

Myanmar Methodology for Cash-for-Food Assistance (Updated April 2026)

Aligned with the Myanmar Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB)

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.

1. Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB)

The cash for food assistance transfer value is aligned with the Cash and Market Working Group (CMWG), Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) for households across Myanmar. The 2026 MEB reflects the cost of households to meet their multisectoral basic needs, drawing on market price, income, and expenditure data from WFP, the World Bank, and Mercy Corps' Market Analysis Unit.

Importantly, the MEB varies considerably across states and regions, ranging from approximately 540,000 MMK in Bago to nearly 820,000 MMK in Chin. These variations reflect differences in economic conditions, conflict dynamics, and market accessibility. Food remains the largest expenditure component, accounting for approximately 61 percent of total household spending. This sub-national approach captures geographic differences in market conditions and purchasing power, resulting in cash transfer values that are tailored to specific states and regions.

2. Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)

Building on the MEB, household income is deducted at the sub-national level to establish the multipurpose cash (MPCA) value—a figure representing the amount humanitarian partners should provide to cover both food and non-food needs. This household-level MPCA is then divided by the average household size in each state or region to determine a per-capita transfer value at individual level. To safeguard minimum coverage, CMWG has applied a transfer floor of 55,000 MMK per person per month. This methodology balances consistency across partners with sensitivity to geographic disparities in prices and household purchasing capacity (please refer to the [2026 MEB technical Note](#) for calculation details¹)

3. Cash for Food Assistance (CFA)

Using state and region level MPCA values, the CMWG/Food Security Cluster further disaggregates the MPCA into food and non-food portions based on sub-national data on household food and non-food expenditures. The MPCA food portion is then rounded to the nearest MMK 5,000 to facilitate cash distribution, enable efficient cash packaging, and

¹https://themimu.info/sites/themimu.info/files/cmwg_public/Myanmar_MEB_Technical_Note_CMWG_Feb_2026.pdf

reduce handling losses associated with smaller denominations. The rounded MPCA food portion is hereafter referred to as the Cash for Food Assistance value.

While CFA generally aligns with CMWG MEB transfer values, exceptions are made in Sittwe and Northern Shan, where WFP's frequent market monitoring captures the effects of supply chain disruptions, transport constraints, and conflict-related access challenges related to food commodities. In these areas, higher volatility and elevated staple food prices necessitate adjustments beyond the MPCA values endorsed in January 2026.

3. Review and Adjustment of Transfer Values

Transfer values are not static. The Food Security Cluster and CMWG will jointly review them on a quarterly basis, with adjustments triggered only, if market price inflation exceeds 20 percent and partners agree that the existing MPCA no longer reflects the cost of meeting basic multisectoral needs. This analysis will draw on WFP market price monitoring, World Bank price data and Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI) data.

4. Cash Transfer Value in MMK per person per month for MPCA and CFA (Updated April 2026)

State / Region	MPCA (MultiSectoral) (MMK/Person)	Cash for Food Assistance (MMK/Person)
Myanmar Average	60,000	40,000
Bago	55,000	35,000
Bago West	55,000	30,000
Chin	95,000	65,000
Kachin	65,000	50,000
Kayah	80,000	55,000
Kayin	65,000	40,000
Magway	55,000	30,000
Mandalay	55,000	30,000
Mon	55,000	30,000
Rakhine	55,000	35,000
Rakhine-Sittwe	55,000	45,000
Sagaing	55,000	35,000
Shan (North)	60,000	50,000
Shan (South) ²	55,000	35,000
Tanintharyi	55,000	30,000

² Pekon township of Southern Shan is an exception, using Kayah state cash for food rate due to market access through the Kayah side.