

RETURNS WORKING GROUP- IRAQ

- **Meeting Date:** 17 December 2024
- **Meeting Time:** 11:00 am-12:00 pm
- **Location:** IOM Conference Room, Erbil & Remote connection via Teams

Attendance: US Embassy/PRM, IRC, DG ECHO, UNOCHA, Mercy Hands, UNHCR, UNAMI DSO, GIZ, USAID Iraq, IOM, WRO, NRC, IID, IVY, DSTWG/RWG, Ankawa Humanitarian committee AHC, Action for Humanity, and forumZFD.

Agenda:

1. **Introduction and adoption of minutes:** Review of Meeting Minutes and Action Points
2. **Context Update:** DTM Update – Eviction from Informal Settlements & Climate-Induced Displacement – Central and Southern Iraq
3. **DSTWG Update:** DS updates
4. **AOB**

1. **Introduction and adoption of minutes:** Review of previous minutes; Follow up on action points from the previous meeting.

- Endorsement of the previous meeting minutes.
- No pending action points.

2. **Context Update: DTM Update –Eviction from Informal Settlements & Climate-Induced Displacement – Central and Southern Iraq**

(Please refer to the full presentation link for further details)

Climate-Induced Displacement Tracking– Trends and Updates

Flow analysis

- Just under half of families displaced in two years: 2022 (22%) and 2023 (24%).
- 40 per cent of all displacements took place within Thi-Qar Governorate. This includes intra-district displacement within Al-Chibayish and Nassriya, as well as movements between Al-Rifa'i and Al-Shatra.
- A further fifth took place within Missan Governorate, especially between Qal'at Saleh and Amara districts.
- Just under two thirds of families displaced to urban locations (64%), while the remaining share went to rural locations.
- Many of those moving to rural areas go to Najaf, Nassriya and Al-Qurna districts.
- Key districts for urban displacement include Amara, Al-Shatra and Al-Chibayish.

Discussion

- **Question:** When Tal Afar was mentioned in the slide on informal displacement, was it referring to people originally from Tal Afar being displaced or to displacement occurring within Tal Afar?
- **DTM:** The reference to Tal Afar was made in relation to shelter types. Specifically, after 640 families were evicted from informal settlements, their movements were tracked. Of these, 20% who arrived in Tal Afar were hosted by other families. Additionally, out of the 640 displaced families, about 31% were evicted from the land they occupied. Tal Afar was mentioned in the context of their destination and shelter situation, not necessarily their place of origin.
- **DTM update:** Out of the 640 total evicted families, 31% were from Tal Afar District (197 families), all of them were from Zummar subdistrict. DTM tracked down the arrival of 100 families out of the 197 families. All of them arrived in the same subdistrict and just changed their locations. Out of those, 20% of them are being hosted by other families and 80% arrived in Habitable houses.
- **Question:** What is IOM's response to the eviction processes occurring in Ninewa and other governorates? Specifically, could you provide details about the locations where evictions are happening, the number of affected families, and how NGOs or partners might coordinate support through activities like cash-for-eviction or protection, potentially via JCF or local authority meetings?
- **DTM:** IOM has been tracking eviction trends in Ninewa and other areas since September 2023 in response to government infrastructure projects, such as railways and highways, which have displaced many families. The tracker monitors the number of affected individuals, their destinations, and shelter conditions to inform potential interventions. Initially, the number of evictions rose quickly, but the trend has since stabilized, with notable cases like 1,200 people in Basra facing eviction due to a railway project. The data supports coordination with NGOs and local authorities for possible

activities like cash-for-eviction or protection support. Reporting on these trends has shifted to a four-month cycle to align with the current pace of evictions and ensure preparedness for future developments.

- **IOM:** IOM's response to evictions in informal locations includes a combination of advocacy, joint assessments, and direct interventions. While IOM is unable to address all informal sites due to the high numbers, ECHO is funding interventions specifically in Kirkuk and Ninawa. In situations of urgent eviction, such as the case in Kirkuk's Sharika Tariq area, IOM coordinated with local actors, including IRC, NRC, and others, to conduct rapid door-to-door assessments. This data collected covered family needs, barriers to return, and the support required for resettlement, which was then shared with the government for advocacy. IOM also provides targeted cash-for-protection assistance based on vulnerability criteria, focusing on families at risk, such as those with children, elderly members, or persons with disabilities. Additionally, IOM supports families in obtaining civil documentation, which is often a barrier for return, to help facilitate their reintegration.
- **Question:** Can DTM confirm if the displacement cited is more long-term, with families being moved away from their areas of origin for more than two or three years, or if it is temporary as initially mentioned?
- **DTM:** Yes, that's correct. While there is temporary displacement in some cases, such as families moving from rural areas to urban centers during difficult climate conditions, many of these movements are more long-term. For instance, people from areas like Al-Chibyash and Nassriya are relocating from rural to urban areas. Some of these displacements might still be temporary, with families returning to their agricultural activities after conditions improve, but DTM will conduct further analysis to determine whether these movements are temporary or longer-term.
- **DTM update:** We have observed most displacements as longer-term, although in some cases, families may return in climatic conditions improve. We regularly monitor locations of displacement for any changes in the figure

3. DSTWG Update: DS updates

(Please refer to the full presentation link for further details)

DSTWG meeting – 11 December 2024

- DSTWG Workplan Review/ Achievements and Challenges
- DSTWG Ad Hoc Meeting on Local Integration and Displacement Stock Figures
- Ongoing Advocacy for IDPs and Returnees.

RWG Update

- **Services Advisor Map Submission:** The Service Advisor is a tool adopted from UNHCR, now used by IOM, to map activities and services for IDPs. Partners can fill in the form through this [LINK](#) by Thursday, January 23, 2025 to provide details such as organization operation hours, referral, criteria for assistance, and documentation required for Persons of Concern to access the required services. This platform now allows for the mapping of services and opportunities for partners across the region.
- **IRAQ RWG 2024 Review Survey:** RWG members are kindly asked to complete the IRAQ RWG 2024 Review Survey via this [LINK](#). The feedback will assist in assessing strengths and areas for improvement, contributing to better coordination and data sharing in the coming year. Please submit responses by Tuesday, January 21, 2025.
- **The Iraq Durable Solutions** is a website providing information and resources for stakeholders working on durable solutions for IDPs in Iraq. RWG members can access it through this [LINK](#).

AOB

- The upcoming RWG meeting is scheduled for January 28.