REACH DATA SPECIALIST IN AFGHANISTAN
Reference: 22/AFG/DS01

BACKGROUND ON IMPACT AND REACH

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, GIS and remote sensing. 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, which allows particularly IMPACT to benefit from ACTED's operational support on its fields of intervention.

REACH was born in 2010 as a joint initiative of two International NGOs (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.

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 are committed to responding to emergencies worldwide, to supporting recovery and rehabilitation, towards sustainable development.

We are currently looking for a Data Specialist to support our REACH team in Afghanistan.

Department: IMPACT

Position: **Data Specialist**

Contract duration: 12 months

Starting Date: ASAP

Location: Mazar-i-Sharif, Afghanistan

COUNTRY PROFILE

Forty years of war, recurrent natural disasters, chronic poverty, drought and the COVID-19 pandemic have devastated the people of Afghanistan. At the same time, the recent economic upheaval and ruptures in basic services, financial systems and civil service are transpiring and exacerbating an already dire humanitarian situation. Even prior to the events of 15 August, the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan was one of the worst in the world. By the mid-year mark, nearly half of the population – some 18.4 million people – were already in need of humanitarian and protection assistance in 2021; more than 22 million are projected to be in need in 2022.

In light of the political turmoil and economic crisis facing Afghanistan after the events of 2021, the humanitarian response is implementing an unprecedented scale-up in implementation to meet such critical and rapidly worsening need across the country. As such, the needs for evidenced-based humanitarian aid and information on populations in both accessible and inaccessible areas is paramount to an effective, accountable, and coordinated response.

IMPACT has been present in Afghanistan since 2016, providing a growing evidence base for humanitarian response planning through sectoral, multi-sectoral and area-based assessments as well as information management services across the entire country, with bases in all regions of Afghanistan. The mission is structured around three units, each with key objectives to support different aspects of the response. This includes (1) supporting strategic planning and prioritization through the Inter-Sectoral Research Unit (ISRU), (2) emphasizing localization agendas through area-based early recovery and development through the Resilience and Recovery Unit (RRRU), and (3) providing programmatic and operational support to key actors and partners in the aid response to ensure effective, appropriate, transparent, and accountable delivery of assistance to the people of Afghanistan through the Programming and Accountability Research Unit (PARU).

POSITION PROFILE

Under the supervision of the IMPACT Afghanistan Country Coordinator and of IMPACT's HQ in Geneva, the REACH Data Specialist will be responsible for providing technical backstopping to all Data processes, as well as information management systems, including web applications, in country. The DS will ensure regular communication with REACH Research Managers and their assessment teams in country and with IMPACT HQ. They supervise and provide capacity building to all Data analysis and GIS staff and contribute to the development and implementation of REACH strategy in Afghanistan.

The Data Specialist responsibilities include:

1. **Technical backstopping of Data, Database functions, and GIS, within research cycles**
   - The Data Specialist must ensure all planned IMPACT research assessment cycles are meeting / exceeding IMPACT's research standards, wider academic standards and overall research ethics in the research methods, data processing and analysis, and GIS practices being used in country.
   - Support project teams to co-construct qualitative and quantitative data collection tools and mapping tools, ensuring data requirements of research cycle/assessment are met;
   - Keep track of progress and delays of all data, information-management, and GIS, tasks throughout the research cycle. Ensure that delays or identified problems are reported by writing and orally in a timely manner.
   - Work with Data managers and GIS staff, Research Manager(s), and Assessment Officers, to ensure data analysis, operations, and assessment staff are trained on high-standard data cleaning scripts and approaches, including provision of training where needed.
   - Develop advanced data cleaning scripts and ensure all relevant staff are trained in their use.
   - Work closely with Research Manager(s) and relevant data analysis staff to ensure streamlined data cleaning approaches are used across all research cycles and Units in the mission
   - Establish coordination and technical systems to ensure all incoming data is revised and cleaned, and that all revisions are recorded;
   - Ensure that all collected Data is stored in line with IMPACT's Data Management Guidelines, and with the ToRs (Data management plan Annex);

- Establish systems to ensure that all data, analysis, and GIS outputs in the mission are validated by IMPACT HQ before product drafting stage;

- In coordination with IMPACT's Country Coordinator, Senior Management Team, and senior data and GIS team, and with the assessment team, ensure that lessons learned are gathered and documented at the end of each research cycle.

2. Functional and Line-Management of Data and GIS staff

- Conduct regular meeting with all international and senior national data analysis, GIS, and assessment members to assess progress on data cleaning and analysis standards across all research cycles, in line with the national data strategy, as well as use and application of GIS technologies and outputs.

- Review data analysis products of key research cycles (clean datasets, analysis scripts, etc.)

- Review GIS products of key research cycles

- Close collaboration with Research Managers and senior data and GIS staff who are line managing data analysis staff on the career development, work planning and technical guidance of the relevant data and GIS staff.

- Bilateral management of international and senior national data analysis and GIS staff as needed, including (in consultation with IMPACT Country Coordinator) the conduct of appraisals, as well as participation in staff career management;

- In coordination with Country Coordinator, conduct induction for new staff members

- Provide ongoing training for all staff at varying skills levels to ensure capacity building and skills development

3. External Relations in coordination with the IMPACT/ REACH Country Coourdinator

- Ensure that relevant partners are consulted and involved in the preparation of data analysis and GIS products;

- Engage in relevant technical fora in country (e.g. IM/Data working groups) and focal points from other key organisations engaged with data analytics and GIS in Afghanistan

- Support the presentation of data analysis and GIS approaches or products to relevant third parties, to enhance their use and impact;

4. Strategy Development and Implementation.

The Data Specialist will participate and actively contribute to the development of the REACH strategy in Afghanistan in support to the Country Coordinator. In particular, s/he will support in identifying and concretising:

- Data/IM and GIS gaps in country and develop a national data strategy that includes mission-level objectives, desired standards, and action points to achieve these objectives

- Synergies with other Data/IM and GIS actors

- Dissemination strategies to strengthen the impact of our data/IM and GIS work

- Engagement with IMPACT HQ in global level data and GIS priorities

The Data Specialist will maintain the strictest confidentiality on all data collected and related processes. He/she will actively take measures to prevent the unauthorized sharing of any information and data belonging to IMPACT and its partners, or collected during his/her assignment with IMPACT.

During their mission, the REACH Data Specialist will be hosted by ACTED and will fall under the direct responsibility and management of ACTED's Country Director and their delegates for all Administrative, Security, Logistics and Finance issues. They will therefore fully abide to ACTED's Security, HR, Administration and Logistics rules and regulations.

REQUIREMENTS

- ❖ Excellent academic qualifications, including a bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Statistics, Economics, GIS, Information Systems, or relevant discipline;

- ❖ Minimum of 4 years of relevant experience working in information management, database management, analytics, GIS, or a related field;

- ❖ Experience operating in a humanitarian settings highly desirable;

- ❖ Demonstrated experience in team management, and delivering trainings and longer term capacity building

- ❖ Proven experience in data processing and analysis

- ❖ Advanced skills in R mandatory

- ❖ Proven experience in use of GIS softwares such as ArcGIS

- ❖ Strong understanding of sampling methodologies and statistical analysis

- ❖ Considerable experience using ODK/KOBO for quantitative data collection;

- ❖ Excellent analytical and problem-solving skills;

- ❖ Excellent team working skills;

- ❖ Good organizational, communication and interpersonal skills;

- ❖ Ability to think creatively in terms of tool and process development;

- ❖ Positive attitude and a willingness to learn;

- ❖ Ability to operate in a cross-cultural environment requiring flexibility;

- ❖ Fluency in English required;

- ❖ Ability to work independently;

- ❖ 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 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