**Myanmar Cash Working Group**

**Weekly Update #18 (06 February - 19 February 2021)**

| **Recently published:** **Articles/Blogs/Research/Guidance/Discussion threads/Policy briefs** |
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| **In Myanmar:****Publication:*** Mercy Corps Myanmar has published the monthly report which summarizes median prices for goods based on data from three vendors per product per market. January data were gathered Feb. 1 - 2 in Maungdaw, Minbya, Mrauk U and Sittwe Townships.1 Data for October through December are also provided for comparison. The report highlights that the prices for both low- and high-quality rice fell 10% in Sittwe in January, vegetable prices fell sharply in all markets in January,while prices for essential foods, hygiene products and fresh and dried fish remained stable. The full report is attached and also available on [MIMU](https://themimu.info/rakhine-market-analysis-unit).

**In General:****Guidance:*** Nathalie Klein and Nynne Warring’s blog for CaLP on [Demystifying the Minimum Expenditure Baske](https://www.calpnetwork.org/learning-tools/)t reflects on the information and discussion points which emerged from [a series of five ‘MEB webinars’](https://www.calpnetwork.org/event/webinar-series-on-the-minimum-expenditure-basket/) organised by WFP and CaLP last October and November.

**Publications/Research:** * The INCLUDE Platform has published a literature review-based paper - [Implementation of cash transfers and cash-based approaches](https://includeplatform.net/publications/implementation-cash-transfers-cash-based-approaches/) - that looks at the versatility of cash transfers both as part of humanitarian and social protection programming, taking into account the different modes of delivery, monitoring and targeting systems used and how they influence inclusiveness.
* [Mobile Money, Vol. 2, Issue 1](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XGpnkQ6n7etHmoZb5rR3N5m8OWezR3uO/view) is published on 3 February 2021 by VoxDevLits. The surge in access to mobile phones throughout the developing world has brought with it a wide range of benefits. More recently, there has been a growth in digital financial services that use mobile money as the rails to deliver other products (largely credit). However, such innovations are few and far between with more research needed on their deployment and impact.
* CaLP shared a [draft ToR](https://calpnetworkorg-my.sharepoint.com/%3Aw%3A/g/personal/lynn_yoshikawa_calpnetwork_org/EcRvYaBfEIVKqlLY9tLxtLoB2d-vqEUtfzSOInkmGSaalA?e=HzYZLy) for research examining good practices, enablers and barriers in CVA preparedness at the response level. In our recent work in the Latin America and Caribbean region, as well as highlighted in [recent CaLP research](https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/linking-social-protection-and-humanitarian-cash-and-voucher-assistance/) on social protection, there is limited evidence and documented learning on CVA linkages to preparedness, including with national disaster management agencies.
* Writing for the ICRC, Cristina Quijano Carrasco explores [“Humanitarian engagement in social protection: implications for principled humanitarian action”](https://blogs.icrc.org/law-and-policy/2021/02/11/humanitarian-engagement-social-protection/). The importance of the principles of neutrality, impartiality, independence, and humanity in humanitarian action (NIIHA) are emphasized, stressing that if these are compromised this could in turn impact the trust of parties to a conflict or affected populations, as well as access to the latter, making it essential – particularly in this digital age of interoperable systems – that humanitarian organizations consider these challenges in assessing their engagement in social protection programmes.
* Also writing for the ICRC in a blog linked to the one above, Jill Capotosto tells us about [The mosaic effect: the revelation risks of combining humanitarian and social protection data](https://blogs.icrc.org/law-and-policy/2021/02/09/mosaic-effect-revelation-risks/) highlighting that while coordinating efforts between humanitarian programmes and social protection systems may help support individual and community resilience, it also creates the risk of new threats to data protection.
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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:** * Following the webinar series hosted jointly with WFP in October / November 2020, CaLP have decided to update the MEB toolkit. If you could share any specific new learning around the construction of MEBs, any new challenges faced (and how you overcame these) and any newly developed resources (any organisational tools, learnings etc.) that have NOT already been showcased in the webinars, we can then decide whether to include them in the CaLP MEB resources. Please respond to this email sjtruelove@hotmail.co.uk
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| **Webinars and Events** |
| **Recent webinars and events:*** EPRI’s second global webinar in its social protection series explored how comprehensive and integrated social protection approaches can contribute to achieving food security and nutrition outcomes. You can access the recording here and the webinar presentation [here](https://www.dropbox.com/s/adp9jc33xici8b5/GBLDIASPSPuttingFSNattheheartofSP20210204aSM.pdf?dl=0).
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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](https://cash-hub.org/resources/cash-and-covid-19) in English and Spanish.
* 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-)

**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.** |