**Myanmar Cash Working Group**

**Weekly Update #1 (22 - 2 October 2020)**

| **Recently published:** **Articles/Blogs/Research/Guidance/Discussion threads/Policy briefs** |
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| **In General:*** **Publications**: **CaLP, UNICEF and OCHA’s** [tip sheet to support linkages between humanitarian cash and national social protection systems](https://www.calpnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/CaLP-Supporting-Linkages-Tip-Sheet-WEB.pdf) aims to support country-level coordination efforts to strengthen the engagement between humanitarian coordination groups that implement cash and voucher assistance (CVA) and existing social protection or disaster risk reduction coordination actors and groups. The Myanmar CWG and Myanmar Social Protection Working Group aim to use these tips as a framework for collaboration.
* **Tufts University,** in collaboration with Myanmar WASH cluster, conducted the qualitative study on a cash grant programme for WASH Operation & Maintenance in Kachin state. The study revealed that Cash was in line with community needs and priorities while the results showed that many IDPs were unaware of CBI programs, vulnerable groups were not specifically considered. Based on the finding of Comparison of the design and implementing across the THREE programs of three responding agencies, it showed IDPs were not directly involved in decision-making, and no specific feedback mechanism was developed. The slides from presentation ([here](https://web.kamihq.com/web/viewer.html?state=%7B%22ids%22%3A%5B%221OYwv49emxng6O0ACajNt0nUXVwRirRU4%22%5D%2C%22action%22%3A%22open%22%2C%22userId%22%3A%22114142602097260620093%22%7D&kami_user_id=17775128)).
* **CARE**’s rapid gender analysis ["She Told Us So"](https://www.care.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/RGA_SheToldUsSo_9.18.20.pdf) which looks at how women are experiencing COVID-19 uses the findings to recommend that access to social protection programmes and humanitarian aid by women and other excluded groups is urgently prioritized. The recommendation goes on to say that all actors providing support during COVID-19 - either through existing safety net programmes, special COVID-19 relief programmes, or humanitarian aid should prioritize women recipients as at least 50% of the people receiving aid in line with population demographics. They should also adjust requirements of receiving support to ensure that no system makes it impossible for women, especially married women, to access aid independently.
* The OECD’s [States of Fragility 2020](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/development/states-of-fragility-2020_ba7c22e7-en) report highlights how the spread of COVID-19, particularly in fragile contexts, has aggravated and multiplied issues of fragility across countries and regions, contributing to mass unemployment, increased poverty, heightened inequalities, political unrest and rising gender-based violence. The study states that focusing on fragility is imperative to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 and build back better by resourcing resilience, restoring livelihoods, and supporting people’s potential and well-being. The report calls for supporting human capital through investment in health (including nutrition), education and social protection.
* A new report by IDS ["Social impacts and responses related to COVID-19 in low- and middle-income countries"](https://reliefweb.int/report/world/social-impacts-and-responses-related-covid-19-low-and-middle-income-countries) draws from existing research and literature and highlights a range of concerns related to the impact of the pandemic including that the pandemic has highlighted the gaps in both existing social protection systems and humanitarian interventions as many of those affected are not “necessarily the same as either the usual social protection caseload or the target population for ‘business as usual’ humanitarian assistance”. The report stresses the need for well-designed expansion of coverage and strengthened capacity of social protection programmes in low- and middle-income countries. It is proposed that short-term emergency social protection responses to the COVID-19 pandemic could be extended into permanent programmes or combined with transitions into permanent programmes, potentially forming the foundation for future social protection systems in some countries.
* **Briefings and Briefing Notes:** Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) has released a policy brief which outlines four key decisions for COVID-19 in social protection programme design relating to topics including: determining funding requirements, selecting recipients, and deciding whether recipients should receive cash payments, digital payments, or in-kind transfers of food or other goods. You can access the brief [here](https://www.poverty-action.org/sites/default/files/publications/COVID-19-Social-Protection-Policy-Brief_September-2020.pdf).
* **CGAP**’s brief on [social assistance payments in response to COVID-19 and the role of donors](https://www.cgap.org/research/publication/social-assistance-payments-response-covid-19-role-donors) addresses how donors and their partners can design and implement social assistance payments that are efficient and secure while providing recipients with reliable, convenient and safe access to their payments.
* **Blogs:** Sophie Tholstrup and Meg Sattler’s blog for CaLP provides guidance on [how to build a humanitarian response plan that makes a difference](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/programme-cycle/space/page/strategic-response-planning) giving tips on accountability and cash including the need to **u**nderstand what national social safety nets exist and to define how CVA will link to and/or coordinate with these. The recommendation is to build links with national systems, where appropriate, to reduce duplication, increase coverage, and strengthen national ownership. The blog goes on to say that in 2020, 16 of the 22 HRPs analysed explored links with social protection systems, although most stopped at the intention to explore linkages rather than a concrete plan. [The tip sheet linked here (and above)](https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/supporting-the-linkages-between-humanitarian-cash-and-voucher-assistance-and-national-social-protection-systems/) sets out the key steps CWGs can take to understand and support linkages.
* **Podcasts: UNESCO’s** recent podcast calling to [close social protection gaps and reset them equitably after Covid-19](https://en.unesco.org/inclusivepolicylab/e-teams/equitable%C2%A0recovery-covid-19) discusses how social protection gaps need fixing to counter the immediate effects of the crisis, as well as to set countries on a more inclusive pattern in the long run; how women fell through the cracks and what is the place of gender in recovery policies; how COVID-19 sped up the discussion on the links between the digital and informal economy and social protection; and whether Universal Basic Income is feasible and/or desirable in this recovery.

**In Myanmar:*** The **World Bank** led the [monthly surveys of households and enterprises to provide regular updates on households’ living conditions and enterprises’ activities](https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/myanmar/brief/myanmar-covid-19-monitoring-platform-keeping-myanmar-informed-amid-uncertainty?fbclid=IwAR09Mca9Z0Qct4N-ECWuluBA69ZUOUTZa9KFInPOc3Ri0D6qpvd7L2H8HrU) with support from Myanmar’s Central Statistical Organization. The Myanmar COVID-19 Monitoring Platform has been made possible through generous support from the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building supported by the United Kingdom’s Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), the Government of Korea, and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland, with additional support from the governments of Australia, Denmark, Finland, and Sweden.

မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတွင်းရှိ အိမ်ထောင်စုများနှင့် စီးပွားရေး လုပ်ငန်းများအပေါ် ကိုဗစ်-၁၉ ၏သက်ရောက်မှုများအား လေ့လာသုံးသပ်ထားသည့် ဒုတိယ အကျော့ ရလဒ်များအား Myanmar COVID-19 Monitoring Platform တွင် ဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပြီဖြစ်ပါသည်။ ဤလေ့လာချက်အား ကမ္ဘာ့ဘဏ်နှင့် မြန်မာနိုင်ငံ အစိုးရ ဗဟိုစာရင်းအင်းအဖွဲ့တို့ ပူးပေါင်း ဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်း ဖြစ်ပါသည်။  |
| **Myanmar Situation Updates**  |
| * **The Myanmar Government lent the loan of total 20.775 billions** to 1,041 small and medium businesses. The list can be found [here](https://www.msme.gov.mm/sites/msme.gov.mm/files/news_docs/20200922_attach_1041_list_for_2_times_1st_loan.pdf). Please go here to find the [announcement](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.msme.gov.mm%2Fen%2Fnews%2F878%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR2VT5XchNv2RsmLqTHOwH9CwkkDrugpp-_V2Dev4cl7lQpf0iI-A9diKZs&h=AT0OSD5ZD4cFI0ajO6Ku52f7NTAAaw9Uc7NmN_09K_oJ7nN-nl6GteoXznice1xmR_8QPWBS1hbUJGI9zYvtLigSHSnIkGeRqTNv39-I0Vd2hYALcg_46gLjYRc-pawFR8cm&__tn__=-UK-R&c%5B0%5D=AT0VwYKs7JBTXM9kSsURi2vEkDatXjF7bHIcbzcMSKG7wupJJkSbWOcwBBf-oLH9RqdT1xiSMPspyn7b49C6fi-yLoKM6zruUA57_8uRWQkD-Gzqu27alw8hZp6FBLLN08hI1K9tRbJ4VC5qCtRMK2P3uDowGjPC).
* **KBZ to suspend over 50 branches in Yangon due to Covid-19**. ကိုဗစ်ရောဂါပိုး ကူးစက်ပျံ့နှံ့မှုများပြားလာသဖြင့် ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းအတွင်းရှိ ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်ခွဲ ၅၁ ခု၏ ဝန်ဆောင်မှု လုပ်ငန်းများအား စက်တင်ဘာ၂၉ ရက်နေ့မှ စတင်၍ ခေတ္တ ရပ်နားမည်ဖြစ်ပြီး မန္တလေးမြို့ရှိ ကမ္ဘောဇ ဘဏ်ခွဲများအားလုံးကိုမူ ဆက်လက်ဖွင့်လှစ်ဆောင်ရွက်ပေး နေဆဲဖြစ်ကြောင်း သိရသည်။ [Go here](https://www.mmtimes.com/news/kbz-suspend-over-50-branches-yangon-due-covid-19.html?fbclid=IwAR3V_e3d0-QaE8oPiH7WPWlESopvUeX5m2s4D9fhkjEBnuFw9D2-7GgC-38)
* [**Mandalay factories closed due to logistic concerns**.](https://www.mmtimes.com/news/mandalay-factories-close-due-logistics-concerns.html?fbclid=IwAR3Jr1fKEJGTl7Np3gYP0jR4qavW9DJMwriVv3Y8h33hMY7NJ_o60E08qpk)**Some factories and workshops in the industrial zones of Mandalay Region have closed temporarily after three townships were placed under a stay-at-home order.** မန္တလေးတိုင်းဒေသကြီးအစိုးရ ပိတ်သိမ်းမှု မပြုလုပ်သော်လည်း ကျေးလက်ဒေသများအတွင်း စိုးရိမ်မှုကြောင့် စက်ရုံအချို့ ပိတ်သိမ်းရန် တွန်းအားပေးခံရ အိမ်မှာနေတဲ့အော်ဒါကြောင့် ကုန်ပစ္စည်းတွေကို သယ်ယူပို့ဆောင်ဖို့ အခက်အခဲတွေ ရှိနေပါတယ်."
* **The government is planning to provide 30,000 kyat per person for employees of business impacted from the work-from-home order who do not contribute to the Social Security Board (SSB)**; [source here](https://www.mmtimes.com/news/myanmar-govt-distribute-cash-workers-without-social-security.html?fbclid=IwAR3bnugdukewj2aICu5fvB4dphlhHsoljny-qwnUKB9xzw63BtTguluZzAs). လူမှုဖူလှုံရေး ထည့်ဝင်ကြေး မပေးသွင်းထားသော အလုပ်သမားများအားငွေကြေးထောက်ပံ့မည့် အစီအစဉ်တွင်တရားဝင် မှတ်ပုံတင်ထားသော လုပ်ငန်းများမှ အလုပ်သမားများကိုသာထောက်ပံ့မည်ဖြစ်ပြီး နေအိမ်တွင်နေထိုင်ရေး (Stay at Home) ကာလတွင် ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းဒေသကြီး အတွင်းရှိဖွင့်လှစ်ခွင့် မပြုထားသော လုပ်ငန်းများမှအလုပ်သမားများကိုသာ ထောက်ပံ့မည်ဖြစ်သည်
* **The government will subsidies the salaries of workers impacted by work-at-home instructions imposed by the Ministry of Health and Sport (MoHS)**. လူမှုဖူလုံရေး ဥပဒေအောက်တွင် ပုဂ္ဂလိက စက်ရုံများမှ ဝန်ထမ်းများနှင့် ရန်ကုန်ရှိ လုပ်ငန်းများမှ ဝန်ထမ်းများအား လစာ 40 % နှင့်ညီမျှအောင် ဆောင်ရွက်သွားမည်ဟု အာမခံ [click here](https://www.mmtimes.com/news/myanmar-govt-subsidise-employee-salaries-during-stay-home-period.html?fbclid=IwAR3KRCKBZvysZDWEzx-GkMeqCn7lVNnItiMhAY0i3OvsaoOeR1S5zn4Tkok)
* [**Govt Allocates K25 Bln for ‘Cash for Work’ Program**](https://mmbiztoday.com/govt-allocates-k25-bln-for-cash-for-work-program/)**: The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation will use K25 billion in Cash for Work program, which, as part of the economic recovery plan in post-COVID-19 times, will create jobs for people in the rural areas.**COVID အလွန်ကာလ ပြန်လည် ထူထောင်နိုင်ရေး တွင် ကျေးလက်ဒေသအတွင်းCash For Work စီမံကိန်းအတွက် ကျပ်သန်း ၂၅၀၀၀ သုံးစွဲမည် ဖြစ်ကြောင်း စိုက်ပျိုးရေး မွေးမြူရေးနှင့် ဆည်မြောင်းဝန်ကြီးဌာန ပြောရေးဆိုခွင့် အဖွဲ့ အတွင်းရေးမှူး ဒုတိယအမြဲတမ်းအတွင်းဝန် ဦးလှထွန်းက ပြောသည်။

ယင်းစီမံကိန်းကို ဆင်းရဲ နွမ်းပါးသော ကျေးရွာပေါင်း ၂၄၈၈ ရွာတွင် အကောင်အထည်ဖော်မည်ဖြစ်ကာ ကျေးရွာများတွင် ကျပန်း အလုပ်သမားများနှင့် ထိခိုက်လွယ်သော အုပ်စုကျေးရွာများ၊ ကူးစက်ရောဂါ ဆိုးရွားစွာ (သို့မဟုတ်) အတော်အသင့် သက်ရောက်မှုရှိသော ကျေးရွာ၊ လမ်းပန်းဆက်သွယ်ရေး လွယ်ကူချောမွေ့ မှုနှင့် နယ်မြေလုံခြုံမှုရှိသောကျေးရွာ၊ ကျေးရွာသူကျေးရွာသားများစည်းလုံးညီညွတ်ပြီး တက်ကြွစွာ ဆောင်ရွက်လိုသော ကျေးရွာ၊ Multiy – Dimensional Index များသော ကျေးရွာ၊ ပြည်ပသို့သွားရောက်သောအလုပ်သမား အများဆုံး ပြန်ရောက်နေသော ကျေးရွာများတွင် အခြေခံ အဆောက်အအုံ ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးနှင့် အလုပ်သမား အင်အားအသုံးပြုသော လုပ်ငန်းများကို ရွေးချယ်ကာ Cash For Work စီမံကိန်းကို အကောင်အထည်ဖော်မည် ဖြစ်သည်။* **Myanmar Now**: During 14-days of strict-stay-at-home, Myanmar garment workers expected to receive full amounts of minimum wages instead of receiving 40% of salary from the government. The workers expected 60% of contribution from the employer side. Watch the news on [youtube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gkau8a1J8Ic&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2TTDkFGQmEgC8-siFwiChAdzQHHrrUueXmTwN3EJxRP3s_6ikkchpJkjc). အထည်အချုပ် အလုပ်သမားများအတွက် အလုပ်ပိတ်ထားသည့် ၁၄ ရက်တာကာလအတွင််း အနည်းဆုံး လုပ်ခလစာ အပြည့်ရရန်မျှော်လင့်နေကြပြီး အစိုးရ၏ လူမှုဖူလုံကြေး ၄၀ရာခိုင်နှုန်းအစား ၆၀ရာခိုင်းနှုန်းနှင့် လုပ်ငန်းရှင်များအနေဖြင့် ၄၀ ရာခိုင်နှုန်းပေးချေပေးရန် မျှော်လင့်နေကြသည်။ အစိုးရ၏လူမှုဖူလုံရေး ထုတ်ပေးသည့်လုပ်ငန်းစဉ်သည် အချိန်တစ်လနီးပါကြာသောကြောင့် အလုပ်သမားများအတွက် ပိတ်ရက်အတွင်း ပိုမိုကြပ်တည်းလာနိုင်သည်။
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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?pli=1). 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.
* [**ILO Social Protection Monitor**](https://www.social-protection.org/gimi/ShowWiki.action?id=3390): This live tracking presents the latest global social protection policy trends based on media announcements. The [monitor](https://www.social-protection.org/gimi/gess/ShowWiki.action?id=3417) is updated weekly.
* The [IMF Policy Responses to COVID-19 Tracker](https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19) provides a summary of the key economic responses **Mapping** that governments are taking to limit the human and economic impact of the pandemic providing information which is of relevance to humanitarian and development actors, particularly in the design and modification of their COVID-19-related responses.
* The [Oxford COVID-19 Supertracker](https://supertracker.spi.ox.ac.uk/) is an online platform established to help policy-makers around the world to navigate the policy responses to tackling the pandemic, and its aftermath around the world. The Oxford ‘Supertracker’ project has compiled data from over 100 sources and made it freely available within one tool.
* The [COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker](https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/covid-19-gender-dashboard.html) monitors policy measures enacted by governments worldwide to tackle the COVID-19 crisis, and highlights responses that have integrated a gender lens. It includes national measures that are directly addressing women’s economic and social security, including unpaid care work, the labour market and violence against women. The tracker is coordinated by UNDP with substantive leadership and technical contributions from UN Women.
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| **Webinars and Events** |
| * **Recent webinars and events**: The online event was organised by the Cash Hub which included an update on the Lebanon: Beirut-Port Explosion Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) plans and also how CVA has been used in Myanmar Rakhine Response to Covid-19. The programme is implementing in Sittwe and Minbya townships in Rakhine; targeting Muslim, Rakhine and Chin ethnic villages. It was highlighted that the programme is community based cash intervention and there are different complaints and feedback mechanisms at both township and community level. It was also recognised that there is a need for close monitoring and supporting village committees to further enhance their efficiency in the management of village emergency funds. Please find Recording of the webinar [here](https://vimeo.com/458609348), the slides from the presentation ([here](https://cash-hub.org/-/media/cashhub-documents/resources/thematic-area/webinar/webinar-10/20200915_cashhub_webinar_slides.pdf?la=en&hash=D1B41D3847583A80E6FFC07B64E680139F37BA17)), in relation to Myanmar Red Cross activities for COVID-19 using an integrated cash response in Rakhine - a short document relating to this has been produced and is available [here](https://cash-hub.org/-/media/cashhub-documents/resources/2020/crp-rakhine-cash-transfers-for-covid-19-response-mrcs-ifrc_-%28002%29.pdf).
* **Upcoming webinars and events**: **English** Language Webinar on **Wednesday** **07 October 2020** (8am Washington DC, 2pm Geneva, 8pm KL) will be on the theme of **Cash and Voucher Assistance for WASH objectives**. Nepal RC, Myanmar RC and Lebanon RC (still to be confirmed) will hopefully speak. For those registered for the series you will get the WebEX conference link by the end of Friday. For those who want to register for this Webinar and are not registered for the series please click [here](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ujzc_l7KiEOoN7Rcfw1xtwV7VVQomphMkPiPA9lhWTpUREVQU1VDTU9FTEZHSDEwSUdGRTVBV0VEVS4u). This will be delivered in English only.
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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.** |