

Research Terms of Reference

Market dynamics, economic shocks and food security assessment for Households in Juba, Akobo, Malakal and Kapoeta towns of South Sudan

SSD2409

South Sudan

June 2024
Final version

REACH Informing
more effective
humanitarian action

1. Executive Summary

Country of intervention	South Sudan		
Type of Emergency	<input type="checkbox"/> Natural disaster	<input type="checkbox"/> Conflict	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>Economic shocks</i>)
Type of Crisis	<input type="checkbox"/> Sudden onset	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Slow onset	<input type="checkbox"/> Protracted
Mandating Body/ Agency	USAID/BHA		
IMPACT Project Code	32 AZW		
Overall Research Timeframe	13/05/2024 to 07/10/2024		
Research Timeframe	1. Pilot/ training: 01/07/2024		6. Draft Report: 10/09/2024
	2. Start collect data: 03/07/2024		7. Outputs sent for validation: 13/09/2024
	3. Data collected: 17/07/2024		8. Outputs Finalized: 04/10/2024
	4. Data analysed: 16/08/2024		9. Final presentation: 07/10/2024
	5. Data sent for validation: 16/08/2024		
Number of assessments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Single assessment (one cycle)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Multi assessment (more than one cycle)		
Humanitarian milestones	Milestone		Deadline (can be tentative)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Donor plan/strategy	09/09/2024
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Inter-cluster plan/strategy	__/__/____
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cluster plan/strategy	Cash Working Group: Analysis of effectiveness of transfer amounts given the rising prices; Food Security Cluster: analysis of difference in livelihood activities/access to food within the context of rising prices
	<input type="checkbox"/>	NGO platform plan/strategy	__/__/____
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify): Development Actors	__/__/____
	Audience type		Dissemination

Audience Type & Dissemination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Strategic ■ Programmatic <input type="checkbox"/> Operational <input type="checkbox"/> [Other, Specify] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ General Product Mailing (e.g. mail to NGO consortium; HCT participants; Donors) ■ Cluster Mailing (CWG, FSL) and presentation of findings at next cluster meeting ■ Presentation of findings (e.g. at HCT meeting; Cluster meeting) ■ 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	To conduct research on households' access to food and markets in Juba, Akobo, Malakal and Kapoeta towns in the context of recent economic developments in South Sudan, in order to inform humanitarian programming.	
Specific Objective(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify how household's income and expenditure patterns have changed in light of recent economic shocks (RQ1) • To assess how households are coping with and adapting to the higher cost of living, with a particular focus on the relation to households' ability to meet their food needs (RQ2) • To assess the main drivers leading to the use of households' coping and adoption strategies in response to recent economic shocks (RQ2) • To identify unmet needs in terms of households' access to livelihoods assistance during the economic shocks (RQ3) 	
Research Questions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How have economic shocks influenced households' income and expenditure patterns (cost of living) in the last six months? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What are the main income generating activities for households and how have these changed over the last six months? b. What are the main monthly expenses for households and how have these changed over the last six months? c. How are households perceiving the influence of economic shocks on their overall well-being and quality of life? 2. How are households coping with economic-shocks induced changes in their cost of living? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. How have households' livelihood opportunities changed over the last six months? b. What are the main coping strategies employed by households in response to changes in cost of living? c. What are the key factors and mechanisms behind the adoption of these coping strategies? 3. What are current unmet needs in terms of social and public assistance to ensure households' food and livelihoods, in light of the recent economic developments? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. How have recent economic developments influenced households' reliance on assistance? 	

	<p>b. What are key constraining factors preventing households from accessing social and public assistance for their food and livelihood needs?</p> <p>c. What types of assistance do households perceive to be most needed, in light of recent economic developments?</p>					
Geographic Coverage	<p>Given its aim of assessing households' access to food and markets in the context of recent economic developments in South Sudan, the assessment will cover four towns whose market dependency is among the highest in the country: Juba (Central Equatoria), Akobo (Jonglei), Malakal (Upper Nile) and Kapoeta (Eastern Equatoria).</p>					
Secondary data sources	<p>In order to contextualize this assessment's findings, the team will draw from a variety of secondary data sources. For a full list, see section 3.3.</p>					
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 type="checkbox"/>	Refugees in host communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Refugees [Other, Specify]		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Host communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Returnees		
Stratification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Geographical #: 4 Population size per strata is known? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (county population figures (UN OCHA and NBS) are used to make inferences about the population size of towns, using conservative estimates to determine sample sizes)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Group #: ___ Population size per strata is known? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>[Other Specify] #: __ Population size per strata is known? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Structured (Quantitative)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Semi-structured (Qualitative)		
	Sampling method		Data collection method			
Structured data collection tool # 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Probability sampling <input type="checkbox"/> Purposive <input type="checkbox"/> Snowballing		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quantitative Household Interviews (Target: 107 per town, 428 in total): with Head of Households <input type="checkbox"/> Individual interview (Target #):_____ <input type="checkbox"/> Focus group discussion (Target #):_____ <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 (HoH)		Age (HoH)			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes, indicative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes, indicative		

	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
Data collection level:	<input type="checkbox"/> Individuals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Households	
Semi-structured data collection tool #1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Purposive <input type="checkbox"/> Snowballing <input type="checkbox"/> [Other, Specify]	<input type="checkbox"/> Key informant interview (Target: #): ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Household interviews (Target #):_____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Focus group discussion (Target: 10 in total): with community members. In Akobo, Malakal and Kapoeta, 2 each (1 all-male, 1 all-female), and 4 in Juba (2 all-male, 2 all-female). <input type="checkbox"/> [Other, Specify] (Target #):_____ 	
Target level of precision if probability sampling	NA – Qualitative data collection	NA – Qualitative data collection	
Disaggregation by gender and age	Gender	Age	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Data management platform(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IMPACT	<input type="checkbox"/> UNHCR	
	<input type="checkbox"/> [Other, Specify]		
Expected output type(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Situation overview #: __	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report, #1: final report focusing on the impact of economic shocks to households.	<input type="checkbox"/> Profile #: __
	<input type="checkbox"/> Presentation (Preliminary findings) #: __	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Presentation (Final), # 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Factsheet, #4: summarised findings for each town to be circulated to the local actors with the aim of increasing the take-up of findings.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Interactive dashboard #: __	<input type="checkbox"/> Webmap #: __	<input type="checkbox"/> Map : __
	<input type="checkbox"/> [Other, Specify] #: __		
Access	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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	REACH		
	Donor: USAID BHA		
	Coordination Framework: BHA Consortium		
	Partners: N/A		

2. Rationale

2.1 Background

On July 9, 2011, The Republic of South Sudan emerged as the world's newest nation, becoming Africa's 54th country. Despite over a decade passing since its inception, South Sudan grapples with fragility, stagnant economic growth, and persistent instability. Poverty remains widespread, exacerbated by conflict-induced displacement and external economic shocks.¹ South Sudan's economy heavily depends on oil production. However, the Sudan conflict that erupted in April 2023, along with conflicts in the Red Sea region, has severely disrupted South Sudan's oil sector and economy. South Sudan relies on neighboring Sudan as the sole route for exporting oil to international markets. Consequently, the conflict in Sudan presents acute downside risks to South Sudan's macroeconomic stability, especially given its limited fiscal resources and pressing humanitarian needs.²

In March 2024, South Sudan's macroeconomic conditions continued to deteriorate, marked by a rapid depreciation of the local currency and increased forex volatility. These challenges stem from disruptions to oil production and high inflation rates.³ Critical repairs on the ruptured section of the pipeline in the White Nile State of Sudan, which transports oil from Upper Nile oil fields, are being hindered by insecurity.⁴ The macroeconomic situation is expected to worsen further with Sudan's Ministry of Energy and Petroleum declaring a force majeure on South Sudan's crude oil exports.⁵

The local currency has experienced a significant decline, losing nearly 50 percent of its value between January and March 2024 on both parallel and official markets, and over 95 percent relative to the same period last year.⁶ Additionally, the cost of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) surged by up to 34 percent between February and March 2024, with some areas experiencing a staggering 130 percent increase compared to the same period last year.⁷

The immediate impact of the oil disruption is expected to be most severe in urban areas with high market dependence to provide households' dietary needs. Economic challenges associated with oil disruptions include the sharp rise of food commodity prices as well as challenges for the government in meeting salary obligations. The government has been pushing to pay arrears and, as of May 2024, they have paid the salaries of August and September 2023 only. With the current challenges, arrears are most likely taking a backseat compared to payment of loans.⁸ In addition to economic challenges associated with oil, decreased humanitarian funding has also driven economic hardship. The number of staff working with NGOs dropped from more than 26,000 in 2023 to roughly 17,000 in 2024, according to the NGO forum. Humanitarian jobs are essential livelihood opportunities, especially to households in urban areas. The urban areas most likely to be affected include market reliant towns such as Juba, Akobo, Malakal and

¹ [South Sudan Overview | the World Bank](#)

² Ibid

³ [JMMI dashboard, South Sudan on the brink after oil exports derailed by Sudan's civil war | Al Jazeera](#)

⁴ [South Sudan on the brink after oil exports derailed by Sudan's civil war | Al Jazeera](#)

⁵ [Sudan declares force majeure on South Sudan's oil Exports due to war | Sudan Tribune](#)

⁶ [FEWSNET: South Sudan Key Message Update: Deteriorating economy accelerates price increases and drives growing food gaps](#)

⁷ [JMMI dashboard](#)

⁸ [S. Sudan, where govt employees go for months without salaries | Eye Radio](#)

Kapoeta, among others in parts of Jonglei and Upper Nile. FSNMS data shows that market dependency in these areas will be highest in the lean season (April to July).⁹

2.2 Intended impact

This research, conceived within REACH's Resilience and Accountability¹⁰ (R&A) unit's scope of work, aims at providing a better understanding of the impact of economic shocks and changing market dynamics on household livelihoods, particularly in relation to households' access to food. In order to inform initiatives geared at achieving sustainable food access, there is a need to understand how households get the food and cash they need, of their assets, the opportunities open to them and the constraints they face, and of the options open to them at times of hardships due to economic shocks.

Exploring income and expenditure patterns at the household level can help to understand the challenges households face in sustaining their livelihoods at times of economic hardship. Assessing how households are coping with these challenges, and identifying key factors and mechanisms underlying their coping strategies, helps determine households' livelihoods need. Understanding these livelihoods is of vital importance for assessing the impact of any significant change, whether these are negative (economic shocks and macroeconomic events) or positive (program interventions or policy changes). Exploring whether households have access to support, and how they are accessing it, will help indicate gaps in current support initiatives. As such, appropriate means of assistance can be identified, whether these are short-term emergency interventions or longer-term development programmes or policy changes. The findings of this assessment will thus contribute to decision-making across the humanitarian and development sphere, specifically by informing initiatives geared at supporting access to food, livelihoods and markets, as well as those providing support to affected households.

In conclusion, this assessment's findings will improve the current understanding of households' livelihoods and coping strategies within the context of recent economic shocks in South Sudan, which can be pivotal in conceiving better targeting for existing and upcoming humanitarian and resilience programming.

2.3 Key definitions

Economic shocks: are defined as "any change to fundamental macroeconomic variables or relationships that has a substantial effect on macroeconomic outcomes and measures of economic performance, such as unemployment, consumption, and inflation".¹¹ Results of such economic shocks, such as a rise in food prices, will oftentimes have a greater influence on market-dependent households compared to subsistence-based households that depend on their own production for the majority of their food needs.¹²

Coping and adaptation: this document makes frequent use of these two terms, whose related but distinct meaning call for a clarification. Coping is understood as a short-term process, oriented at survival and reactive to a crisis, which might degrade the capital and resources, and thus future assets and outcomes.

⁹ [South Sudan: IPC Acute Food Insecurity and Malnutrition Snapshot](#)

¹⁰ The Resilience & Accountability unit is one of the research units in REACH's South Sudan mission.

¹¹ [What Is an Economic Shock & Effects of Different Types \(investopedia.com\)](#)

¹² [hea-guide-for-programme-policy-makers1_0.pdf \(fscluster.org\)](#)

On the other hand, adaptation has a longer horizon, and refers to a planned and continued process that aims at achieving more sustainable livelihoods processes by finding alternatives to the current ones. This study will focus primarily on coping strategies, which are assessed through two dimensions, as used by UNHCR¹³: i) Coping Strategies related to food, which refer to the frequency and severity of adoption of food-related coping behaviours, and ii) Coping Strategies related to livelihood, which describe the adoption of coping mechanisms that affect households' capacity to procure food and/or earn a sustainable income in the medium to long term.

Cost of Living: the amount of money needed to maintain a particular standard of living, while paying for housing, food, taxes and healthcare¹⁴.

Household Livelihood Activities: a livelihood is a means of making a living. Livelihood activities are therefore defined as the methods through which a household obtains the means to fulfil basic needs.¹⁵ Examples include securing water, collecting wild foods, accessing health services, etc.

Livelihood Assets: the possessions that aid a person's or a household's ability to earn a livelihood. The Sustainable Livelihoods Framework considers five dimensions of livelihood assets¹⁶: i) **human capital**, defined as "the skills, knowledge, ability to labour and good health that together enable people to pursue different livelihood strategies and achieve their livelihood objectives"; ii) **social capital**, such as social networks, connectedness, membership in formalised groups; iii) **natural capital**, such as land, water, air quality, etc.; iv) **physical capital**, meaning the basic infrastructure and producer goods needed to support livelihoods, such as transport, shelter, energy, etc.; and v) **financial capital**, i.e. available stocks (cash, bank deposits or liquid assets, etc.) as well as regular inflows of money (labour income, pensions, remittances, etc.)

3. Methodology

3.1 Methodology overview

For this assessment, we propose a mixed methodology approach using both quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection. Primary data collected will be supported by a secondary data review. The data will be triangulated to identify and better understand potential synergies and concurrences.

Secondary Data Review: a review of the available data on current economic shocks in South Sudan, market dynamics, access to food and support for households will be conducted. This will entail a review of REACH's JMMI data on market functionality and food prices, as well as of relevant economic reports (including the South Sudan Economic Outlook from AfDB and the South Sudan Economic Monitor from the World Bank Group). Additionally, market assessments and peer-reviewed literature on market dynamics and food security in South Sudan will be reviewed. See 3.3 Secondary Data collection.

¹³ [2 VASyR 2019 Coping Strategies.pdf \(unhcr.org\)](#)

¹⁴ [Cost of Living | Britannica](#) and [What the cost of living crisis looks like around the world | International Rescue Committee \(IRC\)](#)

¹⁵ [livelihood activities \(unesco.org\)](#)

¹⁶ [SLA Gamper Kollmair.pdf \(humanitarianlibrary.org\)](#) and DFID (2000): Sustainable Livelihoods Guidance Sheets. Department for International Development. www.livelihood.org/info/info_guidancesheets.htm.

Primary data collection: primary data collection will be carried out in four major towns, in four different counties (see 3.2 on Population of Interest below), and will include two components (see 3.4. Primary Data Collection):

- **107 Household Interviews (HIs) per town (428 in total)** - to explore livelihoods activities, in particular the impact of economic shocks on households' income and expenditure patterns, food consumption patterns and coping strategies, as well as households' access to assistance.
- **2-4 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) per town (10 in total)** – to provide in-depth information on mechanisms and reasoning behind different coping strategies and market dynamics, and community-level insights in the impact of economic shocks on household livelihoods.

Questionnaires Development: structured data collection tools will be developed in order to conduct HIs, whereas semi-structured data collection tools will be developed in order to conduct FGDs. Each data collection tool will be developed considering the specific objectives of the assessments, and the differences in sampling strategies.

Data Processing and Analysis: quantitative and qualitative data collection, and translation of FGD transcripts, will be monitored by the Assessment Officer to ensure high data quality and saturation of the data. Data analysis will be conducted by the assessment team in line with IMPACT's minimum standards checklist on quantitative and qualitative data processing and analysis. See 3.5 Data Processing and Analysis.

Output Drafting: the final report, four factsheets (summarising the findings for the four counties) and the final presentation will be completed by the Assessment Officer with input and review from the Research Manager.

3.2 Population of interest

Geographical Coverage: data collection will occur in four urban areas, selected because of the high reliance of households on markets in terms of their food provision and livelihoods. These urban areas include the towns of Juba (Juba county), Akobo (Akobo county), Kapoeta (Kapoeta South county) and Malakal (Malakal county).

- **Juba** - the capital city of South Sudan and the nation's biggest urban area.¹⁷ With the offices of national, state, county and municipal government, as well as the wide range of private sector organizations, humanitarian organizations and development organizations, Juba city has a relatively wide range of livelihood opportunities for households. In addition to formal employment, the informal sector is an important aspect of livelihoods for many households in Juba. Of all four data collection locations, Juba is the most urbanized town, and the most developed in terms of infrastructure and services. Several markets exist throughout the city, with Konyo Konyo and Gumbo markets being the major ones – especially in terms of fresh produce. Due to Juba's urban nature, households are very reliant on markets for their food and livelihoods.¹⁸ According to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), Juba faced

¹⁷ [Juba - csrf-southsudan](#)

¹⁸ Ibid.

Phase 3 (Crisis) severity of acute food insecurity from September – November 2023, and Juba is projected to remain Phase 3 during the coming lean season of 2024.¹⁹

- **Akobo** - located in Jonglei state, Akobo town lies in the northeastern part of South Sudan close to the Ethiopian border.²⁰ Akobo town hosts the main market of Akobo County, which is mainly supplied by road from Ethiopia. While some level of agriculture, livestock and fishing activities exist in the wider county, local food production and access to markets has been negatively affected by insecurity since prior to independence. In addition, the presence of a significant displaced persons population has stressed community resources. In past years, Akobo market has often been cut off from reliable supply chains due to crop loss caused by flooding.²¹ Consequently, Akobo county has sustained challenges in terms of food insecurity: Akobo was classified as IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) severity from September – November 2023. According to IPC's projections, Akobo is likely to face more severe food insecurity during the coming lean season (April-July 2024) and to be classified as Phase 4 (Emergency) level of severity.²²
- **Kapoeta** – Kapoeta town is an important market town, located just two hours from the border with Kenya, in Kapoeta South County.²³ The county, with its semi-arid climate, is deemed to be unsuitable for large-scale agriculture. The population is highly reliant on trade and livestock for their livelihoods. Kapoeta town is a primary entry point for Kenyan goods, and has been an important transit site for displaced persons on their way to and back from Kenyan refugee camps. Compared to Malakal and Akobo, Kapoeta is relatively big and its infrastructure and services well-developed: Kapoeta houses several educational institutions across different levels, as well as a variety of health facilities.²⁴ According to the IPC, Kapoeta was classified as Phase 3 (Crisis) severity of acute food insecurity from September – November 2023, and is projected to remain Phase 3 during the coming lean season of 2024.²⁵
- **Malakal** – the capital city of Upper Nile state.²⁶ In Malakal county, communities are mostly agro-pastoralists: livestock rearing is an important livelihood activity, together with trade, cereal production and fishery. Nonetheless, the county has a relatively urban population compared to neighbouring counties and, hence, it is estimated that only 15% of households in Malakal county depend on farming as their primary livelihood source.²⁷ Malakal town hosts a large Protection of Civilian (PoC) site and is has been a primary destination for displaced populations, including newly arriving returnees due to the Sudan conflict. The humanitarian situation is fragile due to successive episodes of violence that led to displacements and extremely crowded conditions in the PoC.²⁸ This has severely imperilled livelihoods, especially around Malakal town. In addition to this, there have been tensions over the control of Malakal town, alongside disputes on ownership of land on the eastern bank of the River Nile.²⁹ Malakal

¹⁹ [South Sudan - Integrated Food Security Phase Classification \(ipcinfo.org\)](#)

²⁰ [Akobo - csrf-southsudan](#)

²¹ Ibid.

²² [South Sudan - Integrated Food Security Phase Classification \(ipcinfo.org\)](#)

²³ [Kapoeta South - csrf-southsudan](#)

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ [South Sudan - Integrated Food Security Phase Classification \(ipcinfo.org\)](#)

²⁶ [Malakal - csrf-southsudan](#)

²⁷ ibid

²⁸ [Situation Report: Malakal Conflict Induced Displacement due to violent clashes in Malakal PoC \(as of 23 June 2023\) - South Sudan | ReliefWeb](#)

²⁹ [Malakal - csrf-southsudan](#)

is currently classified as IPC Phase 4 (Critical), and this classification is projected to remain during the coming lean season in 2024.³⁰

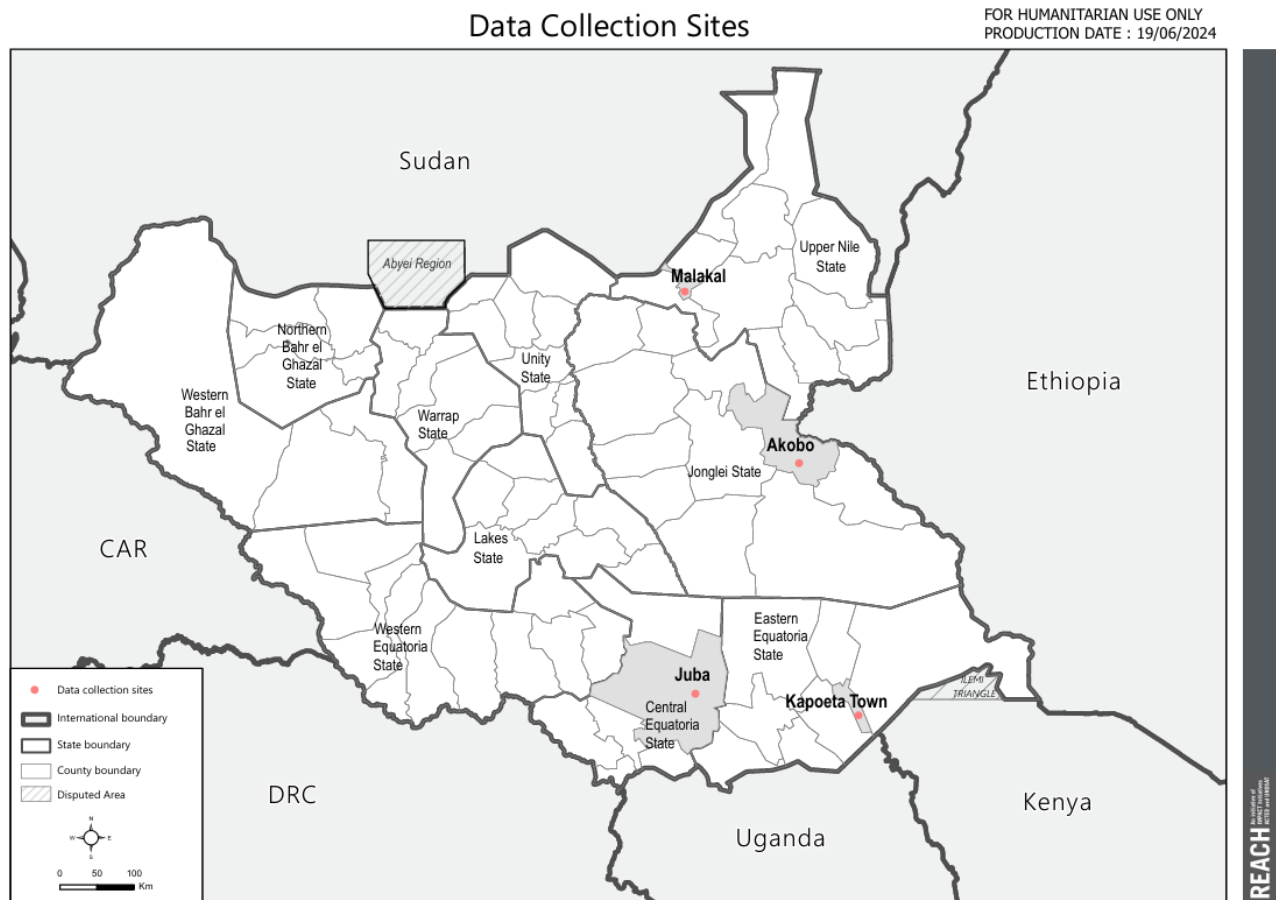


Figure 1: Map showing the location of the target towns and their corresponding counties

Population Groups Assessed: the HIs will seek to explore livelihoods activities, in particular the impact of economic shocks on households' income and expenditure patterns, food consumption patterns and coping strategies, as well as households' access to assistance. Our target population are therefore Head of Households (HoHs) whose household is residing in any of the four target locations. The FGDs will aim to provide in-depth information on mechanisms and reasoning behind findings from the quantitative component. This will allow us to triangulate findings on current livelihood challenges due to economic shocks, resulting coping strategies and unmet needs for livelihood assistance. Our target population is therefore community members residing in each of the four study locations. FGDs will be split by gender, given our experience is that this helps participants to feel more comfortable and voice their opinions more freely. We will conduct ten FGDs in total. In Akobo, Malakal and Kapoeta we will conduct two FGDs each (one male, one female). In Juba, given its relatively large population and unique market dynamics, we will conduct four FGDs (two male, two female).

Unit of measurement: in the HIs, the HoHs will be asked to answer the questions on behalf of their household. In the FGDs, participants will be asked to answer on behalf of conditions and trends in the broader community in the towns assessed.

³⁰ [South Sudan - Integrated Food Security Phase Classification \(ipcinfo.org\)](https://ipcinfo.org)

3.3 Secondary data review

Find below a list of secondary resources, which have been reviewed to aid in establishing definitions and conceptualisations, and formulate the research objectives, questions and sub-questions. These resources will be analysed more in-depth during data collection, and will be used to triangulate primary data collected.

Secondary source (Link)	Purpose of source
South Sudan Data (worldbank.org)	Provide quantitative information on South Sudan's economy, recent economic developments and households' economic position
Macro Poverty Outlook for South Sudan, April 2024 WB	
South Sudan Economic Monitor WB	
South Sudan Economic Outlook African Development Bank Group	
South Sudan - Country Diagnostic Note 2021 AfDB	
Strategy on Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion 2020-2022 SS UNHCR	
Humanitarian partners in South Sudan call on the Government to urgently remove new charges impacting the delivery of humanitarian assistance ReliefWeb	
South Sudan - Complex Emergency Fact Sheet #3, FY 2024 ReliefWeb	Provide contextual recent information on food security situation and food assistance in South Sudan
A New Strategy for Tackling Food and Nutrition Security Crises in SS WB	
GIEWS Country Brief: South Sudan 30-April-2024 ReliefWeb	
Cash for assets during acute food insecurity: an observational study in South Sudan Springer	Provide background on coping strategies
Coping Strategies of Food Insecure Households in Conflict	
Report on 4 Household Economy Assessments in Zimbabwe Save the Children	Similar assessment conducted in Zimbabwe

Table 1. Secondary Resources consulted for this assessment.

3.4 Primary Data Collection

Data collection methods, timing and sampling

This mixed methods research makes use of a convergent parallel design, meaning that data collection and analysis of both quantitative and qualitative data occur simultaneously and are analysed separately. Primary data collection of both qualitative and quantitative data will take place over 2 weeks between July 3 and 17, 2024. In each location, the teams will aim to first collect qualitative data, followed by quantitative data. In cases where availability of participants or other logistical considerations require flexibility in terms of scheduling data collection activities, the team may start with quantitative data collection instead. Data collection of qualitative and quantitative data is expected to take place at the same time across the four towns. In case one of the towns is inaccessible at the start of the data collection period, data collection will commence in the other, accessible, locations. Thus, in that case, data collection would happen in a sequential order, rather than simultaneously across all four locations. Both quantitative and qualitative data will be analysed after all data collection activities have been completed.

The sampling strategy will be targeted to the two components of the study. For the qualitative component, the field team will support the AO in the identification of community members who are willing to meet in person to contribute to this study. The composition of the groups should aim to reflect wider community dynamics. For the quantitative component, a stratified random sampling strategy will be applied. We propose to divide the population into four strata, based on geographical divisions (towns). We will take a 95% Confidence Interval (CI) and 10% Margin of Error (MoE) and we will add a 10% buffer

per stratum.³¹ Consequently, our sample size will be 107 households in each of the four towns, which results in a total sample size of 428 households. In each of the strata, households will be randomly selected through GIS-based sampling. In Akobo, Malakal and Kapoeta, 107 random GPS points will be generated on a map covering the whole population of interest in the respective town. To accommodate Juba’s relatively large size compared to the other three locations, the map of Juba will first be divided into four quadrants, after which 27 (107/4) random GPS points will be generated in each of the four quadrants. A unit (household) located nearest to each point (within a pre-defined buffer of 10 meters) is then targeted for the survey. Should accessibility challenges prevent the data collection team from interviewing the initially samples households on the day of the survey, these households shall be replaced in the sample by generating additional random points on the map as needed.

Data collection tool	Target Sample Size	Sampling Strategy
Focus Group Discussions	2-4 per town (10 in total)	Purposive Split by gender. The groups’ compositions should aim to reflect community dynamics.
Household Interviews	107 per town (428 in total)	Stratified random sample <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stratum: town • 95% CI and 10% MoE • Buffer of 10% per strata • GIS-based sampling to select households in each of the towns

Table 2: Data Collection Methods and Sampling

Data collection field teams

Data will be collected by REACH field teams. Field teams will consist of one REACH Assessment Officer (AO) or REACH Field Officer (FO) per town, 5-7 enumerators per town and a note-taker and/or translator. The latter two roles will either be filled by REACH FOs or hired in each town of assessment, depending on resources available. HIs will be conducted and facilitated in-person by an experienced enumerator. FGDs will be conducted and facilitated in person by a minimum of one moderator/ facilitator (the REACH AO/FO), one note-taker and, if possible, one translator.

Prior to data collection exercises, FOs shall receive 2 days of training, provided by the AO. The field teams shall discuss any issues or questions that arise with the AO. The location of training depends on the location of field teams. While it is optimal to bring the FOs to Juba for training, project resources and timing may render this unfeasible. Once training is complete, FOs will deploy to each town simultaneously. Upon arrival, FOs will hire the required enumerators, note-takers and translators for data collection. Enumerators shall receive comprehensive training on the tools and how to handle and discuss sensitive issues to ensure that the data collection follows a conflict-sensitive approach and adheres to the “do-no-harm” principle. As far as possible, the gender and first language of the FGD

³¹ [county population figures](#) will be used to make inferences about the population size of towns, using conservative estimates to determine the sample size per stratum. The added 10% buffer further accommodates for this uncertainty.

participants will be appropriately matched with that of moderators/translators to ensure participants can speak freely.

Data collection tools

The FGD data collection tool will be semi-structured, consisting of questions, sub-questions and probes related to the assessments' specific objectives and research questions. A structured data collection tool, in the form of a questionnaire consisting of closed-ended questions, will be developed to conduct HIs. Here too, questions will be formulated based on the assessment's objective and research questions. All tools will be developed in consultation with BHA.

The Data Analysis Plan (DAP) outlines how information captured through the questions in both the semi-structured and structured tool will help answer the different research (sub)questions. While the data collection tools are in English, they will be translated by the field teams to the preferred language during the interview as needed. Note-takers during data collection exercises will use notebooks or laptops to record discussions. Field teams will not collect or record any Personal Identifiable Information (PII) that is not included in the Data Management Plan (DMP).

Data collection monitoring

The AO will closely coordinate with the field teams throughout the various phases of the research cycle. Through daily check-ins, the AO will ensure the tools are effective, flow well, and are sensitive to the context, as well as to ensure other considerations for informative and respectful qualitative and quantitative data collection exercises are implemented. Should any issues occur, the AO, in close consultation with the Research Manager (RM) and FOs, will amend the tools as necessary. Depending on field team capacity, full transcripts of each data collection exercise will be prepared as soon as possible after the exercise, as are the accompanying debrief forms. In every data collection exercise, the guiding principles of informed consent, 'do-no-harm', confidentiality and respect will be adhered to. Any issues arising shall be reported immediately to the AO and RM.

3.5 Data Processing & Analysis

Data processing and analysis of FGDs will be performed in line with IMPACT's **Minimum Standards Checklist for semi-structured data collection tools**. As soon as possible after the data collection exercise, the full transcript is written up in English in a digital MS Word document. The AO shall organize and save all transcripts on the REACH SharePoint space, under password protection. Throughout this process, the AO will maintain a data tracker to ensure all planned research activities are completed. The tracker is an online file shared between the AO, the RM and the FOs. All the data will be handled in strict accordance with IMPACT's SOP on the Management of Personally Identifiable Information to safeguard privacy and anonymity of the participants.

Data will be analysed using an exploratory sequential design, meaning qualitative data will be collected and analysed first, followed by the quantitative component. Qualitative data will be entered into MAXQDA for analysis. The software will be used to perform thematic analysis, allowing for identification, analysis and reporting of patterns within data. The software will provide an output in the form of a Data Saturation and Analysis Grid (DSAG). The DSAGs comprise three "layers" of analysis: Discussion Topics (DTs), Discussion Sub-Topics (DSTs), and Data Points (DPs). Discussion Topics are

based on questions in each qualitative tool. Discussion Sub-Topics and Data Points will be created using an inductive approach, based on the themes emerging from transcripts.

Once interview transcripts and enumerator debrief forms have been translated from the local language to English, processing and analysis will result in the following data and analysis to be shared with IMPACT HQ: 1) Enumerator debrief forms, 2) Finalized transcripts in Word document format, 3) a completed Data Saturation and Analysis Grid (DSAG), and 4) a completed Method Report (with the DSAG), summarizing data collection and analysis methods used.

Data processing and analysis of HIs will be performed in line with **IMPACT's Minimum Standards Checklists for structured data collection tools**. At the end of each day of data collection, the team will run a Quality Assurance (QA) script in R on the collected data to check for survey metadata, enumerator metadata, logical inconsistencies, and data protection. For each of the checks done and issues identified as per the Minimum Standards checklist, appropriate action will be taken according to the type of error (e.g. genuine errors which can be corrected based on follow-up will be corrected based on feedback of the data collection team). Once individual issues are dealt with, systematic problems across variables/records will be assessed and, if needed, appropriate action will be taken (e.g. deleting a variable). Quantitative data will be analysed using R. Findings will be disaggregated, meaning results will be presented by location (town) and no aggregated findings will be presented. Descriptive statistics will be used to explore and describe specific themes and observations within each stratum.

3.6 Limitations

Accessibility

Accessibility challenges may occur that prevent field teams from accessing households included in the intended sample. In such cases, the AO, in close collaboration with the RM and REACH data officer, will replace inaccessible households while ensuring the integrity of the sample. This will be done through generating additional random GPS points in the sampled areas.

Generalizability

Given the chosen sampling strategy, quantitative findings will be representative only at the town level. While disaggregated results (by vulnerability group or displacement status) may be provided, it should be kept in mind that these are not representative at that level and, as such, should be treated as indicative only. Similarly, while quantitative findings may be disaggregated by gender or age of the head of households, these findings are also indicative.

Translation / transcription errors

Since interviews will not be audio-recorded, it is likely that “transcripts” will more resemble notes. Moreover, as some of the interviews will be translated from the local language to English during the interview by the translator and/or note-taker, it is also possible that some details will be lost in translation or that responses might be abbreviated by the translator. To mitigate this, the team will i) carefully review the transcripts for any translation errors or missing data, and ii) quickly follow up with FOs should any data be deemed wrong or missing, with the aim to correct if possible.

Sensitivity

While the topic of this assessment may not be a sensitive topic per se, certain themes and sub-topics (i.e. household assets, income) within the assessment may be considered sensitive topics in certain areas, resulting in participants potentially being hesitant to answer questions. To mitigate this, the team will i) train FOs on how to handle and discuss sensitive issues; ii) ensure that each participant understands that their responses will be fully anonymous, and; iii) abide by UNHCR's recommendation³² to place more sensitive topics towards the end of the questionnaire, with the hope that the participant is more at ease and thus more willing to answer sensitive questions by that time.

4. Key ethical considerations and related risks

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

<i>The proposed research design...</i>	Yes/ No	Details if no (including mitigation)
... Has been coordinated with relevant stakeholders to avoid unnecessary duplication of data collection efforts?	No	Preliminary conversations have been held with International Organization for Migration (IOM), on avoiding unnecessary duplication of data collection efforts with regards to the Inter Sectoral Needs Assessment (ISNA) (which is likely to happen in a lighter version this year, if done at all). No other stakeholders have been consulted as there are no indications of similar assessments being conducted in South Sudan this year. The closest related study is WFP's Food Security Monitoring Food Systems (FSMNS). However, since the current assessment is geared more towards economic shocks rather than food security (as the FSMNS is), duplication of data collection efforts is unlikely.
... 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	The team will be in close consultation with the security and field team to identify areas where in-person interviews can be conducted
... 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-traumatizing 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	

³² United Nations Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner. (2011). Chapter 11: Interviewing. In Manual on Human Rights Monitoring. United Nations.

... Follows IMPACT SOPs for management of personally identifiable information ?	Yes	
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5. Roles and responsibilities

Task Description	Responsible	Accountable	Consulted	Informed
Research design	AO	RM	BHA, GIS and Data Officers	IMPACT Deputy Country Coordinator (DCC).
Supervising data collection	AO, FO	RM	RM	IMPACT DCC.
Data processing (checking, cleaning)	AO, data officer	RM	IMPACT HQ Research Design & Data Unit (RDDU)	IMPACT HQ RDDU, BHA
Data analysis	AO, data officer	RM	IMPACT HQ RDDU	IMPACT HQ RDDU
Output production	AO, data officer	RM	IMPACT DCC, IMPACT HQ RDDU, BHA	IMPACT HQ RDDU, BHA
Dissemination	AO	RM	IMPACT DCC; IMPACT HQ RDDU	IMPACT HQ, BHA, Clusters(CWG, FSL)
M&E	IMPACT PD	IMPACT PD	RM; IMPACT HQ	IMPACT HQ
Lessons learned	AO	RM	IMPACT DCC	IMPACT HQ, BHA

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 data analysis plan is available upon request.

7. Data Management Plan (DMP)

Administrative Data		
Research Cycle name	SSD economic shocks assessment	
Project Code	32 AZW	
Donor	BHA	
Project partners	n/a	
Research Contacts	Maartje Schots – maartje.schots@impact-initiatives.org Elijah Makau - elijah.makau@impact-initiatives.org	
Data Management Plan Version	Date: 23/05/2024 Version: 1	
Related Policies	IMPACT Minimum Standards for Qualitative Data Processing and Analysis IMPACT Minimum Standards for Quantitative Data Processing and Analysis IMPACT Guidelines for SOPs for Management of Personally Identifiable Data	
Documentation and Metadata		
What documentation and metadata will accompany the data? Select all that apply	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data analysis plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data Cleaning Log, including: <input type="checkbox"/> Deletion Log <input type="checkbox"/> Value Change Log
	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Consent of participants to share personal information with other agencies
	<input checked="" 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 (REACH) and BHA	
Storage and Backup		
Where will data be stored and backed up during the research?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IMPACT/REACH Kobo Server	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Kobo Server: <i>[specify]</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/> IMPACT Global Physical / Cloud Server	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Country/Internal Server
	<input 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 the Assessment officer, Research Manager and data officer
	<input checked="" 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		
Kobo Access	Person	Account Name
View and Edit Form, Download Data	Maartje Schots	Tbd
View form, download form, submit data	Data officer (tbd)	Tbd
View form, download form, submit data	Field Officer (tbd)	Tbd
View form, download form, submit data	Enumerators	Tbd
Raw Data Access Rights		
Raw Data Access	Reason	Person
Access	Data Quality checks	Maartje Schots, Assessment Officer
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 mandating agency / body
Will all data be shared?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, only anonymized/ cleaned data will be shared
	<input type="checkbox"/> No, [Other, Specify]	
Where will you share the data?	<input type="checkbox"/> REACH Resource Centre	<input type="checkbox"/> OCHA HDX
	<input type="checkbox"/> Humanitarian Response	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> With client
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.
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[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
HH Interview: GPS coordinates	Identification of HH and HoH	Loss of privacy, potential to visit	Use for QA (important to verify all HIs are conducted in urban areas)	B1	To be deleted directly after verification

Responsibilities	
Data collection	Maartje Schots – Assessment Officer - maatje.schots@impact-initiatives.org Name – Field Officer - email
Data cleaning	Maartje Schots – Assessment Officer - maatje.schots@impact-initiatives.org
Data analysis	Maartje Schots – Assessment Officer - maatje.schots@impact-initiatives.org
Data sharing/uploading	Maartje Schots – Assessment Officer - maatje.schots@impact-initiatives.org Elijah Makau – Research Manager - elijah.makau@impact-initiatives.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		<input type="checkbox"/> 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	<i>Early Recovery Strategies of INGOs, NGOs and Development Actors. Publications by Cash Working Group, Livelihood and Food Security Cluster, Livelihoods Technical Working Groups, Protection Cluster documents, and BHA URC partners.</i>
		# references in single agency documents			
Humanitarian stakeholders are	Humanitarian actors use IMPACT	Perceived relevance of IMPACT country-programs	Country team	Usage_Feedback and	

<p>using IMPACT products</p>	<p>evidence/products as a basis for decision making, aid planning and delivery</p> <p>Number of humanitarian documents (HNO, HRP, cluster/agency strategic plans, etc.) directly informed by IMPACT products</p>	<p>Perceived usefulness and influence of IMPACT outputs</p> <p>Recommendations to strengthen IMPACT programs</p> <p>Perceived capacity of IMPACT staff</p> <p>Perceived quality of outputs/programs</p> <p>Recommendations to strengthen IMPACT programs</p>		<p>Usage_Survey template</p>	
<p>Humanitarian stakeholders are engaged in IMPACT programs throughout the research cycle</p>	<p>Number and/or percentage of humanitarian organizations directly contributing to IMPACT programs (<i>providing resources, participating to presentations, etc.</i>)</p>	<p># of organisations providing resources (i.e.staff, vehicles, meeting space, budget, etc.) for activity implementation</p> <p># of organisations/clusters inputting in research design and joint analysis</p> <p># of organisations/clusters attending briefings on findings;</p>	<p>Country team</p>	<p>Engagement_log</p>	<p>X Yes</p> <p>X Yes</p> <p>X Yes</p>