**Minutes of IM Network Meeting: 7th November 2018**

Chair: Shon Campbell, MIMU Manager.

Participants: WFP, NRC, WVIM, IOM, Phandeeyar, EWMI, WB, MIMU

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|  | **Issues discussed** | **Next steps** |
|  | **Measures of vulnerability / WFP Food Security Monitoring and approach to considering vulnerability (Marco Principi)**  Key definitions used by WFP in understanding vulnerability are as follows:   * Food security: when all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life * Vulnerability - how the livelihood and food security of a household will be affected by a specific shock and how it will cope with the impact of that shock. * Hazard – something that has the potential to cause harm – always exists and can rarely be removed * Risk – the chance or probability of harm if exposed to a hazard. Risks can be reduced by lowering the probability of exposure to a hazard or reducing the level of harm if exposed to a hazard   WFP’s approach recognises various dimensions of food security which are also susceptible to shocks (events at household or area level having a negative impact on food and nutrition security), namely:   * availability (area based – not household level), * access (household access to food from different sources), * utilisation (individual measure of how food is prepared, consumed), preparation of food and bodily absorption of nutrients * instability of food security (which may be transitory or chronic).   These dimensions are considered in a Food and Nutrition Security conceptual framework which recognises contextual factors, linkages and influences that can affect food and nutrition security status at community/household/individual level. Other han the eventual consequences of demonstrably low nutrition status and mortality, there is no single or standardised measure of food insecurity so WFPs approach focuses on aspects which can be more measurable, namely   * **Who** are the food-insecure or vulnerable people? * **How many** people are food insecure or vulnerable? * **Where** do the food-insecure and vulnerable people live?   + What are the underlying **causes** and threats to food security?   + What are the **implications** for food security policies, programs and/or **interventions**?     The focus is then on measuring 5 main aspects using the following indicators:   * **Diet Quantity** – daily food energy consumption per capita (kcal); population with food energy-deficiency * **Diet Quality** – food energy from staples; households with high share of energy from staples; Household with poor/borderline/inadequate food consumption; diet diversity * **Economic Vulnerability** - household with high percentage of expenditure on food; population below poverty line; population with food consumption below poverty line * **Nutrition** – prevalence of wasting/stunting/underweight among children under 5 years old * **Coping** – coping strategies index   WFP has used mobile data collection tools based on Open-Data Kit Build-Collect-Aggregate available through open source, free-of-cost software. Data collection includes mobile phone interviews, calls and sms as well as interactive voice response calls to track food insecurity trends in real time, with information recorded on tablets at field level. Important considerations in this approach are to ensure very short questionnaires and to adjust results to reflect the possible differences among populations who do and do not own phone. Results are directed to visualisation tools for analysis by the WFP VAM team. The main products:   * Myanmar Food Security Atlas – study of food security status of the population countrywide, using primary and secondary data from 2012-2017 covering over 32,000 HH. The report will hopefully be released late 2018; * Status and Determinants of Food Insecurity and Undernutrition in Yangon Urban Areas – food security and nutrition survey covering 3000 HH in 11 TS including informal settlements identified through analysis of satellite images, consider socio-economic, economic status, migration, child health and nutrition, food security, coping mechanisms, WASH analysis (including drinking water samples) and social cohesion. This study was approved by the Ethics Review Committee of the Department of Medical Research/Ministry of Health and Sports in 2018. Results are expected to be available by early 2019; * Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission to Rakhine State - audit-type cross-checking of existing info and data in fields and markets. includes existing data, satellite imagery, FGDs, KIIs, direct observations of field visits in the areas |  |
|  | **Measures of Vulnerability / World Bank Multidimensional Disadvantage Index (Clarence Tsimpo)**  The World Bank initiative explores what we mean by poverty/deprivations, seeking to find a proxy for poverty at the lowest possible level. It recognises that poverty is multi-dimensional and includes monetary and non-monetary concepts and aims to formulate a multidimensional view on how deprived a household is in these terms. The study is based on data from the 2014 Population and Housing Census and includes deprivations in different domains - housing, health, employment, asset ownership, and education.  A first key step was to determine which domains to include, decide the indicators to be used and the cut-off for these indicators. The indicators selected for each domain are as follows: Education (literacy, primary education, school attendance), Employment (unemployment, casual employment, child work), Health (disability, child and youth mortality), WASH (drinking water, sanitation), Housing (dwelling, lighting), and Asset Ownership (communication assets and mobility assets). While each of these provided a snapshot of deprivation into that single dimension, the aim was to also understand the overlap of disadvantages, hence the multidimensional deprivation measures.  This required a decision on whether to weight particular domains and indicators in the single index – it was finally decided to allocate uniform weighting (equal weights) over each of the 6 domains so that none was considered more or less important than the others. this weighting was then applied to the indicators (each weighted equally in a single domain). The approach was then applied across township level census data to identify those who are disadvantaged as a measure of multidimensional deprivation and a population statistic.  Main findings were as follows:   * Most common disadvantage is housing and the least common is health (based on disability and infant mortality) * Rural areas are more disadvantaged in all indicators and dimensions, especially water, sanitation and housing, except unemployment * Large variation across states and regions – 60% persons in Rakhine have more than 5 disadvantages compared to 10% in Yangon * at national level Myanmar’s multidimensional disadvantage index is 20.7 which can be considered as a percent of deprivation of these indicators * many HH across MMR are affected by overlapping disadvantages * also point to significant differences in welfare between TS even within the same S/R   The report is to be launched on December 3rd and the results will be used to support World Bank programme targeting. |  |
|  | **Measures of Vulnerability / MIMU-HARP Vulnerability Index and TS typologies**  The approach taken by MIMU-HARP in the recently released report, Vulnerability in Myanmar: A Secondary Data Review of Needs, Coverage and Gaps uses publicly available data and information over the period 2014-2016 to provide a snapshot bringing to light some of the vulnerabilities as well as disparities across townships, countrywide. The study takes a multidimensional view of vulnerability at township level, showing the importance of using data below state/region level to better understand the situation of different areas and groups. Overall it aims to provide information to support the design of effective programmes and policies. The analysis is based on three main overlapping aspects of vulnerability – climate risk, conflict, and under-development/under-investment.  The methodology was developed by a consultant specifically for Myanmar and it is limited by gaps in available data. Gaps in the 2014 Census data are most critical for Rakhine - while data was not available on many Census indicators for northern Rakhine in particular, township population proportions from available health data (2011) were applied to the Census data to estimate populations by township in these areas. A combination of Census information related to roofing, sanitation and child dependency was used as a proxy for poverty in the absence of poverty profiles at township level. Some data critical to the analysis was simply not available – this included reliable TS level data on the impact of disasters countrywide over the past 20+ years, and health and nutrition data (compiled by MoHS at TS level but not publicly available). Gender dimensions have also yet to be explored in more depth.  The main sources are data from the 2014 Census, administrative data and the global Armed Conflict Location Events Database (ACLED). The analysis includes   1. **Conflict index** based on the 2015-2016 ACLED data (so indicating “live” conflict in this period). This includes 4 aspects – fatalities, clashes, casualties and number of persons displaced. 2. **Vulnerability index** at township level indicates areas with some form of vulnerability in relation to housing materials, identity documents (which allow schooling, land transactions etc), education/educational attainment focusing on middle school level, safe sanitation and drinking water, and direct exposure to conflict. The Vulnerability Index is then applied to all TS countrywide enabling a comparison the index, but also an estimation of the number of vulnerable persons by township. The report also notes the importance of focusing on the numbers affected as the results can be skewed if focusing mainly on the index or percentage. 3. **Township typologies** – An expanded set of criteria were used to cluster all 330 townships into 8 main typologies based on common characteristics and development needs, resulting in grouping of TS by type. Examples include *Outliers in terms of extreme development need and/or conflict*; *TS with the highest agricultural profits per capita*, and *Affluent, densely populated urban areas*.   Main Findings – based on this analysis (and the enumerated population in the 2014 Census), around 44% of population in Myanmar were found to have some form of Vulnerability when considered as critical limitations in quality of housing, sanitation, education, child dependency and availability of ID cards which reflect access to land and social services. Shan and Ayeyarwady have the largest populations of vulnerable persons. The report also considered risks and vulnerabilities in 8 thematic sectors, including health and nutrition, education, institutional capacity, livelihoods and household consumption. It underlines the need to strengthen capacity locally for further analysis of available data, and to ensure a countrywide approach which goes below state/region and district level to better understand vulnerability and resilience.  The report is available online in English and is being translated to Myanmar language. Currently the Executive Summary is available in English and Myanmar. The dataset is available on MIMU through <http://themimu.info/vulnerability-in-myanmar>  **Discussion of the three different approaches used included:**   * The WB and MIMU-HARP studies have a TS level approach. The WFP analysis is based on data collected at a finer level which cannot be aggregated at TS level. Overall however the three studies indicated similar results in terms of areas with the highest level so vulnerability. * The MIMU-HARP study included conflict-impact as a core aspect of the vulnerability index. This was not included in the WFP and WB studies however it is expected that some of the indicators used in these would be lower in conflict-affected areas (as shown in the MIMU study, this included housing quality and persons with formal education attainments which were noticeably lower in conflict-affected TS) * Other recent initiatives considering vulnerability include the INFORM index (OCHA/INFORM) which draws on available data at TS level to support planning for emergencies, and the IDM/WVI initiative to explore an approach to measuring vulnerability relating to gender at household level. |  |
|  | **National level Initiatives:**  **World Statistics Day**  The Central Statistics Organisation of the Ministry of Planning and Finance led the World Statistics Day event held in Nay Pyi Taw on November 2nd with the theme: Better Data, Better Statistics, Better Lives - Transforming the Data Culture in Myanmar. The event aimed to raise awareness within stakeholders of the National Statistical Systems (NSS) on:   1. the importance of official statistics and data as well as the opportunities and challenges associated with it; 2. the need for inter-governmental collaboration to develop quality statistics as mentioned in the Statistics Law, “statistics which are timely, relevant, accurate, valid and objective” 3. strengthening statistical literacy and the relationship between statistics producers and users   A focus running through the event was that simply producing data is not enough: data must be transformed, analysed and used to be useful for policy making, monitoring and accountability. The production of quality, timely and disaggregated data is therefore crucial for achieving the ultimate goals of development.  The event was opened by the Vice President as Chair of Central Committee for Data Accuracy and Quality of Statistics,  and widely attended by government staff as well as donor, agency and private sector participation. Events included a statistics quiz in which teams from 3 universities participated, an opportunity for government departments to showcase their work related to the NSS visually in displays, roundtables discussing challenges in moving from data to policy and particularly around the Data Revolution and Data Culture in Myanmar, and Statistics User-Provider Dialogue. There was also a session for reading of papers on newer statistical initiatives.  **National Indicator Framework for MSDP**  13 Task Teams have been convened to develop topline indicators for the recently released Myanmar Sustainable development plan (MSDP). The groups are (1) Peace, (2) Governance, (3) Rule of Law, (4) Macroeconomics (and Financial Sector), (5)  Agriculture & Water, (6) Job Creation & Growth, (7) Infrastructure & Access, (8) Education, (9) Health & Nutrition, (10) Social Protection, (11) Environment, (12) Energy, and (13) Urbanization. Representation in these group is mainly Ministries along with UN agencies and donors. Indicator development is expected to be completed in 2018. |  |
|  | Updates from agencies, clusters/sectors and working groups **World Bank** – in addition to the deprivation study already presented, World bank is conducting a nutrition mapping based on the information from the Demographic Health Survey. The results are similar to those from the deprivation study.  **World Vision Myanmar** – closed the HpaAn Area Development Programmes end October. Currently conducting a community assessment process to support programme planning for work in Shan state, and a national baseline to determine the 24 townships for implementation of four Technical Programmes (TPs); (1) Child Protection, (2) Livelihood (3) Education and (4) Health. WVI has also been conducting food distribution programmes in southern Rakhine  **East West Management Institute** – working with Open Development Myanmar and a separate project to develop a Land Information Management System which will include information on land tenure.  **Phandeeyar** – conducted a community mapping event with One Map Myanmar in Taungoo. With the support of volunteers, the initiative completed the street names in the city and also provided information on the location of health facilities and restaurants. The mapping data is now up on Open Street Map. Phandeeyar is also working with Open Development Mekong to develop a spatial dataset of over 150 reservoirs based on surface water identified in satellite imagery.  **NRC** – conducting training in Housing, Land and Property (HLP) and Collaborative Dispute Resolution (CDR) in south-eastern Myanmar. The livelihoods sector programme includes business and soft skills training in one township. the shelter programme is focusing on latrine renovation.  **Mercy Corps** – currently has two main portfolios, Peace and Governance, and Market Development. The Peace and Governance activities include a national community–driven development programme (NCDDP) supported by World Bank for several townships. An endline survey is currently underway for the recently ended consortium programme lead by Mercy Corps with 5 consortium partners promoting peace and stability in Kayah (PROSPER-promoting sustainable peace and resiliency in Kayah state) on 31 Oct 2018 and the other new program are ACE-Advancing Community Empowerment in 8 townships in Mon, Kayin, Shan South and Kayah led by Pact Myanmar and CGG-Centre for Good Governance lead by Cardno. Other programmes are Sone Hmat, MyJustice and RFI (Religious Freedom Initiatives) which also include dispute resolution activities, and reconciliation. Programmes under Market Development are MVMW-Making Vegetable Markets Work which ended in February 2018, and the currently running programs are LLM (linking Laputta to market), energy for all-selling emergency saving cooking stoves. Mercy Corps provides the 3W data to MIMU on a regular basis (6-month update).  **IOM** – ongoing activities in Rakhine  **MIMU** – Just updated some of the baseline datasets at state and region level and district boundaries – it is important to update these datasets if using MIMU data. The MIMU team just completed QGIS training in Mon state and will conduct a 5-day QGIS training in December – IM Network members have been encouraged to apply. MIMU also participated in the regional meeting of Sentinel Asia in japan, having been invited to be a member. Sentinel Asia provides satellite and remote sensing information in emergencies free-of-charge to support humanitarian response. This data was used to map the flood affected areas in 2018.  MIMU is also conducting an Excel Distance Learning course from next week which will focus on organisations in Ayeyarwady Region, and will also conduct a three-day IM Workshop from 14-16 November. IM Network members were prioritised for available places in this training. A request for updates for the Assessment tracking will soon be launched (late November). |  |
|  | **Next Meeting:** The next scheduled IM Network meeting will be on **Wednesday, December 5th, 2018 at 3:00 pm in the MIMU**.  It will possibly focus on IM issues related to peace focused programmes. |  |

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