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Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome (Co-chair UNDP)
2. Opening remarks (DSRSG/RC/HC)
3. End of Mission briefing (Global Solutions Hub)
4. Current DS country exercises (RCO, IOM)
5. Presentation of Internal Displacement Solutions Fund Phase II (IDSF)
6. Briefing on Area-Based Development Programme in Sinjar (UNDP)
7. AOB and next steps

Opening Remarks (DSRSG/RC/HC)

The **DSRSG/RC/HC** situated the discussion within the broader global and country context for Durable Solutions to internal displacement, underscoring the importance of sustaining momentum during the Government formation period. The DSRSG/RC/HC recalled that the Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement remains a UN priority and noted that the Global Solutions Hub has been supporting 15 pilot countries, including Iraq, through coordinated interagency leadership by UNDP, IOM and UNHCR.

Turning to Iraq, the **DSRSG/RC/HC** observed that progress in 2025 toward a nationally drive Durable Solutions framework remained limited, reflecting political economy dynamics and persistent challenges in inter-Ministerial coordination between Baghdad and Erbil. Looking ahead, the UN system will recalibrate engagement through collective advocacy messaging and strengthened data and evidence to keep Durable Solutions on the agenda of the next Government.

On coordination, the **DSRSG/RC/HC** reiterated the objective of Government-led coordination and noted ongoing engagement with the Council of Ministers and other actors to consolidate coordination mechanisms, including consideration of potential consolidation with the Stabilization Task Force.

End-of-mission briefing (Global Solutions Hub)

Catherine Osborn, Senior Global Advisor on Forced Displacement (Global Solutions Hub), provided a debrief from a ten-day mission to Iraq. The briefing emphasized how the UN Country Team can be pragmatic and opportunistic in 2026, anchoring Durable Solutions in a Government-led, development-oriented and development-financed approach.

The mission took place amid a changing operating environment, including the post-UNAMI transition, continued humanitarian drawdown and preparation of the new UNSDCF. The Advisor highlighted an opportunity to strengthen Government-led coordination and position Durable Solutions within a broader development agenda for the next Government cycle.

The briefing outlined three mutually reinforcing levers for 2026 engagement. First, strengthening data and evidence by improving granularity beyond a simple ‘displacement vs. return’ framing, supporting a Government-owned data system and linking displacement data to wider socioeconomic assessments and modelling, including through potential engagement of development actors such as the World Bank. Second, advancing development finance approaches through a whole-of-financing perspective, stronger development financing analysis and public financial management across Baghdad and Erbil, and a strengthened investment case for solutions. Third, prioritizing area-based development in selected locations, using integrated place-based approaches that connect governance, services, livelihoods and social cohesion, and human security to enable sustainable return and local integration pathways.

The briefing also underscored grounding engagement in political economy analysis, identifying ‘solutions champions’ in Baghdad and Erbil with convening power, and seeking high-level political recommitment statements to enable whole-of-government approaches. Regarding the UN’s offer, the Advisor encouraged embedding solutions in broader development engagement under the UNSDCF, shifting further from project delivery toward systems thinking and advisory/technical support, and focusing on a limited number of catalytic entry points.

2026 UN collective advocacy positions on Durable Solutions and remaining vulnerabilities (RCO)

The RCO presented a draft set of collective advocacy positions for 2026, intended as a shared reference to support consistent engagement by the UN and partners with Federal and KRG authorities. The RCO explained that the paper aims to strengthen Government ownership of the IDP file through cohesive messaging and a focus on whole-of-Government systems change, rather than single-Ministry approaches or purely Project-level requests.

The RCO noted that the paper is designed as a practical engagement tool, outlining targeted counterparts, specific advocacy asks, the background and justification for each ask, and the intended outcomes.

DS Roadmap stock-take (May 2024 – December 2025) (RCO)

The RCO presented a stocktake exercise using the DS Roadmap as an analytical anchor to assess progress and constraints across the four Roadmap commitments from May 2024 to December 2025. The stocktake distinguishes between technical capacity constraints and political or institutional blockages, with the aim of sharpening 2026 priorities and engagement strategies.

The review covered housing land and property (HLP) and compensation; infrastructure and access to services; political, legal and security barriers; and solutions pathways related to livelihoods, social protection and education. The RCO reported that strongest progress has generally occurred where

interventions are technical or sectoral and politically low-cost, particularly in HLP and documentation. Moderate progress has been observed in infrastructure and service delivery aligned with Government priorities, including UN-supported rehabilitation initiatives. By contrast, limited progress has been seen on political, legal and security barriers, while the weakest progress remains in livelihoods, social protection, and education.

The stocktake highlighted recurring constraints, including reliance on a single sectoral Ministry rather than whole-of-Government coordination, political economy dynamics including Baghdad-Erbil tensions, fiscal constraints limiting line Ministry resource allocation and governance challenges where national policies do not translate into effective subnational implementation. The RCO concluded that while Iraq has accumulated substantial technical know-how and lessons learned on Durable Solutions, enabling conditions and incentives are needed to convert this into sustained progress.

IOM update on DS/IDP data workstream (IOM)

IOM briefed the TF on efforts to strengthen displacement data methodologies, building on the Displacement Tracking Matrix and related products, to better capture the reality of protracted displacement in Iraq. IOM explained that the methodological improvements aim to move beyond a binary 'displacement vs. return' categorization and provide greater granularity, including integration and relocation, to better inform programming and Government-led solutions.

IOM noted that this methodology workstream is being developed internally by IOM, UNDP, UNHCR, and the RCO, and will be socialized with Government counterparts once a common approach has been agreed. IOM also clarified the distinction between counting and measuring progress focuses on outcomes in comparison with host communities. IOM underlined that progress-to-solutions tools and evidence already exist and will continue to be strengthened.

Discussion & Q&A

The DSRSG/RC/HC recalled that, while the substance of the Durable Solutions Roadmap was broadly acceptable to both the federal authorities in Baghdad and the KRG, formal endorsement was hindered by political disagreement, including around references to the Sinjar Agreement. DSTF members noted that remaining displacement is driven by interlinked factors (security, demographics, governance, and fiscal constraints) and agreed that sustained progress will require an explicit political engagement strategy alongside technical support; in this context, the DSRSG/RC/HC stressed treating the IDP caseload as a unified group across Iraq, including those in formal camps and informal settlements, to avoid fragmented approaches.

On data, **the DSRSG/RC/HC** emphasized that Government ownership of the data system is essential for credible advocacy and prioritization, and DSTF members recalled past challenges when UN and Government figures diverged, including methodological differences such as counting families versus individuals. DSTF members further underlined the need to embed Durable Solutions within Iraq's broader development agenda and to engage relevant line Ministries, particularly the Ministry of Labour & Social Affairs and the Ministry of Trade, to support sustainable pathways. Donor representatives welcomed the overall direction of the transition and reiterated that Government responsibility is central to addressing fiscal, governance, and political economy constraints; they also cautioned that 'graduation' can be interpreted differently and should not be applied without addressing displacement-related vulnerabilities and rights-based considerations.

ECHO referenced higher government IDP figures (approximately 1.7-1.8 million) and stressed the importance of aligning methodologies and messaging.

Presentation of Internal Displacement Solutions Fund Phase II (Yasmin Alem, IDSF Grants Manager)

The IDSF Grants Manager briefed members on the Internal Displacement Solutions Fund and the Iraq Phase II joint programme, highlighting its catalytic role in supporting systems change for Durable Solutions. The programme brings together three interlinked workstreams covering data systems and monitoring led by IOM, compensation digitization and access led by UN-Habitat, and financing tools and policies led by UNDP to embed solutions into national planning, budgeting and financing flows.

The briefing emphasized that the joint programme is structured to strengthen government capacity and systems for evidence-based planning, financing and implementation of durable solutions, consistent with a whole-of-Government approach.

Briefing on Area-based development programme in Sinjar (UNDP)

UNDP presented early thinking on an Area-Based Development approach in Sinjar, aimed at shifting from fragmented, project-based interventions to an integrated recovery and development investment plan for the District. With large numbers of Yazidi and other minorities still displaced, UNDP explained that the approach seeks to accelerate sustainable return and local integration by targeting a defined geographic area and aligning interventions under a single framework.

UNDP outlined four pillars for the approach: government and institutional capacity; infrastructure and basic services; economic recovery and livelihoods; and social cohesion and human security. On financing, UNDP described a blended model primarily capitalized by the Government and complemented by donor financing, with potential modalities including pooled contributions, earmarked funding through established partners, and alignment of existing government and partner initiatives under a common framework.

On governance, UNDP proposed establishing a board with representation from Baghdad and the KRG, the RC representing the UN, and civil society representation, alongside a government-led secretariat supported by a technical group and a common monitoring and evaluation framework. UNDP noted the need to rapidly consolidate and update existing assessments and strategies, and indicated that the UNDP Crisis Bureau will deploy experts to support a rapid recovery and development needs assessment process, with the aim of producing a preliminary investment plan for inclusion in the Government's 2026 budget. UNDP also referenced initial discussions with the Prime Minister's Advisor on Yazidi Affairs and newly elected Yazidi parliamentarians, as well as engagement with Yazidi civil society groups.

During the Q&A, participants asked how the approach would align with existing government funds and fund architecture. UNDP explained that Sinjar-related initiatives would be brought under the common framework, including by aligning and, where possible, more deliberately partitioning government allocations for Sinjar within existing funds. The DSRSG/RC/HC emphasized avoiding the proliferation of competing funds and ensuring coherence with Cooperation Framework priorities.



AOB and Next steps

UN-Habitat provided updates on housing and HLP-related programming and highlighted emerging funding constraints. UN-Habitat reported that housing rehabilitation in Sinjar has been completed, with 632 houses delivered in total, including 366 in the last three years, and noted that further housing programmes in Sinjar cannot be supported due to lack of funding. UN-Habitat also reported that work on a residential complex continues, and that an EU-supported procurement process is being finalized for 100 houses in Mosul and 100 houses in Anbar.

UN-Habitat briefed the Task Force on engagement with the National Data Center on interoperability and modalities to digitize compensation claims, and reported completion of approximately 650 legal assistance cases with continued support planned. UN-Habitat cautioned that support for title deeds for Yazidi land rights is expected to terminate following the withdrawal of US funding. UN-Habitat reported that 3,300 title deeds have been issued, with around 8,000 still pending, and warned that discontinuation could undermine access to compensation and returns.

The RCO outlined next steps for DSTF follow-up and 2026 engagement. It will circulate the advocacy paper with a two-week window for inputs, after finalizing the document with relevant donor input, the RCO will produce a two-page summary, and host a more detailed briefing for interested members. The RCO will also work with the Global Solutions Hub to further articulate country engagement strategy language with Government counterparts, incorporating lessons from the stocktake, mission recommendations and collective advocacy positions.

On government engagement, the RCO noted expected engagement with the Secretary General of the Council of Ministers, including in the context of a meeting involving the German Ambassador and the RC, to agree next steps on a nationally driven coordination structure and prepare for a possible government-interfacing meeting after Ramadan.

Co-Chairs emphasized establishing a predictable DSTF rhythm; members noted meetings should be sequenced ahead of key government engagements where possible while maintaining regular donor and partner dialogue. The IOM Co-Chair suggested a clearer forward agenda and cadence to avoid gaps when government meetings are delayed.

Summary of Action Points and Decisions

- Secretariat to circulate the draft 2026 advocacy paper & DS Roadmap stocktake along with the minutes.
- RCO to consolidate inputs and issue the final advocacy paper with a 2-page summary.
- RCO to hold a dedicated briefing for members to discuss advocacy messages.
- Secretariat to set an indicative forward agenda and meeting cadence.