

RETURNS WORKING GROUP- IRAQ

- **Meeting Date:** 30 June 2026
- **Meeting Time:** 11:00 am-12:30 pm
- **Location:** Remote connection via Teams

Attendance: IOM, German Embassy Bagdad, GIZ IQ, Justice Center IRAQ, Samaritan's Purse, Action Against Hunger, RC, NBA, IID, INTERSOS

Agenda:

1. **Introduction and adoption of minutes:** Review of May Meeting Minutes
2. **Context Update:** RWG Field Update
3. **DTM:** Mapping Locations at Risk of Climate-Induced Displacement Al Anbar
4. **IOM Protection:** Findings from the 18-Month Post-Departure Monitoring from Al-Amal
5. **DS updates**
6. **AOB**

1. **Introduction and adoption of minutes:** Review of previous minutes; Follow up action points from the previous meeting.

- Endorsement of the previous meeting minutes.

2. **Context Update: RWG Field Update**

(Please refer to the full presentation link for further details)

Bzeibiz Response: Progress & Operational Update (Al Anbar Governorate)

- **Population Update:** The affected population is revised to 1,242 households, with 300 experiencing total tent loss and 450 suffering partial damage.
- **Partner Progress:** Key aid includes IOM (275 tents), Mercy Hands (food/hygiene kits for 260 families), DRC (cash for 65 households), and WFP (resettlement funds).
- **Government Coordination:** Local authorities prefer in-kind support (like tarpaulins) over cash assistance to avoid social tension and ensure proper shelter repairs.
- **Urgency:** A joint verification exercise is planned to manage aid distribution, noted as critical due to extreme heat reaching 50 degrees.

3. **DTM: Mapping Locations at Risk of Climate-Induced Displacement Al Anbar**

(Please refer to the full presentation link for further details)

- **Objective:** To identify factors driving climate-induced displacement and impact on livelihoods in post-conflict Anbar Governorate.
- **Methodology:** Face-to-face interviews with key informants (government, NGOs, community leaders) conducted from August to October 2025.
- **Key Findings on Risk:**
 - 41 out of 53 assessed locations (across 13 subdistricts) are at high risk of climate-induced displacement.
 - Living conditions are currently at a "medium level of severity" due to a mix of environmental stress, limited employment, and lingering security issues from the ISIL conflict.
- **Environmental & Water Impact:**
 - 100% Exposure: All assessed subdistricts experienced drought, heatwaves, and decreased agricultural water in the past year.
 - Universal Threats: Wide-scale reports of biodiversity loss, desertification, and land degradation across the region.
 - Critical Needs: Insufficient public water supply and water for irrigation are the most severe unmet needs.

Discussion

- **Question:** Has the study considered the potential for climate-driven conflict risks, such as tensions between communities competing over scarce resources like water and arable land, as a consequence of displacement?
- **DTM:** The study focused on identifying areas at risk of future climate-induced displacement and the factors that may drive people to move. It did not specifically assess conflict risks over scarce resources such as water or arable land. However, these issues are examined through the Climate-Induced Displacement Report, which monitors communities after displacement occurs and assesses potential tensions between displaced

and host communities. The study also established a baseline of expected future displacement that can support follow-up assessments and monitoring.

- **Question:** Is there an opportunity to strengthen coordination and information sharing between the water coordination mechanism and the displacement coordination mechanism (DSTF), given that some issues overlap both sectors?
- **RWG:** It was suggested that the water and displacement coordination mechanisms hold a follow-up meeting to discuss how they can share information and coordinate on issues that affect both sectors.
- **Question:** Can the updated service mapping for Ramadi be shared with partners, including information on available protection and legal assistance services?
- **RWG:** A service mapping was developed by IOM colleagues and is currently being reviewed by the RWG to determine how it can be expanded and made available to all partners on the ground. Partners can also reach out bilaterally to the RWG to be linked with the JCF co-chairs and to access any available service mapping. Referrals for protection and legal assistance are also welcomed. Additionally, an Activity Info platform was launched in March under the co-leadership of GIZ and IOM. Quarterly updates are expected, though a transitional period for partner participation is anticipated. Awareness sessions have already been facilitated for JCF members in various governorates. Due to the limited engagement currently seen from local authorities, additional follow-up sessions are being organized to ensure the platform is fully utilized as a support tool for the service map.
- **Question:** Given that Markaz Ana was identified as a severe hotspot, highly exposed to climate-induced displacement, with no functional services and no reported assistance from humanitarian or government actors, what factors are contributing to the limited presence of services and assistance in the area, and has this situation been raised with relevant government counterparts?
- **DTM:** DTM clarified that the report presents the drivers at a general level, while the underlying dataset provides more detailed information on affected locations, households, and reported concerns. Further analysis would be required to identify the specific factors affecting Markaz Ana. The situation has been raised with relevant government counterparts through workshops in Anbar, where Markaz Ana and other vulnerable sub-districts were highlighted and the findings presented.

4. IOM Protection: Findings from the 18-Month Post-Departure Monitoring from Al-Amal

(Please refer to the full presentation link for further details)

- **Demographic Profile (18+ Months Post-Departure):** The assessment focused on a cohort of 287 households monitored 18+ months after departing Al-Amal, 67% of which are female-headed.
- **Movement Patterns:** Most families returned to governorates of origin (Anbar, Ninewa, and Salah al-Din), though some secondary displacement to Erbil and Kirkuk was observed.
- **Key Findings & Persistent Needs:**
 - Humanitarian support: 208 households received support at least once since leaving Al-Amal Centre, mainly cash assistance,
 - Shelter: 21% live in owned homes, while 53% live in rented housing,
 - Livelihoods: 26% reported no income; income mainly comes from daily labour and family support,
 - Services: 27% of households lack access to basic services,
 - Documentation: 30% reported a member missing all core documentation, while 40% reported lacking some documentation.

The impact of climate on durable reintegration

- Weather changes are affecting durable reintegration, particularly livelihoods and living conditions.
- 11% of households reported that community members' lives or incomes were negatively affected by weather changes.
- Main challenges included desertification, extreme heat, and shortages of water, electricity and cooling systems.
- Thirteen households reported displacement linked to weather conditions.
- Climate-related impacts were most reported in Al-Ba'a'aj district and Diyala.

Discussion

- **Question:** Were there specific districts where the reported figures of children out of school (37%) and children engaged in work (11%) were higher?
- **IOM Protection:** The figures were not disaggregated by district in the report. However, the data will be reanalysed to determine whether there are differences between locations and to identify the main areas of concern. The findings will be shared subsequently.
- **Question:** What were the main reasons for households moving more than once after leaving their area of origin?
- **IOM Protection:** The two main reasons observed were employment opportunities in other areas and family reunification. To a much lesser extent, repeated movements were also observed in relation to renewing documentation, family members' rejection or return, and returning to the area of origin after initially relocating.

5. DS Updates

(Please refer to the full presentation link for further details)

DSTF Meeting Highlights (June 25, 2026)

- **Update on the Sinjar Investment and Development Plan (UNDP):** The PM-led Sinjar Investment and Development Plan (SIDP) was outlined, highlighting a shift toward long-term development, a blended financing model, and UNDP's role as an integrator to formulate a comprehensive, costed strategy.
- **Update on DS/IDP Data Workstream (IOM):** Updates were provided on the decline in IDP numbers, the 2026 data roadmap, FVM outcomes, and the launch of the joint GIZ/IOM Activity Info platform.
- **Update on Housing and Compensation (UN-Habitat):** Updates were provided on the digitization of the compensation system, the BEIT green housing project, land title distribution for Yazidis, and a legislative roadmap for housing reform.
- **Perspectives on Advocacy Approaches (Donors/UK):** A refreshed advocacy strategy was presented by the UK on behalf of donors, emphasizing government ownership and a tiered priority system to reframe durable solutions as an economic and security opportunity.

Launch of ActivityInfo Platform: Following the official launch of the ActivityInfo platform, partners are requested to complete the following actions:

- **Data Submission:** Q1 2026 activity data is to be submitted through [the provided platform link](#).
- **Progress Review:** Current coverage and outputs are to be reviewed via [the interactive dashboards](#).
- **Registration:** Focal point requests are to be submitted by organizations lacking reporting codes.

AOB

- The invitation for the next RWG meeting will be sent out in due course; meanwhile, partners are encouraged to reach out if they have any presentations or updates to share.