



Minutes of Information Management Network Meeting

14th August 2024, 3PM MMT, online via Zoom

Agenda

1. Key Findings of value chain assessment on the Elimination of Child Labour (ILO)
2. Nightlights Analysis (MDO / UNDP)
3. Updates on cluster/sector/agency initiatives
4. Activity Updates from MIMU
5. General Discussion and AOB

Attendance

Chair: Ole Hansen (MIMU / UNDP)

Participants: UNFPA, FAO, SCI, UNICEF, MDO / UNDP, ILO, MIMU / UNDP (10 participants from 7 organisations)

1. Key Findings of value chain assessment on the Elimination of Child Labour (ILO)

Myanmar Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (My-PEC) is the first project in Myanmar to specifically address child labour. Pilot interventions at the village tract/ward level began in 2016, with the aim of increasing the participation in quality education of children; increasing access to safe work for children above the minimum age for employment; and reducing the vulnerability of target households to child labour. The main implementation areas are Labutta Township (Ayeyarwady Region), some wards in Yangon Region, Ye Township (Mon State).

The project intends to remove 40 per cent of children from the worst forms of child labour, and to prevent 60 per cent of at-risk children from becoming involved in child labour.

The value chain assessment was revised in 2022. This report presents findings based on a survey of 249 respondents and includes various recommendations and plans moving forward.

Participants were identified through snowball sampling to include various value chain actors such as customers, wholesalers, collectors, local producers etc., starting from ILO social partners and extending to parents, guardians, children (interviewed with or without guardians depending on the age) and employers. Due to the non-randomized selection and sample size, the findings are not statistically valid beyond the study locations. The process of short listing based on four strategic priorities was discussed.

Key demographic details such as age, gender, education, and household size were collected. Most respondents were engaged in informal work, with varying levels of formal education. There was a notable shift in employment patterns between 2017 and 2022, with a reduction in traditional agricultural work and an increase in non-agricultural occupations. Some respondents had transitioned from subsistence farming to more diversified livelihoods, including small-scale trading and services. Producers face significant challenges with low market margins due to limited access to markets, information, and credit. Many value chains are constrained by informal market practices and lack of transparency, affecting their profitability and sustainability.

Detailed analysis on each value chain such as rice, dried shrimp, mud crab, rubber, durian, betel nut, pig framing and home-based enterprises, in relating to child labour was presented with accompanying diagrams.

In conclusion, this assessment covered various problems and challenges. Tackling them will require capacity building, better market linkages, strengthened financial support, policy implementation, better and more employment opportunities, and enhanced technical, skill and vocational training.

Explore the report for more information on the [ILO website](#).

Discussions

- The report covered the value chain assessment in the My-PEC project areas, and a more comprehensive report on child labor trends in Myanmar from 2021 to 2023 is expected to be released by the end of August.
- The situation of forced child labor in rubber plantations due to debt bondage and the lack of adult workers was discussed, with a particular focus on the potential implications for the industry as a result of these ethical violations.
- A participant recommended that the presenter include more details on the rationale behind the study.

2. Nightlights Analysis (*MDO / UNDP*)

In the context of post-2021 Myanmar, there has been an ongoing crisis of data availability. Nighttime lights (NTL) can serve as a valuable contribution in this limited data landscape. NTL can localize data with high representativeness down to the village tract level and provide indicative insights into various activities and processes such as economic activity, urban/rural development, electricity access and consumption, socio-economic conditions, conflict, and social distress.

Key Findings

- NTL data offers localized analysis and perspectives on the dynamics and disparities.
- There is a strong relationship between NTL intensity and economic activity. Trends from 2014 to 2021 and after 2021 were discussed, indicating a regression in overall development, particularly in urban and rural areas.
- A significant gap exists between the 2021 electricity access rate and the results from the NTL analysis, indicating a sharp decline in access to affordable and reliable electricity.
- There is a positive correlation between NTL and the Household Human Development Index (H-HDI). The decline in NTL has exacerbated inequalities, especially in conflict-affected and vulnerable areas.
- Townships with high vulnerability to conflict are disproportionately affected by electricity outages and a decline in economic activity.
- The methodology was discussed in detail, starting with the use of daily Suomi National Polar-orbiting Partnership (NPP) Visible Infrared Imager Radiometer Suite (VIIRS) sensor NTL imagery. Two key factors were highlighted: seasonality and timeframe, and temporal filtering for consistent time series data.

Annual NTL changes at the national level were presented with a timelapse visualization and relevant graphs. Changes at the state and township levels were also discussed. As a special interest region, NTLs over industrial and special economic zones and seaports were also studied, showing similar trends of increase between 2014 and 2021, followed by a decline since 2021. These changes correspond to shifts in socio-economic and political situations. The relationship between NTL and GDP was also presented. Based on electricity access data, projections were made using NTL.

In conclusion, the findings were recapped, highlighting the need for targeted intervention, with recommendations including enhanced data collection, focusing on vulnerable communities, promoting alternative energy sources, strengthening local energy governance, and comprehensive resilience and recovery planning.

The report is now available on the [MDO website](#).

Discussions

- The extraction of electrification rates at the State / Region level based on the 2019 intercensal survey was discussed.

3. Updates on Cluster/Sector/Agency initiatives

UNFPA is currently conducting a data mapping exercise on persons with disabilities. MIMU will send out an email to the IM Network group with further information on behalf of UNFPA.

4. Activity Updates from MIMU

Current and Upcoming Activities and Trainings

August

- Final Exam for the Excel Distance Learning
- Basic GIS Training (for IM Network and Clusters) (5 – 9 Aug)
- Next round of MIMU HDP Nexus 5W
- MIMU Bulletin to be released soon, covering first half of 2024
- MIMU Baseline Dataset updates

September

- Power BI ToT Training in-person (2-6 Sep)
- Basic Mapping Training (For IM Network) (19-20 Sep)
- Data collection and processing for MIMU HDP Nexus 5W

October, November, and Beyond

- Release of updated 5W products
- IM Workshop
- Advanced Excel Training (only for UNDP)
- Data Visualisation and Communication Training
- GIS Working Group Meeting

5. AOB and other discussions

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