Minutes of Myanmar Language Information Management Network Meeting
31st May 2023, 2PM MMT, online via Zoom

Agenda

1. Short Briefing on Humanitarian IM Activities – *Presented by UNOCHA*
2. Strategic Environmental Assessment – *Presented by Mercy Corps*
3. Climate, Environmental Degradation and Disaster Risk – *Presented by MIMU*
4. Updates on Sector/Cluster/Agency Initiatives
5. AOB and other discussions

Attendance

Chair: Ei Ei Thein (MIMU)
Participants: AAM, AHRN, AMDA, BS, BRAC, BIMM, CARE, CBCHP, CA, DRC, GNI, HAI, JOICFP, MA-UK, MC, MAG, MEDG, MIMU, MKI, NAG, PUI, SCVG, SARA, UN Women, UNFPA, UNOCHA, WVM (38 participants from 27 organisations)

1. Short Briefing on Humanitarian IM Activities – *Presented by UNOCHA*

The presentation focused on the role of information management within humanitarian IM activities. Emphasis was placed on the specific role of information sharing and gathering during emergencies. The necessity for immediate and suitable support for affected communities, based on the collected data, was highlighted.

The crucial role of IM Network Groups, supporting the Emergency Coordination Team in information collection and redistribution, was acknowledged. The Humanitarian IM Working Group, comprising entities such as UNOCHA and MMIU led by UNOCHA, alongside relevant Cluster IMOs, was highlighted. The inclusion of relevant Sector Clusters, Donor, Media, and Affected People in the formation of Working Groups was recommended.

The 10 Principles of Humanitarian IM were examined, confirming their active application and providing an in-depth explanation of each. These principles comprise Accessibility, Inclusiveness, Inter-operability, Accountability, Verifiability, Relevance, Objectivity, Neutral, Humanity, Timeliness, Sustainability, and Confidentiality.

The Humanitarian IM Work Plan for 2023 was discussed, including the principal IM activities planned at the inter-cluster level. Included in these activities are the Humanitarian Needs Overviews (HNO), Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), periodic monitoring report, Inter-cluster 3W, and the Humanitarian Snapshot.

Ad hoc activities, such as responses to events like Cyclone Mocha and the Covid-19 pandemic, were recognized as part of the Humanitarian IM information management activities. The 2023 Humanitarian Preparedness cycle utilizes population projections from UNFPA for baseline data, incorporating data on non-displacement and IDP returnees from UNHCR.

The process of producing Flash updates for Cyclone Mocha affected locations in May 2023 were presented, reporting that a flash appeal was issued. The Cyclone Mocha Flash Appeal Response Summary was discussed further in detail.

2. Strategic Environmental Assessment – *Presented by Mercy Corps*

The main points included in the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) report were presented across five sections.

The meeting acknowledged that the purpose of the SEA is to incorporate environmental protection into the sustainable development of the Yangon Ayeyarwady Aquaculture Farm. Target townships for the study were identified as Twante, Pantanaw, Nyaungdon, and Maubin.

In relation to legal frameworks, the discussion highlighted major national laws associated with fisheries, specifically, the Aquaculture Law of 1989; Fresh Water Fisheries Law and Marine Fisheries Law. Internationally, the study considered the Code of Conduct and EU Regulations, relating to the fishing industry. The points associated with ASEAN fisheries management are also included.

Strategies and Plans, Policies Related to Environmental Assessment, and the National Environmental Quality Emission Guidelines were all elaborated further as well as the regulatory framework.

With regard to the Yangon-Ayeyarwady Aquaculture Corridor, details were presented for the fish species found in eight studied fish ponds (two in each township), and water resources usage. Fish breeding methods such as monoculture, polyculture, and other methods, along with fish feeding methods, were also elaborated.

The water quality of the fish ponds, methods, and results of measuring the surrounding water quality were also presented, as were the amounts of CO_2 Emission from Aquaculture calculated as on-farm emissions. Further details were provided on emission amounts across four production phases.

Seven environmental impacts from aquaculture were presented. Further recommendations included enhancing fish food, reusing leftover fish food, using Smart Feeding Technology, and recycling waste. The necessity of advising fisheries to maintain wastewater quality was stressed. Additionally, it was suggested that wastewater quality parameters and effective measurement methods should be established. The need for capacity building was also emphasized.

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

The Climate, Environmental Degradation, and Disaster Risk Analytical Brief was produced by MIMU in 2022, available in Myanmar and English versions on the MIMU website. The report focuses on the national-scale correlation between climate and environmental degradation and their effects on disasters.

The report included a detailed analysis of vulnerability as a major contributing factor and examined the degree of vulnerability in Myanmar. The methodology of this analysis was also discussed.

The limitations of the analysis were presented, with specific focus on limitations concerning hazards and vulnerability. The impact of climate change, specifically annual temperature variations, heavy rainfall, and sea level changes were explained. The production of carbon dioxide was identified as a critical factor driving further climate degradation, with a detailed explanation provided on the relative risks associated with carbon production.

There was a discussion on the effects of land surface changes, particularly deforestation, and its correlation with water resource conservation and management. A map demonstrating forest loss spanning 20 years from 2001 to 2020 was shown.

Natural hazard analyses on Myanmar must identify major factors causing Disaster Risk. These factors included hazards, risk exposure, vulnerabilities, and climate change alongside environmental degradation. A graph depicting the population affected by natural hazards was presented.

The percentages of natural disasters in Myanmar, such as floods, storms, and landslides, were broken down. Maps of flood-prone areas and areas affected by drought were presented and explained. Vulnerabilities were highlighted as a key driver of Disaster Risk.

A discussion followed on the eight types of townships with vulnerabilities. Maps showcasing vulnerability by district, correlations between vulnerability and flooding, cyclonic storms, droughts, and landslides were provided, with details given through accompanying graphs. In conclusion, the increasing severity of natural disasters in Myanmar and the importance of mitigating them was discussed.

4. Updates on Sector/Cluster/Agency Initiatives

UN Women: Two projects planned for Rakhine State.

NAG: Data collection has started on the impact of Cyclone Mocha on agriculture.

CARE: Currently distributing emergency shelter items, and non-food items (NFIs). Also planned to distribute hygiene kits.

CA: Submitting project proposals on Cyclone Mocha response based on information from UN Agencies and partners from Rakhine. Current project also received additional funding for Cyclone Mocha response and discussions are underway with Rakhine partners for related activities.

CBCHP: A survey was being done on household destruction post-Cyclone Mocha. Tender assessment was done for nine townships in Chin State.

MIMU: The dedicated Cyclone Mocha Web Page has been successfully launched and continues to be regularly updated with real-time information. PCode version 9.4 was rolled out in early May, using the MIMU village mapping results from October 2022. About 80% of villages can now be mapped, but the work is ongoing, with the aim to further ensure the locations of all villages. A presentation was planned on Pcodes at the upcoming IM Network Meeting. The update process of shape files, based on PCode 9.4, has been initiated. Regular assessment tracking is planned for next round in July. It was proposed that assessments from organizations operating in the Mocha affected area be centralized in one location, either under MIMU or another organization, with the offer of technical assistance if required.

5. AOB and other discussions

The next meeting will be on July 26th 2023.
Please contact Ei Ei Thein (MIMU) ei.ei.thein@undp.org if you have anything to present or discuss.