**Myanmar Cash Working Group**

**Weekly Update #26 (10 - 23 April 2021)**

| **Myanmar Situation Updates**  |
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| **Key Resources:*** [Excel file of the cash based intervention data of 2020](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1xnQ8pFbqxr45WE4tXFFAKg3522Qyv8eR7cbpS8lm1Bw/edit#gid=1230035561) for Myanmar Cash Working Group is available online and the dashboard can be found [here](https://datastudio.google.com/u/0/reporting/1ab3123c-1589-42c7-bcbe-29bae99a0281/page/IAE6B/edit).
* Mercy Corp Myanmar publishes the **Market Price Report Dashboard -** The dashboard is [live at MIMU](http://themimu.info/rakhine-market-analysis-unit) and [standalone here](http://mau-mpr-dashboard-beta.herokuapp.com/).
* WFP also has a nationwide market monitoring [dashboard](https://analytics.wfp.org/t/Public/views/MarketMonitoringDashboard/MainSummary?:isGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&:embed=y) and released this week the [March Market Price Update Report](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1D5JYIowBBl-HzWhTBx2VuswnJWeE4sAO/view?usp=sharing).

A comprehensive financial service provider mapping and [Emergency Cash Transfer Programme Tools for Humanitarian Actors](https://themimu.info/fsp-mapping) site are available on MIMU website. [Myanmar-Emergency-CashAssistance-Dashboard](https://analytics.wfp.org/t/Public/views/MyanmarEmergencyCashAssistanceInformation/OverallPage) together with FSP dataset and CTP SOPs can be found on the page.**In the News:*** According to [Nikkei Asia](https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Myanmar-Coup/Myanmar-coup-latest-Over-3m-to-face-hunger-in-3-to-6-months-UN-says), the United Nations said food insecurity is rising sharply in Myanmar in the wake of the military coup, with millions more expected to go hungry in coming months.
* According to the Treasury Department, the United States has imposed new Myanmar sanctions on state-owned Myanma Timber Enterprise and Myanmar Pearl Enterprise. [Link here](https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy0138)
* Cash withdrawal limits 3 lakhs per day for AYA ATM, 2 Lakhs per day for KBZ and 5 Lakhs per day for CB ATM withdrawal. Meanwhile, the bank branches allow withdrawal of 5 lakhs per account per day.
* In [Nikkei Asia news](https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Myanmar-Coup/Gas-majors-halt-Myanmar-projects-while-Total-stays-put), Energy multinationals have decided to halt natural gas development projects in Myanmar while French oil and gas group Total is poised to remain.
* According to [The Irrawaddy](https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/eu-sanctions-10-myanmar-regime-members-still-missing.html), The European Union imposed sanctions on 10 more junta members, including its ethnic minority representatives, and two military-controlled conglomerates on Monday. Moreover, the EU imposed sanctions against the Myanmar Economic Holding Limited (MEHL) and the Myanmar Economic Corporation (MEC), the two main Tatmadaw-owned conglomerates. Those sanctions will involve asset freeze and visa bans.

[Myanmar's brewing currency crisis causes consumer prices to soar;](https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Myanmar-Coup/Myanmar-s-brewing-currency-crisis-causes-consumer-prices-to-soar) The value of the kyat against the U.S. dollar dropped 14% in the two months following the coup. While the price of gasoline jumped more than 20%, imported foodstuffs are also becoming expensive, leading to more strains on consumers. |

| **Recently published:** **Articles/Blogs/Research/Guidance/Discussion threads/Policy briefs** |
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| **In Myanmar:****Publication:** * Mercycorps has released the Monthly Price Report (Mar 2021); this monthly report summarizes prices for goods based on data from three vendors per product per market. March data were gathered on March 26-27 in Kyauktaw, Maungdaw, Minbya, Mrauk U, Pauktaw, Ponnagyun, Rathedaung and Sittwe Townships. Prices for December - February are provided for comparison. The report highlights that Essential foods prices were stable in March while Palm oil and some NFIs prices rose. It is available on the MAU's [MIMU site](https://themimu.info/rakhine-market-analysis-unit), you can now also find a **market price report dashboard**.
* Mercycorps MAU just published the Rakhine: Retailers' Perspectives (Apr 2021). During April 2-8, 2021, Mercy Corps’ Market Analysis Unit (MAU) conducted phone interviews with retailers in Rakhine State to measure the impact of recent events on supply chains for common household goods. Data are based on a convenience sample of 160 active retailers in eight townships, most of whom sell at town within marketplaces. The study focuses on retailers of products tracked in the MAU’s monthly Market Price Reports. It is available on the MAU's [MIMU site](https://themimu.info/rakhine-market-analysis-unit).
* KBC-HDD shared the [Rapid Assessment Report of recent IDPs in Momauk township](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vK25XtTntWOKbCaLbZNm9w0vzzG1mfW5/view?usp=sharing). It highlighted that some households brought rice minimum for a week ,while others could not bring anything .During taking assessment the camp committee requested for emergency food assistant. Moe Mauk KBC church provided for two meals( Arrived time and dinner/breakfast) and some rice to each household. KBC HDD Bhamo is planning to implement emergency food as the food for cash for 15 Days one off to all the IDPs through KBC HDD Head Office.
* IOM released the [Myanmar Displacement Update No2](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aSFPgNda6s2dRGxjWQsm6qRL9XcSVNuI/view?usp=sharing) recently. This covers displacement incidents reported **on 20 April 2021**.
* WFP has released the [Myanmar Market Price Update covering March 2021](https://drive.google.com/file/d/132nKJIf0SZtf1m4Ot0UJ2h1mqTR8eXhn/view?usp=sharing). In this report, the effects of the current political situation continues to be reflected in the retail prices. Since January, the average retail price of rice has increased 5% across monitored markets, with higher increases in central Rakhine (7%), Chin (8%) and Kachin (11%). The average retail price of cooking oil increased 9% month-on-month. Over the past two months, the average price of cooking oil has increased 18%.

**Blog:*** LIFT tells us about [**Peri-Urban Yangon Approaches A Food And Nutrition Crisis In The Face Of Loss Of Livelihoods**](https://www.lift-fund.org/en/stories/news-stories/peri-urban-yangon-approaches-food-and-nutrition-crisis-face-loss-livelihoods)**.** LIFT warns that the threat of an emerging nutrition and health crisis in peri-urban Yangon is real as thousands of people, women and children in particular, can no longer meet their basic food and healthcare needs.

**In General****Guidance and Tools:*** The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action has launched its new toolkit for [Monitoring and Evaluating Child Protection](https://alliancecpha.org/en/child-protection-online-library/toolkit-monitoring-and-evaluating-child-protection-when-using-cash). When Using Cash and Voucher Assistance. It aims to assess, address and monitor 1) Direct and indirect impact on child protection concerns – including, for example, child labour, separated or unaccompanied children, or children at risk or experiencing harm; 2) Inequality and discrimination – intentionally or unintentionally excluding certain groups of children, including due to gender inequality; and 3) Child protection benefits associated with the introduction of CVA.

**News/Media and Op-Eds:*** The ILO and the Cash Consortium for Iraq have signed an MoU to develop the humanitarian-development nexus and improve economic opportunities for vulnerable populations. You can read more [here](https://www.ilo.org/beirut/media-centre/news/WCMS_777094/lang--en/index.htm).

**Blogs:** * Writing for CaLP, Andre Durr sheds light on how cash actors delivered assistance to refugees in Jordan to adapt to the COVID-19 crisis, what challenges were faced and how they were overcome: Cash in a COVID-19 crisis: [Adapting approaches to assisting Jordan](https://www.calpnetwork.org/blog/cash-in-covid19-crisis-adapting-approaches-jordan/)
* Global Protection Cluster's Task Team on Cash for Protection is pleased to launch its new webpage within the [Global Protection Cluster's website](https://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/gpc-task-team-on-cash-for-protection/). The webpage features the Task Team ToR and work plan as well as field resources published by the Task Team. Please stay tuned for forthcoming resources.
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| **Webinars and Events** |
| **Recent webinars and events:*** CRS held a webinar on the revised MARKit tool which involved staff from FEWS NET, USAID/ BHA, CRS, IRC, University of Texas, and recent participants of a Training of Trainers. The webinar recording and PPT can be accessed [here](https://www.crs.org/our-work-overseas/research-publications/markit-crs-market-monitoring-analysis-and-response-kit-2nd). The [tool itself is here in English](https://seepnetwork.org/files/galleries/MARKit_English.pdf).

**CVA for Health Outcomes: Learnings from Jordan, Burkina Faso and Bangladesh** recoding video is available [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uKph1RTHr28). **Upcoming webinars and events:**As part of the Humanitarian Networks and Partnership Week (HNPW), the [Grand Bargain Sub-workstream on Cash and Local Partnerships](https://www.calpnetwork.org/themes/cash-coordination/grand-bargain-sub-workstream-cash-local-partnerships/) invites you to a panel session on The Role of Local Actors in humanitarian Cash and Voucher Assistance. In this session, we will explore how to better engage local and national actors in CVA, and discuss equitable partnerships and local organization funding. (Date: 27th April, Time: 14:00 to 15:30 CET). Please register for this session via [HNPW](https://vosocc.unocha.org/GetFile.aspx?xml=7099mNSNuyt2ObIjn0rASVQuOcrk99i1yNbKXSwpylU9vDMx_B_l1.html&tid=7099&laid=1). The meeting will be held on Zoom. Log-in details: <https://calpnetwork-org.zoom.us/j/91853767730>**Making Market Assessments Fit for Your Purpose** webinar will be jointly hosted by CaLP, NRC, UNHCR, and The Markets in Crises Community of Practice, on 4 May 2021. Participants will be able to put their questions to a panel of experts and will gain a better understanding of market assessments and the tools available to conduct them. Register [here](https://www.calpnetwork.org/event/making-market-assessments-fit-for-your-purpose%E2%80%AF/) |
| **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.
* **CaLP’s Global Capacity Building Team** have some great video playlists on CaLP’s YouTube channel, combining new training videos, with previous webinars and shorter sound bites! Topics include:
* Gender & CVA
* Monitoring CVA
* Multipurpose Cash (MPC)
* COVID-19 & CVA
* Data Responsibility & CVA
* Preparedness & Organisational Capacity Building for CVA
* Market Based Programming
* Improving our work on Minimum Expenditure Baskets
* Cash Coordination

Take a look [here](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtu6QnuH68z3thAeFt8o5Og/playlists). * CaLP has updated a number of its tools for training facilitators including for the “Linking CVA and Social Protection” course. You can find the materials [here](https://kayaconnect.org/course/info.php?id=603).
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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.** |