

# Country Brief on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus

Iraq

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Results Group 4

## CONTEXT



The complex environment in Iraq calls for coherent, multi-sectoral and layered approaches to support the displacement of affected populations. The policy objective of the Government of Iraq to close camps as a means of ending displacement further necessitated a durable solutions approach to ensure a safe, voluntary, rights-based, sustainable and dignified process. For these reasons, the Humanitarian-

Development-Peace Nexus in Iraq is operationalized under a durable solutions architecture that was established in 2020. It brings together humanitarian, development, stabilization and peacebuilding actors and is structured around the Government's National Plan for Returning the IDPs to their Liberated Areas (2021) and the Iraq Durable Solutions Strategy and Operational Framework, developed by the Durable Solutions Technical Working Group (DSTWG) in 2021.

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**IASC** Inter-Agency Standing Committee

## THE NEXUS APPROACH

The nexus approach in Iraq is a collective process aimed at achieving durable solutions to the displacement of IDPs, returnees and other displacement affected populations. Key stakeholders include the UN, international/local NGOs and donors. The adopted methodology is based on an area-based approach focusing on eight common priority areas: Government leadership;

housing, land and property; livelihoods; basic services; documentation; safety and security; social cohesion and facilitated movements. These objectives are to be met through the development of area-based Plans of Action targeting locations with high numbers of displacement affected populations, high percentage of returns and areas with a high index of

severity across Iraq. The plans are being developed by seven Area-Based Coordination mechanisms (ABCs) at local level that bring together humanitarian, development and peace actors, local authorities and displacement affected communities. The Plans of Action will be multi-annual strategies that can be scaled up and replicated in other key locations across Iraq.

# OPERATIONALIZING THE NEXUS

## KEY STEPS



### 1. Leadership and capacity

The RC/HC leads the durable solutions approach through the Durable Solutions Task Force (DSTF), the Durable Solutions Technical Working Group and through the ABCs. The DSTF, a joint UN-NGO-Donor body, provides strategic direction and ensures a coherent approach. The DSTWG steers the development of technical guidelines and guides the implementation of activities at local level, ensuring harmonized standards and approaches.



### 2. Joint analysis and sharing of analyses

The compilation of assessments and analyses is a central aspect in developing the area-based Plans of Actions. Each member of the ABC and relevant extended partners are requested to share available data and analysis on the targeted locations. Further context analysis is obtained through OCHA and the Displacement Tracking Matrix. The consolidated findings inform the gap and needs analysis of the Plans of Action.



### 3. 'Collective outcomes' OR HDP priority areas

The strategic objective to achieve durable solutions for displacement-affected populations will be met through the priority objectives of government leadership; housing, land and property; livelihoods; basic services; documentation; safety and security; social cohesion and facilitated movements. The common priorities were agreed upon during the development of the Operational Framework, in consultation with humanitarian, development, stabilization, peacebuilding actors and donors, and are based on the IASC Framework.



### 4. Joined-up planning and programming

The common objectives for achieving durable solutions are reflected in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) complementing the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and aligned with the National Plan for Returning the IDPs to their Liberated Areas, which will further the dialogue on durable solutions with authorities at the national level and facilitate resource mobilization and reporting to bilateral donors. Outcomes, outputs and indicators will be closely aligned between the UNSDCF and the durable solutions architecture while the humanitarian aspects of durable solutions will remain relevant under the HRP. The specific objectives and ultimately progress toward the achievement of durable solutions are expected to be met through the coordinated and coherent implementation of humanitarian, development and peace-building activities across specific locations through an area-based approach.



## 5. Financing

The inclusion of durable solutions in the UNSDCF is an important step toward the financing of the approach in Iraq. A dedicated fund will support this mechanism. Extensive discussions are also taking place with bilateral donors to support activities in locations where durable solutions are required. This will be further strengthened once the local Plans of Action have been finalized.

### Strategic Objective

IDPs, returnees and other displacement-affected populations are supported to pursue and ultimately achieve a voluntary, safe and dignified durable solution to their displacement through return, local integration or settlement elsewhere in Iraq.



#### S01 | Government leadership

National and local authorities lead the development and implementation of effective and inclusive strategies to support durable solutions to displacement in Iraq for all displacement affected people.



#### S02 | Housing and HLP

Displacement affected populations have access to housing and security of tenure.



#### S03 | Livelihoods

Displacement affected populations have access to sustainable livelihoods and income.



#### S04 | Basic Services

Displacement affected populations have equitable access to basic services (school, health, electricity and water).



#### S05 | Documentation and Rights

Displacement affected populations have access to personal and other civil documentation and have equal access to justice.



#### S06 | Social Cohesion

Displacement affected populations are able to live together peacefully and in safety, with inter-communal trust strengthened.



#### S07 | Safety and security

Displacement affected populations feel safer and more secure in their areas of settlement.



#### S08 | Facilitated Movements:

Displaced people in priority displacement sites are supported to pursue their intentions in a safe and dignified manner.

# LESSONS LEARNT

## GOOD PRACTICES



**Anchoring the durable solutions approach at the local level** allows key actors with long-term presence and relevant activities, but also local authorities and communities, to be at the center of planning and implementation.



**Keeping the Area Based Coordination Mechanisms (ABCs) relatively small** with an average of 8 members ensures a dynamic, non-bureaucratic system. It however requires extensive efforts to include other relevant actors in planning and implementation. The ABCs are co-chaired by one humanitarian and one development actor.



**The role of the Durable Solutions Technical Working Group (DSTWG) as a central system providing technical support and developing tools and guidance** ensures that approaches are harmonized. It also acts as a link between local and national efforts.

## CHALLENGES



**Adequate support should be provided to the RC/HC** to continue to pull development and humanitarian partners together to support nexus efforts, complemented by financial resources.

This summary is part of the initiative Mapping good practice in the implementation of humanitarian-development-peace nexus approaches carried out by the IASC Results Group 4 in 2021.





## SPOTLIGHT ON **PEACE**

Due to the context in Iraq, conflict sensitivity, conflict analysis, context analysis and stakeholder mappings are an integral part of the strategy. Conflict analysis is carried out by peace actors who are members of the ABCs that contribute to the development of the Plans of Action. The Social Cohesion and Peacebuilding Sub-Group will also play a key role in sharing information on context and root causes of conflict in the areas targeted by the ABCs, and in preparing guidance and technical advice before and during the implementation phase of the Plans of Action.

Photo: OCHA



## SPOTLIGHT ON **GENDER**

Gender considerations form an integral part of the Plans of Action, including on issues relating to vulnerabilities and needs. Gender-sensitive programming is also being reflected in the outcomes, outputs and indicators that are being developed under the UNSDCF and durable solutions architecture.



## SPOTLIGHT ON **LOCAL ACTORS**

In coordinating the durable solutions activities, the ABCs reach out to all relevant local actors and communities and ensure that their vision on the strategy, priority locations, needs, gaps and responses are included in the Plans of Action. Roundtables are organized with local authorities during the planning phase of the local Plans of Action, ensuring their inclusion in the durable solutions process. This is also a first step towards handing over the coordination mechanism to authorities.