

Job Description

REACH GIS AND REMOTE SENSING SPECIALIST FOR SYRIA

(Reference: 20/SYR/GISRS01)

BACKGROUND ON IMPACT AND REACH

REACH was born in 2010 as a joint initiative of two INGOs (IMPACT Initiatives and ACTED) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) 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, supporting and working within the framework of the humanitarian reform process. 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 humanitarian think tank, based in Geneva, Switzerland. The organization manages several initiatives, including the REACH Initiative. The IMPACT team comprises specialists in data collection, management and analysis, GIS and remote-sensing.

We are currently looking for a REACH GIS and Remote Sensing Specialist to support our team in Syria.

Title:	REACH GIS and Remote Sensing Specialist
Supervisor:	REACH Deputy Country Coordinator
Location:	Amman, Jordan
Contract duration:	12 months (renewable)
Start date:	ASAP

POSITION PROFILE

Under the supervision of the REACH Syria Deputy Country Coordinator and of IMPACT's HQ in Geneva, the REACH GIS and Remote Sensing Specialist will be responsible for supporting all processes and outputs related to GIS and Remote Sensing in country. The specialist will provide dotted line management for all GIS staff and contribute to the development and implementation of REACH strategy in Syria.

During his/her mission, the REACH GIS and Remote Sensing Specialist will be hosted by ACTED and will fall under the direct responsibility and management of ACTED's Country Director and his/her delegates for all Administrative, Security, Logistics and Finance issues. S/he will therefore fully abide to ACTED's Security, HR, Administration and Logistics rules and regulations.

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FUNCTIONS

In coordination with the REACH Country Coordinator and the Deputy Country Coordinator, the REACH GIS and Remote Sensing Specialist is responsible for:

Support and oversight of GIS officers

- Serving in an advisory capacity to Syria Country Coordinator and the Deputy Country Coordinator, the Syria GIS and Remote Sensing Specialist will provide strategic direction and technical oversight for GIS and remote sensing activities within the Syria mission.
- Tracking of all hub GIS work plans and consolidation into master work plan.
- The GIS and Remote Sensing Specialist will be provided with hub GIS work plans by hub GISOs and advise the regional coordinator on issues related to GIS work load (e.g. staff availability, need for support, etc.);
- Responsible for non-product specific outputs and GIS capacity support (e.g. UNOSAT partnership, Remote Sensing analysis, surge, partner GIS/mapping requests etc.) All outputs that don't originate from Syria product research cycles will be the responsibility of the GIS and Remote Sensing Specialist, either directly providing GIS capacity or advising the regional coordinator on GIS staff with availability to support.

Review and verification of Syria GIS outputs

- Review and verification of all GIS and remote sensing products prior to Geneva validation. All GIS and remote products should be reviewed and verified by the GIS and Remote Sensing Specialist before sending to HQ, to ensure a coherent style of products are maintained and minimize the time required for final validation and publication.

Management of GIS Data

- Support and supervise GIS field missions
- Monitor the accuracy of data collected
- Ensure accurate linkages between spatial databases, remotely sensed imagery and assessment data
- Ensure data management and server efficiency with Database Officers

Strategy Development and Implementation.

As a member of the Senior Management Team, the GIS and Remote Sensing Specialist will participate and actively contribute to the development of the REACH strategy in Syria. In particular s/he will support in identifying:

- Information gaps that could be filled by GIS and/or remote sensing
- Synergies with other GIS and IM actors
- Dissemination strategies to strengthen the impact of our GIS and IM work
- Support in the preparation and follow up of country level internal strategic workshops and plans
- Engagement with IMPACT HQ in global level GIS priorities

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External Engagement

- Represent the Syria team in relevant Information Management (IM) fora, ex. WoS IMWG, or other external engagement as needed for presentations or technical workshops.

Confidentiality and Data Protection

- The REACH GIS and Remote Sensing Specialist will maintain the strictest confidentiality of data and processes. He/she will actively take measures to prevent the unauthorized sharing of information and data.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Ensure compliance with relevant GIS guidelines
 - Mapping guidelines are systematically followed
 - Map templates consistently used
 - Map validation process respected
- Ensure adherence to research cycle TOR
 - GIS products support the research as designed and align to the analysis plan envisioned
 - Data is handled according to the arrangements specified in the data management plan
- Ensure internal communication protocols followed
 - Regular communication is maintained with IMPACT HQ on progress and deadlines for GIS products
 - Problems related to specific assessments are reported by writing and orally in a timely manner
- Ensure maps produced in a timely and accurate manner
 - Average number of days between end of data collection and internal product validation
 - Total number of maps receiving final validation
- Lead remote sensing projects
 - Number and type of remote sensing projects completed
- Human Resource management
 - Retention rate among supervised national and international staff
 - Progression in performance of supervised staff

ACCOUNTABILITY TO COMMUNITIES AND BENEFICIARIES

The staff member is responsible for ensuring that all relations with the communities REACH and partners work are conducted in a respectful and consultative manner. Due attention must be paid to ensuring that communities are adequately consulted and informed about REACH programme objectives, activities, beneficiary selection criteria, and methodologies. This is the responsibility of every REACH staff member.

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REQUIREMENTS

Essential

- Master's degree in geo-informatics, cartography, surveying or similar, with a focus on remote sensing and GIS;
- At least 3 years of relevant working experience in GIS and Remote Sensing;
- Good knowledge of basic remote sensing (passive sensors), satellite image processing and thematic analysis of satellite imagery;
- Good knowledge of GIS data management and processing;
- Excellent analytical skills;
- Excellent team management skills;
- Operational knowledge of Python
- Ability to operate in a cross-cultural environment requiring flexibility;
- Fluency in English required, Arabic is an asset
- Ability to work independently;

Desirable

- Experience developing machine learning algorithms for remote sensing
- Operational knowledge of R or other programming programs;
- Familiarity with the aid system, and understanding of donor and governmental requirements;
- Basic knowledge of Adobe suite of products (InDesign, Illustrator);
- Prior knowledge of the region an asset;

CONDITIONS

- Salary defined by the IMPACT salary grid; educational level, expertise, hardship, security, and performance are considered for pay bonus
- Additional monthly living allowance
- Free food and lodging 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