**Minutes of IM Network Meeting: 6th June 2018**

Chair: Catherine Lefebvre, MIMU Information Management Analyst.

Participants: UNICEF, CPI, SCI, UNFPA, ICRC, MIMU

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|  | **Issues discussed** | **Next steps** |
|  | **Child-Centred Risk Assessment**  Ms Ni Ni Win/ UNICEF presented the Myanmar Child Centred Risk Assessment (CCRA) 2017 which has been developed by UNICEF and the Government of Myanmar. Children (below 18 years old) represent over one third of the population and their vulnerabilities are indicative of development challenges. Children are disproportionately affected by disaster. The CCRA provides a child-centred risk index, drawn from five core components of risk, namely Exposure, Hazard, Vulnerability, Capacity and Climate Change. The first version was released in 2015 at State and Region level using 24 indicators. This second version has been expanded to 32 indicators for 325 townships, based on use of data from the 2014 Population and Housing census. All indicators are equally weighted.  There are some limitations to the report: Initially, the population in 13 townships were undercounted in the Census (Kachin, Kayin and northern Rakhine). It relies on secondary data. Data availability required the incorporation of some proxy data. Some data is not available even at township level, specifically on reported child abuse, climate change, fire, children in irregular settlements and hazardous areas.  The CCRA found highest risk is concentrated along the coastal areas in Rakhine, Ayeyarwady and Yangon. It also shows risk hotspots within Shan, Chin and Kachin States. The CCRA has various uses including township risk profiling, advocacy on child-centred resilience, multi-sectoral interventions and risk-informed country programming. The report has been released and is available through <http://themimu.info/sites/themimu.info/files/documents/Report_Myanmar_Child-Centred_Risk_Assessment_UNICEF_2017_0.pdf> |  |
|  | Ethics Review Committee (ERC) David Gilmore, INGO Rakhine Initiative provided a brief overview of experience with the ERC and research restrictions in Rakhine State. A challenge has been lack of clarity about requirements and procedures for submission to the ERC. Specifically there is confusion about the role of the ERC and its legal/policy basis. Previously only the Ministry of Health and Sports had such a mechanism in place for biomedical research. Now it is not clear whether there are several committees based in different ministries or a pool of ministry officials in one committee sitting at MOSW or at MOFA to make decisions. Committee composition and how they work is also unclear - the requirement appears to apply to all data collection taking place countrywide however the extent to which approval is required for different types of monitoring and assessments is unclear. Clarity is also needed on the timeframe of data collection with some agencies having been asked to produce justifications for previous surveys as far as 2015.  There is no set list of requirements or document needed, and agencies have been told to submit different type of paperwork at different times, sometimes with multiple rounds of documentation requests. Agencies have been told to re-submit all their documents for something as minor as incorrect page numbering. There appears to be no appeals process, nor any criteria for why particular research should or should not be approved. The process is not time-bound, which means that it can take anywhere between 3-6 months. All documents must be translated in Myanmar. In some cases, agencies were asked to change the scope of their research and permission was required to publish/share research results. There appears to be a special requirement for research/ data collection taking place in Rakhine State to obtain an additional letter of approval from respective line ministry officials. CSOs are not required to go through the ERC process yet.  The result of these difficulties with the ERC is a critical information gapabout existing and new humanitarian and development needs, particularly in areas outside of agency operational areas, with some agencies unable to go ahead with planned assessments and cancellation of further researchand assessments. This leaves programming and funding decisions to be made on incomplete information**.**  The participants of the IM Network added that:   * There are some thoughts within the government to mandate the Committee for the Data Accuracy and Quality of Statistics (CDAQS) under the new Statistics Law to coordinate the ERC. Since all Ministries are represented in the CDAQS, ethics issues related to statistics activities would be expected to be handled within the CDAQS which will be chaired by the Director General of the Central Statistics Organisation once this is set up. However, CSO is still preparing the policies and procedural steps. * There is a pre-approved list of organisations in case of needs assessments for natural disaster in Central and Northern Rakhine * As highlighted at the recent HCT, there is a need for a mapping of the issue countrywide. * The IM Network members agreed to conduct a mapping to better understand the ERC process and issues via a simple and brief questionnaire. This consolidated overview can then be referred to the HCT, ICCG and CPG to consider solutions to the challenges. IM Network members were invited to participate to the design and analysis of this questionnaire and a small and temporary taskforce for this purpose. |  |
|  | **Surveys, assessments and national initiatives:**  **Statistics Law**: The Statistics Law was approved in January. The official version in Myanmar is available. The English version has been released only unofficially.  **Census:** Intercensal survey 2019**:**  A request has been submitted by DoP for Government funding as part of the budget process. This would be followed by the next nationwide census in 2024. The Ministry has noted that this interim survey will be based on samples of regions and states with more than 4,000 census blocks with a total of 2 million population. The total cost is estimated at USD 2 million. List of recognized ethnicities: The Population Department is working to issue the lists of ethnic and to draft the national-level policy.  **Activities of CSO:** Economic census: CSO wants to conduct an economic census, in order to finally have a clean sample frame for businesses activities. No other information on the timeframe. SMEs**:** CSO just published the report of the 2017 Myanmar Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise. Sub-national surveys**:** CSO are doing sub-national surveys – each state and region has put in a proposal for a state/region level survey focused on state/region level needs, and their teams are now designing questionnaires for this. The topics are not yet available but appear to be typically sector focused (agriculture, tourism)  **2020 Agricultural Census:** request submitted for Government funding as part of the budget process, and are also seeking DPs support based on a proposal shared with FAO.  **Myanmar Living Conditions Survey**: The first report of the MLCS focusing on socio-indicators was expected to be launched shortly, and the second on poverty was planned for July/August, however these are subject to final agreements with MoPF. If anyone wants a copy in the meanwhile they can contact WB.  **National nutrition survey** - ongoing by MOHS. No more information on this.  **FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission**: Fieldwork for the CFSAM was just completed after extensive and lengthy discussions with the Ethics Review Committee. Recently conducted with samples in 14 of Rakhine’s 17 TS in northern Rakhine (Maungdaw District), central Rakhine (Mrauk U/Sittwe) and southern Rakhine (Thandwe). Three teams gathered information from around 300 interviews in 10 villages in each district as well as information on markets. Interviewers were accompanied by staff from MOALI who called for key informants and group discussion in the villages. The survey results will be presented to government and released in mid-2018.  **Rakhine Joint Assessment:** The Memorandum of Understanding between UNDP, UNHCR and the Government was signed on 7th June, 2018. This should open the way for the Rakhine assessment to move forward. |  |
|  | Updates from agencies, clusters/sectors and working groups **ICT4D WG** is held on the last Wednesday of each month from 10am-12pm at Phandeeyar office and attended by staff of agencies and private sector companies with a specific interest in this field. The most recent topic focused on how ICT4D practitioners can position their projects for investment, drawing on insights from 3 early stage investors - a venture capitalist, a venture philanthropist and an impact investor.  **UNHCR**:  CCCM Cluster/UNHCR will launch the result of the just concluded 7th round of camp profiling exercise for Kachin and Northern Shan on Friday 8th June in Myitkyina. The participants will be local / international NGOs, UN partners and local government authorities (GAD, RRD). The same launch for Northern Shan will take place in Lashio and will be tentatively on 14th June. The important product from exercise will be one-page camp profile infographic for some 132 camp locations for Kachin and Northern Shan which will be uploaded on Shelter Cluster and MIMU website.  PIMS (Protection Incident Monitoring system) review workshop will be conducted on 8th June wherein all UNHCR protection and IM field colleagues are invited in Yangon. The protection sub-sectors GBV and CP are also invited for the workshop along with some key protection agencies from the field.  PIMS reports for 2017 were finalized and circulated with protection partners. PIMS quarterly reports design have been revised and once finalized, will be circulated with all protection agencies for all locations (central Rakhine, Kachin and Northern Shan)  **MIMU:**  Symposium-The MIMU organized a two-day Symposium on Building Capacities for Evolving Geospatial Needs in Myanmar in late May 2018. This brought together 120 professionals from academic, private, public and development sectors. Myanmar is still at an early stage of geospatial sciences applications, however there is an increasing interest in government, academic and civil society. The expansion of research projects and partnerships with international universities and the private sector will be key to develop and integrate the most recent technologies to its advantage.  QGIS Training- 2-13th July. Applications will be opened from June 7 to 19th.  IM workshop (June 13-15). 18 of the 53 agency applicants were selected with 6 government participants.  Excel Distance Course launched to agencies in Shan State in May. Now there are total 17 candidates. It will take 5 weeks and the final exam in end of June. The next round in November and will target agencies in Ayeyarwady Region.  Updating assessment/publication tracking is now underway with 40 new records added to current database which now numbers over 1000 inputs from 72 agencies. The updated dashboard will be available next week.  Updated Coordination teams infographic and contact list were released last week and can be viewed on MIMU website.  MIMU orientation is every first Tuesday of month at 9am for English Session and 2pm for Myanmar session at MIMU office. Next orientation will be 3rd July. |  |
|  | **Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, July 4th, 2018 at 3:00 pm in the MIMU**.  Any agencies interested to make a presentation to please be in contact. |  |

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