

Job description

REACH GIS OFFICER IN SYRIA (SYRIA-BASED)

(Reference: 19/SYR/GISO01)

BACKGROUND ON IMPACT AND REACH

REACH was born in 2010 as a joint initiative of two International NGOs ([IMPACT Initiatives](#) and [ACTED](#)) and the United Nations Operational Satellite Applications Programme ([UNOSAT](#)). REACH's **purpose** is to promote and facilitate the development of information products that enhance the humanitarian community's decision making and planning capacity for emergency, reconstruction and development contexts. REACH facilitates information management for aid actors through three complementary services: (a) need and situation assessments facilitated by REACH teams; (b) situation analysis using satellite imagery; (c) provision of related database and (web)-mapping facilities and expertise.

IMPACT Initiatives is a humanitarian NGO, based in Geneva, Switzerland. The organisation manages several initiatives, including the REACH Initiative. The IMPACT team comprises specialists in data collection, management and analysis and GIS. IMPACT was launched at the initiative of ACTED, an international NGO whose headquarter is based in Paris and is present in thirty countries. The two organizations have a strong complementarity formalized in a global partnership, enabling IMPACT to benefit from ACTED's operational support on its fields of intervention.

ACTED is a French humanitarian NGO, founded in 1993, which supports vulnerable populations, affected by humanitarian crises worldwide. ACTED provides continued support to vulnerable communities by ensuring the sustainability of post-crisis interventions and engaging long-term challenges facing our target populations, in order to break the poverty cycle, foster development and reduce vulnerability to disasters. Their interventions seek to cover the multiple aspects of humanitarian and development crises through a multidisciplinary approach which is both global and local, and adapted to each context. Their 3,300 staff is committed in to responding to emergencies worldwide, to supporting recovery and rehabilitation, towards sustainable development.

We are currently looking for a REACH Assessment Officer to support our team in Northeast Syria

Supervisor: REACH Senior Assessment Officer
Title: REACH GIS Officer
Location: Northeast Syria
Contract duration: 6 months
Start date: ASAP

COUNTRY PROFILE

The dynamic and multi-faceted nature of the Syrian humanitarian crisis has created significant challenges for information management. With 13.1 million people in need within the country as well as 5.6 million refugees outside of the country, the capacity of the humanitarian community to understand and meet the needs of conflict-affected populations is extremely stretched. To respond to a crisis of such scale, timely and comparable information is required across Syria and its neighboring countries. In this context, since 2013, REACH has been working closely in coordination with humanitarian clusters as well as with other national and regional coordination mechanisms such as OCHA and Cash Based Responses Technical Working Group to address information gaps and implement assessments that contribute to informing the humanitarian response. Overall, since the onset of the deployment, REACH has been involved in macro and regional multisectoral assessments, informed cash and voucher programming across Syria through monthly Market Monitoring Exercise, extended technical support to the CCCM Community Level IDP Tracking Project in Syria and conducted rapid assessments in response to contextual changes. More information can be found here: <http://www.reach-initiative.org/where-we-work/ongoing-field-presence/syria>.

POSITION PROFILE

Under the supervision of the REACH Senior Assessment Officer and IMPACT HQ in Geneva, the REACH GIS Officer is responsible for the management and implementation of all REACH ad hoc needs assessments and rapid needs assessments in and out of camps, including their preparation, implementation, and follow-up.

Summary

The REACH GIS Officer shall be responsible for:

- Designing the methodology, tools, and data analysis plan associated with each needs and rapid needs assessment, according to REACH requirements and principles.
- Analyzing data and drafting reports for use in coordination of humanitarian aid in Northeast Syria.
- Producing GIS products, such as report insert maps, standalone maps and online dashboards.
- Implementing and monitoring the REACH needs assessment strategy in coordination with Country Coordinator and REACH Assessment Managers Northeast Syria;
- In coordination with REACH Assessment Managers, external representation of REACH with donors, partners, and the wider aid community through clusters and sectoral working groups;
- Management of REACH assessment field staff to ensure a smooth and timely implementation of activities;
- Coordinate and ensure timely data collection, analysis and, in partnership with GIS/DB team, mapping of datasets, ensure that all collected data are geo-referenced;
- Liaising with programme staff of other ACTED departments to ensure close coordination and information sharing is maintained;
- Coordinate timely and accurate reporting to IMPACT HQ along with the REACH Assessment Managers and Country Coordinator.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Assessment Design and Implementation

The REACH Assessment Officer (AO) is responsible for designing the methodology, tools, and data analysis plan associated with each needs and rapid needs assessment, according to REACH requirements and principles. He/she will manage the planning, implementation, and follow-up of all REACH- and projects-specific assessment activities conducted in country.

The REACH AO is responsible for leading the implementation of RNAs and needs assessment, providing support to the development of assessment, database, and GIS tools with the REACH team. This will specifically include, with the GIS/DB team, designing of data collection tools (household surveys, focus groups, KI surveys); development or review of databases; contributing to GIS data collection procedures and mapping thereof through ARC GIS and other ESRI products in particular; and analysis of spatial and other information to contribute to reports and other information products.

2. Production of GIS Outputs

The REACH AO is responsible for developing and producing GIS outputs and data visualizations, such as report maps, standalone maps and online dashboards. He/she is also responsible for providing input on data analysis and visualizations during output production.

The REACH AO is also responsible for supporting with staff development by conducting trainings and supervising the skill development of the GIS assistant and other staff members.

3. Creation of timely, accurate, and coherent research outputs

The REACH AO is responsible for consolidating all analyses and conclusions from each assessment into REACH products such as factsheets, reports, presentations using IMPACT HQ templates, where needed. He/she will liaise with Geneva and Regional GIS/DB Specialists in order to spatially analyse and represent data in interactive web map or static map format, as relevant.

He/she must ensure the writing of timely and accurate assessment reports and factsheets, ensuring the quality and accuracy of technical information provided as well as the confidentiality and protection of collected information, in line with the IMPACT data protection policy. He/she is also responsible for creation GIS products, such as insert maps for reports.

4. Staff Management

The REACH AO is responsible for day-to-day management of project and field. He/she is expected to guide and direct REACH staff and prepare and follow up workplans with each staff member that directly reports to him/her. The REACH AO will ensure that all field teams are comprehensively briefed on the objective, expected outputs and that the overall implementation strategy of any given activity is clearly understood. He/she will ensure that project/field staff are given training and complete all the necessary documentation in line with program requirements set by REACH.

5. External engagement

Representation of ACTED/REACH in cluster and inter-cluster meetings, as well as technical working groups, when relevant. He/she will engage with external partners, including UN agencies, INGOs, NGOs, and other partners as needed based on the topic at hand. He/she will ensure to present at all relevant forums to raise awareness of the assessments within his/her portfolio.

REQUIREMENTS

- ❖ Excellent academic qualifications, including a Master's degree, if relevant;
- ❖ 1 year of relevant working experience in a humanitarian setting;
- ❖ Experience working with GIS (ArcGIS or QGIS) as well as data visualization in general;
- ❖ Experience working and living in challenging environments for extended periods of time;
- ❖ Strong knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel;
- ❖ Knowledge of the Adobe Suite software, particularly Illustrator and InDesign;
- ❖ Experience with mobile data collection (ODK, ONA, KOBO);
- ❖ Excellent communication and report writing skills;
- ❖ Excellent analytical skills – ability to situate findings within a wider context;
- ❖ Strong interpersonal skills and ability to thrive in a multi-cultural team;
- ❖ Team management experience an asset;
- ❖ Familiarity with the aid system an asset;
- ❖ Prior knowledge of the Syria context an asset;
- ❖ Fluency in English required, Arabic skills an asset;
- ❖ Willingness to relocate to Syria.

CONDITIONS

- Salary defined by the IMPACT salary grid; educational level, expertise, hardship, security, and performance are considered for pay bonus
- Additional monthly living allowance
- Food allowance and accommodation provided at the organisation's guesthouse/or housing allowance (depending on contract length and country of assignment)
- Transportation costs covered, including additional return ticket + luggage allowance
- Provision of medical, life, and repatriation insurance + retirement package

For more information, visit us at <http://www.impact-initiatives.org>