

Information Management Network Meeting – 5th May 2021

Chair: Shon Campbell (MIMU)

Participants: IFPRI, Jhpiego, Myanmar Council of Churches, DAI, Mercy Corps, Malteser International, Hlan Chi, NRC, UNICEF, UNDP, FAO, UNHCR, World Bank, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNRCO, MIMU

1 Rakhine Market Analysis Unit - *Jon Keesecker, Mercy Corps*

Mercy Corps' Market Analysis Unit (MAU) provides development practitioners, policymakers and private sector actors with data and analysis to better understand the present and potential impacts of COVID-19, conflict and other crises in Rakhine State:

- **Household purchasing power**, including coping mechanisms, safety nets and access to basic needs;
- **Supply chains**, including trade, cross-border dynamics and market functionality (particularly as it relates to food systems);
- **Financial services**, including financial services providers, household and business access to finance and remittances; and
- **Labor markets** (formal and informal), with a focus on agricultural labor and low-wage sectors (e.g., construction, food service).

MAU's primary audience includes donors and humanitarian / market development organizations in Rakhine State while secondary audience is policymakers, businesses, researchers, etc. <https://themimu.info/rakhine-market-analysis-unit>

MAU products include:

- **Market Price Reports**: Visual summaries of monthly prices for 30 products (food, NFI) in 8 townships
- **Dashboard**: Monthly, interactive data visualisation of MPR prices / change at township, product and month levels (datasets are available for download).
- **Deep Dives**: Quarterly analyses of MAU subjects in greater detail than the Snapshots
- **Snapshots**: Frequent, 4–6-page summaries / analysis of 3 general types (1) Market actor snapshots (e.g., transportation, construction, retailers); (2) Panel studies (e.g., 2020 paddy harvest), and (3) Standalone snapshots (e.g., food insecurity)

A detailed list of MAU's outputs was presented, highlighting specific examples to illustrate use of the information: [MAS-06](#), [MAS-07](#) and [MPR-07](#).

The team consists of 3 members and a number of interviewers, independent researchers and Mercy Corps staff. The survey tools include Google forms, phone calls and in-person interviews which can be used to make visuals and dashboards. The created products are shared via email, the MIMU site, and Zoom presentations upon request. Activities are evaluated through ongoing informal information and more structured evaluation as in January 2021.

Iteration is key to the process as it gets better after every product. Key questions when designing the products are who is our audience, what information is available and what can we “make” for our audience? (Dashboards, reports, etc.) Deciding the output topics (what they will be about) is usually through a long brainstorming session to define the population which will be the focus of the products (who do we think we can describe / give voice to?), what data points to report, whether the data is reliable enough for this purpose, and what story/stories the data tells. We also consider how we can make the Outputs with the available resources and how much we can / should output.

	<p>Some lessons from the experience of MAU in creating data: Collect / create data to supplement existing information and collection efforts; ensure the initiatives are action-oriented and focus on data that can be used; provide data for users quickly and often – which also means be rigorous but realistic (don't let data quality lead to inaction). Be iterative – meaning try many approaches and choose which to use based on which works best. Ensure transparency, providing information on context and limitations for proper interpretation. Finally, to be attentive to other data-gathering efforts and seek opportunities to collaborate and synergize.</p> <p>Key limitations of this approach are that the samples are not statistically representative of populations (probability sampling), and data are typically township-level only (occasionally village-level). Another concern of these types of information gathering initiatives is respondents giving the answer they think is wanted rather than their own thoughts on the question - MAU information is gathered through local language-speaking field personnel to avoid this problem to the extent possible. Activities so far have focused particularly on collecting data and provision of rapid outputs – there is still potential to analyze existing data. Currently data rarely cover the other 14 States/Regions/NPT and 8 townships in Rakhine are not covered by the work done so far: Sittwe, Pauktaw, Ponnagyun, Minbya, Mrauk-U, Kyauktaw, Maungdaw, and Rathedaung.</p> <p>Products planned for May and June 2021 include Snapshots of food insecurity in Rakhine, south Shan and Ayeyarwady (samples of 400 respondents in each), and Deep Dive analyses based on qualitative information on the Crab value chain, Fisheries labour market and the impact of borrowing on business. Future topics currently being planned will focus on the 2021 paddy season, wage labourers in construction, fisheries and services. The geographic area that will be covered has yet to be decided for these specific products.</p> <p>Various points came up during the discussion: Activities have been able to continue so far in 2021 with limited impact on the response rates. MAU works with different lists and subsets of respondents so as not to call them repeatedly.</p>
2	<p>Myanmar By Night: 28 years at a glance - Javier Manrique, MIMU</p> <p>Night-Time Satellite images are built from photographs of the earth taken from satellites over the course of the calendar year. Previously in 2014, MIMU compiled Night-Time Satellite images of Myanmar and neighbouring countries over the period 1992 to 2012 into a video. With the availability of better satellite systems, an updated video has been made spanning a 28 years period from 1992 to 2020. https://themimu.info/nightlights 2021 version (1992 – 2020) 2014 version (1992 – 2012)</p> <p>Night lights can also be used as an approximate indicator for socio-economic phenomena and many studies have taken advantage of extensive historical data for that. But it is important to keep in mind that night lights by themselves should not be the unique and authoritative sources but should play a supportive role in tandem with more concrete data using a proper methodology. An interesting scientific paper was mentioned - Noam Levin et. al. (2020). Remote sensing of night lights: A review and an outlook for the future. Unlike daytime satellite based remote sensing, night time provides more options using various forms of light sources even without the moonlight. More details on this can be seen in the presentation.</p> <p>On the topic of sensors, the most well-known sensor is the International Space Station (ISS) itself. The images from the ISS are taken by astronauts using their DSLR cameras; however, the images are not scientific data, lack of georeferencing and lack of consistency. There are two satellite-based systems designed specifically for</p>

nighttime remote sensing and both are used for MIMU's nightlights videos: [Defense Meteorological Satellite Program - Operational Linescan System](#) (DMSP – OLS) of the Space and Missile Systems Center (SMC) - began in 1992 and continues to this day. [Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite Day/Night Band](#) (VIIRS – DNB) has been operational since 2012 through a joint partnership between NASA and NOAA.

MIMU's previous video showing nightlights from 1992-2012 used the DMSP-OLS images as the only ones openly available. That system is good as a source of historical data but suffers from low resolution. The newly released video of nightlights from 1992-2020 uses DMSP-OLS for years before 2012 and VIIRS after 2012 because of its vastly superior resolution. The night time satellite images can also be displayed with different color ramps and statistics adjustments, producing different views for a better interpretation and purposes. Differences in the resolution and clarity between the two systems can be seen in the presentation.

Some points came up during the discussion. One is whether or not detailed yearly analysis can be made. The monthly satellite images can be downloaded but yearly images are better compiled and thus have higher quality. It is then possible to create a detailed analysis of a year using monthly images of that year depending on the quality of said images. Note that some months will have problems due to cloud and precipitation. Another point is that the videos highlighted the disparity in access to electricity between urban and rural Myanmar, percentage of population connected to grid and growth rate compared to neighbours.

3 Updates on National Initiatives

Lots of ongoing work with the government has been suspended but some activities are still going on.

Report on the impact of COVID-19, Coup d'Etat on Poverty: UNDP has just launched a report titled "[COVID-19, Coup d'Etat and Poverty – Compounding Negative Shocks and their impact on human development in Myanmar](#)." The analysis shows that 12 million people are at risk of falling into poverty which could result in nearly half of Myanmar's population living below the national poverty line by 2022, a level of impoverishment not seen in the country since 2005. UNDP will make a *presentation for IM Network members on Monday 17th May at 3pm*.

Planned Household Vulnerability Survey (HVS): UNDP is planning a household vulnerability survey similar to the [previous one](#) which acted as a rapid assessment of the economic impact of COVID-19. This new survey will have a new sample of households and will assess the economic impact after February 2021.

Brief on the analysis of the economic fallout and food insecurity: WFP launched a brief titled "[Myanmar: Analysis of the Economic Fallout and Food Insecurity in Wake of the Takeover - 2021](#)" on the analysis of the short-term immediate food security impacts of the current events and perspectives for the longer term. Considering the fluidity of the current situation and the lack of fresh primary data on affected populations, the analysis builds on secondary data and employs a broad set of assumptions. It shows that an estimate of 1.5 to 3.4 million additional people could be at risk of food insecurity and in need of assistance due to the economic slowdown provoked by the political crisis in the coming three to six months. Prior to February 1st 2021, 2.8 million people were considered food insecure in Myanmar.

GBV service provision rapid assessment: The impact of COVID-19 and the political crisis on the Gender Based Violence (GBV) essential service provision is conducted by UNFPA with UNDP (the Department of Social Welfare and the Gender Equality Network are no longer involved). Data collection is ongoing and is expected to be completed in the month of May; the report will be ready by the end of June.

	<p>The Analysis of Demographic Dividend (gender and youth) and the Thematic Reports for ICS 2019 in the areas of: Mortality, Fertility/Nuptiality, Gender, Migration are in the draft stage. UNFPA is finalizing them as a draft to be reviewed by many actors (UN agencies and Development Partners and CSOs).</p> <p>Report on children poverty: UNICEF launched a report on child poverty titled “Overcoming Child Poverty in Myanmar – Investing in Human Capital, Responding to COVID-19” on 1st February 2021. The report highlights the pre-existing vulnerabilities and risks faced by children in Myanmar. It relies on a rapid change monitoring exercise and an analysis of public finances and their allocation, and it presents simulated and forecasted changes, to advocate for specific policy reforms to protect children and support the country’s development.</p> <p>Children in Myanmar Data Dashboard: UNICEF launched the Children in Myanmar Data Dashboard with numerous data visualizations depicting a snapshot of the situation of children in Myanmar before February 2021. It uses available data from reports that are nationally and regionally representative, for both Union and State/Region levels. The major sources are the Intercensal Survey (2019), the Myanmar Living Conditions Survey (2017), the Demographic Health Survey (2015-16), and the Myanmar Population and Housing Census (2014).</p> <p>Mini-survey on livelihood, access to and availability of services in Hlaing-Tha-Yar and Shwe-Pi-Thar: UNICEF has conducted a rapid mini-survey with 306 respondents in 6 target locations Hlaing-Tha-Yar (4) and Shwe-Pi-Thar (2) between 31st March and 2nd April 2021. This is part of an emergency pilot of the mobile-based health micro-insurance (MHMI). The report is being drafted.</p> <p>Report of the impact of COVID-19 in informal settlements in Yangon: UN-Habitat launched a report – made before February 1st – on the impact of COVID-19 in informal settlements in Yangon. The report showed that 88% of households in the survey reported at least one member of their household losing their job in the past 90 days, as of December 2020 and 93% of the households in the survey reported a fall in income over the past 30 days relative to their monthly household incomes before April 2020.</p> <p>Preparations for the Demographic and Health Survey and Thematic report on Disability, as part of ICS 2019 have been postponed (UNICEF).</p>
4	<p>Updates on Sector/Cluster/Agency Initiatives</p> <p>UNHCR: The second half of the 2020 Protection 4W interactive dashboard is available online and the Protection Incident Morning System (PIMS) report 2021 Q1 will be accessible in May for Protection Working Group members. The March ’21 monthly Kachin/northern Shan Shelter/CCCM/NFI Cluster Analysis Report and the quarterly Rakhine Shelter/CCCM/NFI Cluster Analysis Report (March 2021) are uploaded on various websites (including MIMU’s Shelter, CCCM page). The camp profile quarterly dashboards (static and online interactive) for 21 IDP camps in central Rakhine State will be published in the first week of May. Lastly, the Kachin/NSS Round 11 camp profile is in the data collection process (April – May period), so the data will be available in June.</p> <p>WASH Cluster is working on the first standard allocation MHF (Myanmar Humanitarian Fund); an envelope of USD 1.75 million was proposed for WASH and priority intervention was focused on Kachin, Rakhine, Chin, northern Shan and Kayin. Ongoing contingency planning is reviewing three scenarios; disruption of services, escalation of crises and cross border movement of IDPs. After completing the caseload and WASH impact, this contingency plan will be shared with cluster members.</p>

The contingency stock and partners capacity mapping exercise was finalized and discussed with WASH members in March. The regular Q1 4W monitoring report is drafted, the gap analysis is continuing and the contact list for emergency response is being updated.

UNICEF: Operations are bound by UNICEF's humanitarian response plan but they are trying to revise the plan to expand to additional areas such as Yangon, south eastern parts of Myanmar and new IDP camps and settlements.

FAO: Conducted a joint assessment with WFP on COVID-19's impact in 7 states and regions, especially in high risk and vulnerability areas such as Rakhine, Kachin, Northern Shan, Karen, Mon, and Yangon. The report has been finalized and will be shared on the MIMU website. A second COVID-19 assessment is being prepared – some focus states and regions have changed due to the severity of COVID-19 compounded by the current political situation. It will be shared on the MIMU website soon. Lastly, the flood risk maps and report for the south eastern areas of Myanmar is being prepared. It focuses on 5 townships in Kayin, Mon and Tanintharyi regions and will be shared on the MIMU website.

World Bank: Although activities are currently limited, the World Bank is actively monitoring the economic situation and trying to provide support with analysis of the impact on households.

Myanmar Council of Churches: As of March 2021, all COVID-related activities have been concluded. With mobility restrictions, the focus is switching to more on livelihood and infrastructure support.

IFPRI: Previous work on assessing COVID-19's impact – particularly on the Agri-food industry – is being continued. Some public activities are being scaled down including a reduction in social media and making webinars invitation-only.

Hlan Chi Programme is part of the UK Aid funded Cities and Infrastructure for Growth Programme. Funding is no longer available to continue the project however it will disseminate materials developed during their 3-year project to partners and stakeholders (i.e., technical reports, standard operating procedures, and data). A presentation of Hlan Chi urban planning and development, and resources developed during their project will be announced at a later date.

UNFPA: The Women's Life Experience Survey has been postponed until further notice.

MIMU

- A video was released showing changes in the [night lights](#) of Myanmar and neighbouring countries over 28-years (1992-2020) – see the earlier section of these minutes for more details.
- The last MIMU 3W was in August 2020 and the planned February/March data collection round has been delayed – for further details regarding agency activities as of August 2020 or the MIMU contact list, contact MIMU directly – info.mimu@undp.org.
- MIMU's Data Analysis team is preparing Analytical Briefs on emerging, topical and under-explored issues – the first Brief on [Changes in Drinking Water Use 2014-2019](#) is now available and was developed with valuable inputs from UNICEF. Upcoming themes include Disability, COVID and poverty, and Household amenities.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ A new MIMU Catalogue has been released which describes MIMU's many activities, how to find and use them and the scale of their use (2020 Achievements). It includes a summary of findings from the MIMU's external Evaluation conducted in early 2020▪ A Dashboard with Information useful for Emergency Response is being prepared, which will allow users to compare publicly available statistics for selected townships, countrywide – to be released shortly.▪ MIMU village maps will soon be re-released with requirement for user agreement to access and use them.▪ MIMU technical training has been suspended since February 2021 due to internet issues and will resume when access to internet allows. Trainings include data management (Basic Excel and a new intermediate course), spatial data management (Basic and Intermediate QGIS), Power BI, and Information Management. The new Data Analysis Training will also be piloted with a limited number of staff from active IM Network agencies in July using Excel software – applicants for this course need to have completed the IM Workshop Training.▪ MIMU is now attempting to contact UNITAR for flood mapping and has also received agreement from Sentinel Asia to request satellite imagery of flood and other disaster affected areas.▪ Work on the MapX-based web mapping platform is still ongoing.
5	AOB and other updates Discussed the lack of real time access to disaster information in light of upcoming monsoon and cyclone seasons. Next IM Network meeting - date TBC

	Participant	Agency / Organization	Position
1	Su Yin Win	NRC	M&E Manager
2	Isabel Lambrecht	IFPRI	Research Fellow
3	Shwe Zin Hla Shwe	UNICEF	Child Rights Monitoring Specialist
4	Thura Kyaw	Jhpiego	Senior Knowledge Management Manager
5	Henrik Hansson	Myanmar Council of Churches	Adviser
6	Sara Davidsson	UNDP	Programme Analyst
7	Aye Mya Moe	FAO	M&E Specialist
8	Asuka Imai	UNHCR	Information Management Officer
9	Win Bo Aung	DAI	Research Analyst
10	Hong Vu	UNICEF	Child Rights Monitoring Specialist
11	Emilie Perge	World Bank	Senior Economist
12	Nelida Rodrigues	UNFPA	Deputy Resident Representative
13	Htun Lynn	UN-Habitat	M&E Reporting and Knowledge Management Coordinator
14	Kencho Namgyal	UNICEF	Chief WASH
15	Jon Keesecker	Mercy Corps	Team Leader Market Analysis Unit (MAU)
16	Ye Thiha Aung	Malteser International	ICT Officer
17	Martyn Clark	Hlan Chi	Urban Development Lead
18	Elin Bergman	UNRCO	Development Coordination Officer
19	Shon Campbell	MIMU	MIMU Manager
20	Khin Thandar Tun	MIMU	GIS Associate
21	Javier Manrique	MIMU	IM Specialist
22	Moe Thinzar Hline	MIMU	Data Analyst
23	Stephanie Kauv	MIMU	Data Analyst
24	Naing Lin Kyaw	MIMU	PR, Design and Reporting Officer