DRAFT Information Management Network Meeting – 3rd Feb 2020

Chair: Shon Campbell (MIMU)
Participants: MIMU, Norwegian Refugee Council, UNICEF, FAO, UNHCR, UNFPA, NRC, OCHA

1. Changes in Drinking Water use 2014-2019 – Stephanie Kauv (MIMU)

MIMU Analytical Briefs shine a light on topical, emerging and under-explored issues relevant to humanitarian and development support in Myanmar based on analysis of available information. Each Brief includes a short narrative document, infographic, dashboard and dataset. MIMU, with support from UNICEF, will soon release its first Analytical Brief, Changing Sources of Drinking Water in Myanmar (2014 -2019), and welcomes suggestions of other topics to analyze in more depth based on available data, especially at the township or district levels.

MIMU's analysis of Changes in Drinking Water Use is based on a review of available documentation and comparison of data from four major studies over the period 2014-2019 (Census, Myanmar Living Conditions Survey, Demographic Health Survey and Intercensal Survey). Because the four surveys used different calculation methodologies, our analysis adapted these in line with the calculation methodology of the 2019 Intercensal Survey to enable comparison of the measurements. The analysis was conducted using Excel and Tableau software. There are various limitations to the analysis due to the differing availability of data, coverage and definitions used in the different surveys. In terms of coverage, results may not fully reflect non-enumerated groups or certain areas, with particular under-reporting relating to Rakhine State. The surveys provide data at different levels – state/region, urban/rural, district and township, and on differing indicators such that not all provide specific indicators relating to households' use of safe drinking water or water from limited vs basic sources.

The analysis reviews household's use of drinking water by service/type of drinking water source;

- IMPROVED sources are those with the potential to deliver safe water due to their design and construction (i.e. safely managed, basic, and limited drinking water services). Improved drinking water sources may not always deliver SAFE drinking water however as the final water quality can also depend on how the water from these sources is treated/delivered.
- UNIMPROVED sources cannot deliver safe water due to their design and construction (i.e. unimproved wells/springs and surface water sources) Surface sources of drinking water pose a greater risk of contamination. Levels of contamination can only be verified by regular testing. The testing from the 2019 Intercensal Survey was a big step toward monitoring Myanmar water quality.

Key Findings:

- In 2019, 82% of households countrywide were using drinking water from improved sources, and 12% used surface water (rivers, lakes, ponds, etc.), with significant differences between urban and rural areas – use of surface water (a likely unsafe source) is far higher in rural areas (16%) than urban areas (4%) for example, and urban areas have higher use of improved water sources.
- Households in rural areas are increasingly using improved water sources as a mean of accessing safer water. Rakhine and Ayeyarwady remain far behind the other states/regions but are improving. Rural areas in Rakhine show slower improvement compared to other states/regions.
- Unprotected water supplies are being replaced by piped and bottled water in urban and rural areas, however, piped and bottled water may also be from contaminated sources and poorly treated, hence testing for contaminants to ensure water safety is very important.

	- Myanmar is still well behind the global levels of use for safe drinking water however – the 2019 Intercensal survey indicates only 41% of households in Myanmar using safe drinking water compared to the global level of 71% in 2017. Only Mandalay and west Yangon districts had levels of use of safe drinking water close to the global level. - Rakhine and Ayeyarwady have the highest use of contaminated drinking water countrywide due to their high reliance on surface water – in 2019, 50% of households in Rakhine were using surface water, 29% for Ayeyarwady compared to 6% for other states/regions. Climate change is an important issue affecting the quality of available drinking water in Rakhine and Ayeyarwady due to their low-lying terrain with the commonly-used shallow ponds at higher risk of evaporation, and underground sources at risk of saltwater infiltration. - There are still important unknowns, such as the levels of chemical contaminants in drinking water which are not routinely measured: An estimated 3.4 million people in Myanmar may be exposed to higher than recommended levels of arsenic in their drinking water supplies (2019) – chronic exposure to high levels of arsenic can cause numerous health problems. (WHO recommends arsenic levels under 10 µg/L). Ayeyarwady is predicted to be the most affected area among all states/regions. Arsenic contamination is often patchy and there may be areas with low contamination next to ones with dangerous levels – and with changes to aquifers, previously safe sources can become unsafe. Hence the importance of a robust testing programme to ensure different drinking water sources have minimum levels. In conclusion - The last five years have seen households switch towards improved water sources – such as piped and bottled water, over unprotected water supplies such as surface water with its higher risks of contamination, and the 2019 Intercensal Survey showed that 41% of households, countrywide, used safe drinking water however this is still behind global levels of 71% use of safe drinking water sources. - As highlighted in this MIMU Analytical Brief, a targeted approach that considers the wide diversity of drinking water sources will be needed to allow all of Myanmar's people access safer drinking water. - There is a need for more gendered data. While there is some 2019 data on the sex of the person responsible for collecting water for their household, generally speaking, there is little data on how water quality pertains to sex/gender. - More data on arsenic in Myanmar is needed – UNICEF has been working with the Department of Rural Development to establish a rural water supply information management system which will increase testing for chemical contaminants, particularly for arsenic and fluoride, at the utility/community level. The Products of this analysis will soon be released and include a nine-page Analytical Brief explaining MIMU's findings in further depth; an A3 size infographic highlighting important facts and figures; an online dashboard showing the primary trends and findings for further analysis by area; the dataset and details of methodology used – this provides the relevant available data from these surveys at the countrywide, state/region, district and township levels and union/urban/rural levels along with estimated household and population numbers.
2.	National Updates – Stephanie Kauv (MIMU) **Launch of the 2019 Intercensal survey results (Dec 2020)**: The main report and its associated tables are available on the Department of Population website. The main report has 5 reports available: https://www.dop.gov.mm/en/publication-category/main-report-0 and data: https://www.dop.gov.mm/en/data-and-maps-category/main-report-1

	New Sector Coordination Groups (SCG) established under DACU: With the launch of the 2020 Myanmar Development Assistance Policy, 22 new multi-stakeholder Sector Coordination Groups (SCGs) have been created, covering the specific sectoral and thematic focus areas identified by the government as a priority for development assistance. These replace the previous Government-Cooperation Partner groups. Each SCG is chaired by a minister appointed by the DACU Chair, and members include government and development partners. The Statistical Quality Development Working group is one of the 22 groups. The National Indicator Framework (NIF) document will soon be officially launched: The Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry (MoPFI) with the support of UNDP is producing the first NIF monitoring report which is expected to be launched in March. The first Myanmar Voluntary National Review (VNR) report is currently under production with MoPFI, other gov ministries/department and the support of UNDP and will be presented at the High-Level Political Forum (HLFP) in July 2021. The voluntary national reviews (VNRs) aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The VNRs also seek to strengthen policies and institutions of governments and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Status of Demographic Transition Report draft has been launched. The Demographic Double Dividend (Youth and Gender) report may be an additional report as UNFPA is waiting on inputs from other UN Agencies. Other thematic reports are an ongoing process.
3.	Agency, Cluster and Sector Updates UNFPA: Ongoing preparation of 2019 Intercensal survey thematic reports. Some district-level data is not yet publicly available pending analysis by the Dept of Population, however data can be requested from DoP. The fertility report has been drafted. Review/comment by interested parties is appreciated. Further studies (meta-analyses) will be undertaken in 2021 on issues such as disability, education and labour by UNFPA with UNICEF, IOM and ADB. UNICEF: Plans to produce a WASH thematic analysis report based on global indicators and the UNICEF-WHO joint monitoring programme. The newly launched Humanitarian Response Plan indicates a dramatic gap in access to basic WASH services - related agencies are encouraged to begin thinking about proposals as the 2020 grants will be ending in June. NRC: Ongoing post-distribution monitoring to see the results of their 2020 activities. A community hotline has been established to collect any complaints which are referred to relevant implementing partners to help maintain accountability to affected populations. OCHA: Humanitarian Needs Overview and Humanitarian Response Plan documents have been approved and are now publicly available on ReliefWeb and the MIMU website. 944,000 people are targeted for 2021, and the funding requirement is USD 267 million. UNHCR: Recently updated the Q4 2020 Protection Incident Monitoring System (PIMS) report and completed the Protection 4W for the second half of 2020. Results will be available in the form of interactive dashboard which is coming for members of the Protection Working Group. Q4 2020 camp profiling for central Rakhine state has been updated and 19 individual camp dashboards and summaries are available on the MIMU and the Shelter and CCCM websites. In October 2020, Round 10 Kachin and northern Shan camps were profiled. In 2021, CCCM cluster are planning to start Round 11 Kachin and Northern Shan camp profile exercise in February.

FAO: noted the arrival of a new food security sector coordinator. Currently collecting data for the next round of the 5W which will be shared on the MIMU website. A new assessment has been completed by the SLM team and is available on the MIMU website - the data is not available yet. A further FAO/WFP joint assessment will be finished soon. The FAO emergency unit is also conducting several activities in Rakhine, Kayin, Tanintharyi and Mon.

MIMU:

- Pcode 9.3 release: The MIMU Pcodes have been updated based on the latest GAD notifications released between Feb – Dec 2020. Pcode 9.3 shows numerous changes including delisted villages tracts, delisted villages and new villages. 61 of the new villages came from GAD publications while one came from FAO, which is among the 3,000+ villages that have been contributed by field-based agencies. It's highly suggested you use the list of GAD villages + field-reported villages when possible. GAD's reasons for delisting villages are broad and sometimes unclear but are often due to administrative challenges leading to a lack of communication between township offices and union offices. To view all changes in detail, please see: Change History of MIMU Pcode Version 9.2 vs 9.3. If your organisation would like to submit updated village information to the Pcode system, please fill out our submission form. There is also document listing all major changes in detail. MIMU will hold a special IM Network meeting to further explain the Pcode system.
- National Coding System (NCS): an ongoing initiative with MIMU, GAD and OneMap Myanmar with development of a national coding system (NCS) for use across government departments and others producing/using data. This defines codes for each administrative unit from the state/region to village levels and is based on similar principles to the MIMU Pcodes (i.e. unique codes for each place to allow information from different sources to be combined). The NCS was rolled out by GAD to government departments through a soft launch in late 2019 and is expected to be used by most government departments, however for many, this requires strengthening of staff capacity to introduce the codes alongside their various datasets. It is hoped the NCS can be launched publicly by GAD in Q1-2 of 2021 on the GAD and the Ministry of Office of the Union Government website. Once launched, MIMU will update its Pcoder to enable codes from the NCS to be added to agencies' datasets. The NCS is based on the information currently maintained by GAD (official place names of gazetted places in Myanmar language). The MIMU Pcodes will continue to list the English transliteration, locations/geocoordinates, commonly-used local names and unregistered villages as reported by agencies working in the area.
- Data Disaggregation: A task force of the ICCG (inter-cluster coordination group) has been reviewing use by clusters/sectors and their partners of the Humanitarian Data Disaggregation Standards developed in 2015. The Data Standards provide clear definitions for data by age, vulnerability etc allowing data to be combined and analysed across different clusters and sectors. For example, the ages 11–15 may be good a good cut-off point for data collection because data can easily be used across education, WASH and other clusters/sectors. While these are currently being used by a number of clusters/sectors in humanitarian-focused activities, they could also be useful for development-focused.
- Capacity building: MIMU recently completed a distance-learning excel course for staff of agencies providing 3W inputs in Kachin and Shan. IM Network partners will be given priority for the next round (location/theme to be decided). The 4-day IM management workshop for staff of agencies in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan states which was to be conducted virtually for the first time has been postponed. The next QGIS virtual training will be in February or March if internet is stable for communications and will focus on applicants not selected in the last round.
- Baseline data: The MIMU Baseline data was recently updated and contains 200+ indicators from 200+ sources including the recent Intercensal Survey. The full data set goes back 10+ years for some indicators and can be requested from MIMU.
- IM Network Myanmar language chapter - MIMU is currently developing plans to trial a Myanmar language IM Network group. The presentations and content of the English and Myanmar groups do not have to be identical. If you have suggestions for topics of discussion, please contact Ma Ei or Shon.

4. Next Meeting – the next IM Network meeting will be on 6th April

	Participant	Agency/Organization	Position
1	Shon Campbell	MIMU	Manager
2	Htoot Min	UNICEF	WASH Officer
3	Shwe Zin Hla Shwe	UNICEF	Child Rights Monitoring Specialist
4	Nan Po Po Myint	MIMU	Database Associate
5	Asuka Imai	UNHCR	Information Management Officer
6	Eyad Aldubai	UNICEF	National WASH Cluster Coordinator
7	Kencho Namgyal	UNICEF	Chief-WASH
8	Aye Mya Moe	FAO	M&E Officer
9	Khin Thandar Tun	MIMU	GIS Associate
10	Zin Min Tun	MIMU	Database Analyst
11	Ei Ei Thein	MIMU	Data Manager
12	Yu Myat Mun	UNFPA	Programme Analyst (P&D)
13	Tun Tun	MIMU	Data Assistant
14	Su Yin Win	Norwegian Refugee Council	M&E manager
15	Than Kyaw Soe	UNICEF	WASH Officer
16	May Thu Khaing	UNHCR	IM Associate
17	Pyae Sone Kyaw Win	OCHA	GIS Officer