

Research Terms of Reference

Piloting Longitudinal Monitoring of Displacement Intentions

SYR 2413

Syria

September 2025

V1

REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action

1. Executive Summary

Country of intervention	Syria		
Type of Emergency	<input type="checkbox"/> Natural disaster	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conflict	
Type of Crisis	<input type="checkbox"/> Sudden onset	<input type="checkbox"/> Slow onset	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protracted
Mandating Body/ Agency	UKHIIH		
Project Code			
Overall Research Timeframe (from research design to final outputs / M&E)	25 August 2025 to 28 February 2026		
Research Timeframe	1. Start collect data: 01 Oct 2025 (6 follow-up rounds: 2 weeks out) OCT, NOV, DEC	5. Output 1) sent for validation: Key Findings Factsheet: 13 Jan 2026	
<i>Add planned deadlines (for first cycle if more than 1)</i>	2. Data collected: 20 Dec 2025	6. Output 1 shared: 20 Jan 2026	
	3. Data analysed: 01 Jan 2026	7. Output 2) sent for validation: Guidance Note: 10 Feb 2026	
	4. Data sent for validation: 04 Jan 2026	8. Final output published: 28 Feb 2026	
Number of assessments	<input type="checkbox"/> Single assessment (one cycle)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multi assessment (more than one cycle) (bi-weekly collection of data)		
Humanitarian milestones <i>Specify what will the assessment inform and when</i> <i>e.g. The shelter cluster will use this data to draft its Revised Flash Appeal;</i>	Milestone	Deadline	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donor plan/strategy	February	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inter-cluster plan/strategy	Mid November	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cluster plan/strategy	Mid November	
	<input type="checkbox"/> NGO platform plan/strategy	_ / _ / _ _ _	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify):	_ / _ / _ _ _		
	Audience type	Dissemination	

<p>Audience Type & Dissemination Specify <i>who</i> will the assessment inform and <i>how</i> you will disseminate to inform the audience</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Programmatic <input type="checkbox"/> Operational <input type="checkbox"/> [Other, Specify]</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> General Product Mailing (e.g. mail to NGO consortium; HCT participants; Donors) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cluster Mailing (Education, Shelter and WASH) and presentation of findings at next cluster meeting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Presentation of findings (e.g. at HCT meeting; Cluster meeting) <input type="checkbox"/> Website Dissemination (Relief Web & REACH Resource Centre) <input type="checkbox"/> [Other, Specify]</p>
<p>Detailed dissemination plan required</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>General Objective</p>	<p>The objective of this assessment is to assess the extent to which stated intentions are realized in actual behavior among displaced households in CCCM-registered IDP sites and informal sites across Syria. This assessment will longitudinally track a subset of households from the REACH/CCCM/UNHCR 'Assessing Movement Intentions in IDP Sites in Syria' assessment, over a 3 month period of time at two-week intervals, to generate robust, household-level evidence on key factors influencing household's decisions to stay in their current location or relocate to their area of origin. Additionally, the assessment will include a sentiment analysis component, which will provide information on the household's feeling of urgency, acceptance, and confidence in the stated decision to stay or move.</p> <p>A secondary objective is to test the feasibility of using longitudinal monitoring and sentiment analysis as tools for improving population tracking. The findings will be used to generate recommendations and lessons learned for developing a scalable model for future displacement monitoring, to guide movement-response programming in the region, and to ultimately strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian interventions in Syria.</p>	
<p>Specific Objective(s)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Track household-level displacement intentions by assessing how the displacement intentions of households in IDP sites across Syria evolve over time, focusing on the factors influencing decisions to stay or relocate to areas of origin. Link Intentions to Actual Movements: Assess the extent to which expressed intentions (e.g., stay, relocate) translate into actual movements, providing a clearer understanding of the gap between stated intentions and behaviour. Generate Comparative Profiles of Households: Develop profiles of households intending to stay versus those intending to leave, examining factors and sentiment that influence their decision-making processes. Provide Methodological Insights for Future Studies: Produce a guidance note that synthesizes lessons learned from the pilot, offering practical recommendations on integrating longitudinal intentions monitoring and sentiment analysis into standard displacement monitoring systems in Syria. Enhance Adaptive Humanitarian Programming: Strengthen the evidence base for adaptive programming by providing humanitarian actors with accurate data to inform responsive and targeted interventions based on shifting displacement dynamics. 	
<p>Research Questions</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> What are the key factors influencing household decisions to stay or relocate to their area of origin including barriers to return, enabling conditions, access to services, security concerns, and living standards in both current locations and areas of origin within displacement areas across Syria? 	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. How do displacement intentions evolve over time for displaced households, and what triggers changes in these intentions? 3. How do sentiments, urgency, acceptance, and confidence around staying or relocating affect household movements, and how does this change over time? 4. What are the challenges and opportunities in implementing a longitudinal displacement monitoring system, and how can these insights inform future humanitarian response strategies? 5. What lessons can be learned from this pilot study to scale and integrate longitudinal intent monitoring into existing displacement monitoring systems in Syria? 				
Geographic Coverage	Aleppo, Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, As-Sweida, Dar'a, Deir-ez-Zor, Idleb, Rural Damascus Governorates (Governorates selected match the sample frame of the baseline- movement intentions assessment)				
Secondary data sources	<p>Rose (2001), Researching Social and Economic Change: the use of household panel studies. Lynn (2009), Methodology of Longitudinal Surveys. CCCM Syria Cluster website, Syria CCCM Sector UN OCHA, IDP Movements Dashboard Microsoft Power BI UN OCHA Syria Response Syria ReliefWeb Response Site Management and Coordination Sector SMCC Humanitarian Flash Update, UNICEF As Sweida UNHCR Movement Intentions Report UNHCR Flash Intentions Survey IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix, Syrian Arab Republic Displacement Tracking Matrix REACH Movement Intentions NES, January 2025 REACH SYR Factsheet Movement-Intention January2025 final.pdf Sabater, M., et al. (2020). "Perceptions and Sentiment Analysis in Displacement Contexts." <i>Journal of Refugee Studies</i>, 33(3), 502–520</p>				
Population(s) <i>Select all that apply</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	IDPs in informal sites and planned sites, collective centres			
	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	Host communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	[Other, Specify]	
Stratification <i>Select type(s) and enter number of strata</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Geographical #: Total Population size per strata is known? X Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Group #:1- IDPs (Will retain households in anticipation of final target of 600 HH sample from the original 5,000 collected) Population size per strata is known? X Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> #:2 _A. 'Intend to Move' (HHs at baseline stated intention to relocate to areas or origin n=300) <input type="checkbox"/> B. 'Intend to Stay' (HHs at baseline stated intention to remain n=300) Population size per strata is known? X Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Data collection tools	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Structured (Quantitative)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Semi-Structured (Qualitative)	
	Sampling method		Data collection method		

Structured data collection tool # 1 <i>Household interviews</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Purposive <input type="checkbox"/> Probability / Simple random <input type="checkbox"/> Probability / Stratified simple random <input type="checkbox"/> Probability / Cluster sampling <input type="checkbox"/> Probability / Stratified cluster sampling <input type="checkbox"/> [Other, Specify]		<input type="checkbox"/> Key informant interview (Target #): Total <input type="checkbox"/> Group discussion (Target #):_____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Household interview (Target 600): <input type="checkbox"/> Individual interview (Target #):_____ <input type="checkbox"/> Direct observations (Target #):_____ <input type="checkbox"/> [Other, Specify] (Target #):_____ 		
Data management platform(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	IMPACT			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	[Other, Specify]			
Expected output type(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Situation overview #: __	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Methodological Note#: 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Profile #: __
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Presentation (Preliminary findings) #: _	<input type="checkbox"/>	Presentation (Final) #:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Factsheet #1: Findings
	<input type="checkbox"/>	[Other, Specify] #: __			
Access	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public (available on REACH resource centre and other humanitarian platforms)			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted (bilateral dissemination only upon agreed dissemination list, no publication on REACH or other platforms): The final product will be owned and shared by the CCCM Cluster			
Visibility <i>Specify which logos should be on outputs</i>	REACH				
	Donor: UKHIH				

2. Rationale

2.1. Background

After more than a decade of conflict, displacement in Syria remains one of the most complex and protracted crises worldwide. Hundreds of thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) continue to reside in camps and informal sites, often in conditions of prolonged uncertainty. As of September 2025, [1,500,000 IDPs](#) remained in 1,373 CCCM-registered camps and informal sites across Syria. For humanitarian actors, understanding what factors influence household-level decision-making about movement intentions is critical to providing timely and appropriate assistance.

Recent shifts in the political and security landscape, combined with fluctuating access to services, economic pressures, and evolving governance arrangements, have created new drivers of both displacement and potential return. The fragile gains of early 2025 have been severely destabilized by escalating violence in As-Sweida, where since mid-July, clashes between local Druze factions and Bedouin militias fuelled by military interventions and sectarian tensions, have triggered a new wave of displacement. Within weeks, an estimated [184,000](#) people were displaced, with only 13,800 reported returns. Overall stability remains elusive, underscoring the volatility of the current context. [The February 2025 intentions report](#) provided valuable insights at a time when optimism around return was growing. Yet the subsequent combination of large-scale returns and fresh conflict-driven displacement has dramatically reshaped the displacement landscape, highlighting the urgency for updated evidence.

While multiple displacement monitoring exercises are already in place—such as IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), CCCM’s intention surveys, and UNHCR’s border monitoring—these tools primarily capture static snapshots of intentions and movements. This study will seek to reflect the fluid and iterative nature of displacement decision-making, where households frequently re-assess their plans based on evolving risks, opportunities, and support mechanisms. This gap in evidence leaves humanitarian actors with an incomplete picture of displacement dynamics, risking duplication, double counting of returns, and ineffective targeting of assistance.

At present, there is little systematic evidence on how household intentions translate into actual movement, or how intentions evolve over time in response to changing circumstances. For example, households may express a desire to return to their area of origin but delay or abandon such plans due to security concerns, lack of livelihoods, or inadequate service availability. Conversely, households that initially intend to remain in sites may later decide to relocate due to deteriorating conditions or shifting community dynamics. This longitudinal data seeks to provide insight for humanitarian actors to anticipate such shifts and design adaptive strategies that respond to the lived realities of displaced communities.

2.2. Intended Impact

By following the same households over a period of time, the assessment will provide rare insights into the decision-making pathways of displaced populations. The integration of sentiment analysis will add further depth by capturing the emotional and psychological dimensions that shape decisions to stay or return. Together, these innovations will not only inform humanitarian programming but also generate lessons learned on the feasibility and added value of longitudinal intent tracking in the Syrian context.

Ultimately, this assessment will seek to strengthen the evidence base for humanitarian planning in Syria. By reducing data gaps, enhancing accuracy in tracking population movements, and informing coordination across clusters and working groups, the study will help ensure that protection and assistance interventions are more responsive, targeted, and effective. In doing so, it will contribute both immediate benefits for programming and a proof of concept for scaling longitudinal displacement monitoring across the broader Syrian displacement response.

3. Methodology

3.1. Methodology overview

The assessment will use a **mixed-methods approach** combining secondary data review, a longitudinal household panel survey, and targeted qualitative inputs. Secondary data from UN agencies, NGOs, and monitoring systems will contextualize displacement dynamics, intentions, and evolving humanitarian needs. Alongside the quantitative HH panel survey, **qualitative questions** will be integrated to capture sentiment behind reported intentions and actions. This will add depth to the findings by explaining *why* households make decisions, not just *what* they decide. Attrition will be managed through oversampling at baseline, call-back protocols, and weighting at the analysis stage. This design ensures both continuity and validity, enabling actionable insights for programming and scalable future monitoring models.

3.2 Population of interest

This assessment focuses on IDPs residing in displacement sites, collective centres, or informal sites across 8 Governorates of Syria (Aleppo, Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, As-Sweida, Dar'a, Deir-ez-Zor, Idleb, Rural Damascus), including Northeastern Syria (NES) and Whole of Syria (WoS) areas. The assessment targets households as the primary unit of analysis, with interviews conducted with the head of household or another available adult member by phone.

To ensure comparative insights, the longitudinal panel will be stratified into two groups based on baseline survey results:

1. Households intending to move (relocate to their area of origin);
2. Households intending to stay in IDP sites, collective centers, or informal settlements.

The proportional representation of these strata will ensure adequate coverage of both groups for robust comparison.

3.3 Secondary Data Review

Secondary Source	Purpose of Source
Rose (2001), <i>Researching Social and Economic Change: the use of household panel studies</i> .	Define Key concepts and Terminology
Lynn (2009), <i>Methodology of Longitudinal Surveys</i> .	Define Key concepts and Terminology
CCCM Syria Cluster website, Syria CCCM Sector	Inform Assessment Methodology
UN OCHA, IDP Movements Dashboard Microsoft Power BI	Inform Assessment Methodology
UN OCHA Syria Response Syria ReliefWeb Response	Contextual Understanding
Site Management and Coordination Sector SMCC	Inform Assessment Methodology
Humanitarian Flash Update, UNICEF As Sweida	Inform Assessment Methodology
UNHCR Movement Intentions Report UNHCR Flash Intentions Survey	Verify/Triangulate Data and Findings
IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix, Syrian Arab Republic Displacement Tracking Matrix	Contextual understanding
Sabater, M., et al. (2020). "Perceptions and Sentiment Analysis in Displacement Contexts." <i>Journal of Refugee Studies</i> , 33(3), 502–520	Inform Assessment Methodology
REACH Movement Intentions NES, January 2025 REACH SYR Factsheet Movement-Intention January2025 final.pdf	Inform Assessment Methodology Verify/Triangulate Data and Findings

3.4 Primary Data Collection

The study employs a longitudinal mixed-method design, combining an in-person quantitative baseline survey with repeated remote follow-ups and qualitative insights.

Baseline Survey (in-person): Conducted as part of the REACH/CCCM/UNHCR 'Assessing Movement Intentions in IDP Sites in Syria' assessment across Whole of Syria and Northeastern Syria areas. This assessment will provide baseline information on household demographics, movement intentions, perceived barriers/enablers, and immediate support needs. A selection of these HHs that meet inclusion criteria, will be randomly selected and retained for this longitudinal panel.

Follow-ups (remote): REACH will conduct household-level phone interviews with the HHs from the movement intentions survey that were selected for inclusion into the longitudinal assessment. Structured phone interviews with the same households will be done every two weeks over the course of three months. HH surveys will last between 10–15 minutes to limit respondent fatigue, focusing on updates to intentions, reported movements, sentiment analysis, and contextual triggers (changes in security, service availability, assistance). The use of open-ended questions as part of sentiment analysis will capture narratives around changing decision-making processes, adding depth to quantitative indicators.

Survey Design and Content:

The household surveys will use structured questions to capture the following key areas:

- **Movement Intentions:** Plans to stay, relocate, or return, along with associated timelines.
- **Barriers to preferred solution:** Security concerns, contextual changes, service needs, in areas of intended move.
- **Enabling Factors:** Conditions or resources that could facilitate movement or return, such as improved security, livelihoods, and access to basic services.
- **Sentiment Analysis:** Understanding household feelings of urgency, confidence, satisfaction, positive or negative outlook, in decision-making.
- **Assistance Needs:** Types of support required to facilitate movement or improve current conditions.

Sampling

The assessment will employ a **panel-based stratified sampling strategy**, building directly on the household baseline survey- REACH/CCCM/UNHCR 'Assessing Movement Intentions in IDP Sites in Syria' assessment. HHs will be randomly selected to participate in the longitudinal assessment. **Criteria for inclusion include:** 1) HH has consented to participate in future assessments, 2) HH has indicated the intention to either 'stay' in current location or 'move' (back to the area of origin) 3) HH has provided a working phone number.

Households selected for the longitudinal follow-ups will be classified into two key groups—**movers** (those intending to return to their area of origin) and **stayers** (those intending to remain). To achieve at least **600 completed surveys**, a buffer of 30% will be added to 'movers' and 25% added to 'stayers' to account for **attrition**, a main challenge in longitudinal surveys. This accounts for a total of approximately 829 HHs randomly selected to participate in this assessment (see Table 1).

Within each group, sampling will be stratified by sub-district, with proportional allocation at the governorate level. In addition, within the move and stay groups, further allocation will be made to obtain a ~150 household sample size from NES sub-districts to account for any differences between this unique population and the Whole of Syria areas. Sub-districts with a fewer than five household allocation will be excluded to maintain feasibility, and their quotas will be redistributed to other sub-districts within the same governorate. Subsequently the final selection of households will be contacted every 2 weeks by phone (or six rounds) from (October-December) to track movement intentions and outcomes.

Table 1: Sampling Strategy for move and stay groups (NES and Non-NES) with expected completion

Group	NES status	Baseline pool	Number of household surveys per group	Expected completes
Move	NES	127	108	$108 * 0.70 = 76$
Move	Not-NES	519	321	$321 * 0.70 = 225$
Stay	NES	400	100	$100 * 0.75 = 75$
Stay	Not-NES	823	300	$300 * 0.75 = 225$
TOTAL	-	1869	829	~601

The sample was calculated based on a 25% attrition rate (75% retention rate) expected for those households intending to stay, and 30% (70% retention rate) for those intending to move, due to their mobility.

Qualitative Component

The longitudinal assessment will integrate a focused sentiment analysis to capture how households feel about their decision to stay or move over time. Sentiment analysis can be used to understand HH perceptions, emotions, and decision-making regarding displacement, return, and integration. Displacement decisions are not purely rational or economic, but are strongly influenced by emotional, perceptual, and social factors that can be systematically analysed through sentiment analysis¹. Sentiment tracking can complement traditional needs assessments by capturing how people feel about their displacement situation, not just what they need. Emotional tone can serve as an indicator of stability or potential mobility, offering predictive insight into movement intentions.

Household sentiment will be measured through responses to likert-scale questions assessing (1) confidence in the current decision, (2) satisfaction with that decision, (3) optimism regarding its future implications, and (4) urgency in the decision. Each uses a five-point scale (1 = very negative to 5 = very positive), allowing quantitative tracking of shifts in decision-related sentiment across rounds and household groups. To contextualize these numeric findings, each sentiment item is paired with an open-ended “why” probe, recorded verbatim. These responses will undergo manual thematic coding identifying emotional tone (e.g., hope, regret, fear, confidence) and key drivers (e.g., safety, livelihoods, family, access). The integration of Likert sentiment scores with thematic codes enables triangulation of emotional and cognitive patterns underpinning displacement decisions, producing both measurable trends and narrative explanations over the six survey rounds.

Follow-up Protocols:

Sabater, M., et al. (2020). “Perceptions and Sentiment Analysis in Displacement Contexts.” *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 33(3), 502–520

- Where respondents cannot be reached despite multiple call attempts (during their first contact attempt) from enumerators, they will be dropped from the sample. However, all households who have at least one completed interview will be included in the analysis to maintain the longitudinal structure of the assessment. The rationale being that dropouts could also provide key insights as to why particular households dropout versus those that complete all rounds, while also avoid including bias into the assessment by including only those households that complete all six rounds in the analysis.
- If the call is dropped during the interview, the enumerator will use multiple attempts to try to call the household member again to complete the survey. If there is no answer, the household will be dropped.
- If the household refuses to participate during the initial call, they will be removed from the sample.

While this panel assessment is primarily quantitative in nature, the sentiment analysis provides a **qualitative dimension** through open-ended questions, probing on household experiences, and capturing respondents' sentiments and narratives around decision-making, intentions, and barriers. These elements provide depth and context beyond numeric indicators, allowing the research team to better understand how HHs perceive risks and opportunities, and what influences their choices. This approach enables systematic linking of stated intentions with observed behaviour, moving beyond static "snapshot" approaches.

3.5. Data Processing & Analysis

Quantitative data analysis

Primary data will be collected using Kobo Toolbox within the IMPACT Global Kobo account. Collected data will be downloaded on a daily basis. During primary data collection, the IMPACT Data Officer and Assessment Officer will perform quality assurance checks on the data on the first 2 days of data collection and twice a week thereafter, to ensure the data collection methodology is being followed by enumerators. Checks will be performed against the IMPACT Data Cleaning Minimum Standards Checklist, ensuring the sampling methodology was carried out in accordance with the sampling plan, confirming the questionnaire is functioning as intended, and investigating any extreme outliers or other problematic data. Analysis will be done at the governorate level.

Qualitative data analysis

Responses to qualitative survey questions will be cleaned using R and analysed using thematic coding to give further context into factors that influence decision-making. Mean sentiment scores can be computed for *decision confidence*, *decision satisfaction*, *urgency* and *future optimism* by round and group. Cross-tabulation can be computed for groups by NES/WOS and demographic variables. Open responses to sentiment analysis will provide contextual drivers (safety, livelihood, family, access, political change) to sentiment and intention.

Data Processing

To maintain high-quality standards throughout data collection, regular data cleaning will be conducted. REACH will be responsible for all cleaning and follow-up tasks. A pre-developed R script will be utilized to flag potential issues such as logical inconsistencies, or unusual enumerator behavior, in accordance with the IMPACT Data Cleaning Minimum

Standards Checklist. The assessment team, in coordination with the Data Officer, will provide field teams conducting interviews, with corrected forms during data collection corresponding to each round of data collection. Once the field teams submit their feedback and corrections, REACH's assessment team will incorporate the changes using standard cleaning logs before sending the updated forms back to the Data Officer.

Detailed cleaning logs will be kept with information on the original information, changes made, and the reasons why data was changed. If information is determined to be inconsistent but it is not possible to determine what the correct entry should be, data points may be deleted altogether. Descriptive statistics, cross-tabulations, and geospatial mapping will be used to identify movement intention patterns. Outputs will include a cleaned dataset, a factsheet summarising key findings, and a final guidance note.

3.6. Limitations

1. **Phone-coverage bias:** households which did not provide phone numbers for contact in the baseline are excluded from sampling frame. In addition, those households which provided incorrect phone numbers are also excluded from baseline sampling. The exclusion of households from being a part of the sampling frame will cause the results to be indicative. In addition, the possible inclusion of bias results from the provision of phone numbers by some and not all households (the possibility that those who did not provide phone numbers are somehow different from those who provided).
2. **Attrition:** households refusing re-contact may systematically differ from those who continue to be followed over time. This is a challenge for longitudinal studies, however, keeping the households which have at least one interview, even if they drop out at a later time, will provide some insight into why certain households drop out and others do not. In addition, weighting can be used on the final data analysis based on differential dropout rates.
3. **Differential attrition:** movers (especially those who relocate outside camps) may be harder to track, biasing movement estimates downward.
4. **Self-report & social desirability bias:** intentions or movements may be misreported (e.g., due to security concerns).
5. **Rapid Contextual changes:** Sudden events or shocks, such as escalations in violence may occur which may cause difficulty in communication with participants.
6. **Survey Fatigue:** The frequency of the survey, every two weeks, may cause survey fatigue among the households participating in the survey, leading to increased dropout rates.
7. **Sampling frame errors:** baseline coverage gaps (missed camps, outdated lists) propagate to panel selection.

4. Key ethical considerations and related risks

The proposed research design meets the following criteria:

<i>The proposed research design...</i>	<i>Yes/ No</i>	<i>Details if no (including mitigation)</i>
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... Has been coordinated with relevant stakeholders to avoid unnecessary duplication of data collection efforts?	Yes	
... Respects respondents, their rights and dignity (<i>specifically by: seeking informed consent, designing length of survey/discussion while being considerate of participants' time, ensuring accurate reporting of information provided</i>)?	Yes	
... Does not expose data collectors to any risks as a direct result of participation in data collection?	Yes	
... Does not expose respondents / their communities to any risks as a direct result of participation in data collection?	Yes	
... Does not involve collecting information on specific topics which may be stressful and/ or re-traumatising for research participants (both respondents and data collectors)?	Yes	
... Does not involve data collection with minors i.e. anyone less than 18 years old?	Yes	
... Does not involve data collection with other vulnerable groups e.g. persons with disabilities, victims/ survivors of protection incidents, etc.?	No	While the sampling method does not specifically target vulnerable groups, it is possible that they may be included unintentionally. However, no data is being collected specifically on their vulnerabilities, and all ethical safeguards (informed consent, confidentiality, and referral mechanisms) are in place to mitigate risks.
... Follows IMPACT SOPs for management of personally identifiable information ?	Yes	

5. Roles and responsibilities

Task Description	Responsible	Accountable	Consulted	Informed
<i>Research Design</i>	Assessment Officer	Associate Research Manager	Donor (UKHIH), Impact HQ (RDD) unit	Donor
<i>Supervising data collection</i>	Field officer	Assessment officer	Associate Research Manger	Research manager
<i>Data processing (checking, cleaning)</i>	Data officer	Assessment officer	Impact HQ (RDD) unit	Research Manager
<i>Data analysis</i>	Data officer	Assessment officer	Impact HQ (RDD) unit	Research Manager

SYR 2413 Piloting Longitudinal Monitoring of Displacement Intentions, September 2025

<i>Output production</i>	Assessment officer	Associate Manager	Research	Impact HQ (RDD) unit	Research Manager, Donor
<i>Dissemination</i>	Assessment officer	Associate Manager	Research	IMPACT HQ Research department and Communication department	Research Manager, Donor
<i>Monitoring and Evaluation</i>	Assessment officer	Assessment officer		Research Manager	MPACT country coordinator; IMPACT HQ RDD department
<i>Lessons learned</i>	Assessment officer	Assessment officer		MPACT HQ RDD Unit; Research Manager	MPACT HQ Research

6. Data Analysis Plan

Research questions	IN#	Data collection Method	Indicator/Variabile	Questionnaire Question	Questionnaire Responses	Data Collection Level
	1	HH Interview	date	What is the date of data collection?	Select date	HH
	2	HH Interview	enum_id	Enumerator ID	Enter ID	HH
	3	HH Interview	Enumerator_Gender	Enumerator gender	Male Female	HH

4	HH Interview	Stata_information	Strata information	Select one	HH
5	HH Interview	Strata	IDP strata 'A intending to move', 'B intending to stay'	A. Intending to move B. Intending to stay	HH
6	HH Interview	Governorate	Which governorate are you assessing?	Select governorate	HH
7	HH Interview	District	Which district are you assessing?	Select district	HH

8	HH Interview	Sub_district	Which sub-district are you assessing?	Select subdistrict	HH
9	HH Interview	Village	Which community are you assessing?	Select village	HH
10	HH Interview	Household_unique_ID	Unique HH ID	Select HH ID	HH
11	HH Interview	q1	What was the outcome of the call?	Call answered No answer Refused Wrong number	HH

12	HH Interview	Consent	Consent	<p>Introduction</p> <p>Hello, my name is "Enumerator's Name" and I work for REACH. We are conducting interviews to inform the humanitarian response in Syria. We are contacting you because you had provided your contact information to be included in future assessments. For this survey we will be asking you questions relating to your movement and the factors that influence your decision to move or stay in your current location. The survey will be repeated every 2 weeks for the next 3 months to see if anything changes. We assure you that all responses will be treated with complete confidentiality and used solely for research purposes. Please note that your answers will not affect the assistance you currently receive or in this location in the future, nor can we guarantee that you will receive assistance in your area of origin or any other location you may move to. This interview will take around 15 minutes, and you are free to withdraw at any moment during the survey. Your participation is highly valuable in helping us to understand the factors that influence movement decision-making and may contribute to improving humanitarian responses aligned with your needs.</p> <p>Do you agree to participate in this survey?</p>	HH
13	HH Interview	call_wave	Wave Number	<p>First round</p> <p>Second round</p> <p>Third round</p> <p>Fourth round</p> <p>Fifth round</p> <p>Sixth round</p>	HH

Demographics	14	HH Interview	Head of household	Are you the head of household?	Yes No	HH
	15	HH Interview	Consent	Are you willing and able to respond to the questions on behalf of the household?	Yes No	HH
	16	HH Interview	Hoh age	What is your age?	Enter number	HH
	17	HH Interview	Hoh gender	What is your gender?	Male Female	HH

	18	HH Interview	Respondent age	If you are not head of household (HoH), what is the age of your HoH?	Enter number	HH
	19	HH Interview	Respondent gender	If you are not head of household (HoH), what is the gender of your HoH?	Male Female	HH
	20	HH Interview	Relationship	If not Head of HH, what is your relationship to the head of household?	Son/Daughter Spouse (Wife/Husband) Sibling (Brother/Sister) Parent (Father/Mother) Grandparent (Grandfather/Grandmother) Family relatives (including cousins, grandparents, in-laws, etc.) Other	HH
	21	HH Interview	Hh composition	Since our last call, has your household composition changed (increased or decreased)?	Yes No	HH

	22	HH Interview	Hh Composition change	Why has it changed since our last talk?	Birth of new household member(s) Marriage / household members moved in Death of household member(s) Household members moved out / migrated Divorce or separation Other (specify)	HH
	23 23.1	HH Interview	# hh with person with a disability Protection movement factors- disability	Does anyone in your household have a physical or sensory disability? If yes, how does this affect your movement intentions?	Yes No text	HH
2. How do displacement intentions evolve over time for displaced households, and what triggers changes in these intentions?	24	HH Interview	Proportion of households by current movement category since the last survey round.	Since our last call, has your household...	Moved to a different informal settlement, collective center, or camp inside Syria Stayed in your current location Returned to your area of origin Moved to a different location inside Syria (not a camp, collective center, or informal settlement) Moved outside of Syria Don't know	HH
	25	HH Interview	Average time since last movement	On what date did you move approximately?	Select date	HH

	26	HH Interview	% of households by type of new location (planned camp, informal settlement, collective center)	What is the type of your new location?	Planned Camp Informal Settlement Collective Center	HH
	27	HH Interview	% of households relocated to each governorate/district/subdistrict/village/site	What is the governorate of your new location?	Damascus Aleppo Rural Damascus Homs Hama Lattakia Idleb Al-Hassakeh Deir-ez-Zor Tartous Ar-Raqqa Dar'a As-Sweida Quneitra	HH
	28	HH Interview	% of households relocated to each governorate/district/subdistrict/village/site	What is the name of the district of your new location?	Select one	HH

	29	HH Interview	% of households relocated to each governorate/district/subdistrict/village/site	What is the subdistrict of your new location?	Select one	HH
	30	HH Interview	% of households relocated to each governorate/district/subdistrict/village/site	What is the name of the village?	Select one	HH
	31	HH Interview	% of households relocated to each governorate/district/subdistrict/village/site	Select Name of the site	Select one	HH
	32	HH Interview	% of households who moved outside Syria , by destination country	To what country have you relocated?	Turkiye Jordan Lebanon Iraq other Prefer not to answer	HH

<p>1. What are the key factors influencing household decisions to stay, return, or relocate including barriers to return, enabling conditions, access to services, security concerns, and living standards in both current locations and areas of origin within displacement sites across Syria?</p>	33	HH Interview	% of households who moved due to reason for move	<p>What is the main reason for this move?</p>	<p>Insecurity/conflict Lack of services or access To gain Access to assistance Shelter conditions Family reunification Work/livelihoods Eviction/forced to leave Access to education Access to healthcare Community/social networks Legal/administrative pressure (e.g. camp closure) Desire to return home Other</p>	HH
	34	HH Interview	% of households who moved outside Syria due to type of concern	<p>What is the main reason to move outside of Syria?</p>	<p>Better security and safety Area of origin/former habitual residence was cleared of explosive ordnance Family-related Better access to employment/livelihood opportunities Better access to basic services Better access to education Better access to health care Better access to housing/shelter Emotional desire to return None, Dont want to move Other</p>	HH

35	HH Interview	% of households who returned by reasons for return	What is the reason why you returned to your area of origin?	<p>Security situation in area of origin is stable</p> <p>Other family/community members have returned</p> <p>Livelihood options are available there</p> <p>Basic services (water, electricity, health, education, etc.) are available in the area of origin</p> <p>Emotional desire to return</p> <p>Necessary to secure personal housing land and property</p> <p>Limited livelihood opportunities in area of displacement</p> <p>Limited services in area of displacement</p> <p>Do not feel safe in area of displacement</p> <p>Do not feel integrated in the area of displacement</p> <p>Facing eviction in the area of displacement</p> <p>Other, please specify</p>	HH
36	HH Interview	% of households reporting move as temporary vs permanent	Is this move temporary or intended to be permanent?	<p>Temporary</p> <p>Permanent</p> <p>Don't know</p>	HH
37	HH Interview	% of households reporting move as planned vs unexpected	Was this move planned (you intended it previously) or unexpected?	<p>Move was Planned</p> <p>Move was Unexpected/Rushed</p> <p>Move was planned but became rushed due to circumstances</p> <p>Don't know</p>	HH

38	HH Interview	% of households movement barriers	What barriers prevented your HH from moving at an earlier time?	<p>Fear of arrest, detention, harassment and/or retaliation by authorities</p> <p>Lack of security in the area of origin/former habitual residence</p> <p>Lack of security on the way to the area of origin</p> <p>Presence of explosive hazards (mines, bombs, IEDs) on the way to the area of origin/former habitual residence</p> <p>Presence of explosive hazards (mines, bombs, IEDs) in the area of origin/former habitual residence</p> <p>Tensions/challenges with the community</p> <p>Movement restrictions</p> <p>Lack of civil status documentation, including personal IDs, birth certificates, marriage or divorce certificates, etc.</p> <p>No financial means to return, including the inability to afford transportation</p> <p>Lack of employment/livelihood opportunities</p> <p>Lack of adequate housing and/or concerns over property /housing (i.e. destroyed, damaged, inaccessible, uninhabitable, occupied, etc.)</p> <p>Lack of basic services (e.g. electricity, water, health)</p> <p>Lack of education opportunities</p> <p>Other household members/relatives will not return</p> <p>Lack of health care</p> <p>Lack of humanitarian assistance</p> <p>Other</p>	HH
39	HH Interview	% of households planning to move within 3, 6, or 12 months, or unsure	If planning to leave, when do you plan to leave?	<p>Within 3 months</p> <p>Within 6 months</p> <p>Within 12 months</p> <p>Not sure</p>	HH

40	HH Interview	% of households by preferred destination of movement	If you could move, where type of location would you go?	Return to my area of origin Different camp/collective center in Syria Somewhere else inside Syria but outside of a camp/collective center Different country outside Syria Don't know Other	HH
41	HH Interview	% of households by enabling factors for return to area of origin	Which of the following issues, if addressed, would empower you to return to your area of origin?	Access to information on the current situation of the area of origin Increased safety and security in the area of return Basic services (water, electricity, sanitation, waste removal) Healthcare services Education services (schooling) Transportation services Psychosocial services Legal assistance needed regarding Housing/Property Ownership Functioning justice mechanisms Civil Documentation (ID cards, etc.) Rehabilitation/Reconstruction of Homes Furniture / Non-food items Food Functioning markets Livelihood/income generating opportunities /Professional Development training Nothing (no needs) Do not know Prefer not to answer Other, please specify	HH

42	HH Interview	% of households by preferred governorate of residence	If you could move, what governorate would you move to?	<p>Damascus</p> <p>Aleppo</p> <p>Rural Damascus</p> <p>Homs</p> <p>Hama</p> <p>Lattakia</p> <p>Idleb</p> <p>Al-Hassakeh</p> <p>Deir-ez-Zor</p> <p>Tartous</p> <p>Ar-Raqqa</p> <p>Dar'a</p> <p>As-Sweida</p> <p>Quneitra</p>	HH
43	HH Interview	% of households by factors that influence intentions	What are the main reasons keeping you from moving?	<p>Fear of arrest, detention, harassment and/or retaliation by authorities</p> <p>Lack of security in the area of origin/former habitual residence</p> <p>Lack of security on the way to the area of origin</p> <p>Presence of explosive hazards (mines, bombs, IEDs) on the way to the area of origin/former habitual residence</p> <p>Presence of explosive hazards (mines, bombs, IEDs) in the area of origin/former habitual residence</p> <p>Tensions/challenges with the community</p> <p>Movement restrictions</p> <p>Lack of civil status documentation, including personal IDs, birth certificates, marriage or divorce certificates, etc.</p> <p>No financial means to return, including the inability to afford transportation</p> <p>Lack of employment/livelihood opportunities</p> <p>Lack of adequate housing and/or concerns over property/housing (i.e. destroyed, damaged, inaccessible, uninhabitable, occupied, etc.)</p>	HH

				<p>Lack of basic services (e.g. electricity, water, health)</p> <p>Lack of education opportunities</p> <p>Other household members/relatives will not return</p> <p>Lack of health care</p> <p>Lack of humanitarian assistance</p> <p>Other</p>	
44	HH Interview	% of households by factors that influence movement decision making	<p>What factors make you unsure about your movement intentions?</p>	<p>Fear of arrest, detention, harassment and/or retaliation by authorities</p> <p>Lack of security in the area of origin/former habitual residence</p> <p>Lack of security on the way to the area of origin</p> <p>Presence of explosive hazards (mines, bombs, IEDs) on the way to the area of origin/former habitual residence</p> <p>Presence of explosive hazards (mines, bombs, IEDs) in the area of origin/former habitual residence</p> <p>Tensions/challenges with the community</p> <p>Movement restrictions</p> <p>Lack of civil status documentation, including personal IDs, birth certificates, marriage or divorce certificates, etc.</p> <p>No financial means to return, including the inability to afford transportation</p> <p>Lack of employment/livelihood opportunities</p> <p>Lack of adequate housing and/or concerns over property/housing (i.e. destroyed, damaged, inaccessible, uninhabitable, occupied, etc.)</p> <p>Lack of basic services (e.g. electricity, water, health)</p> <p>Lack of education opportunities</p> <p>Other household members/relatives will not return</p> <p>Lack of health care</p> <p>Lack of humanitarian assistance</p> <p>Other</p>	HH

	45	HH Interview	% of households by pull factors that influence decision making	What factors would make you change your mind?	<p>Better security and safety Area of origin/former habitual residence was cleared of explosive ordnance Family-related Better access to employment/livelihood opportunities</p> <p>Better access to basic services Better access to education Better access to health care Better access to housing/shelter Emotional desire to return None, Dont want to move Other</p>	HH
3. How do sentiments (positivity, affect, urgency) around returning, remaining or relocating affect household movements, and how does this change over time?	46	HH Interview	% of households by sentiments around intentions	How confident is your household in this decision	<p>Very confident Somewhat confident Neutral / Unsure Somewhat unconfident Not confident at all</p>	HH
	46.1	HH Interview	Factors contributing to confidence level	Can you describe the main reasons why you feel confident about your decision?	text	
	47	HH Interview	% of households by urgency of decision making	How urgent is this decision (to leave or stay)?	<p>Immediate (within days) Soon (within weeks) In the near future (within months) No urgency / indefinite timeframe</p>	HH

	47.1	HH Interview	Factors contributing to urgency	Can you describe the main reasons why the decision is urgent or not urgent?	text	HH
	48	HH Interview	% of households by satisfaction with decision	How satisfied are you with your decision to stay/move?	Very Satisfied Somewhat Satisfied Neutral/unsure Somewhat unsatisfied Not Satisfied at all	HH
	48.1	HH Interview	Factors contributing to satisfaction/dissatisfaction	Can you explain why you are satisfied/dissatisfied with your decision?	text	HH
	49	HH Interview	% of households by sentiment around decision making	How do you feel about this decision (to leave or stay)?	Mostly positive (hopeful, satisfied, safe) Mixed (uncertain, worried but coping) Mostly negative (fearful, frustrated, unsafe)	HH
	50	HH Interview	Sentiment analysis	Can you tell us in your own words why you feel this way about staying/returning/relocating?	text	HH

2. How do displacement intentions evolve over time for displaced households, and what triggers changes in these intentions?	51	HH Interview	% of households by perceived security changes	Since the last interview, has security in your area (current location) changed?	Yes No	HH
	52	HH Interview	% of households by reported changes in security	If yes, what has changed for security in your area?	Increased armed clashes / conflict incidents Decreased armed clashes / conflict incidents Increased presence of armed groups Decreased presence of armed groups Increased checkpoints / movement restrictions Decreased checkpoints / movement restrictions Increased airstrikes / shelling Decreased airstrikes / shelling Increased criminality / theft / kidnappings Decreased criminality / theft / kidnappings Improved community relations / local stability Worsening community tensions / sectarian disputes Other	HH
	53	HH Interview	% of households by major events influencing decision making	Since the last interview, has any major event affected the household's decision-making?	Yes No	HH

	54	HH Interview	% of households by type of event influencing decision making	If yes, what major event has affected the household decision-making?	<p>Escalation of conflict / new fighting in the area</p> <p>Improved security / stability in the area</p> <p>Changes in access to humanitarian assistance</p> <p>Loss of humanitarian assistance</p> <p>Changes in access to basic services (water, health, education, electricity)</p> <p>Loss of livelihood / income source</p> <p>Gaining a livelihood / income source</p> <p>Arrests, detentions, or threats to household members</p> <p>Return or displacement of relatives / community members</p> <p>Pressure from authorities or camp management</p> <p>Family reasons (e.g., marriage, illness, separation, reunion)</p> <p>Seasonal/weather-related reasons</p> <p>Other</p>	HH
	55	HH Interview	% of households perceived safety	In the last 2 weeks, did most members of your household feel safe most of the time?	<p>Yes</p> <p>No</p>	HH
	56	HH Interview	% of households reporting safety concerns by household member	[IF NO], who in your household felt particularly unsafe in the last two weeks? (no need to mention any names)	<p>Children below the age of 5 years</p> <p>Boys (aged 5-18)</p> <p>Girls (aged 5-18)</p> <p>Adult women (18 - 59) pregnant or lactating women</p> <p>Adult men (18-59)</p> <p>older women (60+)</p> <p>older men (60+)</p>	HH

					<p>persons with disabilities</p> <p>female headed HHs</p> <p>child headed HHs</p> <p>Other, please specify</p> <p>Do not know</p> <p>Prefer not to answer</p>	
	57	HH Interview	% of households by type of protection concern	<p>In the last 2 weeks, have the following issues been a concern or risk for any member of your household?</p>	<p>Insecurity</p> <p>Discrimination</p> <p>Physical harassment or violence</p> <p>Sexual abuse, exploitation or harassment [Sexual exploitation is abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power or trust for sexual purposes It includes sex for something e.g profiting monetarily, socially or even politically from the sexual exploitation of another]</p> <p>Domestic violence</p> <p>Arbitrary detention</p> <p>Abduction / forced recruitment [may be too sensitive]</p> <p>Criminality</p> <p>Labour exploitation (i.e. being engaged in harmful forms of labor for economic gain of the exploiter)</p> <p>Women and girls denied of resources and opportunities or services</p> <p>Being injured/killed by an explosive hazard/mines/UXOs</p> <p>Other (please specify)</p> <p>Don't know</p> <p>Prefer not to answer</p>	HH

	58	HH Interview	% of households reporting primary decision maker	Who primarily makes decisions about moving or staying in your household?	Male head of household Female head of household Both spouses jointly Elder family member(s) Adult children Other	HH
	5	HH Interview	% of households reporting agreement/disagreement among household members	Do household members agree about this plan?	Yes, all family members agree Most family members agree, but some disagree Family members are divided / no clear agreement Most family members disagree, but a few agree No, all family members disagree Prefer not to answer	HH
	60	HH Interview	follow up	Can we contact you again in two weeks for the next follow-up?	Yes No	HH
	61	HH Interview	Follow up	what is your preferred day of week for next call in two weeks?	Select one	HH

	62	HH Interview	Follow up	what is your preferred time for next call in two weeks?	text	HH
				Enumerator final notes	text	

7. Monitoring & Evaluation Plan

IMPACT Objective	External M&E Indicator	Internal M&E Indicator	Focal point	Tool	Will indicator be tracked?
Humanitarian stakeholders are accessing IMPACT products	Number of humanitarian organisations accessing IMPACT services/products Number of individuals accessing IMPACT services/products	# of downloads of x product from Resource Center	Country request to HQ	User_log	x Yes
		# of downloads of x product from Relief Web	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, sending Blue, bit.ly	Country team		x Yes
		# of visits to x webmap/x dashboard	Country request to HQ		x Yes
IMPACT activities contribute to better program implementation and coordination of the humanitarian response	Number of humanitarian organisations utilizing IMPACT services/products	# references in HPC documents (HNO, SRP, Flash appeals, Cluster/sector strategies)	Country team	Reference_log	x Yes
		# references in single agency documents			
Humanitarian stakeholders are using IMPACT products	Humanitarian actors use IMPACT evidence/products as a basis for decision making, aid planning and delivery Number of humanitarian documents (HNO, HRP, cluster/agency strategic plans, etc.) directly informed by IMPACT products	Perceived relevance of IMPACT country-programs	Country team	Usage_Feedback and Usage_Survey template	x Yes
		Perceived usefulness and influence of IMPACT outputs			x Yes
		Recommendations to strengthen IMPACT programs			x Yes
		Perceived capacity of IMPACT staff			x Yes
		Perceived quality of outputs/programs			x Yes
		Recommendations to strengthen IMPACT programs			x Yes
Humanitarian stakeholders	Number and/or percentage of	# of organisations providing resources	Country team	Engagement_log	x Yes

are engaged in IMPACT programs throughout the research cycle	humanitarian organizations directly contributing to IMPACT	(i.e. staff, vehicles, meeting space, budget, etc.) for activity implementation			
	programs (providing resources, participating to presentations, etc.)	# of organisations/clusters inputting in research design and joint analysis			x Yes
		# of organisations/clusters attending briefings on findings;			x Yes