**Myanmar Cash Working Group**

**Weekly Update #17 (30 January - 05 February 2021)**

| **Recently published:** **Articles/Blogs/Research/Guidance/Discussion threads/Policy briefs** |
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| **In Myanmar:****Publication:*** IFPRI has published [**Monitoring the impact of COVID-19 in Myanmar: Mechanization service providers - December 2020 survey round**](https://www.ifpri.org/publication/monitoring-impact-covid-19-myanmar-mechanization-service-providers-december-2020-survey). The policy note is to determine how their businesses were being affected by COVID-19 related restrictions. The results of those surveys were published in Myanmar Strategy Support Program Policy Notes 07, 12, 17, and 39, respectively. To trace the continuing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their economic activities, a fifth phone survey of MSPs was done in mid-December 2020, administered mostly to SPs in harvesting activities. This Note reports on the results of the fifth survey, as well as on some trends from the earlier surveys.

**In General:****Publications:** * A recent report and policy brief by Kiza Magendane, Mariëlle Karssenberg and Yannicke Goris for The Broker discusses how, and to what extent, cash transfers can be an effective way of realizing food security in fragile settings. The paper, which you can find here, highlights a number of examples of the link between humanitarian cash transfers and social protection. For those interested in a policy perspective you can find the policy brief [here](https://www.thebrokeronline.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Policy-brief_Cash-transfers-for-food-and-futures.pdf).
* Joint research by the Durable Solutions Platform and CAMEALEON [Pinning Down Moving Targets](https://www.dsp-syria.org/sites/default/files/2021-01/DSP-CAMEALEON%20report.pdf) looks at adapting humanitarian cash transfer programmes to the multi-pronged crisis in Lebanon. The research intends, in part, to capture learning, not only to help equip the Lebanon refugee response going forward in a difficult operational and socio-economic climate, but also to contribute to global learning about cash programme adaptations to economic and health crises and to do so in a manner that supports future sustainability of social protection systems. The additional [research note](https://dsp-syria.org/pinning-down-moving-targets-research-note) also highlights medium-term priorities for cash assistance in the country.

**Guidance:*** The British Red Cross has released its recently updated Household Economic Security (HES) Technical Guidance for Assessment and Analysis. The guidance highlights a number of places where and how linkages can be made with humanitarian food security and livelihood interventions (including those involving cash transfers) and social protection. You can access it [here](https://www.livelihoodscentre.org/-/household-economic-security-hes-.-technical-guidance-for-assessment-and-analysis?inheritRedirect=true&redirect=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.livelihoodscentre.org%2Fhome%3Fp_p_id%3Dcom_liferay_portal_search_web_portlet_SearchPortlet%26p_p_lifecycle%3D0%26p_p_state%3Dmaximized%26p_p_mode%3Dview%26_com_liferay_portal_search_web_portlet_SearchPortlet_redirect%3Dhttps%253A%252F%252Fwww.livelihoodscentre.org%252Fhome%253Fp_p_id%26_com_liferay_portal_search_web_portlet_SearchPortlet_mvcPath%3D%252Fsearch.jsp%26_com_liferay_portal_search_web_portlet_SearchPortlet_keywords%3Dhes%26_com_liferay_portal_search_web_portlet_SearchPortlet_formDate%3D1611054419554%26_com_liferay_portal_search_web_portlet_SearchPortlet_scope%3Dthis-site).
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| **Myanmar Situation Updates**  |
| * The Myanmar Tourism Bank (MTB) will be providing financial assistance to tour companies who are struggling with the ongoing Covid-19 crisis. The MTB to sign the MOU with the Union Myanmar Tourism Association (UMTA) to provide loans for association’s members who are badly affected by the pandemic. [Read the news here](https://www.mmtimes.com/news/myanmar-tourism-bank-provide-loans-tour-companies.html)
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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). 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)
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| **Webinars and Events** |
| **Recent webinars and events:*** The recent Economic Policy Research Institute's (EPRI) Global Webinar: Coordinating Shock-Responsive Social Protection Systems in Humanitarian Settings considered some of the opportunities and challenges in relation to coordination between humanitarian and development actors, moving onto a discussion on the objectives of coordination, and the inputs, outputs and outcomes associated with this. [Click here to access the webinar recording](https://www.dropbox.com/s/qkplmrqc7hbmgm7/EPRIGlobalWebinarCoordinatingSRSP20210121aTM.mp4?dl=0). [Click here to access the webinar presentation.](https://www.dropbox.com/s/8z8zah7txnn5j0f/EPRIWebinarCoordinationAlongTheNexus20210118aNH.pdf?dl=0)
* Funded through [IDEAL's Small Grants Program](https://www.fsnnetwork.org/grant),” CARE’s recent webinar asking “How can the design, implementation, and monitoring processes of projects using a combination of modalities maximize gender outcomes?” addressed how front-line practitioners can use the findings of a recent study on the subject (find the link in the section below) in the design, implementation, and evaluation of similar projects. Additionally, the webinar discussed what more we need to know to meet the needs of communities through multi-modal responses. You can find the recording [here](https://www.fsnnetwork.org/event/digital-learning-workshop-front-line-practitioners)

**Upcoming webinars and events:*** The **US & Canada Cash WG meeting** will convene its first 2021 meeting to share learning from rapid adaptations made as a result of the pandemic. If you are interested in sharing your experiences in a brief 5 minute presentation, please send a description to **lynn.yoshikawa@calpnetwork.org** by **COB 10 February**.The final agenda and meeting link will be shared with those who RSVP.
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| **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://www.calpnetwork.org/themes/cva-and-covid-19-resources-guidance-events-and-questions/) 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](https://cash-hub.org/resources/cash-and-covid-19) in English and Spanish.
* 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-)

**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.
* **Foundational webinars**: The [first webinar](https://socialprotection.org/linking-cash-and-voucher-assistance-and-social-protection-demystifying-entry-points-humanitarians) from GB cash sub group series to demystify the concept of linking social protection and HCT; good introduction and primer to the topic. Second: How can SP Systems respond to the COVID 19 crisis? sets the scene on how SP systems can respond and the challenges governments are facing; [recording here](https://socialprotection.org/how-can-social-protection-systems-respond-covid-19-crisis). And thirdly, [Lessons learned and Opportunities: Linking SP systems to humanitarian cash in a pandemic](https://socialprotection.org/discover/blog/lessons-learned-and-opportunities-linking-social-protection-systems-humanitarian-cash). Includes examples within the context of COVID for measures to link SP/HCT.
* 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.
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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.** |