Research Terms of Reference

Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria (HSOS):

Urban quarterly household assessment in Hasakeh city and Raqqa city in Northeast Syria (NES), and in Idleb city in Northwest Syria (NWS)

SYR1701f

Syria

May 2024 Version 2



1. Executive Summary

Country of	Syri	Syria						
intervention								
Type of		Natural disaster	Х	Con	flict		Other (specify)	
Emergency								
Type of Crisis		Sudden onset		Slov	v onset	Х	Protracted	
Mandating Body/	REA	СН						
Agency								
IMPACT Project	16B.	AN						
Code								
Overall Research								
Timeframe (from	Fror	m January 2022 to pre	sent					
research design to								
final outputs / M&E)								
Research	1. Pi	ilot/ training: 04/2024			6. Preliminary presentation:			
Timeframe	2. St	tart collect data: 06/0	5/202	24	7. Outputs sent for validation:			
Add planned					06/2024			
deadlines (for first	3. D	ata collected: 20/05/2	2024		8. Outputs published: 06/2024			
cycle if more than 1)	4. D	ata analysed: 21/05/2	024		9. Final pres	entat	ion: 06/2024	
	5. D	ata sent for validatior	n:					
	22/0)5/2024						
Number of		Single assessment (one c	ycle)				
assessments	Х	Multi assessment (r	nore t	han c	one cycle)			
		This assessment will	be co	irried	out on a qua	rterly	, basis (Spring,	
		Summer, Autumn al	nd Wi	nter r	ounds).			
Humanitarian	Mile	estone			Deadline			
milestones	Х	Donor plan/strateg	y					
Specify what will the	х	Inter-cluster plan/st	rateg	у				
assessment inform	х	Cluster plan/strateg	IУ					
and when	Х	NGO platform plan,	/strate	egy				

		Other (Specify):					
Audience Type &	Aud	ience type	Dissemination				
Dissemination	X St	rategic	X General Product Mailing (e.g. mail to				
Specify who will the	X Pr	ogrammatic	NGO consortium; HCT participants; Donors)				
assessment inform	X Op	erational					
and how you will		ther, Specify]	X Cluster Mailing (Education, Shelter and WASH) and presentation of findings at				
disseminate to inform		next cluster meeting					
the audience			X Presentation of findings (e.g. at HCT meeting; Cluster meeting)				
			X Website Dissemination (Relief Web & REACH Resource Centre)				
			□ [Other, Specify]				
Detailed	Х	Yes	□ No				
dissemination							
plan required							
General Objective	Prov	ide multi-sectoral information c	on the humanitarian situation and				
	prior	rity needs of the host community	y and IDPs in urban areas in northern				
	Syric	ı (Hasakeh, Raqqa and Idleb citi	ies) on a quarterly basis to inform				
	resp	onse planning and prioritisation	, and enhance key actors'				
	unde	erstanding of the humanitarian	context in cities.				
Specific	•	Provide comprehensive i	information and analysis on the				
Objective(s)		humanitarian situation in He	asakeh city, Raqqa city and Idleb city.				
	•	 Identify and assess humanit 	arian sector-specific needs and priority				
		needs at the city level .					
	•	• Understand the difference i	in needs/conditions between internally				
		displaced persons (IDPs) and	host community (pre-conflict/resident)				
		populations at the household	d level in the assessed areas.				
	•	Review the humanitarian si	ituation beyond emergency conditions,				
		integrating durable solutions	s and resilience.				
Research	1. W	/hat are the humanitarian nee	ds of the crisis-affected populations in				
Questions	cities	s, regarding:					
	٠	5	crisis impact, living standards, coping				
		mechanisms, and well-being					
	٠	_	education, food security, livelihoods,				
	2 14	nutrition, protection, shelter/					
		lents of the host community in c	es in needs and vulnerability across IDPs and				
	restu		access to services of IDP and host community				
		households compare across s					
		-					
		households compare?					
	•	-	ituation of IDPs and host community				
		households compare?					

Geographic Coverage Secondary data sources	 What is the scale of the perceived tensions between IDPs and host community? 3. What are the needs of IDPs and host community households in cities with regards to: Physical safety Psycho-social safety Material safety Legal safety Hasakeh and Raqqa cities in Northeast Syria (NES) and Idleb city in Northwest Syria (NWS) Humanitarian Needs Assessment Programme (HNAP) population data is used to create the sampling strata. Other HSOS products to triangulate data (HSOS sectoral dashboard, HSOS Water and Electricity dashboard, HSOS trends analysis dashboard, HSOS KI Datasets and Situation Overviews). Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI) products for exchange 							
		s calculations and triang						
		rs and news agencies to rextualisation.	tric	ingui	ate	e the aata ana	i p	roviae relevant
Population(s)		IDPs in camp				IDPs in infor	mal sites	
Select all that apply	Х	IDPs in host communi	ties			□ IDPs [Other, Specify]		
		Refugees in camp				Refugees in informal sites		
		Refugees in host				Refugees [Ot	the	er, Specify]
	V	communities	• •				. 1	
	Х	Host communities (res		ent-		[Other, Specif	УJ	
		pre/conflict populatio including returnees)	n					
Stratification	Х	Geographical #:	Х	Gro	บท	#: In		[Other Specify] #: _
Select type(s) and		Population size per				eh city and		
enter number of		strata is known?				city, data is		Population size
strata		X Yes 🗆 No		disa	agg	regated by		per strata is
		Hasakeh city: 212		hos	t a	nd IDP		known?
		households		рор	bula	ations.		🗆 Yes 🗆 No
		ldleb city: 212 households		Рор	bula	ation size		
		Raqqa city: 106		per	str	ata is		
		households		kno X Y		n? ⊐ No		
Data collection	x	Structured (Quantitati					ır <i>c</i>	ed (Qualitative)
tool(s)			,					
	Sam	pling method			D	ata collection	n r	nethod
Structured data	□ Ρι	urposive				Key informant	in	terview (Target #):
collection tool # 1		obability / Simple random	l					, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,

Select sampling and	X Pr	obability / Stratified simple	e			Group discus	sio	n (Target #):	
data collection	rand	om			х	X Household interview (Target #):			
method and specify	🗆 Pr	obability / Cluster samplin	g		- F	Hasakeh city: 2	212	households (106	
target # interviews	 Probability / Stratified cluster sampling 					ost and 106 ID			
								usebolds (106 bost	
		-			- Idleb city: 212 households (106 host				
	υįο	ther, Specify]			and 106 IDP)				
						Raqqa city: 100			
				Individual inte	erv	iew (Target #):			
						Direct observ	atio	ons (Target #):	
						[Other, Specif	y]	(Target #):	
Target level of	95%	level of confidence			10)+/- % margin	of	error	
precision if						, s s	-		
probability									
sampling									
Data management	Х	IMPACT				UNHCR			
platform(s)		[Other Creative]							
Fundational account	□ X	[Other, Specify]		Der		<i>. .</i>		Drafila #	
Expected ouput type(s)	^	Situation overview #3: One for Hasakeh,		кер	JOIL	:#:		Profile #:	
type(s)		one for Raqqa, and							
		one for Idleb city							
		Presentation		Pre	sen	itation		Factsheet #:	
		(Preliminary		(Fir	nal)	#:			
		findings) #:							
		Interactive		We	bm	ap #:		Map #:	
		dashboard #: TBD							
	Х	Summary analysis #3: Or			asak	ceh, one for Ra	aqo	a and one for Idleb	
A	х	(excel version + html ver					1	and the second second second	
Access	^	Public (available on RE platforms)		.н re	sou	irce center al	na	other numanitarian	
		Restricted (bilateral di	sse	mina	atio	n only upon	ag	reed dissemination	
		list, no publication on	RE.	ACH	or	other platfor	ms	3)	
Visibility Specify		CH visibility will be pres			•	-	but	ts. Output branding	
which logos should	-	be in compliance with Ri				0.			
be on outputs		or: No donor logos will				•			
	Coordination Framework: The NES NGO forum logo will appear on								
		akeh and Raqqa Situatio					٧G	O forum logo will	
	<u> </u>	ear on the Idleb Situation	10	vervi	ew.				
	Part	ners: N/A							

2. Rationale

2.1 Background

After more than thirteen years of conflict in Syria, the crisis continues to have major impacts on the lives of civilians across the country. Although significant episodes of destruction have taken place in urban areas, many Syrians, including a large proportion of IDPs, are living in towns and cities. Because high levels of infrastructure damage limit the capacity of local and humanitarian actors to deliver key services, and because the composition of the population in need is highly dynamic, the humanitarian situation in urban areas is particularly complex. As a result, there is a need for more in-depth and representative data on the humanitarian needs of populations living in urban areas in Northern Syria. Among these areas, Hasakeh, Raqqa and Idleb are some of the largest cities the region, with populations of approximately 266,000, 168,000 and 241,000 residents, respectively¹. Additionally, these cities are some of the most accessible to humanitarian organisations. Therefore, REACH has selected Hasakeh, Raqqa and Idleb for a series of in-depth, multisectoral household-level assessments that are aimed at informing the response on humanitarian needs in these cities, and in urban areas in Northern Syria more broadly.

2.2 Intended impact

The assessments will provide humanitarian organisations with further in-depth information on humanitarian needs and conditions in Hasakeh, Raqqa and Idleb city. This data will also complement the currently available HSOS Key informant-based methodology assessment by providing granular and representative information zooming in urban areas. The project will include household-level interviews, with households to be sampled randomly. The resulting data will be statistically representative at the city level. The ultimate aim is for humanitarian actors to use the project's findings to enhance their data driven decision making within the cities of interest, as well as to inform advocacy on the humanitarian conditions within urban areas and the differences in needs between host communities and IDPs in Hasakeh city and Idleb city.

3. Methodology

3.1 Methodology overview

Data is collected at the household level in Hasakeh city, Raqqa city and Idleb city. Households are selected through a stratified simple random sampling using a geographic information systems (GIS)-based methodology. The selection considers population estimates by neighbourhood and distributes the random samples according to population density. The sampling is only conducted in residential areas. Areas under the control or in proximity of the Government of Syria and areas identified as security concerns are excluded from the coverage.

¹ According to population data from the Population Taskforce (July 2023)

In Hasakeh city and Idleb city, the sample is stratified by two groups: IDPs and host community members, allowing for disaggregation of findings for both groups. Due to the limited number of IDPs living in Raqqa, no disaggregation is made between IDPs and host community members in this city (see section Population of interest).

Households will be interviewed face-to-face by REACH enumerators working in gender-mixed couples. Data collection is to be coordinated from Jordan (Amman). The interview route consists of multisectoral questions that have been selected in coordination with humanitarian clusters/working groups/etc.

3.2 Population of interest

The Urban quarterly household assessment covers the most populated urban centres in Northern Syria, namely Hasakeh city, Raqqa city and Idleb city. Households are the unit of measurement of the assessment. Due to the chosen sampling technique and according to the data collection guidelines, the sample excludes households living in non-residential areas (as classified on OpenStreetMap) and households whose members are all below 18. Households residing in areas under the control of the Government of Syria (GoS) or in their proximity, and households residing in inaccessible or high-risk residential areas are also excluded from the sample.

In Hasakeh and Idleb, the large number of IDPs, allows HSOS to understand and compare the conditions of both host community and IDP populations through a representative sample of each population group. Due to the limited number of IDPs living in Raqqa, no disaggregation is made between IDPs and host community members in this city (see table below).

Estimated number of IDPs and hosts individual living in Hasakeh city, Raqqa city and Idleb city according to the 2023 Population Task Force data:

City	#IDP	#HC	%IDP
Hasakeh	123164	142840	46%
Idleb	109575	124630	47%
Raqqa	13849	154335	8%

While IDPs represent near than half of the population of Hasakeh and Idleb, they represent only 8% of the population of Raqqa. Hence, the disaggregation of findings between IDPs and host community is conducted only in Hasakeh and Idleb. In Raqqa, the data will be aggregated at the city level, regardless of the population category.

- *Host community s* refers to people who currently reside in their communities of origin, or communities of permanent residence prior to the Syrian conflict. This includes populations that were never displaced as well as returnees.
- IDPs refers to "persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border." (UNHCR). The present assessment only focuses on out-of-camp

IDPs living inside the city. Therefore, the situation of IDPs living in camps, collective centres or informal settlements should not be considered in this assessment.

3.3 Secondary data review

• For the sampling:

The September 2022 Humanitarian Needs Assessment Programme (HNAP) population data, as well as the July 2023 OCHA Population Task Force data is used to create the sampling strata. The OCHA boundaries and p-codes² are used as a reference to delimitate the different neighbourhoods in the assessed cities.

- For the analysis production: The REACH Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI)³ datasets are used as a reference for exchange rates calculations (to convert Syrian Pound or Turkish Lira values into United States Dollars).
- For the key message drafting and contextualisation:

Additional HSOS products are used to triangulate data such as the HSOS sectoral dashboard⁴, the HSOS Water and Electricity dashboard⁵, the HSOS trends analysis dashboard⁶, HSOS KI Datasets and Situation Overviews⁷. Other REACH products such as the JMMI, Rapid Needs Assessments (RNA) and briefs are also used for triangulation. Relevant humanitarian publications by partners and other actors (such as UN OCHA, WHO, UNICEF, CCCM, IFRC, and others) pertaining to the humanitarian situation in Syria are also used as secondary sources, as well as reliable international English and local Arabic news sources (e.g. Al Jazeera, Middle East Monitor, New Arab, North press agency, Syria live map).

3.4Primary Data Collection

Face-to-face data collection is carried out by REACH's enumerators every quarter. Enumerators work in gender-mixed couples and assess randomly selected households by approaching them in their places of residence. Each round of data collection lasts between six and ten working days; each couple of enumerators is expected to interview three households per day, on average.

A representative sample of the population is covered in each city, with representation of the host community and IDP population in Hasakeh city and Idleb city. The sampling size is calculated by the Data Officer according to the population estimates of each neighbourhood, and in order to obtain representative data with 95% level of confidence and 10 +/- % margin of error. A buffer of 10% is added to the sample in order to account for deletions in the cleaning phase. Considering the above, the sampling size for each city is the following:

- Hasakeh city: 212 households (106 host and 106 IDP)

² OCHA. Syrian Arab Republic – Subnational Administrative Boundaries

³ <u>REACH Syria. Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI)</u>

⁴ REACH Syria. HSOS Sectoral dashboard

⁵ <u>REACH Syria. HSOS NES Water and electricity dashboard</u>

⁶ REACH Syria. HSOS Trends analysis dashboard

⁷ REACH Syria. Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria (HSOS)

- Idleb city: 212 households (106 host and 106 IDP)

- Raqqa city: 106 households

Stratified simple random household selection is performed through random spatial sampling using GIS. The sample units are allocated across all accessible neighbourhoods according to the size of their total population in Raqqa city, and according to the size of their host community/IDP population in Hasakeh and Idleb city. Once the enumerators have reached the randomly generated geopoint, they will select a household in a 50 meters radius. The sample is biased toward cooperative, readily available households and households where at least one adult member is at home during the time of data collection. Should the selected household not fit the research criteria, enumerators disengage and find another household in the same location. If there is no residential building in the location, or if no households are willing to answer or are meeting the criteria to answer, enumerators will be given an alternative geopoint.

During data collection, the Field Officer will liaise with the enumerators to validate their position, ensuring that it follows the random spatial sampling. At the end of each working day, enumerators communicate their progress to the Field Officer. The Field Officer compares enumerators' progress with the submissions on KoBo and double-checks any discrepancy. At the same time, the Assessment team will monitor the metadata coming from the submissions on KoBo, including the length of the interview, the time between different interviews conducted by the same couple of enumerators, and the number of changes in answers applied during the interview). The Assessment team communicates any concern regarding data quality to the Field Officer, who addresses the potential issue with the enumerators.

3.5 Data Processing & Analysis

Each couple of enumerators will carry in the field a paper form of the questionnaire, in Arabic, and a work phone to record answers through KoBo. Enumerators are expected to submit the interviews on KoBo on the same day in which the interview was carried out. Data quality checks are implemented on a daily basis by the assessment team and are aimed at spotting and flagging enumerators' behaviours that are of concern for data quality. Data cleaning takes place at the end of each round of data collection. During data cleaning, duplicate uuids are spotted and deleted, "Other" replies are translated from Arabic to English and interviews that do not meet the minimum standards of data quality (including minimum length to complete the questionnaire, adequate number of different answer options between different surveys, and absence or adequate number of logical checks being triggered) are deleted. The cleaning process will follow the "IMPACT Minimum Standards Checklist for Data Cleaning and Processing for Structured (Quantitative) Data".

Data analysis is performed after data cleaning through an R script. During data analysis, findings are aggregated by population group (i.e. host community and IDP households). The representative finding for the host community and the IDP populations are then weighted in

order to describe the total Syrian population of the city: the number of interviewed households is relative to the estimated population and the average household size in the city⁸. An excel output and an html output will be produced for each city to present an analysis of all indicators by sector and disaggregated by population groups (IDP and host community). The excel and html outputs will also include confidence intervals to indicate whether the target margin of error was met. For Hasakeh and Idleb city where representative data is available for IDPs and host community households, a significance test (t.test or prop.test) is run to identify statistically differences between these two population categories.

3.6 Limitations

A first limitation to the HSOS Household methodology is encountered during the household selection process, once the enumerators reached the geopoint. As enumerators operate during working hours, they will only interview adults that are not working at the time of the interview. Thus, household's breadwinners who are likely to provide reliable information on the livelihoods situation of the household may be absent during the interview.

To make sure reliable data is collected, the tool includes "Not sure" options and enumerators must fill out their perception about their confidence in the respondents answer at the end of the interview. In case one enumerator indicates a limited level of confidence, the form will be deleted. A buffer of ten interviews per city is planned at the beginning of each round to keep complying with the sampling strategy even after potential deletions.

A second limitation is related to the lack of representativity of certain subset groups. Some questions are asked dependently of previous answers, meaning that a reduced number of households will answer these questions. Thus, the aggregated number of answers will be insufficient to meet with the sampling size required to have representative data at the city level. To avoid any misinterpretation, non-representative data is highlighted in red in the analysis files, and a footnote is included in the drafted output.

4. Key ethical considerations and related risks

The proposed research design meets / does not meet the following criteria:

The proposed research design	Yes/ No	Details if no (including mitigation)
Has been coordinated with relevant stakeholders to avoid unnecessary duplication of data collection efforts?		
Respects respondents, their rights and dignity (specifically by: seeking informed consent, designing	Yes	

⁸ The estimated population size was collected by HNAP September 2022 population data. The average household size was collected by OCHA July 2023 OCHA Population Task Force.

length of survey/ discussion while being considerate of participants' time, ensuring accurate reporting of information provided)?		
Does not expose data collectors to any risks as a direct result of participation in data collection?	Yes	
Does not expose respondents / their communities to any risks as a direct result of participation in data collection?	Yes	
Does not involve collecting information on specific topics which may be stressful and/ or re- traumatising for research participants (both respondents and data collectors)?	Yes	
Does not involve data collection with minors i.e. anyone less than 18 years old?	Yes	
Does not involve data collection with other vulnerable groups e.g. persons with disabilities, victims/ survivors of protection incidents, etc.?	No	Households are selected randomly and could be part of a vulnerable group. Enumerators have been trained in dealing with protection incidents to mitigate the risk.
Follows IMPACT SOPs for management of personally identifiable information?	Yes	

5. Roles and responsibilities

Table 3: Description of roles and responsibilities

Task Description	Responsible	Accountable	Consulted	Informed
Research design	HSOS focal point, HSOS AO	HSOS focal point	HSM RM, Cluster Coordinators	Cluster Coordinators, Senior Data Officer, IMPACT HQ, Field teams
Supervising data collection	Field coordinators, HSOS AO	HSOS focal point	HSM RM, Senior Data Officer	Syria mission Management

Data processing (checking, cleaning)	Senior Data Officer, HSOS AO, Field coordinators, HSOS focal point	HSOS focal point	HSM RM, Data specialist, IMPACT HQ data unit	Syria mission management
Data analysis	Senior Data Officer, HSOS focal point	HSOS focal point	HSM RM, Data specialist, IMPACT HQ data units	Syria mission Management
Output production	HSOS focal point, HSOS AO, GIS officer, Senior Data Officer	HSOS focal point	HSM RM, IMPACT HQ reporting unit	Donors and partners
Dissemination	HSOS focal point	HSOS focal point	HSM RM	Donors and partners
Monitoring & Evaluation	HSOS focal point	HSOS focal point	HSM RM	IMPACT HQ Research department
Lessons learned	HSOS focal point, HSOS AO	HSOS focal point	HSM RM	IMPACT HQ Research department

5. Data Analysis Plan

RESEARCH QUESTIONS ADDRESSED WITH <u>STRUCTURED</u> TOOL(S)

Find Data Analysis Plan (DAP) in separated excel document.

6. Data Management Plan

Data Management Plan (DMP) available upon request.

7. Monitoring & Evaluation Plan

IMPACT Objective	External M&E Indicator	Internal M&E Indicator	Focal point	ΤοοΙ	Will indicator be tracked?
		# of downloads of x product from Resource Center	Country request to HQ		X Yes
	Number of humanitarian	nitarian Web			X Yes
Humanitarian stakeholders are	organisations accessing IMPACT	# of downloads of x product from Country level platforms	Country team	Licor log	□ Yes
accessing IMPACT products	services/products Number of individuals accessing IMPACT services/products	# of page clicks on x product from REACH global newsletter	Country request to HQ	User_log	X Yes
		# of page clicks on x product from country newsletter, sendingBlue, bit.ly	Country team		X Yes
		# of visits to x webmap/x dashboard	Country request to HQ		X Yes
IMPACT activities		# references in HPC documents (HNO, SRP, Flash appeals, Cluster/sector strategies)			Cluster strategy
contribute to better program implementation and coordination of the humanitarian response	Number of humanitarian organisations utilizing IMPACT services/products	# references in single agency documents	Country team	Reference_ log	

Humanitarian stakeholders are using IMPACT products	Humanitarian actors use IMPACT evidence/products as a basis for decision making, aid planning and delivery Number of humanitarian documents (HNO, HRP, cluster/agency strategic plans, etc.) directly informed by IMPACT products	Perceived relevance of IMPACT country- programs Perceived usefulness and influence of IMPACT outputs Recommendations to strengthen IMPACT programs Perceived capacity of IMPACT staff Perceived quality of outputs/programs Recommendations to strengthen IMPACT programs	Country team	Usage_Fee dback <i>and</i> Usage_Sur vey template	A usage survey was conducted in November 2023. Additional usage surveys will be carried out in the future.
Humanitarian stakeholders are engaged in IMPACT programs throughout the research cycle	Number and/or percentage of humanitarian organizations directly contributing to IMPACT programs (providing resources, participating to presentations, etc.)	 # of organisations providing resources (i.e.staff, vehicles, meeting space, budget, etc.) for activity implementation # of organisations/clusters inputting in research design and joint analysis # of organisations/clusters attending briefings on findings; 	Country team	Engageme nt_log	□ Yes X Yes X Yes

ANNEX 1: METHODOLOGY NOTES

Version 2 of HSOS household do not include major change in terms of methodology compared to the first version. The most notable change was the expansion of the coverage to Idleb city, with representative data for IDPs and host community (such as Hasakeh city). In version 2, HSOS households covers the three most populated cities of Northern Syria: Hasakeh, Raqqa and Idleb. An improvement was also achieved for the GPS random sampling. The GIS team generated a residential building layer in Hasakeh, Raqqa and Idleb to make sure geopoints fall on residential buildings only. This was decided following multiple occurrences of geopoints falling in empty areas in which no household could be found.

ANNEX 2: [OTHER SPECIFY]