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Participants: Elisa Molena, Philip Tangermann, Valentina Bianco & Haider Al-Saadi (IOM); Michele Di Benedetto & Randa Farhat (RCO); Marcus Tudehope (UN-Habitat); Haider Al-Ithawi (UNICEF); Toby Harward, Pauline Fresneau & Fiona Allen (UNHCR); Judy Wakahiu (UNDP); Rebecca Catterell & Millie Cockcroft (UK Embassy); Kerstin Spriesterbach (German Consulate); Marlene Vom Hofe & Claudia Spinelli (EU Delegation); Annemarie de Zentje (Netherlands Embassy); Martina Di Santo & Alessandro Passamonti (AICS); Nadia Vonlanthen (Switzerland); Laura Bröker (German Embassy); Pedro Rojo Garcia (ECHO); and Esther Lee Stewart (DRC).

Secretariat: David Videira (UNDP); Karzan Obaid (BHFF); and Rabih Saredine (IOM).

Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Opening Remarks
3. Update on Sinjar Investment and Development Plan
4. Update on DS/IDP Data Workstream, FVM
5. Update on Housing, legal Assessment, Yazidi Title deeds, and Compensation Application System
6. Perspectives on Advocacy Approaches and Priorities (Engagement with new government and coordination architecture)
7. Incoming RC Transition Arrangements & Continuity of The Durable Solutions File
8. Closing and next steps

Welcome and Introduction (DSTF Co-Chair - IOM)

The IOM Chief of Mission, acting as Co-Chair of the DSTF, opened the meeting by welcoming all participants, inviting new participants to introduce themselves, and providing an update on the progress made against the action points agreed during the previous DSTF meeting. He also acknowledged that bringing all partners together had become challenging given the current context during the past few months but expressed his appreciation for reconvening the Task Force to continue advancing the durable solutions agenda, which remains a key priority within the broader humanitarian and development context in Iraq, including the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). He then outlined the main agenda items for the meeting before inviting the RC for his opening remarks.

Opening Remarks (RC)

The RC opened the meeting by reflecting on a four-year tenure and announcing his departure from the assignment and mission. The RC noted a recent meeting of the One UN Plan Steering Committee regarding returnees from North East Syria and stated the current agenda follows a same vein of how to help through rehabilitation and humanitarian support. To benefit newcomers and reconnect with work from the last few years, the RC highlighted an engagement strategy developed with the two co-chairs.

The RC explained that this document is an advocacy note and advice to the government on what the Prime Minister needs to do to resolve the IDP issue, rather than a work plan or a document written from a DSTF perspective. The strategy outlines social protection, compensation and housing, return conditions and community stability, legal barriers, and financing. The RC also identified data validity as a cross-cutting issue. The RC explained that the advocacy note helps the Prime Minister understand the complexity of the file, as the Prime Minister previously suggested the solution is as simple as providing land for return, whereas the RC noted it requires a lot more support and services.

The RC observed that IDPs do not appear or feature in the government programme of action, as the current focus is on liquidity, finance, fiscal sustainability, and security. The RC mentioned the Prime Minister's announcement to build 1 million housing units to address the housing crisis and stated IDPs could be prioritized in that file.

The RC concluded by sharing details of a frank farewell meeting with Prime Minister Sudani, stating that having 1 million IDPs who are Iraqis does not feature well with Iraq's aspiration to put the war behind and close that file. The RC urged the International community and Ambassadors to continue advocacy so the file features prominently in the government programme of action as they meet the new government.

Update on Sinjar Investment and Development Plan (UNDP)

UNDP highlighted positive momentum regarding the Sinjar file following high-level representations to the Prime Minister by the Prince of the Yazidis, Dr. Sinjari, and private sector investors. The new initiative, formulated as the Sinjar Investment and Development Plan (SIDP), is being developed under the directive of the Prime Minister. The head of PMAC (Prime Minister's Advisory Commission), Dr. Yusuf Khalif, is working with UNDP and concerned ministries to present a credible approach, emphasizing in an initial meeting with ten ministries that a very different strategy is required after twelve years of limited progress. The SIDP is governed by five guiding principles. First, while elements of the Sinjar Agreement remain critical, they will be pursued in parallel with investment and development rather than as sequenced preconditions. Second, the initiative will be firmly government-led and supported by the international community. Third, there will be a strategic shift from humanitarian response to a comprehensive development programme focusing on economic and social dimensions. Fourth, the initiative will build on existing work while addressing past deficiencies. Finally, a blended financing model will be adopted, reallocating existing 2026 pots from the Sinjar Reconstruction Fund, targeting the 2027 legislative budget process for new money, and utilizing donor and private sector investment as complementary financing. A Diwani Order is expected to establish a high-level oversight committee to ensure ministerial integration, specifically involving the Ministry of Finance.

UNDP will serve an integrator role to marshal the capacities of all UN agencies with a track record in Sinjar to produce a costed, time-bound area-based development plan. This plan will identify specific circuit breakers related to security, institutional issues, and governance. Next steps include technical missions for data collection and the formulation of the plan, which will be presented to the Prime Minister for financial commitment and launched by the government in Baghdad and New York. Recent engagements with the KRG Minister of Interior, Yazidi parliamentarians, and advocacy groups indicate overall support for this way forward.

Discussion and Q&A

The RC supported the SIDP and the area development approach, noting that existing activities remain fragmented across so many government entities and many pots of money. Success in Sinjar would allow for area-based approaches to be applied to the south for the restoration of the marshlands and dealing with climate-induced IDPs, which IOM is also tracking. The RC advised that the oversight mechanism must not be a separate mechanism, but should instead fall under the broader government-led coordination oversight established by the RC Office to avoid a parallel structure, ensuring Sinjar remains one part of the broader IDPs solution.

German Consulate questioned how to tackle the conflicting interests and different perspectives between Federal Iraq and the KRG regarding Sinjar. **UNDP** confirmed that the Prime Minister and PMAC are very clear on these challenges. It was emphasized that while the Sinjar Agreement remains a live document that needs to be implemented, it should be pursued in parallel with the investment and development plan currently discussed with the Prime Minister's office rather than moving sequentially.

Update on DS/IDP Data Workstream, FVM (IOM)

IOM provided a displacement overview, noting that the IDPs population has fallen below the one million mark for the first time, with DTM identifying 997,334 individual IDPs as of 31 December 2025. IOM updated participants on the displacement definition update, highlighting a simplified methodology and a roadmap for 2026. Key milestones include a workshop with the JCCC in July 2026 and validation with MoMD, leading to a Master List update in Q3-Q4 2026. This data collection will be conducted in collaboration with the Statistics office to include census data and refine categories for relocated and reintegrated populations.

Regarding displacement drivers, IOM briefed the TF on the economic impact of the regional crisis, noting business disruptions in nearly 70% of communities and sharp price hikes for basic commodities, such as LPG gas cylinders doubling in cost. These trends—alongside service outages and food security—are tracked via bi-weekly snapshots to maintain international responsiveness to shifting vulnerabilities.

IOM highlighted the return of 520 families from Dohuk and EMC camps in June through the FVM programme. Data shows that 18 months post-return, monthly income increased by approximately 10% and access to water improved from 87% to 93%.

Finally, IOM presented the Activity Info Platform, developed by the DSTWG Monitoring & Analysis (co-chaired by GIZ and IOM). This live tool tracks housing, HLP, government engagement, and livelihood activities nationwide to ensure coordinated, data-driven support. To maintain high-quality data for the DSTW team, all agencies are encouraged to update their activities on the platform every four months.

Discussion and Q&A

The **RC** raised concerns regarding data accuracy and government ownership, suggesting actual IDP figures may be lower when applying the context of Iraq alongside global durable solution definitions. He urged a prioritized focus on the most vulnerable households whose incomes remain below the level of their return communities.

IOM explained that alignment with 2024 census data is underway through joint master list updates with government enumerators. IOM noted that mainstreaming durable solutions methodology into national systems will ensure government counterparts eventually assume full responsibility for maintaining

updated data. The **RC** concluded that while displacement data remains political and sensitive, sustained engagement is vital to ensuring populations achieve conditions that move them outside the displacement definition.

ECHO called for increased government ownership and more granular data to refine the 1 million IDPs figure. **ECHO** stressed the need for vulnerability screening to identify those who have already found solutions and to better target aid to those truly in need.

The **RC** commended the M&A dashboard for providing real data and evidence, stressing a move from generalities toward granular figures. Breaking down the total caseload of IDPs into in camp, informal settlement, and out of camp is essential for political leaders solving complex cases. The RC urged that this be made available to the government to ensure the file is constantly tracked.

Update on Housing, legal Assessment, Yazidi Title deeds, and Compensation Application System (UN Habitat)

UN-Habitat presented progress on digitizing the compensation system following technical consultations with the Martyrs Foundation, NDC, and CCC. The pilot platform standardizes workflows via applicant and assessor-facing interfaces to replace paper-based systems. Training for MoMD, CCC, and NDC staff is underway ahead of a rollout in Ninawa, Anbar, and Mosul.

Regarding the EU-funded BEIT project, UN-Habitat updated the TF that procurement for 200 affordable green housing units in Ramadi and Mosul is nearing completion, with groundbreaking scheduled for August 2026. This solar-powered clay brick model is designed to be scalable, and the approvals process helped clarify institutional coordination with the Ministry of Construction and Housing.

On property rights, UN-Habitat highlighted the distribution of 19,830 occupancy certificates (17,713 to Yazidis) since 2017 as an interim tenure measure. Under Cabinet Resolution 227 (2025), 5,160 land titles were distributed between April and June 2026. Supported by legal assistance for over 9,100 beneficiaries, these efforts facilitate durable returns in Sinjar and Ba'aj.

Finally, UN-Habitat detailed a legal and regulatory assessment of the housing sector that provides a practical roadmap for legislative reforms intended to strengthen tenure security and increase the supply of affordable housing. These findings will support the implementation of the National Housing Policy and help create a more enabling environment for durable solutions.

Perspectives on Advocacy Approaches and Priorities including engagement with new Government and Coordination Architecture (Donors' Intervention)

The **UK Embassy**, representing the donor community, presented a refreshed approach to advocacy and government engagement, highlighting the need for enhanced ownership by the Government of Iraq amid declining International funding and a shift toward development and technical assistance. Reflecting on a turbulent period marked by regional conflict and economic shocks, including the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, the donor community warned that progress on the displacement file is at risk of stagnating, which could undermine national security and economic growth.

The donor community proposed a core script for advocacy that reframes durable solutions as an economic opportunity for Iraq. This approach underscores the importance of harnessing the full potential of human capital, noting that keeping people in camp settings or informal settlements is not conducive to economic

development. Regarding security, the UK noted that ongoing displacement undermines social cohesion and social stability, creating risks of radicalization and civil unrest that threaten future stability.

To support these efforts, the donor community called for a coordinated, cohesive, and consistent engagement strategy, advocating for regular quarterly meetings of the DSTF to align approaches. The community highlighted the importance of using granular data and evidence, aligned with ISC definitions and linked to census data, to inform political leaders on the specific needs of displaced populations.

The donor community outlined two tiers of key asks for the Government. Priority 1 focuses on no- or low-cost requests linked to existing initiatives, including establishing a COMSEC-led coordination mechanism, improving safety in return areas as the government consolidates its monopoly on the use of force, and ensuring IDPs and returnees have access to the same rights and services as all Iraqi citizens, specifically regarding civil documentation and title deeds. Priority 2 involves higher-cost requests such as inclusion in social protection schemes, the digitization and simplification of compensation and documentation systems, and resuming compensation claim payments and return grants.

Member Discussion and Q&A

The **RC** noted that while a lot of material has been developed, including the roadmap and advocacy paper, it is now necessary for these initiatives to all come together into one sort of piece of documents. Highlighting that many issues still linger from the old times—including the compensation scheme, the data landscape, and reintegration into the social protection system—the RC recommended integrating these points into the engagement strategy. This consolidated approach will allow the Sinjar Investment Plan and UN-Habitat's housing work to be linked and tracked, serving as a starting point to engage the government at the senior and political level.

RCO noted the engagement strategy uses two enablers and a theoretical background to turn the table with ministers. Currently with co-chairs, the draft will be shared with the DSTF after the co-chairs' green light. **RCO** clarified the distinction between the internal core script for framing and recommended solution pathways to give to the government.

Incoming RC Transition Arrangements & Continuity of The Durable Solutions File

The **RC** briefed the TF on his upcoming departure and the interim transition arrangements for the Resident Coordinator function. He noted that while the selection and government clearance for a permanent Resident Coordinator are expected by September, Peter Hawkins is expected to arrive in July to serve as the interim OIC for three to four months. The RC highlighted a significant strategic shift under the global OCHA reset strategy, explaining that the incoming Resident Coordinator will no longer hold the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) title. He emphasized that this reflects Iraq's status as no longer being a humanitarian basket case and underscores the necessity of applying a development lens and approach to IDP solutions.

Concluding his remarks, the RC thanked the donor community and partners for their partnership and support, noting that he would continue to follow the evolution of the displacement file from New York. Participants expressed their appreciation for the RC leadership during critical moments for the country and the durable solutions agenda. In response to Donor Community's request, the co-chairs tasked the Secretariat with ensuring that DSTF meetings are held on a quarterly basis to maintain coordination and momentum during this transition period.



Member Discussion and Q&A

DRC requested NGO representation as a DSTF co-chair and inclusion in the proposed COMSEC-led coordination mechanism. The Co-chairs noted that the co-chairing request requires internal discussion and suggested separate dialogues regarding NGO participation in refugee versus IDP coordination.

AOB and Next steps

UNHCR highlighted that while Sinjar remains a very sensitive area, the international community should show even-handedness by pursuing smaller caseloads to build a bridge between the federal and regional governments. It was suggested that the East Mosul camps offer a more straightforward opportunity to work with judicial authorities in unpicking the legal issues facing displaced families. The Co-Chairs agreed, tasking the TF to explore non-Sinjar areas for joint action and instructing the technical group to evaluate government appetite for all three durable solutions.

The **RC** cautioned that the Sinjar Agreement remains a complex and highly politicized issue, noting that the new government's commitment must be verified before assuming it is a live document. He emphasized the urgency of closing the EMC and indicated he would brief his successor on the tripartite mechanism used to review those files.

Finally, the **RC** called for a fresh approach to local coordination, urging partners to sustain the functionality of the Joint Coordination Forums (JCF) and to reinvigorate engagement with provincial councils and governor offices.

Summary of Action Points and Decisions

- RCO to integrate previous outputs, including the roadmap and advocacy paper, into a single, consolidated engagement strategy covering core issues (compensation, data, Sinjar, and housing) to serve as a starting point for senior political-level engagement with the government.
- RCO and Co-Chairs to review and consult regarding the request to include NGOs and INGOs as co-chairs, members, or observers within the emerging government-led coordination mechanisms.
- Secretariat to schedule DSTF meetings on a quarterly basis to maintain coordination and momentum during the transition period.