MSNA - Research Terms of Reference

Multi-Sector Needs Assessment

LBN2502

LEBANON

July 2025

REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action

1. Executive Summary

A. General information						
Country of intervention	Lebanon					
Type of Emergency	□	Natural disaster	□	Conflict	X	Other: *Complex emergency related to political and socio-economic shocks*
Type of Crisis	□	Sudden onset	X	Slow onset	□	Protracted
Mandating Body/ Agency	*Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)*					
IMPACT Project Code	*98BCO*					
Overall Research Timeframe *(from research design to final outputs / M&E)*	01/05/2025 to 15/12/2025					

Research Timeframe *Add planned deadlines*		
	1. Data Analysis Plan (DAP) sent for validation: 27/06/2025	7. LSG framework sent for validation: 13/10/2025
	2. Pilot/training: 14/07/2025	8. Preliminary presentation/Joint analysis workshop (JAW):
	3. Start data collection: 15/07/2025	9. MSNI analysis sent for validation: 18/10/2025
	4. Data collected: 25/08/2025	10. Bulletin sent for validation: 03/11/2025
	5. Clean dataset sent for validation: 04/09/2025	11. Bulletin published: 10/11/2025
	6. Data analysis sent for validation: 19/09/2025	12. Other (specify): _ _/_ _/_ _ _ _

Humanitarian milestones *Specify **what** will the assessment inform and **when** e.g. The shelter cluster will use this data to calculate PiN numbers for the HNO analysis*		**Milestone**	**Deadline**
	X	Donor plan/strategy	2026 humanitarian response strategy
	X	Inter-cluster plan/strategy	TBC
	X	PiN calculation / HNO	_ _/_ /_ _ _
	X	Cluster plan/strategy	2026humanitarian response
	□	NGO platform plan/strategy	_ _/_ _/_ _ _ _
	□	Other (Specify):	_ _/_ _/_ _ _ _

Audience Type & Dissemination *Specify **who** will the assessment inform and **how** you will disseminate to inform the audience*	**Audience type**	**Dissemination**
	X Strategic X Programmatic□Operational □ [Other, Specify]	**X** General Product Mailing (e.g. mail to NGO consortium; HCT participants; Donors) □ Cluster Mailing (Education, Shelter and WASH) and presentation of findings at next cluster meeting X Presentation of findings (e.g. at HCT meeting; Cluster meeting) X Website Dissemination (Relief Web & REACH Resource Centre) □ [Other, Specify]

Detailed dissemination plan required	X	Yes	□	No
General Objective	The primary objective of the 2025 Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) is to assess the multifaceted needs, coping strategies, and humanitarian situation across all four most affected governorates- South, El Nabatieh, Baalbek-El Hermel and Bekaa - as well as Baabda district in Mount Lebanon Governorate. This assessment will cover key population groups focusing on Lebanese nationals, migrants, and Palestine refugees. The MSNA aims to support evidence-based prioritization of the humanitarian and stabilization response, accounting for variations in needs across different regions, population groups, and sectors. In addition, the findings will inform cross-crisis analysis and contribute to a coordinated interagency and intersectoral approach.			
Specific Objective(s)	• Conduct a comprehensive sectoral and inter-sectoral analysis to evaluate the scale and severity of humanitarian needs among populations in the five most affected governorates by the crisis in Lebanon. • Provide a robust data foundation to inform the 2026 humanitarian response strategy, including the calculation of People in Need (PiN) figures and severity levels at both sectoral and inter-sectoral levels. • Identify disparities in needs across the surveyed geographic areas, population groups, and vulnerability profiles, enabling a more targeted and inclusive response. • Deliver an in-depth understanding of inter-sectoral needs in the areas of intervention, particularly focusing on locations with significant information gaps, hard-to-reach populations, and areas most affected by the crisis, supporting prioritization of interventions and the design of coherent evidence-based strategic planning efforts.			
Research Questions	• What is the nature of multi-sectoral humanitarian needs in the four most affected governorates within Lebanon? • What is the magnitude, scope, and severity of humanitarian needs in specific sectors such as shelter, education, food security, health, livelihood, protection, WASH, and basic assistance for the populations residing in the most affected governorates in Lebanon? • To what extent do households have cross-cutting needs that span multiple sectors, and which overlapping needs are most prevalent? • How do the findings vary based on geographic area, population groups (Lebanese HHs, migrant HHs, Palestine refugees in Lebanon (PRL) HHs, and Palestine refugees from Syria (PRS) HHs), and the vulnerability profiles of households, including factors including but not limited to age, gender, and disability? • How do households prefer to receive humanitarian assistance (e.g., in-kind, cash, services), and what are their preferred communication channels for providing feedback or raising concerns, particularly across different population groups and vulnerability profiles? • How have humanitarian needs evolved since 2022 and 2023 in the areas most affected by the current crisis, and what trends or shifts can be observed across sectors and population groups?			
Geographic Coverage	The four most affected governorates by the crisis in Lebanon: - Lebanese HHs: Covered across **12 districts** within the 4 most affected governorates, and Baabda district in Mount Lebanon Governorate. - Migrant HHs: Covered within the 4 most affected governorates, and Baabda district in Mount Lebanon Governorate. - Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL) and Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS): Covered in 6 Palestine refugee camps located within 2 governorates (South and Baalbek Hermel),			
Secondary data sources	• IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) • IOM Mobility Snapshot • WFP Market Monitor (January 2025) • FAO Data in Emergencies (December 2024) • REACH Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) 2023 (June 2024) • Lebanon Response Plan (LRP) (June 2024) - [Q2 funding update] • VASyR 2023 (June 2024)			

	• World Bank Lebanon Interim Damage and Loss Assessment (DALA) (November 2024) • World Bank Lebanon Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA) (March 2025) • IOM Migrant Presence Monitoring (MPM) Assessment Round 4 (July 2024) • UNDP Rapid Impact Assessment (January 2025) • FAO Baseline Assessment (February 2025) • Lebanon Information Landscape Report • Lebanon Crisis Thematic Report - Vulnerability Amid Conflict • Lebanon Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment March 2025 (RDNA)

B. Sampling

Population groups *Select all population group which your assessment will collect data on*	□	IDPs in camp	X	Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS) residing in camps
	□	IDPs in host communities	X	Migrants (live-out)
	X	Lebanese households	□	Refugees in informal sites
	X	Palestine Refugees from Lebanon (PRL) in camp	□	Refugees [Other, Specify]
	□	Host communities	□	[Other, Specify]
Structured questionnaire (Quantitative) – *Select all the apply*	**X**	Probability sampling	□	Non - Probability sampling
Data collection level:	X	Individual	X	Household
	□	Settlement	□	Other (specify): _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

If probability sampling

Sampling method: X Random sampling (Lebanese, PRL and PRS) X Cluster sampling (migrant)

The sampling is stratified: X Yes □ No

If yes what are the stratifications:

° Geographic: 13 districts in the 4 most-affected governorates for Lebanese
4 governorates for migrants
7 camps in 4 governorates for PRL and PRS

° Population groups: Lebanese, migrant (live-out), PRL and PRS

° Other:_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

What is the Primary sampling unit (PSU)**:** District (Lebanese population)
Neighborhoods (Migrant population)
Camps (PRL and PRS)

If cluster sampling, what is the mininum cluster size? N/A

Sampling frame:

Do you have the population number at PSU level for **all** population groups? X Yes □ No

Selection:

Probability Proportional to Size (PPS) (migrants) : X Yes □ No

Selection of PSUs with replacement? (migrants): X Yes □ No

Aimed precision at stratification level:

Total sample size: (Target #):

Lebanese HHs: 95% level of confidence, 7% margin of error **(2748 HHs)**

PRL HHs: 95% level of confidence, 10% margin of error **(695 HHs)**

PRS HHs: 95% level of confidence, 10% margin of error **(491 HHs)**

Live-out migrant HHs: 95% level of confidence, 10% margin of error **(675 HHs)** **Resampling:** Do you have a reserve list of PSUs / households in case of inacessible area ? X Yes □ No **Data collection method:** X Face to face □ Remote data collection	
C. Questionnaire	
Questionnaire design	**MSNA mandatory indicators** All the mandatory indicators from the 2025 MSNA indicator bank, have been included without alteration: x Yes No **XLSform for mandatory indicators** The kobo questionnaire provided for the mandatory indicators was used without alteration: x Yes No
Data management platform(s)	X IMPACT □ UNHCR □ Other, Specify
Expected ouput type(s)	X ANA Bulletin #: 1 X MSNA Bulletin #: 1 x Presentation (Sectoral) #: 5 X Interactive dashboard #: 1 □ Report #: _ _ □ Profile #: _ _ X Presentation (Final) #: 1 □ Webmap #: _ _ □ Factsheet #: TBD □ Map #: _ _ □ Other, Specify] #: _ _
Data publication plan	X Final (anonymised) dataset public, available on REACH resource center □ Final (anonymised) dataset public, through HDX connect X Analysis table public, available on REACH resource center □ Analysis table public, available on HDX
Visibility *Specify which* ***logos*** *should be on outputs*	*REACH* ***Donor:*** *SIDA* ***Coordination Framework:*** *Intersector Core Group (ISCG); Assessment and Analysis Working Group (AAWG); Access Working Group (AWG)* ***Partners:*** *International Organization for Migration (IOM), Developmental Action Without Borders (Nabaa), Solidarités International (SI), Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (Acted)*

2. Rationale

2.1 Background

Since 2019, households in Lebanon have been caught in a deepening poverty crisis, driven by sustained income losses, soaring inflation, and severe currency depreciation. Assessments throughout 2023 revealed alarming vulnerabilities, showing that 32 percent of Lebanese, 76 percent of Syrian refugees, and 44 percent of Palestine refugees lacked the means to meet essential needs, with expenditures falling below the minimum expenditure basket. Despite significant cash assistance programs and remittances - which accounted for 36 percent of the GDP in 2022 and primarily benefited Lebanese residents - these challenges have persisted and, in many areas, worsened.
The Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) Acute Food Insecurity Analysis, updated in May 2025, estimated that approximately 21 percent of the population - around 1.17 million people including Lebanese citizens, Syrian refugees, and Palestine refugees - continue experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity between April and June 2025, marking a slight improvement compared to the previous analysis when 1.65 million people were classified in IPC Phase 3 or above. This improvement is mainly attributed to the enforcement of the November 2024 ceasefire, along with a temporary surge in Humanitarian Food Security Assistance targeting the most vulnerable households. While this is progress, the sustainability of such gains is highly precarious. The impacts of conflict and the economic crisis in Lebanon continue to threaten recovery efforts, as infrastructure remains damaged, the economy remains stagnant, inflation continues rising, and funding prospects for humanitarian food security assistance in 2025 are negative. These compounding factors have further strained already fragile basic services such as health, water, electricity, and education, while political deadlock has limited effective governance and crisis management.

Throughout 2024 and into 2025, Lebanon's socioeconomic crisis has deepened further, driven by a convergence of political paralysis, economic collapse, and escalating security threats. This fragile context deteriorated sharply following the outbreak of armed conflict along the southern border in mid-2024, which escalated into full-scale hostilities between July and November. The conflict displaced over 1 million people internally, with approximately 98,994 people remaining displaced as of February 2025 while 949,571 had returned to their communities. The conflict has caused extensive damage to critical infrastructure and agricultural assets, with damage to the agricultural sector estimated at US$79 million and losses at US$742 million according to the Lebanon Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment of March 2025. Despite the ceasefire declared on November 27th 2024, violence has been reduced but not eliminated, with Israeli forces still occupying five strategic hilltops and periodic airstrikes continuing.
The crisis was further exacerbated by a significant reduction in U.S. humanitarian and development assistance to Lebanon, officially announced in early 2025. This shift in policy led to the suspension or scale-down of several vital aid programs, including food assistance, health services, and education support, at a time when humanitarian needs were at their peak. The withdrawal of this critical funding has severely weakened the capacity of humanitarian actors to respond effectively, further straining already overstretched systems and leaving vulnerable populations with diminished access to essential services.

In this challenging environment, vulnerable populations - including Lebanese households, Syrian and Palestine refugees, and migrants- face increasing barriers to accessing basic needs and services. The Households Assessment: Rapid Vulnerability and Needs Assessment conducted between January and March 2025 reports that only 0.4% of households were always able to access quality food in the quantities needed, with 65.6% reporting limited access to quality food. Furthermore, WFP reported in April 2025 that due to funding shortages, they were forced to cut cash assistance to Syrian refugees from 830,000 to 500,000 starting in February 2025, reaching only 58 percent of the planned target, while emergency cash assistance for 162,000 conflict-affected Lebanese has been partially halted in April 2025 and will entirely stop by May if immediate funds are not received.[1]

[1] Save the Children. (2025, May 8). *Households Assessment: Rapid Vulnerability and Needs Assessment (January – March 2025)*, here.

2.2 Intended impact

In light of Lebanon's deepening crisis, the 2025 Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) will focus exclusively on four of the country's most affected governorates, as well as Baabda district in Mount Lebanon governorate. This targeted approach seeks to address critical information gaps in regions where humanitarian needs are most acute and where limited data have previously constrained effective response planning.
Unlike broader national assessments, this MSNA focuses specifically on high-priority areas due to funding and operational constraints. This targeted approach allows to produce a robust, multi-sectoral evidence base that captures the evolving vulnerabilities and disparities among key population groups—including Lebanese citizens, migrants, Syrian refugees, and Palestine refugees—and across diverse vulnerability profiles.By incorporating geographic and demographic dimensions, the MSNA will support more accurate needs identification and strategic prioritization. It is designed to inform tailored, inclusive, and context-specific humanitarian interventions, particularly in hard-to-reach and under-assessed areas.
The findings of the MSNA will directly support the Lebanon Response Plan (LRP) and other strategic humanitarian frameworks by strengthening inter-sectoral coordination, improving targeting efficiency, and promoting equitable response planning. Ultimately, this assessment aims to improve the effectiveness of humanitarian action, reinforce community resilience, and help address urgent needs amidst Lebanon's ongoing socio-economic, political, and security challenges.

3. Methodology

3.1 Methodology overview

The 2025 MSNA is a targeted, assessment that integrates primary data collection with a thorough review of secondary data sources. Primary data will be gathered through a household-level survey conducted in four of Lebanon's most affected and under-assessed governorates, as well as Baabda district in Mount Lebanon governorate. Data collection will be guided by structured questionnaires, developed by IMPACT Initiatives' global sectoral specialists in coordination with Global clusters and aligned with established multi-sectoral assessment frameworks, namely the VASyR Face-to-face interviews will be the preferred method of data collection.
The final sample sizes across all population groups are as follows: 2,748 surveys for Lebanese households, 614 for live-out migrants, 695 for Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL), and 491 for Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS). These sample sizes are designed to ensure representativeness at the district level for Lebanese, camp and governorate levels for Palestine refugees and governorate for migrants.

Tailored sampling methodologies were used for each population group, based on the context, available data, and operational constraints. As detailed in the following sections, all sampling approaches were designed to be statistically representative, methodologically sound, and operationally feasible. They adhere to principles of randomness, validity, and adaptability, ensuring that the data collected is both reliable and actionable for humanitarian planning.

3.2 Population of interest

Below are key definitions relevant to the MSNA population cohorts:

- **Palestin Refugees in Lebanon (PRL:** Persons whose normal place of residence was Palestine during the period 1 June 1946 to 15 May 1948, and who lost both home and means of livelihood because of the 1948 conflict and fled to Lebanon.
- **Palestin Refugees from Syria (PRS):** Individuals of Palestinian origin who were residing in Syria and were displaced to Lebanon as a result of the conflict that began in 2011. Many fled due to persecution, violence, or insecurity and now face a precarious legal and socio-economic situation in Lebanon.

- Only registered PRL & PRS living in camps and direct surroundings of the camps[1] will be considered for the purpose of this assessment.

- **Migrant:** Any person who changes his or her country of usual residence, temporarily or permanently, for a variety of reasons such as seeking employment.
- **Live-out migrants:** migrant HHs who live on their own (not domestic workers living with employer). The 2025 MSNA will only focus on Live-out migrants.
- **Household:** A household is a group of people who regularly share meals, income, and expenditures together. Members must acknowledge the authority of one person as head of household and that person must live with the rest of the household members. In polygamous households, each wife is treated as a distinct household when the wives live in different houses, cook separately, and take decisions independently.
- **Head of household:** The head of household is defined as the main decision-maker in the household; in certain households, this responsibility can be shared between two people (co-headed household).

3.3 Secondary data review

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

- IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)
- IOM Mobility Snapshot
- WFP Market Monitor (January 2025)
- FAO Data in Emergencies (December 2024)
- REACH Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) 2023 (June 2024)
- Lebanon Response Plan (LRP) (June 2024) - [Q2 funding update]
- VASyR 2023 (June 2024)
- World Bank Lebanon Interim Damage and Loss Assessment (DALA) (November 2024)
- World Bank Lebanon Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA) (March 2025)
- IOM Migrant Presence Monitoring (MPM) Assessment Round 4 (July 2024)
- UNDP Rapid Impact Assessment (January 2025)
- FAO Baseline Assessment (February 2025)
- Lebanon Information Landscape Report
- Lebanon Crisis Thematic Report - Vulnerability Amid Conflict
- Lebanon Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment March 2025 (RDNA)

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

3.4 Primary data collection

3.4.1 Sampling

Two sampling approaches were used in line with the characteristics of each population group.

Lebanese Households:

For Lebanese households, a district-level random sampling strategy was employed using the Finite Population Correction (FPC) formula. This method ensures statistical reliability while accounting for the actual size of the population in each district. The calculation assumed a 95% confidence level, a margin of error of ±7% and a buffer of 10%, which allows for reasonable precision in the results.

The result provided the minimum number of households to be surveyed in each district to achieve statistically significant findings. To account for potential non-responses or data quality issues, a 10% buffer was added to the final sample size, ensuring the robustness and completeness of the data collection.

Maps will be provided to REACH enumerators and data collection partners through the maps.me mobile application. Enumerators will travel to the designated areas and interview the household closest to the dropped point, within a 200-meter radius. In the event a geo-point falls on a multi-story building containing multiple households, enumerators will use a random number generator to identify the household to be approached — first by randomly selecting a floor, and then by randomly selecting an apartment unit on that floor.. If a household refuses to participate in the survey, is not at home, withdraws from the survey, or does not belong to the population of interest, enumerators will proceed to the next nearest household within the hexagon.

In the event GPS-point sampling is not feasible (owing to security or other considerations), REACH will instead apply random walk techniques within targeted communities. In the case enumerators end up randomly selecting a household which was already assessed, they will start a new random walk technique process.

Map 1. Lebanese households coverage areas

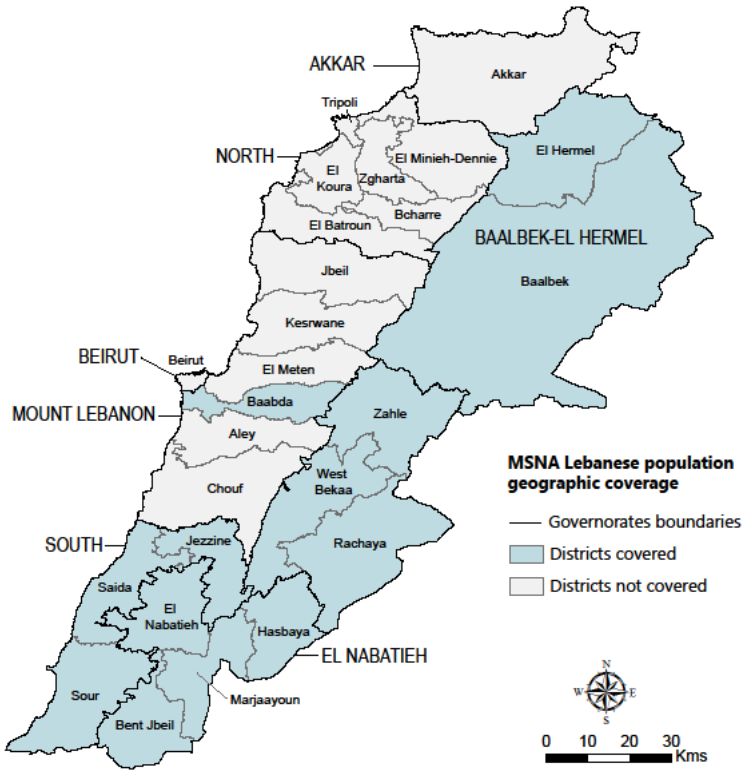

Table 1: Sample size per District for Lebanese population group

Governorate	District	Lebanese	Population (HH)	Sample representative at District level - CL 95% - MOE 7 - Buffer 10%
Baalbek-El Hermel	Baalbek	196679	57847	215
Baalbek-El Hermel	El Hermel	21848	6426	209
Bekaa	Rachaya	31951	9397	211
Bekaa	West Bekaa	68667	20196	214
Bekaa	Zahle	140960	41459	215
Mount Lebanon	Baabda	395448	116308	215

Nabatieh	Bent Jbeil	32478	9552	211
Nabatieh	El Nabatieh	194869	57314	215
Nabatieh	Hasbaya	20812	6121	209
Nabatieh	Marjaayoun	6077	1787	194
South	Jezzine	27508	8091	211
South	Saida	267102	78559	215
South	Sour	125804	37001	214
Total		1530203	450058	2748

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

A stratified sampling approach at the camp level was adopted to determine the number of PRL and PRS households to be interviewed in the seven camps located within the targeted governorates. Based on these population figures, a stratified random sample will be drawn to ensure findings are representative at the camp level, using a 95% confidence level and a 10% margin of error, with an added 10% buffer to account for non-responses rate. In addition, camp-level results will be aggregated to yield governorate-level estimates maintaining the same statistical thresholds. The sample size calculated will be 695 households for PRL and 491 households for PRS to ensure the sample is representative at both the governorate and camp levels.

The PRL and PRS sample sizes was determined based on population data from the 'Digital Information Verification Process for Palestine Population Groups (PRL & PRS)', conducted by UNRWA during 2024–2025. This dataset represents the most current and reliable demographic information on Palestine refugees and is actively used by the Agency for planning and assessment purposes.

Map 2. PRL and PRS camps in Lebanon

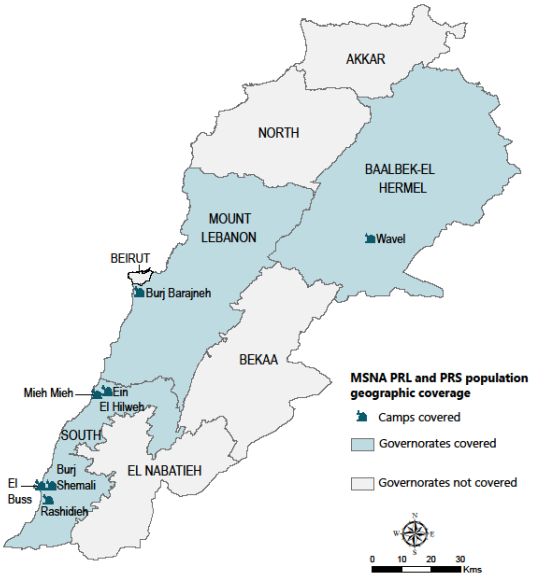

Table 2: Sample size per camp for PRL and PRS population group

Governorate	District	Camps	PRL	PRS	Sample representative at Camps level - CL 95% - MOE 10 - Buffer 10%	
					PRL	PRS
Mount Lebanon	Baadba	Burj Barajneh Camp	9302	1146	102	82

Baalbel El Hermel	Baalbek	Wavel Camp	1822	518	90	65
South	Saida	Ein El Hilweh Camp	29329	2829	104	95
South	Saida	Mia Mia Camp	2822	199	95	40
South	Sour	Rashidieh Camp	9432	433	102	60
South	Sour	Burj Shmali Camp	9783	1736	102	89
South	Sour	Buss Camp	5813	423	100	60
Total			68303	7284	695	491

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

To ensure the random selection of households, REACH will generate GPS-based random points within official camp boundaries, as provided by UNRWA in 2022. In cases of GPS connectivity issues, offline maps will be prepared for each camp to guide data collectors.

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

Migrant Households:

Only live-out migrants will be included in the MSNA 2025 assessment, as it is not feasible to generate a representative and reliable sample for the live-in migrant population due to access and sampling limitations.

A two-stage stratified cluster sampling approach was adopted to select migrant households across the targeted areas. The sampling frame was designed to yield representative findings at the governorate level, covering the four most affected governorates along with Baabda district in Mount Lebanon Governorate, treated as a distinct stratum. This approach - based on consultations with IOM and lessons learned from the 2023 MSNA - was chosen to ensure localized insights that reflect the unique needs and living conditions of migrants in each area.

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

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

Where:

n is the required sample size per governorate,
N is the total migrant population in the governorate,
Z² is the Z-score squared (3.841 for a 95% confidence level),
p is the estimated proportion (set at 0.5 to account for maximum variability),
r is the desired margin of error (0.05 or ±5%), and
Design Effect of 1.5 was used to account for clustering.

Based on the parameters of a 95% confidence level, a 10% margin of error, and a 10% buffer to account for non-responses, the final sample size for live-out migrants was determined to be 675 households. Once the sample size (*n*) was determined for each governorate, it was converted into clusters by dividing the total sample by the number of interviews per cluster, with each cluster consisting of 5 interviews (*Clusters = n / 5*).

In the second stage, clusters were randomly selected within each governorate using Probability Proportional to Size (PPS) sampling with replacement, ensuring that neighborhoods with larger migrant populations had a higher likelihood of selection. This approach maintains geographic representativeness, reflects population distribution across strata, and upholds statistical

rigor throughout the sampling process. It is important to note that neighborhoods with fewer than five eligible households were excluded from the sampling frame. This exclusion criterion aligns with the defined cluster size of five households, as such neighborhoods would not meet the minimum threshold for a full cluster and could compromise the integrity of the sampling methodology.

The live out migrant population sample frame for the MSNA was based on the population figures from 2024 Migrant Presence Monitoring (MPM), if MPM 2025 will be released on time before data collection we will update the sampling frame based on the new dataset of 2025. The MPM reports population figures at the neighborhood level (admin 4), which will be used as the Primary Sampling Units in the 2-stage, stratified cluster sampling strategy. PSUs will be selected using Probability Proportional to Size (PPS) with replacement.

Table 3: Sample size per Governorate for Live-out Migrant population group

Governorate	Population (HH)	Sample representative at Camps level - CL 95% - MOE 10 - Buffer 10%
South	3380	155
El Nabatieh	279	119
Bekaa	742	141
Baalbek-El Hermel	175	103
Mount Lebanon (Baabda)	7551	157
Total		675

Data will be collected by REACH enumerators with the support of IOM team leaders. Before starting data collection, IOM will provide in-depth training to REACH enumerators on data collection with migrant populations, including challenges and mitigation measures. Throughout the data collection process, the REACH field team will be supported by IOM team leaders. The anticipated targets for live-out migrant HHs will be added after the results of MPM are shared.

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

In case the field team has established that the target population group is not present in the entire cluster, the team supervisor will immediately inform the assessment coordination team for a replacement cluster that will be randomly selected.
While the walking technique was considered the most efficient approach given the operational constraints, there is a potential risk of deviating to the convenience or snowball sampling. To mitigate this, enumerator teams will be accompanied by a supervisor whose role is to ensure that the selection of households is random, particularly if locating migrants proves more challenging than anticipated.

3.4.2 Data Collection Process:

The data collection phase is scheduled to begin in July 2025 and is expected to last for approximately one month. Quantitative data will be collected through in-person interviews conducted in the sampled areas. Interviews will be carried out by trained enumerators using structured questionnaires.

REACH has partnered with two NGOs to support data collection activities. Nabaa will lead all PRL/PRS household data collection, while Solidarités International will support Lebanese and Migrants data collection in Baalbek-Hermel Governorate. In all other locations, REACH will be directly responsible for implementing and supervising the data collection process for Lebanese and Migrants.

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

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

Tool Development:

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

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

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

Training and Piloting:

Decentralized trainings will be conducted for field staff early July, including pilot (Specific dates to be confirmed). Each group of enumerators will be trained for 3 days, followed by one day of a pilot.

The training will include the following components:

- **Theoretical:** A review of the theoretical background of the questionnaires and of each question to fully understand the objective and meaning of each question. Standard quantitative interviewing techniques and field protocols will also be covered.

- **ODK (Open Data Kit) application:** A module on the use of the applications for interviews and for supervision call-backs.
- **PSEA and FCRM Training:** All enumerators and supervisors will receive dedicated training on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), Field Code of Conduct, and the Feedback and Complaint Response Mechanism (FCRM). In addition, all staff will be required to sign the Code of Conduct prior to deployment, confirming their understanding and commitment to upholding protection standards and ethical conduct throughout the data collection process.

Coordination with Data Collection Partners:

Two data collection partners will support the MSNA 2025: Nabaa will lead data collection for PRL and PRS households, while Solidarités Internationale will be responsible for data collection with Lebanese and migrant households in Baalbek-Hermel Governorate. In all other geographic areas, REACH will directly manage data collection for the Lebanese and migrant population groups.

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

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

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

3.5 Data Processing & Analysis

Data cleaning will be conducted through pre-validated logic checks and scripts. A data cleaning SOP will be generated, based on the Minimum Standard Data Cleaning Checklist developed by IMPACT HQ, to guide data checking, cleaning, and consolidation processes, as well as indicator-specific parameters. Data will be downloaded and checked for consistency and potential entry errors bi-weekly. A clean dataset will be validated by IMPACT HQ before the start of the analysis, two weeks after the finalization of data collection. The dataset will include a list of variables and choices that need to be named and labelled based on the data codebook, according to the detailed Data Analysis Plan in Annex 2.

Data analysis will be guided by an analysis script, which will include all indicators. Calculations will be reviewed by sectors for the specific sectoral indicators. REACH will then produce the analysis tables, which will be validated by IMPACT HQ.

3.6 Limitations

The 2025 Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) faces the following limitations which could impact the comprehensiveness and representativeness of its findings. These include:

- Sampling Method Nuances: While statistically sound, the sampling approaches have minor limitations, such as the exclusion of very small migrant neighborhoods and the inherent risks of fieldwork in a complex environment.

- Dynamic Context: Lebanon's rapidly evolving crisis means that some assessment findings could quickly become outdated in case of significant economic, political, and security shifts.

4. Key ethical considerations and related risks

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

The proposed research design…	*Yes/ No*	*Details if no (including mitigation)*
… Has been coordinated with relevant stakeholders to **avoid unnecessary duplication** of data collection efforts?	Yes	
… **Respects respondents, their rights and dignity** (*specifically by: seeking informed consent, designing length of survey/ discussion while being considerate of participants' time, ensuring accurate reporting of information provided*)?	Yes	
… Does not **expose data collectors to any risks as a direct result** of participation in data collection?	No	Developed a comprehensive mitigation plan that includes obtaining permissions and access ahead of time, as well as providing a detailed field manual with safety protocols and guidelines to ensure the protection of data collectors.
… Does not **expose respondents / their communities to any risks as a direct result** of participation in data collection?	Yes	
… Does not involve **collecting information on specific topics which may be stressful and/ or re-traumatising** for research participants (both respondents and data collectors)?	Yes	
… Does not involve **data collection with minors** i.e. anyone less than 18 years old?	Yes	
… Does not involve **data collection with other vulnerable groups** e.g. persons with disabilities, victims/ survivors of protection incidents, etc.?	No	Enumerators will be prepared to handle such situations sensitively and ethically. This preparation includes training on recognizing signs of vulnerability, responding appropriately, and ensuring the confidentiality and safety of all participants. Additionally, a dedicated REACH hotline will be available to refer people to the appropriate support services.
… Follows IMPACT SOPs for management of **personally identifiable information**?	Yes	

5. Roles and responsibilities

Table 3: Description of roles and responsibilities

Task Description	*Responsible*	*Accountable*	*Consulted*	*Informed*
Research design	Senior Assessment Officer	Research Manager	GIS Officer IMPACT HQ RD-MEL unit and Sectoral working groups (WG), IMPACT Country Representative ACTED Security officer	AAWG, Working Groups and Sectors, Vasyr Core Group, ISCG, Donors Country Representative
Supervising data collection	Field Manager Field officers (2)	Senior Assessment Officer	Data collection partners IMPACT Country Representative	
Data processing (checking, cleaning)	Data Specialist Senior Assessment officer Field officers , GIS Senior Officer	Data Specialist	Deputy Research manager IMPACT HQ RD-MEALAC Unit	Country Representative
Data analysis	Data Specialist, Senior Assessment officer, GIS Senior Officer	Research manager	IMPACT HQ RD-MEALAC Unit Sectoral WG	Sectoral Working Group
Output production	Senior Assessment Officer	Research manager /Country Representative,	IMPACT HQ RD-MEALAC Unit IMPACT Country Representative Data collection partners	Sectoral Working Group AAWG
Dissemination	Senior Assessment Officer, Research Manager	Country Representative	RD-MEL Unit Data collection partners	AAWG, ISCG, Sectors and Working Groups, AWG, HCT, Donors, Donors
Monitoring & Evaluation	Senior Assessment officer Research manager	Country Representative	IMPACT HQ RD-MEL Unit Data collection partners	
Lessons learned	Senior Assessment Officer	Research manager	Research and data collection partners IMPACT HQ RD-MEL Unit Country Representative	Sectoral WG Data collection partners

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

The validated Data Analysis Plan (DAP) is available to the public and can be accessed through the repository at the following link.

7. Data Management Plan

Available upon request

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	
		# 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	
		Perceived usefulness and influence of IMPACT outputs			
		Recommendations to strengthen IMPACT programs			
		Perceived capacity of IMPACT staff			
		Perceived quality of outputs/programs			

	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 *(providing resources, participating to presentations, etc.)*	# 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

ANNEX 1: DATA CLEANING SOPS

Data cleaning is extremely important in ensuring high-quality data and accurate findings. It involves checking the data for outliers (e.g., a 30-person household), as well as logical inconsistencies. The cleaning process involves flagging these potential errors, sending them to enumerators to follow up, and then incorporating the changes indicated by enumerators in a clear and transparent way.

The following set of processes will be implemented during data collection to ensure adequate monitoring of data collection progress. These procedures will ensure the MSNA 2022 in Lebanon is in line with IMPACT Initiatives Minimum Standards Checklist for Data Cleaning of Structured Data.

a. Data quality checks: methodology

Two types of quality checks will be implemented during data collection to ensure data quality.

- Spot checks: Field officers will regularly join the enumerators in the field to observe and feedback on data collection best practices.
- Cleaning checks: Data quality will be cleaned and monitored through R script

These approaches are in line with IMPACT Initiatives Cleaning SoPs.

b. Tools

The following tool will be prepared ahead of data collection to allow for implementation of data processing steps.

All tools use R scripts are designed to be launched and manipulated by users with advance knowledge of R, meaning the user must be able to run R code, install R packages, and update the scripts as needed.

- Kobo server:
    a. Enumerators will be required to upload collected data to the server at the end of each working day, or as soon as data coverage is available.
    b. Before starting the cleaning process, make sure that: i. Raw data files downloaded from server are formatted in the right way. Headers are XML format; group headers are not included.
    c. Do not add, remove, or rename any column from the raw files as this will create issues while running the R script.
    d. When downloading the data, the file must have all entries from the beginning of data collection.

e. Data Specialist (DS) will be responsible for downloading the raw data and share it with GISO when needed.

f. DS will be responsible for sharing the cleaned data and the cleaning checks with AOs and FOs, following the calendar:

   - First week of data collection: Every day
   - Second week-onward: Every Monday and Thursday

- Data collection monitoring tool (R):

  a. Automatized tool: DS will update it automatically.

     - First week: every day
     - Second week: every 2 days
     - After 2 weeks: every 3 days

  b. Monitor data collection progress at PSU-level: number of surveys by PSUs

  c. Monitor data collection progress by strata (geographic & demographic), number of completed surveys, target number of surveys, remaining surveys:

     - Lebanese at district level
     - PRL at camp level
     - PRS at camp level
     - Live-out migrants at governorate level

  d. Monitor if enumerators are interviewing same gender respondents.

  e. Monitor key-metadata: non-response.

  f. Provide overview of preliminary analysis for a selection of key indicators

- Weekly data monitoring dashboard

    a. Monitor data collection progress at strata level (geographic & demographic) – this document will be shared bi-weekly with MSNA partners.

- Data checking tool (R)
    a. Running the data checking tool script should be completed on a regular basis to ensure adequate time for enumerators to get back to us.
    b. Run list of checks to monitor data collection accuracy:
    c. Check that individual loop is complete, no missing data.
    d. Repetitive routes / patterns by enumerator etc.
    e. Find similarities between surveys: for each survey, it finds the closest matching survey with the minimum number of different questions.
    f. Identify poor quality surveys (too long/too short, too many data entry mistakes).
    g. Calculate number of surveys per enumerator that are started-ended in different days.
    h. Detect overlapping and potentially duplicated surveys.
- Identify outliers: Inexplicable or impossible outliers i.e., an observation/ a specific data point that lies an abnormal distance from other values in the dataset.
- Identify logical checks by survey. The types of logical inconsistencies to look out for and the action to be taken if such an inconsistency is identified should be clear for everyone working on the cleaning process.
- Data cleaning journal (automatically generated via the data checking tool) (Excel)
    a. Compile data logical checks and outliers to be shared with FOs.
    b. FOs to check and contact enumerators (when needed) to follow up and identify data cleaning action for each check (confirm / modify) with providing an explanation why the action was taken.
    c. Receive feedback on outliers, logical checks to be used at the end of data collection in the data editing tool.
- Other Options list (automatically generated via the data checking tool) (Excel)
    a. Compile “other” text answer options in one excel file to be shared with FOs.

b. FOs must fill in the “other responses” excel file by choosing only 1 of these 3 columns:

- TRUE: if the answer cannot be re-coded to any of the available ones. In this case, either copy response if the translation is good, or provide a better translation.
- EXISTING: if the answer can be re-coded in one of the available ones. Select only the most appropriate one. The template is supporting the possibility of choosing from a drop-down menu the existing option, this will reduce number of typo mistakes and save time while re-coding the “other” options. (See template below).
- INVALID: if the answer does not make any sense, out of context, etc. Select yes.
- It is possible to follow up with enumerators if you need.

- Atlas of survey GPS points
  a. Automatized map: GISO will update a map every 3 days, based on the data collection monitoring tool (R) for the progress of data collection.
  b. FOs: Make sure enumerators delete points for last week and update the new points for the coming week on Monday morning, before starting data collection. In the maps.me app:
     - Red points: To be done.
     - Green points: Done

- Data editing tool
  a. After data collection ends:
     i. Once FOs send the responses files back, follow-up and other responses excel files need to be checked by DS to make sure that all the follow-ups were either confirmed or a new value was specified with an explanation, and the other responses were recoded correctly by the FOs.
     ii. Incorporate the changes into the raw data. However, we must do this in a clear and transparent way in order to check ourselves and to prevent mistakes. Therefore, all changes to the data are always compiled and logged in one cleaning log using R.
     iii. One thing to keep in mind while cleaning: no changes should be made to the raw data. Any changes must be made in R and should be logged automatically into the final cleaning log.

iv. Remove any unneeded, personal identifiable information, and other sensitive information columns from dataset and generate the final cleaned dataset.

b. Save logs and final dataset:

i. A clear, comprehensive combined cleaning log is maintained as per the IMPACT Cleaning Logbook template includes other responses, logical checks, outliers, dependencies changes.

ii. A clear, comprehensive deletion log is maintained as per the IMPACT Cleaning Logbook template.

iii. All the different types of data checks done, and the follow-up action(s) taken should be evident by looking at the log.

REACH data team will centralize data monitoring and processing activities and have exclusive access to the KOBO server where completed surveys are stored. This includes data collected through partners. Partners are expected to abide by the outlined procedures and timeline.