

Research Terms of Reference

Calibration Assessment

UKR2206C

Ukraine

December 2025

REACH Informing
more effective
humanitarian action

1. Executive Summary

Country of intervention	Ukraine				
Type of Emergency	<input type="checkbox"/>	Natural disaster	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Conflict	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)
Type of Crisis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sudden onset	<input type="checkbox"/>	Slow onset	<input type="checkbox"/> Protracted
Mandating Body/ Agency	OCHA, ICCG				
IMPACT Project Code	64BAO, 64BAG, 64BJZ				
Overall Research Timeframe (from research design to final outputs / M&E)	01/12/2025 to 29/04/2026				
CResearch Timeframe Add planned deadlines (for first cycle if more than 1)	1. Pilot/ training: 19/01/2026		6. Output drafted: 16/04/2026		
	2. Start collect data: 24/01/2026		7. Output sent for validation: 22/04/2026		
	3. Data collected: 28/02/2026		8. Output published: 29/04/2026		
	4. Data cleaned and sent for validation: 16/03/2026				
	5. Data analysed and sent for validation: 31/03/2026				
Number of assessments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single assessment (one cycle) – midwinter update to MSNA			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Multi assessment (more than one cycle)			
Humanitarian milestones	Milestone		Deadline		
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Donor plan/strategy	_ / _ / _ _ _ _		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Inter-cluster plan/strategy and targeting updates throughout HPC	Ongoing		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cluster plan/strategy updates throughout HPC	Ongoing		
	<input type="checkbox"/>	NGO platform plan/strategy	_ / _ / _ _ _ _		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify):	_ / _ / _ _ _ _			
Audience Type & Dissemination	Audience type		Dissemination		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Strategic	X General Product Mailing (mail to NGO consortium; HCT participants; ICCG, Donors)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Programmatic	X Cluster Mailing (Health, Shelter , WASH, FSL, Education, Cash, Protection) and presentation of findings at cluster/working group meeting		
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Operational			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	[Other, Specify]			

			X Presentation of findings (e.g., at HCT meeting; ICCG meeting, Cluster meetings)	
			X Website Dissemination (Relief Web & REACH Resource Centre)	
			<input type="checkbox"/> [Other, Specify]	
Detailed dissemination plan required	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	X	No
General Objective	To understand and analyse the changes over time in core indicators and drivers of multi-sectoral humanitarian needs in the frontline oblasts of Ukraine, with the exception of areas beyond the control of the Government of Ukraine, to inform targeting updates of the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) in 2026 and support an evidence-based approach to humanitarian response and prioritization.			
Specific Objective(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To assess the needs of households in Ukraine during the 2025-2026 winter season across key humanitarian sectors, including Shelter and Non-Food Items (SNFI), Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), Food Security, Education, Health, Livelihoods, and Protection. 2. To analyze variations in the prevalence and severity of humanitarian needs among different demographic groups across the surveyed areas, highlighting socio-demographic and displacement-specific needs, with comparisons to findings from the 2025 Ukraine Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA). 3. To identify geographic variations in the prevalence and severity of needs across sectors, identifying oblasts and front-line/border regions where needs are more common, as well as more often severe to inform targeted humanitarian interventions. 4. To gather data on accountability to affected populations, including aid preferences, satisfaction levels, information access, and challenges with voicing feedback. 5. To examine changes in humanitarian needs over time in relation to the MSNA baseline data. 6. To provide evidence on the impact of seasonal factors on humanitarian needs in Ukraine, informing winterization response planning for 2027. 			
Research Questions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the unmet essential needs of households related to SNFI, WASH, Food Security, Education, Health, Livelihoods and Protection? 2. What is the variation in the prevalence and severity of humanitarian needs among different household demographics across the surveyed area, compared to the results of the 2025 Ukraine Multi-Sector Needs Assessment? 3. To what extent have there been changes in humanitarian needs over time as compared to the MSNA baseline data? 4. What is the impact of the winter season on key drivers of needs in Ukraine? 5. What is the variation in the prevalence and severity of humanitarian needs among different household demographics and displacement groups across the surveyed area? 6. What are the geographic differences in the prevalence and severity of needs in each sector between the assessed regions and in front line/border areas? 7. What are the affected populations' preferences for aid types and modalities, their satisfaction with humanitarian assistance, and challenges with aid information and voicing feedback? 			

Geographic Coverage	Frontline oblasts of Ukraine that are adjacent to the front line or bordering the Russian Federation: Chernihivska, Dnipropetrovska, Donetska, Kharkivska, Khersonska, Mykolaivska, Odeska, Sumska, and Zaporizka Oblasts, with the exception of households in settlements not under control of the Government of Ukraine as of shortly before the envisioned start date of the data collection (24 January 2026). There are very limited settlements in Luhanska Oblast which are under the control of the Government of Ukraine which are excluded from this assessment.			
Secondary data sources	2025 REACH Ukraine Multi-Sector Needs Assessment – General Population Dataset 2025 REACH Ukraine MSNA General Population Frequency Tables at National level 2025 REACH Ukraine MSNA General Population Frequency tables at macroregion level 2025 REACH Ukraine MSNA General Population Frequency tables at Frontline Oblast level 2025 REACH Ukraine MSNA General Population Frequency Tables at Strata level 2024-2025 REACH Ukraine Calibration Assessment Round 3 2024-2025 REACH Ukraine Calibration Assessment Round 3 Dashboard 2024 REACH Ukraine Calibration Assessment Round 2 2025 Ukraine Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) 2025 Ukraine Situation Reports OCHA 2025 IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)			
	More detailed information can be found under Point 3.3 Secondary Data Review in the Methodology section.			
<i>Select all that apply</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	IDPs in host communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Returnees
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Host communities (including non-displaced conflict-affected populations)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other
Stratification <i>Select type(s) and enter number of strata</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Geographical #: 19 Strata Population size per strata is known? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Group #: ____ Population size per strata is known? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	[Other Specify] #: ____ Population size per strata is known? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Data collection tool(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Structured (Quantitative)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Semi-structured (Qualitative)
	Sampling method		Data collection method	
Structured data collection tool # 1 <i>Select sampling and data collection method and specify target # interviews</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Purposive <input type="checkbox"/> Probability / Simple random <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Probability / Stratified simple random <input type="checkbox"/> Probability / Cluster sampling <input type="checkbox"/> Probability / Stratified cluster sampling <input type="checkbox"/> [Other, Specify]		<input type="checkbox"/> Key informant interview (Target #):_ _ _ _ _ <input type="checkbox"/> Group discussion (Target #):_ _ _ _ _ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Household interview (Target #): 3,021 <input type="checkbox"/> Individual interview (Target #):_ _ _ _ _ <input type="checkbox"/> Direct observations (Target #):_ _ _ _ _ <input type="checkbox"/> [Other, Specify] (Target #):_ _ _ _ _	
Target level of precision if probability sampling	95% level of confidence		8+/- % margin of error	

Data management platform(s)	X	IMPACT	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNHCR		
Expected output type(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Situation overview #: __	<input type="checkbox"/>	Report #: __	<input type="checkbox"/>	Profile #: __
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Presentation (Preliminary findings) #:	X	Presentation (Final) #: 1	X	Factsheet #: 1
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Interactive dashboard #: 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Webmap #: __	<input type="checkbox"/>	Map #: __
	<input type="checkbox"/>	[Other, Specify] #: __				
Access	X	Public (available on REACH resource center and other humanitarian platforms)				
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted (bilateral dissemination only upon agreed dissemination list, no publication on REACH or other platforms)				
Visibility <i>Specify which logos should be on outputs</i>	REACH					
	Donor: ECHO, FCDO, Department of State					
	Coordination Framework: None					
	Partners: KIIS					

2. Rationale

2.1 Background

More than three years after the escalation of the war in Ukraine in February 2022, the humanitarian crisis continues to impact the population in the country, leaving 12.7 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in 2025¹. As of the most recently published updates in October 2025, an estimated 3.7 million people were internally displaced across Ukraine, 4.5 million² returned to their homes, and 5.7 million³ refugees from Ukraine were recorded globally.

Active hostilities continued in North, East and South regions of Ukraine, with an uptick in attacks and damage recorded. In the first 11 months of 2025, the number of military actions increased compared to the same period in the previous year. At the same time, increased strikes on densely populated areas led to increase in civilian casualties. In the fourth quarter, new attacks on infrastructure, particularly related to energy, were recorded, which had a notable negative impact on the situation in the energy sector amid decreasing temperatures⁴. Further, the number of attacks on railway infrastructure increased, while damage to the housing stock persisted⁵. The ongoing damage in 2025 disproportionately affected frontline areas, accounting for the majority of all recorded damage.

In particular, the energy situation in Ukraine has deteriorated in recent months with affects felt across the country. From October 2025, Ukraine faced widespread power cuts following sustained attacks targeting energy infrastructure, starkly reducing the country's energy generating capacity. With power cuts lasting between eight and 16 hours daily across most regions of Ukraine,⁶ households face heightened humanitarian issues related to water availability and heating capacity⁷. Challenges related to electricity and heating challenges, among others, led to 1.7 million people being targeted for winter activities during the 2025 / 2026 winter season.

REACH implemented the 2025 Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) between 22 July and 18 August 2025 at the request of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), in collaboration with the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) and

¹ OCHA, [Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan](#) (January 2025).

² IOM, [General Population Survey - Round 21 – Internal Displacement](#) (October 2025).

³ UNHCR, Operational Data Portal Ukraine Refugee Situation, [Situation Ukraine Refugee Situation](#) (accessed December 15 2025).

⁴ "Exhausted Ukraine faces military and diplomatic pressure to cede the Donbas," ACLED 11 Dec 2025.

⁵ Ministry for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine, [We are starting work on the RDNA5 assessment together with the World Bank, the EU, and the UN: Oleksii Kuleba](#), 21 Nov 2025.

⁶ REACH, [Ukraine: Winter power outages: The consequences of power outages, and factors contributing to societal resilience](#) (November 2025).

⁷ Barker, Kim and Oleksandra Mykolosyhn, [No Power, No Heat, No Water: Odesa's Days of Hell Under Russian Fire](#)," The New York Times, 25 Dec 2025.

the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to gather updated and accurate information on needs to inform the humanitarian response. The 2025 MSNA served as a baseline which enabled humanitarian aid providers in Ukraine to better understand the humanitarian situation and the multi-sectoral needs of the people in Ukraine, directly informing the People-In-Need (PiN) calculations and subsequent prioritization and operational planning, including programme and activity design. Considering the reprioritized Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP),⁸ the 2025 MSNA provided more granular data on frontline areas to facilitate such efforts.

Results of the 2025 MSNA indicated that humanitarian needs remain widespread across Ukraine, with a notable share of households identified as being in need in at least one sector⁹. According to the 2025 MSNA findings, households most commonly identified in need had need in Livelihoods, Shelter and Non-Food Items (SNFI), and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)¹⁰. The prevalence, as well as the severity of needs were notably higher in rural area or hromadas located within 20 kilometres from the front line¹¹. Furthermore, needs varied according to specific demographics. In particular, the analysis identified internally displaced persons' (IDP) households, larger households (with five or more members), and households with members with disabilities (either registered or assessed through the Washington Group Short-Set [WGSS]) as more frequently in need¹².

To further track the evolution of these needs, and considering risks emerging in the 2025–2026 winter period, REACH aims to conduct the fourth round of its Calibration Assessment between December 2025 and April 2026. The Calibration Assessment is primarily aimed at providing a crucial mid-year update on MSNA indicators and understanding changes over time in of the dimensions driving humanitarian needs. Results from the Calibration Round 4 is compared with findings from the 2025 MSNA baseline data to (i) identify patterns of change across multiple humanitarian indicators, (ii) gather evidence on heightened or distinct drivers of need in the 2025-2026 winter season, (iii) analyze geographies and demographics of need and their evolution since summer 2025.

2.2 Intended impact

The Calibration Assessment Round 4 aims to provide an update on the data on humanitarian needs gathered during the 2025 MSNA. The assessment aims to provide the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) with timely, evidence-based insights into shifts and emerging trends in the severity of humanitarian needs, directly supporting additionally strategic decision-making following the publication of the 2026 HNRP and in the implementation of the 2025-2026 Winterization response. Additionally, the assessment will serve to inform programmatic and operational actors through the provision of representative, up-to-date data on key sectoral information.

3. Methodology

3.1 Methodology overview

The Calibration Assessment Round 4 utilizes a quantitative methodology to gather household-level data through randomized Computer-Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI) surveys. The CATI approach involves trained enumerators conducting voice-call interviews with respondents selected from randomly dialed phone numbers, reaching a predetermined number in each strata to facilitate a 95% confidence level (CL) and 8% margin of error (MoE). Data collection is conducted by REACH, deploying its own enumerators, in collaboration with the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology (KIIS), with the workload shared between the two partners while ensuring full adherence to REACH data quality standards and ethical guidelines. Data collection will be conducted using Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) based on Random Digit Dialling

⁸ OCHA, [Addendum: Re-Prioritization of the Ukraine 2025 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan](#) (April 2025).

⁹ REACH, [Ukraine Multi-Sector Needs Assessment – General Population Dataset](#) (September 2025).

¹⁰ REACH, [Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment \(MSNA\): Overview of Humanitarian Needs in Ukraine](#) (December 2025).

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

(RDD) of Ukrainian mobile phone numbers. RDD provides a probability sample of reachable mobile phone numbers within each defined geographic stratum. Eligibility screening and post-sampling weighting will be applied to approximate representativeness of households residing in the target strata.

Overall, Calibration consists of 3,021 household-level CATI interviews across 19 strata. The target sample size of 159 completed interviews per stratum is designed to achieve a margin of error of approximately 8% at the 95% confidence level under simple random sampling assumptions. Data collection is conducted in the nine frontline oblasts of Ukraine: Chernihivska, Dnipropetrovska, Donetsk, Kharkivska, Khersonska, Mykolaivska, Odeska, Sumska, and Zaporizka Oblasts. Such oblasts is stratified into (i) areas located within 50 kilometres from the front line or border with the Russian Federation, (ii) areas located beyond 50 kilometres from the front line or border with the Russian Federation, and (iii) oblast centers located within the 50 kilometre zone, with the exception of Kramatorsk (i.e., Mykolaiv, Kherson, Zaporizhzhia, Kharkiv and Sumy). The sample size allows for a 5% buffer in interview collection in the case interviews are deleted for quality purposes.

Due to the nature of CATI-based RDD, results should be interpreted as representative at the stratum level for the nine targeted frontline oblasts, under the assumption of adequate mobile phone coverage and response. Oblast-level estimates for those oblasts which are subdivided into different geographic stratifications will be produced by pooling relevant strata. This may mean that the precision will vary by oblast depending on the number and composition of strata. However, it will not exceed 8% MoE.

Margins of error do not account for potential design effects introduced by weighting and differential response patterns. For example, the weighting by geography may lead to inadvertent design effects in terms of demography. Such biases will be reported alongside key findings.

To align the achieved sample with the most recent available population estimates, REACH implements post-sampling weighting by geography using the most recently updated United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Common Operational Dataset on Population Statistics (COD-PS)¹³ dataset in combination with the 2022 settlement-level statistics published by the Government of Ukraine shortly before the full-scale invasion. This adjusts the sample for the geographic population distribution across strata. To generate survey weights for the Calibration dataset, the MSNA team updates the 2022 Government of Ukraine settlement-level statistics through scaling settlement-level changes with raion-level changes recorded by the UNFPA COD-PS.

Across the nine oblasts covered, results are representative at least with a 95% CL and 8% MoE at the following levels:

- Oblast level (with exact MoE to be determined post data collection for those oblasts sub-divided into multiple strata)
- 0 to 50 kilometre zone from the front line and border with the Russian Federation per relevant oblast with 0-50 stratification and overall (with exact MoE for overall to be determined post data collection for those oblasts sub-divided into multiple strata)
- Areas beyond of the 0 to 50 kilometre zone from the front line and border with the Russian Federation per relevant oblast with 50 and beyond stratification and overall (with exact MoE for overall to be determined post data collection for those oblasts sub-divided into multiple strata)
- Sumy, Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia, Mykolaiv and Kherson cities; and
- The 0 to 20 kilometre zone and 21 to 50 kilometre zone overall with particular limitations considered.

The sampling approach does not include representative sampling for population groups beyond the general population (e.g. returnees, displaced and non-displaced populations). Thus all such findings and analyses for these groups is indicative.

¹³ The COD-PS is one of the most reliable sources available for general population estimates at the sub-national level (i.e., raion-level) in Ukraine and is updated annually.

The results are analyzed according to various geographies and demographics¹⁴. Geographic analyses include oblast-level and strata-specific disaggregations. Furthermore, the analysis results are disaggregated to highlight variations across other geographies (e.g., urban/rural, 20-kilometres and 21-50 kilometres distance from the front line and border with the Russian Federation) and socio-demographic groups (age and gender composition of the household, type of caregiver household size, presence of members with disability, households with children, income levels, etc.).

The Calibration survey is closely aligned with the 2025 MSNA questionnaire, thus providing results suited for comparative analysis. The analysis of Calibration data is conducted utilizing the Contextualized Composite Indicator Analysis (CCIA) framework, developed to measure the severity of humanitarian needs in Ukraine and utilized for the analysis of 2025 MSNA data.

3.1.2. Key definitions

- **Government-controlled areas:** Areas that are under the control of the Government of Ukraine (GoU) at the time of the sampling, as monitored by [LiveUA](#).
- **Areas beyond the control of the GoU:** Areas/territories of Donetsk, Dnipropetrovska, Kharkivska, Khersonska, Luhanska, Sumska, and Zaporizka occupied by the Russian Federation at the time of sampling, as monitored by [LiveUA](#), and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.
- **Non-frontline oblasts:** Oblasts that do not have any part of their territory located within 50 kilometres of the front line or the border with the Russian Federation. These oblasts include: Cherkaska, Chernivetska, Ivano-Frankivska, Khmelnytska, Kirovohradska, Kyiv, Kyivska, Lvivska, Poltavska, Rivnenska, Ternopilska, Vinnytska, Volynska, Zakarpatska, and Zhytomyrska.
- **Frontline oblasts:** Oblasts that have a part of their territory located within 50 kilometres of the front line or the border with the Russian Federation. These oblasts include: Chernihivska, Dnipropetrovska, Donetsk, Kharkivska, Khersonska, Mykolaivska, Odeska, Sumska, and Zaporizka Oblasts.
- **Oblast centers:** Oblast centers refer to the administrative capital or main city of an oblast. They typically serve as the political, economic, and administrative hub of the oblast, hosting regional government institutions and offering a concentration of services, infrastructure, and population compared to other areas within the same oblast.
- **50-kilometre zone:** This category includes settlements where any portion lies within 50 kilometres of the front line and/or the border with the Russian Federation. The 50-kilometre zone was selected based on the sampling requirements of the 2025 MSNA to maintain comparability. It provides a sufficient population size for representative sampling. Data from Humanitarian Situation Monitoring (HSM) has shown that within this zone, humanitarian needs tend to increase linearly with proximity to the frontline or border¹⁵. REACH Ukraine utilizes front line data one week before the beginning of data collection for the definition of the 50-kilometre zone (expected timeline: 19 January 2026), allowing for accurate GIS adjustments.
- **Household member:** Those who are currently present in the household. Those household members who are temporarily absent are not included when respondents are considering their responses to questions, as well as family members. Family members in the military are also not included in the household if they are no longer residing in the household. However, the income of family members in the military are included if income continues to be pooled at the household from those serving in the Ukrainian Armed Forces but residing away from the household.
- **Head of Household:** A person who makes decisions on behalf of the entire household. The MSNA interviews respondents who either 1) report serving as the head of household or 2) report they are able to answer on behalf of the head(s) of household. The Ukraine MSNA allows for two heads of household to be selected.
- **Internally Displaced Person (IDP):** 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

¹⁴ See 3.5 Data Processing and Analysis section of the current ToR.

¹⁵ REACH, [Distance from the frontline/border and impact on humanitarian needs](#) (December 2024).

conflict, situations of generalised violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognised State border¹⁶. In Ukraine, IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) operationalizes this definition by categorizing as IDPs those that moved from their city/village of permanent place of residence because of the full-scale war.¹⁷ For this assessment, REACH aligns its IDP category with this definition and creates a separate category labelled “households displaced within settlements“ to capture those who have been displaced but not outside of their city/village. The dominant focus of the MSNA and Calibration Assessment are those IDPs which have been displaced at any point beginning from February 24th, 2022 beyond their settlement.

- **Returnee:** A person who had undergone a migratory movement and returned to their original place of habitual residence¹⁸. REACH aligns with the definition operationalized by the IOM which requires that returnees have left the place of their habitual residence since February 24th, 2022 due to the current war for a minimum of 2 weeks (14 days). Returnees are not restricted only to IDPs, but can also include those who were displaced internationally.
- **IDP household:** IDP households refer to those households that have at least one head of household who is an IDP.
- **General population:** This refers to all individuals/households residing in Ukraine without reference to any specific characteristic.
- **Computer assisted telephone interview (CATI) surveys:** In this method, questions are displayed through an application or software (e.g., Kobo) on an electronic device such as a mobile or computer screen, which the interviewer then reads to a respondent over a phone call and enters the respondent’s answers directly into the electronic device. The MSNA utilizes Kobo.
- **Household:** The Calibration Assessment considers a household to be a small group of persons who share the same living accommodation, who pool some, or all, of their income and wealth and who consume certain types of goods and services collectively, mainly housing and food. It excludes household members who are temporarily absent from the home for six months or more, including children who are absent, as well as members who serve in the military and do not live at home.
- **Critical infrastructure:** Schools and education facilities (including scientific institutions), markets and grocery stores, railway, road, bridges, wastewater infrastructure (e.g., pipes, treatment facilities, buildings, etc.), water infrastructure (e.g., pipes, treatment facilities, buildings, etc.), district heating stations, gas stations and gas supply network, government buildings, fire stations, industrial facilities, power stations/facilities and electricity supply network, health facilities and pharmacies, warehouses, humanitarian aid distribution centres, telecommunications infrastructure.

3.2 Population of interest

The points below outline the geographic area and population assessed, as well as unit of measurement.

- **Geographical area assessed:** Overall, the Calibration Assessment aims to cover nine frontline oblasts: Chernihivska, Dnipropetrovska, Donetska, Kharkivska, Khersonska, Mykolaivska, Odeska, Sumska, and Zaporizka Oblasts, excluding the households not under the control of the Government of Ukraine.
- **Population assessed:** The general population residing in the assessed areas. While the assessment conducting stratification by demographic groups, results is disaggregated by key demographic characteristics during the analysis stage.
- **Unit of measurement:** The unit of measurement is the household. The Calibration Assessment will include an individual module on employment, health and education indicators measured at the individual level. At times, households are prompted to answer questions on their community or area of residence.

¹⁶ IOM, [Glossary on Migration](#) (2019).

¹⁷ IOM, [Methodological Note: General Population Survey Ukraine](#) (August 2023).

¹⁸ IOM, [Glossary on Migration](#) (2019).

3.3 Secondary data review

Table 1 – List of Secondary Data resources

Source	Relevance	Usage
IMPACT 2025 MSNA Indicator Bank	The MSNA Indicator Bank constitutes IMPACT Initiatives guidance on core MSNA sectoral indicators.	To inform the questionnaire's indicators.
REACH Ukraine 2025 MSNA Data Analysis Plan	The Data Analysis Plan lists the indicators measured through the 2025 MSNA.	To inform the methodology and questionnaire design for the Calibration Round 4.
2025 REACH Ukraine Multi-Sector Needs Assessment – General Population Dataset	The General Population Dataset gathers the data collected through the 2025 MSNA on the general population of Ukraine.	To conduct comparative and trend analysis between 2025 MSNA and Calibration Round 4.
2025 REACH Ukraine MSNA General Population Frequency Tables at National level 2025 REACH Ukraine MSNA General Population Frequency tables at macroregion level 2025 REACH Ukraine MSNA General Population Frequency tables at Frontline Oblast level 2025 REACH Ukraine MSNA General Population Frequency Tables at Strata level	The MSNA frequency tables show the results of the analysis of core MSNA indicators across multiple sectors: Education, Food Security, Livelihoods, Health, Protection, Shelter and NFI, WASH, and Accountability to Affected Populations. The frequency tables are available at four different geographical levels: National, Macroregion, Frontline Oblast, and Strata.	To provide contextual data on displaced groups' multi-sectoral needs, triangulate and compare findings on displaced groups between 2025 MSNA and Calibration Round 4.
2024-2025 REACH Ukraine Calibration Assessment Round 3 2024-2025 REACH Ukraine Calibration Assessment Round 3 Dashboard	The report presents the results of the Calibration Assessment Round 3 and Dashboard, and compares 2024 MSNA and 2025 Calibration findings.	To inform comparative and trend analysis between assessment rounds.
2025 Ukraine Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP)	The 2025 HNRP provides an overview of the impact of the war on the people of Ukraine, the most pressing humanitarian needs, the estimated number of people who need assistance. It outlines the strategy to ensure adequate and timely humanitarian response.	To provide a baseline for the monitoring and re-targeting of the HNRP.
2025 Ukraine Situation Reports OCHA	Compilation of latest information concerning the humanitarian situation in Ukraine.	To enhance understanding of the context and key definitions,

		corroborate primary data, and validate findings through triangulation.
REACH Ukraine UNHCR Ukraine Quarterly Operational Updates UNICEF Ukraine Situation Reports WFP Ukraine Situation Reports ACAPS Ukraine Special Reports	Compilation of latest information products from UN Agencies and INGOs on the humanitarian situation in Ukraine.	To enhance understanding of the context and key definitions, corroborate primary data, and validate findings through triangulation.
2025 IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)	DTM provides key data and report on internal displacement in Ukraine.	To provide contextual data on displaced groups' needs, triangulate and compare findings on displaced groups.
UNFPA Common Operational Dataset on Population Statistics (COD-PS) 2025	Restricted dataset on population statistics by geographic and demographic groups.	To generate survey weights for the Calibration dataset.
Cluster reports	Compilation of Clusters and NGO partners' reports on sectoral and localized needs.	To triangulate primary data and findings on sectoral and localized needs.

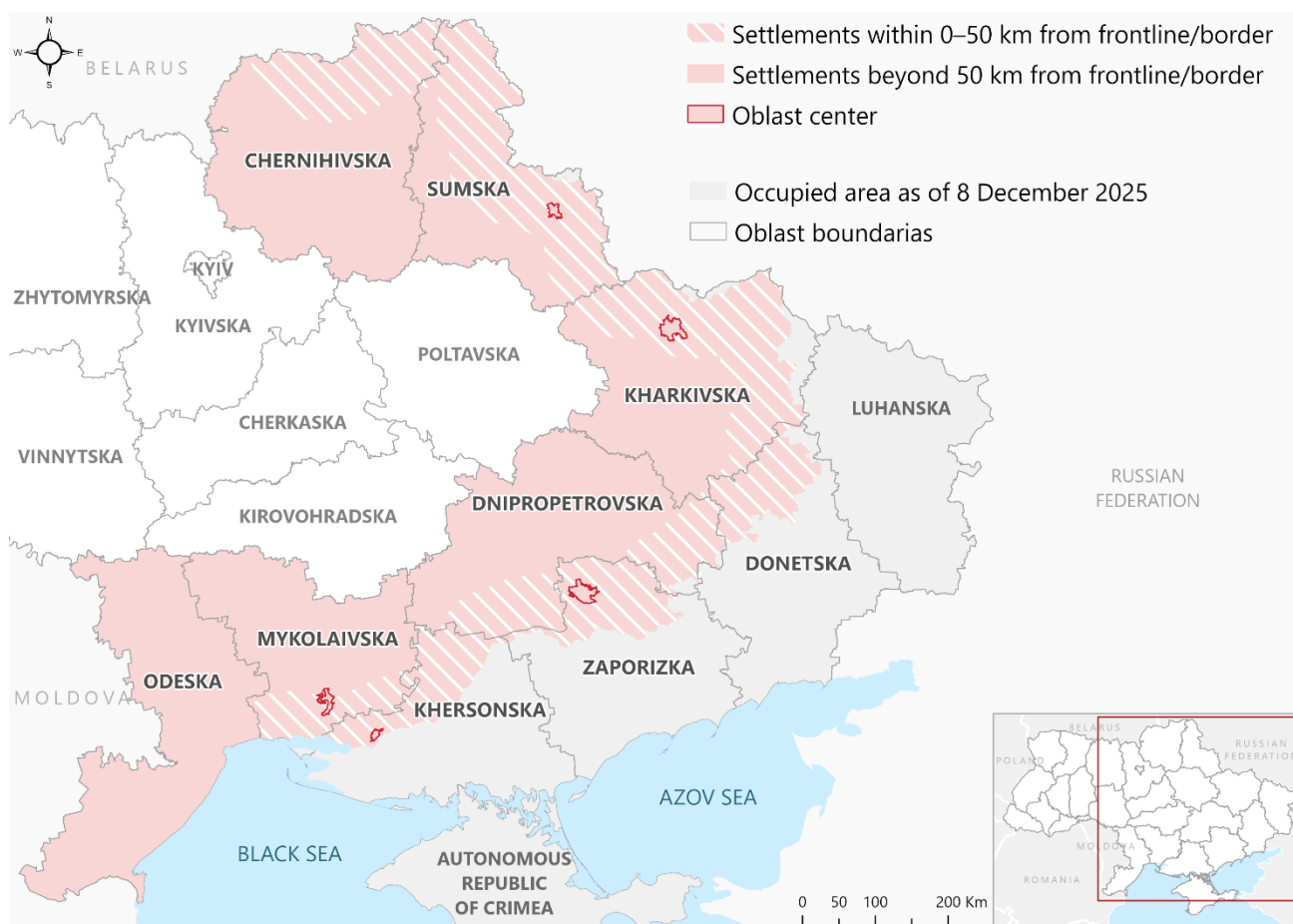
3.4 Primary Data Collection

3.4.1. Method

Calibration includes 3,021 household-level CATI interviews across nine frontline oblasts of Ukraine. The CATI methodology was chosen instead of face-to-face (F2F) data collection as it provided a cost- and time -efficient approach to data collection, is aligned with the methodology used in the 2025 MSNA, and allows the assessment to reach households in frontline and border areas without security risks endangering the enumerators. Data collection is implemented by REACH enumerators, in collaboration with KIIS, with the workload shared between the two partners. Both KIIS and REACH bring relevant experience and operational capacity to the implementation of CATI. KIIS is a trusted partner of REACH having conducted CATI data collection for three previous Calibration Assessment rounds, as well as multiple MSNA and HSM cycles. Additionally, REACH enumerators have gained practical experience implementing CATI data collection during the rollout of the 2025 MSNA. In December 2025, REACH Ukraine has developed a call centre infrastructure enabling the enumerators to implement random digital dialling (RDD) and thus to implement CATI-research in Ukraine. Both implementing parties are familiar with the structure and organisation of REACH data collection processes, as well as REACH data quality standards. The data collection is planned from 24 January 2026 to 28 February 2026 for a period of five weeks.

3.4.2. Sampling

Map 1: Data collection coverage and modality



The Calibration Round 4 adopts a probability-sampling methodology, utilizing simple random sampling and geographic stratifications. In line with strategic prioritization of the response in Ukraine in 2025 and 2026,¹⁹ which emphasizes supporting the most vulnerable within frontline areas, the Calibration Round 4 will cover the nine frontline oblasts (i.e., Chernihivska, Dnipropetrovska, Donetsk, Kharkivska, Khersonska, Mykolaivska, Odeska, Sumska, and Zaporizka Oblasts) with the exception of such areas currently not under the control of the Government of Ukraine. There are very limited settlements in Luhanska Oblast which are under the control of the Government of Ukraine which are excluded from this assessment.

Additionally, the assessment design aligns with the methodology of the 2025 MSNA in an attempt to measure the variation of the humanitarian need by proximity to the front line. In total, 19 strata is identified based on this approach, with three types of stratifications existing: i) by oblast, ii) by 50-kilometre zone, iii) by 50-kilometre zone and oblast centre, and iv) by oblast and oblast centre. For households in Donetsk and Odeska, the first approach is used. For households in Chernihivska and Dnipropetrovska, the second approach, and for households in Kharkivska and Mykolaivska, the third. There are an extremely limited number of settlements Khersonska and Zaporizka Oblasts which reside outside the 50-kilometre zone and thus, for those oblasts, the fourth approach is followed. Oblast centers represent key areas of interest of the re-prioritized HNRP and thus are separate strata in Kharkivska, Khersonska, Mykolaivska Sumska and Zaporizka Oblasts. This also allows the 50-kilometre zone strata such oblasts to not be disproportionately influenced by large urban centers as simple random sampling via RDD can be disproportionately skewed by uneven population distributions which two-staged simple random or cluster sampling more aptly resist. Other oblasts centers, including Kramatorsk (due to sampling challenges) and those falling beyond 50 kilometres from the front line (i.e., Chernihiv, Dnipro, Odesa, due to lack of relevancy for the 2025 HNRP), are not treated separately.

¹⁹ OCHA, [Addendum: Re-Prioritization of the Ukraine 2025 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan](#) (April 2025).

Enumerators conduct 159 interviews across each stratum, achieving a 95% CL and 8% MoE. The sample size includes a 5% buffer. The primary sampling unit (PSU) used is the household. A random sample of the households is generated within each strata via RDD. KIIS and REACH enumerators randomly dial phone numbers until they reach the expected sample per oblast. For each major mobile operator in Ukraine, phone numbers are randomly generated; There are 3 digits for each mobile operator, and the remaining 7 digits is generated randomly.

Table 1 – Overview of Calibration Assessment sampling

Oblast	Sampling type	CL / MoE	Number of HH interviews per Oblast (including a 5% buffer)
Chernihivska Oblast – settlements within 0–50 kilometres from frontline/border	Stratified simple random	95/8	159
Chernihivska Oblast – settlements beyond 50 kilometres from frontline/border	Stratified simple random	95/8	159
Dnipropetrovska Oblast – settlements within 0–50 kilometres from frontline/border	Stratified simple random	95/8	159
Dnipropetrovska Oblast – settlements beyond 50 kilometres from frontline/border	Stratified simple random	95/8	159
Donetska Oblast	Stratified simple random	95/8	159
Kharkivska Oblast – settlements within 0–50 kilometres from frontline/border minus Kharkiv	Stratified simple random	95/8	159
Kharkivska Oblast – settlements beyond 50 kilometres from frontline/border	Stratified simple random	95/8	159
Kharkivska Oblast – Kharkiv (oblast centre)	Stratified simple random	95/8	159
Khersonska Oblast minus Kherson	Stratified simple random	95/8	159
Khersonska Oblast – Kherson (oblast centre)	Stratified simple random	95/8	159
Mykolaivska Oblast – settlements within 0–50 kilometres from frontline/border minus Mykolaiv	Stratified simple random	95/8	159
Mykolaivska Oblast – settlements beyond 50 kilometres from frontline/border	Stratified simple random	95/8	159
Mykolaivska – Mykolaiv (oblast centre)	Stratified simple random	95/8	159
Odeska Oblast	Stratified simple random	95/8	159
Sumska Oblast – settlements within 0–50 kilometres from frontline/border minus Sumy	Stratified simple random	95/8	159
Sumska Oblast – settlements beyond 50 kilometres from frontline/border	Stratified simple random	95/8	159
Sumska Oblast – Sumy (oblast centre)	Stratified simple random	95/8	159
Zaporizka Oblast – Zaporizhzhia (oblast centre)	Stratified simple random	95/8	159
Zaporizka Oblast	Stratified simple random	95/8	159
		GRAND TOTAL	3,021

3.4.3. Tool

The Calibration Assessment relies on an adjusted version of the REACH 2025 MSNA questionnaire, including 1) Demographics, 2) Displacement, 3) Critical Sectoral Indicators, and 4) Accountability to Affected Population sections. The questionnaire comprises a set of IMPACT high-priority indicators, as well as indicators developed in consultation with Humanitarian Clusters, Technical Working Groups, and Areas of Responsibility partners during the design of the 2025 MSNA questionnaire. The tool is designed to fit a 45-minute interview duration. REACH uses a locally developed Kobo XLSForm

using a separate template and cleaning/analysis scripts, which have been optimized over consecutive MSNA and Calibration rounds. This adapted tool was designed to improve accuracy, streamline data processing, and ensure consistency with Ukraine-specific methodologies.

3.4.4. Briefing/debriefing of enumerators

Enumerators contracted by both REACH and KIIS are trained during the period from 19 to 23 January 2026. The training covers the questionnaire structure, rationale behind the questions, and available response options, with particular focus on modules that were found challenging in the 2025 MSNA, including displacement, income and expenditures. Additionally, enumerators are trained on reporting and referral mechanisms. Online training is delivered through presentation materials, scenario setting case-studies, and hands-on use of the Kobo tool. To assess their readiness, enumerators must pass a knowledge test and submit two pilot surveys before data collection begins. Additionally, in light of the extensive power cuts affecting connectivity to the internet, and to avoid knowledge gaps among the enumerators most affected, REACH records and stores online training material for more accessible phased training.

3.4.5. Quality Checks

The data collected undergoes daily and weekly quality checks by the REACH Data Team. The checks include monitoring survey duration, freeze times, repeated survey patterns, and performing logic checks. Results from the checks are documented and shared with relevant REACH and KIIS focal points. The Data Team and Assessment Team review any issues identified to determine the appropriate corrective actions based on the frequency and severity of concerns raised. Additionally, enumerators are able to provide feedback directly within the Kobo tool, including comments on the questionnaire, respondents, or any relevant observations from the interviews.

Call outcomes will be systematically recorded to enable assessment of response rates and potential non-response bias, including by comparing the demographic statistics of the Calibration sample with the COD-PS.

3.5 Data Processing & Analysis

3.5.1. Data entry and cleaning process

Once the data collection is completed, primary data collected through Kobo is exported to Excel and utilized by REACH for data processing. REACH Data Teams keep a log of any changes, aligning to [IMPACT's Minimum Standards Checklist for Data Cleaning and Processing for Structured \(Quantitative\) Data](#) as well as [IMPACT's Data Protection SoPs](#). Cleaning of data includes conducting cross checks during data collection to ensure logical coherence and avoid errors, checking metadata is fully completed, 'other' responses are recoded accordingly, and all personalised data is removed from the dataset.

3.5.2. Data analysis process

The primary data collected through the Calibration Assessment is analyzed to monitor the overall humanitarian needs across sectors, identify the main drivers of needs, highlight most common needs profiles, and ascertain the variation in needs prevalence and severity compared to 2025 MSNA data. During the analysis phase, sampling weights are applied to ensure that the sample more adequately reflects the population distribution, based on UNFPA's most updated COD-PS data.

To ensure direct comparability between the analysis process of the Calibration Round 4 and the 2025 MSNA, the data collected is analyzed using the same CCIA framework, used for the 2025 MSNA. The framework was developed by REACH Ukraine in August 2025 in consultation with Humanitarian Clusters, Working Groups, and Areas of Responsibility. It is a

Ukraine-specific framework that measures the magnitude and complexity of humanitarian needs across sectors and dimensions driving needs.

The CCIA was developed outside of IMPACT Initiatives' Multi-Sector Needs Index (MSNI) methodology, as the latter relies on standard sectoral indicators to conduct comparative analysis of the severity of humanitarian crises across multiple humanitarian operations in a variety of contexts. Conversely, the CCIA incorporates dimensions and indicators that are tailored to the Ukrainian context. It measures the magnitude and complexity of humanitarian needs across the Education, Food Security, Health, Livelihoods, Protection, SNFI, and WASH.

The CCIA categorizes each household based on the severity of its needs into five categories: None/Minimal (1), Stress (2), Severe (3), Extreme (4), and Extreme (4+). A household is considered in need if it scores above 3, and in extreme need if it scores 4 or higher. To compute severity scores, the CCIA framework aggregates indicators of interest into key dimensions driving needs and classified households into severity levels for each dimension. The dimensions were in turn combined to create a composite score per sector, and the sectoral severity is determined based on households' dimensional scores. A final severity score is determined for each household based on the highest sectoral severity score.

The critical dimensions and indicators captured through the Calibration Assessment and analysed through the CCIA include:

- Education: (i) school attendance and barriers to education, including children's school attendance rates and reasons for not accessing formal school, (ii) education disruption events, and (iii) the presence of a conducive environment for education.
- SNFI: (i) shelter type, capturing proportion of households living in safe and dignified dwellings, (ii) shelter issues not caused by the war since 2022, (iii) shelter damage and outstanding damage caused by the war since 2022, (iv) security of tenure, (v) electricity and heating issues, (vi) proportion of households living in functional domestic space (vii) and access to essential NFIs.
- WASH: (i) availability of sufficient quantity of drinking water, (ii) drinking water quality, (iii) issues sanitation and excreta management, (iv) ability to perform hygiene, (v) missing WASH NFIs, (vi) access to water for domestic purposes.
- Food Security: capturing Food Consumption Score (FCS), Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI), Economic Capacity to Meet Essential Needs (ECMEN) and Livelihoods Coping Strategies for Food Security (LCS-FS), following to the CARL methodology.
- Livelihoods: (i) households' income sources, (ii) utilization of livelihood coping strategies, (iii) monthly income quantity and debt.
- Health: (i) forgone health needs, (ii) presence of household members with chronic health conditions and limited ability to get medication, (iii) travel time to the nearest medical facility.
- Protection: (i) conflict exposure, (ii) safety and security incidents, (iii) key needs in relation to housing/property/land, (iv) ability to access legal assistance, social, or administrative services, (v) child separation.

While the coverage and sampling approach of the Calibration Assessment differ from those of the 2025 MSNA, which featured nationwide coverage and a different stratification design, both assessments produce representative findings at the oblast level for the nine frontline oblasts, as well as for the 50-/non-50 kilometre zone. This alignment enables meaningful comparison of oblast-level results across the two assessments, supporting the identification of changes in humanitarian needs between the summer of 2025 and the winter of 2025–2026. Further, representative data for oblast centres was envisioned for Mykolaiv, Kharkiv, Kherson, Sumy and Zaporizhzhia in the 2025 MSNA. However, it was only achieved for Kharkiv. Thus, the Calibration Assessment represents a second attempt to achieve such a stratification.

The findings are disaggregated to highlight variations across administrative and geographic specifications (urban/rural, distance from the front line and border with the Russian Federation) and demographic criteria, including displacement status,

gender and age composition of the household, household size, presence of members with disability, type of caregiver, income quartiles.

3.6 Limitations

The Calibration Round 4 might face several limitations related to its data collection modality and sampling strategy. CATI surveys are less suited to lengthy questionnaires, as the absence of F2F interaction can contribute to respondent fatigue, higher non-response rates, and incomplete interviews. In addition, CATI may be less effective for certain questionnaire modules, particularly those related to Protection and Cash and Markets. In light of these constraints, REACH will shorten considerably the questionnaire, ensuring the length does not surpass 45 minutes. This resulted in the removal of ECMEN indicators which will limit comparability of Food Security results between the 2025 MSNA and Calibration Round 4. REACH presents and disseminates findings with such limitations clearly flagged.

A considerable operational challenge for the Calibration Assessment is the frequent and unpredictable power cuts throughout Ukraine during the current winter season. This factor has a two-sided impact on the CATI survey methodology: On the one hand, respondents' limited access to electricity and mobile communications may reduce participation rates, increase respondent fatigue and cause attrition. On the other hand, these same disruptions affect the operational capacity of the enumerators. To partly account for this challenge, REACH maintains a flexible approach throughout data collection, adjusting the sampling decisions and data collection timeline in case of delays due to connectivity-related problems.

Due to the above, including differential mobile phone access and non-responses, population groups such as IDPs, returnees, or households in highly insecure locations may be under- or over-represented. As such, and because Calibration weights by geography, analysis for specific population sub-groups should be considered indicative unless explicitly stated otherwise.

Finally, since CATI data collection is conducted partly by KIIS, the REACH Assessment and Data Teams have less direct oversight during the training and data collection of the enumerators, which may pose risks to data quality. To mitigate this, REACH implements robust training material, data and logic checks, and closely monitors data collection, as well as holds weekly coordination check-ins with KIIS.

4. Key ethical considerations and related risks

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

<i>The proposed research design...</i>	Yes/ No	Details if no (including mitigation)
... 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/ discussion while being considerate of participants' time, ensuring accurate reporting of information provided</i>)?	Yes	
... 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?	No	Respondent telephone numbers are requested during the interview in case

		of a need to clarify responses during cleaning or conduct follow up data collection. However, respondents will first be informed of how their number is used and stored and their numbers will only be collected if they provide their consent. To mitigate the risk of exposure of personally identifiable data, IMPACT SOPs for management of such information are followed. In addition, respondents are not asked sensitive political or ideological questions that could put them at risk or make them feel uncomfortable
... Does not involve collecting information on specific topics which may be stressful and/ or re-traumatizing for research participants (both respondents and data collectors)?	No	The assessment includes questions on vulnerability, income, disability, unmet healthcare needs, main safety and security issues affecting the households, any of which can be sensitive for a respondent and trigger potential feeling of shame and/or discomfort of respondent. Risk is mitigated by careful phrasing of the questions and adding an option to refuse to answer. In addition, enumerators are trained on how to approach sensitive topics during interviews.
... 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	While vulnerable groups are not purposefully sampled as part of this assessment, HoHs or household members that are interviewed could represent an at-risk group. Respondents have the right to refuse the whole interview or answer specific questions. In addition, enumerators is trained on ethical considerations and referral and reporting mechanisms
... 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
<i>Research design</i>	Assessment Officer (AO), Senior Assessment Officer (SAO)	Research Manager (RM)	Research Department at IMPACT HQ, Deputy Country Coordinator (DCC)	
<i>Supervising data collection</i>	Assessment Officer AO, Senior Assessment Officer (SAO), Data Officer (DO), Junior Data Officer (JDO)	SAO	RM	
<i>Data processing (checking, cleaning)</i>	Data Officer (DO), data collection partner (KIIS), REACH call-centre, Assessment Officer (AO), Junior Data Officer (JDO)	SAO	RM	
<i>Data analysis</i>	SAO, DO, AO, JDO	SAO	RM	
<i>Output production</i>	AO, SAO	RM	DCC, Research Department at IMPACT HQ	MPACT HQ, ICCG, WGs
<i>Dissemination</i>	AO, SAO	RM	DCC	HQ Communications
<i>Monitoring & Evaluation</i>	AO	Senior PDO, PDO	RM	Research Department at IMPACT HQ
<i>Lessons learned</i>	AO, SAO, DO, JDO, Data collection partner	SAO	RM, DCC	Research Department at IMPACT HQ

Responsible: the person(s) who executes the task

Accountable: the person who validates the completion of the task and is accountable of the final output or milestone

Consulted: the person(s) who must be consulted when the task is implemented

Informed: the person(s) who need to be informed when the task is completed

6. Data Analysis Plan

Please find the DAP [here](#).

7. Monitoring & Evaluation Plan

IMPACT Objective	External M&E Indicator	Internal M&E Indicator	Focal point	Tool	Will indicator be tracked?
Humanitarian stakeholders are accessing IMPACT products	Number of humanitarian organisations accessing IMPACT services/products Number of individuals accessing IMPACT services/products	# of downloads of x product from Resource Center	Country request to HQ	User_log	X Yes
		# of downloads of x product from Relief Web	Senior PD, PDO		X Yes
		# of downloads of x product from Country level platforms	Country team		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
		# of page clicks on x product from REACH global newsletter	Country request to HQ		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
		# of page clicks on x product from country newsletter, sendingBlue, bit.ly	Translation and Communications Officer		X Yes
		# of visits to x webmap/x dashboard	Country request to HQ		X Yes
IMPACT activities contribute to better program implementation and coordination of the humanitarian response	Number of humanitarian organisations utilizing IMPACT services/products	# references in HPC documents (HNO, SRP, Flash appeals, Cluster/sector strategies)	Country team	Reference_log	X Yes
		# references in single agency documents			
Humanitarian stakeholders are using IMPACT products	Humanitarian actors use IMPACT evidence/products as a basis for decision making, aid planning and delivery	Perceived relevance of IMPACT country-programs	Country team	Usage_Feedback and Usage_Survey template	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
		Perceived usefulness and influence of IMPACT outputs			X Yes
		Recommendations to strengthen IMPACT programs			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
		Perceived capacity of IMPACT staff			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

	Number of humanitarian documents (HNO, HRP, cluster/agency strategic plans, etc.) directly informed by IMPACT products	Perceived quality of outputs/programs			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
		Recommendations to strengthen IMPACT programs			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Humanitarian stakeholders are engaged in IMPACT programs throughout the research cycle	Number and/or percentage of humanitarian organizations directly contributing to IMPACT programs (<i>providing resources, participating to presentations, etc.</i>)	# of organisations providing resources (i.e., staff, vehicles, meeting space, budget, etc.) for activity implementation	Country team	Engagement_log	X Yes
		# of organisations/clusters inputting in research design and joint analysis			X Yes
		# of organisations/clusters attending briefings on findings;			X Yes