

1. Executive Summary

Country of intervention	Syria					
Type of Emergency	<input type="checkbox"/>	Natural hazard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Conflict	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (<i>specify</i>)
Type of Crisis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sudden onset	<input type="checkbox"/>	Slow onset	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Protracted
Mandating Body/ Agency	SDC SIDA					
IMPACT Project Code	SDC: 16BIB SIDA: 16BIB					
Overall Research Timeframe	19/06/2025 to 15/12/2025					
Research Timeframe	1. Pilot/ training: 01/09/2025			6. Preliminary presentation: 14/11/2025		
	2. Start collect data: 2/09/2025			7. Outputs sent for validation: 15/01/2026		
	3. Data collected: 28/09/2025			8. Outputs published: 31/01/2026		
	4. Data analysed: 31/10/2025					
	5. Data sent for validation: 15/10/2025					
Number of assessments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single assessment (one cycle)				
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Multi assessment (more than one cycle) <i>[Describe here the frequency of the cycle]</i>				
Humanitarian milestones	Milestone		Deadline (can be tentative)			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Donor plan/strategy	December 2025			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Inter-cluster plan/strategy	_ _ / _ _ / _ _ _ _			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cluster plan/strategy	_ _ / _ _ / _ _ _ _			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NGO platform plan/strategy: Acted	December 2025			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify): Community Relief and Recovery Plans (CRRPs) for multi-sector, multi-sector coordination	December 2025				
Audience Type & Dissemination	Audience type		Dissemination			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Strategic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General Product Mailing (e.g. mail to NGO consortium; HCT participants; Donors) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cluster Mailing (Education, Shelter and WASH) and presentation of findings at next cluster meeting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Presentation of findings (e.g. at HCT meeting; Cluster meeting)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Programmatic					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Operational					
<input type="checkbox"/>	[Other, Specify]					

		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Website Dissemination (Relief Web & REACH Resource Centre) <input type="checkbox"/> [Other, Specify]
Stakeholder mapping	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
General Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To inform strategic and programmatic decision-making of local and international actors in selected locations in Dar'aaa district by identifying and analyzing the demographic characteristics, displacement-related vulnerabilities, and location-specific enablers and barriers to sustainable, dignified reintegration of returnees. Building on findings from a prior Area-Based Assessment (ABA) and using an area-based approach, the research aims to generate granular, community-level evidence aligned with IASC durable solutions criteria, and to compare the reintegration conditions of returnees with those of the host population, in order to support more targeted and context-sensitive durable solutions programming. 	
Specific Objective(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To map out communities with enabling and constraining factors for returnee reintegration and assess their readiness for durable solutions, in line with the IASC criteria. To identify and analyze the demographic characteristics and displacement-related vulnerabilities of returnees across selected communities in Dar'aa governorate. To assess the availability, accessibility, and perceived quality of services and infrastructure in areas of return, including key barriers to access for different population groups. To understand the perspectives of returnees and host communities on reintegration, social cohesion, and their aspirations regarding local integration or onward movement. To assess the progress toward durable solutions among returnees and examine how this compares to the overall conditions experienced by non-returnee populations in the same communities. To inform humanitarian and recovery actors' planning by highlighting specific geographical areas and population groups requiring targeted support to advance toward sustainable, dignified reintegration. 	
Research Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the demographic characteristics and displacement-related vulnerabilities of returnees? How do these characteristics influence their livelihood and access to services and conditions for reintegration compared to host populations? How do local social dynamics, community power structures, and key stakeholders influence the progress, or lack thereof, toward durable solutions for returnees? What are the perceptions of returnees regarding the factors that enable or hinder sustainable reintegration in their area of return? And how do these perceptions and experiences compare to those of host community members living in the same areas? How do host communities in Dar'aaa perceive and interact with IDPs and returnees, and how does the level of community acceptance influence the reintegration experience of IDPs and returnees at the local level? 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What role do gender-specific factors play in shaping the experiences and perspectives of returnees within the context of durable solutions in Syria? 			
Geographic Coverage	Al-Museifra, Sahwa, Kahil, Karak and Um Walad			
Secondary data sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On Syria context: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Syrian Refugees and Other Vulnerable Populations, UNICEF 2025 Amendments to Law Nr.10/2018 and Legislative Decree Nr.66/2012 in Syria Syria governorates IDPs and IDP returnees overview, UNHCR 2025 Vulnerability Assessment Framework: Socio-Economic Survey on Refugees in Host Communities, UNHCR, 2024 SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC Ad-hoc IDP and Returnees Movements, OCHA, 27 Nov 2024 - 31 May 2025 No Home to Return to: How Assad's Property Seizures in Dar'aaa Blocked Refugee Return, SNHR, 2025 Over 43,700 Syrian refugees voluntarily return home, The Jordan Times, 2025 Sweden's regional strategy for the Syria crisis 2024–2026, Government Offices of Sweden Syrian Arab Republic, Population Mobility and Baseline Assessment, IOM DTM Round 4 – May 2025 Syrian Refugees by Origin, UNHCR, May 2025 Mapping of Vulnerabilities Unmasking the Syrian Population, Global Protection Cluster, 2014 National Household Survey on Community Perceptions and Recent Changes in Humanitarian Assistance in Syria, August 2025 On Durable Solutions : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessing durable solutions to internal displacement at the area level: a literature review (2010-2024), IMPACT Initiatives IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons IOM's durable solutions approach Iraq Durable Solutions, Durable solutions coordination mechanisms in Iraq How we support: Durable solutions, NRC Unlocking Protracted Displacement, ReDSS Durable Solutions Platform in the Middle East JIPS Durable Solutions Turning the Tide on Internal Displacement: A development approach to solutions, UNDP Shining a Light on Internal Displacement: A Vision for the Future. The High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement, High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement Report of the United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement 			
Population(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	IDPs in camp	<input type="checkbox"/>	IDPs in informal sites
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	IDPs in host communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	IDPs [Other, Specify]
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Refugees in camp	<input type="checkbox"/>	Refugees in informal sites
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Refugees in host communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Refugees [Other, Specify]
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Host communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other: returnee, women, men, youth, persons with disabilities, older persons,

				ethnic group, and other groups facing specific vulnerabilities
Stratification	<input type="checkbox"/>	Geographical #: <i>Al-Museifra, Sahwa, Kahil, Karak and Um Walad</i> Population size per strata is known? x Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Group #: HH survey data will be disaggregated by host, returnee and IDP populations and by male- and female-headed HHs. Population size per strata is known? x Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	[Other Specify] #: N/A Population size per strata is known? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Data collection tool(s)	x	Structured (Quantitative)	x	Semi-structured (Qualitative)
		Sampling method		Data collection method
Structured data collection tool # 1 (HH survey)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Purposive	<input type="checkbox"/>	Key informant interview (Target #):_____
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Probability / Simple random		–
	x	Probability / Stratified simple random	<input type="checkbox"/>	Group discussion (Target #):_____
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Probability / Cluster sampling	x	Household interview (Target #):389
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Probability / Stratified cluster sampling	<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual interview (Target #):_____
	<input type="checkbox"/>	[Other, Specify]	<input type="checkbox"/>	Direct observations (Target #):_____
			<input type="checkbox"/>	[Other, Specify] (Target #):_____
Semi-structured data collection tool (s) # 1	x	Purposive	x	Key informant interview (Target #): 24
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Snowballing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual interview (Target #):_____
	<input type="checkbox"/>	[Other, Specify]	<input type="checkbox"/>	Focus group discussion (Target #):_____
				–
			<input type="checkbox"/>	[Other, Specify] (Target #):_____
Semi-structured data collection tool (s) # 2	x	Purposive	<input type="checkbox"/>	Key informant interview (Target #):_____
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Snowballing		–
	<input type="checkbox"/>	[Other, Specify]	<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual interview (Target #):_____
			x	Focus group discussion (Target #): 7
			<input type="checkbox"/>	[Other, Specify] (Target #):_____
Target level of precision if probability sampling		95% level of confidence		10+/- % margin of error
Disaggregation by gender and age		Gender		Age
	x	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	x	No

Data management platform(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	IMPACT	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNHCR		
	<input type="checkbox"/>	[Other, Specify]				
Expected output type(s) <i>Expected output type(s)</i>	x	Situation overview #: 1	x	Report #: 1 CRRP report	x	Gender Profile #: 1
	x	Presentation (Preliminary findings) #: 1	x	Presentation (Final) #: 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Factsheet #:
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Interactive dashboard #:_	<input type="checkbox"/>	Webmap #: _ _	x	Map #: TBD
	x	Indicator table #: 1				
	x	Dataset for the HH surveys #: 1				
	x	DSAG for the FGDs #: TBD				
	x	DSAG for the KIIs #: TBD				
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>REACH, Acted</i>					
	Donor: No visibility					
	Coordination Framework: N/A					
	Partners: N/A					

2. Rationale

2.1 Background

Syria continues to face one of the world’s most complex and prolonged displacement crises, with over 12 million people forcibly displaced, half of whom live as refugees in neighbouring countries.¹ The political shift marked by the fall of the regime in December 2024 has brought a wave of cautious optimism among displaced Syrians. Many have begun to consider return as a viable option, and UNHCR anticipates up to 1.5 million returns in 2025.² In response, humanitarian and development actors are increasingly working in tandem to rebuild damaged housing and essential infrastructure, and to provide critical support, ranging from legal aid and livelihood opportunities to protection interventions, to foster sustainable reintegration in areas of return. This multi-layered approach, coordinated through a network of community centers, local partners, and authorities, aims to facilitate informed, safe, and dignified returns.

Against this backdrop, Dar’aaa emerges as a priority area for a durable solutions assessment. Historically, the city was the epicentre of the 2011 protests that sparked the Syrian conflict. Situated near the Jordanian border and serving as a critical transportation hub between Amman and Damascus, Dar’aa has long held strategic, political, and socio-economic significance. Today, according to field data and UNHCR intention surveys, it is one of the primary governorates receiving spontaneous refugee returns. The region’s importance is further underscored by its role as a centre for grain production and local commerce, offering considerable potential as a reintegration zone if key conditions are addressed. However, renewed instability in July 2025, following a resurgence of armed conflict in neighbouring Suwayda, has raised concerns about the sustainability of returns and the fragility of reintegration prospects.

2.2 Intended impact

Building on the positive outcomes of the 2024 pilot Area-Based Approach (ABA) in Dar’a, implemented by ACTED in partnership with the St. Ephrem Patriarchal Development Committee (EPDC) and the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC), the next phase, supported this time by REACH, will integrate a dedicated durable solutions assessment. The

¹ UNHCR, [Operational Data Portal](#)

² UNHCR, [Operational Data Portal](#)

original pilot encompassed the selection of three interconnected villages (Mseifra, Sahwa, and Kahil) with shared services and socio-cultural ties, the roll-out of a light ABA assessment, a condensed Community Recovery and Resilience Plan (CRRP) process, and implementation of WASH, Livelihood and Healthcare activities.

ACTED and REACH partnership will now expand geographically and technically, targeting additional interconnected villages where intensified returnee movements are creating urgent needs around social cohesion, service delivery, and durable solutions. Supported by SDC funding, REACH will implement a durable solutions assessment between August and December 2025, designed to measure progress towards, and identify barriers to, sustainable returns. This assessment will build on the 2024 ABA findings while expanding focus beyond internally displaced persons (IDPs) to include both IDP and returnees. It will assess reintegration conditions across housing, basic services, livelihoods, documentation, safety, and community acceptance, key IASC durable solutions criteria, thereby contextualising durable solutions monitoring within the Syrian context.

The findings will inform sectoral response planning and advocacy efforts, feeding into an expanded CRRP follow-up workshop scheduled for December 2025, aimed at broadening stakeholder and sector engagement, which had previously been constrained by contextual limitations. ACTED will also scale up early recovery interventions in the expanded ABA area, including livelihoods support for entrepreneurship and local value chain restoration, WASH and social infrastructure rehabilitation, and capacity-building for local technical departments. Enhanced coordination mechanisms will be mainstreamed throughout implementation, capitalising on new opportunities for direct information sharing and joint planning with other actors. EPDC will remain a central implementing partner, receiving ongoing capacity strengthening and financial support to ensure sustainability of the approach and long-term local ownership.

3. Methodology

3.1 Methodology overview

This assessment uses a mixed methods approach, combining structured household surveys, focus group discussions, and key informant interviews. The household survey aims to produce statistically representative data for different population groups across five selected communities in Dar'aa governorate (Al-Museifra, Sahwa, Kahil, Karak and Um Walad). The five selected locations were selected for this assessment based on a combination of continuity with the 2024 pilot and strategic considerations for durable solutions analysis:

- **Three locations** (Al-Museifra, Sahwa, Kahil) were retained from the original 2024 pilot conducted by ACTED, the St. Ephrem Patriarchal Development Committee (EPDC), and the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC). The current grant was awarded with the explicit objective of expanding on these areas to further explore durable solutions, particularly in light of the political developments after December 2024 that transformed the area into one of return.
- **Two additional communities** (Karak and Um Walad) were identified in line with ACTED's broader implementation strategy, as interventions will be informed by the assessment findings led by REACH. Their selection was made in consultation with EPDC, which has extensive field knowledge and close engagement with local councils. These two communities are also directly interconnected with the three pilot locations, sharing roads, services, and governance structures. Access considerations were also factored into the selection.

To ensure a transparent and systematic process, ACTED and EPDC developed an internal selection matrix (not publicly shared). REACH contributed to the final decision during a joint decision-gate meeting with ACTED and EPDC, providing additional field-level insights.

The data will be used to assess the extent to which returnees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and host community members are achieving durable solutions, as defined by the IASC framework. The survey is designed to enable

comparative analysis between population groups and locations. While the sample is statistically representative at the population group level (returnees, IDPs, and hosts), it is not representative at the individual location level. A weighting system was applied to prioritize returnees and host communities, assigning weights of 1.5 to both groups and 1.0 to IDPs. Dara'a is characterized as a high-return area, with relatively few IDPs compared to other regions. The primary analytical focus of this assessment is therefore on returnees, in order to better understand reintegration dynamics and related challenges. While IDPs remain included in the analysis, greater weight is assigned to returnees and host communities to ensure that findings reflect the realities and priorities of the context. This approach is consistent with the rationale for selecting Dara'a as the assessment area in the first place. Sampling was based on a 95% confidence level and 10% margin of error, targeting approximately 96 interviews per group. The weighted sample was proportionally distributed across the five locations based on each group's estimated population share, with rounding applied to ensure feasible interview targets, see [Table 1](#).

Table 1: ABA communities' distribution

Population Group	Weighted Sample of each population group	Location	Proportion	Location Sample	Estimated Population Size
IDP	97	Kahil	10%	10	28
			13%	19	992
			17%	25	190
		Mseifra	34%	33	97
			32%	47	2446
			13%	19	141
Host	146	Um Walad	39%	38	111
			15%	22	1147
			32%	47	355
		Karak	15%	14	42
			25%	37	1929
			34%	50	378
Returnee	146	Sahwa	1%	1	4
			15%	22	1152
			4%	5	41
			Total	389	9053

[Table 2](#) below outlines how each method contributes to answering the assessment's research questions

Table 2: Methodological Framework for Addressing Research Questions

Research question	HH survey	KIIs	FGDs
What are the demographic characteristics and displacement-related vulnerabilities of returnees?	X	X	X

How do these characteristics influence their livelihood and access to services and conditions for reintegration compared to host populations?	X	X	X
How do local social dynamics, community power structures, and key stakeholders influence the progress, or lack thereof, toward durable solutions for returnees?	X	X	X
What are the perceptions of returnees regarding the factors that enable or hinder sustainable reintegration in their area of return? And how do these perceptions and experiences compare to those of host community members living in the same areas?			X
How do host communities in Dar'aaa perceive and interact with IDPs and returnees, and how does the level of community acceptance influence the reintegration experience of IDPs and returnees at the local level?	X		X
What role do gender-specific factors play in shaping the experiences and perspectives of returnees within the context of durable solutions in Syria?	X	X	X

Table 3 below presents the planned qualitative and quantitative data collection by target profile and theme, detailing the tools to be used, the number of interviews or surveys per profile, and the thematic areas to be covered.

Table 3: Data Collection Plan by Target Profile and Thematic Area

Thematic Tool	Profile	KII	FGD	HH	Thematic/ sector
Male returnee	Male returnee community members		1	73	Demographic, displacement, economic opportunities, social cohesion, participation in public affairs, justice and remedies, family reunification, perception on durable solutions
Female returnee	Female returnee community members		1	73	Demographic, displacement, economic opportunities, social cohesion, participation in public affairs, justice and remedies, family reunification, perception on durable solutions
Community Male host	Male host community members		1	74	Demographic, displacement, economic opportunities, social cohesion, participation in public affairs, justice and remedies, family reunification, perception on durable solutions
Community Female host	Female host community members		1	74	Demographic, displacement, economic opportunities, social cohesion, participation in public affairs, justice and remedies, family reunification, perception on durable solutions
Community IDPs	Male and female returnee community members			96	Demographic, displacement, economic opportunities, social cohesion, participation in public affairs, justice and

					remedies, family reunification, perception on durable solutions
Health	SME Example: Dar'aaa the city hospital personel Personel of other hospitals that receive patients from the 5 assessed areas Personel of medical centers Doctors Nurses...etc	5			Healthcare
WASH	SME Example: Ministry of Energy "Mudiriya" technicians, personel, administration... etc	5			Water, sanitation, hygiene, sewage...
HLP	SME Example: University professors Local Council members with knowledge in HLP ... etc	5			Shelter, access to land and housing documentation, returnees housing, policies and regulations
Unformal governance	Traditional or informal authority figures, some examples of traditional or informal authorities could be (not exhaustive and heavily context-dependent) elders, community leaders, religious leaders Mokhtar People with influence Businessmen	4			Formal vs informal governace, access to justice, social cohesion
Livelihood	Local authorities and non-displaced communities' representatives	5			Major fields of employment by groups Restrictions faced by displaced communities in the job market
Education	Example: Teachers, Ministry of Education, parents Ministry of Education "Mudiriya"		2		Availability, damage to schools, school drop off, conditions
Authorities/ local council	Local council Decision-makers or power holders are responsible for providing services and maintaining order, formal government representatives at regional or local levels		1		Demographic, displacement, vertical social cohesion, participation in public affaris, justice and remedies, family reunification, perception on durable solutions, formal vs informal governace
Total		24	7	389	

Key Definitions

- **Area-based (tool/methodology/assessment):** Tool/methodology/assessment focusing on a neighbourhood, village, town, municipality, city, collective centre and/or other delimited location using a “multisectoral, multi-stakeholder, geographically targeted” approach “and consider[ing] the whole population within that location”.³
- **Assessment of durable solutions:** The phrase refers to tools and approaches with a broad scope, encompassing (besides or instead of) progress measurement, also the identification of entry points for durable solutions and the contextualisation of the concept. It includes durable solutions analyses and area-based assessments, as well as tools and approaches in topical areas relevant to solutions such as urban recovery, managed retreats, adaptation, “liveability”, IDPs’ wellbeing, etc.
- **Displacement-affected community (DAC):** “Anyone living in an area where internal displacement has taken place, and may include IDPs, host community members, refugees, returnees, ex-combatants or others whose living conditions are impacted by the presence of IDPs.”⁴
- **Durable solution (or solution):** “A durable solution is achieved when internally displaced persons no longer have any specific assistance and protection needs that are linked to their displacement and can enjoy their human rights without discrimination on account of their displacement.” Note: The three commonly identified durable solution pathways based on the Framework are return, local integration and relocation (called resettlement in the Guiding Principles).⁵
- **Host Community Member:** People who currently reside in their communities of origin, or communities of permanent residence prior to the Syrian conflict. This includes populations that were never displaced, as well as returnees.⁶
- **Internally Displaced Person (IDP):** “Internally displaced persons are persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border.”⁷
- **Local Integration:** “Sustainable integration in areas where forcibly displaced persons take refuge.”⁸
- **Relocation:** “Sustainable integration in another part of the country (settlement elsewhere in the country).”⁹
- **Return:** “Sustainable reintegration at the place of origin.”¹⁰
- **Returnee (IDP):** “The term returnee carries a broader meaning outside the refugee context, and may include, for example, internally displaced persons who return to their previous place of residence.” As for the UNHCR definition of refugee returnees, IDP returnees or simply returnees in this report are those with the intention of remaining permanently in their previous place of residence and who are yet to be fully integrated.¹¹
- **Stratified Random Sampling:** A method where the population is divided into sub-groups (strata) such as host and IDP households, and simple random sampling is applied within each stratum.

3.2 Population of interest

³ [Full Case Study Compendium of Area Based Approaches](#), Shelter Cluster

⁴ UNDP and SOAS, [Towards Development Solutions to Internal Displacement](#)

⁵ [IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons](#)

⁶ United Nations. Host Communities, (June 2020).

⁷ [Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement](#)

⁸ [IASC Framework on Durable Solutions](#)

⁹ [IASC Framework on Durable Solutions](#)

¹⁰ [IASC Framework on Durable Solutions](#)

¹¹ [UNHCR’s Master Glossary of Terms](#)

The assessment will target populations residing in Al-Museifra, Sahwa, Kahil, Karak and Um Walad in Dar'aaa. Findings from the data collection will be aggregated to the key population groups (host, IDPs, and returnees) level for final analysis, representing the overall situation for each population group. These findings will be disaggregated by community and further broken down by gender, age, and people with disabilities.

3.3 Secondary data review

Secondary data will be leveraged to gain an in-depth understanding of the current reintegration conditions, progress towards durable solutions, and the evolving needs and vulnerabilities of different population groups in the selected locations. These sources will inform the design of the research methodology, including the selection of durable solutions indicators, sampling design, and data collection tools. Secondary data will also help refine the assessment focus, provide contextual analysis, and validate or triangulate primary data findings. Key secondary data sources include, but are not limited to:

- [Syrian Refugees and Other Vulnerable Populations](#), UNICEF 2025
- [Amendments to Law Nr.10/2018 and Legislative Decree Nr.66/2012 in Syria](#)
- [Syria governorates IDPs and IDP returnees overview](#), UNHCR 2025
- [Vulnerability Assessment Framework: Socio-Economic Survey on Refugees in Host Communities](#), UNHCR, 2024
- [SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC Ad-hoc IDP and Returnees Movements](#), OCHA, 27 Nov 2024 - 31 May 2025
- [No Home to Return to: How Assad's Property Seizures in Dar'aaa Blocked Refugee Return](#), SNHR, 2025
- [Over 43,700 Syrian refugees voluntarily return home](#), *The Jordan Times*, 2025
- [Sweden's regional strategy for the Syria crisis 2024–2026](#), Government Offices of Sweden
- [Syrian Arab Republic, Population Mobility and Baseline Assessment](#), IOM DTM Round 4 – May 2025
- [Syrian Refugees by Origin](#), UNHCR, May 2025
- [Mapping of Vulnerabilities Unmasking the Syrian Population](#), Global Protection Cluster, 2014
- *Assessing durable solutions to internal displacement at the area level: a literature review (2010-2024)*, IMPACT Initiatives
- IASC [Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons](#)
- IOM's [durable solutions approach](#)
- *Iraq Durable Solutions*, [Durable solutions coordination mechanisms in Iraq](#)
- [How we support: Durable solutions](#), NRC
- [Unlocking Protracted Displacement](#), ReDSS
- [Durable Solutions Platform in the Middle East](#)
- [JIPS Durable Solutions](#)
- [Turning the Tide on Internal Displacement: A development approach to solutions](#), UNDP
- [Shining a Light on Internal Displacement: A Vision for the Future](#), *The High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement*, High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement Report of the United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement

In parallel, REACH Syria is conducting a National Household Survey on Community Perceptions and Recent Changes in Humanitarian Assistance in August 2025. This assessment aims to capture how Syrian communities perceive and experience the impacts of the U.S. funding suspension, focusing on changes in aid access, household coping strategies, and information needs. Findings will inform principled humanitarian planning, strengthen community engagement, and

support advocacy efforts. The resulting dataset will also serve as a secondary source for the current assessment, specifically contributing to the Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) component, which is otherwise not directly covered.

3.4 Primary Data Collection

For this area-based assessment, REACH employs a mixed-methods approach to capture the current reintegration conditions, progress towards durable solutions, and the evolving needs and vulnerabilities of different population groups in the selected locations. REACH will conduct a representative HH survey, KIIs and FGDs. Data collection will be conducted during the month of September 2025, with each method contributing to specific research objectives.

HH survey:

The quantitative HH survey will take place from September 2nd to September 15th, 2025, and will collect data aligned with the IASC criteria for durable solutions. The survey will cover HH demographics and displacement status, socio-economic conditions, access to and satisfaction with basic services, safety and security perceptions, housing and tenure conditions, access to documentation, and HH perceptions of participation in decision-making and ability to contribute to local recovery efforts. This survey will be conducted in the five assessed area, using simple stratified sampling to achieve representative findings for host, IDP and returnee populations, with a 95% level of confidence and a 10% margin of error. REACH enumerators will utilise a quantitative assessment tool (created as an ODK xls form) on the KoBo Collect and KoBo Server platforms, where enumerators will access the tool and submit their survey forms directly. Data will be triangulated through follow-ups conducted between assessment staff and field teams.

FGDs:

The FGDs will take place with community members and Subject Matter Experts (SME) between September 16th and September 22nd, 2025 and will focus on collecting qualitative information regarding returnee and host demographics, on displacement, access to services and social cohesion.

Four FGDs will be carried out with host and returnee community members and representatives, with groups disaggregated by displacement status and gender to ensure privacy and enable each group to discuss durable solutions in relation to their specific gender and displacement experiences. The purpose of these FGDs is to explore community members' perceptions of the factors that enable or hinder sustainable reintegration, such as access to livelihoods, basic services, housing, safety, and community acceptance, and to capture differences in perspectives between returnees and host community members. Each FGD will include 4–8 participants, purposively selected from existing REACH enumerator KI networks based on their belonging to a specific population group.

In addition, two FGDs will be organised with subject matter experts (SMEs) with in-depth knowledge of the education sector, disaggregated by gender. These discussions will aim to assess the availability and quality of educational services in the assessed locations, identify barriers to access for returnees and host communities, and examine the impact of displacement on school attendance, infrastructure, and learning outcomes.

One additional FGD will be conducted with formal governance actors, such as local council members or formal government representatives at the regional or local level. The objective of this discussion will be to better understand local governance structures, formal decision-making processes, and the extent to which governance actors are able, and willing, to address the needs of returnees and support durable solutions in their areas of jurisdiction.

FGD teams, consisting of a REACH Moderator and REACH Note-Taker, will use a semi-structured questioning route to guide the discussion, and will record the discussion through notes. FGD teams will de-brief with Field Managers and the ABA Assessment Officers following each session. ABA Assessment Officers will then transfer Arabic notes taken during the FGD into English. As discussed above, while full transcripts would be preferable, they may not be feasible given limited field capacity. Additionally, recording the FGDs is unlikely to be feasible, but the security situation will be reassessed closer to the date of the FGDs. However, previous REACH Syria ABA research cycles have shown that the above is sufficient for achieving the aims of the FGDs.

KIIs:

The KIIs will take place with SME between September 23rd and September 28th, 2025. A total of 20 KIIs will be interviewed across key thematic sectors (Health, WASH, HLP and livelihood) to provide in-depth, technical insights that complement the perspectives gathered from community members and governance actors. These KIIs will be critical to understanding sector-specific conditions, challenges, and opportunities for supporting durable solutions in the assessed areas.

Additional four KIIs will target traditional and informal authority figures, such as community leaders, elders, religious leaders, and influential local business owners. These discussions will seek to understand informal dispute resolution mechanisms, the influence of traditional governance structures on social cohesion, and the role of these actors in supporting or hindering reintegration processes.

Participants will be purposively selected from existing REACH enumerator networks, with preference given to those with strong sector knowledge, particularly those working for top service providers in the area. Potential profiles include Technical Department representatives, local service managers and operators, and Local Council representatives.

3.5 Data Processing & AnalysisQuantitative data quality and analysis:

The HH survey will produce quantitative data. Trainings will be conducted with the ABA enumerators in Dar'aaa Syria by the designated ABA Assessment Officers and Field Managers/Officers. Where possible, tools will be piloted before official data collection begins to ensure that KoBo forms are working correctly, that the indicators are able to capture the desired information, and that no final adjustments are necessary. Following each day of data collection, enumerators will upload all surveys to the designated KoBo server, where the responsible Data Officer will download the data.

In line with [IMPACT Data Cleaning Guidelines](#), submitted data will be checked regularly for inconsistencies and outliers by a Data Officer using R to ensure data quality and to send follow-ups to enumerators where needed. The datasets will then be cleaned using an R script which will also log deleted entries and value changes. Once all data is cleaned, the raw and cleaned dataset and the change log will be stored according to the Data Management Plan. Analysis will focus on identifying shocks, stresses, and recovery capacities reported by communities, with disaggregation by age, gender, and displacement status where applicable.

R will be used to analyze HH quantitative data. This R analysis will produce an html output for the area, showing descriptive statistics for each indicator (according to the Data Analysis Plan) and disaggregating, where possible and appropriate, by displacement status to understand key differences between host, returnees and IDP households. Once data analysis is completed, the findings will be discussed and contextualized with relevant partners and one indicator table will be produced. Additionally, a Situation Overview and problem trees will be produced. A findings presentation will also be developed to be presented during the CRRP workshop.

Qualitative data quality and analysis:

KIIs and CFGDs will produce qualitative data. As with the quantitative tools, trainings for the qualitative KIIs and FGDs will also be jointly planned and implemented for ABA enumerators by the designated ABA Senior Assessment Officer and Field Managers/Officers. Moderator and note-taker teams will engage in practice sessions during training to become well accustomed to the questioning route, procedures, and their respective roles and responsibilities. Note-takers will be provided thorough guidance on best practices for recording the main points of discussion and documenting agreement and disagreement and will make detailed notes throughout each session.

Immediately following each session, REACH teams will de-brief with the relevant Field Manager to review the key points of the session and ensure all necessary information was obtained. With the assistance of the Field

Manager, the team will then translate notes from Arabic into English and send an anonymized digitalized copy to Assessment Officers using a Word document, referred to as the English “Session Notes Document”, designed for this purpose. Assessment officers will carry out thematic coding and analysis across the 7 FGDs and 24 KIIs to produce summaries of key findings for the assessed area. To do so, the Assessment Officer will track and cross-compare key discussion topics across KIIs and FGDs using a Data Saturation and Analysis Grid (DSAG) in Excel.

3.6 Limitations

The assessment faces several limitations related to methodology, context, and logistics, which may influence the findings.

Methodologically, reliance on self-reported needs introduces potential biases, as respondents may prioritize immediate concerns over systemic or long-term challenges. While the simple random sampling approach ensures representation across population groups, accessing hard-to-reach populations—such as recent returnees or marginalized households—may prove difficult, potentially leading to underrepresentation of these groups in the data.

In terms of context, cultural sensitivities and political dynamics may inhibit open discussions, particularly during KIIs and FGDs. Stigma surrounding topics such as mental health, safety, and governance may result in underreporting or less candid responses, affecting the depth and accuracy of qualitative findings. Logistically, the assessment may face constraints due to the deteriorating security surrounding the assessed areas, especially from the South and East where tensions heightened in July 2025 in Suwayda city located in southern Syria, close to the border with Jordan. Restricted access to certain areas could delay data collection or reduce the sample size, potentially impacting on the robustness of the findings.

These limitations may lead to incomplete data or introduce biases that affect the generalizability and reliability of the assessment’s conclusions. To mitigate these risks, a triangulation strategy will be employed to validate findings across multiple data sources. Iterative tool testing and continuous engagement with local stakeholders will ensure that emerging challenges are promptly addressed, and alternative approaches can be implemented as needed to safeguard the assessment’s integrity and relevance.

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	<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/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?	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	
... Follows IMPACT SOPs for management of personally identifiable information ?	Yes	

5. Roles and responsibilities

Task Description	Responsible	Accountable	Consulted	Informed
Research design	Senior Assessment Officer	Senior Assessment Officer	SRM, Acted Programs teams, IMPACT HQ	REACH Country Coordinator
Supervising data collection	Field Manager	Senior Assessment Officer	SRM, Acted Programs teams, IMPACT HQ	REACH Country Coordinator
Data processing (checking, cleaning)	Senior Assessment Officer, Data Specialist	Senior Assessment Officer	Field Manager, IMPACT HQ	SRM
Data analysis	Senior Assessment Officer, Data Specialist	Senior Assessment Officer	SRM, Field Manager, IMPACT HQ	REACH Country Coordinator
Output production	Senior Assessment Officer	Senior Assessment Officer	SRM, Acted Programs teams, IMPACT HQ	REACH Country Coordinator
Dissemination	Senior Assessment Officer	Senior Assessment Officer	SRM, Acted Programs teams, IMPACT HQ	REACH Country Coordinator
Monitoring & Evaluation	Senior Assessment Officer	Senior Assessment Officer	SRM, Acted Programs teams, IMPACT HQ	REACH Country Coordinator
Lessons learned	Senior Assessment Officer	Senior Assessment Officer	SRM, Acted Programs teams, IMPACT HQ	REACH Country Coordinator

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

To be submitted separately and sequentially to HQ.

7. Data Management Plan

Administrative Data			
Research Cycle name	Durable Solutions Thematic Assessment		
Project Code	SYR2506		
Donor	Sida/ SDC		
Project partners	Acted		
Research Contacts	Ghada Ben Aissa (SAO) ghada.benaissa@impact-initiatives.org Dana Marei (SAO) Dana.marei@reach-initiative.org Dion MCDUGAL (SRM) dion.mcdougal@impact-initiatives.org		
Data Management Plan Version	Date: 05/08/2025	Version: 1	
Related Policies	N/A		
Documentation and Metadata			
What documentation and metadata will accompany the data? <i>Select all that apply</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Data analysis plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data Cleaning Log, including: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deletion Log <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Value Change Log
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Code book	<input type="checkbox"/> Data Dictionary
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Metadata based on HDX Standards	<input type="checkbox"/> [Other, Specify]
Ethics and Legal Compliance			
Which ethical and legal measures will be taken?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Consent of participants to participate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent of participants to share personal information with other agencies
	<input type="checkbox"/>	No collection of personally identifiable data will take place	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender, child protection and other protection issues are taken into account
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All participants reached age of majority	[Other, Specify]
Who will own the copyright and Intellectual Property Rights for the data that is collected?	IMPACT		
Storage and Backup			
Where will data be stored and backed up during the research?	<input type="checkbox"/>	IMPACT/REACH Kobo Server	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Kobo Server: SAO's personal server to enable ease of updating tools as necessary and in case last minute changes are needed
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IMPACT Global Physical / Cloud Server	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Country/Internal Server

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	On devices held by REACH staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	Physical location <i>[specify]</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	[Other, Specify]		
Which data access and security measures have been taken?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Password protection on devices/servers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Data access is limited to <i>[specify, e.g. REACH staff]</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Form and data encryption on data collection server	<input type="checkbox"/>	Partners signed an MoU if accessing raw data
	<input type="checkbox"/>	[Other, Specify]		

Kobo Access Rights

Account Name(s)	Person(s)	Type of Kobo access	
gba1_impact000	Ghada Ben Aissa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> View <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submit Data <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Download Data
enumsyr	Mohammad AlZeer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> View <input type="checkbox"/> Edit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submit Data <input type="checkbox"/> Download Data
evelyn.gakinya@impact-initiatives.org responsibleanalyst@impact-initiatives.org	Evelyn Gakinya	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> View <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submit Data <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Download Data

Raw Data Access Rights

Raw Data Access	Reason	Person
Accountable	Accountable	Ghada Ben Aissa
Access	Data cleaning and analysis	Evelyn Gakinya

Preservation

Where will data be stored for long-term preservation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	IMPACT / REACH Global Cloud / Physical Server	<input type="checkbox"/>	OCHA HDX
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	REACH Country Server	<input type="checkbox"/>	[Other, Specify]

Data Sharing

Will the data be shared publicly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No, only with Acted
Will all data be shared?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No, only anonymized/ cleaned/ data will be shared
	<input type="checkbox"/>	No, [Other, Specify]		
Where will you share the data?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	REACH Resource Centre	<input type="checkbox"/>	OCHA HDX
	<input type="checkbox"/>	HumanitarianResponse	<input type="checkbox"/>	[Other, Specify]

Data protection risk assessment

Have you completed the Indicators Risk Assessment table below?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No, no information that potentially allows identification of individuals is to be collected.
[Please complete the first 4 columns in the Indicators Risk Assessment table below]				

Risk indicator (including direct and indirect identifiers)	Type of identification risk	Disclosure implications	Benefits	Class	Required mitigation

Respondent gender	Small risk of identification of respondent HH when these indicators are combined	Loss of privacy	Necessary for gathering demographic information at household and community level	B2	Data to be deleted after analysis takes place
Respondent age				B2	Data to be deleted after analysis takes place
Total number of HH members				B2	Data to be deleted after analysis takes place
Location				B2	Data to be deleted after analysis takes place

Responsibilities	
Data collection	Ghada Ben Aissa (SAO) ghada.benaissa@impact-initiatives.org Dana Marei (SAO) Dana.marei@reach-initiative.org
Data cleaning	Evelyn Gakinya (Data Specialist) evelyn.gakinya@impact-initiatives.org
Data analysis	Ghada Ben Aissa (SAO) ghada.benaissa@impact-initiatives.org Dana Marei (SAO) Dana.marei@reach-initiative.org Evelyn Gakinya (Data Specialist) evelyn.gakinya@impact-initiatives.org
Data sharing/uploading	Ghada Ben Aissa (SAO) ghada.benaissa@impact-initiatives.org Dana Marei (SAO) Dana.marei@reach-initiative.org

8. 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	Country request to HQ		x Yes
		# of downloads of x product from Country level platforms	Country team		x Yes
		# of page clicks on x product from REACH global newsletter	Country request to HQ		x Yes
		# of page clicks on x product from country newsletter, sendingBlue, bit.ly	Country team		x Yes
		# of visits to x webmap/x dashboard	Country request to HQ		x Yes
IMPACT activities 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			x Yes
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	x Yes
		Perceived usefulness and influence of IMPACT outputs			x Yes
		Recommendations to strengthen IMPACT programs			x Yes
		Perceived capacity of IMPACT staff			x Yes
		Perceived quality of outputs/programs			x Yes

	Number of humanitarian documents (HNO, HRP, cluster/agency strategic plans, etc.) directly informed by IMPACT products	Recommendations to strengthen IMPACT programs			
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

