

Date: 23 May 2021

Questions received from international and non-governmental actors for MOMD either addressed during the previous RWG meeting on 27 April 2021 or shared after the meeting for follow-up. Note that the answers below are those provided by MoMD directly, rather than RWG, while RWG has added 'notes' where additional insights are available from previous engagement or other sources.

1. Comment: It is great to see that the plan makes provision for compensation for people affected by displacement—a major barrier to accessing durable solutions. Have plans been confirmed by the GOI for how this compensation scheme will be financed?

The plan to provide compensation remains. However, there is a lack of funding available for compensation of damaged properties given the complex economic situation nationwide. The construction fund could be a solution to fill in the gaps, the federal budget has made a good financial allocation for that fund for 2021.

So far, the national budget has approved the following financial allocations:

- 25 Billion IQD to MoMD for the return grants
 - 406 Billion IQD to REFAATO (The Rehabilitation Fund for Areas Affected by Terrorism Operations)
 - 50 Billion IQD to Sunni Endowment (10 Billion IQD to support the social cohesion activities that can facilitate the return of IDPs, and 40 Billion IQD to support financial grants to IDPs)
 - The allocation for the construction fund for 2021 is not identified yet, to be updated in the next meeting
- (Note: In line with above, the HLP sub cluster have been informed that no specific budget has been allocated for the property compensation scheme. Instead, it has been decided to include the funds for property compensation under the funds for construction or return grants for the war-affected governorates for which the Ministry of Finance will decide the allocation in the future. It has been suggested that this will pose challenges to track the amounts for compensation specifically)*

2. How much is the GoI allocating of its own budget against the implementation of the plan?

The plan anticipates different sources of funding which include allocations through the general federal budget, investments, loans, grants and other sources. Some of the activities are ongoing activities, others are planned and there are some that still require funding. The main source of funding will be those allocated to specific ministries and governorates as part of standard allocations. However, the Ministry of Planning (MoP) has launched the National Plan Fund (NPF) to collect money for the implementation of the national plan where gaps remain in existing budgets. As of now, the NPF has around 25 billion IQD which will be used for supporting stabilization in different location. Of course this is not sufficient at all and will not make big difference, but this is just the start and more to come by time.

(Note: There are ongoing discussions regarding the funding of the plan, including how international and non-governmental actors can contribute, for example through the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) where an additional pillar on durable solutions is currently being added. However, in terms of direct government inputs, further discussions are required to better understand the proposed mechanisms for resourcing these efforts.)

3. The plan focuses heavily on people returning home, but many people who have left camps are finding themselves in secondary displacement or want to move to another part of Iraq. How can the plan support integration into a new community, based on the intention of the individual/family in question?

The registration to locally integrate or resettle in a third location, and the provision of the corresponding support (provision of in-kind assistance as well as the proposed integration grant of 1 M IQD) has been initiated for the IDP families in the southern governorates as a first stage. However, MoMD plans to extend the registration for local integration to the central and northern governorates such as Anbar, Salah al-Din, Ninewa and others as per the Supreme Committee's Resolution No. 888. MoMD's officials are of the opinion that despite the current obstacles to return, few families opt for local integration in Anbar in comparison with other governorates, as the people of Anbar have indicated a willingness to go back to their AoOs one day.

(Note: There has been an increase in efforts by MoMD to support local integration, including discussions to support local integration in Sulaymaniyah for IDPs from Salah al-Din. However, as noted above, MoMD have previously indicated that local integration (as well as relocation) is generally a 'last resort' if return is perceived to be difficult due to areas being blocked, security clearances not permitted, IDPs originating from disputed

territories and so forth. i.e. if an IDP is based in a camp and perceived by authorities to have no barriers to return (with emphasis on security/access barriers, rather than on the preference of IDPs, challenges with housing etc), they may face obstacles to gaining approval for local integration. However, it is also important to note that local integration of IDPs out of camps, for example, those residing in urban centres and who have not previously been in camps, is much more accepted (although differs in terms of narrative in KRI where there are sensitivities in verbalising acceptance towards local integration) even if not directly supported through assistance or policy positions. In practice, in many cases, these IDPs face limited pressure to return and are often not viewed as IDPs by authorities who believe they are well integrated, have access to work, school, housing etc. and are not persons of concern.)

4. Once IDPs leave camps, is there a system to track where they relocate so that agencies can provide assistance?

Such a project has been proposed to some of MoMD's partners, but unfortunately, there was no response. The Ministry has a tracking system, but it is not an organized programme which can track the returnees accurately. The international community relies on the DTM for tracking the movement of IDPs and returnees, however, our intention was to identify each single family and verify their needs for further referral to the sectorial ministries under the government of Iraq's umbrella. MoMD appreciates if any partner can support the ministry with the implementation of this programme in different ways. Apart from that, the MoMD is keen to provide the returnees with in-kind assistance at least for the first year of their return as the officials feel that this duration could be critical while these families are in the process of mobilizing themselves to resume their normal life in their AoOs. This would be part of more support to be provided by the respective local governments through the grants and resuming of access to basic services.

(Note: Partners who had previously interacted with the MoMD following camp closures at the end of 2020 will recall that MoMD counterparts had provided some information on IDPs that were departing camps, indicating that field teams had attempted to follow-up. However, as outlined by MoMD above, this was not considered to be a systematic process.)

5. What is the procedure for decommissioning assets from closed camps? Is it possible for NGOs to relocate assets from the camps to vulnerable communities?

Non-governmental organizations can coordinate with local governments and United Nations agencies, as they are the body responsible for establishing these camps in the governorates. For the camps under MoMD responsibility, the assets were used to support the stabilization of returnees in their AoOs. An example was considered about some IDP families who returned from Sulaymaniyah to their AoOs in Salah al-Din. They could not find proper shelters to accommodate their family members as their own shelters were totally destroyed, so MoMD provided them with emergency shelters (prefab caravans) from the available stock of caravans in the closed Al-Kawthar IDP camp

(Note: Al-Kawthar camp in Kerbala was built by MoMD.)

6. On 'informal settlements' which are referenced in the national plan, can you clarify what constitutes an informal settlement and what, if any, is the proposed course of action from MoMD to address these settlements?

The families who live in informal settlements can be classified into two groups:

- Families registered as IDPs with MoMD: the ministry works with different entities from the national and international communities to ensure the access of these families to the low-cost shelters, as access to shelter is the main barrier toward achieving durable solutions for these families.
- Families not registered with MoMD: these families fall under the responsibility of local governments. However, the concerned local governments have programmes and projects to construct homes for that caseload which would be beneficial.

7. We welcome this plan as a necessary step to address the ongoing needs of those affected by displacement. How can the current relationship between NGOs and MoMD be further strengthened in order to ensure the plan's success?

- More collaboration with MoMD
- Provide an outline of organizational plans, particularly those that can support the national plan, much the way MoMD has transparently shared their plans.

- To hold continuous meetings with international organizations for sharing/exchanging information, referrals, and further follow-up on certain issues around displacement and returns.
- The international organizations to provide more efforts towards supporting the voluntary returns and return projects

8. What is the GoI's vision with regards to coordination with the UN and the NGO's in implementing the plan?

The vision of the GoI and MoMD, in particular, is that each side has roles and responsibilities that must be undertaken and provided. Potential coordination among the partners themselves and with MoMD should help minimize the risk of duplication, increase the number of targeted beneficiaries and expand geographic coverage. Examples of such coordination include the area-based groups engaging with MoMD in the different governorates of durable solution activities and also the Jed'dah Taskforce which includes different actors including MoMD to address the obstacles faced by IDPs in Jed'dah camp. Therefore, coordination is the main thing that we are looking for in the time being.

(Note: As the national plan includes activities and work streams which require engagement with a wider range of government entities, there are discussions at the national level, through the DSRS to engage on the best way to follow-up with the implementation of the plan, including how to interact with the newly formed committee (led by MoMD) responsible for the implementation of the national plan. Most importantly, ABC focal points leading localized durable solutions planning, jointly with local government (intended as more detailed area-level iterations of the national plan and framed as such to local authorities), are working to ensure effective coordination with government counterparts more broadly, inclusive of other key stakeholders in addition to MoMD.)

9. How will reconstruction projects be implemented, through companies or local livelihood projects such as cash for work or both?

MoMD is more of a coordination body rather than an executive one, and these projects and their implementation are more related to the sectorial ministries such as the Ministry of Housing, Construction, Municipalities, and Public Works. However, MoMD recommends that the implementation of the projects should focus on the participation of the most affected families as a workforce to ensure an integrated approach by a) increasing their access to shelter, basic services and such, b) offering job opportunities which could help communities in addressing their daily necessities. The international community CFW approach is a very good example in this regard.

(Note: Projects relating to reconstruction are more directly related to the Ministry of Planning, as well as the Ministry of Housing, Construction, and Municipalities, as noted by MoMD, hence further follow-up would be required with these entities to better understand implementation modalities. Previous engagement with MOP has indicated a great degree of flexibility and openness to suggested approaches, as well as openness to the various actors who could support and contribute to these projects.)

10. Given the importance of civil documentation in ensuring people have the opportunity to return to their home, is it possible that MoMD ensures the resolution of all civil documentation issues before any further camp closures? There were some positive examples of legal clinics being set up when previous camps were closed, what was the experience of MoMD and how can this be utilised in the future?

MoMD is part of a special committee (comprising a judge, MoMD, MOI (Ministry of Interior), MOD (Ministry of Defense) and NSA (National Security Advisory)) which deals with issuing documents for those who lost their documentation. The committee's staff consult with the field branches to identify such cases and refer them to the designated governmental authorities, mainly MoI, MoJ, MoD, and NSA. They also collaborate with the IHEC (Independent High Electoral Commission). In addition to that, the efforts of the protection partners are very much visible in all the affected governorates including the KRI by offering free-of-cost legal services to the IDPs and returnees.

11. Some local issues related to social cohesion still pose a barrier to people being able to return to their homes and obtain their rights, especially where local mukthars or other community leaders refuse to accept them back or provide access to services. What more can MoMD do to work with local governments to ensure that they play a supportive role in integrating people into communities?

The Ministry of Immigration and Displacement, represented by the minister, the deputy ministers, general directors, and directors of departments and branches, has a great role in supporting social cohesion through

regular coordination meetings with local authorities and community leaders to overcome all obstacles and ensure safe return for the families to their AoOs. MoMD consult with different entities including international partners to promote social cohesion that can facilitate the safe return of IDPs and in some places enable the local integration for those with intention to be locally integrated.

- 12. It was mentioned that to address some of the political and social cohesion barriers, committees at the local level are consulted, while the local government, NSS, MoD, MoI, NGOs and community figures such as religious and tribal leaders are involved with the objective of initiating reconciliation and achieving “societal peace”. How will those bodies coordinate or integrate the work they will do (if at all) with the work of the Community Dialogue Committees (CDCs), UNDP and the Committee for Dialogue and Societal Peace (which sits within the Prime Minister’s Office and is headed by Hisham Dawood)?**

The Ministry of Immigration and Displacement, represented by the minister, the deputy ministers, general directors, and directors of departments and branches, has a great role in supporting social cohesion through periodic coordination meetings with local authorities and community leaders to overcome all obstacles and support safe return. MoMD’s doors are open for different coordination mechanisms and platforms to elaborate with the ministry in terms of promoting social cohesion in the affected communities.

- 13. How will people with perceived affiliation to ISIL be targeted and included in the strategy?**

MoMD deals with all families from a humanitarian perspective by providing the required assistance that could include the provision of relief (in-kind assistance) for in/out of camp IDPs, IDPs in informal settlements, and those who settled with the host communities. This type of service is also applicable for returnees, especially those who returned from the camps. In addition to assistance, the other forms of support like the provision of transportation, emergency shelters, social cohesion and others are offered to all IDPs and returnees without any discrimination.

- 14. How will women be engaged effectively in the planning and implementation for the action plans?**

The national plan recognises that displacement deepens the gender gap and it targets women through PSS support and rehabilitation programmes, in addition to providing them with access to livelihood/economic opportunities to enable them to generate income for their families. This is for the women that head the families with perceived ISIL affiliation. The national plan also recognised that the needs of women and other groups will be considered in area level projects through consultations with these groups. MoMD has conducted some meetings with UN agencies, INGOs and CSOs to ensure the engagement of women in the implementation and monitoring of the national plan.

- 15. In addition, specific numbers of water, sewage, roads, schools, health and energy rehabilitation projects were mentioned. Can MoMD share a list of those rehabilitation projects with us?**

Yes.

(Note: The list provided are suggestions made by MoMD based on reports from their field teams and may differ to suggestions made by other government counterparts.)

- 16. What are the plans with regard to staffing/human resources especially of schools and health centres?**

The responsibilities of each single sectorial ministry and other governmental entity is very clear in the last section of the national plan. The reconstruction of schools for example was assigned to either the Ministry of Education or the local governments of the targeted governorates. All partners can go through this section of the plan for more information. MoMD may play a role in convening and supporting coordination between entities.

- 17. To what extent are the different parts of the plan coordinated with national policy/legislation, for example advancing on informal settlements law at the central level?**

The national plan was based on the policy/plan of each governorate in view of the conditions and obstacles of each governorate.

(Note: There are existing policies that support social cohesion and displacement e.g. the National Policy for Managing Displacement in Iraq, the NSA strategy for combating extremism, the National Reconciliation programme and other relevant policies. However, these are not fully referenced in the national plan.)