**Minutes of IM Network Meeting: 8th May 2019**

Chair: Shon Campbell, MIMU Manager.

Participants: TAF, Phandeeyar (EWMI), PSF, Mercy Corps, WFP, IPA, PIN, INGO Forum, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, GIZ, UNFPA, Trócaire, MIMU

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| **1** | **What is Open Data – MIMU (Shon Campbell)**  Open data is data that anyone can Access, Use, Share and Build-on. It has become more publicly visible since 2009 with initiatives by various governments, most notably Canada, the UK, and New Zealand. Research has shown it can lead to economic gains. Open Data initiatives involve non government data as well as data from private sector and other sources. Open Data does not refer to making *all* government data public, but setting up clear mechanisms and policies around sharing data which can be used in the public domain to improve planning and policy.  A 2014 review of the UK government’s progress in implementing Open Data noted that the concept of “right to data” was not so clear to providers and users; special attention is needed to recognize the right to privacy; simply putting data out there is not enough to make government accountable; and many people, including civil servants, lacked the skills to interpret data properly. Open Data needs to be considered as a government programme in its own right with clear and committed leadership – it is not enough to consider it as a cross-cutting issue.  Important principles of Open Data   1. Freely available without cost or discrimination: users should be able to access the information without identifying themselves or justifying why they want the information. It should be free of charge – any cost is only to cover the cost of generating the data 2. Data should come from primary sources with details on the quality and limitations of the data (metadata). Requires provisions for data security and protection of personal information. This does not mean all data provided openly is perfect but the limitations are clear (“ensure perfect is not the enemy of the good, and publish early even if imperfect”), however there must be a high-quality core set of data (Census, base mapping). Ensure good archiving practices. 3. Complete and proactively released: Data should be released as collected at the source, with a high level of granularity – so not in aggregate or modified forms unless this is needed to safeguard confidential/ personal data. 4. Up-to-date: Timely release of datasets - as quickly as they are gathered and collected. Ensure data remains online for later use (permanence). 5. Available and easy to find use, re-use and share: Using readily accessible formats which don’t require special or costly software to access. Data should be provided in a format that makes it easy to use with other datasets, transform and reuse (e.g. the Place Codes/National Coding System). The public should be able to input. 6. Requires central government commitment: Requires clear responsibility at government level to make open data plans work – and to help build champions across government agencies. 7. Build capacity to use the data: Encourage greater data literacy, including training of more data scientists as well as others in civil society to look critically at analysis. Real time data needs to be openly available in emergencies.   Some useful and interesting links for the Open data can be found via:  <https://open.canada.ca/en/open-data-principles> by Open Data 101 from Canada government  <http://opendatatoolkit.worldbank.org/en/> by Open Data Toolkit World Bank |
| **2** | **Township Development Indicators Overview –The Asia Foundation (Nicola Williams, Stephanie Kauv)**  The Township Development Indicators (TDIs) being developed by The Asia Foundation provide a rich repository of around 6500 indicators from more than 60 sources of data down to township level in Myanmar. The recently released GAD TS profiles have provided around 4000 indicators. The project aims to provide an evidence-base for government and non-government stakeholders to strengthen planning and budgeting, policymaking, and conflict-sensitive planning of development interventions. The dataset is near completion and will be shared through government, MIMU and other platforms. The TDI dataset will support MSDP/SDG monitoring by making a wide set of indicators available in a usable format. The intention is to set up a system for updating it over time.  The TDI data includes many categories, such as; Development, Demographics, Natural resources, agriculture and wildlife, Natural disasters, climate and geography, Infrastructure and construction, Business and industry, Government budget and revenue, Political parties and elections, Sub-national conflict, Local associations and international development assistance, Religious and historical sites. Data has been coded against the MIMU P-Codes (Place Codes) across all Townships countrywide, enabling users to analyse and compare the data. It can also prevent data duplication and complexity for the places which have the same names.  TAF also used satellite data and GIS technology for increasing available data, including night-time lights data, deforestation trends, elevation/altitude, estimated mining sites and mining intensity, road density, natural disaster risks (cyclones, drought, earthquakes), land cover and land use and climate change (1970-2018). It is necessary to target the right people who are going to use this data. As of March 2019, TAF had provided technical training to 657 government officials and 111 civil society representatives.  Building on this, TAF partnered with Phandeeyar to hold an Open Data event, bringing the private sector and civil society groups together. The aim is to build bridges between government and the civil society movement around open data. In that way, encouraging the government to be more confident about the data they have, and publish more data. |
| **3** | **Data Sharing in the Mekong region - East-West Management Institute (Pyrou Chung)**  EWMI works across the region and its Myanmar chapter is managed by Phandeeyar. Currently EMWI is undertaking an assessment of risks of sharing data within and between countries, and is engaged at national, regional and global levels to look at data standardization, and open data standards. The research considers the risks/factors that hinder the sharing of open data in each country, how these risks are being mitigated; opportunities to safely share and analyse data; and cross-border risks in the publication and sharing of open data. The analysis used the “PEST” approach, exploring the political, economic, social, cultural and technical conditions in each country and for cross border data sharing practices.  Sharing of data is limited by gaps in (1) regulatory frameworks (limited policy framework, no national implementation strategies, limited engagement with the local governments and civil society), and (2) technical infrastructure (poor data infrastructure, lack of training programmes for government, no guidelines to implement an open data programme, and limitations re the cost of internet and connectivity).  A draft version of the global state of open data report will be launched online at the end of May. Myanmar scores 1/100 on the Open Data Barometer and is last (94/94) in the Global Open Data Index. It has a draft law on the right to information (2017) but this has been heavily critiqued for infringing upon basic freedoms of expression. There is no systemic open data strategy and no centralized national open data portal (though there are several independent open data portals).  The regional report considers two main risks for Data Sharing in-country and cross-border: In-Country Risks may be legal (copyright violation, data misuse, gap in the regulatory framework), technical (hacking, low-quality dataset, virus and malware), political (state surveillance, political persecution) and social (user’s data literacy and user’s one behaviour) which varies between all of the Mekong countries. Risks when sharing data between countries may also be legal (differing legal frameworks among countries), political, technical and social (limited understanding of the local context, language barrier). Sharing of data supports improvements in political, economic, social-culture and technical aspects of both in-country and cross-border.  A mitigation strategy is defined for each risk, considering prevention, detection and correction. In-country mitigation strategies may be legal (seek legal advice, create regulations for data sharing, only share public data, seek previous consent, improve understanding of the relevant law), technical (anonymize data before sharing, data security experts and data security plans, be alert for virus or malicious files, cross-check data sources, using encryption for data exchange) and social (sharing information in person, restraint in making public comment, being careful when sharing personal data) are included. Cross-border mitigation strategies suggest similar legal, technical and social approaches, noting the need to be aware of who data is shared with, understanding risks of data sharing, improving the understanding of the legal and political context).  Next steps are implementing the plan with the timeframe to develop the guidelines and implementation strategy. Also, want to be able to cross-border data sharing framework development for all partners as well as a result of this study. They are doing the responsible data policy development and separately with ethnic minority groups. This study is not exhaustive and further research is needed in terms of desegregation between sectors. Further investigation could lead to what are the barriers and impacts of these open data initiatives. Open data is just a tool to use for advocacy, campaigning, research, etc and only as good as the people using it. Thus, if there is no idea of how to use the data, the outcomes will not be effective in creating changes. |
| **4** | **OCHA Data Responsibility Guideline – MIMU (Catherine Lefebvre)**  MIMU provided a brief overview of OCHA Data Responsibility Guideline which was released last March. It is a draft version that anyone can give feedback. In the guideline, OCHA defined that data responsibility is a set of principles, process and tools that support the safe, ethical and effective management of data in humanitarian response. In brief, it goes beyond the Data privacy and Data Protection concepts as it entails a comprehensive approach of data sensitivity, data safety and data protection across the data management cycle.  There are a lot of guidelines and policies for managing personal data. This OCHA guideline provides a broader scope with other data (survey results, baseline data, etc.) with a framework to consider data management practices and identify potential risks from a technical and ethical angle. The initiative targets OCHA staff and promote these practices to its partners. In the context of Myanmar, MIMU has a role in coordinating the IM network, provides services such as data standards and cloud-based infrastructure for storing and transferring data. It must take into account the risk of hosting or passing through sensitive data.  Humanitarian data includes data on (1) Context or baseline information: secondary data, development data(infrastructure, poverty, access), geospatial data (locations of schools, health facilities, etc.), (2) Affected people and their needs: assessment data, population figures, movement data, and (3) Responders:3W, community perception data, cash and aid distribution data, etc.  It defines 9 data management steps as shown in the figure below    The guideline is useful as a framework to consider user’s own data management practices and associated risks. The principles are already well known but it provides practical tools, SOPs and templates that users can adapt for their own context. The data field is very dynamic in relation to collection methods and the processing of big data so data responsibility is going to be increasingly important.  The document is available at <http://centre.humdata.org/data-policy> |
| **5** | **Discussion on Open Data and Data Protection**  Capacity building: Consider carefully who needs specialised data management skills: some such as journalists need enough to understand good from bad analysis and to see the potential of use of data, but not to have to do it all themselves. It’s better to support journalists to link up with second experts and data scientists as partners in coming up with the needed analysis. This is useful area for investment in the academic sector and not enough is being made of the very interesting projects some universities are already working on.  Data users: MIMU noted the need to consider different levels of data “users”, i.e. (1) Data or information providers, (2) Data translators – infomediaries like MIMU, TAF, Phandeeyar – but also recognising that often visual representations of data such as maps may still need some explanation to be understood, (3) Information disseminators – media can play an especially important role here in popularising information to share and be understood more widely, and (4) Information users - not everyone in the general public will want to use the information but necessary to have enough stakeholders who are committed to being the watchdogs for ensuring policies are being implemented in practice  Data accountability: Myanmar’s government is talking about being more open and the 2014 Census has been an important first step to share a great deal of data. This included “data translator” activities such as short infographics and sharing information in face-to-face Township meetings. EITI for the private sector is another good example targeting the private sector. Currently most initiatives are private. Steps that are being taken include Myanmar’s involvement in an open government partnerships programme that sets up principles and guidelines for governments to open and publish data. |
| **6** | **National level Initiatives:**  **CSO/Central Statistics Organisation** – Draft Rules and regulations of the new Statistics Law have been produced (currently available in Myanmar language only). In terms of the SDGs and MSDP - the National Indicator Framework (NIF) is at a draft stage with comments due in mid-April. DPs requested inclusion of civil society in the process. Efforts are also underway to ensure comprehensive data gathering for the SDGs and MSDP - UNICEF led a consultation workshop at CSO in March seeking a coordinated approach to fill data gaps on social indicators for the NIF and the SDGs. Once the NIF is finalised, there will be a mapping exercise on the survey and administrative data that is available, the level of disaggregation, and the data quality to see what the data gaps are, and how these gaps will be filled.  **Social Accounting Matrix (SAM)** is being developed and tested for the year 2015 by the UN University and Danida. This economy-wide accounting framework represents the real economy of a single country and identifies government, investment, and foreign accounts. It includes 43 activities and 43 commodities, using data from the National Accounts, Budget Statistics and the breakdown of labour and households from the 2017 Myanmar Poverty and Living Conditions Survey. The main challenge of building a SAM is combining data from the various sources used. The Myanmar SAM disaggregates labour by education attainment level, and household income and expenditures by per capita expenditure quintiles for urban and rural areas and engagement in farming activities.  <https://www.wider.unu.edu/publication/pre-prototype-2015-social-accounting-matrix-sam-myanmar>  **National Strategy for the Development of Education Statistics** will be launched in June 2019 (UNESCO/MoE). The EMIS platform is still in preparation and will be linked with the school mapping platform being developed by MIMU and MoE.  **Upcoming Surveys:**  Inter-Censal Survey (ICS) – planned for November 2019 to reach 4,300 sample Enumeration Areas (EAs) representing about 5% of the total EAs in the country. 36 sample households will be selected in each EA. DoP will arrange a data user consultation workshop and donor consultation meeting after Thingyan. A Disability survey may be linked to the Inter-Censal Survey led by the Rehabilitation Dept with VSO would include all NIF indicators on disability. 2017 Myanmar Living Conditions Survey – WB, UNDP and CSO working on data analysis and report preparation. Qualitative study on the situation of children in the Wa region: UNICEF was requested by Wa authorities to conduct the study focusing on education and adolescent issues. Key Informant Interviews and Focus Group Discussions were conducted in Nov/Dec in 6 townships (including very remote areas). The language barrier has been one of the main challenges. The report will be published towards the end of May.  Qualitative Study on Myanmar Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises 2018 - launched in March and complements the 2017 quantitative survey. It includes a focus on informality (the collection of firms, workers, and activities that operate outside the legal and regulatory systems), the timber/wood sector, and the Gender wage gap. |
| **7.** | Updates from agencies, clusters/sectors and working groups **UNHCR:** CCCM Camp Profiles (Round 9). Data collection is underway and following cleaning and analysis. Aiming to share the report end of June / early July.  **WASH Cluster**: 3W for new displacement response in Rakhine conducted by the WASH cluster with valuable inputs from the Red Cross (MRCS and ICRC). A one-page DASHBOARD has been provided to partners and donors showing coverage and gaps of WASH services in displaced sites to support programming for newly displaced people. WASH 4W. Last year, Myanmar’s WASH cluster invited the global WASH cluster IMO to revise the WASH cluster monitoring framework (4W). Based on WASH cluster IMO field visits and a bilateral meeting with partners, WASH revised 4W indicators and trained the partners in Rakhine, Kachin and Northern Shan before Q1 4W reporting. Now, 4W data collection is finalized and will be published in the form of State level snapshots and a newsletter.  **MIMU:** National Coding System for settlements (not including school/health centers) – Ongoing MIMU/OneMap Myanmar initiative with GAD. The structure of the National Coding System has now been finalized with GAD and other involved ministries and MIMU has developed the database that will be used by GAD, using the 2015 GAD gazette as a base. Formal Sector School mapping – Ongoing MIMU/MoE/UNESCO project to link locations of formal sector schools to the new EMIS system. Training/Capacity Building – MIMU’s next open course will be the 3-day Information Management training in May. An Access training course has been developed for the training of GAD staff for the National Coding database. All MIMU trainings and training materials are in Myanmar language. The plan is to make all the training materials available online and to support universities and other stakeholders in using these materials. Seminar on partnerships for universities - In March, MIMU organized a 2-day seminar, Fostering Partnerships with Myanmar Universities involved in Geospatial Sciences and Research, involving 60 participants including 15 Myanmar universities and international resource persons. The seminar sought to promote universities to broaden partnerships to strengthen curricula and training capacity. Government organogram: MIMU released a Government infographic listing all Union level departments, accompanying the countrywide Government listing which includes contact details to DG level, including State/Region governments. |
|  | **Next Meeting –** theme is **Knowledge Management** with presentations from Jhpiego and DAI **on Wednesday June 19th, 3pm in the MIMU**. |

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|  | **Participants** | **Designation** | **Agency/ Organization** | **E-mail Address** |
| 1 | Shon Campbell | MIMU Manager | MIMU | manager.mimu@undp.org |
| 2 | Catherine Lefebvre | Information Mgt Specialist | MIMU | catherine.lefebvre@undp.org |
| 3 | Thiri May Kyaw | Resource Centre Associate | MIMU | thiri.may.kyaw@undp.org |
| 4 | Chit Thet Swe | Communication & Reporting consultant | MIMU | comms.mimu@gmail.com |
| 5 | Pyrou Chung | Senior Advisor | EWMI-ODI | pchung@ewmi-odi.org |
| 6 | Matthew Richard | IMO | UNHCR | [richard@unhcr.org](mailto:richard@unhcr.org) |
| 7 | Thi Thi Lwin | Assist. IMO | UNHCR | [lwint@unhcr.org](mailto:lwint@unhcr.org) |
| 8 | Kyaw Ko Thet | Programme Coordinator | INGO Forum | [ingodevelopment@gmail.com](mailto:ingodevelopment@gmail.com) |
| 9 | Myint Thu | M & E officer | PIN | myint.thu@peopleinneed.cz |
| 10 | Jasmin Freischlad | Head of Project | GIZ | [jasmin.freischlad@giz.de](mailto:jasmin.freischlad@giz.de) |
| 11 | Phoo Pyae Sone Win | Technical Advisor | GIZ | [phoo.win@giz.de](mailto:phoo.win@giz.de) |
| 12 | Win Myint | NAO (M & E) | UNFPA | [wmyint@unfpa.org](mailto:wmyint@unfpa.org) |
| 13 | Marc Gschwend | Programme Policy Officer | WFP | [Marc.gschwend@wfp.org](mailto:Marc.gschwend@wfp.org) |
| 14 | May Myo Chit | Government Liaison | Trócaire | Maymyo.chit@trocaire.org |
| 15 | Thein Zaw Oo | Resource Associate | IPA | theinzawoo@porverty-action.org |
| 16 | Michelle Korte | Research Coordinator | IPA | [mkorte@poverty-action.org](mailto:mkorte@poverty-action.org) |
| 17 | Angie Miller | Research assistant | IPA | angiemm@umich.edu |
| 18 | Zin New Win | Research Associate | IPA | [znwewin@poverty-action.org](mailto:znwewin@poverty-action.org) |
| 19 | Myo Hein Htut | Programme Office | Paung Sie Facility | [mnn@paungsiefacility.org](mailto:mnn@paungsiefacility.org) |
| 20 | Yamin Kyaw | Learning & Program Coordinator | Mercy Corps | [ykyaw@mercycorps.org](mailto:ykyaw@mercycorps.org) |
| 21 | Htun Lynn | M & E coordinator | UN-Habitat | [htunlyn@gmail.com](mailto:htunlyn@gmail.com) |
| 22 | Stephanie Kauv | Data Analyst | TAF | Stephanie.kauv@asiafoundation.org |
| 23 | Nicola Williams | Program Manager | TAF | Nicola.williams@asiafoundation.org |