

SENIOR ASSESSMENT OFFICER

(Reference: 22/NGA/SA001)

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 Senior Assessment Officer to support our team in Nigeria.

Department: REACH
Position: Senior Assessment Officer
Contract duration: 6 months
Location: Abuja, with rotation into Yola.
Starting Date: ASAP

COUNTRY PROFILE

Nigeria is confronted by multiple security challenges. The Insurgency of The Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) and Jamā'at Ahl as-Sunnah lid-Da'wah wa'l-Jihād (JAS) – more popularly known as Boko Haram – has entered its twelfth year and has spawned a humanitarian crisis rendering sections of Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe state inaccessible, limiting affected population's access to basic infrastructure and services, and displacing millions. In the Norhtwest, banditry has emerged as a key challenge, becoming more sanguinary with every year. The high levels of crime and increased use of violence and kidnappings have led parents and authorities to pull millions of students out of school. The spotlight remains on the Northeast yet needs – both humanitarian and developmental – are rising in the Northwest, long-running discontent and militancy prevails in the Niger Delta, discontent is increasing between herders and farming communities spreading from the central belt southwards, and separatist Biafra agitations in the Igbo Southeast simmer on.

Against this backdrop, IMPACT Initiatives has developed a wide range of research cycles to provide an evidence-base for the humanitarian community. Geographically, IMPACT Initiatives is pre present in both the Northeast and Northwest. Thematically, IMPACT Initiatives is fielding [Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessments](#) (MSNAs), [Hard to Reach](#) (H2R) assessments, [Area Based Assessments](#) (ABA), [Rapid Overviews of Areas of Return](#) (ROAR), [Thematic Assessments](#) (TA), [Rapid Assessments](#) (RA), and [WASH Infrastructure Mapping](#), while also playing a key role in Famine Monitoring, Nutrition and Food Security Surveillance, and the Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMIMI).

POSITION OVERVIEW

The Senior Assessment Officer shall serve as the Unit Lead in the Sectoral Unit. The current research portfolio of the Sectoral Unit spans assessments in the WASH Sector, the Nutrition Sector, the Food Security Sector, and the Cash & Markets Sector. Pending funding these areas of research can be scaled up or additional sectors, such as Health and Protection, may be added. The Senior Assessment Officer and Unit Lead of the Sectoral Unit shall be responsible for the overall management of the unit, including directing the research orientation, ensuring high quality research standards are met, adequate staffing and spending levels are maintained, and partners and stakeholders are engaged with in a professional, impactful, and timely fashion. The focus of the role shall be the solidification of some research cycles by strengthening ToRs, research design, analyses, product drafting, and dissemination, while also scaling up others to cover a larger geographic territory with higher number of samples. The Senior Assessment Officer and Unit Lead shall be supported in these endeavors by an Assessment Specialist, the Data & GIS team, as well as management, but is ultimately expected to proactively lead the design and development of the unit and all its research cycles.

FUNCTIONS

Under the line management of the IMPACT Country Representative or his/her delegates in Nigeria, the Senior Assessment Officer is responsible for the implementation of IMPACT's research cycles in Nigeria, including the preparation, data collection, analysis, drafting, dissemination, and evaluation stages. Throughout research cycles, the Senior Assessment Officer engages with partners to promote their participation and maximize their impact. He/she also ensures an efficient and transparent use of resources required for project implementation. This can include the direct supervision of assessment teams.

In his/her mission, the Senior Assessment Officer 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

The Senior Assessment Officer is responsible for overseeing the planning, implementation and follow up of research cycles to which s/he is assigned, in close coordination with other team members and with relevant external partners. In doing so, the Senior Assessment Officer will ensure an effective management of related projects and resources, including line-management national and international assessment staff.

More specifically the Senior Assessment Officer is responsible for the following:

RESEARCH PLANNING:

- Anticipate knowledge gaps prior to the execution of a Research Cycle;
- Ensure that required secondary data review and/or analysis has been conducted in preparation of an assessment;
- Ensure that all research cycles are planned in line with the country strategy, relevant research and project objectives and with IMPACT's research cycle and other relevant guidelines;
- Design research approaches and methodologies according to IMPACT's requirements and principles as well as partners' information needs;
- Compose and construct, in close coordination with GIS and data teams, qualitative and quantitative data collection tools;
- For each research cycle, prepare ToRs and ensure their validation by HQ before any data collection begins;
- Ensure relevant stakeholders and partners are engaged in research design and planning.

RESEARCH IMPLEMENTATION

- In close liaison with field officer(s), ensure that required enumerators are identified and trained for primary data collection;
- In close liaison with field officer (s), Monitor data collection, ensuring its correct implementation in line with agreed TORs;
- In close liaison with field officer (s), Manage assessment logistics, including with partner organizations, identifying assessment areas, facilitating design workshops, managing joint data collection processes, and facilitating joint analysis workshops;
- In close liaison with field officer (s), Ensure regular situation updates on data collection are produced and circulated to line manager, relevant colleagues and external counterparts. Provide support and follow up on identified challenges during the data collection process;
- Ensure that the line manager and IMPACT HQ research department are alerted to any issues that prevents full implementation of the methodology agreed in the approved TORs. Ensure that all changes to the methodology are documented throughout implementation, and that any change is formally validated by IMPACT HQ;
- Keep track of progress and delays of all assigned assessments throughout the research cycle. Ensure that delays or identified challenges for specific assessments are reported in writing and orally in a timely manner;
- In close liaison with field officer (s), Ensure logistics, financial, administration, security and HR processes directly related to ongoing and upcoming assessments are appropriately planned, implemented and coordinated with the relevant ACTED departments;
- Ensure that all collected data is stored in line with IMPACT's Data Management Guidelines and with the TORs;
- In close liaison with field officer (s), Ensure that data is revised and cleaned, and that all revisions are recorded;
- In close liaison with data colleagues Provide data analysis on primary and/or secondary data as per TORs, ensuring that meaningful techniques are used to analyze the data collected;
- Ensure that data and its 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.

DRAFTING OF RESEARCH PRODUCTS

- Ensure the drafting of timely and accurate outputs that consolidate the analyses from each research cycle into relevant products such as factsheets, reports, briefs, presentations, etc which comply with IMPACT's guidelines and quality standards;
- Ensure that products accurately reflect the information collected and that information is conveyed in a way that maximizes their impact in line with their intended use;
- Liaise with relevant GIS colleagues to ensure effective spatial representation of research findings in maps or interactive web-portals, as relevant;
- Follow the designated timeline of reports to be submitted to project partners and donors. Ensure that delays or identified challenges for specific assessments are reported in writing and orally in a timely manner;
- Maintain regular communication with country Management and IMPACT HQ on progress and deadlines for written products;
- Ensure that all written products are validated by IMPACT HQ before external release.

EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT

- Ensure that relevant partners are consulted and involved at all stages of research cycle: assessment preparation; data collection; data analysis; review of research products; product dissemination; and lessons learnt;
- After validation by the line manager, represent IMPACT in relevant meetings/ working groups;
- Follow up on issues identified by partners or during meetings / working groups;
- Promote an active use of datasets and research findings by partners and the broader humanitarian community for their decision making;
- After validation by line manager, present research findings to relevant third parties in order to enhance their use and impact;
- Ensure that all partner engagement and all external relations are clearly documented and communicated with the line manager and relevant colleagues;
- More generally, contribute to the creation of a positive image and overall credibility of the organization, notably through the application of IMPACT's mandate, ethics, values and stand-point with regard to other actors.

KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND LEARNING PROCESSES

- In coordination with country management, support the conduct of monitoring and evaluation for each Research Cycle, as specified in the research ToRs and in line with IMPACT Guidelines;
- Generate and document robust lessons learned at the end of each Research Cycle;
- Ensure knowledge and learning processes are shared with other Units and teams within mission, and with HQ;
- When required, provide feedback to appropriate global organizational knowledge learning tools.

PROJECT CYCLE MANAGEMENT

For relevant projects, ensure compliance to project cycle management requirements and guidelines at all phases;

- Before project start, ensure the organization of a kick off meeting and the availability of key project management documentations to plan the efficient use of assets, financial and human resources;
- In close coordination with line management, finance and grants colleagues, monitor and regularly update the use of assets, financial and human resources, in full compliance with IMPACT's guidelines; this includes

maintaining an oversight of budget availability and expenditure for assessment activities;

- Ensure that project deliverables and requirements are tracked, met and complied to;
- Ensure that any issue in relation to project implementation is reported to the line manager, finance and grants colleagues, and HQ;
- Ensure that a project completion meeting is held and documented for all relevant projects;
- Support the line manager, finance and grants colleagues in drafting of relevant project narrative and financial reports;
- Other tasks as requested by supervisors.

TEAM MANAGEMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

- As relevant, line management of national and international assessment team members;
- For staff under his/her responsibility, and in close consultation with line manager, conduct of appraisals, provision of regular feedback, and participation in career management;
- Prepare and follow up work plans with each staff member that directly reports to him/her;
- Conduct regular meetings with relevant national and international assessment staff members to assess progress in relevant research cycles and to review work plan;
- For all activities, ensure that all assessment and field teams are comprehensively briefed on objectives, expected outputs and that the overall implementation strategy is clearly understood;
- Ensure that project/field staff are given required training and resources to achieve their tasks in line with IMPACT and project requirements;
- Be available to provide regular support and technical backstopping; regularly debrief team members to receive feedback on the progress of an activity;
- In coordination with line manager, contribute to conduct induction for new staff members, including training in basic technical competencies for research design, implementation and analysis;
- Support to the line managers and specialists in the development and implementation of capacity training plans for team members.

INTERNAL COORDINATION

- Actively participate in regular team meetings;
- Ensure regular coordination and exchange with relevant colleagues;
- Engage in the development and implementation of IMPACT's strategy in Nigeria.

DATA CONFIDENTIALITY AND PROTECTION

The Senior Assessment Officer will maintain the strictest confidentiality on all data collected and related processes, ensuring full compliance with IMPACT's data protection policy and SOPs. 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

- ❖ **Academic** Excellent academic qualifications, preferably including a Master degree in relevant discipline;
- ❖ **Research skills** Masters and proven experience with complex research methods. Excellent analytical skills
- ❖ **Software skills** Proven knowledge of the Microsoft Office Suite, to include Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Advanced skills in R, SPSS and/or STATA or other statistical analysis software are an advantage; Experience with InDesign an asset.
- ❖ **Familiarity aid system** Familiarity with the aid system is required;
- ❖ **Years of work experience** At least 3 years of relevant working experience;
- ❖ **Experience in sectors** Experience working in Health, WASH, Nutrition, Food Security, and Cash/Markets an asset;
- ❖ **Management skills** Proven team management experience and skills; ability to build assessment capacity of team through training and mentoring
- ❖ **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** Proven ability to work independently;
- ❖ **Cross-cultural work environment** Ability to operate in a cross-cultural environment requiring flexibility;
- ❖ **Experience in geographical region** Past experience in the [relevant] region is desirable;
- ❖ **Language skills** Fluency in English required, competency in Hausa 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