

## Minutes - Information Management Network Meeting –2<sup>nd</sup> Sep 2020

Chair: Shon Campbell, MIMU Manager.

Participants: UNOCHA, UN Women, DAI, IFPRI, Phandeeyar, UNRCO, Jhpiego, UNHCR, Wash Cluster, NRC, UNFPA, Urbanize Policy Institute, MIMU

### 1. Access Constraints and their Impacts on Humanitarian Operations— Sarah Elliot (OCHA)

The Humanitarian Access Working Group. HAWG has been conducting an analysis of access constraints and their impacts on humanitarian operations. On behalf of the Access Working Group, OCHA undertook workshops Myitkyina, Lashio and Sittwe earlier this year with field-based agencies, including national NGOs. The workshops were conducted in both English and Myanmar language using the same methodology in each area to enable results to be compared across States and Regions. In all around 150 participants joined these workshops which reviewed access constraints at township level, mapped the access severity, and developed joint recommendations on how to move forward.

Through these exercises, the OCHA global Access Monitoring & Reporting Framework was applied to the Access Severity Criteria using a three-step verification process (small group, plenary and visualization), as a means to build consensus and ownership of the final product. The Access Severity Criteria defines three levels of access limitation: low, medium and high. Separate Access Severity Maps were developed for Rakhine & southern Chin, Kachin and Northern Shan. In Rakhine & Chin, the majority of townships were ranked access level 3 (highest levels of access limitations). In Kachin, three areas appeared as access level 3 especially for those located in the contested areas. In Northern Shan, a third of the townships were considered access level 3. A narrative report has been prepared for each area, outlining the different access constraints in those regions and how the township ranking was made. The final maps were then correlated against the People in Need and sector data found in the Humanitarian Needs Overview to quantify the impact of access constraints on humanitarian activities.

OCHA worked closely with the Humanitarian Advocacy and Communications Group to provide State/Region level analyses and recommendations for the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and individual agencies. The township level access constraint analysis is useful for wider advocacy but limited in its operational value as disparities between rural and urban areas or IDP sites and camps are not taken into account. The workshops highlighted the need to delve to a deeper level, such as the village tract level, to better inform operational planning and implement targeted advocacy. The workshops also did not focus on issues of inter-communal tensions but looked at the impact of security and physical constraints, amongst others, as a first step in an analysis of the access constraints. The severity ranking enables the team to focus more on Access Level 3 areas in Kachin and Northern Shan, for example, to have a deeper analysis and more community consultations.

OCHA is developing an Operational Access Tracker to identify gaps in response as, for example is the case in Rakhine State where agencies' access has been limited with Travel Authorisation and access issues relating to the impact of COVID-19. This would be an inter-sectoral 5W to determine which areas are accessible, who can access, why they are able to access these areas and sharing of good practice so that the humanitarian operations can reach those people that are in the difficult to reach areas, whether due to conflict, poor roads and infrastructure or the difficulties in obtaining the travel authorizations. Currently the process has been delayed due to the escalation of COVID cases in Rakhine. Further discussions are needed with the clusters to identify the best way forward in collecting the required data. OCHA is also in contact with MIAG colleagues to ensure the harmonization of the Operational Access Tracker in Northern and Central Rakhine to facilitate joint operational planning and advocacy around specific areas that are not reachable.

	<p>A number of critical access issues have been identified by Humanitarian Access Working Group in consultations with field colleagues include the bureaucratic impediments on the travel authorizations for critical staff; limitations on transport of goods which has been further restricted by the COVID-19 case situation; limitations on movement of Camp based staff; limitations on the access to health care for some villages and the defining of life-saving activities to be continued during the COVID 19 increase in cases.</p>
2	<p><b><u>Gender-Mainstreaming Tools and Resources for Humanitarian/Development/Peace Nexus – UN Women</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Gender in Humanitarian Action - Merit Hietanen (UN Women)</u></b></p> <p>An emergency has different impacts on people based on their gender, age, disability, social class, marital status, ethnic and religious background, and urban/rural setting etc. For example, in terms of access, physical disability might affect people's ability to reach certain services and needs logistical constraints, while a young married woman may not be able to leave the house and travel certain distances due to traditional social norms. Hence, merely making physical adaptations might not ensure access, and different aspects and factors of the target population need to be understood in order to reach the most vulnerable people. This is particularly important for programming and planning humanitarian actions - collecting information on different aspects of a population who use services allows us to see whether services reach different vulnerable groups, and to review how to change the approach to reach these different parts of society. So in summary, it is good practice and also very important for effective humanitarian action to engage populations in both design but also in feedback and to track data on who is accessing services and adapting programming accordingly.</p> <p>COVID-19 has had different impacts on women in Myanmar; for example, more than 90% of women work in the informal sector, making them especially susceptible to economic downturn, and nearly 90% of women in the garment sector have been already impacted by the closure of export chains. In the health sector, Myanmar's frontline health workers in the COVID-19 response are almost all women, so they are the ones carrying major risks for themselves and their families. Another impact of the COVID-19 situation on women is an increase in GBV (Gender Based Violence) – there is no nationwide data on the prevalence of GBV (Gender Based Violence), because surveys would be the only way of capturing this. However information from GBV partners has recorded an increase of calls to GBV hotlines have doubled between March and May 2020 and the government has also acknowledged the increase of GBV in a number of speeches.</p> <p>Various resources have been developed to support gender mainstreaming in humanitarian work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The “<a href="#">Gender profile for Humanitarian Action</a>” which analyses the gendered context of the crisis situations in Rakhine, Kachin and Northern Shan and provides strategic recommendations for the response in key sectors as well as cross-sectoral response by agencies, the ICCG and HCT. The purpose of the document is to inform about HCT/ICCG strategies, planning and advocacy, as well as sector coordinators' and members' operational work. It collects, analyses and uses disaggregated data for analysis on gender, age and disability, and promotes equal consultation with women, girls, and the most vulnerable and marginalized groups, across all ages and diversities, including during assessments and the overall response monitoring.</li> <li>• The “<a href="#">Gender Mainstreaming Checklists</a>” provide practical guidance for each sector and cluster to strengthen gender mainstreaming with 11 gender programming checklists developed through national and sub-national consultations to support gender mainstreaming in humanitarian action in Myanmar. This document provides guidance on each step of the humanitarian programme cycle, along with guidance drawn from the global IASC Gender in Humanitarian Action Handbook. It also incorporates sector-specific elements of the Myanmar Gender in Humanitarian Action Profile.</li> <li>• The <a href="#">Gender Alert for the COVID-19 Outbreak in Myanmar</a> provides the minimum standards for integrating gender equality into preparedness and response planning for an effective, gendered-response to COVID-19. It includes cluster-specific checklists to ensure gender equality in the programme priorities.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Advancing gender-responsiveness of M&amp;E - Julia Boyko (UN Women)</u></b></p>

The presentation shared an effective approach to developing a gender-responsive monitoring framework with explicit and measurable results and indicators to advance gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE), using the example of the UN Myanmar Socio-economic Response Framework (SERF) which is the UN plan for immediate social economic response to the COVID-19 crisis. UN Women began with workshops for those involved in developing the UN SERF M&E framework (the UN Gender Theme Group and Monitoring and Results group), highlighting how GEWE can be strengthened in (i) defining results statements; (ii) developing indicators and (iii) developing the corresponding monitoring and reporting plans. The groups then analysed the various indicators which are relevant to the UN socio-economic framework: global SERF, 10 thematic Human Rights indicators, the UN Myanmar SERF pillar indicators and MSDP indicators. These exercises enabled the groups to discuss how indicators could be more gender-responsive and better able to track progress in advancing GEWE, for consideration in refining the upcoming Monitoring Framework for Myanmar UN SERF.

Using the observations of these workshops, guidance was developed on the minimum standards for ensuring gender responsive M&E systems as well as a set of practical and achievable recommendations on how to formulate gender-responsive indicators and refine/enrich identified country-specific pillar indicators for the Monitoring Framework. The guidance can also be useful for non-UN Actors and all M&E systems. It includes recommendations for incorporating sex and age disaggregated data (SADD), gender and age-based vulnerabilities, qualitative and quantitative indicators and practical and strategic gender needs etc. Being based on human rights and gender approaches means the monitoring framework goes beyond sex disaggregation and this can present challenges in collecting the data. However, UN Women and the socio-economic pillars of the UN are encouraging partners to do so for monitoring of the UN SERF implementation.

When talking about gender and age-based vulnerability, it is important to take intersectionality into account – i.e. understanding the nuances within groups as well as any form of exclusion caused by discriminatory norms (attitudes and practices), power dynamics, and vulnerabilities (age, disability status, ethnic origin, place of residence, sexual orientation, social class or income group, citizenship etc.) Practical needs and strategic gender needs are also different - practical needs measure water sanitation hygiene, healthcare or employment for example, while strategic gender needs go beyond this and focus on assessing the progress in structural change, gender relations, decision-making power, participation and leadership etc. Monitoring strategic gender needs is a long-term process and it is not a small change which can happen within the year of implementation of the programme.

The last section of the guidance provides examples of key questions to ask when designing gender indicators and to ensure participation and inclusion in monitoring processes, which can be useful to guide HDP nexus partners and their teams working on formulation of indicators and monitoring frameworks.

The tools used to strengthen gender-responsive programming and monitoring in humanitarian work and the UN SERF M&E plan can be applied to any humanitarian, development and peace-focused programmes. The Gender in Humanitarian Action tools and resources provide guidance for practitioners including checklists of simple recommendations on the monitoring framework. The tool developed for the UN SERF, while created specifically for that purpose, is also a guide to developing monitoring frameworks for development-focused activities. The methodology of data collection and results we are aiming to achieve are similar for the humanitarian and development Frameworks. The main point is to ensure monitoring frameworks are designed with attention to gender perspectives. This can be a challenge particularly for humanitarian work and some focus instead on gender-sensitive programming rather than looking at how they could be more transformational.

	Whether it is humanitarian or not, we should always aim to consult the local population, ensuring appropriate consultations with women, girls and the other populations and to programme based on their needs. UN Women shared the list of training courses for Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA). See Annex.
3	<p><b>IM Network ToR</b></p> <p>UN Women helpfully provided comments to strengthen the gender and conflict sensitivity on the IM Network ToR. This is an opportunity to update the ToR which will be circulated for comments, seeking to finalise the updated ToR in the November IM Network meeting.</p>
4	<p><b>Updates on National Initiatives</b></p> <p><b>Statistics Sector Coordination Group</b> (20<sup>th</sup> August) chaired by the Central Statistics Organisation to discuss developments and funding requirements with Cooperation Partners. The meeting included updates on government clusters and working groups related to the National Strategy for Development of Statistics and presentation of the survey calendar. The DG CSO noted that the government is coming to the end of the current 5-year plan and will be looking at the planning of the next 5-year project and activities linked to the NSDS. Some of the key developments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Intercensal survey</b> has been completed by DoP. Preliminary results or provisional results are available on the website of the Department of Population. The report in Myanmar language: <a href="http://www.dop.gov.mm/sites/dop.gov.mm/files/publication_docs/2019_inter-censal_survey_publication.pdf">http://www.dop.gov.mm/sites/dop.gov.mm/files/publication_docs/2019_inter-censal_survey_publication.pdf</a> The provisional results: <a href="http://www.dop.gov.mm/en/data-and-maps-category/provisional-result">http://www.dop.gov.mm/en/data-and-maps-category/provisional-result</a></li> <li>- <b>CAPI methodology</b> being rolled out for several government surveys with World Bank support</li> <li>- <b>National Indicator Framework for M&amp;E of Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan – UNDP and CSO</b> expect to produce NIF reports by end of September including for the CCDAQS on data measurability and support needs, and a report for the Planning Department on progress against the MSDP strategies.</li> <li>- <b>Statistical Rules and Regulations</b> finalised by CSO and submitted to Legal advisors of the President for review – comprises 11 chapters, 55 sections.</li> </ul> <p>Other new and ongoing initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>MMR High Frequency Phone Survey on Impact of COVID 19 in Myanmar</b> – implemented by CSO with World Bank using tablets to analyse impacts on households' welfare and firms activities – 1500 HH and 500 enterprises. Plan to conduct socioeconomic assessment of impact of COVID 19 with UNDP</li> <li>- <b>Birth and death registration</b> – Govt coordination committee to strengthen civil registration and vital statistics system in Myanmar in line with international standards met in July 20, chaired by Minister of the Union Government with CSO as secretariat. With UNICEF and Telenor, implementation of mobile Birth and Death Registration focusing on removal of paper-based forms in Mon. This will then be scaled up to national level.</li> <li>- <b>CSO-GIZ project to investigate and track wholesale rice market in Yangon</b>, seeking an accurate picture of the market structure and its enterprises and to monitor these. Monthly trade volumes, stocks, price developments.</li> <li>- <b>Child Labour Survey 2019-20</b> - focusing on manufacture of food products, wholesale retail trade and repair of motor vehicles in Kayin, Bago, Mon, Yangon and Ayeyarwady. Myanmar labour force survey soon to release report on the 2019 information</li> <li>- <b>CSO-WFP Market Price Monitoring</b> – training phase for use of Mobile Data Collection for price statistics</li> <li>- <b>Common data platform for official statistics</b> – training to support CSO, DoP staff in management of system for maintaining harmonised statistics with support from UNDP</li> </ul> <p><b>Recent publications</b> include the Poverty Report from Myanmar Living Conditions Survey (Feb 20); 2019 Statistics Yearbook (CSO); Quarterly Statistics Bulletin with key indicators; Annual Labour Force Survey by Dept of Labour launched in 2019; and the Myanmar Statistical Data Dashboard MMSD on CSO website.</p>

## 5. Updates on cluster/sector/agency initiatives

**JHPIEGO:** working for health-related activities mainly focusing on Maternal and Child Health. They continue their activities by adapting the Covid-19 context mostly changing to the virtual training, workshops and meetings.

**UNRCO:** leading the UN inter-agency coordination to finalise the Integrated M&E Framework for the UN SERF. This will integrate Human Rights Global indicators, Myanmar Sustainable Development indicators and CERP Myanmar indicators as well.

**IFPRI:** in the process of producing reports on the Phone surveys to assess the impact of COVID, and will hold two webinars together with World Bank looking at the socio-economic impacts of the COVID situation in Myanmar.

**UNHCR:** recently published the Camp Profiling Report for Central Rakhine which is available on the MIMU, Shelter/ Cluster and CCCM websites along with the Cluster Analysis Reports for Central Rakhine, Kachin and Northern Shan State. The Camp Profiling Report for Kachin/NSS will be published in October following a delay in data collection due to COVID-19 access restrictions. In terms of Humanitarian Protection, the Protection Incident Monitoring System / PIMs is being regularly updated on Central Rakhine, Kachin, northern Shan and also, more recent, parts of Chin State. It is available to Protection sector members.

**Wash Cluster:** gathering monthly updates on the COVID-19 response activities. WASH is working together with the Health cluster for joint analysis, focusing especially on AWD (Acute Watery Diarrhea), while also maintaining the WASH 4W data. The third quarter monitoring for Rakhine has been completed and a similar initiative is starting for Kachin – this requires adjusting to have a uniform naming system and P-code system. Information is also being gathered to support newly-displaced people in Rakhine, and to prepare planning (targets and budget) for 2021.

**NRC:** providing input for the Multi-needs Analysis for Humanitarian Assistance. As part of NRC protection activities, an agency-wide Community Hotline is being rolled out – this started in the Northwest two months ago and is now being extended to the Southeast and the Northeast areas.

**Phandeeyar:** working on five Thematic areas, namely (1) safer internet which is related to the digital rights, digital literacy and hate speech; (2) Civic Technology which is providing information about elections and democracy through the Myanmar vote Myanmar via mmvote.info; (3) Startups and Innovation which has been adapted to offer Startups Challenges online; (4) Digital Skills with a platform called Phandeeyar Institute, which provides online trainings, tutorials and modules to build the Tech Community; (5) Digital rights and journalism, which includes online campaigning for lifting internet shutdown in Rakhine and building capacity of journalists to provide data-driven articles and journals. Phandeeyar has also been working on a report on Hate Speech.

**DAI:** currently implementing the community strengthening project funded by USAID in Kachin, Rakhine and Northern Shan state with the main focus of peace building, community participation in local decision-making process and access to basic services. DAI is seeking to launch a webpage which maps ACLED data on conflict incident across the country and also shares documents on research projects conducted by USAID, CSP and partner organizations.

**MIMU:** starting a new activity with the arrival of the Data Analyst, to develop a series of Analytical Briefs drawing attention to emerging, topical and forgotten issues such water quality, disability, mental health and village mapping based on publicly available data. Each brief will comprise a short narrative and an infographic, and will be developed together with an organisation working on the specific theme. MIMU's COVID 19 Update page continues to provide a

	<p>central repository of COVID-related resources from various different sources and has attracted 40,000 downloads over a 6-month period. It also includes a dashboard prepared by CISU/COVID Information Support Unit enabling search for government notifications on COVID restrictions.</p> <p>The deadline for inputs to the new <u>MIMU 3W round</u> is <u>2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020</u> - products will be released from the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of September indicating agencies' activities as of 28<sup>th</sup> August. The MIMU <u>Online Photo Archive</u> aims to provide space for MIMU partners (humanitarian, peace and development agencies) to share clearly-attributed photographs of their activities around the country. It is currently being finalised for launch – the platform will be open to registered users from MIMU partner agencies (those feeding into MIMU products) to upload and download images in high resolution, whereas non-registered general users can view watermarked images in low resolution. Agencies interested to provide input prior to the launch can contact MIMU. <u>Capacity building</u>: MIMU face-to-face trainings remain suspended due to the COVID situation. The focus of the next MIMU Excel Distance learning programme is being decided. MIMU Online Training materials in Myanmar-language (Basic Excel and Basic QGIS) continue to be freely available through the MIMU website. The QGIS materials are being updated based on the most recent software. <u>Countrywide Humanitarian Data Standards</u> – an initiative taken forward in the IM Network in 2014/15 to define categories of disaggregation across clusters/sectors so as to enable cross-sectoral analysis and use of data. The Data Standards have been rolled out by UNHCR and the WASH Cluster and it was agreed that these will be reviewed for possible further use in 2020.</p>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b> - The next regular meeting will take place on <b>4<sup>th</sup> November 2020</b> . Please share any suggestions on possible themes/presenters.

	Participants	Agency/Organization	Position
1	Rosa Youngjin Park	UNFPA	GBV Support Officer
2	Julia Boyko	UN Women	Planning and Coordination Analyst
3	Aye Yupar	UNRCO	Data Management and Results Monitoring/Reporting Officer
4	Win Bo Aung	DAI	Research Analyst
5	Alex Zayar Phyo Aung	Jhpiego	Monitoring and Evaluation Manager
6	Isabel Lambrecht	IFPRI	Research Fellow
7	Thura Kyaw	Jhpiego	Senior Knowledge Management Manager
8	Saw Nay Chi Tun	NRC	M&E Officer
9	Merit Hietanen	UN WOMEN	GIHA Specialist
10	Nilar Khaing	Urbanize Policy Institute	Researcher
11	Nang Sian Thawn	Phandeeyar	Impact Measurement & Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist
12	Muditha Sampath	OCHA	IMO
13	Matthew Richard	UNHCR	IMO
14	Aye Aye Thwe	Jhpiego	
15	Mee Mee Thaw	Wash Cluster	IMO
16	Shon Campbell	MIMU	MIMU Manager
17	Stephanie Kauv	MIMU	Data Analyst
18	Thiri May Kyaw	MIMU	Resource Centre Associate
19	Thit Thit Han	MIMU	Communications