

# Humanitarian Situation Monitoring (HSM)

## South and El Nabatieh Governorates

January, 2025 | Lebanon

### Context & Rationale

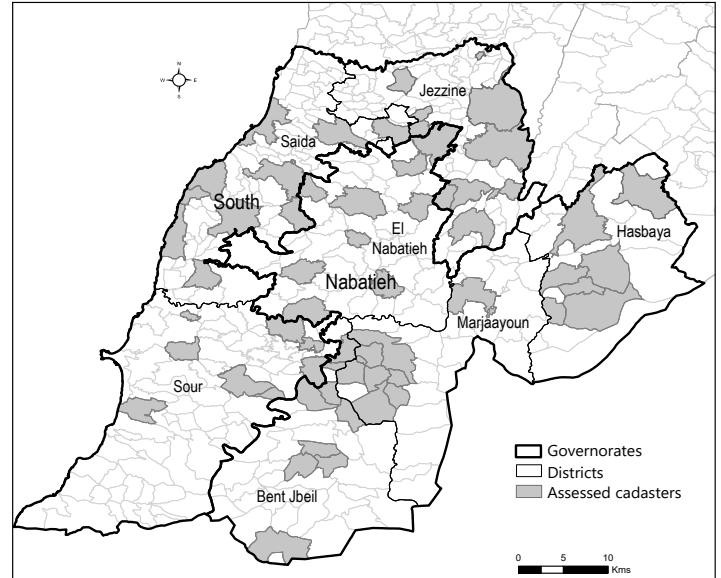
Between 7 October 2023 and 20 September 2024, Lebanon experienced a prolonged conflict that resulted in significant human casualties and extensive material damage. By the end of December, the country had recorded approximately 3,768 fatalities, 15,699 injuries, and more than 899,725 internally displaced people (IDPs).<sup>1</sup> The economic impact has been equally severe, with physical damages and economic losses estimated at US\$8.5 billion, according to a World Bank report<sup>2</sup> Following the ceasefire, a large portion of IDPs - about 819,693 as of December 25 - began returning to their areas of origin, predominantly in Nabatieh District (30% of total returnees) and Sour District (18% of total returnees).<sup>3</sup> While the return of displaced populations signals a positive step toward recovery, many returning families continue to face considerable barriers in accessing basic services such as WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene), healthcare, shelter, and education. Service provision remains hampered by widespread infrastructural damage and disruptions in supply chains and human resources. Furthermore, 160,000 individuals remain outside their cadasters of origin, underscoring the ongoing need for humanitarian support and assistance.<sup>3</sup>

In this volatile context, effective support for the most vulnerable hinges on timely and accurate data to ensure assistance is prioritized effectively. To address this need, REACH initiative in collaboration with Solidarités International continues to implement Humanitarian Situation Monitoring (HSM). Through HSM, population needs and access to essential services are closely tracked over time, enabling evidence-based decision-making to guide data-driven actions on prioritizing and targeting assistance.

### Key Findings

- **Substantial infrastructure damage was concentrated in 17 cadasters in El Nabatieh and 5 cadasters in the South, with residential and market infrastructure being the most heavily impacted.** This underscores the critical need to prioritize infrastructure rehabilitation in these areas to support recovery efforts effectively.
- **Limited access to basic services, such as healthcare, education, cash, and shelter, was driven by financial constraints, infrastructure damage, and security concerns.** This was closely linked to high damage scores in certain cadasters, highlighting the impact of conflict-related destruction on service deprivation. These areas represent the most vulnerable cadasters in need of focused attention.
- **The priority needs identified were cash, heating sources, food, and health support.** As communities recover after the ceasefire, demand for livelihood opportunities is expected to grow, alongside ongoing needs for infrastructure rehabilitation and winter heating.
- **The Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) index reveals substantial gaps in aid delivery,** with nearly half of assessed cadasters showing inadequate or irrelevant assistance due to insufficient support. Notably, **36 cadasters received neither governmental nor humanitarian aid,** highlighting the urgency of addressing these gaps.

### Assessment Coverage



### Methodology Overview

Data was collected through Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with individuals that hold extensive knowledge and experience within their respective cadasters. The profiles of the KIIs included: government officials, education professionals, water utility staff, healthcare providers, and representatives from NGOs involved in emergency support. KIIs were selected using a combination of purposive and snowball sampling techniques to ensure diverse and comprehensive representation across sectors.

For geographic coverage, 28 cadasters in the South and 33 cadasters in El Nabatieh Governorates were selected. The selection criteria for the cadasters required a **population density of over 2,500 individuals** and a history of **5 to 25 recorded conflict related incidents** and accessibility for the field team.<sup>5</sup> Data collection took place from December 10 to December 20, 2024, with 3 to 5 key informants interviewed in each settlement.

### Damage, services and AAP indexes

**Damage Index:** Reflects the proportion of reported damages across various sectors within the cadasters, as reported by different KIIs

**Access to Services Index:** Measures the proportion of access to essential services such as WASH, education, health, and market

**Access to Humanitarian Assistance Index:** Evaluates the extent of access to humanitarian assistance and disruptions in access.

#### Classification of Damage Levels and Sectoral Deprivation, by Index

##### 1 (Low)

Minimal/none, mostly cosmetic issues; fully functional. Minor or no sectoral deprivation.

##### 2 (Moderate)

Partial; Infrastructure remains functional but degraded. Borderline and Stressed sectoral deprivation.

##### 3 (High)

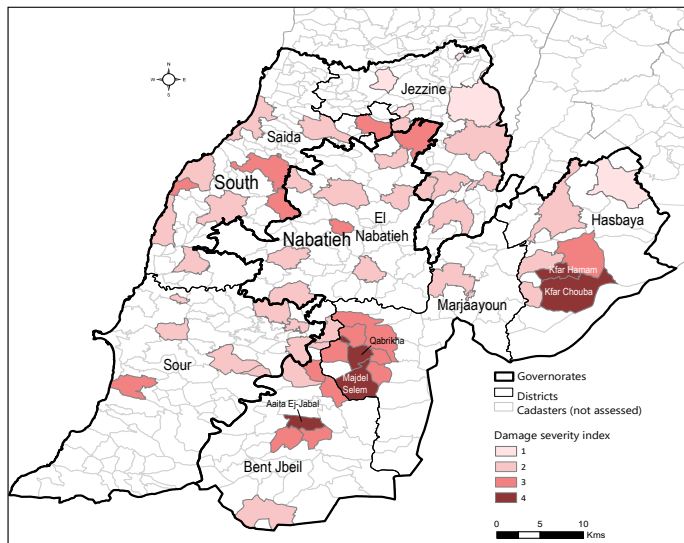
Severe; large portions non-functional, significant repair needed. Elevated sectoral deprivation.

##### 4 (Critical)

Total or near-total destruction; infrastructure is non-recoverable. Extreme sectoral deprivations

## Damage Index

Distribution of Cadasters Based on Damage Index Scores



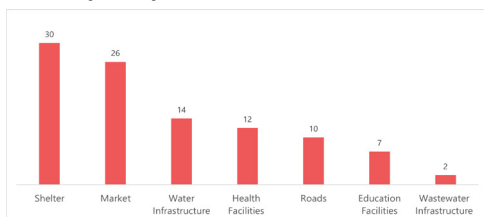
The damage score represents the proportion of damaged infrastructure based on reports of interviewed KIs. This index incorporates multiple indicators assessing the level of damage across various types of infrastructure, including markets, roads, communication networks, and shelters. It also captures the different types of damage to shelter, alongside the condition of water and wastewater infrastructure.

- Based on the reports of KIs, **the highest damage scores, classified as 3 and 4, were concentrated in Marjaayoun (n=7/33) and Bent Jbeil (n=5/33) districts in El Nabatieh Governorate.** In El Nabatieh, highly affected cadasters included **Kfar Hamam, Kfar Chouba, and Majdel Selm.** In the South, only some cadasters, such as **Saksakaeye, Kfar Melki, and Deir Kanoun,** recorded high damage score. These scores reflect severe infrastructure damage and requires extensive rehabilitation efforts to restore functionality and meet the needs of affected populations.
- In the South, most assessed cadasters, including Babilyeh, Sarafand, and Borj Rahhal, had a damage score of 2** according to the reports of KIs, indicating minor damages such as broken windows or doors.

According to KIs, the highest level of damage was reported among residential and market infrastructure. Moderate to severe damage to markets, including structural impacts, was reported in **Kfar Hamam, Aaita Ej-Jabal, and Merouaniyeh.** Similar damage to shelters was reported in **Aaita Ej-Jabal, Toulaine, and Saksakiyeh.**

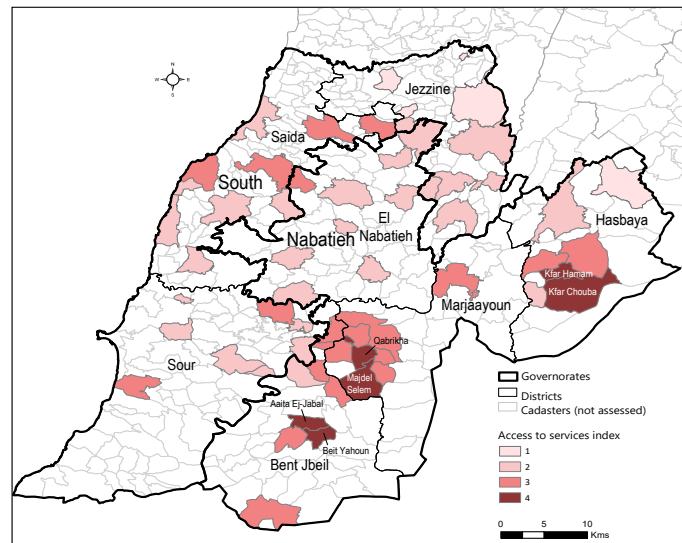
Specifically for shelter damages, the most commonly reported issues across the assessed cadasters included broken windows and doors, damage to walls or water storage tanks. In 26 cadasters, including Beit Yahoun, Aaita Ej-Jabal, Zefta, and Ghaziye, total building collapses were reported.

Number of cadasters with damage scores of 3 and 4 by type of infrastructure (n=62)



## Access to Services Index

Distribution of Cadasters Based on Access Index Scores



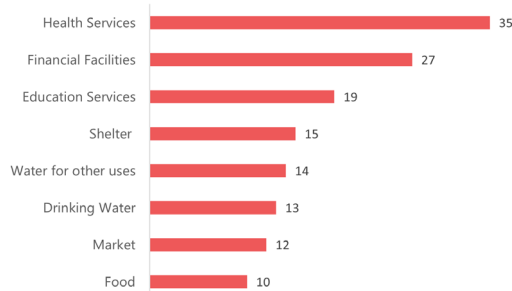
The access to Services Index was derived from questions assessing the proportion of households with access to various services within the targeted cadasters as reported by KIs. This includes evaluating access to markets, cash, education facilities, WASH infrastructure, adequate housing,<sup>4</sup> and other essential services.

- A notable proportion of the assessed cadasters in both governorates (n=26/62) scored 3 and 4, indicating reported limited access to basic services.** These cadasters include **Aaita Ej-Jabal, Majdel Selm, and Toulaine,** where residents face critical challenges in meeting their essential needs.
- Notably, the majority of cadasters with **high damage scores also reported high access to services score,** suggesting that the disruption in basic services is linked to the damage to infrastructure caused by the conflict.
- The other assessed cadasters majorly reported a score of 2, indicating moderate stress and challenges in accessing basic services. **Only 5 cadasters,** including Kfayr Ez-Zait, Jezzine, Machmoucheh, Sfaray, and Saydoun, **reported a score of 1, reflecting no significant challenges in service accessibility.**

The services most commonly reported by KIs across all assessed cadasters as inaccessible were **health services (n=35/62), financial means (n= 27/62) and education services (n=19/62) and Shelter (n=15/62).** This inaccessibility is likely driven by the increased demand from returning IDPs, compounded by challenges in accessing income and stressed resources, particularly in areas heavily affected by infrastructure damage.<sup>6</sup>

For health needs, unmet priorities varied between the assessed governorates. As reported, in El Nabatieh, **medicine and mental health care** were the key needs, while in the South, it was **medicine and first aid kits.** The focus on mental health reflects the conflict's psychological impact, revealing the urgent need for targeted mental health support alongside other needed services.

Number of cadasters with reported lack of access to basic services (n=62)

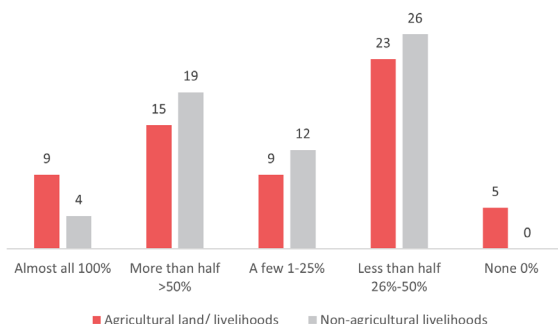


Overall, **barriers to accessing basic services were found to stem from the interconnectedness of financial constraints, infrastructure damage, and security concerns:**

- Among those reporting a lack of **healthcare access**, the main barriers were linked to **financial constraints**, including **increased medication and healthcare service costs** (n=27/35)<sup>7</sup>, particularly in assessed cadasters in the South. **Healthcare facility closures** were also a concern, reported due to **infrastructure damage** (n=23/35) or unsafe locations (n=16/35), an issue mostly noted in El Nabatieh. These barriers have limited healthcare options for affected populations, including access to trauma and emergency care, sexual and reproductive health services, and hospitalization support, further exacerbating their vulnerabilities.<sup>8</sup>
- For KIs reporting inaccessibility to **cash**, the most commonly cited reasons were **long distances to the nearest cash facility** (n=21/27) and **closures of banks, OMT offices, and ATMs due to damage** (n=19/27) or security concerns (n=15/27). The lack of accessible financial resources directly hinders recovery for affected households, undermining their ability to address urgent needs such as health, education, and food, as well as the long-term sustainability of their recovery.
- For **education services**, the most commonly reported barrier to accessibility in the assessed cadasters was **security concerns during travel to schools** (n=16/19). Additionally, **online education delivery** was cited as a challenge (n=16/19), largely due to **insufficient tools or resources for effective delivery** (n=14/19), particularly reported in the assessed cadasters within El Nabatieh Governorate.
- For **shelter**, the most commonly reported barriers were **damaged shelter infrastructure** (n=13/15), **lack of financial means given the inability to access income** (n=7/15), and **high rental costs** (n=5/15). Notably, **in 7 cadasters in El Nabatieh, the shelter safety was also reported as a significant barrier**, particularly in Kfar Chouba, Kfar Hamam, and Aaita Ej-Jabal.
- The major challenges in **Water accessibility** were attributed to **damage or looting of water infrastructure**, particularly water containers (n=16/17), networks (n=13/17), and stations (n=10/17), which have significantly affected both the continuity and quality of water supply. For **Sanitation facilities**, the primary barriers included **damaged toilets due to conflict-affected shelters** (n=6/10), and **disrupted sewage services** (n=5/10). However, it is important to note that only 4 cadasters across both governorates reported challenges in accessing hygiene items such as soap, detergent, pads, and shampoo, indicating relatively fewer issues in this specific area.
- **Market access** was also hindered by **physical damage to market infrastructure** (n=10/12), which forced individuals to travel long distances to obtain basic necessities. Additionally, **financial constraints** prevented households from purchasing essential food and non-food items (n=6/12). Even for those with a source of income, the **increased prices of goods** posed an additional financial burden (n=6/12).
- The inability to access **food items** was primarily attributed to **financial constraints and increased prices of essential food items** (n=7/10). Additionally, **market destruction** (n=6/10) and **limited food availability due to disrupted supply chains** (n=3/10) were significant factors. These disruptions are likely linked to damaged road infrastructure, as cadasters reporting supply chain issues also frequently reported road damage.

## Livelihood Opportunities

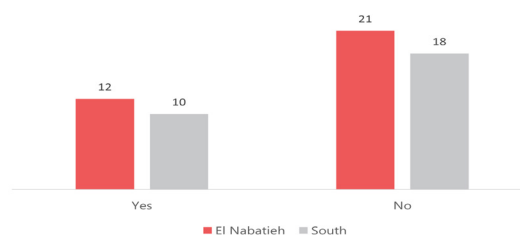
Number of cadasters by livelihood opportunities accessibility, as reported by KIs



- **A substantial number of assessed cadasters in both governorates reported limited access to livelihoods**, citing challenges in both returning to pre-existing jobs and establishing new income sources. **Such reports were more prevalent in the South**, where large areas of agricultural land have been burned, further exacerbating livelihood losses and limiting economic resilience.<sup>10</sup>
- Key barriers to accessing these livelihoods were reported to be **insecurity, which limits access to workplaces** such as farmland, shops, workshops, or clients' homes (n=29/62); **damage to workplace assets critical for work continuity** (n=27/62); and **workplace closures resulting from the conflict** (n=22/62). These barriers undermine recovery efforts and further exacerbate households' vulnerability, not only by constraining their ability to achieve financial stability but also by limiting access to essential basic services, particularly healthcare, which was commonly reported as a critical yet inaccessible need.

## Protection Concerns

Cadasters with reported protection concerns, as reported by KIs

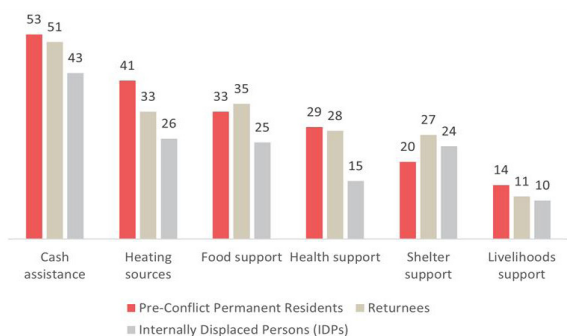


- **Protection-related issues were identified as prevalent in 22 out of the 62 cadasters assessed** across both governorates, including **Meri and Mayfadoun** in El Nabatieh, as well as **Tayr Debbeh and Qatrani** in the South.

Type of Protection Concern as reported by KIs (n=22)	South	El Nabatieh
Theft of empty homes abandoned due to the conflict	5	10
Presence of unexploded ordnance or landmines	7	9
Psychosocial Distress and Trauma	10	2
Loss of legal documentation	6	1

## Priority needs

Top reported priority needs for each population group, by cadasters (n=62)



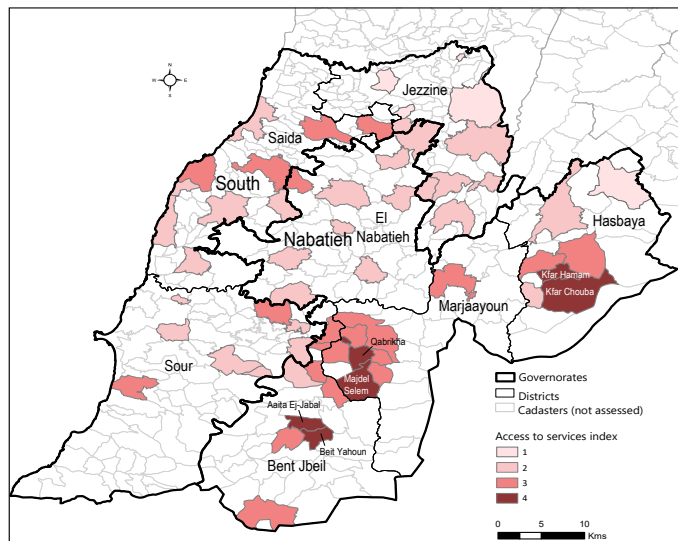
The top three priority needs that includes **cash, heating sources, and food support** were consistently reported across all population groups, highlighting universally pressing necessities regardless of individuals' backgrounds or situations. Beyond these shared priorities, needs varied by population group, with shelter support being a higher priority for IDPs, while health services were more critical to returnees and pre-conflict residents. Livelihood support also emerged as a key need, particularly among residents who had been living in the cadasters before and during the conflict.

As reported priority needs do not align with previously identified inaccessible services and given that financial constraints were frequently cited as the primary barrier to accessing basic services, households appear to prioritize financial support to overcome multiple access barriers. Cash assistance would provide households with flexibility to access other essential services reported as inaccessible, such as healthcare, education, and shelter.<sup>8</sup> Despite cash being reported as a major barrier to accessing most of the basic needs, both governorates show a notably low level of cash-based aid, compounded by a lack of financial resources.

### Other priority needs include:

- **Heating Support:** Assistance with heating sources or appliances was identified as one of the top priority needs, where barriers to access heating was highly reported throughout the assessed cadasters. These barriers included **high prices** (n=41/61) and a **lack of financial resources** to purchase heating appliances or materials required for heating.
- **Food Assistance:** Among the 35 cadasters reporting food as a priority need, the most urgent food-related items identified by KIs included **cooking oil** (n=26), **meat** (n=18), and **flour** (n=14). These needs were consistent across both governorates. In 33 cadasters, KIs suggested that providing **cash assistance would be more effective**, allowing households to purchase the specific food items they require.
- **Health Needs:** The most frequently reported health need across the assessed cadasters was **medicine** (n=34/39), followed by **healthcare equipment and specialized treatments** (n=14/39). In 12 cadasters, **mental health care** was also identified as a priority, reflecting an increased awareness of the importance of these services in the aftermath of the emergency.
- **Anticipated Needs:** As displaced populations return to their areas of origin, the growing demand for livelihood opportunities is crucial for rebuilding their lives. However, limited income could slow this recovery process, creating significant barriers to accessing essential needs, particularly healthcare.

## AAP index

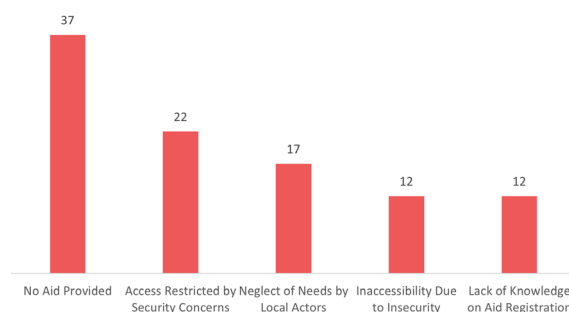


The Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) index revealed the highest severity scores, with all but two cadasters receiving a critical rating. This index comprises three key sets of indicators: the availability of NGO and government assistance, the extent of disruption to such assistance, and the sufficiency of the assistance provided.

- In approximately half of the assessed cadasters, KIs reported a **high AAP index score**, indicating that households were not receiving adequate humanitarian or governmental assistance at the time of DC.
- The high index score was reported to be primarily driven by the lack of assistance reaching affected populations. Of the 62 cadasters assessed, only 19 were reported to have received humanitarian aid and 16 governmental support, while 36, including **Haddatha, Aain Qana, and Zefta**, were reported to have received neither. Even where aid was received, it was often deemed irrelevant or insufficient. Specifically, 23 cadasters, including **Kfar Dounine and Mayfadoun** in El Nabatieh, as well as **Sarafand and Kfar Melki Saida** in the South, were reported to have received assistance that did not address their needs at all.
- In 11 cadasters where assistance was received, it was reported that **aid delivery was disrupted to a significant extent**, preventing it from reaching those in need. Notable examples include **Ghaziyeh, Qatrani, and Tayr Debbeh**.

Among those who reported receiving assistance, the majority cited the distribution of food items, non-food items, and hygiene supplies.

### Top barriers accessing assistance, by cadaster who reported experiencing callendes (n=62)



## Endnotes

1. OCHA, Lebanon: Flash Update #47, Escalation of hostilities in Lebanon (25/11/24): [Flash Update #47 | OCHA](#)
2. World Bank Group, Lebanon: New World Bank Report Assesses Impact of Conflict on Lebanon's Economy and Key Sectors (14/11/24): [World Bank Group](#)
3. OCHA, Lebanon: Flash Update #52, Escalation of hostilities in Lebanon (26/12/24): [Flash Update #52 | OCHA](#)
4. The data sources used included GHI data for population density estimates prior to the conflict and ACLED data for the recorded number of incidents.
5. Adequate housing includes a safe structure (roof and walls), functional services (water, sanitation, energy for cooking and heating), privacy, and protection from external elements.
6. Researching Internal Displacement, Ignored, Displaced and Powerless: Lebanon's IDPs Caught Between Escalating Hostilities and Government Neglect (NA): [Researching Internal Displacement](#)
7. The denominator of "n" represents the number of cadasters where Key Informants reported that a high proportion of households were unable to access the corresponding service.
8. OCHA, Lebanon: Flash Update #56, Escalation of hostilities in Lebanon (26/01/25): [Flash Update #56 | OCHA](#)
9. Mercy Corps, Cash in Armed Conflict (10/2024): [Mercy Corps report](#)  
Mercy10.NRC, A lost harvest (24,02,2024): [NRC report](#)

## ABOUT

REACH Initiative facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT).

## Contact us:

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### Relevant HSM Documents:

Cleaned data set HSM Round 1: [Link](#)

Cleaned data set HSM Round 2: [Link](#)