



# UNHCR and Information Management in South-East Myanmar

SE Data Workshop  
Yangon, 12 November 2014

# UNHCR in SE



# 1. Background

- UNHCR began working in SE in 2003, opened Mawlamyine office in 2004
  - Currently five field offices: Loikaw, Taungoo, Hpa-An, Mawlamyine and Myeik/Dawei
  - Work under LOU with government, with Natala as line ministry
- Historical focus on physical infrastructure and assistance to IDPs
  - Shift towards preparation for refugee/ IDP return in 2013

# UNHCR SE IMU

- Information Management Unit established in Mawlamyine in early 2013
  - Moved to Hpa-An with office relocation in early 2014
- Currently 3 full-time IM staff, one international and two national
- Data collection includes: return monitoring, mission tracking, and inputs for 3Ws and P-Codes
  - GIS capacity at field level
  - Information sharing with partners done in state/region



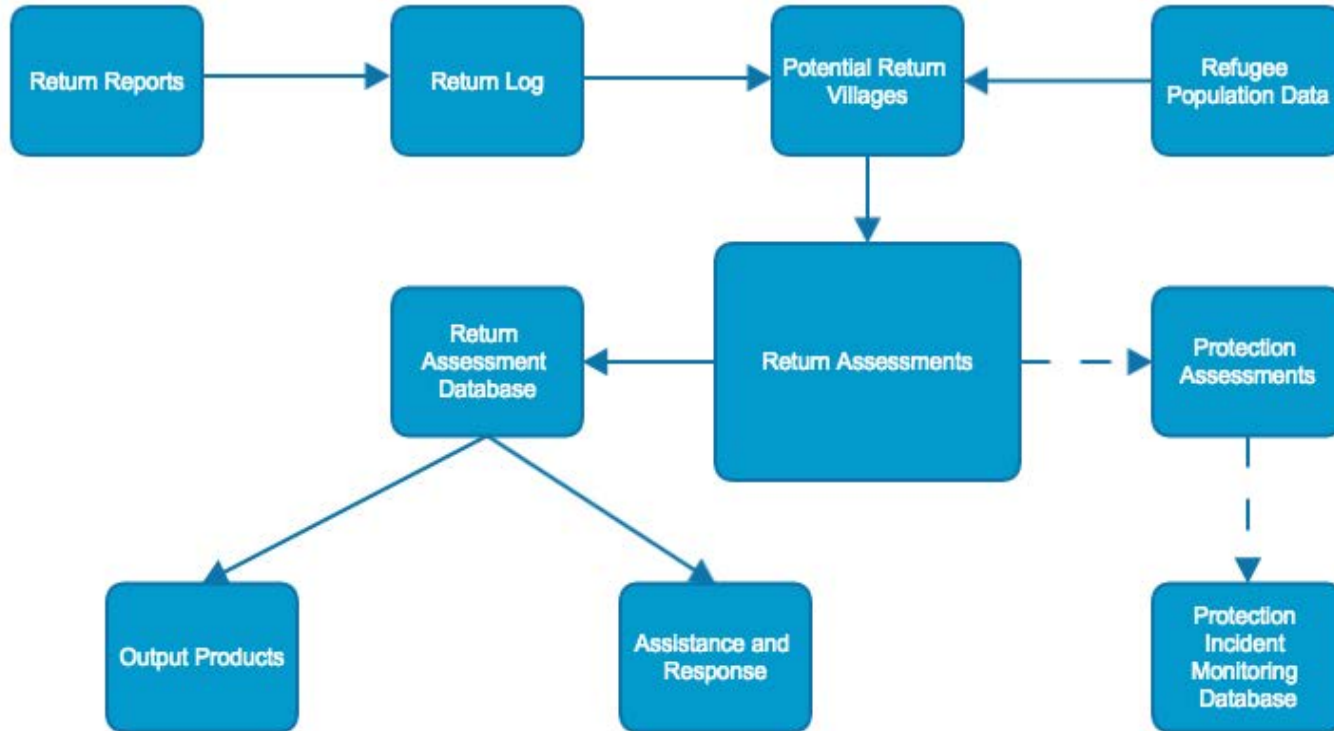
# Return Assessments



## 2. Return Assessments

- Community-level assessment conducted with key informant in a potential return village
- Three key objectives
  - Confirm the presence of IDP/refugee returnees and capture the profile of their displacement
  - Assess the needs and vulnerabilities of both the returnees and the community absorbing them
  - Map the overall profile of the community, including availability of facilities and access to services

# Data Flow



# Snapshot of RA Database



## RETURN ASSESSMENT DATABASE

UNHCR Mawlamyine

# of Assessments 73  
# of Verified Return 19  
% 26.0

### Community Profile

Key Informants	Telecom
Services	Assistance
Distance to Service	Livelihood
Travel Time	Landmine
Health Staff	Electricity
Shelter Type	Access
Water Source	

### IDP Returnee

Vulnerability
Identity Docs
Land
Assistance

### Refugee Returnee

Vulnerability
Identity Docs
Land
Assistance

### Output Products

Reports Overview	Summary
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### Dashboards

Overview
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### Snapshot by State

### Demographic data

Population Method	Population Stats
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### Needs Assessment

Community	Returnee
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# Outputs

- Return Assessment monitoring system is managed centrally in Hpa-An in an Access Database
  - Monthly RA Dashboards – south-east wide and state/region-level
    - Summary information for external/restricted audience
  - Monthly Return Maps – same as above
    - Locations of verified return villages
- Return Assessment Interim Report – published September 2014
- ArcGIS Interactive Map (planned)

# Dashboards and Maps

## Myanmar SE Operation - Return Assessments

UNHCR Myanmar

03 October 2013



### Background information

Since June 2013, UNHCR has been piloting a system to assess spontaneous returns in the Southeast of Myanmar, a process that may start in the absence of an organized Voluntary Repatriation operation. A verified return village is, therefore, a village where UNHCR field staff have confirmed there are refugees and/or IDPs who have returned since January 2012 with the intention of remaining permanently. Using a "do no harm" approach based around community level discussion, the return assessments collect information about the patterns and needs of returnees in the Southeast. The project does not, however, attempt to represent the total number of returnees. As of October 2013, the return monitoring project is underway in Kayah State, Mon State and Tanintharyi Region, with plans to expand to Kayah State.

Total Assessments	73
Verified Return Villages	19
Refugee Villages of Origin	38

### Return Villages by State/Region



### No. of Returnees in assessed villages by State/Region

State	IDP Returnees		Refugee Returnees	
	IDP	Individuals	IDP	Individuals
Mon	0	0	6	9
Kayah	184	912	11	15
Tanintharyi	34	12	20	65
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>924</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>84</b>

### Return Villages by Type



### No. of Return Villages by Type

State	IDP Returnees	Refugee Returnees	Both IDP & Refugee Returnees
Mon	0	6	6
Kayah	5	4	9
Tanintharyi	2	4	6
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>21</b>

Source: UNHCR

For more information, contact

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## UNHCR Return Assessment (Mon State)



Disclaimer: The names shown and the boundaries used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by UNHCR.

# Coordination and Information Sharing

- Return Report trainings conducted throughout the South-East
  - Partners trained to submit Return Reports, a six-question one-pager regarding possible IDP/refugee return movements
- Feedback provided bilaterally and in inter-agency meetings
  - Output products (dashboards, maps)
  - List of Verified Return Villages (restricted)
  - Community Profiles (under development)
  - Specific requests for data (eg. Villages where a specific need was identified, such as water or school).

# Other IM Initiatives





# 3. Mission Tracking

- Microsoft Access database cataloguing details of UNHCR staff missions throughout SE Myanmar
- Produces dashboards and maps on a yearly basis
- Developing township maps of village-tracts visited by government, NSA or mixed control areas
- Links to internal library of field reports

# Other Initiatives

- Tracking of assistance to verified return villages
- 3W and P-code inputs to MIMU
- Monitoring and mapping of “pilot projects”
- Development of briefing products (state profiles, briefing notes, thematic reports)
- Mapping of UNHCR project activities – 2004 through 2014

# Information for refugees



# 4. Information for Refugees Workplan

- Part of strategic focus on preparation for return – purpose is to provide reliable information to refugees to inform decisions re: return
- Workplan with Yangon Protection and IMU Mae Sot to develop information products for refugees in Thailand
  - Includes community profiles, information notes on key issues such as land, FAQs, and village-level information on services



# UNHCR Thailand

- IMU Hpa-An works closely with IMU Mae Sot to share information regarding situations in SE and Thailand
  - Cross-border visits, both technical and to the camps
- UNHCR Thailand developed Information Management Common Service (IMCS) in 2013, with cross-border web portal ([commonservice.info](http://commonservice.info)) as the centrepiece
  - Overall objective is disseminate information per refugee needs
  - Other initiatives include mapping of communication channels, information sharing centres with CCSDPT...
- MFLF survey results – forthcoming report, bilateral sharing

# Questions?