Minutes of IM Network Meeting
01 April, 2013

Venue: Inya Lake Hotel, OCHA Meeting Room

Participants: NPA, Merlin, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOCHA, UNOPS, UNOPS (3MDG), WHO, MIMU (Chair - Shon Campbell, MIMU Manager)

1. Introduction

The MIMU Manager presented the aim of the IM Network, drawing on the draft ToR shared with the group, after which the fifteen participants introduced themselves.

The differing roles of the MIMU and OCHA IM Unit were clarified: MIMU is responsible for data preparedness, including compiling and maintaining baseline datasets and non-emergency-related IM. OCHA IMU is focused on emergency related IM. OCHA uses MIMU datasets as a basis and shares its products through the MIMU website.

2. Update from GIS Working Group (U Nway Aung – GIS Manager, MIMU)

- Background: The GIS WG was formed in July 2008 and focused on emergency activities until May 2009 when the work of the group expanded. The GIS WG has 24 members from 15 agencies and meets in the last week of each month.

- Main objective: The GIS WG aims to share information and knowledge among its members, and to standardize geo-spatial data (e.g. administrative boundaries, village names, etc…)

- Achievements: Providing an information-sharing forum for agencies with GIS capacity, capturing and sharing an overview of the various initiatives and lessons learned by the involved agencies. It has also been instrumental in developing Geo-Spatial Data standards such as P-codes, remote sensing analysis tools and strengthening GIS application among its members.

- Plans and Goals: The GIS WG will link with the IM Network as a sub-group while continuing it activities around data standards, completion of datasets, capacity support and exchange. A key focus in the coming period will be support to establishing Spatial Data Management.

3. Review Draft TOR of IM Network

The draft ToR was discussed. It was felt that the IM Network would be a useful initiative which would add value to IM activities of agencies and cluster/sector working groups. Specific points of discussions were as follows:

- **Ensure the IM Network is a practical initiative**, focusing on common projects and initiatives and useful sharing of information. The IASC mission identified the need for improved IM, including standard forms and practices around Initial Rapid Assessments – the IM Network provides a central point through which to convene a taskforce, in bringing together relevant agencies to look at this.
  ➔ *Agree approach to working on the IRA issues*

- **Need IM focal points in the cluster/sector working groups**: Currently there are known IM focal points in only a few cluster/sector WGs.

With known IM Focal Point	No known IM Focal Point
WASH (cluster and sector) – lead UNICEF, Health cluster – lead WHO/Merlin GEN – Lead GEN secretariat DRR – lead UNDP Shelter Cluster – lead UNHCR Protection – lead UNHCR	Health sector – lead WHO Nutrition – lead UNICEF Education – lead UNICEF/SCI Food security/Agriculture – lead WFP/FAO for FSATG: FSWG - lead Coordinator/Steering Committee. Environment, Mine Action - lead ???

- **Difference between IM Network and field-based IM Working Groups:** The IM Network is broader than recently established IMWGs in Rakhine and Kachin (led by UNHCR IM Officers), but these groups can usefully support one another. The IMWGs focus on data collection and analysis at the field level while the IM Network is a reference group of technical expertise, promoting best practices, standards, and wider coordination of IM activities country-wide. As such the IM Network can play a supporting role in rapid onset situations (through for example supporting development of tools, base datasets etc), as well as pulling together information to support government initiatives. It was also noted that the various members get different things from the IM Network depending on their focus and interest.

- **Role of the IM Network in capacity building:** Anticipated to be through sharing of available resources, knowledge and expertise than through dedicated capacity building programmes.

- **Initial priorities of the IM Network:** First priorities will be to establish an inventory of datasets and IM assets as a basis for looking at information and expertise that IM Network members can share in some way. The forthcoming initiative reviewing the IRA / Initial Rapid Assessment format is another possible priority area.
    - ➔ *MIMU to prepare the first draft of an inventory tool of in-house datasets and expertise for discussion in the next meeting. Merlin Health Cluster IM focal point offered to assist.*

4.   Updates

- **Update on National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS):** The MIMU Manager provided an update on the NSDS initiative being introduced by a number of Development Partners (WB, ADB, UNESCAP, UNFPA, EU, Sweden and others). This longer term initiative will be undertaken through the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development and particularly the Central Statistics Organization aims to build capacity in statistics and data management across the Government.
- **Assessment and Publications tracking:** The MIMU will soon launch a new Assessments and Publications tracking inventory. Users will be able to track who/what/where of surveys/research/assessments, and follow up with the concerned agency for the original documents or data where this is available to share.
- **New 3W round:** Data collection for the next round of 3W has just been completed and maps and tables will be available late April/early May. This round includes new sectors - Governance, Peacebuilding/conflict prevention and Mine Action, and efforts to capture more information on agencies' activities in the South-East.

5.   Current Issues

- **Data analysis: S**ector-level analysis tends to be weak – data is available but sector leads are not providing analysis. The IM Network could define key parameters needed for data collection and analysis to ensure that it shows trends and changes.
    - ➔ *Establish a taskforce to look at what analysis is/isn't available and to define parameters required for sector analysis.*
- **Need for quality data:** Data should be collected and presented systematically and accurately. This requires active participation and coordination of all the members. OCHA has promised to help in this in relation to IM in humanitarian situations.
    - ➔ *Define steps needed and how to proceed.*

- **Baseline data:**

    MIMU time series indicators are not consistent and need to be corrected. There is generally little or no metadata describing data collection methods and data imitations/reliability. MIMU has been looking into the accuracy and reliability of various government datasets with DEPT, DHP and CSO. The "preferred sources" will be noted in the MIMU Indicator List. There is a need for a practical metadata format that can capture key information with inputs from various agencies.

    Data quality standards are needed, along with more information on how to define and weight different aspects of the data quality standards. Merlin has provided copies of recent articles showing how this has been done elsewhere (see attached)
    - ➔ *Members to share any useful examples of metadata formats, data quality weighting systems*

- **IM and Humanitarian situations**

  There is a need to agree key indicators and promote better coordination of data gathering using these parameters across agencies to allow compilation of data from different sources.

  - Clusters/sectors have already developed <u>minimum packages of indicators</u> which can be used for reference to determine baseline indicators.

  - The Shelter cluster <u>camp codes</u> allow information from different sources on one location to be brought together and tracked over time provided the data collection methods are also made clear.

  - <u>Population baseline data (IDP camps)</u> can be difficult to analyse because it often changes depending on who collects and how. There is a need for clear and consistent definitions of IDP, household and village so this data can be compiled and analysed. The Health cluster informed that they have already started defining their usages however it was also noted that each cluster and sector has their own interests so their definitions may not be the same and this needs to be taken into account.

  - <u>Sharing info gathered in emergencies</u>: Problems in gathering useful information within 72 hours of emergency situations has been problematic due to partial data and issues around reliability and confirmation of the data made available from the field.

  ➔ *Consider a Taskforce to define this baseline dataset*

- **Gaps in country-wide mapping**

  Currently only 73% of the number of the villages can be mapped because of the lack of coordinates, inconsistency of village names, etc. The gaps are especially across the Eastern side of Myanmar, and greatest in Shan and Kachin. MIMU has been working with a number of agencies to gather updated GPS coordinates and village information to complete this mapping.

- **Advocacy**

  The IM Network can be used to raise and discuss advocacy challenges in relation to data and information management.

6. Next Meeting

The IM Network members agree to meet on first Wednesday of each month at 3pm. The MIMU Manager will draft agenda of next meeting and circulate it to all the members.

Participants:

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