Minutes of Information Management Network Meeting
8th June 2022, 3PM MMT, online via Zoom

Agenda

1. Climate, Environmental Degradation and Disaster Risk – *Presented by MIMU*
2. Humanitarian Information Management Update – *Presented by UNOCHA*
3. Updates on cluster/sector/agency initiatives
4. AOB and other discussions

Attendance

Chair: Shon Campbell (MIMU)
Participants: UNICEF, UNHCR, UNRCO, UNFPA, WFP, ICRC, FAO, UNOCHA, Urbanize, MIMU (17 participants from 10 organisations)

1. Climate, Environmental Degradation and Disaster Risk – *Presented by MIMU*

MIMU has been developing the Climate, Environmental Degradation and Disaster Risk Analytical Brief for several months and it's now been released. MIMU Analytical briefs seek to better understand vulnerability around Myanmar based on available information and data, following up on the 2018 MIMU-HARP-F Vulnerability Study. Four analytical briefs were developed in 2021 and 2022:

- Changes in Drinking Water Use 2014-2019
- Disability in Myanmar 2014-2019
- Household Amenities in Myanmar 2014-2019
- Climate, Environmental Degradation and Disaster Risk in Myanmar (2022).

In addition, the earlier Vulnerability Study (2018) remains a good base for comparison of the situation across townships based on available data at the time, namely the 2014 Census and 2015-2016 conflict data.

Methodology - the analysis on Climate, Environmental Degradation and Disaster Risk is based on a desk review of available research including hazard risk modelling and use of vulnerability tools to assess people most at risk. There are important limitations in the estimates of numbers exposed/vulnerable due to gaps in data from some areas and on some indicators. There is a likely over-estimation of the number of people who may be exposed to natural hazards, and likely under-estimation of the number of vulnerable population among those exposed.

Key findings - Myanmar is ranked as one of the countries most affected by natural disasters in recent years, and most vulnerable to new disasters in the years to come, and climate change is increasing the frequency and impact of natural disasters. Starting with Myanmar's changing landscape, it was dominated by the issues of climate change, deforestation, water resource management and conservation. Climate change is an increasing concern with rising temperature, more intense rainfalls and anticipated sea-level rise. Environmental degradation is also an important issue, particularly deforestation. Loss of mangroves is particularly concerning as they play a critical role in protecting population and land from storm damage and particularly storm surge, however mangroves have been lost even more rapidly than other types of forests for at least 25 years.

It is important to note that disaster risk is a combination of hazards, exposure, and vulnerability as extreme weather events do not become disasters on their own. This analysis explores the four main natural hazards in Myanmar which can be influenced by human intervention: floods, storms, drought and extreme heat, and landslides. These incidents may overlap as floods and landslides may be caused by cyclones. The analysis then applies the MIMU-HARP-F Vulnerability Index to estimate the number of people who may be particularly vulnerable among the exposed population. This analysis produced a loosely estimated number of 21.2 million vulnerable people in Myanmar based on equally ranked living standard indicators from 2019 and 2014 census data, and conflict indicators from 2019-2021. It flagged several changes since 2016, such as improvements in household amenities, a slight improvement in female literacy rates and child dependency ratios but on the other

hand, a 67% increase in direct exposure to conflict, mainly in 2021. Due to the lack of available data, the vulnerability calculations are made at district level and aim to provide a tool to compare the situation across different areas of the country. More exact estimation is not possible, and some indicators that would be useful in considering vulnerability are still not available (nutrition and health status for example).

Floods and Vulnerability. Flooding, Myanmar's most frequent hazard, is mainly riverine with more frequent and more extreme flooding over the last 10 to 15 years. The risk is increasing due to climate change, environmental degradation. Townships most at risk are presented using a new methodology provided by researchers. It is estimated that 28 million people are living in flood risk districts with 10.8 million of them being vulnerable. It was suggested that the number of flooded days would be a useful indicator – a limitation is that we don't get daily imagery and don't have information on depth of flooding. One available tool to see what info is available is MIMU/UNOSAT's flood monitoring based on available satellite imagery.

Cyclones, Storms and Vulnerability. While less frequent than floods, storms/cyclones still cause major damage and loss of life. The frequency is expected to become more intense with rising ocean temperatures. Mangroves prove to be important in the resilience against this hazard. The report includes maps of the probability of cyclone winds and storm surges, with greatest risks for Rakhine moving forward.

Drought and Vulnerability. This hazard tends to have a longer duration than others and there are several different types of drought, however there is limited available information to predict future exposure. Moderate droughts are expected in Myanmar every 10-14 months and severe droughts every 2-3 years. A map from FAO indicates cropland affected by droughts in 1984-2020. It is important to consider that droughts can happen even when there is adequate rainfall for a variety of other reasons. Forests serve as an important factor in reducing the probability of drought. High risk areas include the Central Dry Zone but also the Ayeyarwady Delta, and northern and eastern hilly regions in Kachin and Shan States.

Landslides and Vulnerability. Landslides can cause significant damage with loss of lives and impact on infrastructure, especially transportation. Mountainous areas are more likely to experience landslides however they can be triggered also in other areas by precipitation/flooding, deforestation, mining and also earthquakes (the latter not covered in this analysis). The districts at high risks and vulnerable population numbers are also discussed. Areas most at risk are Chin State (4 districts), Sagaing (Hkamti, Mawlaik), and every district of Rakhine State other than Sittwe.

This analysis has highlighted the importance of including projected disaster risks in planning for disaster response and DRR, as well as the need for more research on effective approaches to reduce communities' disaster risk given the effects of climate change and environmental degradation. There is no specific follow-up planned by MIMU in relation to the analysis – it has been provided as a resource to support humanitarian and development agencies. The dataset is provided along with the analytical brief report - a suggestion was to explore whether formulas could be added to the dataset to automatically update the calculated numbers as new information is available. It was also noted that other factors such as soil contamination in conflict affected areas (UXOs, landmines) would be helpful alongside this analysis however no such data is available.

2. Humanitarian Updates – *Presented by UNOCHA*

Three key activities from April 2022 to July 2022 are the 2022 HRP Q1 Dashboard, preparations for the Multi-sector Needs Assessment (MSNA), and the Information Sharing Protocol (ISP).

The Humanitarian Response Plan Dashboard for Q1 2022 has been launched. It shows various indicators from the HRP and key achievements from various clusters/sectors in the three-month period. Humanitarian updates reports and maps are also produced in monthly basis.

The MSNA is now in the research design phase (May to mid-June). Data collection will begin in July and August with analysis expected to finish by the end of August.

An Information sharing protocol (ISP) is being developed using an organisation code-based system to support improved collaboration and operational coordination in humanitarian response. It will enable more information sharing for joint analysis, avoiding data duplication, and enabling the provision of regular, credible situation analysis, reporting and recommendations. The ISP was developed for work among agencies working in south-eastern Myanmar and is aligned with global data responsibility guidelines. Steps are being taken to roll it out at national level among cluster partners with ICCG endorsement. The possibility of using this more broadly with agencies working in other areas of the country/non-humanitarian programmes was discussed (a potential useful resource for wider use). MIMU noted that it also has a system of organisational codes and will be providing agencies with their unique code to follow up on their own MIMU 5W results in MIMU dashboards. Since many aspects of ISP have already been using MIMU systems such as Pcodes, the integration should be readily achievable. The need for and importance of a governing structure for the ISP and any such policy was discussed.

3. Updates on cluster/sector/agency initiatives

RCO: currently working on development perspective quarterly update data from UN agencies.

Food Security Cluster: currently preparing the quarterly monitoring and response report based on FSC 5W data.

UNFPA: currently conducting the geographical discrepancies rapid assessment especially for sexual and reproductive health focus. There are other ongoing assessments.

UNICEF: regularly doing rapid response monitoring. Also working on the metadata of child indicators. For Humanitarian cash transfer program, planning to do geospatial sampling in two peri-urban townships of Yangon which is a relatively innovative approach.

Shelter Cluster: done the harmonizing of terminologies which are used to map the settlements.

MIMU: noted the IM Network discussion on Displacement Data held in mid-May. Minutes are available on the MIMU website. Recently launched the second interactive MIMU Bulletin covering MIMU activities between November 2021 and April 2022. An update of the Assessment Tracking has just been completed with over 2000 assessments recorded from close to 200 agencies. Launched a new, online one-day basic mapping course for non-technical people introducing Google My Maps, MIMU Excel Mapping tool and MIMU's Map Maker. Also launched a powerpoint template providing maps and icons for presentations and reports – this includes customizable maps and OCHA icons which users can pull out and customise for their own use. Due to funding shortages, MIMU had to make reductions in the team and can no longer continue some activities, including data analysis and the data analysis training. one last course will be arranged in June. For similar reasons, other in-person and virtual MIMU courses are being converted into online resources as we can conduct this training less frequently than before. There will an IM workshop at the end of this month, and applications are open for field-based staff of agencies based in south-eastern Myanmar to join the MIMU 6-week Basic Excel distance training.

4. AOB and other discussions

The next regular meeting will be on August 3rd 2022.Please step forward or make any suggestions of topics that could be presented. RCO may be able to present Q1 and Q2 development reports if completed by end of July.

Action Points

No.	Action Point	Responsible	Deadline
1	To discuss using ISP with other partners and IM Network as well as integrating with MIMU's systems	MIMU, FAO/FSC, OCHA	
2	Make sure to send invite direct to calendars to make it easier for IMN members to join the next meeting.	MIMU	