

Durable Solutions Technical Working Group (DSTWG) – Summary of Meeting #50 on 14 May 2025

Meeting Chair: UNDP

Co-chairs: BHMF, IOM

Participants: IOM, OCHA, ZDF, SIF, IRC, UNMAS, UNHCR, GIZ ICRC, Mercy Corps, M&A Subgroup, HLP subgroup and RCO (Islam & Mohammed C)

Overview and Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Agenda and Action Points from April Meeting
3. DSTWG Update
 - DS Update
 - ✓ Advocacy approach on compensation committee deadline
 - ✓ JCFs & ABC update
 - Subgroups Update:
 - Sustainable Livelihoods
 - HLP Subgroup
4. IOM presentation – from displacement to resilience: Aid, Economic Recovery & Social cohesion.
5. AOB

● April Meeting #49 Action Point:

1. DS Co-chairs to reschedule IPDs Stock figures discussion. (completed)
2. HLP subgroup Co-chairs to share impact fact sheet (Completed)
3. M&A subgroup and HLP subgroup (Possibly livelihoods TF chairs) to discuss cleaning up the guidelines to ensure alignment with how members in each sector report. (Completed)
4. RCO team to share email from COMSEC with UNDP, IOM and DSTWG members. (completed)
5. DS Advisor to call for briefings with DSTWG members:
 - On solutions guidance shared by Geneva (completed)
 - Diwani committee 24529 draft paper discussion for inter-agency input to the humanitarian plan (Ongoing)

3. DS Update

a. DSTF Meeting 13 May 2025:

Key discussion points:

- UNHCR presented an Update on the IDP camps (20 remain open, with ad hoc services remaining, no significant departures reported and EMCs exploring consolidation) On departures from Duhok camps were facilitated by IOM, and MHPSS needs reemphasized for returnees.
- The Goi high-level Committee met 6 times so far, with 2 subcommittees formed (one addressing the double jeopardy risks in EMCs, leading to judicial coordination between KRI and federal courts)
- The DSTF revised ToR was presented to align with post-HCT architecture, and calls to improve DSTF's engagement with the Gol.

Action points

- DSTF members invited to submit feedback on the ToR by end of May.

Advocacy approach on compensation committee deadline

- Background:
 - Property compensation in Iraq governed by law 20 of 2009, Law 57 of 2015 (1st Amendment) and law 2 of 2020 (2nd Amendment)
 - Compensates Iraqi's whose property was damaged or destroyed due to war, military mistakes or terrorist operations.
 - Compensation covers loss of property (houses, business (shops or companies), farming land, vehicles, furniture) and loss of life or injury (martyrs)
 - Time it takes to file a claim varies depending on the governorate, eg Anbar and SAD 30 days/month, Diyala 3-12 months, Kirkuk 2 months, Ninewa 6-12 months
- Decision: No new compensation applications will be accepted since end of 2024. Exceptions exist for IDPs or those residing outside Iraq.
 - In Sinjar applications will continue until 1 July 2025/some say 1 August 2025
- Rational: Central committee gave compensation subcommittees a deadline of 6 years for claims (2019)
- Impact on IDPs and Returnees
 - Inability to apply due to complex process, cost
 - IDPs from blocked areas

JCFs:

- **Salahdeen:** April meeting conducted on 16th, co-chaired by Deputy Governor, Tuz response plan was endorsed; DNA test for Proof of Parentage discussed and will be tabled with SAD Appeal Court
- **Ninewa:** JCF meeting conducted on 28 April, chaired by Deputy Governor and UNICEF. Meeting notes shared both in Arabic and English.
- **Diyala:** JCF meeting convened on 29 April, chaired by Dep Gov and IOM. Government assigned a secretariate to take over. First draft of Minutes/Arabic shared. Next meeting will be in June.
- **Anbar:** JCF meeting convened on 30th April. A new secretariate was assigned by the government. Minutes drafted by the new secretariate and shared with members. Five new LNGOs joined the forum.
- **Kirkuk** meeting of April was canceled at the last minute by the government because of a high delegation visit. New date to be confirmed once date arranged. IRC closed its office and withdrew from the chairmanship; Expression of Interest email sent to the members.

Sinjar ABC:

- The meeting conducted on 29th chaired by Ali Omer and IOM. Partners from the gov side did not attend but will try to attend at the next meeting.
- Concerns over TB and scabies outbreaks in EMC camps was raised. Camp management reported that both cases are under treatment. Follow it up with the directorate of health.

b. Subgroup update:

Sustainable livelihoods Subgroup: The task force on (climate resilient livelihoods/agriculture)

Feedback for Guidance document

- *The technical meeting was held on April 17th as part of the Community of Practice (CoP) on climate resilience.*
- *The meeting served as an introduction and orientation to the CoP concept.*
- *The objective of the CoP is to integrate efforts in addressing climate change, particularly in the livelihood and agriculture sectors.*
- *The meeting was attended by 25 organizations, with the goal of expanding participation in future sessions.*
- *Participants included both international and local organizations.*
- *The CoP aims to contribute to collective efforts involving government institutions, private sector actors, and humanitarian organizations.*
- *The structure and vision of the CoP were discussed, along with its long-term objectives.*
- *IRC was identified as the technical lead for the CoP.*
- *IRC will be responsible for providing technical support, sharing tools and resources, and coordinating the meetings.*
- *A key focus is on knowledge-sharing and collaboration while avoiding duplication of efforts.*
- *Emphasis was placed on integration of work to enhance impact and promote sustainability.*
- *There is a strong push to engage government actors and other sectors for greater influence and long-term results.*
- *The floor was opened for participants to share their expectations.*
- *Many participants expressed interest in technical capacity building and learning how to design and implement climate-related interventions.*
- *Some organizations offered to share their project experiences to support mutual learning across the network.*
- *It was agreed that this kind of knowledge-sharing will be considered for future meetings.*
- *A post-meeting survey was distributed to gather feedback on satisfaction and areas for improvement.*
- *Survey responses are also expected to inform future content and structure of meetings.*
- *Members agreed to hold CoP meetings every two months.*
- *For the next meeting (planned in June), at least one or two organizations will present their work on climate change.*
- *Two weeks prior to the next meeting, partners will be consulted to finalize the agenda and select fresh, relevant topics.*

Action points

- *Identify 1–2 organizations to present on climate change work in June meeting.*
- *Consult partners 2 weeks before to finalize agenda and topics.*
- *Review and incorporate feedback from post-meeting survey*



HLP Subgroup

USG suspension fact sheet

- Shared a snapshot of the factsheet on the impact of housing and HLP (Housing, Land, and Property) services due to the US funding suspension.
- The suspension has had a significant effect, and further evidence (emails, etc.) will be shared.
- Inputs were received from IOM, UN-Habitat, DRC, and Justice Center.
- Other affected organizations were encouraged to reach out, as initial outreach yielded limited responses.
- Initial figures:
 - Over 78,000 individuals were affected who were receiving housing or HLP services.
 - Around 7,800–8,500 individuals affected specifically in key locations.
 - Over 2,000 housing units affected (in selection or various stages of implementation).
 - Budget impact exceeds \$11 million.
- The data was collected in February.
- Since then, some waivers have been issued, but interpretations vary:
 - 1,600 housing units received temporary waivers to resume work.
 - Waivers and project regulations remain uncertain and unstable, with some later being terminated.
 - Value of potentially resumed work estimated at around \$2 million, but unclear if organizations will complete implementation.
- Further updates to the factsheet will be shared next month.
- Sector-specific data:
 - 23,080 individuals affected by cancellation or halting of housing work.
 - Around 1,000 housing units were impacted.
 - Estimated \$18 million budget impact, though figure likely underestimates true cost due to incomplete data.
- HLP legal services impact:
 - Approximately 57 K individuals were affected.
 - Budget impact: average \$2 million.
 - Services impacted include legal documentation, property claims, property dispute resolution, and issuance of receipts.
- Compensation program updates: Additional data collected from field teams regarding compensation:
 - Some applicants were rejected due to market issues or allegations.
 - The Compensation Office is still accepting applications until July 1st for those needing to apply.
 - Some compensation deadlines were misaligned – e.g., although the official deadline was from 2019, some areas only began accepting in 2021.
- Current compensation data:
 - 69,600 real estate applications received.
 - 60,100 applications completed.
 - Around \$1 million approved but waiting for distribution due to budget constraints.
 - Around 42,000 applications pending.
 - 22,000 injury applications pending as of October.
 - Budget issues are delaying distributions.
- The IOM and Legal team reported:



- Increase in verification requests following recent announcements.
- Preparing a workshop in June 2024 or 2025 with the Central Compensation Committee.
- Workshop focus: Access to compensation for returnees' families.
- Ongoing advocacy and follow-up points:
Gathering information from field members and field visits.
Advocacy needs include:
 - Addressing displaced households unable to access needed areas.
 - Flexibility in recommendation processes.
 - Ensuring clear, fair, and transparent application reviews.
 - Preventing automatic rejections.
 - Extending timelines and documentation flexibility for:
 - Families in blocked areas.
 - Returnees abroad.
 - Applicants with missing documentation.
- Partners are encouraged to:
 - Share any additional advocacy points.
 - Provide relevant data or updates for inclusion in upcoming discussions.
 - Ensure connectivity and coordination to support follow-up efforts.

Action points

- Partners to provide missing data and advocacy inputs.

4. IOM presentation – From Displacement to Resilience: Aid, Economic Recovery, and Social Cohesion (Baseline Findings)

IOM/DTM presentation – Progress towards Durable Solutions (Andrea)

- A two-year IOM-led study in collaboration with Emory University, UC Santa Barbara, and IO in Somalia.
- Funded by KfW, the US National Science Foundation, and support from Japan.
- Focused on assessing the impact of \$2,000 microenterprise support grants given to vulnerable individuals with potential for entrepreneurship.
- Aims to evaluate both direct effects on grant recipients' economic and social outcomes, and indirect effects on people in their social and professional networks (friends and competitors).
- The study supports broader objectives such as economic recovery, durable solutions for IDPs and returnees, increased social inclusion (50% of grantees are women), and community stabilization.
- Uses a randomized control trial (RCT) approach, interviewing 6,000 individuals across three groups: grant applicants, their networks, and random community members.
- Covers 18 displacement-affected communities in Nineveh, Saladin, Diyala, and Anbar.
- Baseline data show 60% of respondents live below the national poverty line (~\$105/month), compared to a national rate of 17.5%.
- Poverty is widespread across IDPs, returnees, and stayees, with returnees and IDPs showing slightly higher expenditures due to increased needs like rent or home reconstruction.



- Economic conditions are similar across grant applicants, their social/professional networks, and general community members.
- The programme targets the poorest people in these communities, but many more need help than those getting grants (usually only 50–100 people per community).
- Most household spending goes to basic needs like food, health, and paying off debt.
- Very few women work (about 11–18%), and only about one-third of men worked recently.
- The unemployment rate here is about 44%, way higher than the national average of 13%.
- Most workers have unstable jobs like daily labor, while some run businesses or have steady jobs.
- Women are twice as likely as men to have no formal education (25% vs 12%).
- 70% of households have no savings at all.
- 30% of displaced households are in debt, with amounts averaging five times what they spend monthly.
- Around 30% of all people and 45% of displaced live in poor housing.
- About one-third of all respondents and over half of displaced people face eviction risks.
- Over half of displaced people and over a quarter of returnees still have unresolved housing or property problems.
- Most people feel safe walking alone in their neighborhoods.
- Religious minorities have more worries about mistreatment by armed groups and property crime (around 30%).
- People feel strong competition over jobs, aid, and housing — over half report feeling pressure.
- 42% feel unfairly disadvantaged by competition with others.
- Around 80% say there's a lack of economic opportunity, and half feel pressure to leave their area.
- Social discrimination is reported by only about 10% of respondents, including displaced people.
- Most people hold inclusive attitudes about displaced and conflict-affected Iraqis being part of the country's future.
- Trust and community participation are relatively high compared to other urban surveys in Iraq.
- Many people feel responsible for reducing unfairness and helping in their community.
- Having a job is linked to less competition and grievances and more trust, social contact, and community engagement.
- This suggests livelihoods support can help social cohesion if done well.
- There's a risk that concentrating aid in small groups could cause resentment or more competition, so it needs monitoring.

5.AOB

Summary of Action points

- Thourdis Leathern from ZFD is conducting a semi-conflict analysis in northern Iraq and northern Kurdistan until mid-June, seeking experienced people to participate in surveys and discussions to better understand peace and conflict dynamics.
- DSTF members are invited to submit feedback on the ToR by the end of May.
- **The task force on (climate resilient livelihoods/agriculture) :** A/Identify 1–2 organizations to present on climate change work in June meeting.



B/Consult partners 2 weeks before to finalize agenda and topics.
C/Review and incorporate feedback from post-meeting survey