**Minutes of IM Network Meeting: 4th April 2018**

Chair: Shon Campbell, MIMU Manager.

Participants: WVI, ARC, MIMU

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|  | **Issues discussed** | **Next steps** |
|  | **Mobile-based data collection tools for use in Emergencies – American Red Cross**Manish Tewani presented work with Myanmar Red Cross Society / MRCS to improve data collection in emergencies.Strengthening existing tools***Improving use of SOPs:*** Developing graphic and more easily accessible depictions of standard operating procedures for display in MRCS offices (booklet and poster form). ***Standardising internal information collection templates:*** Remodelling existing templates for collection of information on damages and needs to standardise the types of data collected by field-based MRCS volunteers to enable faster information processing for more efficient response in emergencies. The template draws on the MIMU 3W template. Once finalized it will be rolled out to MRCS staff at different levels, beginning with those consolidating inputs for central level. 🡪 AmRC is interested to collaborate with MIMU on integrating aspects of the IM Workshop into the training of staff on use of the MRCS tools. The project runs until June 2019.***Rapid assessment:*** Simplifying existing forms to fewer questions given that these forms are often filled in pen and sent as photo by viber or phoned through. Creating new mobile-based data collection tools: AmRC is beginning a pilot in Myanmar with the MRCS to develop a user friendly, practical mobile-based data collection tool for use by MRCS volunteers and staff in gathering information in emergencies. The tool will take the form of a chatbot that asks specific questions of the user. Responses will then be collated at the appropriate level to support MRCS response. The chatbot will include the basic rapid assessment questions mentioned above and manage consecutive days’ input. Facebook groups of selected volunteers will be developed through MRCS branches so the chatbot can be activated for specific areas. The final tool would work on Facebook and Viber. There will be 2 phases of testing before rolling out across all branches that are easily accessible by mobile. In tandem with this activity, AmRC/MRCS are also exploring alternative telecommunication options for outreach and communication (including data collection) when mobile services are disrupted. Strengthening base mapping through crowdsourcing: AmRC is also working together with Phandeeyar on OSM mapathons through local volunteers in Myanmar as well as getting international volunteers mobilized to help with mapping. The initial focus is on Ayeyarwady. An initiative will also be started with support of One Map Myanmar (OMM) and Phandeeyear to create a base map of Mawlamyine City tentatively to be started from 21st May. This mapping will include both remote mapping and through local volunteers in Myanmar and map critical infrastructure such as schools (data available on formal sector schools from MIMU), health centres etc* MIMU asked whether the network of international volunteers could potentially assist in mapping ward boundaries which AmRC will follow-up.
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|  | **Disaster preparedness at national level**Little information was available as to the positioning and responsibilities of the national EOC and its readiness for different level response coming into the cyclone season. There was also no information on developments in early warning arrangements. The recent SIMEX (DDM and OCHA) noted the need for more clarity on roles and responsibilities of the various committees and sub-committees. OCHA/DDM are developing a mobile based tool on Kobo which will be used for collection of damages and losses information at field level.Government-supported schools have been mapped through an initiative of MIMU together with MoE and UNESCO which gathered the geocoordinates of 46,000 schools countrywide in 2016-17. The Public Health Dept/MoHS is taking forward an initiative over the coming year to gather coordinates of health centres. MIMU also has previous mapping of health centres available in the interim. |  |
|  | **Cluster/Sector/agency updates****World Vision International WVI** – scoping a new two-year project with a research organisation, International Women’s Development Agency (IWDA) to pilot an individual deprivation measure to better assess individual and community-level vulnerability. The pilot would focus on participatory research in selected villages in Kachin, considering gender dimensions of poverty via information from household heads with information on every adult in the household. **MIMU:** March MIMU 3W - 218 agencies provided inputs. The dataset and initial products (dashboards) will be released in the next 2 weeks. Release of results continues to be delayed by incomplete and non-standard inputs by some agencies. Less country overviews will be produced (no longer producing the Kayah and Kayin state overviews - main information on these areas is included in the Southeastern Myanmar overview). Township profiles – being developed by the MIMU team for use online and in printable form for release in May. Symposium on capacity needs in geospatial sectors- Planning a 2-day symposium in May to consider GIS and remote sensing capacities in Myanmar in relation to the likely future needs of public, private and development sectors. It will bring together members of the providers of training and qualifications in geospatial fields – particularly the academic sector - with the current and potential users of these technologies (government depts, private and development sector representatives). The symposium seeks to share experience among the professionals involved but also to better understand the fast-moving evolution of technologies globally and the implications for Myanmar. It will include addresses by international lecturers from the Netherlands and Thailand on how GIS is evolving, how the job requirements have evolved, and the requirements moving forward to meet the needs in the coming 5 years to adjust the skills to meet the needs. The discussions will be themed around the needs of training of GIS professionals, professionals from other disciplines requiring some GIS skills (e.g. engineers, architects, statisticians etc), as well as the skills needed by lecturers/trainers. The symposium is timely in that the National higher education law, currently awaiting parliamentary approval, will result in universities becoming autonomous in arranging their curricula, qualifications but with linkages through accreditation systems which have yet to be developed in detail.It was noted that the National Disaster Management Training Centre together with DDM in Ayeyarwady has developed an 11 day curriculum at a basic entry level for geoinformatics application in disaster management. This targets state/region and national level government officials. One QGIS training has been completed with support from Mandalay Technological University. MIMU noted its ongoing 10-day QGIS course in which a number of government staff have also been trained. National Coding initiative – MIMU provided a brief presentation on the National Coding initiative including some of the specific issues around managing naming conventions given the many different languages around the country. |  |
|  | **Next Meeting**The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, May 9th, 2018 at 3:00 pm in the MIMU**. OCHA will provide an update on development of the mobile-based damages and losses assessment tools. It was also suggested to ask UNICEF for more information on the CCRA/child centred risk assessment which is due to be released shortly. | Please note the changed date for the next meeting  |

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