

Agenda

- 1. Myanmar Development Observatory Updates (MDO/UNDP)
- 2. 2023 Monsoon Rice Mapping (ADPC)
- 3. "SeePuuYar" Platform (CDE)
- 4. Updates on Cluster/Sector/Agency initiatives
- 5. Activity Updates from MIMU
- 6. AOB and other discussions

Attendance

Chair: Ole Hansen (MIMU) Participants: SIG, UNDP, CDE, WFP, REACH, PI, MIMU, ADPC, RSP (16 participants from 9 organisations)

1. Myanmar Development Observatory Updates (MDO/UNDP)

Myanmar Development Observatory presented findings on vulnerability and conflict in Myanmar in the 3 years since 2021. A brief overview of MDO's work was first presented, including the three pillars: socio-economic, SDGs and conflict. In addition, MDO's cross-cutting issues include environment, gender, and human rights.

Vulnerability and conflict are analyzed through the lens of MDO's Vulnerability Conflict Index (VCI). The VCI was designed and constructed to provide insights into civilian vulnerability to conflict at township level in Myanmar. Aiming to support the decision making and implementation of various projects, the index is solely based on incidents that impact on civilians without any differentiation between the opposing forces.

As for the methodology, VCI is the result of 8 indicators, compiled from two sources: Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) and Data4Myanmar. More details on the calculation were then presented with steps to normalize and find the arithmetic mean. Some of the limitations are the lack of urban/rural division, gender blindness, and underrepresentation.

There are insightful observations in the graph of the number of events since February 2021 broken down by their type. Civilian fatalities take up the largest portion of the events. By the end of January 2024, all indicators except shelling and displacement are pointing to a downward trend. The number of burned houses, while significantly lower than before, is also showing an upward trend and expected to increase in the coming months owing to increased conflict in Rakhine State and Sagaing Region.

The maps showed the breakdown of individual indicators at the township level and how they contributed to township level VCIs for the whole country. They highlighted high conflict severity in many areas of the country across all types of incidents. The index is presented in relation to the context on the ground.

In the graph for VCI trend of the states and regions, Sagaing comes out as the most conflict vulnerable. However, there has been a decreasing trend for it since April 2023, yet it is still the highest among all.

In the detailed breakdown of each state and region, Sagaing has a number of townships with very high VCI yet several townships up north with very low population density suffered relatively less conflict incidents thus their low VCI. For Magway and Mandalay, just like others, those that are sharing borders with high conflict density townships are themselves indicating high VCI. In many states and regions, high VCI townships are related to the intensity of military operations there. Kayin State, despite intense conflict, has relatively low VCI compared to others. Three main cold spots currently include Ayeyarwady, Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw but since the activation of the conscription law, the number of explosions and assassinations has been increasing with the potential to see high VCI townships in the coming months.

The top 10% townships with high VCI are pulled out and Sagaing Regions has the most of them. Muse township from Shan (North) though has the highest VCT score mainly contributed by remote explosions, shelling, and displacement.

Even though VCI is based on purely conflict data, MDO suggests that it can also be used as a proxy indicator for assessing socio-economic conditions. After categorizing the areas into No Conflict, Low Conflict, and High Conflict, they can be analyzed with poverty indicators such as depth and headcount, showing their correlation.

There is also a clear negative correlation between the VCI and the Human Development Index (H-HDI). However, there is no clear correlation between the VCI and the People in Need (PiN) indicator. Through analyzing IDP spread patterns, it was also found that VCI does not necessarily coincide with the displacement events.

2. 2023 Monsoon Rice Mapping (ADPC)

ADPC current and upcoming rice mapping work was first discussed. ADPC has been mapping monsoon and summer rice in the top rice growing states and regions of Myanmar in the past few years. Historical mapping of summer rice from 2018 to 2021 started recently. Upcoming works include the mapping of summer rice 2024 which will conclude this month. Please refer to the <u>publications page</u> on the website for the full archive of reports.

As a brief overview of methodology, the use of satellite remote sensing, machine learning models and the validation approach were discussed.

Rainfall Analysis for 2023 shows an anomaly of drier (than average) period at the beginning and wetter period at the end of the season. Cumulative precipitation data also reflects these findings except for Rakhine State.

Vegetation Health Analysis for 2023 indicates a generally healthy status across all rice growing areas except for East Bago and Northern Mon due to floodings. The cumulative anomaly data shows a trend that vegetation becomes greener over time except for Shan and Rakhine States.

Detailed breakdown for the individual states and regions highlighted the following points.

- For Ayeyarwady Region, the rice area is similar to last year.
- For the Bago Region, there is a 5% decrease.
- For Yangon Region, stable across 2021 to 2023.
- For Rakhine State, there is a 4.5% increase. However, it is important to note that there is 7% uncertainty associated with that result. The impact of Cyclone Mocha in May and increased conflict in December are also considered. As for the Cyclone, since it hit after summer harvesting and before monsoon transplantation, a delay in transplanting date compared to last year was observed. Regarding the conflict, rice fields seem to have already been harvested by the time of the escalations.
- For Magway Region, 4.4% decrease from last year.
- Mandalay Region did not change much this year from last year (-1%), indicating stabilization compared to the decline of 21% from 2021.
- For Shan State, 7.4% decrease.
- For Kayah State, although it has comparatively low rice cultivation, there is 25.7% decrease from last year.
- For Kayin State, there is 11.6% decrease from last year.

The tabularized summary shows that at the national level, there is 4.3% decrease from 2021 to 2022 and another 2.0% decrease from 2022 to 2023.

Parallel to rice mapping, crop mapping will also be piloted. It will cover not just rice but also beans and pulses for 2023 Winter, 2024 Summer and Rainy seasons. The area coverage will be Ayeyarwady, Yangon, Bago regions. Seasonal crop field data collection has been conducted wherever possible. These field data were incorporated into the crop mapping model and also used for the evaluation process.

Next Steps

- To estimate total production as soon as IFPRI yield results become available.
- Continue field data collection and incorporating into rice model.
- Complete mapping Summer 2024 and historical Summer 2018 2021
- Pilot beans and pulses mapping for the 2023 Winter

More on https://servir.adpc.net/

3. "SeePuuYar" Platform (CDE)

<u>"SeePuuYar" platform</u> was-launched in the first week of April by CDE. It is a free e-learning platform in Myanmar language where users can learn many IM skills such as data management, GIS, and remote sensing. Based on WordPress and open-source Moodle Learning Management System (LMS), the platform has features for selfpaced learning through full online certificate courses.

Overall, the platform can be divided into two sections: knowledge sharing and e-learning. For the former, SeePuuYar has around 2000 GIS glossaries translated into Myanmar language. There are also links and references to 27 geospatial data sources. The blogs and articles section features a rich collection of translated and original resources. SeePuuYar is also inviting technical experts to contribute to this section.

In the e-learning section, learning materials consist of videos, documents, and tutorials posts. The current selection of resources covers Excel, QGIS, ArcGIS and Google Earth Engine with more to come at various levels. There are also links to external resources such as YouTube and MIMU courses. For self-paced online courses, through Moodle LMS, certificates will be generated if the test score is more than 80% on each test.

The following is the planned roster of courses along with their completion stages.

Courses that are open to the public right now.

- Excel for Data Management
- Basic QGIS

Courses that are under development

- Remote sensing basic course
- Google Earth Engine basic course

Planned Courses

- ArcGIS basic course
- QGIS intermediate course

Registration is not necessary for all resources except for the self-paced courses. Even for these, it is ensured that minimal information is collected.

Important upcoming product is the Myanmar version of QGIS Manual. It is the translation of the official QGIS 3.28 manual and consists of around 700 pages. It will be an interactive document that will be freely available on the platform.

The presenter encouraged participants and organizations to contribute to SeePuuYar platform by.

- sharing good data sites.
- sharing good learning sites and materials.
- sharing knowledge products.
- submitting new glossaries, relevant figure links, suggestions on better translations.
- register and write blogs/articles.
- develop short tutorials.
- collaborate for e-learning courses.

4. Updates on Cluster/Sector/Agency initiatives

Other participants did not provide any updates on their activities.

IM Network Meeting Minutes

April 2024 | themimu.info/sector/information-management

5. Activity Updates from MIMU

Current and Upcoming Activities and Trainings:

March

- Basic GIS Training (4th to 8th)
- MIMU HDP Nexus 5W exercise started.
- Earthquake map and page
- A number of collaborative GIS activities with CDE resulting in useful resources such as bridges >180 ft dataset

April

- Basic Mapping Training (29th to 30th)
- Mapping exercise to explore available data and data gaps on persons with disabilities.
- Release of HDP Nexus 5W Products
- Nutrition Cluster Monitoring Dashboard hosted.

May

- Power BI Training (14th to 17th) (invitation in the last week of April)

June

- Intermediate QGIS Training
- IM Workshop
- Data Communication Training (New)

Brief Updates on the latest MIMU HDP Nexus 5W Exercise

196 organizations (3 more than the previous round) provided inputs in the latest February 2024 round. All in all, MIMU HDP Nexus 5W covers 56 thousand activities at the village level for the reported total of 214 organizations. With dashboards released first week of April, remaining products include maps and the trend report, which will be consecutively published after Thingyan.

6. AOB and other discussions

The next regular meeting will tentatively be in the first week of June 2024. Participants are encouraged to suggest and/or contribute presentations to the next meeting.