

Minutes of IM Network Meeting: 04th September 2019

Chair: Shon Campbell, MIMU Manager.

Participants: Phandeeyar, UNFPA, WVI, OXFAM, MCC, ICRC, EWMI, UNHCR, WFP/Food Security Sector, Jhpiego, MIMU

1	<p>Recent developments in national coding systems (<i>Ma Ei Ei Thein, Data Manager, MIMU</i>)</p> <p>The General Administration Department (GAD) led a soft launch of the new National Coding System (NCS) for use across government ministries in August 2019. The NCS has been developed with technical support from MIMU and OneMap Myanmar (OMM) and in consultation with a 17-member Technical Working group convened by GAD with representatives of ministries/government departments, MIMU and OMM. The final coding structure which has been adopted has drawn on experience with the MIMU Place Codes and national coding systems used in other countries.</p> <p>Similar in principle to the MIMU Place Codes, the NCS consists of a unique identifier for every administrative unit from State/Region down to village level in line with international standards. It enables data from different sources to be combined (government, non-government, private sector) to strengthen analysis, planning and tracking of implementation of initiatives across the country. The NCS is hosted in a central access database developed with MIMU technical support and will be maintained by GAD and shared through a webplatform developed with OMM support. OMM will also provide technical support to ministries to integrate the NCS with their current databases/datasets.</p> <p>In terms of content, the NCS currently has the information maintained and shared by GAD, namely the place names in Myanmar language and administrative units based on the 2008 Constitution, including Self-administered Zones. It also incorporates new streamlined, digitized systems to track changes over time and to generate the required GAD reports and notifications. Currently it does not include any English transliteration of place names or geographic coordinates of settlements. Recognizing that the many different languages and dialects in Myanmar lead to a wide variety of pronunciations, GAD will convene a specific technical committee with relevant ministries to develop the transliteration principles for English translation of the place names. In terms of coverage, the NCS currently includes the 63,264 villages registered – the MIMU Place Codes include a further 2,800 unregistered villages based on information from field sources. Once publicly released, the NCS codes will be integrated with the MIMU Place Codes to facilitate agencies' capacity to link with the government datasets. Ministry representative at the launch expressed interest in a public launch and the inclusion of geographic coordinates of settlements.</p>
2	<p>Use of Codes for Cross sectoral analysis (<i>Shon Campbell, MIMU Manager</i>)</p> <p>Location frameworks (such as Pcodes, NCS) enable us to exchange, combine and map info from a variety of sources so as to undertake cross-sectoral analysis and to easily update, share and integrate the work of others in a systematic and efficient way. Currently there is no shared system of coding across the main data providers in Myanmar (government departments, development and humanitarian agencies, the private sector, and academic/research institutions). The MIMU Place codes were developed as an interim system and have collated the coordinates of 78% of the 66,000+ settlements listed to-date in the MIMU Place Codes – while this is a great achievement, it also means there are more than 15,000 villages without coordinates which don't yet appear on maps or shapefiles to strengthen analysis and planning. This makes them less visible for many initiatives.</p> <p>There are also gaps in data quality, sharing, and limited analysis. In terms of Data quality, there is generally no metadata/written explanation of how the data has been collected or the limitations on its use. The level of data which is made available is often an aggregate of the data which is initially collected due to</p>

	<p>gaps in systems/capacity to share the finer level detail at VT and village level – an example of this is data on flood-affected villages. Information is also not available on gaps in data coverage.</p> <p>In terms of Data Sharing; while much data is collected, it is usually not organized to be able to share the data or integrate it with other datasets due to gaps in systems, capacity, usual policy/practice, and concerns re quality. A particular issue is the lack of sharing of data from consultant-generated analyses and reports which means important steps in analysis can't be easily built upon for different purposes. Data which is shared is often not used optimally due to lack of capacity for analysis due to limited capacity / investment and there are few examples of countrywide, cross-sectoral analysis. There seems to be little demand for trend analysis even though this can be extremely useful. Overall there is a need for more analysis of all types, exploring different dimensions and trends and sharing the data generated.</p> <p>In terms of geospatial data, the MIMU Place code initiative currently provides the only publicly available information on the locations of settlements countrywide – it includes details of 66,115 settlements, tracks gazette changes, and has gathered the coordinates for 78% of Pcoded villages. MIMU has also developed shapefiles for state/region, districts, township and village tract/ward levels however there are still some important gaps in available information – with the information that is available, shapefiles are available for approximately 80% of VTs but only 22% of Wards. There are many gaps in available data on the location of villages in remote and hard-to-reach areas with around 15,200 villages without geocoordinates, so not appearing on maps by MIMU or other partners using MIMU base data. There are also important gaps in information on VT boundaries – especially in eastern areas of the country, and issues with village names, transliterations. The MIMU Place codes include around 2,800 villages which are not yet registered and so don't appear on GAD listings.</p> <p>Some good examples and opportunities include the 2014 Census which has been ground-breaking in its sharing of data, including to village tract level and with communities. MIMU also provides cross-sectoral datasets from various sources in coded, usable form - the MIMU Baseline Data compiled data from 230+ sources dating back several years which could be useful for trend analysis, and the MIMU-HARP cross-sectoral Vulnerability Study products include the dataset (300+ indicators comprising data from the 2014 Census, ACLED, MIMU 3W and government budgets for the period 2015-16). The Asia Foundation is preparing an extensive countrywide dataset from the 2017 GAD Township profiles and this will be made publicly available, linked to the MIMU Place Codes. The UNOPS Access to Health programme has useful experience in using these available datasets for an evidence-based approach to determine programme locations.</p> <p>Moving forward, recommendations for agencies are to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Data quality</u>: Be clear on what your data does or doesn't cover; Consider data protection/data sensitivity – what can/can't be shared; better to provide caveats re inconsistencies in data than not to share, and encourage the sharing of available data - <u>Location frameworks</u>: Use and encourage the integration of location codes; Ensure correct use of P codes in all datasets which include a location; Keep datasets updated with the latest Pcode versions (v9 is soon to be released) and the NCS codes when available. - <u>Data sharing</u>: Ensure any initiatives/consultancies gathering information provide cleaned, appropriately structured data as a deliverable; Share this information at lowest possible level which respects issues of privacy; Encourage others to share data more openly - <u>Capacity development</u>: Invest in capacity for data/information management, analysis (Internal/outourced); Consider trends, cross sectoral factors which may be relevant
3.	<p>National level Initiatives:</p> <p>National Indicator Framework: The first Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP), under the leadership of the Ministry of Planning and Finance (MoPF), was launched in August 2018, aiming to provide a “long-term vision (2030) of a peaceful, prosperous and democratic country and is founded upon the objective</p>

	<p>of giving coherence to the policies and institutions necessary to achieve genuine, inclusive and transformational economic growth”. The MSDP document highlights the critical need for a coherent and consistent government-wide M&E framework which will include</p> <p>(1) A National Indicator Framework (MSDP-NIF), with indicators, baseline, targets, and metadata for measuring MSDP implementation.</p> <p>(2) A set of institutional arrangements, the MSDP Monitoring & Evaluation System, detailing the roles and responsibilities of different government agencies in implementing the M&E strategy, the flows of information between these agencies and the reporting modalities to higher-level.</p> <p>The NIF was completed in August 2019 and has been submitted for high-level Government approval. It includes 286 indicators, of which 41% are SDG indicators, 72% are at strategic (outcome and impact) level and 74% are measurable with the raw data which is currently collected by govt depts. Other indicators are not yet measurable because required calculation methods have never been tested in Myanmar, or measuring progress requires data from different ministries.</p> <p>The next phase is to develop metadata for the selected indicators – this process is being led by CSO with support from UNDP from September 2019 – early 2020. The result will be the description of indicators, data quality criteria for each indicator, and clear data gathering and reporting responsibilities. Data is expected to be collated at S/R and TS levels. A “kickoff” workshop is planned followed by 12 technical workshops to review the metadata for different sectors. An initial request for interest has been sent through the UN, CPG, INGO Forum and LRC seeking to promote an inclusive process with social inclusion, environmental sustainability and conflict sensitivity mainstreamed across the NIF.</p> <p>2019 Inter-Censal Survey (ICS) – planned for November 2019 to reach 4,200 sample Enumeration Areas (EAs) representing about 5% of the total EAs in the country. There will be more EAs in more populated areas of the country. The Inter-censal survey will focus on household level data and not people in institutions. 35 sample households will be selected in each EA for the questionnaire which includes over 100 questions. Data sought includes demographic and labour force information as well as additional info on migration, functional difficulty for persons living with disability (2 more questions than the previous census), well-being of persons with disability and the elderly, WASH and more on education. Data will be collected over a 14 day period, mostly with KAPI tools (mobile based data collection) with some on paper for areas where this is difficult.</p>
4.	<p>Updates from agencies, clusters/sectors and working groups</p> <p>UNFPA – Support to the government-funded nationwide intercensal survey led by Department of Population. The questionnaire includes 123 questions which have been developed with various consultation. Anticipated data collection in November with preliminary report in June 2020.</p> <p>Food Security Sector – Developing a 5W database which will bring together the various databases used by involved agencies. Planning a market assessment in Kachin and northern Shan to better understand the cost of living, and a new platform linking vulnerability profiles and pre-positioning of supplies for emergency preparedness.</p> <p>UNHCR – Recently released the Protection Incident Monitoring analysis for Q2, as well as CCCM site profiles updating information on 19 key sites across all sectors. These resources are publicly available through the ??Cluster website and MIMU. The recent cluster analysis reports include updated IDP population figures for the various locations. The Protection Risk Assessment for Kachin has also been updated (August 2019).</p> <p>WVI – 2 new area development programmes (Nawngkhio and Paung), and closing the Myeik programme</p> <p>Phandeeyar – Focus on data-driven projects, including the current 3-week Data Literacy training promoting data driven stories. Phandeeyar will also undertake specific activities on the 2020 Elections 2020, including awareness raising among the general public. A new project monitoring Facebook posts for hate speech linked to the forthcoming elections has also been started.</p>

	<p>MIMU: MIMU and OMM have been supporting GAD in preparation of the NCS with discussion with a Technical Committee comprising data producing departments at national level. The system was introduced to selected ministries in Nay Pyi Taw in an event organized by GAD and government participants suggested it be launched publicly and include also geo-coordinates which MIMU is following up. The Updated Overview of Humanitarian and Development Coordination Teams in Myanmar was recently released along with the Contact List of key contacts for each working group/coordination team. An updated Guide to the MIMU website has also been released, as well as a map of areas designated Hard to reach in the recent GAD Order. Around 200 agencies have so far provided inputs to the MIMU 3W (deadline was last week) – the raw data will be released in the 3rd week of September followed by other 3W products (dashboards, maps, overviews). MIMU recently completed another Excel Distance Learning training course and the next such courses will be in November. We are preparing to launch a new section of the MIMU website for MIMU training materials – the Excel training comprises 95 videos (usually given in a 5-day face-to-face training or the 7-week distance Excel training). We will shortly launch a new training page with materials from MIMU technical training courses (initially Excel and QGIS) in the form of videos, handouts, manuals and exercises in Myanmar language for wider use to support universities and other stakeholders’ capacity building. While these will be freely available, only those completing the courses run by MIMU for staff of agencies and government working in humanitarian, development and peace-focused sectors will receive MIMU certificates on completion of the courses.</p>
5.	<p>Next Meeting – Date to be confirmed – these meetings are being held every 2 months with the possibility of additional specific meetings as needed in the event of emergencies etc.</p> <p>Themes suggested for the forthcoming meetings are Open data and Big data, Data protection policies and processes (UNHCR and MIMU); Land registers and land rights (Land Core Group), E-government initiatives.</p>

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