Nutrition Cash Top-Up
for
Acute Malnutrition Prevention

Background and Rationale

- Acute malnutrition, marked by rapid weight and muscle loss, is critical for children under 5 (CU5) and pregnant/breastfeeding women (PBGW) as these groups face higher risk of malnutrition and death. Children with moderate wasting are up to three times more likely to die, and those with severe wasting are nine to 12 times more likely to die than well-nourished children. Despite some progress, Myanmar still faces high rates of maternal and child undernutrition, with 6.7% of CU5 experiencing wasting and significant micronutrient deficiencies (35.6%).

- Given the country's volatile context where movement of fortified blended food is restricted, CVA is a crucial modality to prevent wasting and support nutrition for CU5 and PBGW. Additionally, individual nutrition cash top-up support has been explored to supplement household cash assistance.

Nutritional Top Up
Cash/In-kind
(to achieve a dietary diverse ration for malnutrition prevention)

MEB

Food
(12 food items, 50,000mmk)

Non-food
(22,000mmk)

Energy-based ration can prevent immediate hunger but do not address the broader nutritional needs required to prevent malnutrition

Rakhine Case Study

- **Retail prices** for **43** affordable, locally available and commonly consumed nutrient-dense foods were gathered from selected markets in Rakhine.
- **ENHANCE software** was used to calculate the lowest cost combination of foods that meet the nutrient needs of CU5 and PBGW.
- **C4PX calculator** was used to calculate the nutrition top up

Household assistance per person per month (GFA)	Calculated transfer value per person per month (results rounded up from Rakhine case study)	
	CU5	PBGW
50,000	25,000	75,000

Proposed

Simplified application to be used in Myanmar for 2025

- CU5 = 50% of GFA
- PBWG = 150% of GFA

Proposed approach to validate transfer values for 2025

- CP will collect retail price of 43 food items bi-annually to validate that the simplified approach is applicable to other areas of the country.

The calculated values reflect the cost of a diverse diet that meets the nutrient requirements of children under five (CU5) and pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBGW). While an energy-based ration provides enough fuel for daily activities and basic functions, it lacks essential nutrients for overall health. PBGW need extra energy and nutrients for fetal growth, maternal health, and milk production, while CU5 need them for rapid growth. Although energy-based rations prevent immediate hunger, they don't address broader nutritional needs to prevent malnutrition. A diverse diet from various food groups is essential for the growth, development, and wellbeing of CU5 and PBGW.

Before

Top up
Cash/In-kind
(Same transfer value as relief for PBWG/CU5 or WSB +/WSB++)

GFA or Cash
(50K for every member of household or In-Kind: rice, pea, oil, salt)

After

Top up
Cash/In-kind
(Proportional top-up rates: 50% of transfer value for CU5 and 150% for mother)

GFA or Cash
(50K for every member of household or In-Kind: rice, pea, oil, salt)