

Durable Solutions Technical Working Group (DSTWG) – Summary of Meeting #42 on 10 July 2024

Meeting Chair: UNDP

Co-chairs: IOM, NRC

Participants: UNDP, RCO DS Advisors, OCHA, UNICEF, UNHCR, Iraq Cash Forum (WFP), Sustainable Livelihoods Subgroup (IRC, Mercy Corps), Monitoring & Assessments Subgroup (REACH), HLP Subgroup (UN Habitat, IOM)

Guests: Selen UCAK, DTM, Partners NGO

Overview and Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Agenda and Action Points from June Meeting
3. DSTWG Update
 - DSTF Meeting
 - Endorsement of the Inter-Agency Camp Solutions Plan
 - Development of Council of Minister Decision
 - Subgroups Update
 - Sustainable Livelihoods
 - HLP
4. Internal Displacement Solutions Fund in Iraq (UN Habitat and IOM)
5. Preparedness Planning
6. AOB

June Meeting #41 Action Points

- DSTWG co-chairs to share the final Inter-Agency Camp Solutions Plan (Completed)
- HLP sub-group chairs to hold a meeting to discuss revamping of the subgroup (Completed)
- RCO to share outcomes of RC Advocacy Meetings with MoMD, KRI MOI and Education (To be done in meeting)
- RCO to share update on Meetings regarding former detainees (To be done in meeting)
- M & A subgroup co-chairs to present the amended TOR and share Activity Infor Guidelines (Pending)

DS Update

- **DSTF Meeting highlights:**
 1. RC meetings with MoMD Minister and KRG MOI & Minister of Education
 2. Postponement of PM Advisor Mission to Erbil and Dahuk
 3. Roadmap Action plan Workshop: RCO to have meeting with MoMD before recommendations are shared.
 4. DSTF Advocacy Points
- **Interagency Camp Solutions Document**

Considered as endorsed following June meeting, final version shared with the June Meeting Minutes. DSTWG co-chairs will share the final document with the RCO colleagues to be part of the Roadmap.
- **Resident Coordinator Office Context Update**
 1. **Council of Minister Decision:**
 - a. MoMD continues to have access challenges into the camps in Dahuk and Erbil, limited to access for essential services but not for registration of IDPs for departure. Court case postponed to 11 August, to allow the parties time to settle the case without court intervention.

- b. MoMD position on the camps is now for a phased approach, Sulaymaniyah camps, Erbil camps and Dahuk camps final and will ask access to Erbil camps and will withdraw court case. KRG position is withdraw the court case first. The GOI may announce an alternative timeline.
 - c. Cautionary note: MOMD has stated that government led services in all the camps will continue post July 2024 including humanitarian access. No written confirmation yet, until 1 August 2024.
2. **Education Continuity:** Decision of the Ministry of Education GOI to close all the IDP schools in the KRG, potentially affecting 148,000 students. Two thresholds provided by the Prime Minister.
- a. No disruption to education
 - b. Sustainable solution to be found in the next two semesters.

Delegation travelled to Erbil prior to Eid Al-Adha and agreed on the following:

- a. Close all the education representative offices in the KRG; and instead
 - b. Establish permanent office in Erbil as central coordination office for all the schools in KRG which are in KRG. The office would be imbedded in the KRG ministry of Education.
 - c. Conduct an assessment/counting of all the makeshift/caravan GOI schools running in Erbil and transform into permanent infrastructure schools. Not expected to be inside camps but outside of camps.
3. Recent Developments between KRG and GOI
- a. On 2 July 2024, the Prime Minister replied to a KRG letter from February (proposing establishment of a joint committee with the involvement of the UN), agreeing to establish a High Committee, tasked with developing a Joint Humanitarian Plan between KRG and GOI, agree on some consensus to end protracted displacement in the camps. A Diwani 240261 resolution issued on this committee led by MOMD which includes the following entities:
 - i. Supreme Judicial Council
 - ii. Ministry of Finance
 - iii. Minister of Interior
 - iv. National Security Advisor
 - v. Iraqi National Intelligence Services
 - vi. National Security Services
 - vii. Representatives from the KRG

The RCO views the establishment of this committee as an opportunity to constructively engage in the Roadmap, this could guide the framework for those in protracted displacement.

Discussion

DSTWG co-chair (IOM) enquired on why most entities in the committee are security when main concerns for IDPs are related to livelihoods, compensation for housing and public services in areas of origin?

UNHCR commented on the shifting deadline, but the MOMD minister continues to repeat commitment to the deadline e.g. in her meeting with the President leading to a limbo and uncertainty. There has been a spike in the applications at the MoMD office in Dahuk because of the underlying message being the deadline of 30 July.

The RC Advisor responded that the same observations on the composition of the committee had been made, their main concern being that the ministry of education was not included, viewed as a high-level broad stroke decision making, no governorate level decision making, not a space for comprehensive planning. Window for

opportunity to recommend key ministries. Noted the positive inclusion of the Ministry of Finance. RCO team is preparing a letter which welcomes the decision and ready to support.

On MOMD public posturing on the deadline, the RC Advisor stated that this will continue noting that they are the only entity saying this. Main reason is for them to say so many people have left the camps so far. Other indicators include the court postponement to 11 August, meeting with the President with strong messages, the establishment of the committee.

The DS Advisor reminded members about the advocacy positions document which can be used to ensure aligned messaging, also translated in Arabic and can be shared.

Subgroup Updates

- **Sustainable Livelihoods**

- *Climate Resilience/Agriculture Task Force*: The Task Force Co-chair (IRC) reported that the TF completed the guideline for the CRLA and thanked all the organisations for their inputs. Proofreading and translation to get input from the Ministry of Environment both GOI and KRI. English and Arabic version will be shared:
 - i. The TF is conducting a mapping of climate change assessments to see potential for joint assessment.
- *Private Sector Engagement and Market Systems Development TF*: The Task Force Co-chair (Mercy Corps) reported that TF met on 9 June, TOR completed and the focus will be on joint definitions and minimum standards for private sector engagement and market systems development, 4Ws and business support partners who can be involved in the TF and toolbox, next meeting will be first week of August.

Private Sector Engagement Workshop 6 June:

Research Focus: Understanding the Nexus of Private Sector and Durable Solutions

- i. Modes of Engagement
- ii. Challenges in Private Sector Participation
- iii. Need and Opportunities to Increase Private Sector Participation
- iv. What do SMEs think about durable solutions?
- v. Recommendations (Awareness, Action and Assessment)
- vi. Workshop Discussions---Knowing the private sector, engaging the private sector, expanding financing, coordination and specificity, business networks and chambers.

- **HLP subgroup**

The UN Habitat co-chair updated members that the co-chairs had their first meeting this week to discuss reactivating of the subgroup following some staffing gaps. More exploring of previous output, guidelines on tenure security, challenge of developing something more realistic. IOM co-chair added they will also work on the membership list, update it and will have first meeting in the next few weeks and will share the application forms.

Internal Displacement Project (project doc shared with agenda)

Project Summary:

- Title: Strengthening data systems to improve the management of internally displaced persons referral systems in Iraq
- Donor: Internal Displacement Solutions Fund

- Duration: 18 months (April 2024 to September 2025)
- Budget: \$500,000 (\$325,000-IOM and \$175,000-UN Habitat)

Overall Objective:

- Strengthen data systems of the GOI to improve management of IDP cases
- Enhanced data analysis for: informed policymaking, improved resource allocation, improved responsive capacity.
- Ultimately supporting more effective and targeted service delivery to vulnerable populations.

Outputs:

Output 1.: Mapping and assessment of existing GOI data and referral systems, current capacity gaps, strategies and entry points for improvement.

Output 2. Enhancing the government of Iraq's data analysis capacities to inform policies and resourcing related to service delivery for IDPs.

Questions

The DSTWG co-chair (IOM) asked if there will be any interlinkages between the activities conducted by IOM and those conducted by UN Habitat since the main stakeholders will be MoMD and JCC on the one hand and the Compensation Committee on the other.

IOM responded that this is the plan, the initial assessment will identify the main gaps and how to make collaboration between the different entities work better.

Preparedness Planning

RCO DS Adviser reminded the members about the existence of the inter-agency team, the response and preparedness document on the different elements of the camps closure and the advocacy points.

DSTWG co-chair enquired about the concerns which WFP had raised, whether there has been any reconsideration about the focus on the East Mosul Camp considering the recent changes in the position of government in relation to the Erbil and Dahuk camps.

UNHCR alerted that there will be a meeting with JCC to assess what planning they have engaged with beyond the East Mosul camps.

The RCO Advisor responded that the DSRSG (Political) was also in Erbil meeting with the MOI KRG and has raised some points in his briefing package. The Preparedness and Response document has a few limitations, it is not an appeal exercise, Ashti camp most imminent closure. We may have the same limitation in the Erbil Camps. Some monitoring of the situation has been deployed by WFP, IOM and the UNHCR weekly report to improve our ability to track those who are departing.

AOB

- The next meeting will be **on 14 August 2024** as per the standing calendar invite.