**Myanmar Cash Working Group**

**Weekly Update #15 (16 January - 22 January 2021)**

| **Recently published:** **Articles/Blogs/Research/Guidance/Discussion threads/Policy briefs** |
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| **In Myanmar:****Publication:*** The [fourth edition of FAO newsletter in 2020](https://myanmar.un.org/en/108738-fao-myanmar-newsletter-december-2020-issue-4) provides information about FAO’s work in Myanmar. Since the resurgence of COVID-19 cases in late August, the government has set more protective measures in force in almost every state and region. This reaches you therefore as the pandemic in the country is going through a second, more serious wave of cases.
* LIFT Myanmar has issued its newsletter for December 2020. You can access it [here](https://www.lift-fund.org/sites/lift-fund.org/files/newsletter/lift_newsletter_december_2020.pdf).
* [WHO Myanmar Newsletter](https://myanmar.un.org/en/88415-who-myanmar-newsletter-issue-63-vol-17) - Issue 63, Vol. 17 is out. It includes the Coronavirus (Covid-19) disease updates.

**Blogs:*** IFPRI issued the post of [**Agricultural value chain finance can help drive Myanmar’s agricultural growth**](https://www.ifpri.org/blog/agricultural-value-chain-finance-can-help-drive-myanmars-agricultural-growth)**.** The post is based on the [recent report](https://www.ifpri.org/publication/agricultural-value-chain-finance-myanmar), Agricultural value chain finance in Myanmar.

**In General:****Publications:** * The report from the July 2020 workshop “To Identify Program Responses To Facilitate Access To Services In Turkey” is now available [here](https://www.calpnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/1579779668.WFP-Turkey-Cash-Gap-Analysis-and-13-14-July-Workshop-Report-FINAL.pdf). The Cash-Based Intervention Technical Working Group (CBI TWG), the Basic Needs Working Group and the Protection Working Group organized the workshop to discuss and provide recommendations to help ensure that all Syrian and non-Syrian refugees in Turkey are able to meet their basic needs and do not resort to negative coping mechanisms.
* A study by Plan International and the Women’s Refugee Commission (WRC) on [cash and voucher assistance for adolescents in humanitarian settings](https://www.calpnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/ninja-forms/2/cash-and-voucher-assistance-for-adolescents-web-1.pdf) highlights that adolescents with disabilities are often left out of cash assistance programmes, using the examples of Jordan and the occupied Palestinian territories where social protection programmes using cash transfers illustrated that targeting approaches failed to capture these families.
* In another publication by Plan International and WRC which focuses on the provision of [cash transfers and education for Syrian refugees and Egyptian host communities](https://www.calpnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/ninja-forms/2/cash-transfer-and-education-web-1.pdf) a key finding is that in order to address the documentation challenges faced by refugees in Egypt that affect education access, it may be necessary to directly distribute cash transfers to refugee families in order to minimise risk and maximise benefit until these challenges are overcome in a way that enables harmonisation of humanitarian CVA with national social safety nets.
* The Cash Consortium for Iraq has released its brief on the impact of COVID-19 on prices and markets. You can access it [here](https://www.calpnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/ninja-forms/2/CCI-Brief-COVID-19-Prices-and-Markets-Impacts-Mar-Oct-2020.pdf)

**Guidance:*** FAO has recently published **Nutrition and cash-based interventions (CBI)** – Technical guidance to improve nutrition through cash-based interventions. It presents a brief background to the topic of CBIs, the theoretical framework that supports the linkages between CBIs and nutrition outcomes, a summary of the evidence on the topic, and a practical, step-by-step approach to integrating nutrition into CBIs. You can download [here](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hktNxwyDk3FCbkXr-CY2H1lfyseEsCTQ/view?usp=sharing).

**Media, News, Articles and Ops Eds: .*** In Fiji, Save the Children has worked with the government to provide digital cash transfers to over 19,000 people affected by COVID-19. You can read more [here](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-01/11/c_139658231.htm).

**Blogs:*** Writing for the New Humanitarian, Ben Parker and Jessica Alexander provide an analysis of potential ["humanitarian policy trends in 2021"](https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/analysis/2021/01/04/humanitarian-aid-policy-trends-2021). The first trend analysed is “social protection meets humanitarian cash”.
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| **Myanmar Situation Updates**  |
| * COVID-19. ကြောင့် အစားအသောက်ဈေးနှုန်းကျဆင်းမှုကြောင့် ဆာလောင်မွတ်သိပ်မှုကို ကာကွယ်ရန် စားသောက်ကုန်အကူအညီလိုသည့် အာရှငါးနိုင်ငံတွင် မြန်မာပါဝင်သည် ။ နောက်ဆုံးခန့်မှန်းချက်မှာ ကမ္ဘာတစ်ဝှမ်းတွင် လူပေါင်း 688 သန်းနီးပါးကို အောက်ကျခံနေရပြီး အာရှတွင် တစ်ဝက်ကျော်ပါဝင်သည် ။ The United Nationds said Myanmar is among the five Asian countries that need food assistance to prevent hunger due to surging food prices triggered by Covid-19. You can read news in [English](https://www.mmtimes.com/news/myanmar-among-five-asian-countries-needing-food-aid.html?fbclid=IwAR0MecpGu_TjRsEWEiq1Eb89EhLfnWju2bOiD4pOVX3Bs_tn-Nmd4RVPmYI) and [Burmese](https://www.facebook.com/themyanmartimes/posts/10157905028285976).
* ကျန်းမာရေးနှင့် အားကစားဝန်ကြီးဌာနမှ ဆောင်ရွက်နေသည့် COVID-19 ကူးစက်ရောဂါ ကာကွယ်၊ ထိန်းချုပ်၊ ကုသရေးဆိုင်ရာ လုပ်ငန်းများတွင် အသုံးပြုရန် အိန္ဒိယနိုင်ငံ Serum Institute of India(SII)မှ ထုတ်လုပ်သော COVIDSHIELD (Covid-19 Vaccine) ကာကွယ်ဆေး ၁ ဒသမ ၅ သန်း (လူ ၇သိန်းခွဲစာ)အား အိန္ဒိယနိုင်ငံ အစိုးရက လှူဒါန်းခြင်းဖြစ်ကာ ယင်းကာကွယ်ဆေးများကို ကျိုက်ဝိုင်းဘုရားလမ်းရှိ Central cold chain တွင် သိုလှောင်ထားမည်ဖြစ်သည်ဟု ဆိုသည်။ Today on 22 January, Myanmar receive Covid-19 vaccines from India as a gift. This 1.5 M doses will be administered to 750,000 people. The vaccines are kept at Central Cold Chain, Yangon. Read news [here](https://myanmar.mmtimes.com/news/150275.html?fbclid=IwAR3pl8LUh76vcjHgsBUNB9BzBIJea3dwHZHa7wFXDMyHrON4liEwIyVKuuQ).
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| **Mapping Updates** |
| * **SP/humanitarian cash links mapping (GB cash sub group initiative)**: This can be [accessed here](https://drive.google.com/file/d/14fd9FMcm9ueDsfnLLJPyPOrNk9Ml0KpC/view). The purpose of this live, shareable mapping is to support humanitarian actors in the field. It is light touch and the initial focus is countries/regions that have Humanitarian Response Plans. The mapping has been developed in coordination with other mapping initiatives. Contact Lois Austin (KML consultant for the GB Cash Workstream sub group on Linking Humanitarian Cash and Social Protection) for info/to set up a call. And please do go ahead and add missing information from your country/region into the mapping in order to ensure that it is a helpful tool for practitioners.

**Survey:** * The Myanmar Cash Working Group is updating the countrywide “Who does What, Where, When (4W)” information in order to provide new and updated 4W reports and maps. We would be grateful if you could provide the information to **OCHA Myanmar (ochamyanmar@un.org).** If you have any questions/queries, please do not hesitate to contact **Ma Moh Moh Htet Kyaw** (mokyaw@mercycorps.org). [4W link here](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xgRxyHobMjHy18gOsD5xAgZLyKSN7t4U/view?usp=sharing)
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| **Webinars and Events** |
| **Recent webinars and events:*** **Global Cash Working Group (GCWG)** organised a meeting on 19 January 2021. The [presentation](https://dgroups.org/?7xs4y37a.0) and the draft 2021 [ToR](https://dgroups.org/?7xs4y37a.1) for GCWG is available online. The recording of the meeting can be accessed [here](https://calpnetwork-org.zoom.us/rec/share/tn37gDxW7ryFv_sIFACcJB2Bm3ljkFYucmmAE0sW6vp_f-ay7ILAMXD5ufTYNcZC.GCpAN2jLrxS1Gjd_) (password: @HDt9yYN ). A few reminders and followups, and some excellent unanswered questions for all on d-groups. If you have any feedback on the draft ToR or would like to nominate yourself as one of the co-leads for 2021, please contact Juliet (lang@un.org) and/or Sophie (sophie.tholstrup@calpnetwork.org) before 15 February. As a reminder GCWG is looking for national CWG leads or co-leads to help shape and lead the GCWG for 2021, which should require around 8 hours per month.

**Upcoming webinars and events:*** In 2020, The Broker, partnered with no fewer than three knowledge platforms - INCLUDE, Food & Business Knowledge Platform, and the Knowledge Platform Security & Rule of Law - to carry out a joint project titled **‘Cash Transfers in relation to food and nutrition security and fragility**’. To mark the end of this project, would like to invite the online webinar on Cash Transfers for food and futures: New insights into cash transfer programming in fragile settings. **This webinar will be held on January 27 from 15:00 - 17:00 CET**. Please register online to receive the Zoom link for the Webinar using this link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSek3bmEWJLId9kZiy6k3jsMjM5fGSt2Dt1ekZKf25x7ScP8sQ/viewform?usp=sf_link> . Registration will close on Tuesday, January 26 at 16:00 CET. the actual Zoom link to the Webinar will be provided in the afternoon of January 26, through a confirmation email to those who have registered.
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| **Resources and Trainings** |
| * [Socialprotection.org](https://socialprotection.org/) continues to host a space on [social protection responses to #COVID19](https://socialprotection.org/connect/communities/social-protection-responses-covid-19-task-force) which provides access to a series of events, newsletters, mappings etc. In addition, the website hosts a number of online communities including one specifically focused on [social protection in crisis contexts](https://socialprotection.org/connect/communities/social-protection-crisis-contexts). Here, as one of the community resources, you can find a page dedicated to th[e Grand Bargain cash workstream sub-group on linking HCT and SP](https://www.calpnetwork.org/themes/cva-and-covid-19-resources-guidance-events-and-questions/) which will give you links to this newsletter and more.
* CaLP has a dedicated space on [CVA and COVID-19: resources, guidance, events and questions](https://www.calpnetwork.org/themes/cva-and-covid-19-resources-guidance-events-and-questions/) and [CaLP-produced guidance on CVA considerations for COVID](https://www.calpnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/CaLP-summary-guidance-version-5-16-April-2020_.pdf). (including a section specific to SP/HCTs).
* The Cash Hub (hosted by the British Red Cross) has developed a number of tip sheets on delivering CVA and advocating for the use of CVA in response to COVID-19. Whilst targeted towards Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, the resources can be adapted to the needs and approaches of other organisations. They can be found here: [here.](https://cash-hub.org/resources/cash-and-covid-19)
* The Cash Hub platform also provides quarterly updates which provide a useful consolidation of CVA-related topics. Subscribe by clicking on this [link](https://r1.dotmailer-surveys.com/4952l7ad-074f9u4b).
* A multi-country cash transfer research initiative – the Transfer Project – provides a quick-access round-up of COVID-19 related resources [click here](https://transfer.cpc.unc.edu/cash-transfers-covid-19/?utm_source=Transfer+Project+Newsletter&utm_campaign=df0f757bb9-)
* The interactive e-Learning Course on Humanitarian Cash Transfer ( HCT) is now available on AGORA.This 2 hour course covers the fundamentals on Humanitarian Cash Transfers (HCT). It provides a first introduction to what are HCT, and how UNICEF uses them in a humanitarian response as an mplementation modality across sectors. It includes considerations on UNICEF comparative advantage and its strategic positioning on HCT, as well as showcase examples of programmes and two case studies. UNICEF colleagues can access it [HERE](https://agora.unicef.org/course/info.php?id=28525). Humanitarian partners can access it on the following link on [AGORA platform](https://agora.unicef.org/course/info.php?id=28525). Partners just need to register / create an account, and then log in to access the course.For any queries, please contact Claire Mariani, Humanitarian Cash Transfer Coordinator, Office of Emergency Programmes, cmariani@unicef.org.

**Resources:** * CCD has a page on [Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash](https://www.collaborativecash.org/social-protection-working-group) which includes country case studies and guidance.
* **Foundational webinars**: The [first webinar](https://socialprotection.org/linking-cash-and-voucher-assistance-and-social-protection-demystifying-entry-points-humanitarians) from GB cash sub group series to demystify the concept of linking social protection and HCT; good introduction and primer to the topic. Second: How can SP Systems respond to the COVID 19 crisis? sets the scene on how SP systems can respond and the challenges governments are facing; [recording here](https://socialprotection.org/how-can-social-protection-systems-respond-covid-19-crisis). And thirdly, [Lessons learned and Opportunities: Linking SP systems to humanitarian cash in a pandemic](https://socialprotection.org/discover/blog/lessons-learned-and-opportunities-linking-social-protection-systems-humanitarian-cash). Includes examples within the context of COVID for measures to link SP/HCT.
* Click the link to access [Ugo Gentilini’s Weekly Social Protection Links newsletter.](https://www.ugogentilini.net/) Packed with valuable information, focusing on social protection developments and action across the globe but also referencing humanitarian action where relevant, the newsletter is a helpful resource for practitioners and policymakers alike.
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| **We welcome your feedback. It is important to allow us to tailor the newsletter to your needs and to make decisions on what is useful.** |