CYCLONE KOMEN | RAKHINE

15 AUGUST 2015

Townships: Kyauk Taw, Minbya and Mrauk-U

The Displacement Tracking (DTM) is an integrated suite of information management tool used to gather baseline information and conditions of affected populations during times of conflict or natural disasters. The DTM has been rolled out over in 30 countries included Haiti, Pakistan, Mali, Philippines and others.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Displacement Tracking Matrix was rolled out around Rakhine state starting on 9 Aug 2015. Data covered in this report is from 11 Aug to 14 Aug.
- 80% of people moved during the floods but all returned within a week or more.

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY

Heavy seasonal rains caused flooding in Rakhine State and other parts of the country at the end of June. As of August 15, the Relief and Resettlement Department (RRD) in Nay Pyi Taw projected that close to 1.6 million people had been affected by floods throughout the country, with 111,568 of those affected in Rakhine State. (MIMU, 16 August 2015)

Early on 30 July, a cyclonic storm named as Komen impacted much of Myanmar with torrential rains, causing widespread flooding. As the situation continued to evolve, on 31 July, the President of the Union of Myanmar issued a statement declaring natural disaster zones in Chin and Rakhine states and in the Sagaing and Magway regions, stating "the following regions which are hugely affected by natural disasters and have challenges for rapid restoration to normality, are announced as natural disaster zones (1) Chin State, (2) Sagaing Region, (3) Magway Region and (4) Rakhine State."

Statistical analysis in this preliminary report covers data from 46* villages in Kyauk Taw, Minbya and Mrauk-U

* Currently does not include data from 6 villages, data currently being processed

METHODOLOGY

This section presents the methodology designed and implemented by IOM for this DTM rapid assessment. It outlines the approach applied to select geographical locations and the data cleaning and analysis processes are also described as well as the limitations to the data collection methodology.

Data Collection

Data collection was conducted by seven teams made up of 18 IOM staff. Tablets and electronic questionnaires were used for the data collection. As the data is first-hand information, the tools such as focal group discussion, direct observation, group meetings, key informants, etc. were used to acquire data through the participatory approach.

Sampling strategy

The sampling was completed as follows:

Random selection location groupings: the entire population of interest (Township Authority, GAD data plus other data sources) was divided into small, distinct and coherent geographic areas (or groups), such as a group of townships, village tracts, villages, etc. In total, 53 villages were covered in the targeted areas of Minbya

Web. www.iom.int

NUMBER OF PEOPLE CONSULTED AT VILLAGE LEVEL



 $22\%^*$ Females present during discussions

 * Many of the women were unable to attend due to daily activities at their home



78% Males present during discussions



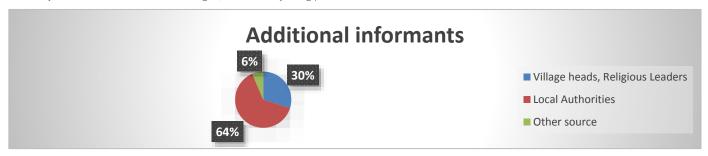
CONTACT

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Breakdown of number of individuals part of consultations/assessments

Total number of community memb			
Townships	present during DTM roll out		
Kyauk Taw	177		
Minbya	176		
Mrauk-U	248		
Grand Total	601*		

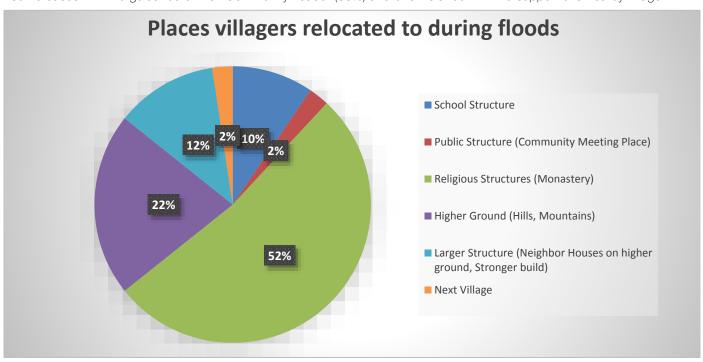
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DISPLACEMENT

80% of the villages where the DTM was rolled out were found to have had their residents move away from their homes temporarily during the start of the flooding. 98% of these villages assessed were located near waterways.

The majority of the communities were found to have self-mobilised and moved to safer areas as soon as the water rose. In some cases with the guidance of their Community Leader (33%) and one instance with the support of a nearby village.



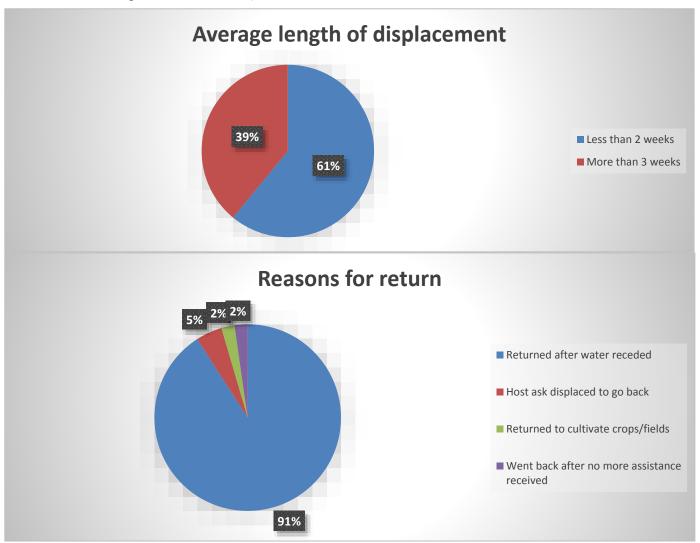
52% of the villagers sought refuge in Monastery buildings as these are viewed as safe communal places where most often the head monks would provide not only shelter but also would not hesitate to support families with their immediate needs (food, clothing etc.) and this is also a place where families would feel the most comfortable/safest since structurally the building are normally multistory cement/concrete based with sturdy roofing and can accommodate large number of people. The religious institutions (Monastery) in the villages were also found to be culturally accepted by the predominantly Rakhine and Buddhist communities as places to seek for assistance. Other places where villagers sought refuge were: higher ground (22%) and neighbors' sturdier houses or houses seen as being solid in the village (12%). Based on the data it can be identified that the displaced sought refuge in Collective Centres/Evacuation Centres(62%) as the displaced stayed in pre-existing public buildings and village centres. 12% of the displaced in hosted accommodations sharing resources with the host household. None of the villages were found to have known of or went to designated Evacuation centres and many just went to what may



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be classified as traditional evacuation centres. As the villagers tend to move to places where they had family or friends or to places which they think will be safer than their home communities and as the displacement lasted only a few weeks, the IDPs are able to cope with their own resources or the support of family and friends until they were able return to their homes. Had this not been the case and had the displacement lasted longer than anticipated, it is likely that coping capacities would be very quickly exhausted and communities left even more vulnerable.

Although all of the mentioned displacement sites were not set up for significant flow or hosting of large number of displaced persons, in this context no issues usually associated with camp/camp like settings were faced. The reason for this is, that the average displacement time in the areas assessed was less than 2 weeks (61%) with some displaced population staying a bit more than 3 weeks (39%). As many returned after the waters receded (91%) in their villages, a few being requested by their hosts to go back to their homes (5%, others went back to cultivate their crops/fields, the remaining returned when direct assistance was no longer received at the displacement site.



KEY FINDINGS

Basic services (Nutrition, WASH, Security etc.) available largely depended on the type of place the villagers had sought refuge at. People hosted by their neighbours shared available resources, those in monasteries were provided assistance provided by the monks and from the donations that were sent to the monasteries. Majority of the NFI, food and drinking water were received within the first few weeks from local CBOs, private donors or from nearby communities

SECURITY

Security was usually found to be arranged by the community leaders or self-mobilized and the majority felt safe in the displacement location.

FOOD



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Food distribution varied from hot meals (rice and curry) to instant noodles received from donors. Most often the issue was that of quantity or frequency when relaying on distributions received from external donors not from internally within the communities itself.

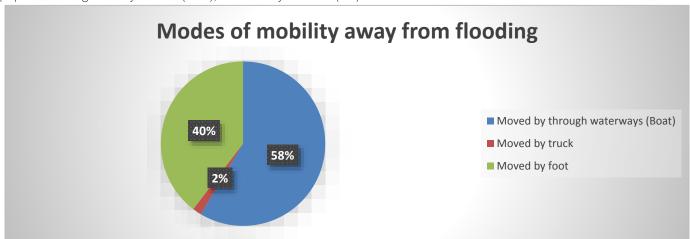
Food aid and drinking water provided from outside (CBOs, Private Donors etc.) tended to consist of one-off assistance, provided at the beginning of displacement, leaving those who were displaced for longer period of time more vulnerable.

WATER. SANITATION and HYGIENE

Sanitation facilities such as latrines in evacuation sites were observed not to be sufficient should the displacement had taken longer. The communities heavily relied on ponds and pumps around the area of displacement. Drinking water were either donated/distributed bottles or from the drinking wells from surrounding areas.

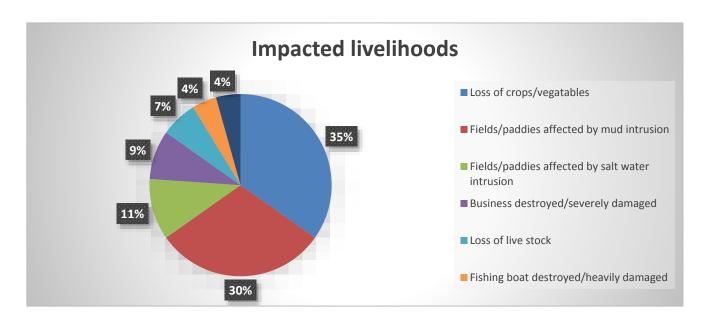
MOBILITY

The main mode of population mobility away from the flooding was by boat (58%) both with own boats and with assistance from other villages, as the majority of the villages were connected with or near waterways. One report mentioned that during evacuation to higher ground by boat, an elderly woman was said to have lost her life as their boat capsized. The rest of the population sought safety on foot (40%), followed by vehicles (2%)

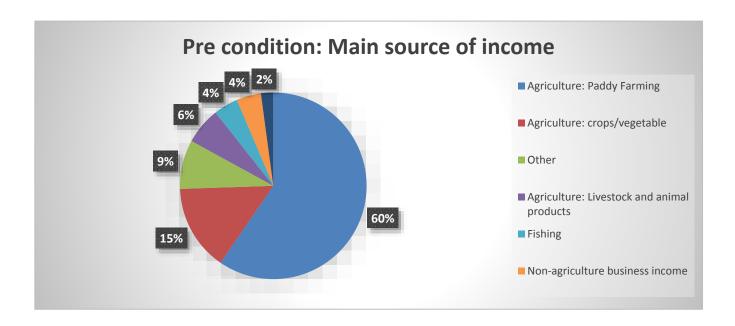


LIVELIHOOD AND INCOME GENERATION

The number one impact reported by the communities across the villages assessed was that of loss of crops and fields or paddies (35%) and fields being affected by mud intrusion (30%). The loss of crops and intrusion of mud in fields/paddies could potentially have a major effect on the income of the villagers as the major source of income was from agriculture. 60% of the income for most villages came from paddy farming and 15% from farming crops/vegetables.







SHELTER

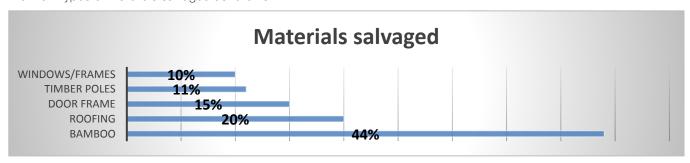
A total of 929 houses (structures) were found to be damaged or fully destroyed in the areas that DTM was rolled out in. Based on best available data this makes up approximately 12% of the number of houses in the villages assessed. This may be due to the inputs received and observations made by DTM teams that many of the houses damaged were immediately rebuilt by affected families using salvaged materials and existing local materials available with support from members of the community without outside assistance as soon as the waters receded. The average time that was taken to rebuild the houses was less than 1 week (95%) with only a few taking less than 2 weeks (5%) to rebuild. Clearing rubble, salvaging building materials and rebuilding was also a few of the major activities that communities carried out after their return or once the water receded. The breakdown of self-support/coping can be found on the next section: SELF-RECOVERY

Township	Total number of households (HH) in the community*	Total number of houses (structures)	Houses fully destroyed	Houses partially destroyed	Overall % of fully destroyed houses (structures)	Overall % of partially destroyed houses (structures)
Kyauk Taw	1,077	1,502	56	162	4%	11%
Minbya	1,964	2,161	55	284	3%	13%
Mrauk-U	4,478	3,781	244	128	6%	3%

^{*}Most accurate reliable data available at time of assessment used

Different types of materials were also able to be salvaged across the villages assessed as the waters receded. However the quality of the materials damaged were not in the best of condition or of quality as significant water damage was present and the quantity that was salvageable might have been limited for the amount required for the rebuild.

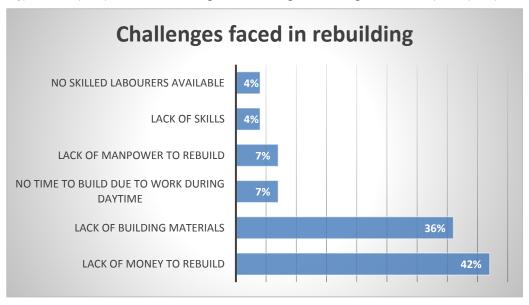
The main types of materials salvaged as follows:





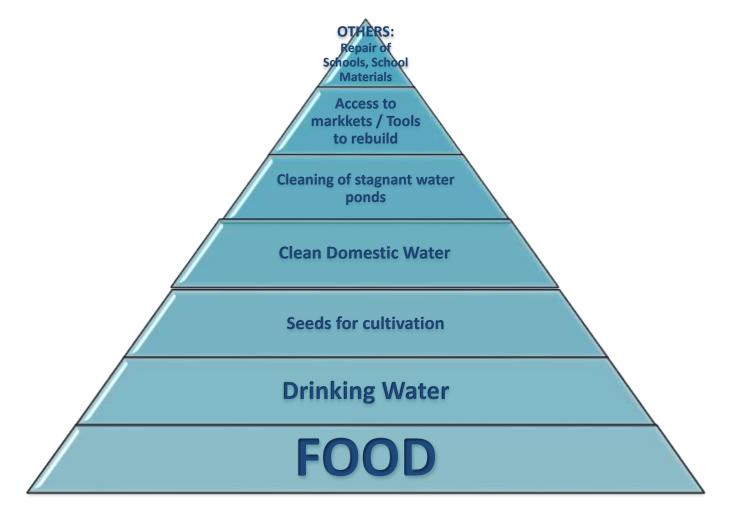
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Some of the challenges faced by the villagers during the rebuilding of their homes were number one being that of lacking the resources (money) needed (42%) with second being that of lacking the building materials required (36%).



IMMEDIATE NEEDS

Immediate needs as identified by the villages assessed were ranked as follows: TOP (Being less of an immediate priority) to BOTTOM (Being most needed)

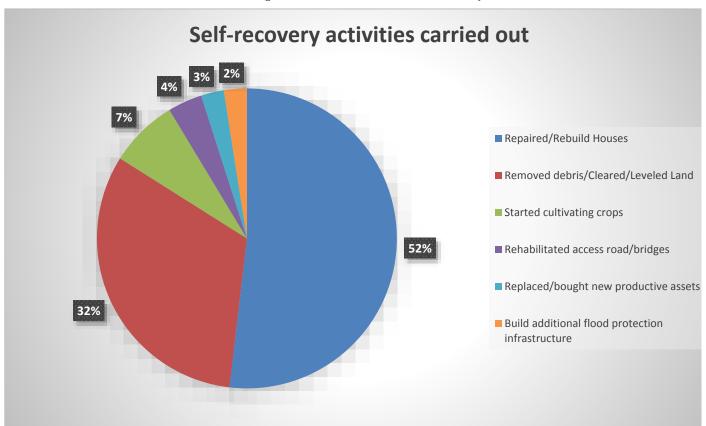




SELF-RECOVERY ACTVITIES

Main activities carried out by community members without external assistance immediately after their return were categorized and can be broken down as follows:

52% were found to have started repairing/rebuilding their homes. Further assessments may be required to gauge the quality of the structures rebuilt as in some cases salvaged materials were often used and may lead to structural flaws later on.



CONTACT

International Organization for Migration – Mission in Myanmar



