

Abraham Azar

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WORK EXPERIENCE

IMPACT Initiatives*

November 2023-Present

Global Programs - Public Health Unit Data Specialist

Geneva, Switzerland

**IMPACT Initiatives is a Geneva based non-profit think-and-do-tank with the aim of improving the impact of humanitarian, stabilization and development action through primary research, partnerships, and capacity building programs.*

Key Responsibilities:

- Develop and maintain standard data pipelines and workflow tools and scripts for global public health unit;
- Support the development of quality data collection toolkits for public health data collection activities aligned with globally recognized approaches and standards ([R Packages](#));
- Provide training to field teams and HQ staff on internal public health toolkits;
- Support directly country teams to implement public health data quality checks, cleaning, and analysis guidelines through capacity building, mentorship, and technical support;
- Support the production and dissemination of regional and global public health information products, which includes quality visualizations and maps through R Shiny dashboards;
- Support country teams in troubleshooting any data issues with public health partners, providing advice on how to engage partners at country level, and where relevant, joining discussions to provide additional technical support.
- Surge to country mission teams to support on data gaps and needs. (Central African Republic surge for the preparation of the MSNA (Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment) including sampling, coding of the questionnaire, and the automation of a data quality checker during data collection).

IMPACT Initiatives.

August 2022-November 2023

Regional Data and GIS Specialist for Eastern Europe

Warsaw, Poland with regional travel

Key Responsibilities:

- Data and GIS team lead and functional line manager to 13 data officers and 20 GIS officers located in Poland, Moldova, and Ukraine.
- Lead the development and maintenance of software development tools and R packages for quantitative and geospatial data processing and analysis.
- Overseeing the work of the GIS team, mainly on hazardous events monitoring, mapping the impact of conflict on agriculture and educational facilities, and flood monitoring due to damage of dams.
- Identify capacity gaps and address them through targeted capacity building and backstopping.
- Develop and implement capacity training for data and assessment staff ([R programming](#), GitHub, web-scraping, data cleaning & analysis, test-driven development,).
- Collaborate with other regional/HQ specialists to create multi-disciplinary training and learning plans for IMPACT teams.
- Design and test automation tools in collaboration with the HQ Data Unit.
- Initiate the improvement of data quality within IMPACT by capitalizing on best practices, and lessons learned.
- Lead regular meetings to assess progress and review the work plan with data team members.
- Collaborate with other senior management members to provide career development and work planning.
- Technical lead in recruitment for data team members.
- Foster a culture of rigor, innovation, and learning within IMPACT's operations.

Key Responsibilities:

- Technical lead for the REACH Camps and Displacement unit. Regular technical support for all focal points within the unit on automating daily routines such as data cleaning and analysis through R-scripts.
- Focal point for northwest Syria Camps and Sites project which aims to fill the gap in identifying the location and the number of IDPs of informal settlements in northwest Syria (NWS) for IMPACT donors and in-country actors.
- Contributing to remote sensing and spatial analysis using WV03 satellite imageries (Shelter counts, flood risk assessments, slope analysis, overland flow flood planning analysis)
- Supporting OCHA/CCCM Cluster and HNAP in camp infrastructure and camp boundary mapping. (Land Identification for new camps, Fire Prevention Measures, WASH/Shelter assistance in camps)
- Leading on creating live dashboards as final outputs for NWS camps and sites project through Power Bi and R Shiny webapps
- Responsible for reporting on M&E and writing funding proposals for ISMI (IDPs Situation Monitoring Initiative) and NWS camps and sites. Successfully granted funding from ECHO, OFDA and UNHCR.
- Leading on all external engagement with the CCCM Cluster in Northwest Syria by attending technical meetings with the cluster and participating in workshops in Turkey
- Leading a training session for the field team on QGIS to assist in identifying camps and sites using satellite imagery.
- Line managing a (National) GIS officer in reviewing mapping outputs and dashboards.

IMPACT Initiatives, Beirut, Lebanon

December 2015 – August 2019

ASSESSMENT & GIS OFFICER

Key responsibilities:

- Focal point for ISMI project which aims to collect information on displacement patterns in NWS for the CCCM Cluster.
- Responsible for GIS outputs for 3 projects (HSOS – Humanitarian Situation Overview Syria, ISMI, NWS Camps and sites)
- Responsible for quantitative household level data collection, cleaning, and analysis for ISMI project.
- Running Ad-hoc and Rapid Needs assessments to catch emergency displacement figures in NWS.
- Line managing a team of 4 Junior assessment and field officers in data collection, data cleaning, reporting and technical capacity building.

EDUCATION

BS Computer Science (GPA – 3.86)

February 2020-August 2023

University of the People, USA

MSc Geographical Information System

January 2023-Current

University of Aberdeen, Scotland

LANGUAGES

Arabic: Native Language | **French:** Native Language | **English:** Fluent

SKILLS

Advanced level R / R Shiny, Proficient in MS Azure APIs, and Databases, MS Excel, VBA, Macros, Power Bi, Python (NumPy, ArcPy), Arc Pro, Arc Online, Arc Enterprise, QGIS, Github, Kobo, ODK, SQL, Google Analytics, Brevo, Adobe (InDesign, Illustrator)

REFERENCES

- **Damiano Scanferla**, previous Senior Data Specialist for IMPACT Initiatives Syria, now Data Specialist for UNEP Kenya. Email: damianox85@gmail.com
- **Punya Prasad Sapkota**, Regional Information Management Officer, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) | Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok. Email: sapkota1@un.org

Additional references available upon request.