



Minutes of Information Management Network Meeting

5th October 2022, 3PM MMT, online via Zoom

Agenda

1. Using Data Analysis for Township Prioritisation - *Presented by the Food Security Cluster*
2. Humanitarian Updates - *Presented by UNOCHA*
3. Updates on cluster/sector/agency initiatives
4. AOB and other discussions

Attendance

Chair: Shon Campbell (MIMU)

Participants: WFP, MAU, EWMI-ODI, UNFPA, FSC, FAO, WWF, UNHCR, MRCS, MSI, OCHA, UNICEF, MIMU (15 participants from 13 organisations)

1. Using Data Analysis for Township Prioritisation – *Presented by Food Security Cluster*

The Food Security Cluster (FSC) presented their report on Township Prioritisation. The report is formatted in the form of an [interactive webpage](#) which can be found on [Myanmar Food Security Cluster](#) page. It was noted that the approach to the data analysis is one of many models but this has worked quite well in the Myanmar context.

Some of the main reasons for township prioritisation are limited resources, to reach the most needed populations and, in effect, to improve the overall targeting. There is a greater disparity between vulnerability at the township level and this aims to improve the targeting at that level, by starting the analysis from state and region level, and then down to the township level using scores-based methodology. Basically, this report used the scores from MIMU-HARP-F's Vulnerability Study (2018) as the baseline.

The FSC approach started by looking at the conflict data. The importance of conflict regarding vulnerability was discussed. The data before Feb 2021 was used as the baseline and ACLED data until 31st May 2022 was further analysed into conflict scores by township. The conflict score is the average of battles, explosions, remote violence, violence against civilians, strategic developments, non-peaceful protests and riots, conflict-related fatalities and IDPs. Township conflict scores were then plotted on the graph of number of conflict events vs. fatalities to better understand the patterns and trends.

The next step was to understand conflict in terms of multidimensional vulnerability. Some specific indicators from MIMU-HARP-F's Vulnerability Study were used along with conflict scores. They were chosen so as to cover the most amount of data with relatively few indicators. Some indicators were deduced at township level by applying 2014 Census township proportions to the district level 2019 Intercensal Survey data, whereas 2022 conflict data was used for the conflict scores. A scatter-plot was developed, plotting conflict scores against the multidimensional vulnerability index by township. The plot shows the shift in conflict away from frontier areas to cities and towns, indicating the main conflict fronts in 2022.

Based on the results, in recognition of the different contexts present in Myanmar (and the consequent need for different programming options), a simple K-means clustering was used to split townships into prioritisation groups based on their 2021 conflict score, their 2019 vulnerability score and their population density. This clustering separates all 330 townships into five groups. The groups and the comparison between vulnerability, population density and conflict score were presented using scatter plots. The plots show that A1 and A2, which have the highest conflict scores, are quite distinct from group D (where the majority of the development caseload resides). Group C has neither high vulnerability nor high conflict incidence. And group B consists of solely urban centers.

Groups A1 and A2 both have middling vulnerability scores, but have much higher average conflict scores. These 69 townships (containing about 24% of the population) are clear priorities for humanitarian action relating to conflict. Group D, on the other hand, has somewhat lower conflict score but consists of townships that are remote and underdeveloped, meaning they are priorities for development action.

Township level maps were also presented, broken down by prioritisation groups and conflict scores. The report includes a reference table and data sets along with sources. It was recommended to use the extremes of the scores rather than the averages for better targeting. It was discussed that urban areas might need entirely different kinds of programming.

This analysis work was done using R and the code and the desensitized data is openly shared on GitHub for others to adapt. This work also contributes to AAP (Accountability to Affected Populations) through using a system which can be explained to stakeholders, and to the VFM (value for money) of projects.

Further Discussions & Q&A

The Market Analysis Unit discussed how this work on township prioritisation is relevant to MAU's current research on household's borrowing behavior. The ability to pay loans back and the conflict's impact on it is of particular interest. Stratifying the survey data by level of conflict exposure using similar methodology was also discussed.

The group discussed ways in which this methodology could be used by other clusters and organizations and the possible frequency of updating the data. The prioritisation tool, in its current form, is very "cluster-agnostic" as it looks at pre-existing vulnerability and conflict, which would apply to all clusters. Clusters may also add in another axis to this tool, with other indicators of their own choosing. While there will be no updates to the census-based data in the shorter term, the ACLED conflict data is updated and recalculated quarterly.

This methodology also includes population estimates. Population projections have been made by UNFPA to 2030 based on the 2014 Census results however these could not account for displacements by these two major crises. The projections from 2014 have been backward and forward projected against 2019 intercensal survey data for confirmation. The need for this township prioritisation methodology to pass the "smell test" was also mentioned. The scores, however abstract and technical they may be, should intuitively reflect the situation on the ground.

2. Humanitarian Updates – *Presented by UNOCHA*

REACH has completed the Multi Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) and initial findings have been shared among clusters to facilitate the 2022 Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC) People in Need (PiN) calculations. The final version of the MSNA report will soon be available.

All clusters are working on HPC activities. PiN, target and costing figures which will be presented at the joint Inter-cluster Coordination Group and Humanitarian Country Team meeting (ICCG & HCT) in coming days.

OCHA regular products continue to be disseminated on ReliefWeb and the MIMU website.

3. Updates on cluster/sector/agency initiatives

Myanmar-language IM Network group: The most recent Myanmar Language IM network was conducted on the 28th of September with a presentation and discussion on the MIMU Pcoder. The Pcoder is a tool developed with Microsoft Excel for matching place names between databases (Township/Village Tract/Village) and for inserting Place codes automatically according to the MIMU's Pcodes. The Pcoder has been updated based on the latest Pcode version 9.3, adding new village locations. The ability to choose the version of Pcodes that the users want to use as well as bilingual language options for place names have also been added. The output from Pcoder can also be produced in formats that support mapping such as kml. There is a separate mailing list for Myanmar Language IM network and agencies are encouraged to join by contacting MIMU.

MIMU: Data collection for the latest MIMU 5W round has been completed and products have been rolling out since the third week of September. This round introduced a 5W Overview dashboard replacing the narrative countrywide and state and region overview reports. In this round, 225 organisations reported 5W data as of

August 26, 2022 with a notable increase in reporting by INGOs and MNGOs (93 and 72 in this round compared to 81 and 58 from previous). Activities were reported in 85% of village tracts countrywide in this round compared to 83% in the previous round. This indicates location of activities and not coverage of the area or needs. Food, nutrition, and health sectors reported the highest number of activities. In addition to the products, anonymized data in excel form will be shared with clusters through ICCG.

A number of self-paced online learning resources, developed by MIMU in Myanmar-language, are now available including the recently released Advanced Excel, Basic Mapping, Power BI and Tableau Trainings. MIMU's Basic Mapping Course provides a simple guide to mapping for non-technical staff and may be a particularly useful resource for IM Network members to share with their colleagues. Unfortunately, MIMU's Myanmar-language Data Analysis training couldn't continue because of shortage of funding.

MIMU is also launching an interactive Catalogue of MIMU products and activities using Visme software. Tentatively plans are being made for a virtual IM workshop in November.

FAO: FAO is working on providing emergency agricultural input assistance in Ayeyarwady, Yangon, Kayah, Kayin, Shan, and the Rakhine States. Also working on animal-related programs (especially for food and mouth disease – FMM) in Central Dry Zone (Mandalay), Yangon, and Ayeyarwady regions. Together with the above, there are plans to provide intensive agricultural training (GAP and seed production training) in Rakhine State Kyauktaw and Pauktaw townships. Also, FAO is also providing Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), nutrition promotion, off-farm trainings in Sagaing, Magway, and Mandalay regions. Small Technical Cooperation Programmes (TCP projects) in agriculture, fisheries, and forestry sectors are also ongoing in Rakhine, Shan State, Magway, Naypyitaw region, and Yangon region. For the upcoming winter season, FAO is planning to distribute winter vegetable seeds, and fertilizer to 14,000 households in Kayah, Kayin, Shan (south), and Rakhine. 4th round of FAO-WFP assessment data collection has been finished and data analysis is in process.

UNFPA: Headquarters have released township projections data together with a technical note and these have been uploaded in OCHA website. Youth survey on status, livelihood, security is ongoing. Other ongoing small studies deal with disability inclusion, GBV and inclusion of women and children. UNFPA is providing cash and voucher support, and also working on GBV activities. Overall UNFPA is working with around 25 implementing partners INGOs and CSOs.

Food Security Cluster: Currently collecting data for the FSC 5W quarterly report and Q3 HRP report and preparing required information to determine the target for the 2023 HRP from a food security perspective. As of August's FSC 5W report, there have been 3.3 million beneficiaries. Food Security Cluster dashboards have been updated.

Market Analysis Unit: IDP surveys have been completed for three locations and the reports for individual locations are being published gradually. Currently refreshing the commercial transport reports.

4. AOB and other discussions

The next regular meeting will be tentatively on December 7th 2022.