**Myanmar Cash Working Group**

**Weekly Update #16 (17 January - 29 January 2021)**

| **Recently published:** **Articles/Blogs/Research/Guidance/Discussion threads/Policy briefs** |
| --- |
| **In Myanmar:****Publication:*** Mercy Corps Myanmar published the monthly market price report on 28 January 2021. This report summarizes median product prices, based on data from three vendors per product per market. December data were gathered Dec. 29 – Dec. 31, 2020 in Maungdaw, Minbya, Mrauk U, Pauktaw, Ponnagyun, Rathedaung and Sittwe Townships. Data for September - November are also provided in section one for comparison across months. It highlights that **high- and low-quality rice in Pauktaw was 20-40% higher than most other townships** in December and **vegetable prices were highest in Maungdaw and lowest in Minbya and Ponnagyun**. The full report is available on [MIMU](https://themimu.info/rakhine-market-analysis-unit).
* UNOCHA- Myanmar has released the 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). Both are available on ReliefWeb: [HNO](https://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/myanmar-2021-humanitarian-needs-overview-issued-january-2021) and [HRP](https://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/myanmar-humanitarian-response-plan-2021-issued-january-2021).

**Snapshot:*** Mercy Corps, Myanmar has recently published its Rakhine: Farmers’ Perspective (January 2021). *To better understand production challenges, Mercy Corps’ Market Analysis Unit (MAU) interviewed farmers about the 2020 paddy and winter crop seasons. The data represent a fourth-round panel of the same respondents interviewed monthly since October. Key highlights are:* ***Challenges from COVID and conflict declined, Half of respondents struggled to find farm labor and some suffered lost yields.*** As well as, the snapshot points out that ***persistent labor shortages will not likely be solved by ceasefire alone.*** The full snapshot is available on [MIMU](https://themimu.info/rakhine-market-analysis-unit).

**Media, News, Articles and Ops Eds:*** The United Nations and humanitarian partners have issued the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), which seeks to mobilize US$276.5 million for humanitarian assistance and protection services for around 945,000 people in Kachin, Kayin and eastern Bago, Rakhine and southern Chin as well as northern Shan.“The HRP explains how we aim to provide comprehensive humanitarian support to those who need it most,” said the UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for Myanmar, Mr. Ola Almgren. Read [here](https://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/one-million-people-conflict-affected-areas-myanmar-need-humanitarian-assistance-enmy).

**Blog:*** Writing for IFPRI, Suresh Barbu wrote [As policy makers call for building capacity for food system transformation, who is listening?](https://www.ifpri.org/blog/policy-makers-call-building-capacity-food-system-transformation-who-listening). The post includes the lessons from two developing countries - Myanmar and Afghanistan.

**In General:****Publications:** * The case study from Save the Children “**Cash on the Move: Adapting Multi-Purpose Cash ‘Plus’ Assistance to support people on the move”** is now available [here](https://socialprotection.org/discover/publications/cash-move-adapting-multi-purpose-cash-%E2%80%98plus%E2%80%99-assistance-support-people-move). This case study documents key programmatic and operational models put in place by Save the Children Peru to adapt its MPCA ‘Plus’ program to the needs of Venezuelans on the move, settling in Peru and affected by COVID-19. It also provides lessons learnt and recommendations that can be applied to the Venezuela response and other large-scale migration responses across the globe.
* The report from World Bank Group “Cash in the City: Emerging Lessons from Implementing Cash Transfers in Urban Africa” is available [here](https://socialprotection.org/discover/publications/cash-city-emerging-lessons-implementing-cash-transfers-urban-africa). This paper captures early lessons from a new generation of urban cash transfer responses to Covid-19 in eleven African countries. A range of lessons emerge around design and implementation, partnerships, institutions and political economy, strategic issues, and evidence and learning.
* WVI recently published **2020 Cash and Voucher Programming (CVP): Roadmap and milestone achieved** report. The report highlights the reviews of WVI CVP in 2019- 2020. It is available [here](https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/2020-cash-and-voucher-programming-cvp-roadmap-and-milestone-achieved/).

**Media, News, Articles and Ops Eds:*** Socialprotection.org published January newsletter 2021. It presents the highlights of 2020. It is available [online](https://socialprotection.org/january-2021-highlights-2020).
 |
| **Myanmar Situation Updates**  |
| * အစိုးရပေးအပ်တဲ့ စတုတ္ထအကြိမ် ကိုဗစ်ထောက်ပံ့ကြေးပေးတဲ့အစီအစဉ်မှာ ကျန်ခဲ့တဲ့သူတွေနဲ့ ကိုဗစ်-၁၉ ကြောင့် စားဝတ်နေရေးခက်ခဲပြီး ထောက်ပံ့ကြေးပေးဖို့ လိုအပ်နေသူတွေကို စိစစ်နေပြီး မကြာမီထောက်ပံ့ကြေးတွေပေးသွားဖို့ စီစဉ်နေတယ်လို့ ပြည်ထောင်စုအစိုးရအဖွဲ့ရုံး ဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ အထွေထွေအုပ်ချုပ်ရေးဦးစီးဌာနက ပြောပါတယ်။ Officials are going to provide the Covid-19 cash assistance to those did not get on the fourth time assistance. News [here](http://burmese.dvb.no/archives/435464?fbclid=IwAR1b6pXe07Z3G3_ddCcuz9I1K3y1yrDcf4o0L9G1y5YlXKKV05c3JEijX0s).
 |
| **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). 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. Contact Lois Austin (KML consultant for the GB Cash Workstream sub group on Linking Humanitarian Cash and Social Protection) for info/to set up a call. And please do go ahead and add missing information from your country/region into the mapping in order to ensure that it is a helpful tool for practitioners.

**Survey:** * The Myanmar Cash Working Group is updating the countrywide “Who does What, Where, When (4W)” information in order to provide new and updated 4W reports and maps. We would be grateful if you could provide the information to **OCHA Myanmar (ochamyanmar@un.org).** If you have any questions/queries, please do not hesitate to contact **Ma Moh Moh Htet Kyaw** (mokyaw@mercycorps.org). [4W link here](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xgRxyHobMjHy18gOsD5xAgZLyKSN7t4U/view?usp=sharing)
 |
| **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://socialprotection.org/connect/communities/social-protection-crisis-contexts/grand-bargain-linking-sp-and-humanitarian-cash) 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: [here.](https://cash-hub.org/resources/cash-and-covid-19)
* 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-)
* The interactive e-Learning Course on Humanitarian Cash Transfer ( HCT) is now available on AGORA.This 2 hour course covers the fundamentals on Humanitarian Cash Transfers (HCT). It provides a first introduction to what are HCT, and how UNICEF uses them in a humanitarian response as an implementation modality across sectors. It includes considerations on UNICEF comparative advantage and its strategic positioning on HCT, as well as showcase examples of programmes and two case studies. UNICEF colleagues can access it [HERE](https://agora.unicef.org/course/info.php?id=28525). Humanitarian partners can access it on the following link on [AGORA platform](https://agora.unicef.org/course/info.php?id=28525). Partners just need to register / create an account, and then log in to access the course.For any queries, please contact Claire Mariani, Humanitarian Cash Transfer Coordinator, Office of Emergency Programmes, cmariani@unicef.org.

**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.
* 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.
 |
| **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.** |