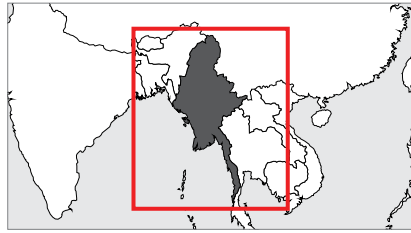# Case 5 Myanmar Camp profiling in inaccessible areas

Key Words

- Data collection/analysis
- Enumeration
- Host community
- Information management
- Local capacities

Kachin

Shan

Displacement Data

Country: Myanmar

Reason for displacement:

Conflict between the Myanmar Governmental Army (locally known as the Tatmadaw) and the Kachin Independence Army

Conflict date: 2011-present

People displaced: 100,000 (2013)

Case Study Focus

Project location:
Kachin and Northern Shan States

Project Date: 2013-present (2013)

An IDP camp in Kachin. March 2013

Context

Around the time of cluster activation, it was difficult to receive complete camp information. This led to challenges in programme planning for the assistance required, primarily in the ability to determine and analyse gaps. After the cluster was activated it remained problematic to compile precise and relevant data for all IDP sites across the Kachin and Northern Shan States. This was due to access constraints, varied situations and an uneven level of reporting from cluster partners and other clusters and sectors.

The main goal of the camp profiling exercise was to obtain a snapshot of the humanitarian situation across various relevant sectors at specific times. Collecting accurate demographic data was key also to ensure a solid baseline of information for strategic planning, monitoring, and reporting. Since the displacement started in the Kachin and Northern Shan states the camp profiling exercise was the most ambitious information gathering methodology undertaken by the humanitarian community. The camp profiling exercise, which started in 2013, covers over 120 camps across Government Controlled Area and Non-Government Controlled Areas. This exercise will be repeated at regular intervals to monitor the conditions in each camp and any trends over time. What makes this case study unique are 1) the large scale of camps assessed and 2) the majority of the profiling exercises were achieved by local NGOs that could reach the displaced in inaccessible areas.

Background

Since the beginning of the conflict in June 2011 an estimated 100,000 people have been displaced. To date, no official registration has taken place. IDPs are displaced in over 150 sites. The majority of IDPs are living in planned camps but some reside in self-settled camps, host communities, or are scattered in small groups in forests. Camp sizes range from a few families to over 5,000 people. Approximately 40 percent of the IDPs are displaced in Government Controlled Areas and 60 percent in Non-Government Controlled Areas, namely the Kachin Independence Organization/Army areas. International humanitarian organizations have very limited access to these Non-Government Controlled Areas.

The CCCM/Shelter/NFI Cluster was activated in January 2013. In the Kachin and Northern Shan states, the CCCM Cluster specifically works with five local NGOS who serve as implementing partners. These organizations ultimately have greater access to certain areas. The camp operational costs cover over 130 camps, which are funded by the CCCM Cluster, and camp activities are implemented by local NGOs. Additionally the cluster provides funding for the training of CCCM focal points across all camps. Due to the sensitivities of the situation, neither the Government of Myanmar nor the Kachin Independence Organization/Army has any involvement in the cluster. However, they do play a role in CCCM activities through their involvement in camps in areas under their control.

Actions Taken

- **A large consultation was organized** to decide and agree upon a strategy to obtain accurate data from as many locations as possible. This consultation included international NGOs and local NGOs, which agreed on a standard questionaire

- **A pilot questionnaire was carried out** to test its applicability

- **Technical support mission**. In March 2013 the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS), an interagency project that specializes in profiling exercises in IDP situations, visited Myanmar on a technical support mission to help systematize the process. As a result of this mission the methodology, data collection tools, training strategy and implementation process were finalized through a series of collaborative workshops and meetings

- **Translation of final tools**. These were translated into Myanmar and Kachin languages, including questionnaires, a training curriculum for enumerators and manuals for enumerators and data entry staff

- **Training for enumerators** was provided by the cluster prior to field assessments

- **Collection of camp profiling data.** Due to the aforementioned reasons, local NGOs played a central role in carrying out the data gathering exercises

- **Data consolidated.** Camp snapshots and inter-camp analyses, compared data across all camps at specific time frames

- **Meeting consultation held with the cluster at national and state level** to make the results of all 126 camps available through the cluster website and on flashdrives

- **A consensus was reached** that humanitarian actors could contact the CCCM Cluster directly for the raw data

- **A two-day workshop** was conducted to determine lessons learned and possible next steps. Despite the recognition that it was a complex and resource-intensive exercise to deliver, it was agreed amongst participants to have regular workshops.

Magayang IDP Camp Kachin (Non-Government Controlled Areas)

Challenges

- **Access**: Most areas could not be reached directly by the cluster co-ordination team. This made it problematic to thoroughly assess and monitor the quality of the work being conducted by the enumerators.

- **Varying degrees of capacity**: Due to the large area that needed to be covered and the many number of sites, logistics were stretched. The quantity of human resources required was huge, and over 80 people were mobilized to carry out the exercises. Therefore, it was difficult to ensure that all enumerators had sufficient capacity (including required literacy level) to gather the data; there is a limited number of qualified staff available in the North of Myanmar. This led to some questionnaires lacking information.

- **Possible use of pre-existing data**:The camp profiling methodology identified a number of different data sources including a camp level data collection form, the CCCM camp list for geographic data and assistance providers serving the different camps. Due to the varying capacities and resources in individual camps, it was sometimes challenging to find reliable existing data on the camp population to systematically compile the profiles.

JIPS' mission to support camp profiling exercise in Kachin. March 2013

Successes

- **Baseline data established.** Sufficient information was collected and compiled for 126 camps out of approximately 150. This is the largest overall collection of data since the Kachin crisis began and is often referred to and cited by various sectors and stakeholders.

- **Skill building of local partners and staff.** These actors gained expertise skills by participating in the exercise which will be useful in future data collection and recording exercises. Furthermore, the exercise and the lessons learned serves as a basis for future capacity building efforts by the CCCM Cluster.

Other Notes

Moving forward this Cluster is in the process of defining the best way to update data in a relevant and feasible manner. Because it is a very resource-intensive exercise the CCCM Cluster needs to ensure the continued development and improvement of tools.

More information is available at:

- http://www.jips.org/en/field-support/country-operations/myanmar/Kachin-2013
- https://www.sheltercluster.org/Asia/Myanmar/RakhineAndKachin/Pages/Kachin-campprofiling.aspx

Lessons

- **Have clearly designated and qualified team leaders** to certify quality data collection processes.
- **Ensure teams are of mixed capacity** to have a balanced level of skills across all teams.
- **Translate tools** into the local language with implementing partners. For this round it was done externally, leading to a lack of clarity in some translations.
- **Foster ownership of local actors** participating in and supporting the exercise, for example perhaps organize and deliver some of the trainings.
- **Engage all clusters and sectors** during the process of defining indicators to instill a greater sense of responsibility. Plus encourage their commitment to provide the analysis of the results for their own clusters/sectors.

- **Collecting baseline data for each camp should become a recurrent standard practice**. Analysis and reporting phases posed some technical and coordination challenges, which should be strengthened for implementation in the second round. Input to the cross camp analysis report should be collected in a more efficient manner to allow for quick dissemination.

Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection

CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

The overall goal of the CCCM Cluster is to improve living conditions of displaced persons. It does this by facilitating the effective provision of protection and services in camps and camp-like settings, advocating for durable solutions and ensuring organized closure and phase-out of camps.