

MSNA - Research Terms of Reference

Multi-Sector Needs Assessment

LBN2602

LEBANON

September 2026

V 2.0



REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action

1. Executive Summary

A. General information							
Country of intervention	Lebanon						
Type of Emergency	☐	Natural disaster	☒	Conflict	☒	Other: Complex emergency related to political and socio-economic shocks	
Type of Crisis	☐	Sudden onset	☐	Slow onset	☐	Protracted	
Mandating Body/ Agency	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)						
IMPACT Project Code	11BMF						
Overall Research Timeframe (from research design to final outputs / M&E)	15/06/2026 to 30/04/2027						
Research Timeframe Add planned deadlines	1. Data Analysis Plan (DAP) sent for validation: 13/07/2026			7. LSG framework sent for validation: 5/10/2026			
	2. Pilot/training: 04/08/2026			8. Preliminary presentation/Joint analysis workshop (JAW): 16/10/2026			
	3. Start data collection: 28/08/2026			9. MSNI analysis sent for validation: 210/10/2026			
	4. Data collected: 23/09/2026			10. Bulletin/factsheet sent for validation: 16/11/2026			
	5. Clean dataset sent for validation: 28/09/2026			11. Bulletin published: 23/11/2026			
	6. Data analysis sent for validation: 30/09/2026			12. Other (specify): _/_/_/_/_/_			
Humanitarian milestones Specify what will the assessment inform and when e.g. The shelter cluster will use this data to calculate PiN numbers for the HNO analysis	Milestone				Deadline		
	☒	Donor plan/strategy				2027 humanitarian response strategy	
	☒	Inter-cluster plan/strategy				TBC	
	☒	PiN calculation / HNO				5/10/2026	
	☒	Cluster plan/strategy				2027 humanitarian response	
	☐	NGO platform plan/strategy				_/_/_/_/_/_	
☒	Other (Specify): IPC				TBC		
Audience type		Dissemination					

Audience Type & Dissemination <i>Specify who will the assessment inform and how you will disseminate to inform the audience</i>	X Strategic X Programmatic ☐ Operational ☐ [Other, Specify]		X General Product Mailing (e.g. mail to NGO consortium; HCT participants; Donors) X Cluster Mailing (Education, Shelter and WASH) and presentation of findings at next cluster meeting X Presentation of findings (e.g. at HCT meeting; Cluster meeting) X Website Dissemination (Relief Web & IMPACT Resource Centre) ☐ [Other, Specify]	
Detailed dissemination plan required	☒	Yes	☐	No
General Objective	The primary objective of the 2026 Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) is to provide a comprehensive understanding of humanitarian needs, vulnerabilities, coping strategies, and living conditions across Lebanon to support evidence-based humanitarian and stabilization programming. The MSNA aims to achieve nationwide coverage, ensuring comprehensive geographic representation and enabling the findings to reflect needs and conditions at the national level. The MSNA will assess the needs and vulnerabilities of Lebanese nationals, Palestine refugees, and live-out migrants across targeted locations. Findings will provide comparable evidence across population groups and sectors to inform the Lebanon Response Plan (LRP), IPC analysis, and broader humanitarian prioritization and response planning.			
Specific Objective(s)	• Conduct a comprehensive sectoral and inter-sectoral analysis to assess the scale, severity, and drivers of humanitarian needs among affected populations across all Lebanon, enabling nationwide analysis and comparison. • Provide a robust and harmonized evidence base to inform humanitarian and stabilization planning for 2027, including the calculation of People in Need (PiN) figures and severity levels at both sectoral and inter-sectoral levels. Where feasible and relevant, findings will also contribute to Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analyses and other interagency analytical processes.			
Research Questions	• What is the nature of multi-sectoral humanitarian needs in the targeted districts within Lebanon? • What is the magnitude, scope, and severity of humanitarian needs in specific sectors such as shelter, education, food security, health, livelihood, protection, WASH, and basic assistance for the populations residing in the most affected districts in Lebanon? • To what extent do households have cross-cutting needs that span multiple sectors, and which overlapping needs are most prevalent? • How do the findings vary based on geographic area, population groups (Lebanese HHs, live-out migrant HHs, Palestine refugees in Lebanon (PRL) HHs, and Palestine refugees from Syria (PRS) HHs), and the vulnerability profiles of households, including factors including but not limited to age, gender, and disability? • How do households prefer to receive humanitarian assistance (e.g., in-kind, cash, services), and what are their preferred communication channels for providing feedback or raising concerns, particularly across different population groups and vulnerability profiles? • How have humanitarian needs evolved since 2024 in the areas most affected by the current crisis, and what trends or shifts can be observed across sectors and population groups?			
Geographic Coverage	The MSNA aims to cover the whole country. The MSNA will cover the 26 districts in Lebanon. Geographical coverage based on the populations of interest: - Lebanese HHs: Covers 26 districts across the entire country, - Live-out migrant HHs: Covers 21 districts across the entire country (in all governorates) - Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL) and Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS): Covers 12 camps across Akkar district (1), Baalbek (1), Beirut (1), Baabda (2), El Metn (1), Miniyeh-Danniyeh (1), Sour (3), and Saida (2).			
Secondary data sources	• IOM Migrant Presence Monitoring (MPM) • IOM Mobility Snapshot https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/documents/4af859c9585b4989be54d3253b68f859/explore • Lebanon Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA), March 2025			

	- Lebanon's Recovery and Reconstruction Needs Estimated at US\$11 Billion, March 7 2025 - Lebanon: Flash Update #36 - Escalation of hostilities in Lebanon (as of 18 June 2026) - Lebanon – Escalation of Conflict and forced displacement in southern areas, June 9 2026 - Revised Flash Appeal: Lebanon, March-August 2026, June 2026 - Lebanon : Deepening Food Crisis Driven by Conflict Escalation, April 29, 2026		
B. Sampling			
Population groups <i>Select all population group which your assessment will collect data on</i>	☐	IDPs in camp	☒ Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS) residing in camps
	☐	IDPs in host communities	☒ Migrants (live-out)
	☒	Lebanese households	☐ Refugees in informal sites
	☒	Palestine Refugees from Lebanon (PRL) in camp	☐ Refugees [Other, Specify]
	☐	Host communities	☐ [Other, Specify]
Structured questionnaire (Quantitative) – <i>Select all the apply</i>	☒	Probability sampling	☐ Non - Probability sampling
Data collection level:	☐		☒ Household
	☐	Settlement	☐ Other (specify): _____
If probability sampling			
Sampling method: ☒ Random sampling (Lebanese, PRL and PRS) The sampling is stratified: ☒ Yes ☐ No If yes what are the stratifications: - Geographic: nation-wide coverage for the Lebanese households in a total of 26 district. 12 camps in Akkar, Minniyeh- Danniye, Beirut, Baabda, El Metn, Saida, Sour, and Baalbek districts for PRL and PRS ° Population groups: Lebanese, PRL and PRS ° Other: _____			
Sampling method: ☒ Cluster sampling for Migrants If cluster sampling, what is the minimum cluster size? 5 What is the Primary sampling unit (PSU): 8 governorates			
Sampling frame: Do you have the population number at PSU level for all population groups? ☒ Yes ☐ No			
Selection: Probability Proportional to Size (PPS) (migrants) : ☒ Yes ☐ No Selection of PSUs with replacement? (migrants): ☒ Yes ☐ No			
Aimed precision at stratification level: Total sample size: (Target #): Lebanese HHs: 95% level of confidence, 7% margin of error (5,607 HHs) PRL HHs: 95% level of confidence, 10% margin of error (1236 HHs) PRS HHs: 95% level of confidence, 10% margin of error (965 HHs) Live-out migrant HHs: 95% level of confidence, 7% margin of error (1,430 HHs) across 120 sites and 284 clusters, comprising 1,349 interviews in primary PSUs and 81 in replacement PSUs) – Based on MPM 2026			
Resampling: Do you have a reserve list of PSUs / households in case of inaccessible area ? ☒ Yes ☐ No			

Data collection method: ☒ Face to face ☐ Remote data collection	
C. Questionnaire	
Questionnaire design	MSNA mandatory indicators All the mandatory indicators from the <u>2026 MSNA indicator bank</u> , have been included without alteration: ☒ Yes ☐ No XLS form for mandatory indicators The <u>kobo questionnaire</u> provided for the mandatory indicators was used without alteration: ☒ Yes ☐ No
Data management platform(s)	☒ IMPACT ☐ UNHCR ☐ Other, Specify
Expected output type(s)	X MSNI Bulletin #: 1 ☐ Presentation (Sectoral) #: __ ☐ Interactive dashboard #: __ ☐ Report #: __ ☐ Profile #: __ X Presentation (Final) #: 1 ☐ Webmap #: __ X Factsheet #: Maximum 2 X Map #: TBD ☐ Other, Specify] #: __
Data publication plan	☒ Final (anonymised) dataset public, available on IMPACT resource center
	☐ Final (anonymised) dataset public, through HDX connect
	☒ Analysis table public, available on IMPACT resource center
	☐ Analysis table public, available on HDX
Visibility Specify which logos should be on outputs	REACH
	Donor: IMPACT Global Grant
	Coordination Framework: Intersector Core Group (ISCG); Assessment and Analysis Working Group (AAWG); Access Working Group (AWG)
	Partners: International Organization for Migration (IOM), Developmental Action Without Borders (Nabaa), Lebanese Organization for Studies and Training (LOST), SHIELD, and Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (Acted)

2. Rationale

2.1 Background

Lebanon enters the 2026 Multi-Sector Needs Assessment in a context of overlapping economic, political, and humanitarian shocks. Since 2019, the country has faced one of the most severe economic and financial crises in its history, marked by banking-sector insolvency, severe currency depreciation, loss of household purchasing power, and widening poverty. The economic and physical impact of the 2023–2024 conflict was substantial. The World Bank's 2025 Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment¹ estimated the total economic cost of the conflict at US\$14 billion, including US\$6.8 billion in physical damage and US\$7.2 billion in economic losses. Reconstruction and recovery needs were estimated at US\$11 billion, with South and El Nabatieh governorates identified among the most impacted areas, followed by Mount Lebanon (includes the southern

¹ [Lebanon Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment \(RDNA\)](#), March 2025

suburb of Beirut). The assessment further found that Lebanon's real GDP contracted by 7.1 percent in 2024, bringing the cumulative GDP decline since 2019 close to 40 percent².

While the November 2024 ceasefire created space for partial returns and some temporary easing, the situation deteriorated again in 2026. Hostilities intensified sharply on 2 March 2026, linked to broader regional escalation, leading to renewed displacement, infrastructure damage, access constraints, and increased humanitarian needs. OCHA reported that at least 3,884 deaths and 11,856 injuries had been recorded by the Ministry of Public Health since 2 March³. The 2026 escalation has further affected service access and household resilience across multiple sectors. ACAPS⁴ reported that displacement and movement restrictions have severely affected livelihoods and the economy, while damage to infrastructure, roads, bridges, water systems, health facilities, and markets has constrained both humanitarian response and civilian access to essential services. The same analysis highlights that protracted displacement toward Beirut, Mount Lebanon, Akkar, Baalbek-El Hermel and Syria is expected to increase reliance on host communities, collective shelters, and informal accommodation, further straining response capacity⁵.

Lebanon continues to face a severe and worsening humanitarian crisis. Ongoing hostilities despite ceasefire announcements have resulted in sustained displacement, constrained humanitarian access, and limited prospects for safe return. Shelter capacity remains overstretched, essential infrastructure has been damaged, and access to basic services is increasingly restricted. Livelihoods, particularly in agriculture and small-scale commerce, have been disrupted, deepening economic vulnerability and eroding household coping capacities.⁶ Municipalities and service providers are under growing pressure as needs continue to rise. According to the revised 2026 Flash Appeal⁷, an estimated 1.4 million people are directly affected by the crisis and require humanitarian assistance, while humanitarian partners are seeking US\$331.5 million to sustain and expand multi-sector assistance between June and August 2026.

Food security has deteriorated significantly as a result of conflict, displacement, livelihood disruptions, market instability, rising food and fuel prices, and reduced humanitarian assistance. According to the IPC Acute Food Insecurity Projection Update (April–August 2026), approximately 1.24 million people (24 per cent of the analysed population) are experiencing acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above), including 1.14 million people in Crisis (Phase 3) and 101,000 people in Emergency (Phase 4). Food insecurity affects all population groups and is particularly severe in conflict-affected southern districts such as Bent Jbeil, Marjaayoun, Sour, and El Nabatieh.⁸

The evolving crisis, combined with longstanding economic and social vulnerabilities, highlights the need for reliable and comprehensive evidence on humanitarian needs across population groups and geographical areas. In this context, the 2026 MSNA will provide critical, up-to-date information on needs, vulnerabilities, coping strategies, service access, and displacement dynamics to support humanitarian and stabilization planning. The assessment will complement existing analyses, including IPC and sector-specific assessments, by generating comparable multi-sector evidence to inform prioritization, targeting, response planning, and interagency decision-making for the 2027 response.

2.2 Intended impact

The 2026 MSNA aims to provide a comprehensive assessment of humanitarian needs across all 26 districts in Lebanon.

² [Lebanon's Recovery and Reconstruction Needs Estimated at US\\$11 Billion](#), March 7 2025

³ [Lebanon: Flash Update #36 - Escalation of hostilities in Lebanon](#) (as of 18 June 2026)

⁴ [Lebanon – Escalation of Conflict and forced displacement in southern areas](#), June 9 2026

⁵ Ibid

⁶ [Revised Flash Appeal: Lebanon, March-August 2026](#), June 2026

⁷ Ibid

⁸ [Lebanon: Deepening Food Crisis Driven by Conflict Escalation](#), April 29, 2026

The assessment aims to produce a robust, multi-sectoral evidence base that captures evolving vulnerabilities and disparities across key population groups, including Lebanese citizens, live-out migrants, and Palestine refugees, as well as across different vulnerability profiles.

The findings of the MSNA will directly support the Lebanon Response Plan (LRP) and other strategic humanitarian frameworks by strengthening inter-sectoral coordination, improving targeting efficiency, and promoting equitable response planning. Ultimately, the assessment aims to enhance the effectiveness of humanitarian action, reinforce community resilience, and support evidence-based decision-making to address urgent needs in Lebanon.

3. Methodology

3.1 Methodology overview

The 2026 MSNA is a targeted assessment that integrates primary data collection with a thorough review of secondary data sources. Primary data will be gathered through a household-level questionnaire. Data collection will be guided by structured questionnaires, developed by IMPACT Initiatives' global sectoral specialists in coordination with Global clusters. The MSNA questionnaire will align with the Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR) which is an assessment targeting Syrian refugees in Lebanon to ensure analysis compatibility. The data will be collected through face-to-face interviews.

The final sample sizes across all population groups are as follows: 5,607 surveys for Lebanese households (the whole of Lebanon) in 26 districts, 1,430 for live-out migrants, 1236 for Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL), and 965 for Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS). These sample sizes are designed to ensure representativeness at the district level for Lebanese, camp and governorate levels for Palestine refugees and governorate for live-out migrants.

3.2 Population of interest

Below are key definitions relevant to the MSNA population cohorts:

- **Lebanese population:** All persons holding Lebanese nationality who are residing in Lebanon at the time of the assessment living in both urban and rural areas within the assessment's geographic scope.
- **Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL):** Persons whose normal place of residence was Palestine during the period 1 June 1946 to 15 May 1948, and who lost both home and means of livelihood because of the 1948 conflict and fled to Lebanon.
- **Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS):** Individuals of Palestinian origin who were residing in Syria and were displaced to Lebanon as a result of the conflict that began in 2011. Many fled due to persecution, violence, or insecurity and now face a precarious legal and socio-economic situation in Lebanon.
 - Only registered PRL & PRS living in camps and direct surroundings of the camps will be considered for the purpose of this assessment.
- **Live-out migrants:** Migrant households (HHs) who live independently and are not domestic workers residing with their employer. A migrant HH may consist of a single person, particularly where the individual does not have family members living with them. In some cases, several separate migrant HHs may share the same dwelling or living space while still being considered distinct households. The 2026 MSNA will focus only on live-out migrants.
- **Household:** A household is a group of people who regularly share meals, income, and expenditures together. Members must acknowledge the authority of one person as head of household and that person must live with the rest of the household members. In polygamous households, each wife is treated as a distinct household when the wives live in different houses, cook separately, and take decisions independently
- **Head of household:** The head of household is defined as the main decisionmaker in the household; in certain households, this responsibility can be shared between two people (co-headed household).

3.3 Secondary data review

A secondary data review will be conducted in advance of primary data collection and during the analyses and reporting phase.

- IOM Migrant Presence Monitoring (MPM)
- IOM Mobility Snapshot
- Lebanon Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA), March 2025
- Lebanon's Recovery and Reconstruction Needs Estimated at US\$11 Billion, March 7 2025
- Lebanon: Flash Update #36 - Escalation of hostilities in Lebanon (as of 18 June 2026)
- Lebanon – Escalation of Conflict and forced displacement in southern areas, June 9 2026
- Revised Flash Appeal: Lebanon, March-August 2026, June 2026
- Lebanon : Deepening Food Crisis Driven by Conflict Escalation, April 29, 2026

Additional secondary data will also be reviewed following the completion of primary data collection and serve as a means of triangulating findings at the analysis stage. Materials will be compiled from a range of documents, reports, factsheets, and related materials produced by actors with knowledge of the overall context and specific sectors.

3.4 Primary data collection

3.4.1 Sampling

Lebanese Households:

The results will be representative at the district level, aligning with the analytical level used by, Lebanon Response Plan (LRP) and the IPC if possible, thereby enabling the MSNA findings to directly inform both the LRP and IPC classification processes.

For Lebanese households, a district-level probability sampling strategy will be employed. Sample sizes for each district were calculated using the Krejcie and Morgan formula, assuming a 95% confidence level, a 7% margin of error, and an additional 10% contingency buffer to account for non-response and other data quality losses. This approach provides statistically robust estimates at district level, consistent with the geographical level of analysis used by the Lebanon Response Plan (LRP) and the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), thereby enabling MSNA findings to directly inform both LRP and IPC classification processes.

Population estimates used for sample size calculation, sample allocation, and weighting will be derived from the most recent OCHA population figures available at the time of assessment design. The resulting sample size represents the minimum number of completed household interviews required per district. An additional 10% oversample has been incorporated to maintain target sample sizes after accounting for refusals, non-contact households, and other forms of sample loss.

The sampling frame will include all residential cadasters across Lebanon. Prior to sample generation, only areas classified as non-residential, such as industrial zones, commercial areas, and non-residential villages, will be excluded. The geographic allocation was also informed by inputs from the field and security teams to support feasible and safe implementation. Before fieldwork begins, REACH GIS specialists will remove non-residential land parcels from the data collection boundaries and produce a final sampling frame comprising only eligible residential areas.

A two-stage household selection process will be applied to ensure that all eligible households have a known and non-zero probability of selection.

First, random geographic survey points will be generated within the residential sampling frame using ArcGIS Pro's Create Random Points tool. Survey points will be distributed proportionally according to the allocated sample size in each district

and assigned to sampling polygons. The randomly generated survey points and corresponding polygons will be shared with enumerators via an offline navigation application (Maps.me) in the form of KML files.

Second, enumerators will identify and select households according to a standardized procedure:

1. Navigate to the assigned random survey point.
2. Identify all residential buildings located within a 200-meter radius of the survey point and within the boundaries of the selected hexagon.
3. If multiple residential buildings are present, list and count all visible residential buildings and use a random number generator (Pretty Random application) to select one building.
4. If the selected building contains multiple residential units or apartments, enumerators will list or count all occupied residential units within the building and randomly select one residential unit using the Pretty Random application.
5. Once a residential unit has been selected, enumerators will conduct eligibility screening before proceeding with the interview.

This approach minimizes selection bias associated with differences in building size and household density, particularly in urban and peri-urban areas where multi-story apartment buildings may contain substantially different numbers of households.

The household selection process can be summarized as follows:

Random Geographic Point → Residential Building Selection → Residential Unit/Apartment Listing → Random Household Selection → Eligibility Screening → Interview Completion

The target population for this component of the assessment is Lebanese households residing in private residential dwellings.

Upon arrival at the selected dwelling, enumerators will conduct an eligibility screening. A household will be considered eligible if:

- The dwelling is occupied and residential;
- At least one adult household member (18 years or older) is available to respond;
- The household self-identifies as Lebanese; and
- The household provides informed consent to participate.

The following cases will be recorded as ineligible and will not be interviewed:

- Vacant dwellings;
- Commercial or non-residential premises;
- Collective shelters or institutions not included in the sampling frame;
- Households composed exclusively of non-target population groups;
- Inaccessible dwellings.

To minimize non-response bias, replacement households will not be selected immediately. Where a selected household is unavailable, enumerators will make up to three contact attempts at different times of the day, where feasible, before classifying the household as a non-contact case. Refusals, non-contacts, inaccessible households, vacant dwellings, and ineligible households will be recorded separately using standardized outcome codes.

Replacement interviews will be conducted only after all required contact attempts have been exhausted. Replacement households will be selected using pre-randomized backup survey points generated from the original sampling frame and, located within the same sampled hexagon. Backup points will be assigned by field supervisors rather than selected by enumerators in the field. Reasons for replacement will be documented and monitored throughout data collection. Replacement rates, non-response rates, and eligibility rates will be reviewed regularly and reported in the final methodology annex.

GPS-based point sampling constitutes the primary household selection methodology. Random walk procedures are not part of the standard sampling design and will only be used under exceptional circumstances, such as GPS failure, technical limitations, or security-related access constraints.

Where enumerators cannot access GPS coordinates, they may navigate using pre-identified landmarks provided by REACH GIS specialists. Any departure from the standard GPS-based selection process must be approved by a field supervisor, and documented in monitoring reports. Cases collected through alternative selection procedures will be monitored separately and assessed during data cleaning and analysis to determine whether additional sensitivity analyses are required.

Sample Size Considerations

While the household survey sample is designed to produce representative household-level estimates, some indicators relating to specific population sub-groups may have substantially smaller denominators.

This is particularly relevant for indicators concerning:

- Children under five years of age;
- Children aged 0–23 months;
- Children aged 6–23 months;
- Children aged 12–23 months;
- Children experiencing recent illness; and
- Other age-specific or vulnerability-specific subgroups.

During analysis, an indicator-by-denominator assessment will be conducted to determine the appropriate level of geographic and demographic disaggregation for reporting. Indicators with insufficient sample sizes for reliable district-level reporting may be reported at governorate level or higher levels of aggregation.

The household sampling design has been developed using population-proportional sample allocation across districts based on the most recent available OCHA population estimates for Lebanese households.

Following data collection, the achieved sample will be assessed to determine whether weighting adjustments are required. Particular consideration will be given to:

- District-level sample allocation and achieved sample distribution;
- Selection procedures within multi-household residential buildings;
- Redistribution of samples from inaccessible areas;
- Household eligibility rates; and
- Differential non-response across geographic areas.

Based on this assessment, sampling weights may be applied where there is evidence of unequal probabilities of selection or meaningful deviations between the achieved sample and the target population distribution. The need for weighting, and the weighting approach adopted, will be determined according to the extent to which the achieved sample aligns with the intended sample design and population structure across the criteria listed above.

For the MSNA, household-level sampling weights will be calculated using OCHA population estimates for Lebanese households as the population benchmark. Weights will be derived by comparing the proportion of the target population represented by each analysis domain (e.g., district or other relevant geographic strata) with its corresponding proportion in the achieved sample. The resulting adjustment factors will be applied to increase the representation of under-sampled groups and reduce the influence of over-sampled groups, thereby improving the representativeness of the final estimates.

To ensure data quality, REACH will implement a comprehensive quality assurance framework throughout the assessment in adherence to sampling procedures, data collection standards, and analytical rigor. All data management, cleaning, processing, and analysis activities will be conducted in accordance with the following IMPACT standards and procedures:

- **IMPACT Research Guidelines – [Quantitative Data Cleaning & Processing Minimum Standards Checklist \(V1.2, March 2026\)](#);**
- **IMPACT Research Guidelines – [Quantitative Data Analysis Minimum Standards Checklist \(V1.2, March 2026\)](#); and**
- **IMPACT Research Guidelines – [Data Management SOPs \(V2, June 2025\)](#).**

Quality assurance measures will be implemented throughout the assessment cycle and will include:

- Enumerator training and certification;
- Pilot testing of survey tools and field procedures;
- Detailed field manuals and sampling guidance;
- GPS verification of interview locations;
- Supervisor accompaniment visits and spot checks;
- Back-checks on a sample of completed interviews, where feasible;
- Daily monitoring of response rates, eligibility rates, and replacement rates;
- Monitoring of interview durations and completion patterns;
- Automated validation constraints and skip logic within the questionnaire;
- Routine consistency, completeness, and outlier checks during data collection;
- Ongoing review of field deviations and implementation challenges;
- Secure data storage and version control procedures in accordance with IMPACT Data Management SOPs; and
- Systematic data cleaning, processing, and analysis in accordance with the applicable IMPACT minimum standards checklists.

All sampling deviations, replacements, non-response cases, and exceptional procedures will be documented and reviewed during data cleaning and analysis. Any limitations or methodological deviations identified during quality assurance processes will be transparently reported in the final methodology annex and considered during interpretation of findings.

Table 1:
Sample size per District for Lebanese population group

District	HH	Sample Size (n)	+10% Buffer	Final Sample
Akkar	274320	196	20	216
Baalbek	190663	196	20	216
El Hermel	20061	195	20	215
Beirut	174852	196	20	216
Rachaya	29252	195	20	215
West Bekaa	61235	196	20	216
Zahle	125033	196	20	216
Aley	240415	196	20	216
Baabda	395014	196	20	216

Chouf	222825	196	20	216
El Meten	377406	196	20	216
Jbeil	108962	196	20	216
Kesrwane	215733	196	20	216
Bent Jbeil	25987	195	20	215
El Nabatieh	112123	196	20	216
Hasbaya	36248	195	20	215
Marjaayoun	13871	194	19	213
Bcharre	19244	195	20	215
El Batroun	49291	196	20	216
El Koura	67806	196	20	216
El Minieh-Dennie	114289	196	20	216
Tripoli	171445	196	20	216
Zgharta	67070	196	20	216
Jezzine	27031	195	20	215
Saida	595958	196	20	216
Sour	128162	196	20	216
TOTAL	3864296	5088	519	5607

Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL) and Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS) Households

A stratified sampling approach at the camp level was adopted to determine the number of PRL and PRS households to be interviewed in the 12 camps located within the targeted governorates. Based on these population figures, a stratified random sample will be drawn to ensure findings are representative at the camp level, using a 95% confidence level and a 10% margin of error, with an added 10% buffer to account for non-responses rate. In addition, camp-level results will be aggregated to yield governorate-level estimates maintaining the same statistical thresholds. The sample size calculated will yields 1236 households for PRL and 965 households for PRS to ensure the sample is representative at both the governorate and camp levels.

The PRL and PRS sample sizes was determined based on population conducted by UNRWA in 2026. This dataset represents the most current and reliable demographic information on Palestine refugees and is actively used by the Agency for planning and assessment purposes.

Table 2: Sample size per camp for PRL and PRS population group (based on the data shared by UNRWA)

Governorate	District	Camps	PRL	PRS	Sample representative at Camps level - CL 95% - MOE 10 - Buffer 10%	
					PRL	PRS
Akkar	Akkar	NAHR EL BARED CAMP	26901	1144	106	98
Baalbek–El Hermel	Baalbek	WAVEL CAMP	1850	417	102	87
Beirut	Beirut	MAR ELIAS CAMP	480	86	90	51
Mount Lebanon	Baabda	BURJ BARAJNEH CAMP	9755	903	106	96
Mount Lebanon	Baabda	CHATILA CAMP	3473	695	104	94

Mount Lebanon	El Metn	DBAYEH CAMP	804	1	95	1
North	Miniyeh-Danniyeh	BEDDAWI CAMP	14123	1356	106	99
South	Tyre (Sour)	BURJ SHAMALI CAMP	10216	1463	106	101
South	Tyre (Sour)	BUSS CAMP	6200	293	105	81
South	Saida (Sidon)	EIN EL HILWEH CAMP	30350	2393	106	103
South	Saida (Sidon)	MIA MIA CAMP	2923	189	104	71
South	Tyre (Sour)	RASHIDIEH CAMP	9857	358	106	84
Total					1236	965

Data collection will be led by Nabaa, in close coordination with REACH. Nabaa will oversee field implementation and ensure quality data collection aligned with the MSNA timeline. REACH will be responsible for developing the sampling frame, conducting data cleaning and analysis, and monitoring data collection progress. Data will be submitted to REACH daily, and any delays or issues identified will be promptly communicated to Nabaa to enable joint troubleshooting and timely resolution.

To ensure the random selection of households, REACH will generate GPS-based random points within official camp boundaries, as provided by UNRWA. In cases of GPS connectivity issues, offline maps will be prepared for each camp to guide data collectors.

It is important to mention that, as official geographic boundaries for adjacent gatherings are not available, GPS points will be limited within the camps. Consequently, adjacent gatherings—despite their functional overlap with camps—will not be included in the sample.

Live-out Migrant Households⁹:

Only live-out migrants will be included in the MSNA 2026 assessment, as it is not feasible to generate a representative and reliable sample for the live-in migrant population due to access and sampling limitations.

A two-stage stratified cluster sampling approach was adopted to select migrant households across the targeted areas. The sampling frame was designed to yield representative findings at the governorate level, with nationwide coverage. This approach - based on consultations with IOM and lessons learned from the 2023 MSNA - was chosen to ensure localized insights that reflect the unique needs and living conditions of migrants in each area.

As a first stage, a cluster sampling method was applied, with the sample size calculated separately for each governorate (stratum) using the following formula:

$$n = (N \times Z^2 \times p (1 - p)) / ((Z^2 \times (N - 1)) + (r^2 \times N)) \times \text{Design Effect}$$

Where:

n is the required sample size per governorate,

N is the total migrant population in the governorate,

***Z*²** is the Z-score squared (3.841 for a 95% confidence level),

p is the estimated proportion (set at 0.5 to account for maximum variability),

r is the desired margin of error (0.05 or ±5%), and

Design Effect of 1.5 was used to account for clustering.

The live out migrant population sample frame for the MSNA was based on the population figures from 2026 Migrant Presence Monitoring (MPM). The MPM reports population figures at the cadaster level (admin 3), which will be used as the Primary Sampling Units in the 2-stage, stratified cluster sampling strategy. PSUs will be selected using Probability Proportional to Size (PPS) with replacement.

⁹ In case IOM wouldn't be collecting data on the live-out migrants this population will not be covered by the MSNA 2026

Household conversion

The MSNA interviews households, but the MPM frame records individual migrants. Individual counts were converted to households by dividing by an assumed average household size of 1.5, giving 10,681 households from 16,022 individuals. This figure is an assumption and should be replaced if observed data becomes available.

Parameters applied

Parameter	Value
Confidence level	95 percent
Margin of error	7 percent
Assumed proportion (P)	0.50
Design effect	1.5
Interviews per cluster	5
Reserve for non-response	10 percent
Replacement PSUs	20 percent
Capacity constraints	Enabled, capped

Based on the parameters of a 95% confidence level, a 7% margin of error, and a 10% buffer to account for non-responses, the final sample size for live-out migrants was determined to be 1,430 households. Once the sample size (n) was determined for each governorate, it was converted into clusters by dividing the total sample by the number of interviews per cluster, with each cluster consisting of 5 interviews ($Clusters = n / 5$).

The clusters were randomly selected within each governorate using Probability Proportional to Size (PPS) sampling with replacement, ensuring that cadasters with larger migrant populations had a higher likelihood of selection. This approach maintains geographic representativeness, reflects population distribution across strata, and upholds statistical rigor throughout the sampling process. It is important to note that where a selected cadaster contains fewer than five migrant households, the cadaster may be merged with an adjacent cadaster for sampling purposes or completed using predefined procedures to ensure adequate cluster size, while maintaining coverage of the target population. The sample is not self-weighting and must be weighted before analysis. Sample sizes were calculated independently for each governorate, so the smaller governorates are over-represented relative to their population: Mount Lebanon holds 83 percent of the estimated households but receives 36 percent of the interviews. Unweighted national figures will be incorrect.

Weights should be calculated once collection is complete, using achieved interview counts and adjusted for non-response and for any use of replacement sites. The DTM Regional Data Hub can produce the weights and a weighted dataset, or review weights calculated by the analysis team.

Resulting sample:

1,430 interviews across 120 sites and 284 clusters, comprising 1,349 interviews in primary PSUs and 81 in replacement PSUs.

Governorate	Sample	With buffer	Clusters
Akkar	84	93	19
Baalbek-El Hermel	88	97	20
Beirut	228	251	51
Bekaa	105	116	24
El Nabatieh	93	103	21
Mount Lebanon	288	317	64
North	175	193	39

South	209	230	46
Total	1,270	1,400	284

Capacity constraints:

Each village is capped at its estimated household count, since some villages hold fewer households than the draw allocated. This affected 33 clusters, and 200 interviews were reallocated to villages with remaining capacity.

Replacement sites:

An additional 20 percent of villages were drawn as replacements and are listed in the sampling output file. They should be used in the order given, and only where a primary site is inaccessible.

Data will be collected by IOM enumerators under the supervision of IOM team leaders. Prior to the start of data collection, IOM will provide comprehensive training to its enumerators on data collection with migrant populations, including key challenges and mitigation measures. Throughout the data collection process, IOM team leaders will provide day-to-day oversight and support to field teams, while REACH will provide technical guidance and quality assurance support as needed.

In the second stage, due to changing population distribution and the concentration in urban settings GPS targeting was not deemed suitable for the migrant stratum. Instead, households as Secondary Sampling Units (SSU) will be randomly selected from each cluster through systematic random sampling. Initially, three random starting points will be generated using GIS software. Enumerators will then randomly select one of these three points by identifying the nearest dwelling to each pin and choosing one as the official starting point for the cluster. Subsequent household selection will follow a systematic approach using a sampling interval, calculated as: $\text{Sampling interval} = \text{Total number of households in the cluster} / \text{Cluster size}$. Enumerators will follow a predefined walking route, systematically visiting households according to the calculated interval, ensuring comprehensive coverage of the cluster. In areas with multi-unit dwellings (e.g., apartment buildings), each unit will be treated as a separate household and included in the walking route. This household selection method was piloted prior to the 2022 and 2023 MSNA and demonstrated strong effectiveness in achieving representative and logistically feasible coverage. If the household is present but not from the target population group, the enumerators will target the closest household from the relevant population group. They will do this by targeting the next household to the right (or above) until a household from the relevant population group is found. If the household is not present or no adult representative is available to participate in the interview, the enumerators will target the closest household to the right or, in the case of multi-unit dwellings, above, if an additional floor is available. If no migrant households will be present in the following two households or floors, enumerators should re-start the walking process to avoid the risk of switching to convenience sampling.

In case the field team has established that the target population group is not present in the entire cluster, the team supervisor will immediately inform the assessment coordination team for a replacement cluster that will be randomly selected.

While the walking technique was considered the most efficient approach given the operational constraints, there is a potential risk of deviating to the convenience or snowball sampling. To mitigate this, enumerator teams will be accompanied by a supervisor whose role is to ensure that the selection of households is random, particularly if locating migrants proves more challenging than anticipated.

3.4.2 Data Collection Process:

The data collection phase is scheduled to span throughout August 2026. Quantitative data will be collected through in-person interviews conducted in the sampled areas. Interviews will be carried out by trained enumerators using structured questionnaires.

REACH has partnered with Nabaa, IOM, LOST, and Shield to support data collection activities. Nabaa will lead all PRL/PRS household data collection. IOM will be responsible in leading data collection for live out migrants. In all other locations,

REACH as well as LOST and Shield will be directly responsible for implementing and supervising the data collection process for Lebanese.

From the assessment side, the Researcher will conduct biweekly check-ins with Field Officer throughout the data collection period. These briefings will provide an opportunity to discuss emerging issues related to data quality, survey tool clarity, implementation challenges, nonresponse (e.g., refusals or no contact), and supervision needs.

To promote inclusivity and sensitivity, enumerators will work in gender-balanced pairs for all interviews. Prior to each interview, enumerators will obtain informed consent, clearly explaining the purpose, expected duration, and voluntary nature of participation in the assessment. Respondents will be informed that they are free to decline participation or end the interview at any time. If the designated respondent is unavailable, enumerators will interview the household member who is most knowledgeable about the household circumstances. Under no circumstances will minors be interviewed or asked to participate in the assessment.

Tool Development:

The questionnaire was developed by the REACH assessment team through a collaborative process involving multiple inputs and review stages and in close coordination with different clusters and working groups. The foundation of the tool was built by IMPACT HQ specialists in coordination with relevant global clusters, and it was specifically adapted to align with the Joint Inter-Sectoral Analysis Framework (JIAF) 2.0 as applied in Lebanon. To ensure cross-population comparability, the questionnaire was also aimed at harmonizing it with the "Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon" (VASyR). In addition, it incorporated sectoral information gaps identified by the in-country Assessment and Analysis Working Group (AAWG). These inputs helped shape a questionnaire which is both context-specific and responsive to programmatic needs. Following internal drafting, the questionnaire was shared with sector leads and co-leads, and partners for review and feedback. Consultation meetings were held where necessary to address specific recommendations and ensure alignment across stakeholders.

The survey covers a broad range of sectors, including shelter, education, food security, nutrition, health, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). It also includes modules on accountability to affected populations (AAP), access to energy, and migration sources.

Data collection will be conducted using the KoBo Collect application and uploaded to the KoBo Humanitarian Toolbox server. Enumerators are required to upload completed interviews at the end of each working day, or as soon as they have data access, to enable timely data cleaning, real-time monitoring, and GPS verification.

Training and Piloting:

Decentralized trainings will be conducted for field staff end of July, including pilot (Specific dates to be confirmed). Each group of enumerators will be trained for 2 days, followed by one day of a pilot.

The training will include the following components:

- **Theoretical:** A review of the theoretical background of the questionnaires and of each question to fully understand the objective and meaning of each question. Standard quantitative interviewing techniques and field protocols will also be covered.
- **ODK (Open Data Kit) application:** A module on the use of the applications for interviews and for supervision call-backs.
- **PSEA and FCRM Training:** All enumerators and supervisors will receive dedicated training on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), Field Code of Conduct, and the Feedback and Complaint Response Mechanism (FCRM). In addition, all staff will be required to sign the Code of Conduct prior to deployment, confirming their understanding and commitment to upholding protection standards and ethical conduct throughout the data collection process.

Coordination with Data Collection Partners:

Four data collection partners will support the MSNA 2026: Nabaa will lead data collection for PRL and PRS households, while IOM will be responsible for data collection with migrant households in. In all other geographic areas, REACH, LOST and Shield will directly manage data collection for the Lebanese population group.

REACH will provide partner organizations with the planned sampling strategy and corresponding GPS points, tailored to their assigned areas of responsibility. The partners will then be responsible for planning and conducting field data collection following the designated sampling targets, managing day-to-day operations, and notifying local authorities in advance of any fieldwork. While operational implementation falls under the partners' responsibility, REACH will remain the focal point for monitoring data collection progress and ensuring data quality. In the event of any access or security-related issues during field implementation, partners are expected to promptly inform REACH to enable appropriate support and response.

Data cleaning will be conducted daily during the first week of data collection and on a bi-weekly basis in the subsequent weeks. All identified issues will be communicated to the partners for feedback and necessary revisions. REACH will retain full responsibility for data analysis and reporting across all population groups.

To facilitate smooth coordination, REACH focal points will maintain regular communication with partner organizations, with the frequency and communication channels agreed upon before the start of fieldwork. In addition, REACH will provide ad hoc technical support, including sharing relevant documentation and responding to any questions or concerns throughout the data collection process.

3.5 Data Processing & Analysis

A REACH Data Officer (DO) will lead data management, quality control, cleaning, processing, and analysis activities in close coordination with the REACH Assessment Officer (AO). Throughout data collection, the AO, Field Officers, and DO will work collaboratively to review incoming data on a daily basis. The AO and Field Officers will serve as the primary focal points for follow-up with team leaders and enumerators, while the DO will identify potential data quality issues through systematic checks and cleaning procedures.

A data cleaning Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)¹⁰ has been developed for the assessment, drawing on the applicable IMPACT minimum standards and incorporating indicator-specific validation rules and cleaning parameters. Data will be downloaded and reviewed daily through a combination of automated validation rules, logic checks, and standardized cleaning scripts. Daily quality checks will include completeness and consistency checks, review of skip patterns and questionnaire logic, identification of outliers and unusual values, GPS verification where applicable, interview duration checks, and monitoring of response, eligibility, refusal, and replacement rates.

The AO, Field Officers, and DO will maintain a data quality log documenting identified inconsistencies, missing information, and required follow-up actions. Any issues requiring clarification will be communicated by the DO to the AO and Field Officers, who will coordinate directly with team leaders and enumerators to resolve discrepancies. Follow-up actions and corrections will be completed as rapidly as possible and, where feasible, within three days of issue identification. Surveys that do not meet minimum quality standards, including interviews completed unrealistically quickly or containing substantial inconsistencies, may be flagged for verification, correction, or exclusion in line with IMPACT data quality standards.

Following completion of fieldwork, a final cleaned dataset will be prepared, documented, and validated in accordance with IMPACT data quality procedures. The dataset will include fully labelled variables and response categories based on the approved data codebook.

¹⁰ Check Annex 1 by the end of the ToR

Data analysis will be conducted using standardized analysis scripts in R to ensure consistency and reproducibility across all assessment indicators. Sector specialists will review calculations and outputs related to their respective sectors. Where required, sampling weights will be applied during analysis to account for unequal probabilities of selection or deviations between the achieved sample and target population distribution, based on the sampling assessment conducted following data collection. Final analysis tables and outputs will undergo internal quality assurance and validation procedures prior to reporting. Results will be presented as percentages, frequencies, or other appropriate statistical measures depending on the indicator and level of analysis. Any limitations identified during data cleaning, processing, or analysis will be documented and considered during the interpretation of findings.

No weighting will be required when producing district-level estimates, for Lebanese, PRL, and PRS population as each district constitutes a separate sampling stratum and the sample selected within that district is designed to be representative of its residential population. However, when district-level results are combined to produce governorate- or national-level estimates, population weights will be applied because the number of households sampled in each district is not necessarily proportional to the district's share of the overall population. Weighting will therefore ensure that each district contributes to the aggregated findings according to its actual population size, preventing smaller districts from being overrepresented and larger districts from being underrepresented.

3.6 Limitations

The 2026 Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) faces the following limitations which could impact the comprehensiveness and representativeness of its findings. These include:

- Coverage limitations: The assessment is designed to be representative of Lebanese households residing in accessible residential areas included within the final sampling frame. Areas excluded due to security, operational, or access constraints will not be represented in the survey sample. Findings should therefore only be generalized to the population covered by the assessment.
- Potential non-response bias: Despite the application of standardized revisit procedures, pre-randomized replacement points, and close field supervision, some selected households may refuse participation, be unavailable, or be inaccessible. If non-responding households systematically differ from responding households, this may introduce some degree of bias into the findings.
- Small denominator sizes for selected indicators: While the sample is designed to provide representative estimates for household-level indicators at district level, some indicators relating to smaller population groups (e.g., children under five years of age or specific vulnerable groups) may be based on limited sample sizes. Findings for these subgroups may therefore be associated with wider margins of uncertainty and should be interpreted with caution.

4. Key ethical considerations and related risks

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

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

<i>discussion while being considerate of participants' time, ensuring accurate reporting of information provided)?</i>		
... Does not expose data collectors to any risks as a direct result of participation in data collection?	No	Developed a comprehensive mitigation plan that includes obtaining permissions and access ahead of time, as well as providing a detailed field manual with safety protocols and guidelines to ensure the protection of data collectors.
... 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	Enumerators will be prepared to handle such situations sensitively and ethically. This preparation includes training on recognizing signs of vulnerability, responding appropriately, and ensuring the confidentiality and safety of all participants. Additionally, a dedicated REACH hotline will be available to refer people to the appropriate support services.
... Follows IMPACT SOPs for management of personally identifiable information ?	Yes	