**Minutes of IM Network Meeting: 5th October, 2016**

Chair Person: Shon Campbell, MIMU Manager.

Participants’ Organizations: WV, UNHCR, UNFPA, FAO, OCHA, UNESCO, WFP, MIMU

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|  | **Issues discussed** | **Next steps** |
|  | **IM Network Survey Results**  MIMU presented the results of the recent IM Network Survey. The IM Network (IMN) was established in 2013 to strengthen the quality of information for evidence-based development and humanitarian policy, planning and managerial decisions through a coordinated approach building on relevant existing information systems. It's four main objectives are to promote best practices in IM, standardise and harmonize datasets, carry out coordinated and joint IM initiatives, to build the capacity in the management of different forms of data. At the time of the survey 37 IM Network meetings had been held on a monthly basis. Meeting minutes are circulated through the IMN Google group (82 members) and through the MIMU website IM sector page which has received 509 page views over the last six months. The three sub-groups established under the IM Network are the GIS Working Group, the ICT for Development Working Group, and the South-eastern Data Network.  The 2014 IMN work plan defined the IMN activities through 2014 and 2015, and were reviewed and fine-tuned for 2016/7. MIMU has led the group as chair and secretariat, with support from OCHA on humanitarian issues. In terms of progress against activities defined in the work plan:   * Information exchange and standards. Geospatial information sharing is now possible through the **MIMU Geonode** but there has not been any specific activity promoting the sharing of agency-specific datasets. The **MIMU Place codes** provide a mechanism for information exchange and currently is cover 78 percent of the villages across the country (from none at all in 2008 when the Pcodes were established). MIMU is currently proving technical support to the development of a nationwide system in the context of the OneMap project. An **inventory of datasets, IM assets** was undertaken in 2014 but completed only by agencies with dedicated IM capacity so only partially achieved. The key thematic indicators and most **reliable data sources** have been identified through various mechanisms (clusters/sectors, MIMU baseline data, UNDP-CSO SDG Data Readiness assessment). The sharing of information on reliability of datasets remains sensitive. A key achievement of the IM Network has been the Countrywide Humanitarian **Data Collection Standards,** developed in 2015 following creation of Data Disaggregation taskforce to review data collection arrangements across the clusters/sectors active in Rakhine, Kachin and Northern Shan. It has been rolled out across CCCM, Shelter, NFI, Protection sectors by UNHCR, and in the HNO/HRP beneficiary categories. Additional steps were planned by OCHA to roll this out at field level. Another aim of IM network is to fill the gaps in **secondary data management and analysis** however this has not been achieved due to lack of capacity for analysis.MIMU continues to maintain the Baseline data which collates 216 indicators from public sources. UNOCHA has been taken the step to review the secondary data needed for emergency assessments. A small **capacity development** taskforce looked at specific needs to improve IM and defined Excel training as a priority; MIMU created an Excel training course which is now being converted to a certificate module as well as a basic training in principles of Information Management. The IM Network also reviewed flood response issues in 2015 as emergency response, defining an adapted 3W process for emergencies.   In August 2016, the online survey was conducted over a three-week period to get the views of network members on the activities and how it could better achieve on its objectives. Among the 15 respondents, 14 were from Yangon and 1 from Nay Pyi Taw. The majority of respondents work for UN (13), the rest (2) participants were from INGOs/independent. The questionnaire covered information on respondents, attendance at meetings, perceived quality and usefulness of the IM Network meetings, use of the meeting minutes, whether the IM network is meeting its objectives and suggestions for improvement.  In terms of results: People appreciated the updated presentations, networking and useful resources. **Attendance**; some people attended the meeting whenever it is possible, some people attended when the topic is interested. The main reasons for not attending meetings were other commitments/ travel, lack of awareness of the meeting timing and being based away from Yangon. **Meeting quality;** the overall meeting management (agenda, timeliness, ability to participate) was generally appreciated. The level of follow up of actions from the meeting was positive though the one area with more “fair” rather than “good”. 27% of the respondents were concerned that the required decision makers were not attending the meetings. The respondents considered the IM Network meetings to be useful (over half) and very useful (40-47%) for presentation, networking, technical knowledge, updates, as a forum for advice, resources and suggestion. The content and presentation of **the meeting minutes** were seen as useful with 60% of the respondents usually or always opening the minutes. Respondents were satisfied with the presentation, content and format of the minutes with most (60-67%) and 80-87% of the survey respondents considered that the IM network is **meeting its objectives**.  Suggestions included trying Skype for extending field outreach (some limitations as far as connectivity). Lack of agency/cluster/sector dedicated information management capacity remains a limiting issues in terms of active participation in the Network as well as progress in the work plan. Other suggestions were to create a collaborative online workspace (MIMU had looked into this previously and was unable to establish this through the website but will review any new options), and to add new themes/presentations around government IM initiatives, humanitarian information, and new technology capacity development.  Next steps could be to seek more information from field based members and to provide an easy-read guide to the IM network were suggested next steps. |  |
|  | **Cluster/ Sector/ agency updates**  No updates from the GIS and ICT4D WG which did not meet in this period.  **WFP** is working to release the Food Security Atlas survey report which is conducted by WFP.  **Wold Vision** is planning a field assessment for Area Rehabilitation program in the area of Waingmaw, Myitkyina in Kachin, and will undertake a cash distribution assessment in Rakhine to be started in November, 2016.  **OCHA** has been focused on the HNO and HRP and will release the map of IDP camps with two versions of A0 and A4.  **UNESCO** is preparing the series of reports and overviews of the education sector in States/Regions.  **FAO** is facilitating the IPC/International Phase Classification exercise, which is a globally recognised and agreed tool used to asses food security based on available secondary data.  **UNHCR** is preparing a CCCM monthly monitoring tool – the initial focus will be camps in Sittwe, Myebon and Pauktaw townships. The questions and guideline will be finished very soon and data will be collected using the Kobo mobile platform when it is launched at the end of this month.  **MIMU** has completed the data collection for the September 3W and is launching the products from this exercise. The village tract level maps will be launched this week followed by the countrywide and state and regions reports. 210 agencies contributed their activities to this 3W round including 35 border agencies. MIMU will also be soon launching the MIMU/PSF Situation Analysis of southeastern Myanmar – at this stage it is planned to release the soft version including on memory sticks for areas with limited connectivity. The plan to prepare an Online Photo archive has been developed by the MIMU and presented to the UN Communications Group and the Humanitarian Advocacy Communications Group – the tool will include uploaded photos by registered providers and possibility for registered users to select and download photos for use in reports, communications materials, by journalists etc. The archive would be hosted by MIMU alongside the MIMU website. School mapping activities with the MoE and UNESCO are to enter a second phase in which the location data will be placed alongside the school data for MoE use. | OCHA will present an overview of the issues re data in the HNO/HRP process in the next meeting  FAO will make a presentation on the IPC in one of the coming meetings |
| **5.** | **AOB**  No points raised in this meeting |  |
|  | **Next Meeting**  The next meeting will be in November 2nd at 3 pm in the MIMU. Please share any suggestions re speakers for IM Network meetings. |  |

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