



## Durable Solutions Technical Working Group (DSTWG) – Summary of Meeting #47 on 12 February 2025

**Meeting Chair:** UNDP

**Co-chairs:** BHHF, IOM

**Participants:** IOM, OCHA, UNMAS, UN-Habitat, CLRA Task Force (Muqatil, IRC), UNHCR, HLP Subgroup (Mariana), M&A Subgroup (Marta, IMPACT), GIZ, UNHCR, WFP, SEDO and RCO (Mohammed C & Islam)

### Overview and Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Action Points from the December Meeting
3. DSTWG Update
  - DS Update
  - Subgroups Update
    - Sustainable livelihoods, and HLP
    - ABC and JCF Update
4. DTM Presentation—Progress towards Durable Solutions
5. Discussion:
  - DSTF ToR revamping
6. AOB

### DS Update

#### DSTWG update:

##### December Meeting #46 Action Point:

DSTWG co-chairs to run poll on Jan 2025 Meeting, members to vote for Jan or Feb meeting (Completed)

##### a. Collection of information on impact of USG stop-work order

- Form shared with DSTWG, Sinjar ABC and all the JCFs
- Range of information from HLP, Health Services, livelihoods, legal assistance and protection monitoring

Thank you to all the organisations who have shared information. It has been passed on to the RCO for advocacy.

##### b. Ad hoc meeting on defining local integration and displacement stock figures

Meeting held in December 2024, minutes were shared with the agenda, next meeting scheduled for late Feb/early March

##### Comment:

- BHHF has shared the form on the impact of the USG stop-work order with CDs from the informal NGO group.
- RCO (Islam) highlighted the importance of the inputs from organisations and noted the time sensitivity and urged organisations to share information. He reported that the information is useful for informing of the implications of the suspension, but also to share with donors who may be able to assist. The advocacy letter has been translated to Arabic and will be sent to the Prime Minister's office to urge them to step in.
- OCHA enquired if any information had been received from the JCFs, in particular from Anbar JCF and the Basra JCF. The DSTWG co-chairs responded that the form has been shared with the ABC and all the JCFs and it is anticipated that more information will be forthcoming from the JCFs.
- UN Habitat asked for confirmation that their inputs had been received. DSTWG co-chairs and RCO confirmed receipt and noted input.
- The DSTWG co-chairs asked the RCO whether the waivers that were being issued were blanket or whether they were sought and obtained individually for different organisations, as such information

could be helpful for organisations. The RCO responded that program criticality 1 activities would include the reintegration components which could be seen as high risk and noted that while the work of the RCO was not linked to waivers that were bilateral between the USG and each organisation, the advocacy has helped to raise the visibility of the issues for policymakers.

*Action point: DSTWG to send invitation for the next meeting on IDP stock figures and local integration.*

## **ABCs and JCF Updates:**

### **a. JCF**

- Monthly meetings are ongoing.
- Co-chair turn over (IOM JCF Anbar and UNICEF JCF Ninewa)
- JCF workshop scheduled on 23 Feb for co-chairs and secretariat.
- UNAMI end of Mandate, the transition plan from DSO secretariat to government is underway.

### **b. Sinjar ABC**

- Last meeting was on January 27 chaired by Ast Governor and IOM.
- New government members participated (municipality, water, education, health, agriculture, electricity and migration department)
- Sunrise organisation will be the co-chair for Sinjar ABC.

#### *Comment:*

- The DSTWG meeting chair asked when the last call for expressions of interest for JCF SAD was and if there might be some value in sending another call for interest. The RCO (Mohammed Chalabi) reported that IRC stepped in for 3 months and then withdrew.

*Action Point: RCO team to consider re-sending a call for interest for the JCF co-chair for SAD.*

## **Subgroup update:**

### **a. Sustainable livelihoods Subgroup:**

**The task force on climate resilient livelihoods/agriculture (Muqatil)** has finalised the guidelines, which were reviewed by all the members and were then shared with the Ministry of Environment (Baghdad) and the department of climate change in the PM office in KRI. The government authorities reviewed and made comments on the Arabic version, which is now being translated back to English and will be shared in the next month or so.

- The TF continues to update its 4Ws. The data will be shared with the DSTWG.
- Community of practice draft document finalised and will be broader than the TF and will be shared.

### **b. HLP subgroup (Mariana):**

Noted the importance of collecting information on the HLP issues. HLP assistance to beneficiaries has been highly affected, the subgroup is developing a fact sheet for the sector and over 76,000 individuals have been affected and the quite critical situation is causing protection and safety concerns. Risk of eviction etc.

- Most impacted locations include Ninewa and SAD.
- Dashboard finalised and will be published
- Co-chair vacancy open. If any member is interested, please reach out.

#### *Comment:*

- UN Habitat asked for clarification on the 76,000 individuals affected by the USG stop-work order. HLP co-chair explained that this figure is the collective number reported by actors so far. Many governorates are



affected, but the main repeated areas are Sinjar and SAD. This figure also includes some IDPs, returnees and host communities.

- GIZ followed up with a question on the impact and whether the impact is only on those who have returned to areas of origin that were affected, so that there are no services, etc? HLP co-chair responded that the situation is not entirely clear and that while some families have returned in the hope of receiving assistance or rebuilding homes, others are unable to return without the relevant documentation. One thing which we do know, for example, is that for the IOM facilitated movement program, the intention to return has been affected by the halting of HLP services: about 50% of the case load have changed their mind about returning. Hopefully clearer information will be available.

*Action Points:*

- (i) CLRA TF to share the final guideline, 4Ws and the community of practice document.
- (ii) HLP subgroup developing factsheet on impact, will share once completed.

### DTM Progress towards durable solutions

- **DTM colleagues were unable to present (please see attached presentation) Presentation to be rescheduled for next month or at an Ad hoc meeting:**

DTM developed a HH survey that compares progress towards durable solutions between IDPs, Returnees and Host communities in 4 governorates (Ninewa, SAD, Anbar and Diyala) and allows comparison for those who have made high progress and those who have made low progress.

Considering the decreasing resources, and to better target our interventions collectively, the DSTWG co-chairs proposed having this information be presented to the DSTWG. This will help us, as the DSTWG, to better inform, using solid data/evidence:

- a. Priority interventions for partners within Iraq
- b. Advocate for sectors where government can lead on
- c. Beneficiary selection and locations of collective effort.

*Action Point:*

*DSTWG co-chairs to reschedule DTM presentation or arrange ad hoc session for those interesting.*

### DSTF Revamping (RCO DS Advisor Islam)

#### **Request from the Resident Coordinator**

- Background: The Resident Coordinator has proposed a restructuring of the DSTF, as the governing body of the durable solutions work, considering the current transition, including the phasing out of UNAMI.
- Following the phasing out of the HCT, the question arises as to whether the DSTF could serve as the space to integrate other structures. In other countries, when the HCT phases out, there is a structure which provides insights into possible emergencies and crises which may arise, and advises on the reactivation of the IASC clusters.
- The RC has tasked his office and the DSTWG co-chairs to brainstorm and propose a way forward on what the structure could look like, and solicit views and ideas.
- Some initial thoughts from the RC include:
  - The interface with government: Invitation of government upon request.
- An anchoring point/hard criteria. That the DSTF should anchor around a document, a framework or operational plan. The proposed document should meet current understanding and context. The DSTF does not appear to

have such a document, and the RC was hoping that the DS Roadmap could be it, but it has not been the case. Might be reinstated after some revision.

- Urged DSTWG members to please share their views and ideas, what can be improved, etc. Any new draft of the TORs will be shared.

*Comment:*

- The DSTWG co-chair commented that the DSTF does have the Inter-agency operational framework.
- UNHCR asked if any progress had been made by the 3 committees which were established to address IDPs issues, and raised concern about the discussions around IDPs, which were quite vibrant last year, have gone quiet. The RCO responded that the PM had started to engage more inclusively with the KRI on how they envisage the camps closing and families returning to their areas of origin. Since August last year, the PM established 3 committees
  - Replaced the committee which was established following the camp closure directive.
  - The 3 committees do not have the MoMD, perhaps to mitigate the challenges between the MOMD and the KRG.
  - At the forefront of 2 of the committees is the National Security Advisory, which has a good relationship with the KDP. One committee is established to develop a joint humanitarian plan to end displacement, but has focused on return to Sinjar and Yazidis only. Efforts have been made to broaden the understanding of this committee.
  - The committee focusing on the joint humanitarian plan is planning a security assessment in Sinjar (colour coded).
  - The other committee has been tasked to look at the East Mosul Camps former detainees. The RCO anticipates that in the next few weeks there will be a meeting co-chaired by the MOI (KRI) Minister Rebar and will include KRI and federal judges.

**AOB**

- GIZ enquired if there had been any discussions around the situation in Syria and the impact on the refugee camps. UNHCR reported that while the situation in Syria has changed, last week UNHCR announced a regional approach supporting voluntary returns to Syria. For Iraq, the bulk of the refugees are from Northeast Syria, which remains complex. The early indications show that the majority would like to return at some point, but do not see return in the immediate future.
- The population might remain the same. UNHCR is encouraging refugees to conduct go and see visits to see the situation in the country. They are expressing dissatisfaction with the international community's withdrawal of humanitarian assistance.

**Summary of Action points**

- *DSTWG co-chairs to send invitation for the next meeting on IDP stock figures and local integration.*
- *Action Point: RCO team to consider re-sending a call for interest for the JCF co-chair for SAD.*
- *CLRA TF to share the final guideline, 4Ws and the community of practice document.*
- *HLP subgroup developing factsheet on impact, will share once completed.*
- *DSTWG co-chairs to reschedule DTM presentation or arrange ad hoc session for those interesting.*

**Next Meeting:** 12 March 2025 as per standing calendar invite.