

## Myanmar Methodology for Cash-for-Food Assistance (Updated April 2025)

### *Aligned with the Myanmar Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB)*

---

#### 1. National-Level Transfer Value Setting

This methodology outlines how cash transfer values for sectoral general food assistance are determined in alignment with the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) endorsed by the Cash and Market Working Group. It follows a basic needs approach, addressing household food requirements while factoring in average household income.

- The food portion of the MEB is estimated at MMK 95,960 per person/month. After deducting average household income, the calculated support needed is MMK 52,000 per person/month.
- This MMK 52,000 has been adopted as the national cash transfer value for food assistance.
- It represents approximately 82.5% of the average retail cost of WFP's standard food basket of Quarter-4 2024, which consists of rice, pulses, cooking oil, and salt, priced using WFP's monthly market monitoring data.

#### 2. Sub-National Level Adjustments

- WFP conducts monthly retail market price monitoring at the township level to calculate the Food Basket Price (FBP), which reflects local conditions such as supply chain constraints and inflation.
- In areas where market monitoring is difficult due to conflict or access issues, WFP uses a cluster-based approach, grouping townships with similar market environments to ensure reliable pricing data.
- The sub-national cash transfer value is calculated as 82.5% of the locally determined FBP, ensuring consistency with the MEB-food portion while allowing for regional variation.
- The CMWG and WFP will share the updated sub-national prices and transfer values on a quarterly basis.

#### Hypothetical Example: Northern Shan

- In a township in Northern Shan State, WFP's market monitoring shows that the retail price of the in-kind food basket (rice, pulses, oil, and salt) is MMK 80,000 per person/month.
- Applying the standard multiplier:  $\text{MMK } 80,000 \times 0.825 = \text{MMK } 66,000$
- So, the cash transfer value for food assistance in that part of Northern Shan would be MMK 66,000 per person/month.

### 3. Review and Adjustment Mechanism

- Transfer values are reviewed quarterly and adjusted only if two of the following three triggers are met:
  - A  $\geq 20\%$  cumulative increase in local food prices
- Complaints or monitoring data suggest the transfer value is no longer adequate
- The national MEB is officially revised

This approach ensures that cash-for-food assistance is needs-based, market-sensitive, and aligned with inter-agency standards, while also responding flexibly to the realities of operating in Myanmar's complex humanitarian context.

## Annex 1: Clusters

No	Area	Cluster	Townships
1	Kayah	Cluster 1	Loikaw, Hpurso, East Loikaw, Demoso
2	S. Shan	Cluster 1	Pekhon, Pin Laung, Hishseng, Nyaung Shwe, Taunggyi
3	S. Shan	Cluster 2	Nyaung Shwe, Taunggyi, Taunggy
4	N. Shan	Cluster 1	Lashio, Nyaung Cho, Hsipaw, Kyaukmaw
5	N. Shan	Cluster 2	Nam kham, Mansi (Man Wein Gyi ), Muse ( Mong Koe), Hseni, Kutkai,
6	Rakhine	Cluster 1	Ponnagyn
7	Rakhine	Cluster 2	Myebon, Pauktaw,Sittwe
8	Rakhine	Cluster 3	(Rathedaung
9	Rakhine	Cluster 4	Ramree, Thandwe, Taungup,Kyauk Phyu
10	Rakhine	Cluster 5	Maungdaw, Buthidaung
11	Kachin	Cluster 1	Mansi, Momauk
12	Kachin	Cluster 2	Mogung, Myitkyina, Waingmaw
13	Kachin	Cluster 3	Shinjai,Sadung, Chipaw
14	Kachin	Cluster 4	Loi Ji, Hpakant , Tanai)
15	Sagaing	Cluster 1	Kawlin, Tigyaing, Mawlaik and Kalay
16	Magway	Cluster 1	Gangaw, Tilin
17	Chin	Cluster 1	Falam , Hakhan, Kanpetlet, Matupi, Mindat, Paletwa, Samee, Thantlang, Tedim, Tonzang
18	Kayah	Cluster 2	Shawdaw ,Mese
19	Kayin	Cluster 1	Thandunggyi
20	Kayin	Cluster 2	Hpapun, Kyarin Seikgyi
21	Kayin	Cluster 3	Hpa an , Myawaddy, Kawkareike
22	Taninthari	Cluster 1	Dawei, Palaw, Thayetchaung,Yebyu

## Annex 2 – Current Transfer Values (April 2025)

No	Area	Cluster	Q4 Food Basket Price (FBP)	Adjusted Transfer Value (82.5% of FBP)
1	Kayah	Cluster 1	53,000	44,000
2	Taunggyi	Cluster 1	53,000	44,000
3	Taunggyi	Cluster 2	55,000	45,000
4	Lashio	Cluster 1	63,000	52,000
5	Lashio	Cluster 2	79,000	65,000
6	Rakhine	Cluster 1	54,000	45,000
7	Rakhine	Cluster 2	54,000	45,000
8	Rakhine	Cluster 3	55,000	45,000
9	Rakhine	Cluster 4	77,000	64,000
10	Rakhine	Cluster 5	60,000	50,000
11	Kachin	Cluster 1	62,000	51,000
12	Kachin	Cluster 2	60,000	50,000
13	Kachin	Cluster 3	75,000	62,000
14	Kachin	Cluster 4	72,000	60,000
15	Sagaing	Cluster 1	45,000	37,000
16	Magway	Cluster 1	45,000	37,000
17	Chin	Cluster 1	65,000	53,000
18	Kayah	Cluster 2	43,000	35,000
19	Kayin	Cluster 1	45,000	37,000
20	Kayin	Cluster 2	45,000	37,000
21	Kayin	Cluster 3	45,000	37,000
22	Taninthari	Cluster 1	41,000	34,000