



IOM International Organization for Migration  
المنظمة الدولية للهجرة

## Terms of Reference (ToR)

### Returns Working Group

#### I. Purpose

In line with the 2016 strategic objective 3 of the Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan “to support voluntary, safe and dignified return” by monitoring and reporting on conditions in return areas and providing targeted assistance to highly vulnerable returnees, a **Returns Working Group** is being established under the umbrella of the Humanitarian Country Team:

- **Develop guidance, policies and operational recommendations** for Iraqi governorates affected by returns, based on the international frameworks and principles for humanitarian action (including those adopted/promoted by IASC, ICRC, IOM, UNHCR, etc.).
- **Provide technical advice** to government, at national and local levels, as well as Iraqi civil society (NGOs, private sector, media, academia, etc.) to support the implementation of IDP returns according to applicable international standards.
- **Determine to what extent durable solutions have been achieved for returnees**, or progress made, based on the definition of durable solutions in the Iraqi context.

Durable solutions in the Iraqi context acknowledge the multi-faceted dimensions of returns and aim at ensuring long term safety and security; non-discrimination; adequate standard of living; access to livelihoods and essential services; access to documentation; family reunification; participation in public affairs; as well as access to justice and effective remedies, including restoration of housing, land and property rights, at the same level as those in the return community who were not displaced. Durable solutions are achieved when IDPs no longer require specific assistance and can enjoy their human rights without discrimination as a result of their displacement.

#### II. WG Membership and Responsibilities

The WG will be chaired by IOM and co-chaired by an INGO. The following stakeholders will be part of it: UN Agencies (representing humanitarian and recovery portfolios), ICRC, INGOs and National NGOs. The number of permanent members should ideally be around twelve so as to allow for focussed discussions.

In addition, non-members - including donors, multilateral institutions and CIMIC - may attend WG meetings by special invitation. The WG will report to the Humanitarian Coordinator and feed into discussions of the ICCG and HCT. The WG will also provide input into the Returns Task Force that has been established by the SRSF. In addition, and through the WG chair, appropriate coordination with JCMC and JCC will be ensured.

Aiming to meet once per month in Erbil or Baghdad (with VTC link), the WG’s responsibilities will be to:

- a) Engage with members to ensure that all **short-term support to returns is principled and based on the longer-term goal of durable solutions.**



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- b) Engage with conflict affected populations, including local government authorities, and civil society, to ensure appropriate **consultations and representations in the development of longer-term solutions to displacement.**
- c) Engage with all humanitarian and recovery actors, including non-WB members, to foster **consistent responses and promote best practices on programming for returns.**

### **III. Activities**

1. Collect and analyse existing/on-going return assessments, data and guidelines to establish baseline indicators for principled and sustainable returns.
2. Develop and maintain a database of ongoing projects, including reporting on activities and services mapping, so as to identify gaps, duplications, and/or strengths.
3. Develop return principles as well as a common returns framework, based on lessons learned from previous instances of mass displacement, to be used by the clusters to guide them in their work.
4. Help coordinate governorate level return plans and support their alignment with the national framework.
5. Advise on the inclusion of returnee specific indicators in existing monitoring mechanisms in Iraq (DTM, HLP, PMT, RPA, RRM, etc.).
6. Establish standards and guidelines, in line with the common framework, for programme implementation.
7. Develop a comprehensive advocacy strategy, in support of operational plans and strategic frameworks for returns.
8. Establish with the participation of the protection as well as the emergency livelihoods and social cohesion clusters, and other relevant stakeholders, a special mechanism to ensure that protection and social cohesion principles are mainstreamed throughout the returns policies and response and that will feed into the inter-cluster coordination group for support.

Baghdad, 29 March 2016

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