meeting to take place with EJCC to finalize details for the assessment, after which the DSTWG will reach out to participants to provide the dates and final plan.

DS Updates

DSTF Updates

- RCO announced that the compact will be repackaged and will be renamed as the Roadmap for the National Plan
 - **RCO:** This is due to confusion amongst government entities and ministries regarding the compact, stemming from the perception that it is competing with the National Plan for the return of IDPs and also being a funding tool/proposal. It was therefore agreed to change the terminology of the title, while the RC will meet the Minister of MoMD and KRG representative in Baghdad to discuss the roadmap which will be followed by a small group meeting for the Supreme Committee.
 - A technical workshop is scheduled for the 15th of October at the level of DGs and heads of departments for the GOI and UN. Subsequently, technical engagement will continue with authorities including the costing of the framework, and another technical workshop on the 1st of November with the final draft of the roadmap to be finalized.
- DSTF approved the membership application of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation.

Discussion

UNICEF: Will the Roadmap workshop be in Baghdad?

RCO: Yes, it will be in Baghdad.



Subgroup Updates

Sustainable Livelihoods Subgroup

- Subgroup to start holding meetings every other month rather than every month.
- Two TORs published by the subgroup:

Climate Resilient Livelihoods/Agricultural Task Force

- Goal: Support and advocate for climate resilience with a focus on Agricultural livelihood of the climate affected population in Iraq
- Main tasks include:
 - Mapping of stakeholders who can engage in supporting climate change in the Iraq context.
 - Advocacy with authorities around climate resilient strategies and mainstreaming adaptation measures.
 - Developing plans and ensuring technical support and consultations with partners.

Market System Development & Private Sector Engagement Task Force

- IOM have supported this by publishing a ToR that looks at private sector engagement in livelihoods.
- Members who are interested in participating or having a better understanding of what the task forces are working on can reach out to the DSTWG co-chairs.

Discussion

IOM: Who is the focal point for the Climate Resilient Livelihoods/Agricultural Task Force

DSTWG: IRC

Monitoring and Analysis Subgroup

- As previously announced, the scope of the subgroup is being broadened and a call for membership has been circulated.
- 20 individuals from different NGOs have expressed their interest in joining. Their membership has been confirmed and they've been invited to attend the first subgroup meeting scheduled to take place on October 4th.
- The objectives of the subgroup are to serve as a platform for sharing information products to support evidence-based durable solutions planning, to harmonize approaches to progress tracking, to facilitate joint analysis of available data to achieve consensus of key findings.
- The subgroup will move forward with the monitoring and reporting system for active ABCs.

Discussion

DSTWG: Is there progress on the activity info forms/training that the subgroup is working on?

M&A: The subgroup is currently in discussions and the training can be facilitated after discussions take place with the ABCs soon. An update can hopefully be provided early next month.

ABC Updates

- UNHCR has resigned from FP positions in Anbar, SAD, and Kirkuk. Due to the upcoming establishment of the JCFs, there will be no new call for replacements.
- 6/8 ABCs have finalized their plans of action, with Diyala and Ba'aj still pending.
- ABC Activity dashboard is now live on the Iraq DS website (accessible via this [link](#)). This dashboard maps out all the activities that are being implemented that contribute towards durable solutions.

JCF Update

- Waiting for the Diwani order or the directives from the COMSEC to the governor's office to establish the JCFs.
- A workshop will be held 3 months after the rolling out of the JCFs to review achievements and address obstacles in the work of the JCFs. This workshop will involve the co-chairs and DSO staff.
- An email was sent out to DSTF members to nominate their candidates for the co-chair positions in the JCF.
- KRG authorities proposed two ideas:
 - To have one JCF at the regional level based in Erbil overseeing the implementation and the work of the government and the aid community in the administration units.
 - To have one JCF in each governorate.
- The preference of the authorities would be to have one JCF structure at Erbil level, reporting directly to the JCC Council.

Discussion

IOM: Could you recap what the main expectations are for the JCF co-chairmanship in terms of the type and amount of work that will need to be dedicated? This is important to allow agencies to nominate staff at the right level who would be able to dedicate enough time to meet expectations.

RCO: This depends on the agencies and their activities in the respective governorates.

DSTWG: Will the co-chair from the UN side be facilitating the meeting together with the government, and what kind of workload is anticipated from their side?

RCO: Secretariat support would be provided by DSO. Other criteria include the level of seniority, to be at the same level as the deputy governor, as well as experience in coordination and awareness of the context.

OCHA: Will the focal point double-hat the responsibility of their own agency and the JCF?

RCO: This will depend on the organization itself, but it's unlikely that agency would release their staff since not much time and effort will be needed for co-chairmanship.

DSTWG Support: Can you clarify the importance of Arabic for the UN co-chair, as this would also be an important factor for agencies to keep in mind when nominating their candidates?

RCO: It would make it a lot easier if the co-chair speaks Arabic, but it would depend on the organization itself and a balance would need to be kept between the criteria such as the level of seniority and the language skills.

NCCI Phase-Out Process

NCCI outlined the following points regarding the NCCI phase-out process:

- The board has made the decision to phase down, in part due to the lack of finances to keep the organization operational.

- Another challenge is that NCCI attempted to hold 2 elections to have new board members elected which were unsuccessful. Without a new board of directors, NCCI cannot continue to operate as the board are only elected for a finite amount of time.
- The current board has initiated the process of phasing down in Iraq, which has meant a significant reduction in staff with everyone working part time except for three people.
- Services which NCCI would normally provide to its membership have been greatly reduced.
- NCCI currently has one project that is funded, so NCCI is implementing that project and carrying out its expectations. Once this project ends at the end of October, NCCI will be closing in Iraq. The board will be willing to consider any opportunities that arise, but presently NCCI is on task to close by the end of October.
- NCCI has reached out to the various platforms and fora in which NCCI holds a representational seat to discuss the steps needed to be taken to ensure NGO representation continues.
- The consensus appears to be that one organization would fill NCCI's seat in these platforms. Once nominations are received, there will be an election and the partner would be presented to the platforms to confirm the nomination or hold a new election.

Discussion

IOM: Is there a forum within Iraq that has been identified or that is being discussed to ensure longer term representation of NGOs in Iraq at the national level?

NCCI: There has been no discussion so far if there will be any type of coordinating entity that would fill the role of NCCI. It is on the agenda for the upcoming country directors meeting, but it's unknown if anyone would step forward and if it would be an international NGO or a national NGO to continue to advocate for national NGOs and civil society.

RCO: Has NCCI involved or communicated its phasing out to the Directorate of NGOs and what have their ideas/alternatives been from the government side?

NCCI: DNGO in Federal Iraq and Kurdistan region haven't been formally advised yet, as the NGO legislation is unclear on certain aspects of what an NGO should do/is required to do when phasing down or closing its country office. NCCI would like to be strategic in this respect to limit the number of challenges the organization and its partners could face.

DSTWG: As explained in the DSTWG TOR, 9 UN agencies are represented while 8 NGOs have their respective seats. NCCI carries the extra seat which makes it 9 seats, so it would be important to maintain that balance. It may be up to the NCCI members to consider whether it will be possible for one of the existing NGOs would apply or whether it will be preferable for the representing NGO to be new.

NCCI: This is one of the questions being considered, determining who is eligible and who isn't to ensure one organization doesn't have two votes. This is helpful to know for the announcement to be put out by NCCI.

DSTWG: Perhaps there would not be an issue on with this, it would just be important that the organization can distinguish between its own seat while making sure that it consults widely with the broader community particularly national NGOs, as their representation is quite low.

NCCI: NCCI is very open to the guidance of the DSTWG or DSTF to ensure that the election process is clear and accurate and meets the needs of the different platforms.

Action Point: NCCI and DSTWG to share information regarding the RWG, DSTWG and DSTF ToRs to assist with the election process.

AOB

DSTWG: The next meeting will revert to using the standing calendar invitation as usual, second Wednesday of the month.