

## Terms of Reference Iraq Durable Solutions Task Force (DSTF)

### Background

#### National context

Operating under the overall direction of the DSRSG/HC/RC, the Durable Solutions Task Force (DSTF) ~~will~~ ~~be~~ ~~reserves as the main platform~~ principal coordination mechanism for solutions to internal displacement in Iraq, providing a forum for information exchange, strategic governance, and joint decision making on priorities, gaps, and solutions implementation. The forum is mandated to support the RC/HC in translating national and UN durable solutions agenda into actionable outcomes at country level.

The DSTF builds upon Iraq's long-standing commitment to resolving internal displacement by supporting the implementation of a structured, Government-led response to durable solutions. Following years of conflict, displacement and instability, Iraq has shifted from a primarily humanitarian response to a development-centered approach, integrating displacement solutions into broader governance and economic recovery strategies.

The 2024 Roadmap to implement the Council of Ministers' decision to facilitate Durable Solutions for the IDPs in Iraq serves as the primary framework for advancing these solutions, detailing pathways for return, local integration and relocation for IDPs and ensuring that solutions are implemented in a sustainable, rights-based and development-focused manner.

In addition, durable solutions are integrated in the Iraq National Development Plan 2024-2028 and the 2025–2029 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), underscoring their strategic importance. The HDP Nexus (HDPN) was identified as a key approach to advancing durable solutions and was included into relevant, strategic frameworks.

#### Global context

At the global level, the UN Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement has reinforced the international community's commitment to supporting national Governments in leading durable solutions efforts. The Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review Resolution further strengthened this mandate, tasking the UNCTs with supporting development-focused displacement solutions under the leadership of RCs. With the closure of the mandate of the Secretary-General's Special Advisor on Solutions to Internal Displacement in 2024, the UN system decided to institutionalize a Solutions Hub, hosted by the DCO in Geneva, which will provide technical support, access to the IDSF and operational guidance to RCs and UNCTs worldwide. IOM, UNDP, and UNHCR have been identified as Solutions Champions at the global level and first line responders to RCs at the country level.

The DSTF shall align its work with the UN Secretary-General Action Agenda on Internal Displacement and draw upon the guidance developed by the Office of the Special Advisor on Solutions to Internal Displacement (December 2024). Iraq, having served as one of the pilot countries, is expected to continue reflecting the principles, building blocks, and accountability mechanisms outlined in the global guidance and supported by the Geneva-based Interagency Solutions Hub. The DSTF will incorporate key tenets of this guidance into its strategic planning and operations.

The DSTF falls under the *IASC Management Response to the Independent Review of Humanitarian Response to Internal Displacement* that institutionalized Solutions Working Groups as key mechanisms for planning and monitoring displacement solutions at the country level. These dedicated coordination platforms bringing together humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actors work alongside Government entities to facilitate a whole-of-UN approach to Durable Solutions.

### **Role of the DSTF**

Operating under the overall direction of the DSRSG/RC, and co-chaired by UNDP and IOM, the DSTF serves as the principal coordination mechanism for durable solutions in Iraq, ensuring that all efforts align with the national development priorities and global frameworks.

As a multi-stakeholder platform, the DSTF provides a structured space for strategic direction, guidance, information-sharing, ~~strategic coherence and a platform for collective action and advocacy for international and policy engagement on durable solutions.~~ The DSTF plays an advisory role, providing technical expertise and operational support to international partners implementing and monitoring solutions, including policy alignment with Iraq's National Development Plan (2024-2028), integration of solutions within UN programming frameworks, and mobilization of technical and financial resources to sustain long-term interventions. The scope of this coordination is to strengthen capacities within the Government of Iraq, in supporting and implementing durable solutions. The DSTF is complementary and integral to the activities of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), as it convenes stakeholders, including donors and NGOs, working and contributing towards the achievement of durable solutions in Iraq, and it provides a dedicated coordination forum only focusing on strategic direction, policy development, and advocacy efforts for durable solutions.

### **Objective and Priorities**

~~in Iraq, its members will actively advise on~~ The DSTF serves to set the overall strategic direction of all ~~related~~ durable solutions initiatives and advocacy in Iraq, encompassing humanitarian, development, recovery and peacebuilding activities, based on existing, new or expanded strategy documents. Specifically, the DSTF's work will be structured around four key priorities:

#### Priority 1: Advocacy for policy coherence and Government leadership

Ensure that durable solutions remain a national priority, integrated into Iraq's National Development Plan.

- Provide technical and strategic support to Government bodies and committees, and help the Government lead evidence-based, sustainable and inclusive solutions pathways.
- Advocate for policy reforms and financial commitments to further durable solutions' priorities.
- Coordinate high-level advocacy with Government entities, donors and international financial institutions and stakeholders, to ensure that durable solutions for IDPs are prioritized by humanitarian, development, stabilisation / recovery, and peacebuilding actors. The DSTF also functions to ensure close linkage and collaboration with government at all levels, and that durable solutions programming in Iraq remains principled, coherent and well-coordinated. Specifically, the work of the DSTF is focussed around the following areas: (1) information sharing; ~~(remain a core national priority.~~
- Work with the Solutions Hub to align Iraq's Durable Solutions strategy with global best practices and funding mechanisms.

Priority 2) ~~strategic advice and~~: Multi-sectoral coordination across the HDPN:

- Promote coherence, ~~and~~ between humanitarian, development and peacebuilding efforts.
- Work to strengthen area-based programming.
- Handover of Joint Coordination Forums to the Government of Iraq.

Priority 3) ~~coordination~~: Resource mobilization:

- Mobilize resources (through different mechanisms, such as the IDSF) and ~~collective action~~ align donor contributions and Government priorities.
- Advocate for ~~advocacy~~ Government resource allocation to achieve durable solutions' priorities.

Priority 4: Monitoring, accountability and data-driven decision-making:

- Ensure evidence-based programming and accountability, supporting joint UN-Government data collection and cross-sectoral monitoring frameworks.
- Ensure coherent sharing, inclusion and use of data to ensure a data-driven approach to durable solutions.

~~The Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) established the criteria for the achievement of durable solutions, and include approaches to ensure long term safety and security; non-discrimination; adequate standard of living; access to livelihoods and essential services; access to documentation; family reunification; participation in public affairs; access to justice and effective remedies including the restoration of housing, land and property rights, at the same level as those in the return, reintegration or resettlement communities who were not displaced. The DSTF recognizes that the implementation of effective and lasting solutions requires tailoring policies and approaches that are specific to the Iraq context.~~

- Establish an accountability framework aligned with the national Durable Solutions Roadmap and the Secretary-General's Guidance on Solutions to Internal Displacement. The DSTWG will report against this framework as a standing agenda item in DSTF meetings, tracking progress, identifying gaps, and informing strategic course correction.

## **Membership, Leadership, and Liaison**

~~The Durable Solutions Task Force (Operating under the overall direction of the DSRSG/RC/HC, and co-chaired by UNDP and IOM, the DSTF) will consist of a small number~~ consists of ~~actors~~ stakeholders representing UN and ~~NGONGOs~~, as well as development, humanitarian, ~~stabilisation~~ recovery and peacebuilding actors.

### **Members will include:**

- ~~UN Agencies:~~ UNDP and IOM (co-leads);
- ~~and secretariat),~~ The UN Senior Advisor on Durable Solutions (~~Secretariat~~);
- ~~NCCI;~~
- ~~UNHCR;~~
- ~~UNICEF, UN-Habitat, OCHA, DCO, WFP.~~
- ~~International & National NGOs:~~ BHHF (NGO DSTWG co-Chair), IRC, DRC, KHORW.
- ~~Donors~~ DCO
- ~~Upon Invitation:~~ Government of Iraq counterparts

Upon agreement of the DSTF and in discussion with ~~the~~ DSRSG/RC, additional members may be added later. This may include, as required, donors, government representatives and others. ~~NCCI~~ DRC will ensure

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that NGOs’ experience and good practices are fully included in the discussion.

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Government counterparts directly involved in displacement and durable solutions efforts should be invited to DSTG meetings as appropriate, based on agenda and relevance. The DSTF will also serve as a platform for joint advocacy and dialogue with the government on solutions policies, enabling strategic alignment and a whole-of-government approach to durable solutions.

DSTF will support liaison with other key entities relevant to durable solutions in Iraq, including but not limited to:

- Government, especially at senior / strategic level; Ministers and local government.
- Designated government committees appointed to address solutions to internal displacement
- JCFs, ABC Sinjar & Ba'aj, Donors, including Donors' Working Group on durable solutions; and
- Humanitarian clusters, INGOs and NNGOs, specific working groups, including the Returns Working Group, the Durable Solutions Network, Technical Coordination Committee on the Return and Reintegration of Families Formerly Associated with ISIL, the UNDP-led Funding Facility for Stabilisation (FFS), Working Group, and various other task forces, and entities as needed. DSTF will also ensure close liaison with the Protection Cluster including, as required, inviting the Protection Cluster Coordinators to participate in meetings, given the importance of protection in durable solutions.
- Interagency Solutions Hub.

The DSTF will also work closely with these groups to ensure coherence between strategic and technical levels.

### Meetings

The DSTF will meet monthly to review progress and address challenges. The Resident Coordinator will seek to establish a quarterly dedicated coordination forum for interfacing with government members representing the wide range of national stakeholders engaged in solutions to displacement.

Decisions of the DSTF require participation from a majority of core members, including at least one co-chair (UNDP or IOM). Government entities, local authorities, academia and international experts may be invited to participate on a needs basis.

A standing agenda item at each DSTF meeting shall be the review of progress on the implementation of the durable solutions roadmap. The Durable Solutions Technical Working Group (DSTWG) will report against key indicators and targets established in an accountability framework developed in alignment with the national Road Map and the SG's guidance on solutions to internal displacement.

### Objective and Priorities

DSTF serves to set the overall strategic direction of Durable Solutions initiatives in Iraq, encompassing humanitarian, development, stabilisation / recovery and peacebuilding activities, based on existing, new or expanded strategy documents including the recently approved strategy document produced by the Senior

Advisor for Durable Solutions. It also serves as a high-level coordination platform for durable solutions in Iraq. Furthermore, DSTF, in close coordination and consultation with the HC/RC, will seek strong re-engagement with Government on the issue of durable solutions, including in the provision of technical assistance to maximize Government's leadership on this issue.

Specifically, DSTF will:

Information sharing

- ~~Ensure coherent sharing, inclusion and use of data to ensure a data-driven approach to durable solutions.~~

Strategic direction, advice and coherence

- ~~Ensure a principled, coherent, data-driven and integrated approach to durable solutions in Iraq by bringing together humanitarian, development, and stabilisation / recovery actors; as such, DSTF serves as a bridge between humanitarian and development;~~
- ~~Provide strategic guidance and oversight to specific durable solutions interventions in Iraq;~~
- ~~Support decentralised government and relevant mechanisms in the development of strategies and coordination of durable solutions;~~
- ~~Develop and implement a coherent and joint advocacy strategy on behalf of displaced populations in support of durable solutions;~~
- ~~Where required, provide strategic guidance and approval for policies, strategies and procedures related to international engagement on durable solutions; and~~
- ~~Ensure the continuing relevance of DS through supporting research or the facilitation of expert inputs including high-level missions on durable solutions.~~

Coordination and collective action

- Provide a platform for collective action such as implementation of pilot programmes set out in the Durable Solutions Strategy developed by the SA on DS to the HC/RC, or other specific initiatives as determined by the Task Force;
- Liaise with and coordinate closely with government to assure their leadership of durable solutions in Iraq;
- Support joint resource mobilisation efforts to support durable solutions programming in Iraq;
- Ensure appropriate support to national government mechanisms related to durable solutions, including coordination, strategy development, development and implementation of joint programmes, as well as activities supporting durable solutions. DCO and OCHA, in support of DSTF, will look more specifically into coherence between various documents such as HRP and UNDSF, and into ensuring a dialogue between humanitarian clusters and UNDSF Priority Working Groups;
- Link with and support working groups and mechanisms supporting specific topics related to durable solutions; and

Update the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), the UN Country Team and other groups as required.