

REACH JUNIOR ASSESSMENT OFFICER - CASH & MARKETS

(Reference: 20/SYR/JAOCM)

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.

We are currently looking for a REACH Junior Assessment Officer to support our REACH Syria team.

Department: REACH
Position: REACH Junior Assessment Officer
Contract duration: 6 months
Location: Amman, Jordan
Starting Date: ASAP

COUNTRY PROFILE

Into its ninth year of conflict, conditions in Syria remain highly volatile and marked by intense violence and limited humanitarian access. The scale, complexity, and severity of humanitarian needs in Syria extends the necessity for up to date, timely, and accurate information. Evidence-based planning and programming remains paramount to ensure that the response adequately meets the needs of the most vulnerable people and is tailored to different realities across communities and over time. However, informing operational and strategic planning remains highly challenging, as accessibility and security issues impede systematic data collection. A lack of predictable and consistent data undermines the ability of humanitarian actors to review their approach in light of the dynamic context. REACH has been conducting assessments on the humanitarian situation in Syria since 2013 and has over the years grown significantly both in size and in influence as an actor in the Syria response. REACH works in opposition-controlled parts of Syria and coordinates closely with OCHA, nearly all clusters, key working groups (IM and technical) within the Syria coordination system, and various NGO fora in order to identify, address, and raise awareness of key information gaps, as well as to uphold the quality of data used to inform the response.

Through these engagements, REACH has identified that the following key challenges remain: (1) the lack of a needs tracking system that brings together and shares timely and regular information on changes in needs from a variety of sources; (2) the ability to conduct coordinated large scale data collection on a more regular basis – particularly critical in the highly volatile context, and during key humanitarian milestones such as the HNO; (3) the lack information from harder to reach areas with some of the most acute needs (4) lack of ability to quickly mobilise data collection in areas experiencing sudden escalations in conflict, due to accessibility, operational and security constraints; (5) the lack of more granular and detailed information on needs and response capacity on specific newly accessible geographic areas. Broadly speaking, REACH Syria implements assessments within four key streams:

- Monitoring of the humanitarian situation in Syria, through monthly assessments covering over 1,600 communities in Syria, market monitoring to track prices of goods as per the survival minimum expenditure basket (SMEB), and ad hoc rapid assessments in times of sudden escalations in conflict or natural disasters.
- Displacement tracking, through tracking the movement of IDPs and Returnees down to a 24-48 hour basis, as well as monitoring the humanitarian situation inside IDP camps and informal settlements.
- Area-Based Assessments to support humanitarian actors in the coordination to identify key response gaps by comparing humanitarian needs data with response data, in a set locality – often one that has recently become accessible and/or that is recovering for instance from besiegement.
- Technical support to clusters, for example in the form of coordination and implementation of sector and multisector assessments to inform the HNO, production of thematic assessments, presentations of findings, and capacity building.

For an example of REACH Syria information products, please see below:

- [REACH: Syria Market Monitoring, September Northwest factsheet](#)
- REACH: Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria, March [Northeast regional factsheet](#) and [Northwest regional factsheet](#)

POSITION PROFILE

REACH Syria is seeking a Junior Assessment Officer (JAO) to provide support to the Cash & Markets Unit. In this role, the JAO will be responsible for leading and supporting on components of the ongoing monthly Market Monitoring and Rapid Market Assessment research cycles. The JAO will work closely with the REACH Cash & Markets Assessment Officer (AO) and will help to coordinate with Cash Working Groups (CWG), Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) bodies, and other relevant sectoral actors on matters related to evolving information needs and REACH assessments. Tasks the JAO will lead on include the implementation of the monthly market assessment, the output production for the monthly market assessment, and the design and update of the monthly market assessment. Tasks the JAO will support on include external engagement and ad-hoc analysis and information requests.

FUNCTIONS

Objective 1: Research Design

Under the supervision of the Cash & Markets Assessment Officer and in consultation with CWG and FSL coordinators, REACH field teams, and the Data and Research Units in IMPACT HQ, the JAO will lead in maintaining and updating the design of the monthly Market Monitoring and Rapid Market Assessment research cycles to ensure they follow the best practices as defined by the global standards of REACH and IMPACT, and closely fit the most up-to-date information needs of relevant clusters.

Objective 2: Implementation

Under the supervision of the Cash & Markets Assessment Officer, and in collaboration with CWG and FSL coordinators and the IMPACT Data Unit, the JAO will lead the implementation of select operational stages of the monthly Market Monitoring and Rapid Market Assessment research cycles and support the remaining operational stages. Operational stages include the relevant data collection exercises, methodology and indicator design, the maintenance and revision of KoBo tool and other technical tools, coordination of data collection with field teams, data cleaning, and data analysis.

Objective 3: Output Production

Under the supervision of the Cash & Markets Assessment Officer, and in collaboration with CWG and FSL coordinators and the IMPACT Reporting Unit, the JAO will lead the production all relevant outputs related to the monthly Market Monitoring and Rapid Market Assessment research cycles. These outputs may include cleaned excel datasets, InDesign situation overviews (including narratives), reports, and online dashboards.

Objective 4: Coordination and External Engagement

Under the supervision of the Cash & Markets Assessment Officer, the JAO will support in the coordination with CWG, FSL, and other appropriate stakeholders throughout all stages of the Research Cycle. The JAO will also support in managing all related external engagement, including assisting in the development of key assessment messages.

Objective 5: Ad-Hoc Analysis and Information Requests

Under the supervision of the Cash & Markets Assessment Officer and in collaboration with other members of the Cash & Markets Unit or other REACH Syria units, the JAO will support on ad-hoc analysis of existing data at the request of cluster or working group partners. This may include more targeted analysis of Rapid Market Assessment data or may include supporting in targeted or trends analysis of data from other related projects.

REQUIREMENTS

- Excellent academic qualifications, including a Master degree in relevant discipline;
- Proven analytical skills; skills in Excel, SPSS, R or other statistical packages or scripting languages;
- At least 1 year of relevant working experience in humanitarian settings;
- Proven coordination and external engagement skills;
- Excellent organizational skills;
- Demonstrably curious nature and penchant for dogged problem solving;
- Written and spoken fluency in English required;
- Excellent communication and drafting skills for effective reporting and coordination;

- Ability to operate in a cross-cultural environment requiring flexibility;
- Ability to work independently.

DESIRABLE

- Experience with all parts of the research cycle
- Previous experience in InDesign;
- Knowledge of the humanitarian coordination structure;
- Knowledge of the Syrian context.

CONDITIONS

- Salary defined by the IMPACT salary grid; educational level, expertise, hardship, security, and performance are considered for pay bonus.
- Additional monthly living allowance provided in country by IMPACT's partner ACTED.
- 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.