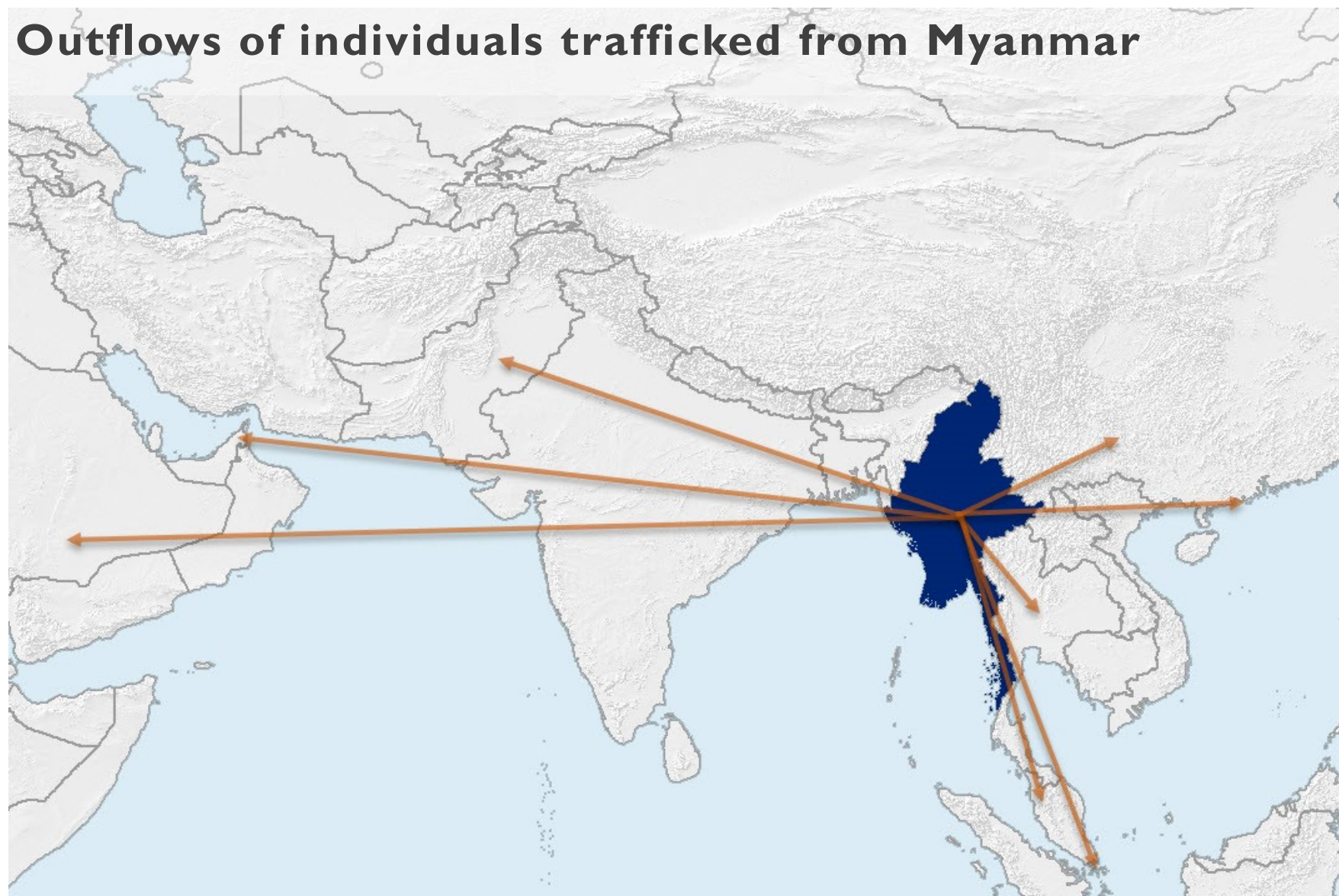




# INTERRUPTING MODERN SLAVERY

## Identifying women's vulnerability to human trafficking in Myanmar

### INTRODUCTION



Myanmar has historically been a hot spot for human trafficking in Asia, as identified by the U.S. State Department's Trafficking in Person's report. Due to a struggling economy and armed conflict, many Myanmar citizens are forced or tricked into slavery, primarily in Thailand. As shown above, Myanmar citizens are also trafficked into China, Singapore, India, Qatar, and Malaysia. Because many people are trafficked while undergoing voluntary migration, various NGOs have focused on raising awareness on 'safe migration'. Human trafficking is particularly challenging to map because of the opaque environment in which it operates— it is nearly impossible to identify where victims are from, or even where they are located. In order to combat human trafficking, it is important to identify areas of high vulnerability so that NGOs and government institutions can better allocate their resources and effort. Since women make up a disproportionate amount of human trafficking victims, this project focuses on exploring the women's vulnerability to human trafficking in Myanmar.

### METHODOLOGY

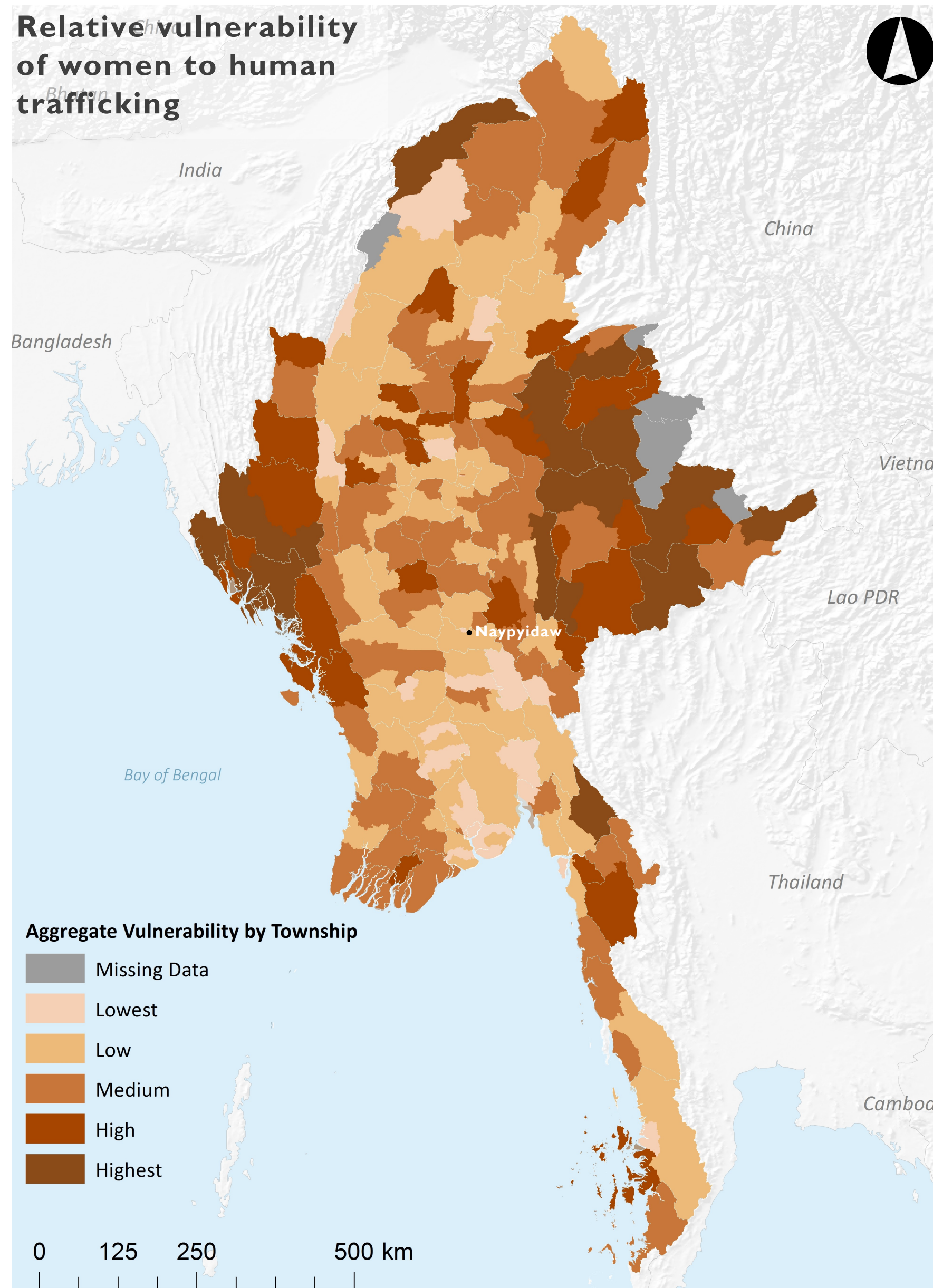
In order to calculate vulnerability to human trafficking, this project leverages traditional human security indicators, aggregated with indicators for gender equality (see diagram to the right). The analysis was conducted at the township level to identify which ones have higher relative levels of vulnerability to human trafficking for women.

The human security component will be made up of four discrete indexes: information interconnectedness (measured by access to radios and phones), poverty, conflict, and health. Each index is made up of one or two variables, which were classified from 1 (lowest vulnerability) to 5 (highest vulnerability) using Jenks Natural Breaks. These were averaged in order to produce each respective index score. Each human security index contributed 15% to the final vulnerability score.

The gender index contains indicators of female literacy, education, and participation in government. These three variables are classified from 1 to 5 using Jenks Natural Breaks, and then averaged to produce the Gender Index. The Gender Index contributes 40% to the final score.

$$\text{Vulnerability} = \text{Interconnectedness} * 15\% + \text{Poverty} * 15\% + \text{Conflict} * 15\% + \text{Health} * 15\% + \text{Gender Index} * 40\%$$

### RESULTS OF VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS

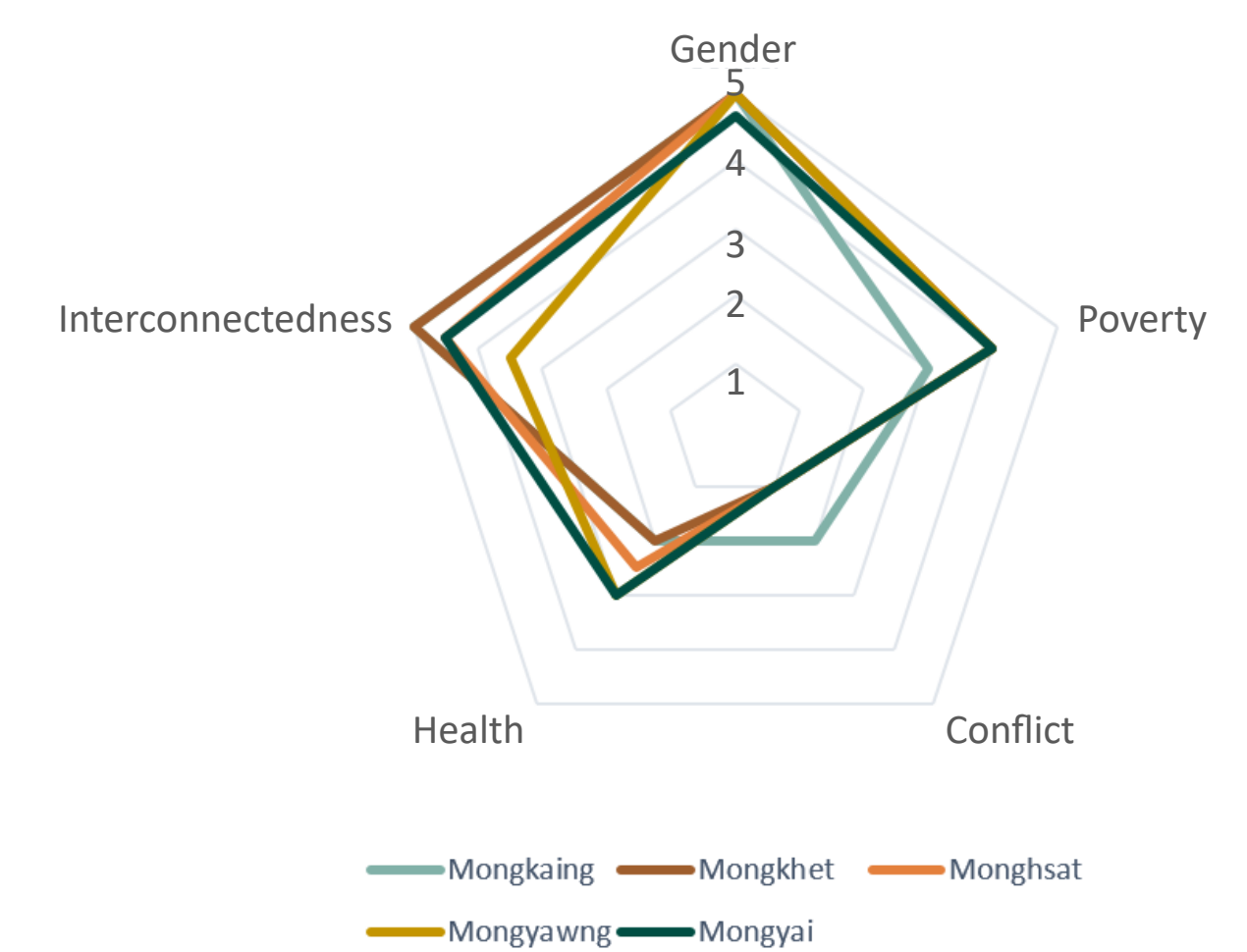


#### Profile of the 10 Most Vulnerable Townships

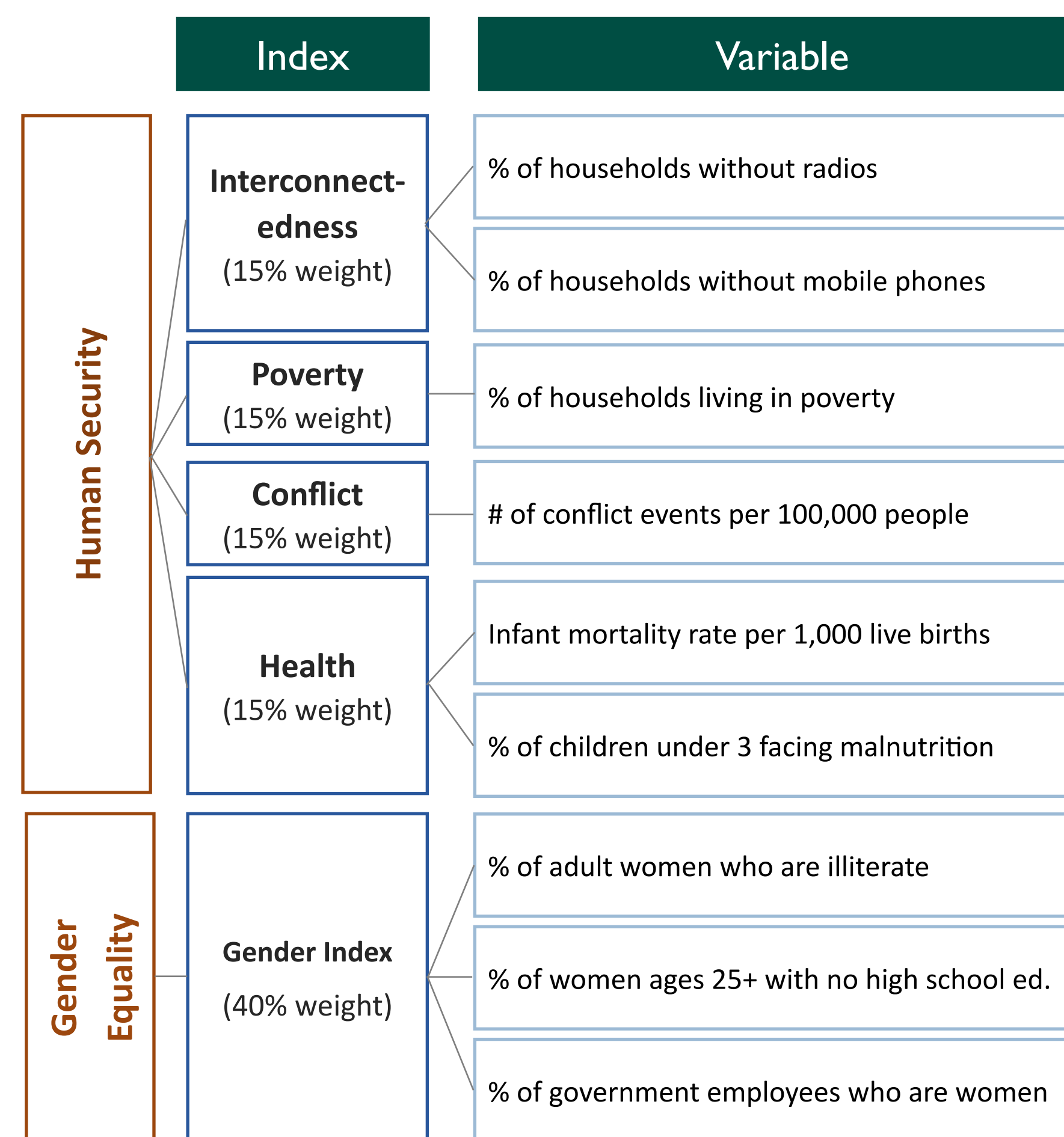
Township and vulnerability score	# of women in high vulnerability areas	% female illiteracy	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	% living in poverty	Conflicts per 100 K people	% of homes without mobile phones
Maungdaw (3.87)	19,687	41%	6.3	44%	0.000319	68%
Mongkaing (3.80)	39,172	70%	12.9	25%	0.000013	95%
Mongkhet (3.80)	21,655	91%	43.1	46%	-	89%
Monghsat (3.80)	49,375	73%	7.3	46%	-	83%
Paletwa (3.78)	50,283	46%	25.6	73%	0.00001	99%
Mongyai (3.74)	30,985	54%	7	37%	-	86%
Laukkaing (3.74)	44,817	59%	6.3	37%	0.000127	29%
Mongyawng (3.73)	38,016	80%	38.9	46%	-	44%
Mrauk-U (3.0)	101,956	19%	24.5	44%	0.000016	90%
Mongton (3.67)	31,765	65%	3	46%	0.000014	83%
Monghsu (3.67)	36,510	53%	9.1	25%	0.000014	78%

#### Index Breakdown for the Top 5 Most Vulnerable Townships

5 (Most vulnerable) to 1 (Least Vulnerable)



#### Breakdown of aggregate vulnerability score



### CONCLUSIONS

A visual analysis suggest that areas in the Western and Eastern parts of the country, particularly along the Thai, Laotian, Chinese, and Bangladeshi borders, pose the highest vulnerability to human trafficking for women. After identifying the 10 townships with the highest levels of vulnerability, it was found that a total of **464,211** women live in these areas. By looking at a couple of select indicators used in the analysis, the majority of the townships have low levels of access to mobile phones, higher levels of female illiteracy, and tend to be located in Shan State. The analysis is limited by gaps in the data. This is troublesome because most of the townships without information available appear to be located in regions with relatively higher levels of vulnerability. The availability of data also determined the variables chosen to construct the various indexes. Lastly, it is important to consider that the indicators selected, and the weights attributed to them, are by no means standardized, but were rather selected using guidance from literature reviews. The findings from this study should be completed by further quantitative and qualitative analyses. Ideally, this information would be overlaid with existing anti-human trafficking efforts in order to identify underserved areas with high need.

Cartographer: Katherine Quintero  
 Projection: Transverse Mercator, WGS\_1984\_UTM\_Zone\_46S  
 Sources: Strauss Center, 2017. Armed Conflict Location and Event Dataset. World Food Program, 2011. Myanmar Poverty Index by Township. MIMU, 2014. Myanmar Population Housing Index. MIMU, 2018. Myanmar States and Regions Boundaries.

### INDEXES

