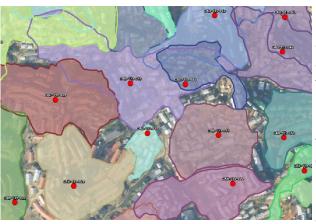# MAJHEE BLOCKS MAPPING (April 2018)

BACKGROUND The *majhee* block system* represents an important aspect of communities within the Rohingya refugees settled in collective and/or camp-like settings.** A *majhee* is a community leader, belonging to the Rohingya refugee population. A block is the portion of a settlement for which he/she is responsible. *Majhees* tend to be used as a focal point to deliver services in each block. IOM Needs and Population Monitoring (NPM) data collection system relies on *majhee* blocks as main unit of reference, and on *majhees* as main Key Informants (KIs). With accurate information about *majhee* blocks extents, we can gain more detailed insight regarding population counts, number of households, and an overall better understanding of needs within each community. Unfortunately up to January 2018, the development of a comprehensive *majhee* blocks dataset had proven difficult. As illustrated (Picture 1), the understanding at that time of *majhee* blocks was represented by an incomplete patchwork of gaps and overlaps.

METHOD   During the NPM Site Assessment Round 9 baseline survey (between 5 and 20 February 2018) as part of the Key Informant (KI) interview process, enumerators walked the perimeter of each *majhee* block with guidance from the KI. Enumerators came prepared with a digital map on a mobile device, as well as a printed high-resolution image of the area they would be exploring. As they walked, the field team traced their path, marking up the boundary on the tablet or paper map. Upon returning to NPM office, details of these boundaries were finalized on the paper maps.

The paper maps were then received by the NPM digitizing team. This team carefully digitized the *majhee* blocks perimeters in GIS, using high-resolution NPM UAV imagery as an underlying reference. Boundaries were assigned the NPM/ISCG **Block_ID** attribute, which represents a unique identifier for each Site Assessment Location. In this manner, boundaries can be uniquely linked back to a *mahjee* block (so far corresponding only to the GPS coordinates of the center of the block).

At the conclusion of the digitization exercise, GIS data quality processes were executed upon the dataset to ensure the zones are contiguous, with no gaps or overlaps.

At the conclusion of the digitization exercise, GIS data quality processes will be executed upon the dataset to ensure the zones are contiguous, with no gaps or overlaps. NPM and ISCG intend to share the final product with the humanitarian response community via HDX.

Enumerators marking *majhee* blocks on paper maps.

** The official definitions adopted by the ISCG changed over time and as of April 2018 are under revision.