

REACH GIS SPECIALIST FOR SOUTH SUDAN

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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 GIS Specialist to support our team in South Sudan.

Department: REACH
Position: GIS Specialist
Contract duration: 12 months
Location: Juba, South Sudan
Starting Date: ASAP

COUNTRY PROFILE

IMPACT, through REACH, has been implementing programming in South Sudan since 2012. Responding to the Sudan Border Crisis, REACH initially engaged through coordinated information management support – in the form of refugee camp mapping and service provision analyses, thematic assessments, and multi-sectoral needs assessments – in Maban County, Upper Nile State and Pariang County, Unity State. IMPACT was engaged by DFID to provide a series of impact evaluations of their BRACE programming across Greater Bahr el Ghazal and Upper Nile States in 2013; a programme with run for two years, included 5 total assessments, and reached a total of more than 20,000 households. Immediately following the conflict of December 2013, REACH expanded its programming to include the IDP response, participating in Initial Rapid Needs.

Assessments of conflict affected areas, providing mapping and monthly service provision analyses for major IDP sites around the country, and running large-scale IDP return intentions assessments.

2018 saw the expansions of both IMPACT and REACH programming to 10 of 10 states, spanning the refugee, IDP and development responses, and covering diverse activities such as cross-border port monitoring, assessments of hard to reach areas, flood mapping and vulnerability analysis, market monitoring and supply chain analysis, analysis of tensions and conflicts over access to natural resources, and third party monitoring of humanitarian and development programming. In 2019, REACH expanded its role within the technical space, increasing involvement in Integrated Phase Classification (IPC), Needs Analysis Working Group, UN technical agencies, and academics. In response, REACH has also expanded into multiple new research cycle streams beyond humanitarian needs monitoring, including sector specific, population movement, and AAP research. Broadly, REACH South Sudan implements assessments across three core units:

- Monitoring of the humanitarian situation in South Sudan, through monthly assessments covering over 2,000 settlements in South Sudan, conducting an annual representative Multi Sector Needs Assessment to provide a snapshot of needs, and ad hoc rapid assessments in times of sudden escalations in conflict or natural disasters.
- Monitoring population movement trends in South Sudan, including tracking and analyzing large-scale displacement, returns and seasonal movements, through port and road monitoring, ad-hoc assessments, and a population movement baseline; assessing the perceptions of affected populations of the humanitarian response; engaging with the protection cluster in identifying and filling major information gaps; and mainstreaming a context sensitive approach within REACH South Sudan.
- Providing direct technical support to humanitarian clusters through active engagement with coordination bodies, dedicated assessments and information products, and strategic engagement to promote innovative methods towards understanding sector-related needs in South Sudan.

The GIS Specialist would support across all three units and streams of work. More information on REACH's work in South Sudan can be found here: <https://www.reach-initiative.org/where-we-work/south-sudan/>.

FUNCTIONS

Under the line management of the IMPACT Country Coordinator in South Sudan, the GIS Specialist ensures the validity and strengthens the quality and efficiency of all geospatial data, analysis and information systems across IMPACT research cycles in South Sudan, in accordance with IMPACT's standards, partner expectations, and IMPACT's ethos of facilitating an evidence-based response. In coordination with the Country Senior Management Team, the GIS Specialist will provide technical inputs at all stages of relevant research cycles, including for secondary data reviews, assessment conceptualization, research design, data cleaning, data and geo-spatial analysis, production of information products (inclusive of maps and factsheets), and dissemination of information products, etc. S/he will be involved in partner coordination, donor reporting, presentations, and will be required to provide input to the strategic development of IMPACT in South Sudan. The GIS Specialist will also be responsible for developing and implementing a continuous capacity building program for national and international team members, and (when relevant) for providing trainings to partners.

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

RESPONSIBILITIES

STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT & IMPLEMENTATION

The GIS Specialist will participate and actively contribute to the development of IMPACT's strategy in South Sudan, in support to the Country Coordinator. She/he may be asked to collaborate in the Senior Management Team. In particular s/he will support in identifying and concretising:

- GIS and information management gaps in country and develop a national GIS and IM strategy
- Ensuring the national GIS/IM strategy is integrated and actioned across units and within individual work plans of GIS officers
- Synergies with other GIS and IM actors
- Dissemination strategies to strengthen the impact of our GIS and IM work
- Engagement with IMPACT HQ in global level GIS priorities

RESEARCH PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

- In coordination with management and assessment teams, ensuring that assessments are planned in line with project and program objectives and with IMPACT GIS, research cycle and other relevant guidelines;
- Identification of available GIS to inform secondary data review, in coordination with the assessment team;
- For each assessment, ensure contribution to and review of draft ToRs with a specific focus on the analysis plan, as well as data management plan, and related mapping;
- In coordination with Assessment team, co-construct qualitative and quantitative data collection tools, ensuring GIS requirements of research cycle/assessment are met;
- Develop geo-spatial analysis of assessment areas to be used, as relevant, in developing daily assessment plans, field movement plans and accompanying operational maps for field teams;
- Keep track of progress and delays of all GIS and relevant data- and information-management tasks throughout the research cycle. Ensure that delays or identified problems are reported by writing and orally in a timely manner.
- When relevant, ensure that support is provided by the GIS staff for the identification and training of enumerators for primary data collection;
- When relevant, ensure that support is provided by GIS staff in overseeing data collection, in line with agreed TORs (including their Annexes), including spatial verification and validation as part of daily assessment checks;
- Ensure that collected data is geo-referenced, enabling the production of maps and related products;
- In coordination with the assessment team, ensure that all changes in data collection that lead to a modification in the agreed TORs are documented; and that the IMPACT Country Coordinator and IMPACT HQ are informed and agree on the modifications.

DATA MANAGEMENT, CLEANING AND ANALYSIS

- Ensure that all collected data is stored in line with IMPACT's Data Management Guidelines, and with the ToRs (data management plan Annex);
- Ensure that data is revised and cleaned, and that all revisions are recorded;
- Ensure spatial analysis is conducted on collected data as per ToRs;
- Ensure that data and its spatial analysis are validated by IMPACT HQ before product drafting stage;
- Ensure that data and its analysis do not contain personal information and are validated by IMPACT HQ before sharing to external parties;
- Ensure the quality and accuracy of technical information provided as well as the confidentiality and protection of collected information.

DRAFTING OF PRODUCTS

- Ensure accurate linkages between spatial databases and assessment data;
- Ensure that the GIS products meet the requirements of IMPACT and concerned partners;
- Maintain regular communication with IMPACT HQ on progress and deadlines for GIS products;
- Ensure the drafting of timely and accurate GIS products, which comply with IMPACT's guidelines;
- Ensure that all GIS products are validated by IMPACT HQ before external release;
- When relevant, in close coordination with IMPACT HQ, support the regular maintenance and update of web GIS products;
- In coordination with the CC/CR, liaise with IMPACT HQ on the procurement of UNOSAT services and satellite imagery.

TEAM FUNCTIONAL SUPERVISION AND LINE-MANAGEMENT

- Close collaboration with Research Managers who are line managing GIS staff in their units on the career development, work planning and technical guidance of the relevant GIS staff; in addition to direct line management of cross-cutting GIS staff (if relevant);
- Conduct regular meeting with all international and senior national GIS Team members to assess progress in all research cycles and to review work plan;
- Reviewing the GIS unit staff work throughout research cycles (clean datasets, analysis scripts, maps, etc.)
- Bilateral management of international and senior national GIS team members 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/Representative, conduct induction for new staff members, and provide ongoing training for staff;
- Be available to provide regular support and technical backstopping;
- When relevant, support Country Coordinator/Representative and RMs in staff appraisal and recruitment process.

INTERNAL KNOWLEDGE SHARING, LEARNING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

- Identify GIS capacity gaps, and resolve to bridge these through targeted capacity building, training, performance monitoring, and backstopping where needed;
- Support to the line managers and specialists in the development and implementation of GIS capacity training plans for team members;
- Conduct and support regular training to country teams, including regular updates on IMPACT guidelines, adapted South Sudan training modules, learning on the job; Complement in house training material with external resources, if and as relevant;
- Ensure impact of trainings and progression of staff is monitored;
- Pro-actively provide regular technical support and backstopping to teams;
- Support to GIS/ Assessment / unit teams to systematically review the efficiency and quality of research cycles and information products;
- Support monitoring and evaluation for relevant Research Cycle, as specified in the research ToRs and in line with IMPACT Guidelines;
- Contribute to generating and documenting robust lessons learned at the end of relevant Research Cycle;
- Ensure knowledge and learning processes are shared across the [mission/region] and with HQ;
- Able and available to engage with Global Units and global learning processes, such as methodology notes, lessons learned, SOPs, Communities of Practice, etc;
- Continuously seek to improve and innovate IMPACT research, GIS practices, information products and processes to identify and meet information gaps in South Sudan humanitarian response in order to support in the facilitation of an evidence-based response;

- Work closely with other specialists in South Sudan to develop, implement and monitor a multi-disciplinary training and learning plan for IMPACT teams;
- More generally, contributes to creating a culture of rigour, innovation and learning within IMPACT's operations.

STRATEGY, PROGRAM AND PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

- Contribute to country, regional and unit strategies development with relevant technical and thematic contents;
- Ensure that GIS strategies are implemented in a structured and coherent manner in line with project and strategic objectives;
- Support the development/revision of programme strategies, reports, or new proposals.

EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT

- Under the coordination of the IMPACT Country Coordinator and RMs, ensure that relevant partners are consulted and involved in the preparation of GIS products;
- In coordination with the IMPACT Country Coordinator, engage in relevant technical fora in country (e.g. IM/GIS working groups);
- In support of the IMPACT Country Coordinator, engage with other organisations engaged with the maintenance of spatial data in South Sudan, ensuring IMPACT Geodatabases are up-to-date and in line with Common Operational Datasets (CODs) and Fundamental Operational Datasets (FODs)
- In coordination with the IMPACT Country Coordinator, support the presentation of GIS products to relevant third parties, to enhance their use and impact;

DISSEMINATION

- Ensure the strictest confidentiality of data and data processes. The GIS Specialist will actively take measures to prevent the unauthorized sharing of information and data;
- In coordination with IMPACT HQ, ensure that GIS products are uploaded on relevant data portals, as specified in Research ToRs;
- In coordination with IMPACT's Country Coordinator and with the assessment, GIS and data team, ensure that lessons learned are gathered and documented at the end of each research cycle.

DATA CONFIDENTIALITY AND PROTECTION

The GIS 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.

REQUIREMENTS

GIS SPECIALIST

- ❖ **Academic** Excellent academic qualifications, preferably including a Master degree in relevant discipline;
- ❖ **Research skills** Excellent research and analytical skills required, including a sound understanding of sampling frameworks and their application, an ability to analyse large data sets, as well as conduct temporal or spatial

trend analysis. Demonstrable experience with geo-spatial information management and analysis. Excellent spatial analysis skills

- ❖ **Software skills** Advanced knowledge of ArcGIS. Proven knowledge of Microsoft office including Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Knowledge of R, STATA, python or equivalent statistical software an advantage.
- ❖ **Familiarity aid system** Familiarity with the aid system and with the research community;
- ❖ **Years of work experience** At least 4 years of relevant working experience;
- ❖ **Training skills** Ability to conduct trainings and mentor IMPACT teams and partners on assessment skills;
- ❖ **Communication/reporting skills** Excellent communication and drafting skills for effective reporting;
- ❖ **Multi-tasking skills** Ability to multitask with tight deadlines, on numerous research cycles;
- ❖ **Level of independence** Strong existing ability to work independently in support of colleagues and partners;
- ❖ **Cross-cultural work environment** Ability to operate in a cross-cultural environment requiring flexibility;
- ❖ **Experience in geographical region** Past experience in East Africa is desirable;
- ❖ **Language skills** Fluency in English required, competency in Arabic and other regional languages an asset;
- ❖ **Security environment** Ability to operate in a complex and challenging security environment

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