



Durable Solutions Technical Working Group (DSTWG) – Summary of Meeting #49 on 16 April 2025

Meeting Chair: BHBF

Co-chairs: IOM

Participants: OCHA, UNMAS, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, HLP Subgroup (Mariana, IOM), M&A Subgroup (Alaa, IOM), Secour Islamic, SEDO and RCO Advisors (Mohammed C & Islam)

Overview and Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions
2. March Meeting Action Points
3. DSTWG Update
 - Subgroups Update
 - M & A Subgroup Update
 - ABC and JCF Update
 - M& A Subgroup
4. RCO Presentation— Update on DSTF meetings, RC Advocacy Efforts and update on Guidance on Internal Displacement post Piper Initiatives
5. AOB

DSTWG Update

March Meeting #49 Action Points:

a. HLP Subgroup Funding Impact Fact sheet (Pending)

- The subgroup is currently working on the factsheet and will be shared in the next meeting

b. DSTWG co-chairs to follow up on restarting DSTF Meetings (Completed)

Co-chairs sent an email to the DSTF co-chairs following the last DSTWG meeting. DSTF co-chairs acknowledged receipt and follow up discussions with the RC are ongoing. DS Advisor to share more details in the main presentation of this meeting.

c. RCO DS Advisor to share committee meetings and draft plan (Pending)

DS Advisor to share update in meeting.

d. CRLA COP meeting scheduled for end of March (Pending)

TOR and meeting invite already shared and meeting moved to 17 April. Feedback to be provided during the May meeting.

e. DSTWG co-chairs to reschedule IDP and Returnee Stock Figures meeting (In progress)

Co-chairs to share invite before next monthly meeting.

Subgroup update:

a. M& A subgroup (Alaa):

- *Co-chair Meet and co-chair selection process following REACH transition:* IOM and REACH met in March to discuss the process for selecting a new co-chair and finalising the ActivityInfo Data collection tool. Next steps in April include:
 - ✓ Sending out call for interest to subgroup members, deadline is 24 April.
 - ✓ Monthly meeting will be called for 28 April to among others discuss the selection process. DSTWG members also invited to reach out to Alaa if they are interested in co-chairing or in membership.
- *M & A Reporting Guidelines:* Thanked all the partners for the feedback they shared in January on the tool, changes have been adopted in the final document. The guideline serves to assist organisations with systematic data collection and reporting.



- ✓ As previously presented the tool covers the key specific/strategic objectives under the DS Operational and Strategic Framework including housing, livelihoods, documentation, basic services, social cohesion and safety and security.
- ✓ Reporting will be quarterly. Some data from 2024 will be requested to serve as base data.
- ✓ Due to the high costs associated with the ActivityInfo platform, Kobo would be the easiest platform to use for the reporting tool.

The subgroup invited members to reach out should they encounter any problems once the tool is activated.

Comment:

- HLP subgroup co-chair asked for clarification on the different indicators/sub criteria under housing for example #destroyed housed, reconstructed and newly build houses and raised some concerns about the potential for duplication as category 4 housing can either be destroyed or newly built social housing? You can have newly built social housing which is not war damaged. In addition, the subgroup reported that they report provision of housing or HLP documents per head of household.

ABCs and JCF Updates (DS Advisor Mohammed Chalabi):

a. JCFs

- UNAMI mandate is concluding by the end of 2025, and the mission has started downsizing. As a result, 3 DSO staff members covering Kirkuk, Diyala and Anbar have been affected leaving a gap in the secretariate roles. Other JCFs may face similar challenges this year.
- The RC has reached out to COMSEC informing them and requesting they take over the secretariate responsibilities.
- COMSEC responded to this via letter where they proposed shared responsibilities between the Deputy Governor's Office and JCMC while also requesting UNDP and IOM to support the secretariate.
- In the meantime, temporary arrangements have been made during this transition as follows:
 - Kirkuk---Osama
 - Diyala and Anbar---Saif
 - Ninewa---Osama (until Najat returns from sick leave)

b. Upcoming Meetings

- Salah Al-Din next meeting scheduled for 16 April focussing on the Tuz Response Plan
- Other JCFs still waiting on responses from co-chairs to set dates.

Sinjar ABC meeting scheduled for 23 April.

Comments:

- The DSTWG co-chair asked if the transition plan had not been anticipated already in light of UNAMI draw down. The DS Advisor reported that during the workshop this year the transition was discussed with the government, the government hesitated due to capacity issue and the plan was to build their capacity, but the contract termination was sudden. The temporary covers will work on the handover and capacity building.
- OCHA enquired if JCMC will be the secretariate for the JCF and if the government will not be provided with an option to select another entity as in some cases there might be a difficult relationship between the governor's office and JCMC. The DS Advisor responded that the proposal came from COMSEC proposing a joint team Deputy governor office (main secretariate functions) and JCMC (Role would be focal point between JCF and COMSEC). They also requested IOM and UNDP to help even though we stressed the lack of capacity among UN agencies, the RCO office will share the letter with the two agencies and with the DSTWG just for their information



Action Points:

- (i) *DS Co-chairs to reschedule IDPs stock figures discussion before next meeting.*
- (ii) *M & A Subgroup and HLP Subgroup (and possibly the livelihoods TF chairs) to discuss cleaning up the guidelines to ensure that it aligns with how members in each sector collectively report.*
- (iii) *RCO team to share email from COMSEC with UNDP and IOM and also with the DSTWG members.*

RCO update on DSTF meeting and advocacy (DS Advisor Islam)

- **DSTF meetings:**

Last DSTF meeting was conducted in November 2024 and the Resident Coordinator made the decision to pause the meetings this year in light of the conclusion of the work of the HCT and he sought to revise different coordination structures to align with the current country context and to make the DSTF more effective. To do this the TOR is being reviewed with the following key changes:

- Structuring the meetings around a new core document, namely the Durable Solutions Road Map.
- A forum to occasionally invite the government.
- Creating a dotted line with the Geneva based Inter-Agency Solutions Hub.

It was noted that the status of government endorsement while relevant recognises that many organisations and agencies are implementing programs corresponding with the roadmap. The RC will be convening a meeting with the DSTF co-chairs, UNDP, IOM and with UNHCR to discuss the resumption of meetings and the revised terms of reference before the wider consultation with other DSTF members. [Following consensus among the heads of these agencies and the RC, formal communication on the relaunch of the DSTF will be communicated.](#)

- **National Committee Established under Diwani Order 24529:**

The committee was established by the Prime Minister on 28 November following recommendations of the Diwani Order 24261 and is chaired by the Deputy National Security Advisor.

- The mandate of the committee is—to develop a comprehensive plan for the return of displaced persons including reconstruction efforts in coordination with the UN.
- The timeline for the committee is **90 days** to finalise its plan.

The committee has prepared a draft and have submitted a request for an extension to complete the plan in partnership with the UN. The DS Advisor has seen a copy of the draft plan, but it has not been formerly presented to the DSTWG or DSTF for formal comment or input. [The committee concluded its work by requesting a 60 days extension, no plan was submitted to the Prime Minister. Expected next steps is The plan is to set up an interagency team interfacing with the committee to develop the plan, considering the draft which the committee has developed.](#) There is no update yet on the extension, but the PM's office has provided provide feedback to the committee. Some of the positive aspects of the committee is that there is significant participation from the KRI.

Some of the shortcomings of the committee:

- Meetings are often decided at the last minute with two- or three-days' notice with no clear agenda.
- Key decision makers are sometimes not in the room.
- There is caution from the KRI that there is no significant plan on what happens once people return to areas of return ie reintegration efforts.
- The committee has reduced the work and priority to the issue of displacement and solutions for the Yazidi population to Sinjar, neglecting other population groups.

An important point was made that the work of the committee is expected to be completed before the elections, ie development and implementation of the plan before the elections (November) may be abrupt situation as 2024.

- **Post Secretary General Advisor on Solutions to Displacement arrangements:**

A legacy document from the Piper mandate which ended in December 2024, called the Guidance on Solutions to Internal Displacement (see document shared with the meeting agenda). The guidance does the following:

- Emphasizes the centrality of government ownership, supporting government leadership on solutions and the RC/UCT leadership role supported by UNHCR, UNDP and IOM as the global and mission level 'solutions champions.
- Anchoring development approaches from the outset.
- Introductions new institutional arrangements such as the Global Solutions Hub, the Solutions Fund and the UN Solutions Adviser Facility.
- UNDP, UNHCR and IOM are rotating chairs of the post Piper arrangements.

Guidance is grounded in the High-Level Panel Action Agenda, IASC Framework, LNOB and other frameworks and principles.

Comments:

- *On the work of the Diwani Order Committee, the DSTWG co-chair enquired about the RCO sharing the copy of the draft humanitarian plan considering the indications by the committee for the plan to be development in partnership with the UN to enable meaningful support to the committee and also requested for the DS Advisor to share the minutes from the most recent meetings where the committee discussed the plan. The DS Advisor explained that the current draft in his possession was not shared formerly so the RCO would not be able to share it with the DSTWG members but would be happy to provide the DSTWG members with a briefing on the contents without sharing the document itself. It might be a redundant exercise as the UN has not been requested to input on the plan. Stated that the document is sensitive and the RCO will not share it but can provide a briefing. Added that the RCO provided input to the committee based on the DS Roadmap. The RC also personally provided copies of the roadmap to all members of the committee. On the minutes the DS Advisor intimated that he had shared minutes from the last meeting he attended in January and that the UN had not been invited to committee meetings after January and did not have any meeting notes to share.*
- *HLP subgroup co-chair asked for clarification on the different indicators/sub criteria under housing for example #destroyed housed, reconstructed and newly build houses and raised come concerns about the potential for duplication as category 4 housing can either be destroyed or newly built social housing? You can have newly built social housing which is not war damaged. In addition, the subgroup reported that they report provision of housing or HLP documents per head of household.*

Action Points:

- (iv) *DS Advisor to call for the following briefings with the DSTWG members*
 - a. *On the Solutions guidance shared by the post Piper colleagues in Geneva*
 - b. *On the Diwani Committee 24529 draft paper discussion in preparation for the inter-agency team to provide input to the humanitarian plan (confidential briefing for DSTWG members).*



RWG workshop on access to safety and security (Nawal)

- Informed members of the preparatory works being conducted for a workshop on Safety and Security as an obstacle to durable solutions. Access to safety and security remains one of the main challenges after access to housing, access to public services & livelihoods, in some areas it is a leading obstacle
- The workshop will be conducted in Baghdad in early June and will focus on the following:
 - Areas of no return/blocked areas
 - Tribal issues and fear of revenge
 - Landmines and explosive remnants of war
 - Freedom of movement

If your organisation is interesting in participating or presenting, please reach out to Nawal (nelkaakour@iom.int)

Summary of Action points

- *DS Co-chairs to reschedule IDPs stock figures discussion before next meeting.*
- *HLP subgroup co-chairs to share impact document at next meeting.*
- *M & A Subgroup and HLP Subgroup (and possibly the livelihoods TF chairs) to discuss cleaning up the guidelines to ensure that it aligns with how members in each sector collectively report.*
- *RCO team to share email from COMSEC with UNDP and IOM and with the DSTWG members.*
- *DS Advisor to call for the following briefings with the DSTWG members*
 - *Solutions guidance shared by the post Piper colleagues in Geneva*
 - *Diwani Committee 24529 draft paper discussion in preparation for the inter-agency team to provide input to the humanitarian plan (confidential briefing for DSTWG members).*

Next Meeting: 14 May 2025 as per standing calendar invite.