**Myanmar Cash Working Group**

**Weekly Update #28 (1 - 7 May 2021)**

| **Myanmar Situation Updates**  |
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| **Key Resources:*** [Excel file of the cash based intervention data of 2020](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1xnQ8pFbqxr45WE4tXFFAKg3522Qyv8eR7cbpS8lm1Bw/edit#gid=1230035561) for Myanmar Cash Working Group is available online and the dashboard can be found [here](https://datastudio.google.com/u/0/reporting/1ab3123c-1589-42c7-bcbe-29bae99a0281/page/IAE6B/edit).
* Mercy Corps Myanmar publishes the **Market Price Report Dashboard -** The dashboard is [live at MIMU](http://themimu.info/rakhine-market-analysis-unit) and [standalone here](http://mau-mpr-dashboard-beta.herokuapp.com/).
* WFP also has a nationwide market monitoring [dashboard](https://analytics.wfp.org/t/Public/views/MarketMonitoringDashboard/MainSummary?:isGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&:embed=y) and released this week the [March Market Price Update Report](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1D5JYIowBBl-HzWhTBx2VuswnJWeE4sAO/view?usp=sharing).

A comprehensive financial service provider mapping and [Emergency Cash Transfer Programme Tools for Humanitarian Actors](https://themimu.info/fsp-mapping) site are available on the MIMU website. [Myanmar-Emergency-Cash Assistance-Dashboard](https://analytics.wfp.org/t/Public/views/MyanmarEmergencyCashAssistanceInformation/OverallPage) together with FSP dataset and CTP SOPs can be found on the page.**In the News:*** The Regional Court in Hamburg found WOB Timber had evaded the EU sanctions on 31 separate shipments of timber worth millions of euros from 2008-11, when the previous military junta –the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) – was sanctioned by the EU. The Judge ordered the company to pay a fine of €3.3 million and sentenced director Stephan Bührich to a 21-month suspended prison sentence and a fine of €200,000 – and warned further cases would result in even harsher penalties. ([news here](https://eia-international.org/news/german-firm-investigated-by-eia-convicted-for-breaking-eu-sanctions-by-trading-illegal-myanmar-teak/))

[As striking staff return to work, Myanmar’s banks face a cash crunch](https://www.frontiermyanmar.net/en/as-striking-staff-return-to-work-myanmars-banks-face-a-cash-crunch/); Customers are flooding branches and ATMs in an effort to withdraw funds, but with cash in short supply, the steady reopening of branches is only putting more pressure on struggling private banks.The Central Bank of Myanmar said in a news release that starting Monday, people will be allowed to open new bank accounts that will allow unlimited cash withdrawals. At present, every ATM withdrawal is capped at 500,000 kyat ($326), on orders from the Central Bank, though some banks have lowered the ceiling to 300,000 kyat and even 200,000 kyat. ([Nikkei Asia](https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Myanmar-Coup/Myanmar-junta-strives-to-normalize-post-coup-economy))* The South Korean government announced they will cooperate with Thai authorities to support the establishment of refugee camps across the border.
* Japanese trading house Sumitomo Corp is assuming under its earnings forecast for the year to March 2022 that no profits will be made from its telecommunications business in Myanmar because of political instability. [CNA news](https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/business/sumitomo-forecasts-no-profit-from-myanmar-telecom-business-in-2021-22-14762124)
* Norwegian telecommunications company Telenor on Tuesday said it has fully written off its Myanmar operations, at a charge of 6.5 billion krone ($782 million), citing the severe impact of the military coup. ([Nikkei Asia](https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Myanmar-Coup/Norway-s-Telenor-fully-writes-off-Myanmar-unit-for-782m))
* The Ministry of Planning, Finance, and Industry has been split into two separate ministries: The Ministry of Planning and Finance on one side, and the Ministry of Industry on the other side.
* The Ministry of Planning and Finance urged citizens and businesses to pay their taxes; failure to do so will result in a 10% penalty.
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| **Recently published:** **Articles/Blogs/Research/Guidance/Discussion threads/Policy briefs** |
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| **In Myanmar:****Publication:** * [WFP to step up operations in response to fast rising hunger in Myanmar:](https://www.wfp.org/news/wfp-step-operations-response-fast-rising-hunger-myanmar) WFP is to mount a new food assistance operation, targeting up to 2 million vulnerable people in the poor townships in Myanmar’s main cities and other areas where population displacement has recently taken place.
* Using econometric models as well as recent Google consumer mobility data, researchers from the [Myanmar Agriculture Policy Support Activity (MAPSA)](https://myanmar.ifpri.info/) predict what may be happening to poverty in Myanmar in 2021. The full research note is available to view in English [here](https://doi.org/10.2499/p15738coll2.134385).
* IFPRI released the MONITORING THE AGRI-FOOD SYSTEM IN MYANMAR: AGRICULTURAL INPUT RETAILERS (MARCH). The report highlights that while bank transfers were the most common means of payment for inventory in the month prior to the political disruption, this method was no longer possible after February 1. As a result, the share of retailers using cash for input purchases increased from 30 percent to 76 percent. The full research note is available to view in English [here](https://doi.org/10.2499/p15738coll2.134379).
* Challenges for crop traders caused by recent disruptions have important implications for crop marketing and prices. Using phone surveys conducted with crop traders in March 2021, researchers from the [Myanmar Agriculture Policy Support Activity (MAPSA)](https://myanmar.ifpri.info/) assess the impacts of recent events on Myanmar’s crop marketing system. In the report, overall, Prices for all crops except maize have declined over the first three months of 2021. You can view the full policy note in English [here](https://doi.org/10.2499/p15738coll2.134332).

**In General****Publication and Research:*** The development economists from Japan had conducted a study ‘Willingness to Pay (WTP) and Affordability to Pay (ATP) of beneficiaries for the water and sanitation services’. The study was conducted in Peru a few years ago. You will get the [report](https://www.jica.go.jp/jica-ri/IFIC_and_JBICI-Studies/jica-ri/publication/archives/jbic/report/review/pdf/report10_2.pdf) at JICA website.
* [Comparative study of the effects of different cash modalities on gender dynamics and people with disabilities in Aleppo, Syria](https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/comparative-study-of-the-effects-of-different-cash-modalities-on-gender-dynamics-and-people-with-disabilities-in-aleppo-syria/), by Key Aid Consulting, Venture International is available on CaLP library.

**Blogs and Podcasts:** * [Karen Peachey](https://www.calpnetwork.org/person/karen-peachey/) shares about “[A short history of cash and voucher assistance – 6 key lessons and observations](https://www.calpnetwork.org/blog/history-of-cash-and-voucher-assistance-6-key-lessons/)”. What is the evolution of cash and voucher assistance? Why has the use of humanitarian cash and voucher assistance (CVA) increased so rapidly in recent years? How has it emerged from the fringes to become an established part of all major humanitarian responses?
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| **Webinars and Events** |
| **Recent webinars and events:*** The Grand Bargain Sub-Group on Linking Humanitarian Cash and Social Protection held its bi-monthly webinar which this month, focused on outreach and communication. Expert speakers from GIZ, Ground Truth Solutions, UNICEF, and the Serbian Red Cross shared their experiences from Somalia, Nigeria, Kenya and Serbia. The [recording](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GNYOdfrKds8) and [presentations](https://socialprotection.org/discover/publications/webinar-presentation-keeping-recipients-humanitarian-cash-and-social) are available at these links.
* In the Cash Hub’s recent webinar the Albanian Red Cross and the Serbian Red Cross shared learning on their cash and voucher responses to the COVID-19 outbreak. The IFRC Cash Global Lead opened the webinar with global reflections on the use of CVA in responses over the last year. You can find the recording and slides: [here](https://cash-hub.org/resources/webinar-series/#Webinar20).
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| **Survey, Resources and Trainings** |
| * Save the Children, Plan International and the Women's Refugee Commission are developing a training package on Child Protection & Cash and Voucher Assistance that will be available on-line and in person formats. To ensure the training package is tailored to gaps and needs at the field-level, a survey is conducting which is live now through May 2nd which specifically targets country-level child protection and CVA practitioners. The survey will take approximately 10 minutes and is available in English, French, and Spanish [here](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=V20wlrdexE2lvSKg5cwKq0pXD-qPIMNFp0nlFpyXQJBUNlAwQjNCOTUwMlk4WUNJTlVWS1FDUDVLNi4u). Further questions about the online survey, get in touch with Hannah Thompson on: Hannah.rachel.thompson@gmail.com
* [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)-19 (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-19 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.
* **CaLP’s Global Capacity Building Team** have some great video playlists on CaLP’s YouTube channel, combining new training videos, with previous webinars and shorter sound bites! Topics include:
* Gender & CVA
* Monitoring CVA
* Multipurpose Cash (MPC)
* COVID-19 & CVA
* Data Responsibility & CVA
* Preparedness & Organisational Capacity Building for CVA
* Market Based Programming
* Improving our work on Minimum Expenditure Baskets
* Cash Coordination

Take a look [here](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtu6QnuH68z3thAeFt8o5Og/playlists). * CaLP has updated a number of its tools for training facilitators including for the “Linking CVA and Social Protection” course. You can find the materials [here](https://kayaconnect.org/course/info.php?id=603).

**Surveys:*** CaLp page creates to share and learn about ongoing and planned CVA research. If you are undertaking CVA related research, you can submit details and information will usually go live within 48 hours. Webpage [here](https://www.calpnetwork.org/resources/ongoing-research/)
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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.** |