

Introduction

Myanmar's complex and multi-faceted humanitarian crisis is characterized by armed conflict, inter-communal tensions and vulnerability to natural hazards such as cyclones and floods. As a result, people are regularly exposed to significant loss of life, livelihoods, and property, or end up displaced for shorter or longer periods of time. Humanitarian aid providers must be prepared to meet the potentially significant humanitarian needs resulting from these shocks.

To inform the response, multi-sectoral needs assessments are required to enable in-depth and systematic primary data collection at the inter-agency level. Globally, the MIRA approach was developed to undertake such a joint assessment and analysis of needs to inform the development of the initial priorities and provide decision support to the humanitarian community in the immediate provision of aid to people affected by a crisis.

On 21 July 2022, a small task team of the Needs Monitoring and Analysis Working Group contextualized the MIRA tool and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in close cooperation with national and subnational level cluster coordinators, field partners, as well as other working groups to ensure alignment. The Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) revised and updated the MIRA tool and SOPs to ensure simplified data collection and analysis, inter alia through harmonization of assessment forms and the use of KOBO tools. On 21 August 2023, the ICCG endorsed the final version of the MIRA tool and SOPs.

The overall purpose is to help all humanitarian decision makers collectively understand and communicate on the nature and dynamics of a crisis in the first days after impact and to support the development of strategic priorities. The MIRA informs and supports the design of subsequent needs assessments and analysis, which are often more detailed and operational in focus.

Objective, Methodology and Facilitation

The **main objectives** of the training are to enhance knowledge, understanding and practice on coordinated needs assessments and to increase national capacity to use the MIRA approach in a major emergency to enhance work with partners and identify the priority needs of the affected population.

The specific objectives are to:

- Familiarize participants with the international response system for a common understanding and strengthen partnerships between humanitarian actors
- Improve the knowledge and expertise of humanitarian actors in the country in the identification of the needs of affected communities
- Familiarize participants with the MIRA process and assessment questionnaire
- Strengthen the collaboration among the humanitarian partners in assessments
- Identify trained members for future teams to conduct needs assessments when required
- Train participants to (co-)facilitate future MIRA trainings in their own organization or for a wider group of organizations.

The training is designed to fulfil the objectives, and several tools will be used to deliver the sessions, including PowerPoint presentation, simulation exercise, quizzes, group work, group discussion and participatory

approach. The facilitation team comprises OCHA's national emergency response preparedness (ERP) focal point and resource persons from OCHA's Information Management Unit and sub-offices.

The training team was comprised of four facilitators.

1. John Jeffery Seng, OCHA Mandalay Office
2. Khin Thandar Soe, Information Management Unit, Yangon
3. Sai Phong Kham, Coordination Unit, Yangon
4. Tin Aung Thein, OCHA Sittwe Office

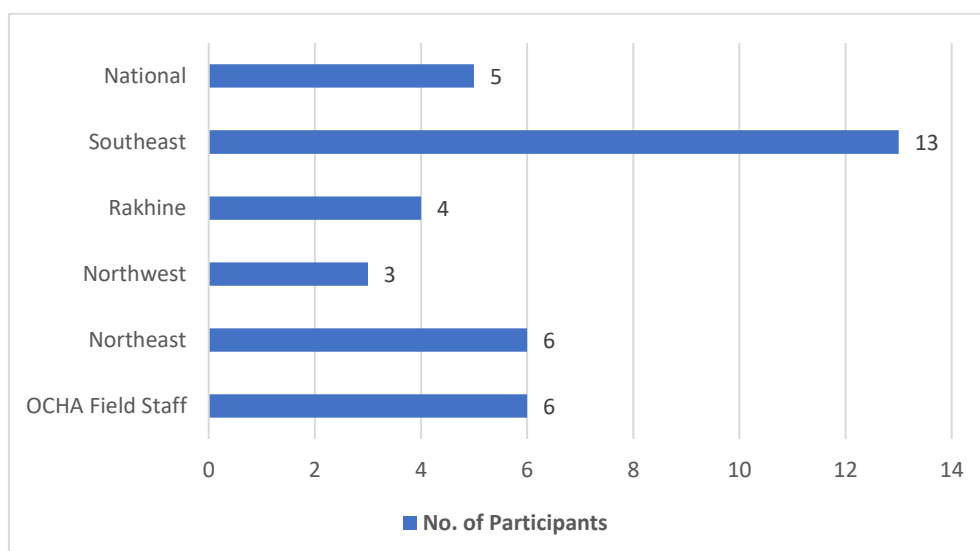
The overview of the training

The training was held in-person and delivered in the Myanmar language. On behalf of the Head of Office, Mr Cecil Dunne, Head of Sub-office, OCHA Northeast Hub delivered the opening remarks. The training took two full-day sessions and included four main parts: Overview of MIRA, Methodology and key guidelines, Kobo application and a half-day simulation exercise.

The overview of the MIRA session highlighted the brief background, fundamental components of the MIRA and what MIRA can deliver, and three phases of the MIRA process which include preparedness, operational and post-assessment phases. The methodology and key guidelines session covered the entire process of assessment including data collection techniques, data analysis, reporting and dissemination. The Kobo application session included explanations of questions in the MIRA format, how to collect data by using mobile application and data submission by doing practical exercises. The simulation exercise, which is the last session aimed at getting practical knowledge and skills to be ready for future joint assessment exercises in the field. The detailed sessions of the training can be found in Annex 2 - Training Agenda.

The training targeted only cluster/area of responsibility focal points from the National, Northeast, Northwest, Rakhine and Southeast and OCHA field staff. Participants represent the national staff from INGOs and the UN who are currently working on emergency preparedness and response in humanitarian settings.

Figure 1. Number of participants by specific zone



Once the training was completed, all the National, Northeast, Northwest, Rakhine and Southeast participants gained practical knowledge and skills to deliver future training and lead coordinated assessments.

Suggestion and feedback from the participants

Throughout the training, participants provided suggestions and feedback as below.

- Sentences' structure and translation into Burmese especially in Kobo need to be adjusted.
- The timing of the training should be extended to two and a half days for the participants to digest the questionnaires, which is the most important part.
- The content shared during the data analysis session was very relevant and useful, however, it would be good if more focus could be put on how to analyze MIRA-collected data, as well as emphasis on the fact that data collection is a critical part for data analysis.
- It would be great to have the discussion points relevant to the training and if the facilitators cut out discussion which is irrelevant to the training, e.g. the discussion about MHF funding, is very important but it should be discussed on the right platform.
- The simulation exercise was very good, however, due to not having enough timing, the questionnaire parts were not completely covered. Although it is understandable that getting TA and all necessary approvals are still important to balance the two parts (TA, necessary approval and actual questionnaire parts). As the debriefing's guiding question remains focused on the usage of electronic MIRA form etc....."
- Black font color should be used in Power point presentations.
- Take time to explain the form, as some terms in the form are technical and enumerators from different backgrounds may find it difficult to understand.
- The agenda setting is a very tight schedule
- Overall good but need to improve how to develop an action plan in a real situation.
- Although we all love having a green environment, it is better to provide the MIRA form hard copies for simulation exercise or ask the participant in advance to bring the hard copies
- I hope to see the updated version of MIRA form in KoBo apps after revising it based on the feedback received from participants.
- Time for most of the sessions is not enough for discussion between participants and training facilitators.
- The Data Analysis and Reporting session was conducted in a very short time using highly technical terms and data acronyms, which are very difficult to learn for "most attendances" who are not very familiar with data analysis in their daily work. The training should focus some time on specific data examples and practical calculations.
- OCHA to conduct a briefing session for all clusters/working groups after finalizing the updated MIRA questions.

Next Steps

Due to the large number of participant registrations in the first national MIRA training, a second training might be considered in 2025 for those focal points that were not able to join the training.

Participants are expected to conduct follow-on training at the sub-national level to build capacity and promote coordination among emergency actors. The rollout of the MIRA training will continue in 2025 at the sub-national level targeting cluster members and local humanitarian response partners.

The participants reported technical issues with the Kobo app, corrected some Myanmar terminology translation and suggested several questions to be updated. The OCHA team will work with the ICCG members to update the MIRA tools and improve the training methodology based on participant feedback. OCHA identified focal points for future assessments, formed a training team for each zone and developed training plans as reflected in the following table.

Zone	Training Team Composition	Location	Target Date	Mode of Training (online/in-person)	Target Group
Northeast	Coordination, GBV, Protection, Health, Nutrition, WASH #7 members	Myitkyina	Feb 2025	In-person	Cluster members/partners (Kachin)
		Taunggyi	Mar 2025	In-person	Cluster members/partners (Northern Shan)
Northwest	Coordination, Health, GBV, Nutrition, WASH, Food Security #6 members	Yangon	Feb 2025	In-person	National staff (Christian Aid)
		Mandalay/ Nyaung-Oo	Mar 2025	In-person	Local partners (multi-sectoral)
Rakhine	Coordination, Nutrition, Health, Shelter/NFI/C CCM, WASH #5 members	Sittwe	2-3 rd weeks of Jan 2025	In-person	Cluster members/partners
		Yangon	Last week of January and 1 st week of February	In-person	Cluster members/partners
		Sittwe	Mar 2025	In-person	Cluster members/partners
		Yangon	Apr 2025	In-person	Cluster members/partners
Southeast	Coordination, FSC, Health, CP, GBV, Mine Action, Nutrition, WASH, PSEA, SRHR #15 members	Hpa-an	2nd week of March 2025	In-person	Cluster members/partners
		Taunggyi	3rd week of March 2025	In-person	Cluster members/partners

Recommendations:

The participants made the following recommendations for future action and/or discussions:

- Budget contributions from each cluster are suggested. This is to be discussed and decided at the national ICCG and the sub-national level AICCG and with the senior management from the cluster lead agencies to agree to the rollout of the training based on cost-sharing.
- As there is no budget available yet, it is suggested to encourage MHF partners to cover the training costs within their budget lines.
- Suggest consideration of prioritized needs and locations of the MIRA results in future MHF allocation strategies as relevant.

Conclusion

The first national-level MIRA training was successfully conducted in Yangon with active participation and interaction of the participants from the different coordination zones. The MIRA training was recognized for its usefulness and practicality in assessing the needs of the affected populations in disaster/conflict-affected areas. After completion of the training, participants are ensured to:

1. Strengthen the national capacities and deliver MIRA training at the sub-national level.
2. Establish preparedness activities to support coordinated assessments and information management.
3. Strengthen collaboration among humanitarian partners in collecting and analyzing information.

The MIRA training also allowed cluster coordinators and humanitarian actors to better understand their role in emergencies and the need for coordination among partners for a more effective and efficient response.

By taking this opportunity, the appreciation of the following personnel is noted:

- Sajjad Mohammad Sajid, Head of Office and Marcel Vaessen, Head of coordination unit for providing overall guidance and other support as relevant.
- The OCHA IM Unit for their support in transferring the MIRA form onto the Kobo toolbox, so that it can be applied in both web browsers and the Kobo App for mobile devices.
- Appreciation also goes to the OCHA's admin team for their support on logistics arrangements throughout the training process.
- Thanks to the national ICCG for their support in securing the participation of the sub-national cluster/AoR focal points.

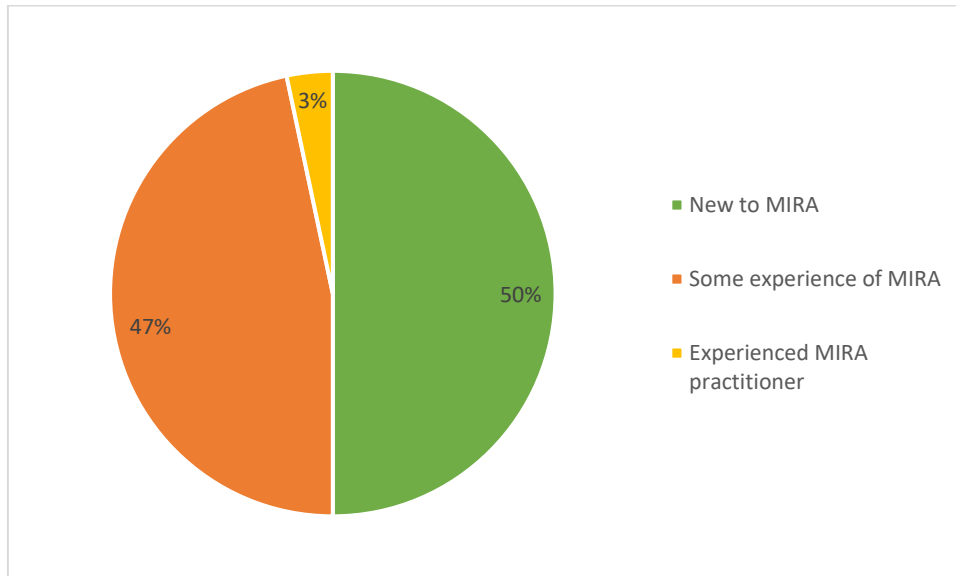
Annexes

1. Training Evaluation Report
2. Training Agenda
3. List of participants
4. Photos

Annex 1: Training Evaluation Report

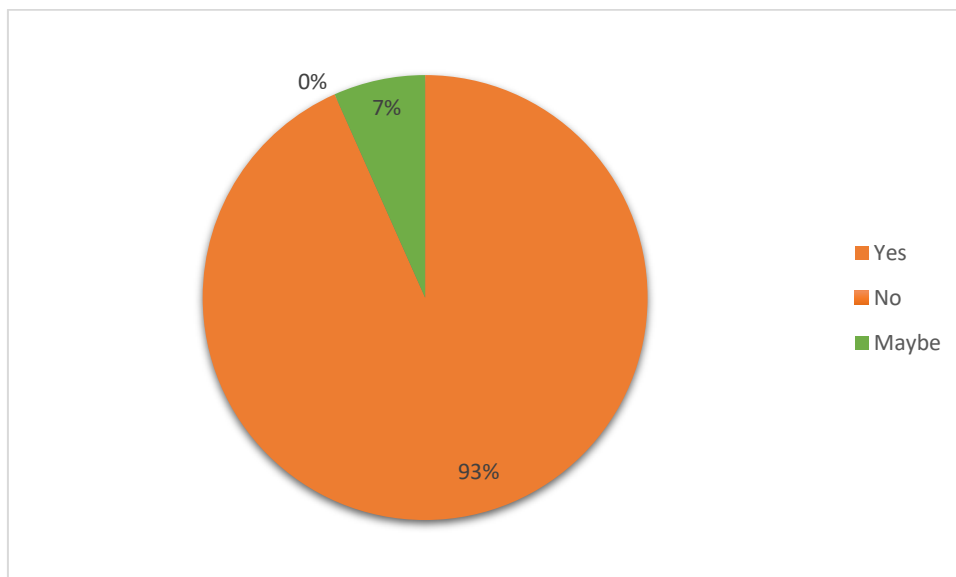
A total of 30 out of 31 participants responded. Participants provided feedback, grading regarding the training content, and overall evaluations of the training. Their feedback helps the training team to improve the methodology and design of the training in the future. Evaluation results are shown below.

1. Which category best describes your experience level before the training?



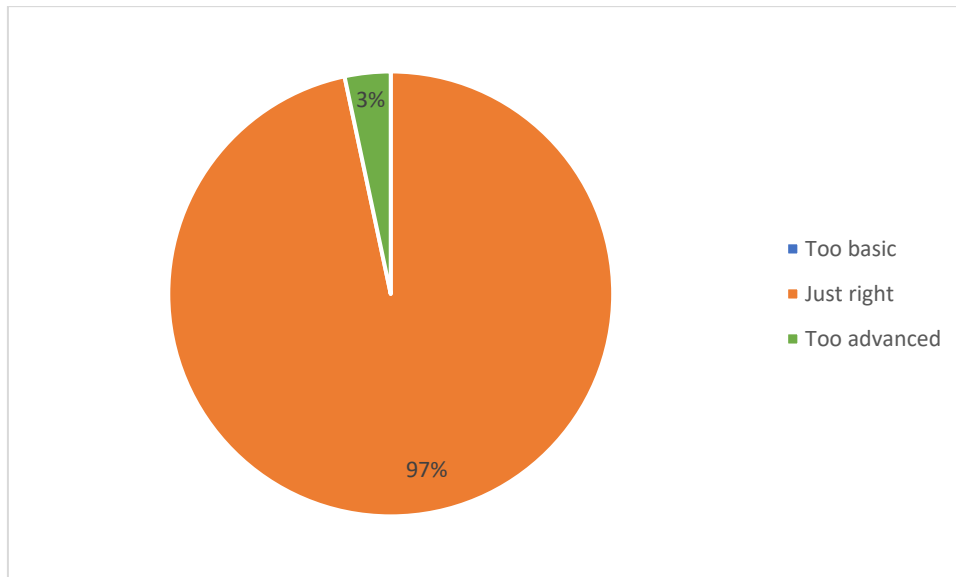
Half of the participants were new to MIRA even though majority of participants from INGOs and UN agencies showed 50 per cent as new and 47 per cent have some experience of the MIRA.

2. Did the training meet your expectations?



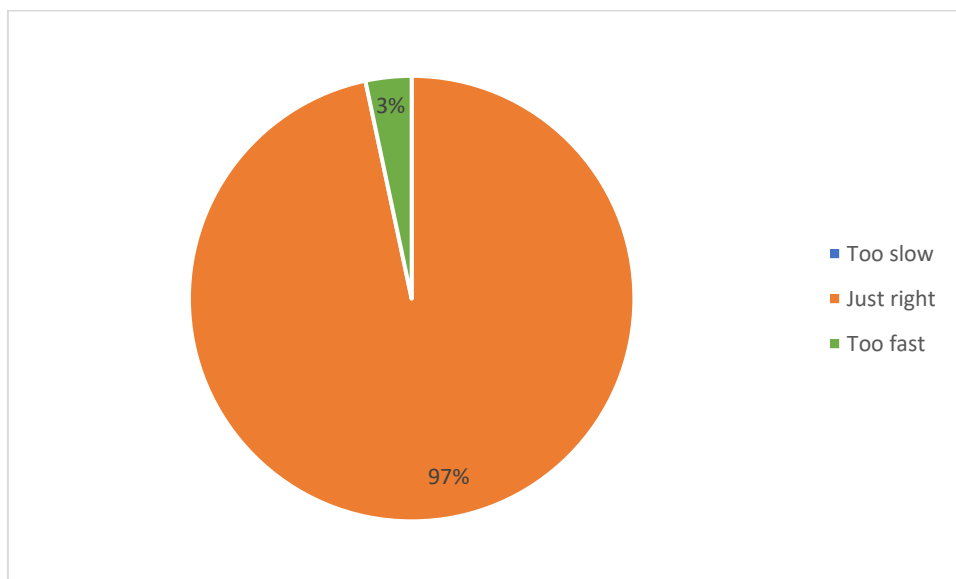
However, it was observed that most of the participants (93%) met their expectations of joining the training even though a small number of participants (7%) would need to digest more. It shows that the training was effective.

3. Overall, was the content appropriate?



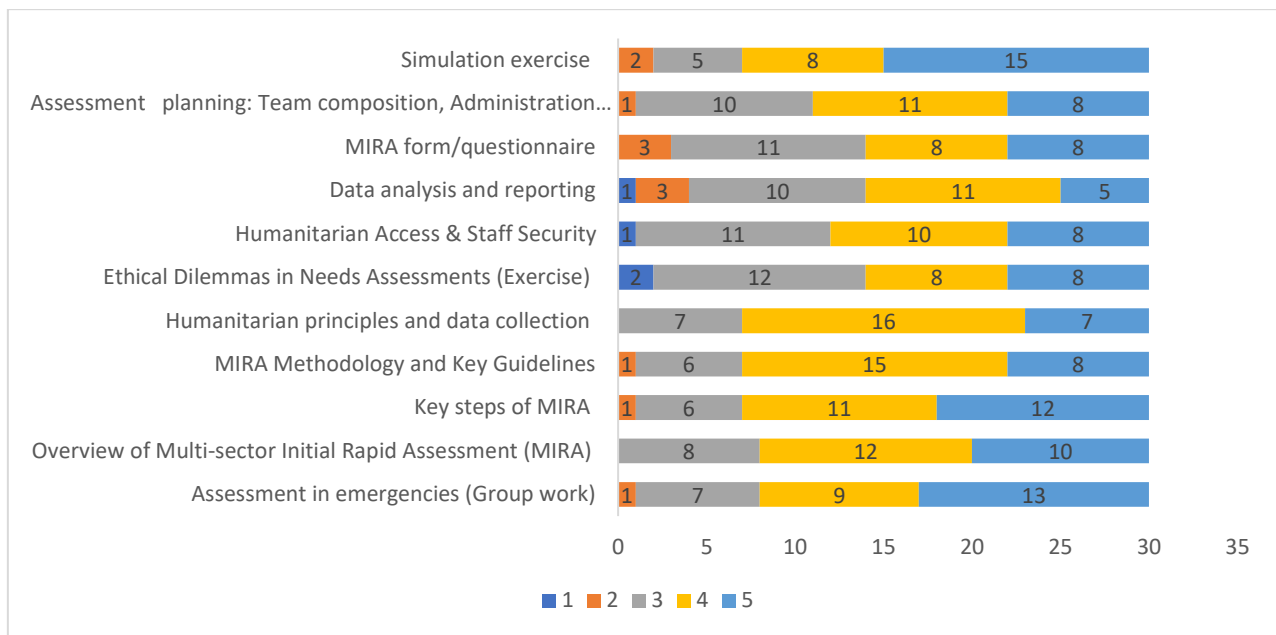
In terms of the contents provided during the training, 97 per cent of the participants replied as 'just right'. It shows that the learning capacities of the participants met the concepts of MIRA.

4. Overall, was the pace appropriate?



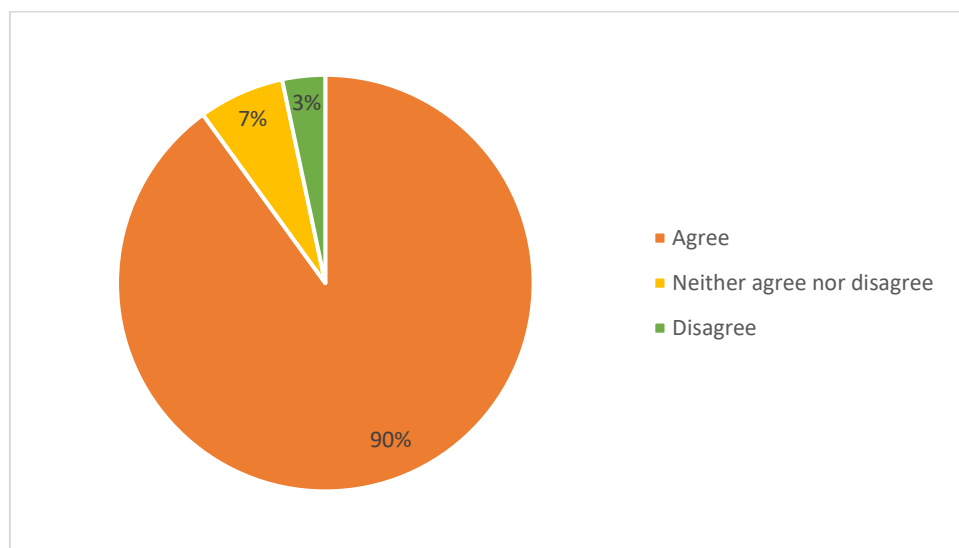
The overall findings show that most participants (97%) replied as 'just right', while some other participants had difficulties following the pace (3%).

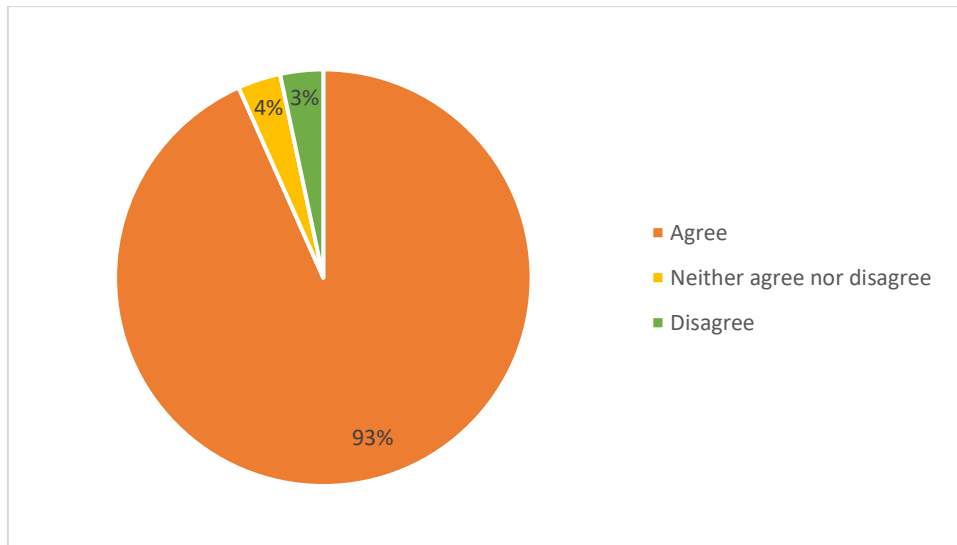
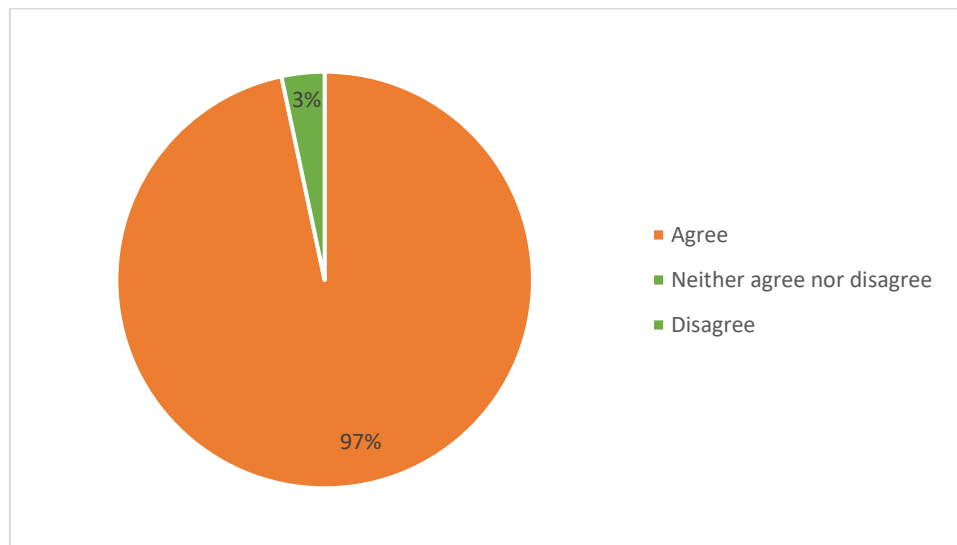
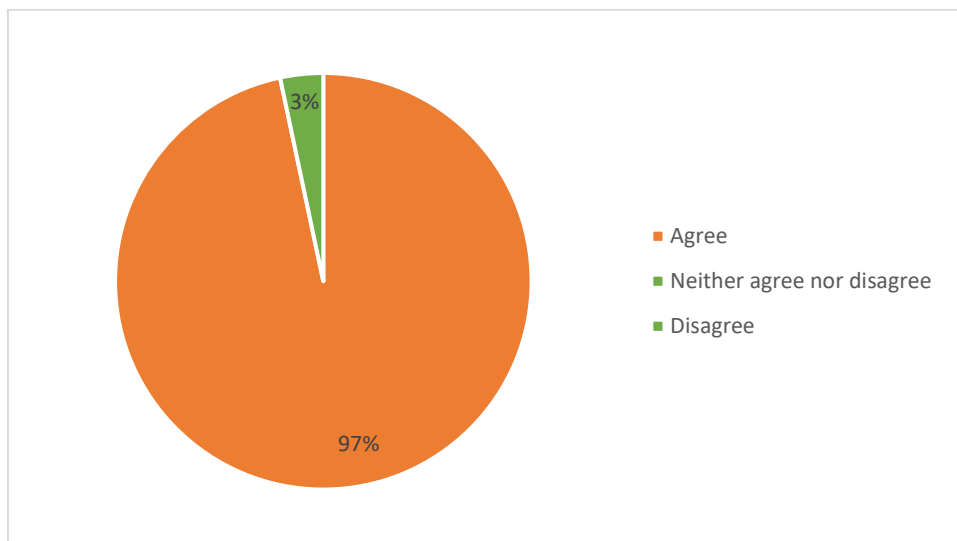
5. Grading satisfaction with each session on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is very dissatisfied and 5 is very satisfied:

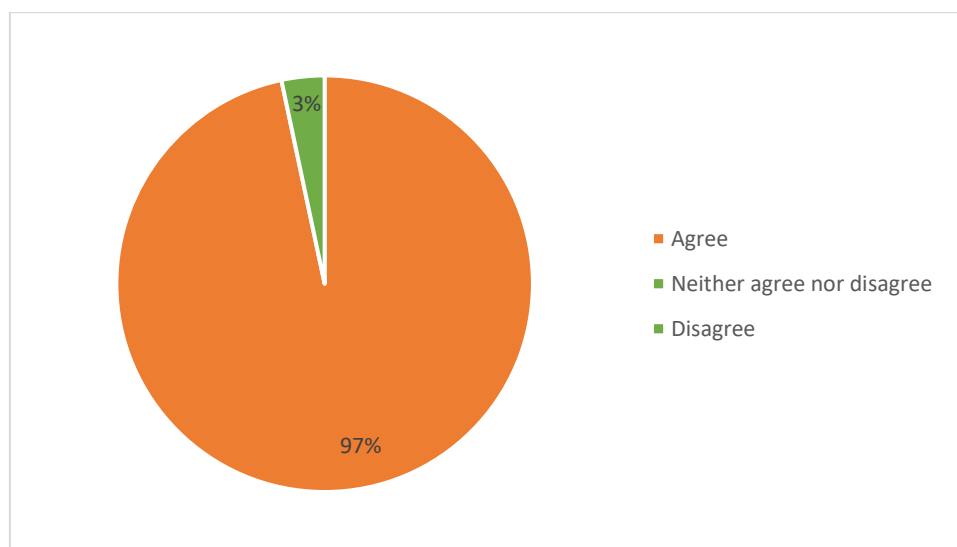
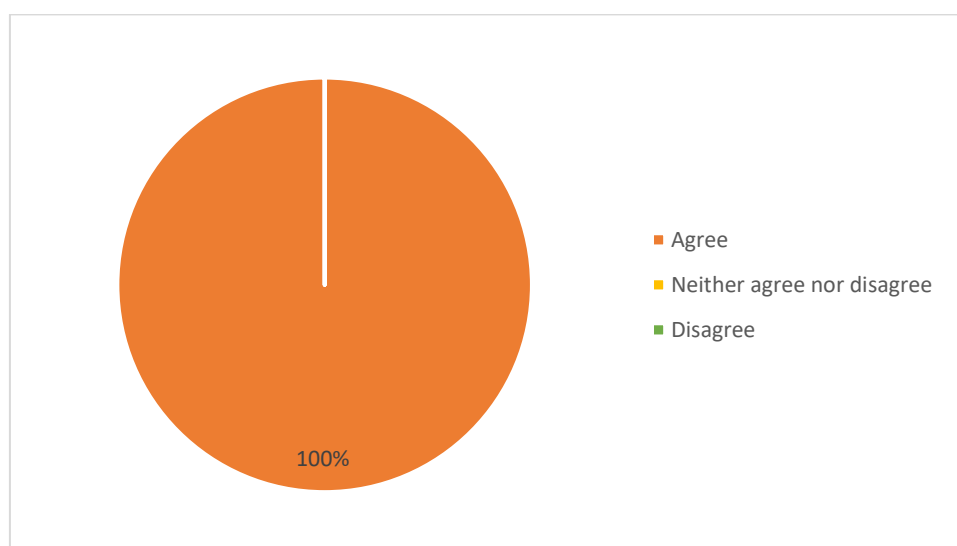
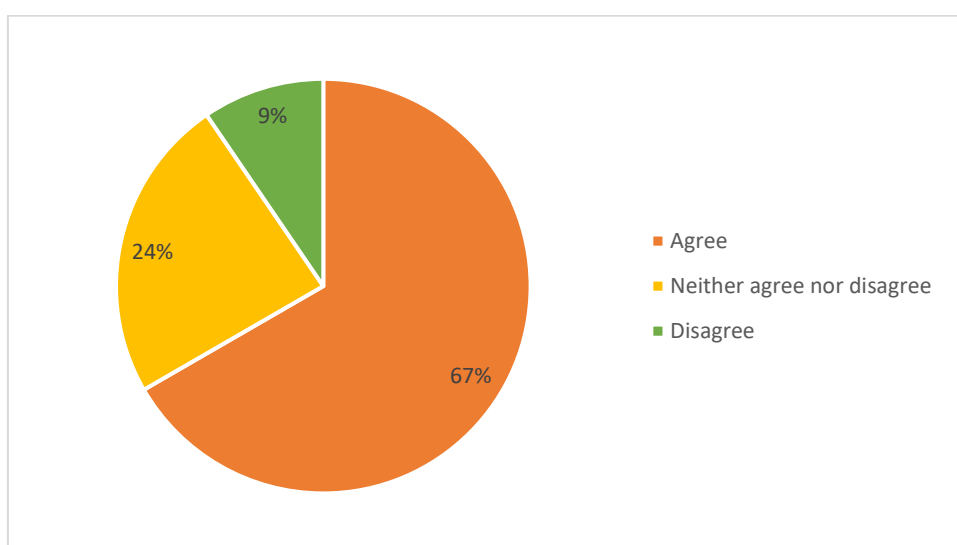


As per the results for satisfaction with each session provided during the training, the majority of the participants were satisfied with the modules of the training.

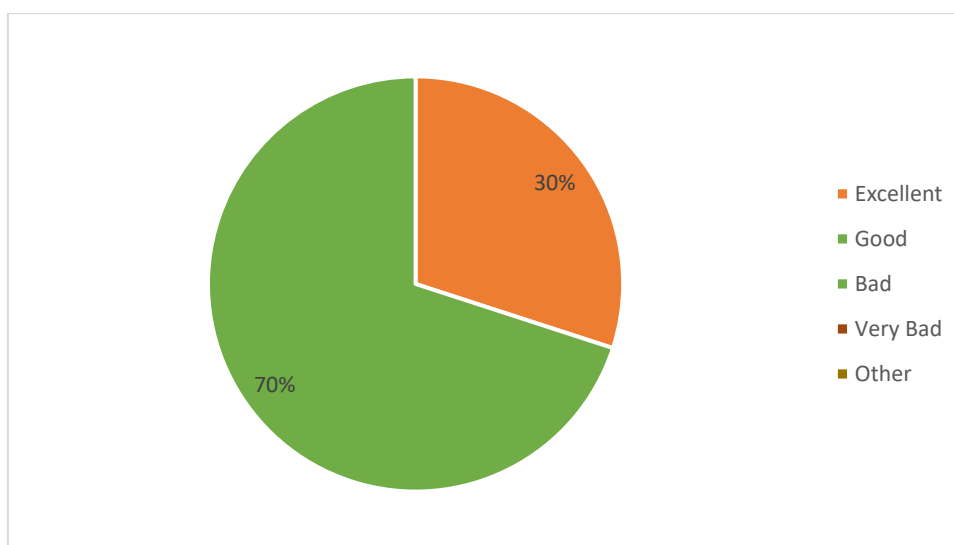
6. The training covered the subject adequately.



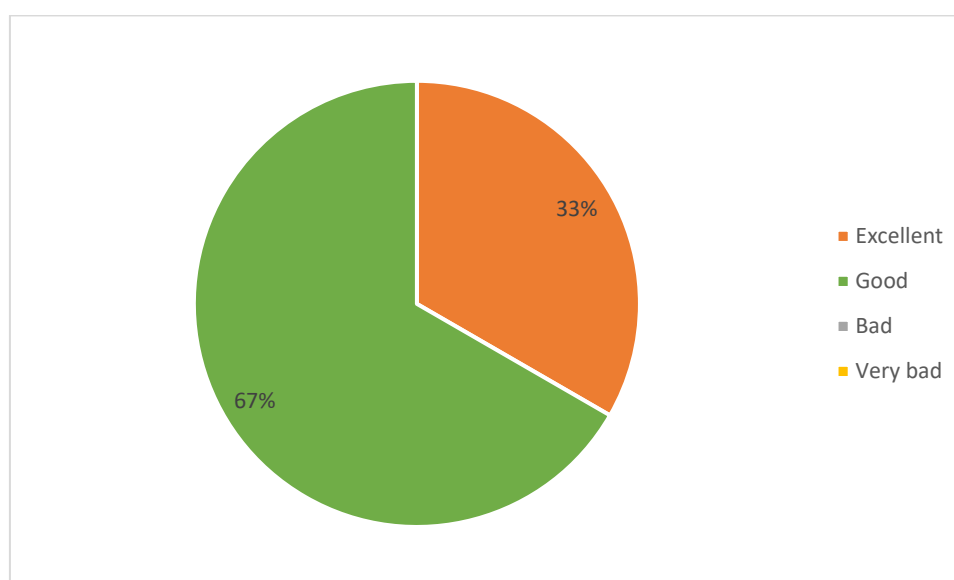
7. The content was what I need to learn.**8. Learning materials are useful.****9. The facilitator encouraged active participation.**

10. The training is relevant to my job.**11. I will recommend that training to my colleagues and partners.****12. The training duration is appropriate.**

13. Comments on the course - (usefulness of the topics discussion, group work, games, simulation exercise, references)



14. Overall rating of the training



The overall rating of the result shows as good 67 per cent and excellent as 33 per cent. It shows that all participants thought the training was useful and addressed its objectives.

15. Suggestions on any aspect of the training

- Based on my field assessment experiences, we must face situations when we cannot use the hard copies of MIRA forms or mobile Kobo tools due to complex situations. So, it would be good if such a practical experience-sharing session or brainstorming session were allocated for participants during the training days.
- More time is needed to discuss and to have the same understanding of the questions in the form.
- Sharing RNA questionnaires briefly compared with MIRA questionnaires in short sessions.
- More discussion via group work is better to do after lunchtime, training time should be from 8:30 AM until 4:30 PM to avoid the traffic time.
- Sharing photos and experiences of previous assessments- maybe with 5 minutes video.
- To train more local staff at sub-cluster level.

Annex 2: Agenda

Day – 1

Time	Agenda Item
08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:15	Opening remark
09:15 – 09:45	Introduction of the training objectives and participants
09:45 – 10:00	Break
10:00 – 10:45	Assessment in emergencies
10:45 – 11:15	Overview of Multi-sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA)
11:15 – 12:00	Key steps of MIRA
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch
13:00 – 14:00	Humanitarian principles and data collection
14:00 – 14:45	MIRA methodology and key guidelines
14:45 – 15:15	Ethical dilemmas in needs assessments (Exercise)
15:15 – 15:30	Break
15:30 – 15:45	Humanitarian access & staff security
15:45 – 16:45	Data analysis and reporting
16:45 – 17:00	Wrap-up and personal reflection time

Day – 2

08:30 – 09:00	Registration & warm up
9:00 – 10:30	MIRA form/questionnaire
10:30 – 10:45	Break
10:45 – 11:15	KoBo toolbox
11:15 – 11:45	Assessment planning: Team composition, administration and logistics
11:45 – 12:00	Next steps
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch
13:00 – 13:30	Simulation exercise (Planning)
13:30 – 15:30	Simulation exercise
15:30 – 15:45	Break
15:45 – 16:45	Exercise debriefing
16:45 – 17:00	Evaluation and closing

Annex 3: List of participants

#	Name	Cluster	Organization	Zone
1	Pan Khat Kyaw	GBV	UNFPA	Northeast
2	Zau Lot	Protection	UNHCR	
3	Nyan Yeyint Paing	Health	WHO	
4	Dr.Htun Oo Han	Health & Nutrition	UNICEF	
5	Sanda Lwin	WASH	UNICEF	
6	Kyaw Thet	WASH	UNICEF	
7	Aye Aye Win	Food Security	WFP	Northeast
8	Dr Aung Phyto Hein	Health	WHO	
9	Dr Su Mon Kyaw	Nutrition; Health	UNICEF	
10	Saw Nowel Aung	Nutrition	Save the Children	Rakhine
11	Sann Wai Wai Lwin	Health;	WHO	
12	Pwint Phoo Wai	Shelter/NFI/CCCM	UNHCR	
13	Lae Ye Win	WASH	UNICEF	
14	May Zan Kyaw	Mine Action	UNICEF	Southeast
15	Khun Kham Htoo	Nutrition	UNICEF	
16	Phyo Phyo May	Food Security	WFP	
17	Chaw Su Ma	GBV	UNFPA	
18	Dr. Kaung Htet	Health	WHO	
19	Thida Seine	Child Protection	UNICEF	
20	Myo Thurein Latt	Health	UNFPA	
21	Dr. Htet Su Kyi	Health	UNFPA	
22	ALOYSIUS	Shelter/NFI/CCCM	UNHCR	
23	Yaw Di Sian Leen Sung	GBV	UNFPA	
24	Ye Min Aung	WASH	UNICEF	
25	Dr Nant Tin Tin Shwe	Health	WHO	
26	Khin Mar Win	WASH	UNICEF	
27	Hnin Su Wai	Education	Save the Children	National
28	Naw Teresa Maung	GBV	UNFPA	
29	Shwe Toe	WASH; Shelter/NFI/CCCM	Save the Children	
30	Thu Zar Aung	MEAL Advisor	Care Myanmar	
31	Saw Nay Oo Keh	WASH; Shelter/NFI/CCCM	Malteser	

OCHA Field Staff

#	Name	Unit	Office
1	Naw Ei Shwe Cin Lin	Southeast Hub	Hpa-An
2	Nang Nom Kham	Northeast Hub	Lashio
3	San Aung Li	Northeast Hub	Myitkyina
4	John Jeffry Seng	Northwest Hub	Mandalay
5	Aye Aye Khin	Southeast Hub	Taunggyi
6	Ye Min Htwe	Information Management	Yangon

Annex 4: Photos



