



### Agenda

1. Joint Market Monitoring Initiative + Dashboard Design
2. An Interactive Approach to Processing 3W/4W/5W Data (*MIMU*)
3. Updates on Cluster/Sector/Agency initiatives
4. Activity Updates from MIMU
5. AOB and other discussions

### Attendance

Chair: Ole Hansen (MIMU)

Participants: CBC, PNx, Cesvi, IRC, ICAP, PI, JMMI, MEDG, UN-Habitat, SIPRI, WWF, UNFPA, UNICEF, ICRC, FRC, UNRCO, MIMU (23 participants from 17 organisations)

### 1. Data on the Landmine / ERW Situation in Myanmar (*ICBL*)

This presentation introduced the Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI), provided latest findings from the February 2026 round, and demonstrated the new JMMI dashboard hosted on the MIMU website.

The objective of the JMMI is to assess market functionality, availability and prices of essential goods to inform cash and voucher assistance (CVA) programming in Myanmar. Its primary audiences are the Cash Working Group and information management officers, clusters and sectoral actors (to inform whether CVA or in-kind is the more appropriate modality), and humanitarian actors designing and implementing CVA programmes.

The methodology relies on a common that all participating partners use and contribute. Data is collected monthly through key informant interviews with vendors and retailers in selected marketplaces, over a fixed two-week window. The quantitative survey covers prices and availability of items, supply chains, access to markets, and challenges faced by vendors and customers. Participation is voluntary.

JMMI offers added value such as standardised and comparable data across states/regions and over time (enabling trend analysis), broad geographic coverage, reduced burden on individual partners, and reduced duplication.

The monthly cycle covers four phases: pre-data collection (training and any tool changes), data collection, cleaning and analysis, and dissemination through a monthly factsheet, dataset, and, newly, a dashboard.

Latest findings from the Feb 2026 round were presented including the marketing functionality score (MFS). The MFS is built on five dimensions with a maximum total of 100: Accessibility (25), Availability (30), Affordability (15), Resilience (20), and Infrastructure (10).

#### New JMMI Dashboard

The dashboard was developed in Power BI and is hosted on the MIMU website. <https://themimu.info/joint-market-monitoring-initiative>

Design priorities were that the dashboard be easy to access, intuitive to use, scalable, and easy to update. The pipeline runs from KoBo data collection, through cleaning and analysis in R, into Power Query (pulling directly from SharePoint to ensure freshness), and finally into Power BI for modelling and visualisation.

The dashboard includes the following tabs:

- **Home:** National basket costs (JMMI, Food, NFI, WASH) with month-on-month direction; township-level map of JMMI basket cost; townships with the highest and lowest basket costs (selectable by basket); a donut chart showing the share of assessed townships in each MFS category; and coverage statistics (states/regions, townships, prices monitored, interviews conducted).
- **Price Time Series:** Time series for each monitored item and each basket from May 2025 onwards, selectable at national, state/region or township level.
- **Market Functionality:** MFS map and table by township; tooltip showing dimension-level breakdown; a comparison tool to view two townships' MFS evolution over time.
- **Access & Security:** Headline figures and breakdown of access and security issues reported by vendors at national and state/region level.
- **About JMMI:** Background, methodology, limitations, and acknowledgement of contributing partners.

## Discussion, Q&A

- **Engagement with the private sector:** It was asked whether REACH plans to engage private-sector actors who could both contribute price data and benefit from JMMI outputs. It was noted that REACH does engage private-sector partners in other countries where the JMMI model is implemented, but that in Myanmar REACH operates with a low-visibility approach which constrains this.
- **Coordination with humanitarian actors:** It was suggested that closer coordination with the Humanitarian Access Working Group could be valuable, given JMMI's strong focus on access to markets, and as a possible source of proxy data when key informants cannot be reached. Previous engagement with OCHA on access issues had been deprioritised in favour of deduplication work, but a partnership in this area would be welcomed; the chair offered to facilitate an introduction.
- **Analytics for the dashboard:** REACH tracks clicks and downloads for similar products in other countries, but this is more difficult in Myanmar where outputs are largely shared bilaterally. Support from MIMU in tracking visitors to the dashboard would be welcomed.
- **Basket composition and regional dietary differences:** It was raised that local diets vary. It was clarified that the JMMI basket is based on the Cash and Markets Working Group Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) list of items considered most consumed monthly by households. The basket aims for comparability across the country rather than perfect local representation.
- **Resilience and infrastructure dimensions of the MFS:** Resilience captures supply-chain robustness on the vendor side – e.g. how many days a vendor's stock of rice will last, and how long restocking takes. Infrastructure captures conditions such as whether vendors have adequate storage at the marketplace (vs. at home) and the range of payment methods accepted (cash-only markets score lower than markets accepting mobile payments, vouchers or informal credit). The full methodology can be shared on request.

## Joining the JMMI

Partners interested in contributing data are warmly invited. The next data collection period is 3-20 April 2026. Interested organisations are asked to confirm attendance at training (with names and contact details of relevant staff plus training date), share a list of potential data collection locations, and schedule a bilateral with the REACH team. If you wish to join the JMMI exercise, please contact Cash and Market Working Group via [imofficer.mmcwg@gmail.com](mailto:imofficer.mmcwg@gmail.com).

## 2. An Interactive Approach to Processing 3W/4W/5W Data (MIMU)

This presentation introduced an interactive web-based platform under development at MIMU for cleaning and validating geographic location data in MIMU HDP Nexus 5W activity tracking datasets.

MIMU has been collecting HDP Nexus 5W data since 2007, twice yearly, with more than 210 contributing organisations and over 160,000 rows in recent rounds. There are over 72,000 villages, wards, village tracts, towns and IDP camps in MIMU PCodes. At this scale, errors in geographic input are inevitable and are compounded by:

- Latin transliterations, Myanmar script and local dialect variations. The same Myanmar name can be spelled multiple ways in English as such common (local) names can differ from the official PCode name.
- Names being placed at the wrong administrative level.
- Camp changes and camps not yet captured in established camp lists.

The MIMU PCoder is a VBA-based Excel add-in originally developed by UNOCHA Nepal in 2006 and adapted by MIMU for the Myanmar PCode system from around 2008. It has served the community for many years, and is proven, offline-capable, familiar, lightweight, and algorithmically sound. However, it has a number of limitations:

- **Sequential matching:** matching depends on each higher administrative level being correctly populated. If any level breaks, the whole row reverts to manual correction.
- **No cross-field validation:** the tool cannot detect inactive locations, merged village tracts, villages upgraded to wards, or hierarchy mismatches.
- **Performance:** VBA macros in Excel can be slow with large datasets.
- **Security and compatibility:** modern operating systems and Excel versions flag macros as security risks and frequently disable them by default, which can prevent the tool from running at all.
- **No spatial context:** candidate matches are presented as a sorted text list with no map view, making it hard to verify matches in unfamiliar areas. When the PCoder cannot match a row, users have to fall back on Ctrl+F searches across the 60,000+ village dataset, which is time-consuming.

The new platform is an all-in-one web-based system under development since around February 2026. Its goals are:

- no more switching between separate Excel files
- no more manual records of recurring spelling errors (the platform learns from past corrections)
- no more macro / security-risk issues
- an integrated workflow that goes beyond PCodes to also fix organisation, partner, sector and sub-sector names; and better performance overall.

Approximately 80% of inputs are expected to be auto-resolved by a cascading set of matching strategies, applied cheapest-first: exact match (hash-map lookup against pre-computed normalised indexes), custom match (learned from previous reviewer decisions), and fuzzy match (Levenshtein-based, similar to the existing PCoder, applied within the resolved parent context).

The remaining 20% of rows that require manual review are supported with several views designed to help reviewers make better-informed decisions: an interactive map view, a proximity view of similar-named neighbouring locations, and a hierarchical view (helpful in Myanmar, where the same village name can occur in different village tracts within the same township).

On data security: the platform is online-only at this stage so partners can use it from anywhere, but it does not save any user data. Uploaded files are processed in the browser; once the user closes the page, the data is gone. This was described as both a security and a cost decision.

## Discussion, Q&A

- **Launch and partner training:** The platform is currently in a testing phase. Once it has been polished with feedback from the MIMU team, it will be opened up to partners and cluster IM officers for the next 5W round. Feedback from partners is welcomed; development is responsive and changes can typically be made quickly. The platform is also expected to improve over time as the history of matches and corrections accumulates.
- **Online vs. offline use and data security:** The platform is currently online-only so that partners can access it from any location. However, no user data is stored on the platform, and uploaded files are processed in the browser and are not retained when the page is closed.

## 3. Updates on Cluster/Sector/Agency initiatives

Health Cluster: A report on health facilities in Myanmar was produced last year, drawing on secondary data from online and other sources, with information up to December. Work in 2026 is planned to deepen this research, covering health services, numbers of professionals, numbers and conditions of facilities, and will be coordinated primarily through the Health Cluster, but other partners willing to contribute information are welcome to engage. An offer was made to present this work in more depth at a future IM Network meeting.

## 4. Activity Updates from MIMU

Pcodes Version 9.7 was released, with a focus on village-level updates:

- 1,176 village coordinates modified across 58 townships in 6 states/regions.
- 750 village coordinates newly added across 63 townships in 7 states/regions.
- 2 new villages added in Seikphyu Township, Magway Region.

Further details on these changes are available on the Pcodes page of the MIMU website.

<https://themimu.info/place-codes>

Trainings:

- Recently completed: IM Workshop (3-6 February), Excel Distance Learning (January-February), and Basic QGIS Training (2-6 March).
- Currently underway: Power BI Training (23-26 March).
- Upcoming: Basic Mapping Training (29-30 April) aimed at those new to mapping, and recommended for anyone interested in producing simple maps with accessible tools.

## 5. AOB and other discussions

The next IM Network English-language meeting is expected in June, and next Myanmar-language meeting to take place in May.