



Agenda

1. IDP Population Tracking Methodology – *Presented by UNHCR*
2. AOB and other discussions

Attendance

Chair: Shon Campbell (MIMU)

Participants: UNFPA, Education Cluster, FAO, MIMU, UNHCR, OCHA, DRC (11 participants from 7 organisations)

1. IDP Population Tracking Methodology – *Presented by UNHCR*

Displacement Tracking in Myanmar is UN-led, specifically by OCHA as the custodian of IDP data in humanitarian settings such as natural disasters, as in other countries. The objective is to capture and monitor population trends including secondary displacement and returns. UNHCR is managing the repository of data on displacement which OCHA complements with data on persons displaced through natural disasters. Following 1st February, a new movement tracking form was introduced to keep track of the new displacements on a weekly basis to meet the information needs for the emergency response. This new movement tracker complements already existing systems for estimating IDPs from the protracted camps.

Population Tracking to February 2021: Prior to February 2021, UNHCR gathered data on protracted displacement using the monitoring conducted twice a year for the Annual Statistical Report (ASR) and Mid-Year Statistical Report (MYSR). OCHA was tracking data on displacement due to natural disasters using information gathered from agencies and government sources. For the protracted displacement with relatively limited population movement, twice a year was deemed adequate.

The UNHCR methodology consisted of a stock taking of figures of IDP, Returnees, Stateless and Other Persons of Concern (PoC) disaggregated at Region/State Level, and then using a secondary data review methodology. Population changes were also monitored at the different locations on a more frequent basis for operational reasons, some of which were published and externally available. Data was collected through Field offices and partners triangulating data from various population tracking mechanisms including quarterly CCCM Camp profiles. Field-level data collection involves specialized tools and key informant methodology through dedicated focal points. Data collected at the camp level was then compiled at township level. The data and reports were published twice a year after completion of ASR/MYSR Reporting cycle, being disseminated widely through OCHA, MIMU and other online platforms. This methodology provided a high level of precision on populations in protracted displacement however there are limitations, mainly age and gender-disaggregated information was not always readily available and current accessibility constraints.

Population Tracking after February 2021: A separate system which was put in place to track movements on a more frequent basis in order to monitor new displacements on a weekly basis. A new movement tracker was launched in May 2021. OCHA and UNHCR agreed to collect data at different parts of the country and to keep the data harmonized. Because of the rapidly evolving situation and accessibility challenges, an alternative methodology was needed – this depends on secondary data compiled in a tool developed by OCHA and UNHCR. Reports are received from partners/news/social media are confirmed with a countrywide network of CSO partners on the ground. The methodology has been based on “flow” with in-flow and out-flow out of their location and the population at camp-level with trends also taken into consideration. This information is then verified at the IDP sites through their IDP representatives/village leaders to confirm whether these are new displacements or repeat displacements. Led by UNHCR Protection team, weekly collected data is stored and

compiled using Kobo Server. Outputs include a weekly displacement map and dataset. There are limitations; due to the lack of access, the process employs a secondary data collection methodology through key informants and therefore age and gender-disaggregation is not always possible as it's an estimation rather than a head count. It is also not always possible to distinguish between secondary displacements and returns. To avoid having to double count secondary displaced individuals, only those remaining in emergency displacement at the time of reporting are counted per a given location. However, information on newly displaced persons living with relatives is routinely collected on NFI distribution lists received from protection partners.

The products mentioned above and datasets are released weekly after validation of figures at the field level by OCHA and UNHCR through various channels discussed. Due to sensitivities, township level data is not available. The possibility of sharing derived/analytical products based on township level data was discussed.

2. AOB and other discussions

Data on displacement due to natural disasters: Recently, preparedness training was done for OCHA field staff to collect data in the events of natural disasters such as flooding. All the available sources are deployed within 72 hours after the event occurs however there may be gaps in data if a disaster were to strike a less disaster-prone area as there are fewer contacts on the ground.

As for the flood risk specifically, the HRP may not have enough coverage along the flood plains but partners on the ground have extensive coverage and plans. Lessons from 2015 flooding were discussed in detail, along with the predicted flood risk areas based on an excerpt from MIMU's upcoming Analytical Brief "Climate, Environmental Degradation and Disaster Risk in Myanmar".

Population projections from the 2014 and 2019 census exercises were also discussed. Forward as well as backward projections have been done based on the 2014 Population and Housing Census with considerations for migrations and displacements from major events. These are the population projections that have been used in the 2022 HRP. The 2019 Intercensal Survey was used to correct/adjust the estimations. Using the 2021 estimates, UNFPA is currently working on validations and small area estimations. Collaborative work is also being done on multi-sectoral need assessment and its current status was presented and discussed.

How "conflict affected" population can be defined was discussed in a broader sense. This year's HRP included some additional criteria, using a vulnerability approach in which people whose situation might have been negatively affected by conflict are included. In terms of IDP tracking, incidents from ACLED data are filtered to include only relevant data for protection and IDP tracking purposes. However, as useful as ACLED data is, some incidents are based on media reports without any independent validation on the ground. The calculation and methodology used for the HRP was explained in detail.