



## Minutes of Information Management Network Meeting

6<sup>th</sup> February 2024, 3PM MMT, online via Zoom

### Agenda

1. Market Analysis Updates in Rakhine State (MAU)
2. Disability Inclusive Monitoring, Reporting, and Evaluation of the Women and Girls First Programme (UNFPA Myanmar)
3. Disability Data Recording (UNOPS)
4. Updates on cluster/sector/agency initiatives
5. Activity Updates from MIMU
6. General Discussion and AOB

### Attendance

Chair: Ole Hansen (MIMU)

Participants: MAU, UNFPA, WFP, SCI, MRCS, FAO, UNICEF, MIMU, UNOPS, REACH, RSP, SRC, UNOCHA (17 participants from 13 organisations)

### 1. Market Analysis Updates in Rakhine State (MAU)

Recent work of the Market Analysis Unit (MAU) was presented particularly on the rapid market assessments in Rakhine state.

Highlighting the price movements of 30 products in 3 regions (Rakhine State, Sagaing Region, and Southeast), Rakhine state is observed to be experiencing significant price changes. Prices of essential food items such as cooking oil is up 100% while vegetables and meat see similar increases (50-200% and 30-150% respectively). Imported items such as cooking oil, onion and garlic were observed to have significant price hikes.

Prices of items that are important for clusters are also tracked such as hygiene items and non-food items (NFIs). Prices are up in all townships in Rakhine state with the most increase for NFIs observed in Rathedaung township.

Market closures and destructions drive the price increases and inhibit the ability to track the price data. Alternative methodologies such as tracking the price from nearby wards and villages are now being implemented.

Beyond the price data, other indicators such as market safety, customer activity, and supply limitations are also analysed, highlighting the challenges faced by retailers and the impact of security risk on market operations. A particular challenge is the rising transportation costs due to security concerns and conflict, leading to price increases and dwindling supplies.

There are plans to query retailers on potential interventions, such as zero-interest loans or humanitarian corridor agreements, to increase supply and reduce costs.

The details can be found in the recent and upcoming reports on [MAU's page](#) on MIMU website.

#### Q&A

- MAU is not tracking petrol prices to avoid overlap with WFP's wider tracking efforts
- Air and sea transportation costs are also not tracked as MAU is more focused on "last mile" markets.

## 2. Disability Inclusive Monitoring, Reporting, and Evaluation of the Women and Girls First Programme (UNFPA Myanmar)

The objective of the Women and Girls First Programme (WGF) is that Women, girls and young people who are the furthest behind in conflict affected areas understand and are able to achieve their sexual and reproductive health and rights and fulfill their potential through improved gender equality and prevention of gender-based violence. Overview of the three phases was presented starting from 2015, including their geographical coverage.

Efforts to ensure disability inclusion include integration across all phases of the programme cycle, throughout the MEAL processes and activities. More details on the initiatives were discussed such as capacity building training for staff and implantation partners, development of a disability inclusion strategy and action plan, and integration of disability inclusive indicators in research frameworks.

As for the disability inclusive monitoring & reporting, the efforts involved reviewing and revising the existing tools. UNFPA also developed standardized monitoring and reporting template which has been in use since 2023.

The importance of collecting disability data through the Washington Group questionnaire was highlighted, to identify specific needs and provide appropriate services for people with disabilities. The technical aspects of the Washington Group Short Set (WG-SS) questions were discussed in further details. Some notable points include the use of neutral language such as functional difficulty instead of disability and the need to properly translate that to allow the clients to answer by themselves. The WGSS is not a tool for medical diagnosis.

The reporting template in Excel was presented showing its 89 data points.

It is important to include Persons with Disabilities (PWD) in program evaluations. Several strategies to ensure their meaningful participation were discussed including the active involvement of PWD in WGF's baseline, endline, different assessments, program evaluation, and accountability to affected populations (AAP) processes.

## 3. Disability Data Recording in ACCESS program (UNOPS)

Disability-Inclusion has been a part of the ACCESS Fund since the 3MDG Fund was in operation in 2018. These efforts have later been expanded into services and specific dedicated interventions.

Disability-Specific health program was launched in September 2021. It adopts a "twin-track approach":

- Mainstreaming disability inclusion in healthcare services through 49 integrated grants to ensure persons with disabilities can access quality health services
- Specialized rehabilitation interventions through eight disability-specific grants

Operational definition of disability was discussed along with using the Washington Group questionnaires for identification. Those who respond (3) 'a lot of difficulty' or are (4) 'unable to do' to at least 1 of the 6 questions will be defined as someone who may have disability.

As the number of persons with disability who receive project services needs to be reported, the suggested indicators to report disability disaggregation were discussed depending on whether it concerns Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) or Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) or TB or Malaria. 4 other general indicators were also discussed. These points were explained with a sample report form and breakdown in Excel.

## 4. Updates on Cluster/Sector/Agency initiatives

REACH: A brief on disability will be disseminated in the coming days.

## 5. Activity Updates from MIMU

### Current and Upcoming Activities:

- Updating the assessment and publication tracking listing along with the dashboard
- Preparing the next update of MIMU Pcodes v9.5 with updates on villages
- The new round of MIMU 5W will start later this month. Currently confirming the focals.
- Advanced Excel training for those who completed the IM workshop and/or Basic Excel Training will start soon
- Working with OCHA and cluster system to ensure that MIMU 5W is complementing and not overlapping. Participants are encouraged to reach out to MIMU for suggestions on this matter.

### Planned Activities:

- QGIS training in March

## 6. General Discussion & AOB

The next regular meeting will be tentatively in the first week of April 2024.