

- **Meeting Date:** 28 February 2023
- **Meeting Time:** 11:00 am-12:30 pm
- **Location:** IOM Conference Room, Erbil & Remote connection via Teams

**In Attendance:** Public Aid Organization (PAO), Blumont, SSDF, RWG/DSTWG, ACF, Refugee Assistant, UNHCR, IOM, ECHO, Tdh, IOM, UNHCR, OCHA, USAID/BHA, USAID/Iraq, REACH, IMC, ZOA, IVY, REACH, and TdH Italy

**Agenda:**

1. **Introduction and adoption of minutes:** Review of January minutes
2. **Context Update:** RWG Field Updates
3. **IOM Presentation:** Facilitated Voluntary Movement Update
4. **DSTWG:** DS Updates
5. **AOB**

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

- No pending action points.
- Endorsement of the previous meeting minutes.

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

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

**National Update: MoMD**

- The Higher Committee for the Relief and Support of the Displaced decided in its last meeting on 30 Jan the formation of a committee to follow up and assess the needs of the displaced inside and outside the camps, as well as follow up on the conditions of the returnees to their original areas.
- The Supreme National Committee to follow up on the conditions of Iraqis abroad, their voluntary return, and integration held its first meeting headed by the MoMD minister Ms. Jabra.
- Climate Change: Ministry of Immigration and Displacement began to distribute various relief assistance to (500) families displaced by desertification and drought in the province of Dhiqar.

**KRI Field Updates: Duhok camp movements**

- Jan 2023 evidently proved an increase of returnees compared to December with 38 households and 222 individuals returning to their areas of origin.
- Chameshko camp had the most returns with 16 households, 95 Individuals.

**Sulaymaniyah camp movements**

- During the months of January and February, a total of 13 families left Sulaymaniyah and Garmian camps and returned to their areas of origin areas, namely Salah Al-Din and Diyala.

**Ninewa and Kirkuk Field Updates:**

- Facilitated Voluntary returns started in January from Dahuk Camps. Ongoing returns of families from Sinjar Mountain and spontaneous returns from Dahuk camps.
- On 30th of January 39 HH, individuals. Areas of return (9 HH to Sinjar center – 22 HH to Tel Azeer, /ba'aj – 8 HH to Mojama' Al-Jazeera )
- In February two rounds of return happened from Sinjar Mountain 78 + 35 HH to Sinjar city facilitated by IOM 30 HH, 160 and returned to Sinjar from the Mountain citing Stable political, security, and social situations and Government support as primary reasons.

**Discussion**

- Question: Regarding the table that demonstrated the local integration's application statistics. How have applicants for integration applied? Please provide more details on how it operates?
  - RWG: The Supreme Committee requested MOMP in October to begin developing plans for families that are unable to return to their areas of origin or do not wish to do so to create a pathway for them to integrate locally. MOMP had begun to conduct initial registration for families residing in the South. The form that they are using basically inquires families to share the same type of information that families would share if they were going to return, with the exception that if they were locally integrating, they would need to indicate whether they are working in that specific location. According to the plan, MOMP considers providing each household that integrates locally a grant worth one million IQD. Budgetary provisions for this money have not yet been made. Nonetheless, MOMP intends to allow families to move their PDS forms to the location where they have been locally integrated. However, this is still a work in progress. MOMP has asked for support with the development of SOPs on local integration to make this more systematic across the country. Noteworthy, the directive that came from the Supreme Committee for the relief did not list KRI as one of the areas where families can locally integrate. But this is most likely still under consideration or discussion at the national level.
- Question: Considering the eviction cases in Samarra and other locations, what was IOM or CCCM's main involvement in slowing or impeding the process, and what type of assistance is being provided to these families?
  - RWG: In Anbar, CCCM cluster colleagues and OCHA colleagues attempted to undertake some advocacy concerning HTC closures. Regrettably, it was unsuccessful, and the authorities carried ahead with the eviction for the families who were evicted from HTC and ended up not returning to their towns of origin and instead went to Kilo18. IOM CCCM colleagues did offer some assistance to families in the form of emergency cash intended to help the families settle in the new site as the families are coming from places from which they cannot return since the areas are blocked off or occupied by PMF.

- Question: There was news that MoMD would compensate any family who returned to Sinjar IQD1,500,000. Please elaborate on this.
  - RWG: The last grant distribution was released by MoMD and comprised 2006 households. The whole allotment went to families from Sinjar, each receiving IQD 1.5 million.

### 3. IOM Presentation: Facilitated Voluntary Movement Program Updates

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

#### Facilitated Voluntary Movements Updates: Last departure details – Jeddah 5 camp.

- 348 Households returned/relocated through the IOM FVM program.
- 1,722 individuals (62% were female-headed households).
- 239 households returned to their areas of origin (mainly in Ninewa and Salah Al-Din).
- 109 households relocated to other areas (mainly in Ninewa).

#### Discussion

- If the households expressed a willingness to be readmitted to the camp after failing to reintegrate in the return areas. From a government perspective, is it possible? If the families were from Jeddah 1 and Jeddah 5 camps, is there any additional assistance provided to such families by TRD or CCCM?
  - There was only one household that returned to the camp from SAD and was denied access. Hence, the family just moved to a new location. But, we are currently unclear on what may materialize with Jeddah 5. IOM FVM has a meeting tomorrow, to find out what the government intends to do with the camp. In case of closures, we will not be able to implement the program.
- Is there a timeframe set for the process while IOM-FVM works on the four phases with the families for the voluntary movement? If the cases were not able to follow the timeframe. Does FVM thus have a flexible window of time for such cases?
  - Each case will be handled separately. Even though some households did not return through the programme, IOM has helped. Meanwhile, some households were on our caseload, but they didn't wait for the departure date. IOM-FVM will treat them as recent returnees and will provide them with grants and other assistance. Moreover, making a referral would be the best course of action in these particular cases. Worth noting that IOM FVM for Jeddah 1 has not yet been cleared for implementation. IOM carries out the post-departure phase instead of the pre-departure phase. While the DMCR in Duhok permits re-admission to Duhok Camps. But the process is very sensitive for Jeddah 5 and Jeddah 1.
- Can IOM share its needs assessment tool used to assess areas of settlement? Also, how do you refer your beneficiaries to other actors?
  - The FVM program collaborates closely with the Community Engagement team, which oversees assessing the various locations of settlements. The CRC, or Community Resource Center, is where the referrals are handled. IOM has 4 CRCs. The check calls are made to the returnee households by CRC staff. Also, CRC follows up with the households again after a two-week period. The households are directed to another actor if there is a need at any point along the procedure through the available services mapping.
- For households outside the IOM communities. What assistance does FVM offer? For instance, IOM initially supported them to return to their home territories; nonetheless, they ended up in an area where IOM does not offer any livelihoods programming. In that case, how do you link that family to other actors if there isn't a CRC present?
  - Prior to the departures, FVM is aware of the families' intended destination. The FVM team then starts contacting actors since we have a vast network of varied actors. Typically, we contact the protection teams, as a result, Protection conducts the post-return protection monitoring, where they will be capable of identifying the needs and direct referrals accordingly. For non-IOM communities, FVM must still be able to offer them the transportation grant, the departure grant, and then the reintegration grant, which is over \$1000. It comes in lump payments rather than as one complete package. The household can be directed to other actors, but they will regretfully not be able to be eligible for housing or livelihood assistances.
- What were some of the main challenges you encountered while putting this program into practice in the various locations?
  - The key issue will be attempting to get over the obstacles that the families must overcome in order to get back home, including the tribal conflicts or the security situation. Hence, overcoming this takes time.

### 4. DS Updates: DSTWG, and ABC Updates

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

#### DS Updates

- Humanitarian Transition Overview (Formerly known as the Humanitarian Transition Strategy) ---Under review before finalization with OCHA.
- Option 6 Joint Transition Paper ---The Office and Steering Committee of the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement presented to the DSTF the proposed concept notes on the new phase of the Iraq Solutions Approach to elicit discussion among key members of the DSTF to agree on a common way forward. It outlines key building blocks for a more government-led and development-led solutions approach in Iraq. A consultation meeting with civil society was also held last week.
- DSTWG will be working with MoMD for the development of SOPs on Local Integration

### 5. AOB

- Next RWG meeting is scheduled for March 28, 2023.