

Minutes of the Sinjar ABC Meeting

14 November 2023, 10:30 – 12:00

Sunrise Office – Sinjar

Co-Chairs: UNDP- FP

Participants from Gov. Mr. Ali Omer the Deputy Governor of Ninawa for the Organizations Affair

Sinjar ABC Members Present: WFP, IOM, AVSI, ECHO, NRC, IVY, IRC, UNOCHA, Dorcas Aid International, Sunrise, DRC, ACF, Hope Makers Organization, Youth Bridge Organization, House of Coexistence, Welthunger Hilfe, Lutheran World Federation, ACTED, UNAMI - DSO, Mercy Corps, GIZ, Jesuit Refugee Service, and the Local DSTWG.

Sinjar ABC Members Absent: PUI, UNICEF, Non-Violent Peaceforce, UNHCR, Save the Children, Care, Nadia's Initiative, TDH - Switzerland, TDH – Italy, Malteser International, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, MSF, REACH, Peace Paradigms, HI, Yazda, Solidarites International, Mission East, People in Need, Shareteah Humanitarian, IIDI Iraq, Shelter Cluster, UNOPS, Polish Humanitarian Action, Halat Organization, UPP, DAMA, INTERSOS, and the Triangle Generation Humanitaire.

Note Taker: UNAMI-DSO

Objectives:

The meeting aimed to provide an update from the Government of Ninawa, an update on the JCF, and a follow-up on the action points from the previous meeting.

Main Points

The meeting was opened with a warm welcome from the UNDP-FP. Key points highlighted:

- **Update from the Government:**

Mr. Ali Omer presented the following updates:

- Highlighted the commendable progress made by IOM in supporting the returnees to Sinjar. Last week witnessed the return of 242 families, along with other voluntary returnees to Sinjar. Mr.

Omer Ali urged all partners to prepare the return areas, facilitating the returnees' integration and expediting the overall return process.

- Addressed the challenges at Sinuni Hospital, assuring that IOM will step in to fill the gaps left by the withdrawal of MSF, ensuring continued healthcare support in the region.
- Shared insights from a collaborative meeting involving UNDP, IOM, and UNOPS with the Government of Ninawa. The focus was on cooperation in implementing projects in return areas, particularly in Qahtaniyah, Adnaniyah, and Seba Shekh Khidry.
- Noted the successful implementation of all projects outlined in the food security budget, stabilization budget, and the Nineveh Reconstruction Fund for Sinjar District in 2022. Projects that remain are currently in the tendering process while awaiting the launch of the provincial development budget for 2023.
- Discussed the status of the Sinjar Agreement and the selection of the Sinjar Mayor, highlighting ongoing challenges. Notably, only a portion of the promised volunteers from the people of Sinjar for the Police Directorate training phase has been accepted, with issues persisting.
- Shared a personal experience of strained relations with an armed group controlling the Zarifa Osi School in Sinjar, a project reconstructed by the Japanese. Despite numerous assurances and interventions, the situation remains unresolved.
- Participated with the Governor of Ninawa in a road map workshop in Baghdad, focusing on facilitating the implementation of the national plan for the return of displaced persons to their areas of origin for 2024-2026. Mr. Ali stressed the objection of the Ninawa Governorate to changes in priorities, emphasizing the need for continued support given the substantial number of displaced individuals from Ninawa.
- Expressed gratitude to most UN agencies and NGOs for providing project lists from 2019-2022. The Government of Ninawa compiled a comprehensive database of these projects.
- Emphasized the significance of the ABC Sinjar, proposing the retention of the Sinjar and Baaj ABCs within a unified structure even after the launch of the Ninawa Joint Coordination Forum (JCF), underscoring the ongoing importance of the Sinjar region.
- UNDP reported that during the Catering Committee meeting in Baghdad, the government called for projects to restore stability, combat desertification, introduce new agricultural methods, and address water scarcity throughout Iraq.
- WFP reported the activities being implemented in Sinjar in the upcoming 6 months, including:
 - Agriculture and irrigation infrastructure, to support the livelihoods of farmers by training communities on water resource management, modern irrigation techniques, rehabilitation of channels and natural wells and distribution of agriculture assets.

- Rehabilitation of the Sinjar Natural Reserve, with the rehabilitation of wells, reforestation, pilot of Agri voltaic system and the installation of irrigation systems.
 - Mainstreaming of conservation agriculture technics in Sinjar, with the training of farmers, distribution of agriculture inputs and piloting of no-till agriculture, to increase productivity and improve water management and soil health.
- Follow up on the action points from the previous meeting.

The Action Point	Status
<i>For IOM to share the type of housing intervention, the location, and the status of their housing projects in Sinjar</i>	Ongoing
<i>For all the Sinjar ABC partners to share with Mr. Ali Omer (Reconstruction Assistant for the Affairs of the Displaced) a list of the projects implemented in Sinjar from 2019 until 2022.</i>	Done
<i>The Sinjar ABC partners to share their updates activities (hard and soft components) with the Secretariate and add them to the minutes of the meeting as there are new funds for Sinjar and to avoid any duplication and overlapping.</i>	Pending
<i>For the partners to update their contact information in the Sinjar ABC membership list that will be shared by the secretariate.</i>	Ongoing
<i>Partners are to modify and update their activities in the online service map. by the end of September and prepare an analysis for the next meeting.</i>	Ongoing

- Update from DSTWG:

The National DSTWG was on a mission in Khazir villages and requested the secretariat to brief on the followings.

- The Joint Coordination Forum (JCF) establishment letter has been released by the COMSEC. The JCF will be co-chaired by the Deputy Governor and the UNICEF in Ninawa. , The government relevant directorates will be the JCF members from the government side. On the other hand, 51 NGOs and UN Agencies have applied their membership application form with one observer. The kickoff meeting will be launched in the last two weeks of December 2023. After launching the JCF, there will be a transition of 6 months for the Ninawa ABCs, and as Mr. Ali Omer reported they will request to keep Sinjar and Baaj in Sinjar ABC.

- AoB

- IRC provided an update on their protection team, case management, and cash for protection activities in Mosul and Sinjar. Their team is actively engaged in offering legal support to returnees from the Al-Hol camp and other areas. They specialize in addressing legal issues and assisting with documentation. IRC urged partners to refer relevant cases to their organization for comprehensive support. The IRC office, situated in the Sinjar center within the Al-Shuhadah neighborhood, collaborates with their partner, Al-Masala NGO.
- The IOM-DTM requested the NGOs working in Ninawa to share with them any information related to displacements or non-returns because of the climate change issues, and the IOM-DTM will track it.

- Action Points:

- *For all the Sinjar ABC partners to share with IOM-DTM or the Sinjar ABC secretariate any information related to displacements or non-returns because of the climate change issues, and the IOM-DTM will track it.*