

Local Governance Mapping: Sampling Strategy

The UNDP Local Governance Mapping exercise is a nationwide effort to map the quality of local governance and service delivery in all 14 states and regions of Myanmar. Government actors, committee members, civil society representatives and citizens at community, township and state/region levels are participating in this process, sharing their perceptions and experiences related to local governance and service delivery.

The full mapping methodology is explained in the *Fast Facts: Local Governance Mapping in Myanmar*. This *Fast Facts* discusses the sampling strategy in detail, including selection criteria for townships, village tracts and wards, villages or ward areas, as well as households and respondents.

In addition, this brief also explains the selection of participants for other mapping tools, including Community Dialogues, Township Background Studies, and Township Governance Self-Assessments.

Township selection

The Local Governance Mapping exercise is carried out in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs, General Administration Department (GAD), and focuses mainly on townships located in government-controlled areas.

The selection of townships is undertaken with a view to capture the socioeconomic differences within each state/region. Selection criteria include:

- Balance between *large and small* as well as *rural and urban* townships;
- Diversity in *economic activities and development*;
- Different levels of *accessibility* with a balance between remote and centrally located townships;
- Balanced representation of *population groups* including ethnic and minority groups;
- Inclusion of *post-conflict/ceasefire areas* in each state/region, wherever possible, and;
- The *security situation*, allowing researchers safe access.

Given the current political and security situation in Myanmar, and the consequent lack of access to many areas, random selection of townships is not feasible. Township selection therefore takes place through elaborate consultation with various stakeholders as described below:

- A sensitization and consultation workshop in Nay Pyi Taw with representatives from the union and state/region level GAD to confirm the selection criteria. After this, a shortlist of townships is prepared by UNDP based on the agreed selection criteria.
- A sensitization and consultation workshop in each state/region with participation of government staff, parliamentarians and civil society representatives to discuss and agree on the final township selection. The final township selection is endorsed by each state/region government and union level GAD.

The number of townships that has been selected in this way per state/region is presented in the table below. In some of the Phase III states/regions, more townships are selected to also include Self-Administered Zones (*Sagaing and Shan*), areas with minority populations (*Rakhine*), and IDP populations (*Rakhine, Mandalay and Kachin*).

IN TOTAL, 56 OF MYANMAR'S 330 TOWNSHIPS ARE SELECTED FOR THE MAPPING EXERCISE:

State/region	No. of townships	No. of citizens interviewed	No. of Frontline Service Providers interviewed
Phase 1	12	1152	189
Mon	6	576	99
Chin	6	576	90
Phase 2	15	1440	203
Ayeyarwady	3	288	40
Bago	3	288	41
Kayah	3	288	38
Kayin	3	288	47
Tanintharyi	3	288	37
Phase 3 (proposed/estimate)	29	2784	406
Mandalay	3	288	42
Yangon	3	288	42
Magway	3	288	42
Sagaing (incl. Naga SAZ)	4	384	56
Kachin	4	384	56
Rakhine	4	384	56
Shan (incl. Wa and Pa-O SAZ)	8	768	112
Total townships	56	5376	798

Village tract/ward selection

Within each township, 2 village tract/wards are selected on the basis of the same selection criteria as the townships. The selection is conducted in close consultation with the Township Administration.

Selection of villages or ward areas

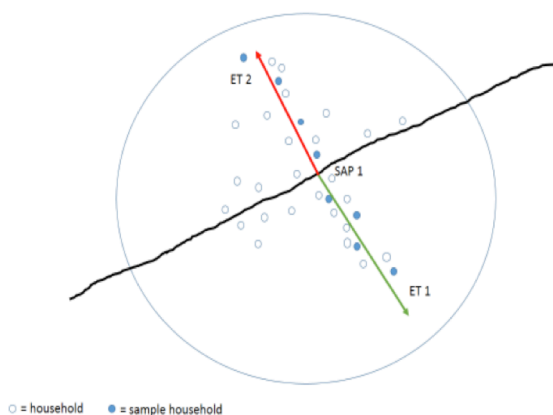
Within each village tract/ward, a maximum of 4 villages or ward areas are randomly selected by drawing a map of housing clusters/villages/ward areas. Each cluster is numbered and up to four clusters are randomly selected.

Households and respondents

Within each village or ward area, 48 households are randomly selected for interviews based on a walking transect method, where households along a walking line are selected in set intervals related to the size of the village or ward area. Enumerators alternate between male and female respondents in order to ensure balanced gender representation.

All present frontline service providers in a given village tract/ward are interviewed, including the Village Tract Administrator, primary school principals, teachers, healthcare facility managers and primary healthcare staff.

EXAMPLE OF WALKING TRANSECTS



Sampling strategy for other mapping tools:

Community Dialogues:

In each village tract or ward, 30-45 service providers and service users, the village tract administrator and committee members, as well as civil society representatives participate in a Community Dialogue on issues of governance and service delivery.

Township Governance Background Studies:

In each state/region, a minimum of 3 representative townships are selected for a background study, wherein secondary data is collected and government staff from key township departments, committee members and civil society representatives are interviewed.

Governance Self-Assessments and Focus Group Discussions:

Township Governance Self-Assessments (GSA) were conducted in each township in Phase I, where the research team and the Township Administrator jointly invited 50-60 participants including township committee members, government staff and civil society representatives to

collectively discuss and prioritise issues of local governance and service delivery.

In phase II and III, the Governance Self-Assessments were replaced by smaller Focus Group Discussions, with participation of township staff, township committee members and civil society representatives. The Focus Group Discussions feed into the above-mentioned background studies.

REPRESENTATIVENESS OF SAMPLE

The sampling approach has combined purposive and random sampling at different levels. In the selection of townships, village tracts and wards, purposive sampling, using the criteria discussed above, was adopted to capture the diversity in each state/ region. Below village tract/ ward level, random sampling was applied, whereby villages/ ward areas and households were selected randomly. The research anticipated that there might be significant differences between male and female respondents. Since no reliable population data are available, a pragmatic decision was taken to include a 50-50 male-female respondent sample size.

In order to get a representative sample for a large population, ensuring that the selection of respondents is done randomly is more important than increasing the sample size. In order to get a representative sample of citizens, it is sufficient to interview 300 people from a total population size of more than 2 million, if the expected variations in characteristics are not significant. The total sample size of roughly 300 respondents per state/region is therefore sufficient to draw valid conclusions for the total population in a state/region with a confidence level of 95% and an error margin of 5%. This means that if e.g. 43% of the sample population says that they make use of public health services, it is 95% certain that for the total population the actual figure will be 5% below or 5% above 43% (i.e. between 38% and 48%), which is an acceptable error margin. The sample size of roughly 100 respondents per township (3 townships per state/region) results in an increased error margin of 10% at township level, which is also good enough to get a sense of trends and key issues.

Once the mapping has been completed across the country, it is estimated that 5376 citizens and 798 frontline service providers would have been interviewed across 56 townships and 112 village tracts/wards. Combined with the other research tools such as structured community dialogues, key informant interviews and Focus Group Discussions with community, township and state/region-level actors, the Local Governance Mapping can reliably identify key issues and trends for each township and across the state/ region.

For more information, visit:

www.mm.undp.org

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