



Minutes of Information Management Network Meeting

5th June 2024, 3PM MMT, online via Zoom

Agenda

1. Market Analysis Updates (MAU)
2. QGIS Manual Translation (CDE)
3. Findings from the latest round of HDP Nexus 5W (MIMU)
4. Updates on Cluster/Sector/Agency initiatives
5. Activity Updates from MIMU
6. AOB and other discussions

Attendance

Chair: Ole Hansen (MIMU)

Participants: SCI, PIN, MAU, FAO, PI, UNOCHA, MNC, CDE, MIMU (13 participants from 9 organisations)

1. Market Analysis Updates (MAU)

Recent work of the Market Analysis Unit (MAU) was presented, featuring rapid market assessments (RMA) in Rakhine, Southern Shan and Kayin State.

Key findings from the latest RMAs for May 2024 were presented in detail, revealing a number of factors:

- Market Stability and Safety: While market conditions are stabilising, markets remain relatively unsafe due to conflicts.
- Supply Variations: There are fluctuations in the supply of non-food items (NFIs), with some areas experiencing improvements while others face shortages.
- Rising Costs: Transportation and shipping costs are rising, influenced by fuel prices, conflicts, and deteriorating road conditions during the monsoon season.
- Increased Customer Activity: Some markets are seeing a return of retailers and an increase in customer activities despite the challenges.
- Challenges: Nonetheless, improvements were observed in some markets, but they were still modest. Issues include supply disruptions, cash flow concerns, and shortages of essential commodities like medicine and fuel.

Price data movements across Rakhine and Southeast were also discussed. Rising shipping costs are contributing to price increases. Rice prices are rising but not as quickly as they were at this point last year. Vegetable prices are also increasing. WASH products remain in high demand this monsoon season, corresponding to price rises.

Over the coming days, potential crises / factors to look out for include:

- Conflict: impact on movement and shipping costs (urban-rural, cross-township (NFIs)).
- Environmental: Cyclone, flood, and landslides. Especially as this is during the lean production season and can result in potential supply/demand shocks.
- Economic: challenges such as inflation and currency exchange.
- Health: Illness particularly vector/water-borne that can result in demand for NFIs.

Market outcomes:

- Profit Margins: falling agricultural input prices and higher prices of products have been beneficial for farmers, but the results are mixed as farmers also need to purchase goods for their households.
- Food supply: higher prices.
- Labor scarcity particularly for the wet-season paddy production.
- Import / Export limits: goods are still moving but lower level than normal.
- NFI supply: bottlenecks to watch for in southeast particularly for goods coming in from Thailand.
- Fuel cost: changing trends affected by various factors.

Upcoming publications

- Rapid Market Assessments (RMAs)
 - o Southern Shan
 - o Kayin
 - o Rakhine
 - o Sagaing
- Market Price Reports (MPRs)
 - o Rakhine
 - o Southeast
 - o Sagaing

An interactive dashboard summarizing the data from the reports is also available. It allows users to explore and break down the data in further detail such as trends and baskets for each region.

Review the Market Analysis Unit's dedicated page on MIMU for latest products. <https://themimu.info/market-analysis-unit>

2. QGIS Manual Translation (CDE)

Building on the previous presentation on the work of See Puu Yar, updates on the translation of the QGIS Manual into Myanmar language were presented.

The extensive workload of the translation process was highlighted, requiring four outsourced teams to work on over 700 pages with the help of a reviewer, taking over five months. The results are now mainly available through See Puu Yar's GitHub repository. The files can be downloaded for offline use or cloned to users' own GitHub repositories for further work and customized use in their applications. The latter was explored for those new to GitHub.

Some important files in the repository were presented in further detail. The Readme file features the background of the work as well as a helpful introduction to using QGIS software. It also includes instructions and links for providing feedback on the translation for future improvements. Currently, the feedback mechanism works only through GitHub, but the team is considering other options for those without GitHub accounts.

In addition to the manual files, the documentation can also be read as a webpage, which can be found in the link below. It can also be used offline as an HTML file. The PDF version is not yet available due to limitations with interactivity. One highlighted feature is that the online documentation can be configured in QGIS Desktop so that when the help button is clicked, the corresponding section/page in Myanmar language is opened.

To download the QGIS Manual,

See Puu Yar's GitHub: <https://github.com/seepuuyar>

QGIS Manual Repository: <https://github.com/seepuuyar/QGIS328-Manual-MM>

Online Documentation: <https://seepuuyar.github.io/QGIS328-Manual-MM/docs/>

3. Findings from the latest round of HDP Nexus 5W (MIMU)

The presentation covered findings from the latest round of MIMU HDP Nexus 5W based on voluntarily reported information from agencies as of 29th February 2024. A brief introduction to the exercise was presented along with the statistics of reporting in this round. Data collection for regular countrywide rounds is conducted twice a year. The individual components of each W are then broken down such as project start and end times, status and reasons for suspensions, and beneficiaries' types. The establishment of 22 sectors and 152 sub-sectors was also briefly discussed, mentioning some minor adjustments based on reported activities. For the "Where" part, State/Region to Village levels are based on MIMU Pcodes, while camp/site level information is based on CCCM data. The "When" section includes project start and end dates, along with four project statuses: planned, ongoing, suspended, and completed/ended.

For security reasons, agency names are excluded in publicly available data and analytical products, and the reporting agencies classify data as “open” or “restricted”, all depending on whether they will allow the agency names to be shared with requesting partners or not. In this round, 51% of the data rows are marked as restricted, and the remaining 49% are marked as open. Another measure is that since 2021, raw data download is only available for the contributing agencies and is no longer public.

Findings and trends in the latest round were also discussed in detail. Compared to the round before, this round saw 3 more contributing organisations particularly from the INGOs and BBOs. Trends in terms of location coverage showed a minor peak in Feb 2023 from the lowest in Oct 2021 and ultimately, a decrease in 11% in this round compared to the previous round of Aug 2023. At the village tract and village levels in this round, most decline in reported ongoing projects was observed in Rakhine, Chin and Shan (North), particularly in Education, Health, Mine Action, and Agriculture sectors. In terms of the project focus, most of the ongoing activities and reporting organisations were development-focused, and IDP-focused activities consisted of a lesser proportion. These were summarized using the project focus dashboard page.

As a top sector, Health sector was elaborated further using the dashboard. Over a third of the reporting organisations have reported activities in about 96% of the townships in Myanmar. At the village tract level, that amounted to 26.8%. Their distribution at the state and region levels showed Yangon, Kayin, and Kachin as the top three. The usage of dashboard was also demonstrated further using Kachin State as an example showing the number of reporting organisations and location coverage along with the breakdown by sector and project focus types.

Various dashboards and trend analyses are now available publicly on MIMU website.

Review the latest products,
MIMU HDP Nexus 5W page: <https://themimu.info/5w-maps-and-reports>

4. Updates on Cluster/Sector/Agency initiatives

Other participants did not provide any updates on their activities.

5. Activity Updates from MIMU

Current and Upcoming Activities and Trainings

June

- Intermediate GIS Training (3rd to 7th)
- Power BI Training (IM Group Members) (11th to 14th)
- Data Visualisation and Communication (21st, 25th, 26th) – New type of training from MIMU for Comms colleagues and those who want to communicate data insights
- Basic Mapping Training (for Clusters) (27th to 28th)
- Streamlining MIMU HPD Nexus 5W and Cluster 4W/5W templates

July

- IM Workshop (2nd to 5th)
- Basic GIS Training (for Cluster) (22nd to 26th)
- Next round of Assessment/Publication Tracking updates

August

- Basic Mapping Training (IM Group) (8th to 9th)
- Next round of MIMU HDP Nexus 5W Exercise

6. AOB and other discussions

The next regular meeting will be tentatively in the first week of August 2024.

Participants are notified that consultant working with MIMU will reach out to discuss their use of MIMU products and services.