

Durable Solutions Technical Working Group (DSTWG) – Summary of Meeting #40 on 8 May 2024

Meeting Chair: NRC

Co-chairs: UNDP, IOM

Participants: UN Habitat, SEDO, IRC, OCHA, REACH, UNHCR, DRC, WFP, IOM, SIF, , RCO DS Advisers

Overview and Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Agenda
 - March Meeting Action Points
 - Contingency planning parameters update
 - CWC and request for data from intentions survey
 - Circulation of DSTF Key messages
 - Circulation of the Inter-agency Camp Solutions Strategy Draft
 - UNDP summary of UNDP data for solutions workshop
- Endorsements
- AOB

March Meeting #39 Action Points

- **Camp closure contingency planning:**
 - The meeting chair reminded the members that during the March meeting, the DSTWG co-chairs were meant to follow up with the RC office to get clarity on the contingency planning which the DSTWG wanted to undertake, but potential for duplication existed given initiatives which had been taken by the DSTF for contingency planning for Sinjar and the request made to ABC Sinjar by the RC. The meeting chair noted that the RCO team had drafted a document outlining the parameters of a DSTF-led contingency planning. Based on discussions following the DSTF, a few Agencies had been tasked with developing contingency plans as follows:
 - UNHCR: IDP camps
 - UNICEF: Education
 - WFP: Food security/PDS/SSN
 - IOM: Informal Sites
- The meeting chair noted that the RCO team will consolidate the inputs of the various plans into one document. The DSTWG therefore does not need to work on any contingency planning as this would duplicate efforts.

Discussion:

UNHCR raised a correction and stated that the RCO team was now the penholder of this activity and that UNHCR was not responsible for the camp contingency planning. Also, clarified that in recent meetings UNHCR had indicated that a comprehensive contingency plan is not needed for all camps and that UNHCR will focus on East Mosul Camps which is the priority.

RCO DS Advisor interjected and recommended that the exercise should no longer be referred to as contingency planning but as a 'preparedness' document on camp closures. Also confirmed that UNHCR had prioritised the East Mosul Camps due to the severity of the situation in these camps. It was also noted that there seemed to be various views among different agencies on their understanding of severity and prioritization and that the RC office would engage bilaterally on this with the respective agencies. For now, the RC office was working on coordinating advocacy messages which would be articulated with the authorities in Baghdad and also consolidating the inputs from the different agencies. It was noted that a number of other camps, other than the East Mosul Camps were of concern, including Ashti which had a

number of families from blocked areas and where families who left camps are facing challenges to locally integrate.

WFP added that prioritization for the contingency planning/preparedness document should be based on vulnerability and this can vary from location to location and also on the sectors and sought confirmation from the RCO that this was the understanding from the earlier meetings.

RCO DS Advisor responded that WFPs concerns were documented and captured in the document which will be shared.

- **RWG follow-up on intentions survey results and CWC:** The RWG sent two letters to MoMD requesting for the results of the intentions surveys conducted by MoMD and also advocating for improved CWC. No response has been received to either letters, but MoMD verbally confirmed that they had conducted some focus group discussions/consultations with community representatives in Dahuk camps and also MoMD had shared copies of leaflets developed for IDPs.

Discussion:

WFP expressed concern about the lack of intention surveys, given that government assistance was meant to be linked to a clear understanding of the intentions and obstacles faced by households. Also, noted that from an operational perspective, having an understanding of the intentions is important since, from a food security perspective, government assistance or aid assistance by aid actors may be linked to the area which IDPs decide to return to, relocate or locally integrate. The advocacy ask was that for PDS and SSN, it would be important for families to have access to whatever choice they make.

RCO DS Advisor noted that looking at the council of minister decision it appears that IDPs who elect to remain in the KRI may inevitably lose some of their government entitlement and it remains unclear to what extent the KRI may be able to substitute some of those entitlements.

- **UNDP Data Workshop Summary:** The UNDP DSTWG co-chair stated that the summary was yet to be finalised and will be shared once ready.

Action Point: UNDP to share the summary of the data workshop

Endorsement of the 24/25 DSTWG Workplan

The meeting chair presented on the endorsement of the workplan and asked members to endorse the workplan so that activities could commence asap.

IOM Co-Chair: Reminded members that the draft workplan was shared prior to the March meeting and inputs were invited until April. To date no comments or amendment had been received from the DSTWG members. Noted that there are several activities in the workplan which the co-chairs will rely on members to support and to assist with.

Decision: DSTWG 2024/25 workplan duly endorsed.

Endorsement of the Inter-agency Camp Solutions Plan

- The meeting chair reminded members that the Inter-Agency Camp solutions document, which was worked on during the retreat, was shared together with the March meeting minutes and that it was intended that the document should be attached to the roadmap draft, again, no comments had been received from the members in the last 2 months, members asked to endorse the document.

Discussion:

UNHCR: Requested an opportunity to make some amendments to the document to note some nuance, and noted that in addition to UNHCR other members might not have had the document on their radar so it might be good to recirculate it.

IOM co-chair: Noted that the document can be reshared and endorsement can be deferred for the next meeting and urged members to please share their comments asap in light of the roadmap progress.

Action Point:

- DSTWG co-chairs to reshare the Inter-agency document and UNHCR and other members to review and to provide feedback prior to next meeting.

Subgroup Updates

- **Sustainable Livelihoods**
 - *Climate Resilience/Agriculture Task Force:* The Task Force Co-chair (IRC) reported the following:
 - i. that the TF is in the process of developing the guideline for climate change which will be shared with TF members for review and endorsement. The document will also then be shared with government as well.
 - ii. IRC is hosting a climate study validation workshop. Invite will be shared with the DSTWG co-chairs for sharing with the DSTWG members.
 - *Private Sector Engagement & Market Systems Development Task Force:* The Task Force Co-chair (MercyCorps) could not make the meeting but shared the following update:
 - iii. that the TF TOR has been revised and shared with members (following retreat decision to combine the two TFs PSE and MSD)
 - iv. The next meeting is scheduled for 9 May and will be hosted by IRC.
- **M&A :**The amended TOR was shared with the agenda and save the date. Please review it, the chairs of the subgroup will present on the changes at the next meeting for endorsement of changing the M&A subgroup into the Data for Solutions Subgroup.
 - The subgroup is also finalising the reporting guidelines which will be shared prior to the next meeting.

Action Points:

- CLRA chair to share invite for the validation workshop and DSTWG co-chairs to pass on to DSTWG members
- M&A subgroup co-chairs to present on the TOR and to share the Activityinfor guidelines.

Roadmap and Camp Closure Update

The DS Advisor provided some over-arching updates on the camp closures and the Roadmap process as follows:

- **Camp Closures:**
 - i. **Impact on Education**—Following the announcement by the ministry of education, UNICEF colleagues have done an assessment on the ramification of the recent announcement and have been engaging in advocacy at both the Erbil and the Baghdad level. A press release by the Prime Minister’s office noted that measures should be taken to ensure that there is no disruption to education and as such there is work to ensure that any issues would be resolved within the next two years. There is a possibility that education offices may remain open for the next 2 years.
 - ii. **Chronology of Implementation**--- There is a recognition that, based on the experiences of returnees, the implementation of components of the COM decision are not being implemented in a chronological manner. For example, whether the allocation of land, construction of low cost housing should happen prior to return. What would be the activities which at the very minimum are needed to make return conducive. There is need to engage with the relevant line ministries.

- iii. Visit of Prime Minister Advisors: 3 Prime Minister Advisors were scheduled to visit the KRI to evaluate the camp closure decision with the Kurdish authorities, without the participation of MoMD, the visit had been rescheduled. The RCO is engaging closely with the 3 advisors.
- iv. Recent challenges: Many of you have flagged some concerns related to challenges faced by returnees and IDP families, non-receipt of the grant for families who have perceived ISIL affiliation. The issue is under the Integrity Commission. The need for MoMD to coordinate with other ministries on the COM implementation.
- **Roadmap:** The revised roadmap has been shared with both government authorities in Erbil and Baghdad for their feedback. There have been delays with setting a date for the workshop to develop the workplan. The DSTWG co-chairs please share the 1 pager on the workshop with the DSTWG members.
 - i. Yesterday the RCO met with NGOs to brief them on the roadmap. Participation was not high but there is hope that another briefing can be arranged.
 - ii. The SG Special Advisor on DS is planning to visit Iraq and there is a plan for him to engage with some of the NGO, RCO will reach out to DRC to coordinate on the visit.

Discussion:

IOM: Added that on the challenges arising from the COM decision is that single person HH are not being given the IQD4mil grant as MoMD is applying the decision strictly contrary to the practice of MoMD IQD1.5mill grant which is halved for single persons. Follow up with MoMD on the issue indicated that MoMD officials have flagged some of these issues with the minister for recommendations.

DS Advisor: Responded that the issue is also on the RCO radar for RC advocacy along the other issues flagged.

UNHCR: Reported that a committee had been established to address the challenges faced by excluded categories and enquired if anyone among the DSTWG members was aware of any decisions being made.

DS Advisor: The RCO will follow up on this and advise if the committee has made any decisions.

Action Point:

- DSTWG co-chairs to share with 1 pager concept note for the Roadmap workshop.

AOB

- **IOM** enquired with UNDP if UNDP had responded to the request for workshop assistance to discuss the awareness campaign for the camp closures. **UNDP responded** that there was no decision yet as it was still under discussion and will see if it will happen.
- **Next meeting scheduled as per standing calendar invite 12 June.**

Summary of Action Points

- **UNDP** to share the summary of the UNDP data workshop.
- **DSTWG co-chairs** to reshare the Inter-agency document and UNHCR and other members to review and to provide feedback prior to next meeting.
- **CLRA chair** to share invite for the validation workshop and DSTWG co-chairs to pass on to DSTWG members.
- **M&A subgroup co-chairs** to present on the TOR and to share the Activity Infor guidelines.
- **DSTWG co-chairs** to share with 1 pager concept note for the Roadmap workshop.

Summary of Decisions

- **Decision:** DSTWG 2024/25 workplan duly endorsed.