

## Durable Solutions Technical Working Group (DSTWG) – Summary of Meeting #48 on 12 March 2025

**Meeting Chair:** IOM

**Co-chairs:** BHMF, UNDP

**Participants:** IOM, OCHA, UN-Habitat, CLRA Task Force (Muqatil from IRC), Mercy Corps, UNHCR, M&A Subgroup (Marta, IMPACT), WFP and RCO (Mohammed C)

### Overview and Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Agenda and Action Points from February Meeting
3. DSTWG Update
  - DS Update
  - JCF Workshop
  - Subgroups Update:
    - Sustainable Livelihoods
    - HLP Subgroup
4. IOM/DTM presentation – Progress towards Durable Solutions
5. AOB

#### • December Meeting #47 Action Point:

1. DSTWG co-chairs to reschedule DTM presentation or schedule ad hoc session (completed)
2. DSTWG co-chairs to send invitation for the next meeting on IDP Stock figures and local integration (completed)
3. RCO team to reconsider sending call for interest for JCF co-chair for SAD (completed)
4. CLRA TF to share finalized guideline, 4Ws, COP document (completed)
5. HLP subgroup to share impact fact sheet (in progress)

### 3. DS Update

#### a. DSTWG update:

##### Update on DSTF Revamping:

The RC and DSTF co-chairs met on January 22 to discuss revamping the DSTF ToR.

A plan is in place to integrate DSTF with the residual structure of the HCT and Sinjar Taskforce as an interfacing platform with the government.

A meeting with RCO was held on January 26, and a draft document with key questions was prepared for RC follow-up. The process is ongoing, with continued consultations between the RC and Co-Chairs.

##### Update on High Committee - Diwani Order 24529:

The committee is tasked with developing a Joint Humanitarian Plan requiring consensus between Erbil and Baghdad. The initial 90-day timeline for the plan's submission has expired.

The committee meeting originally scheduled for March 10 has been postponed to March 18.

A recommendation will be submitted to the Prime Minister requesting a two-month extension, aiming to involve the UN in the comprehensive development of the plan.

## Ad Hoc Meeting on Local Integration and DS Trainings:

Next meeting scheduled for March 17, 2025.

### **Action Points:**

- Follow up with the DSTF Co-Chairs about continuing with DSTF operations while the revamping process is ongoing.
- Ensure that DSTWG colleagues receive a copy of the ToR and are kept in the loop regarding any conversations related to the revamping of the DSTF.
- RCO to check on notes from previous committee meetings and share them with the team.
- RCO is also to share the draft document related to the humanitarian plan once available.

### **b. JCF Workshop**

#### *Summary:*

Held in Erbil on February 23 at Ankawa Royal Hotel

The workshop was officially inaugurated by the DSRSG/HC and the DG of International Relations from COMSEC, and it brought together the Co-Chairs from both local governments and organizations.

#### *Main Goal:*

To assess the performance of the JCF and review the progress made across five conflict-affected governorates, as well as Basrah.

Discuss best practices, lessons learned, challenges, and the steps to enhance the forum's impact.

#### *Key Discussions:*

Transition of DSO's secretariat support, which will end by the end of the year due to expiring contracts under UNAMI.

The termination of three DSO staff contracts across different governorates by the end of the month.

The DSRSG communicated these changes to the Council of Ministers Secretariat, suggesting that the government take over the secretariat role.

#### *Key Takeaways:*

UNAMI/DSO to continue supporting the JCFs until the transition to the government side is complete.

JCFs to be expanded into additional governorates as needed.

COMSEC will participate in JCF meetings on a quarterly basis.

Prioritize IDP, returnee, and reintegration efforts over the coming months.

SDGs and UNSDCF discussions to be integrated into future JCF meetings.

Strengthen JCF's role in securing approvals from non-decentralized departments, including Education.

### c. Subgroup update:

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

##### Climate Resilience Guidelines for Iraq:

- Developed to enhance adaptation and mitigation of climate risks.
- Reviewed by several INGOs, NGOs, and government entities in Iraq, including in both Federal Iraq and KRI.
- The document is available in Arabic and English, with plans to include Kurdish in the near future once translation resources are secured.

##### Community of Practice for Climate Resilience, Livelihood, and Agriculture:

- A cooperation platform has been established to facilitate sharing of interests among actors.
- The application deadline was set for March 15, and the first meeting is planned for the end of March or after the 8th of April.

##### 4WS (Who? What? Where? Why?) and Service Mapping:

- Comprehensive service mapping analysis was conducted after collecting data from 32 organizations, including INGOs, local NGOs, and UN Agencies.
- The analysis focuses on actors involved in climate resilience, livelihood, and agriculture across Iraq, with emphasis on climate-smart technology, business grants, apprenticeship, and early warning systems.
- The findings will be shared within the meeting, and participants will have access to the details.

##### Ongoing and Future Tasks:

- The task force plans to conduct the service mapping and analysis biannually to keep information updated.

##### *Action Points:*

- *First COP CRLA scheduled for end of March*

## 4. DTM Progress towards durable solutions

### IOM/DTM presentation – Progress towards Durable Solutions (Anna)

#### Study on Progress Toward Durable Solutions:

- Conducted a survey in Ninewa, Salahadin, Anbar and Diyala last year
- The assessment aims to understand progress toward durable solutions for IDPs and returnee populations.
- This allows for comparison across governorates and a better understanding of the situation and differences.

#### Key Findings from the Survey:

- **IDP Population in High Progress Group:**
  - 16% in Ninewa, 13% in Anbar, 33% in Diyala, and 15% in Salahaddin are in the high progress group.
  - Despite years of displacement and efforts toward local integration or relocation, many households still face vulnerabilities and have not yet reached durable solutions.

#### Critical Domains for Progress:

- Livelihood Access, Housing Rights, and Compensation are identified as the most critical domains across all governorates.
- Housing Destruction and Unresolved Compensation are key obstacles preventing progress toward durable solutions.
- Livelihoods remain a critical issue not only for displaced populations but also for those who have never been displaced, as these challenges extend beyond the impact of the ISIS crisis.

#### Consideration for Programming:

- It is important to consider not just IDPs and returnees but also those who have never been displaced but still face livelihood challenges.

#### Vulnerabilities of Low Progress Households:

- **Characteristics of Low Progress Households:**
  - Higher proportion of female-headed households.
  - High dependency ratio with large households and non-working dependents (children, elderly).

- Households with limited or no education.
- Households affected by multiple displacements.
- For returnees, common issues include absent household members, fear of eviction, and lack of secure housing agreements.
- These households often report property loss, unresolved compensation claims, and poor shelter conditions.
- They experience widespread unemployment, reliance on daily wages, and poor access to sanitation and healthcare.

#### **Available Resources:**

- Four reports are now available on the website.
- The data is also presented in a dashboard format, allowing users to filter specific districts and criteria of interest.
- The dashboard includes information on preferred solutions for IDPs (return, stay, or relocate) and the main obstacles to achieving those solutions.

#### **5.AOB**

##### **Summary of Action points**

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- Mohamed C to check on notes from previous committee meetings and share them with the DSTWG.
- Mohamed C is also to share the draft document related to the humanitarian plan once available.
- *First COP CRLA scheduled for end of March*
- *DSTWG co-chairs to reschedule the stock figures meeting and DTM to present at the meeting.*