**Minutes of IM Network Meeting: 8th March, 2017**

Chair Person: Shon Campbell, MIMU Manager.

Participants’ Organizations: MIMU, UNICEF, UNOCHA, UNHCR, Pact

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|  | **Issues discussed** | **Next steps** |
|  | **Presentation: Formative Evaluation of UNICEF’s Strategy and Approach to Child Protection Systems Building in Myanmar**  In 2013, UNICEF and the Government established a Child Protection Programme to target a system building strategy, a shift from implementing child protection services through NGO partners to Department of Social Welfare taking responsibility for child protection services. In 2014, UNICEF supported the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) to undertake child protection case work in 27 townships across all regions and states in the country while NGO partners took the responsible for ‘statutory case’ and 3 DSW case managers took responsible for ‘non-statutory’ child protection.  UNICEF also funded the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) to deliver awareness raising on a simple reporting and referral channel for communities for the case management system.  This Evaluation covers a three-year period from mid-2013 to August 2016, aiming to review the programme’s strengths and challenges to becoming an effective, sustainable and government owned child protection system. It included quantitative and qualitative methodologies with data gathered from 11 townships, through 102 key informant interviews with child protection stakeholders at national, district and townships levels, 37 case studies with children who had received support from the case management system, 16 focus group discussions with community members in selected wards and villages, and 31 case file reviews. 55 structured surveys were also completed by case managers and officers in each township.  The system was found to be performing well, with best results in areas where DSW case management work was supported by an NGO partner with MRCS active in awareness raising. Over a two-year period from August 2014, the case management system had a total intake of 1,330 child protection cases covering 0.05% of the total population of children in the case management townships. The evaluation identified the need for more ‘practice’ training and coaching, particularly in social work and communication skills.  **Lesson Learned and the way forward:** The Evaluation confirmed that child protection case management is time and resource intensive service, and that certain child protection cases are susceptible to being missed by the case management system. Well-targeted social welfare benefits and cash transfers are indispensable counterparts to a child protection case management system. Data collection and monitoring for case management is challenging in that several ministries/departments may be involved in support to a particular child. It was recommended that DSW data management be strengthened to also include additional information on age, gender, language, disability and other relevant demographic factors.  **Presentation on MIMU – HARP Needs, Coverage and Gaps Analysis**  MIMU and HARP (the Humanitarian Assistance and Resilience Programme) are developing a multi-sector analysis to increase the understanding in the vulnerability and resilience at township level across the country. The Analysis uses a Wellbeing Index drawing on publicly available data from various sources as a measure the incidence of vulnerability – this includes aspects such as measures of conflict, poverty, education levels, water and sanitation, access to services and communications. The methodology has been reviewed by a Technical Review Group of statisticians from UN agencies, and applied to all 330 townships countrywide. It also includes some analysis of budget allocations, and the 3W results.  Lack of available data is a limitation, for example the lack of township-level GDP indicator to represent the economic situation, little publicly available data on Health and Nutrition, Hazard and climate risk, impact of previous disasters and food security (data has been shared by WFP but cannot be combined with the TS level analysis).  A conflict sub-index has been developed using data from the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) dataset and the NFI-Shelter-CCCM Cluster Analysis. The Analysis shows that Conflict-affected areas have significantly lower living conditions than non-affected conflict areas, particularly in terms of education while there are less differences in housing conditions. Analysis of budget at state level indicates areas in which there are higher levels of spending (electrification, energy and defense) and areas of underinvestment. Sector analysis indicates steadily increasing education expenditure but it remains low, while water resource management and sanitation is particularly critical in Rakhine, remote townships in conflict and frontier zones (Shan) and Ayeyarwady.  Townships are then divided into 9 bands based on their characteristics using the Wellbeing Index. Band 1 for example shows the highest number of non-illiterate persons, without any educational attainment, highest child dependency and least access to government services such as civil registration, small business and community infrastructure. Populations in Band 2 are the most severely affected by protracted crises. This contrasts with Band 7 townships which tend to have good access to education, with high rates of literacy, school attendance educational attainment.  A Validation Workshop is planned in late March to confirm the findings after which the Analysis will be finalized and released. |  |
| **2.** | **Cluster/Sector/agency updates**  **UNHCR -** Supporting roll out of the Kobo based protection monitoring tool linked to a protection monitoring dashboard, and review of the CCCM monitoring tool which was rolled out November, 2016, with CCCM partners in Sittwe. This resulted in slimming down the questionnaire (removing questions which the partners had initially requested be included), and highlights the value of an early review of such instruments by those who will be using them. UNHCR is conducting training of trainers for those involved in the Protection Incident Monitoring System in Kachin. A new Information Management Officer will be joining UNHCR to support information management in Maungdaw.  **UNICEF –** changes were brought to the 4W monitoring system last year to strengthen the system tracking information to state level. The Case Database Management system will be established covering 27 townships where the system is in place and four national database consultants are revising the training for DSW case managers. The DSW is starting work on cash transfers in Chin State according to the social protection strategy. UNICEF is working on establishing SDG indicators related to child protection indicators which is organized by Central Statistics Organization and will arrange a workshop on 30th March, 2017 on this issue.  **UNOCHA** – continues to produce humanitarian snapshots with information on displacement and access – the snapshot for Northern Shan will be launched shortly. Work is being undertaken with the Inter-cluster Coordination Group IM focal points and cluster leads to improve data for monitoring of the Humanitarian Response Plan, as well as how better to calculate number of persons affected/in need in crises. It was noted that the Humanitarian Data Collection Standards developed by the IM Network with the clusters/sectors in Myanmar continue to be useful for this purpose and remain an agreed standard.  **Pact -** is completing a Political Economy Analysis (WHERE?), an Eastern States Analysis and an Integrated Development Study in 21 villages in 3 townships as a comparative case study – the methodology includes 95 focus groups along with an index, interview and qualitative analysis.  **MIMU** – has released aGovernment Organogram and listing of Government departments and post holders to Director General level. 213 agencies provided detail on their agencies’ activities across the country to this round of the MIMU 3W – the data will be released shortly and 3W township Maps and reports released in the third week of March. The Online Photo Archive at the stage of developing its contents and functionalities. MIMU is also revising the template of Hazard and Emergency mapping. |  |
|  | **AOB:** This meeting will be followed by the planned discussion on information products required in conflict-related emergencies |  |
|  | **Next Meeting**  The next meeting will be in 5th April, 2017 at 3:00 pm in the MIMU. | Share ideas for speakers |

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