

MARKET PRICE REPORT – RAKHINE STATE (AUGUST 2021)

Mercy Corps - Market Analysis Unit

September 22nd, 2021

As part of Mercy Corps' cash and voucher assistance programs, the MAU tracks market prices in Central and Northern Rakhine State and Chin State. This monthly report summarizes prices for goods based on data from three vendors per product per market. Data were gathered during the last week of August in Kyauktaw, Maungdaw, Minbya, Mrauk U, Paletwa, Pauktaw, Ponnagyun, Rathedaung and Sittwe Townships. Prices for March - July 2021 are also provided for comparison.

Highlights: August 2021

- **Most townships saw very stable prices in August**, although price-changes trended slightly upward in Kyauktaw and Ponnagyun Townships and downward in Pauktaw;
- **Prices for pulses rose 7-17% in three markets in August**, but essential foods were otherwise very stable;
- **Garlic prices rose 14-27% in four markets in August**, but other vegetable prices showed wide variation with prices rising and falling in various markets;
- **Prices for shrimp and fresh fish fell by 11% or more in several markets**, although other meat and fish prices were stable;
- **Prices for domestic brands of soap and detergent rose by 10% or more** in some markets, while other hygiene products remained stable;
- **Prices for NFIs were quite stable for a second straight month in August.**

Table 1. Essential Food Prices, by Township: August 2021 (MMK)

Product	Kyauktaw	Maungdaw	Minbya	Mrauk U	Paletwa	Pauktaw	Ponnagyun	Rathedaung	Sittwe
Better Rice (1 kg)	1,000	1,000	900	900	1,300	1,000	1,000	1,100	1,000
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	800	700	700	700	800	800	900	1,000	650
Palm Oil (1 liter)	2,800	2,700	2,700	2,700	3,000	2,800	3,200	2,800	2,600
Pulse (1 viss)	3,000	2,500	3,500	3,200	3,000	2,500	2,600	3,500	3,000
Salt (800 g)	200	250	150	300	320	200	300	150	200

I. Price Stability in August

Essential Food Items – Prices for essential foods were stable in August, with only pulses showing minor signs of rising prices. Prices for pulses rose 7-17% in Minbya, Mrauk U and Sittwe Townships, but they were stable elsewhere. All other essential foods were stable in August, notwithstanding a few isolated exceptions. For example, prices for cheaper rice rose in Pauktaw Township and fell in Sittwe, although retailers in these townships pointed to no underlying explanation for these changes.

Vegetables – Vegetable prices rose and fell in different markets in August, although garlic prices appeared to trend upward. Garlic prices rose 14-27% in four townships in August while holding steady elsewhere. Prices for eggplant and long bean each fell 20-60% in three townships in August, however they were mostly stable elsewhere (and sometimes rising). Onion and green chili prices shifted in August but showed no overall upward or downward trend.

Meat and Fish – Prices for fresh fish and shrimp trended downward slightly in August, although dried fish and chicken were stable. Mrauk U, Pauktaw and Sittwe Townships saw fresh fish prices fall 17-40% in August, while shrimp prices fell 11-25% (other townships were mostly stable). Prices for chicken and dried fish were very stable in August, rising or falling by just 5-11% in some markets.

Hygiene Products – Soap and detergent prices rose in a few markets, but hygiene products were otherwise stable again in August. Prices for domestic brands of detergent rose 10-14% in four markets, and soap prices rose 12-33% in three markets (prices were stable elsewhere). A few markets saw rising or falling prices for toothpaste and sanitary pads, but in general prices for these goods were stable as well.

Other NFIs – NFI prices were again stable in August, and with few exceptions most price changes were fairly modest. The price of mosquito nets in Kyauktaw Township rose by 40% in August and the price of towels in Maungdaw fell by 20%, but otherwise all changes in NFI prices were fairly minor. In Sittwe and Pauktaw Townships, prices for a few NFIs fell by 10-17%, but most NFIs in these markets were otherwise quite stable.

II. Market Price Tables and Charts

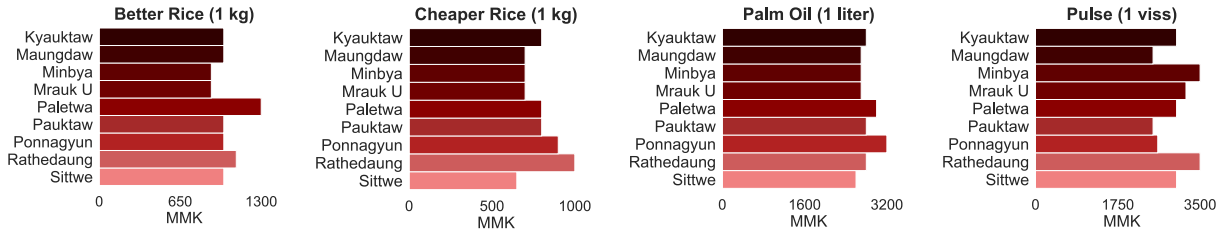
Table 2. August Market Prices (by Township)

Product	Kyauktaw	Maungdaw	Minbya	Mrauk U	Paletwa	Pauktaw	Ponnagyun	Rathedaung	Sittwe
Better Rice (1 kg)	1,000	1,000	900	900	1,300	1,000	1,000	1,100	1,000
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	800	700	700	700	800	800	900	1,000	650
Palm Oil (1 liter)	2,800	2,700	2,700	2,700	3,000	2,800	3,200	2,800	2,600
Pulse (1 viss)	3,000	2,500	3,500	3,200	3,000	2,500	2,600	3,500	3,000
Salt (800 g)	200	250	150	300	320	200	300	150	200
Garlic (1 viss)	3,800	4,000	3,500	4,000	4,500	3,600	3,100	4,000	3,500
Onion (1 viss)	700	700	800	800	1,500	700	900	800	700
Eggplant (1 viss)	-	3,200	1,300	1,500	1,200	1,000	2,000	700	2,000
Long Bean (1 viss)	1,000	-	1,300	1,200	3,000	2,000	1,700	800	2,500
Watercress (1 viss)	500	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,500	1,000	750	600	2,000
Green Chili (1 viss)	2,500	4,000	1,500	1,700	5,000	1,200	2,800	500	2,000
Toothpaste (140 g)	1,000	800	1,000	1,000	1,000	900	1,000	1,000	850
Detergent (400 g)	800	800	800	900	850	625	850	400	725
Soap (60 g)	400	350	400	400	650	400	450	350	500
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	700	500	600	500	800	600	550	500	500
Shrimp (1 viss)	6,000	5,000	7,000	4,000	-	3,000	4,000	3,000	6,000
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	9,000	12,000	11,000	10,000	-	10,000	18,500	14,000	9,000
Dried Fish (1 viss)	6,000	6,500	7,000	7,500	8,000	6,000	7,600	8,000	5,000
Chicken (1 viss)	9,000	9,000	7,000	8,500	12,000	9,000	7,600	8,000	6,500
Charcoal (1 viss)	500	1,000	600	500	-	500	750	-	500
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	3,600	3,500	3,000	2,500	3,000	2,500	2,700	3,000	2,500
Blanket	4,500	5,000	5,500	6,000	4,500	4,000	4,600	3,500	4,500
Mosquito Net	3,500	3,000	2,800	1,800	4,500	1,500	2,600	2,000	3,500
Plastic Tarpaulin	3,600	4,400	6,000	4,500	5,200	2,800	3,700	7,000	4,000
Men's Longyi	4,000	4,000	4,500	3,700	5,000	3,500	4,700	4,000	4,500
Women's Longyi	3,500	4,000	4,000	3,500	4,000	4,000	3,600	3,000	4,000
Umbrella	3,500	3,500	4,000	5,000	4,500	3,500	4,600	4,000	3,500
Towel	1,500	1,200	1,800	1,400	3,000	1,500	2,600	2,500	3,000

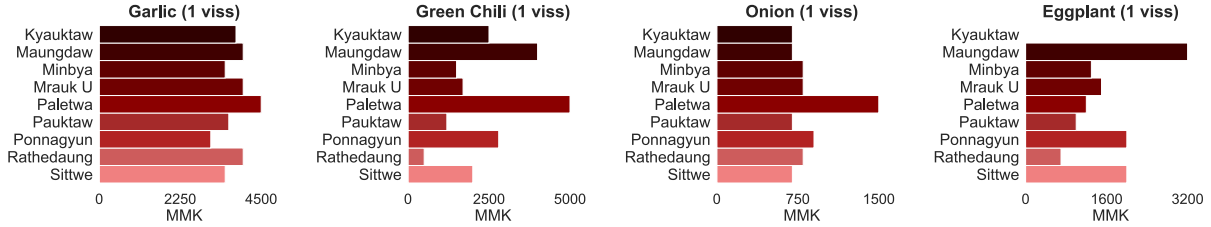
*Dashes indicate products that were unavailable at specification.

Charts 1-24. August Market Prices (by Category and Township)

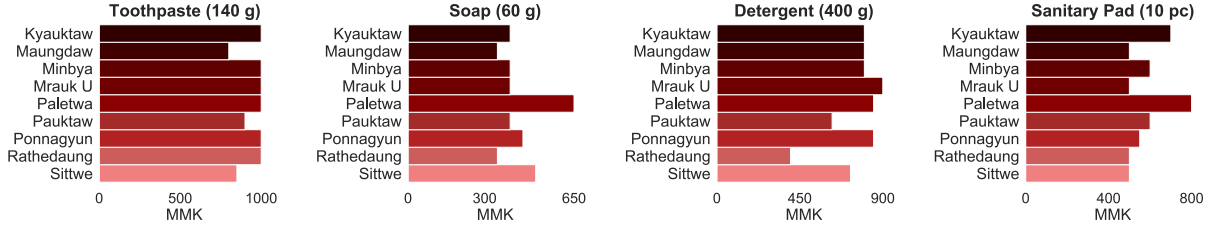
Essential Food Items



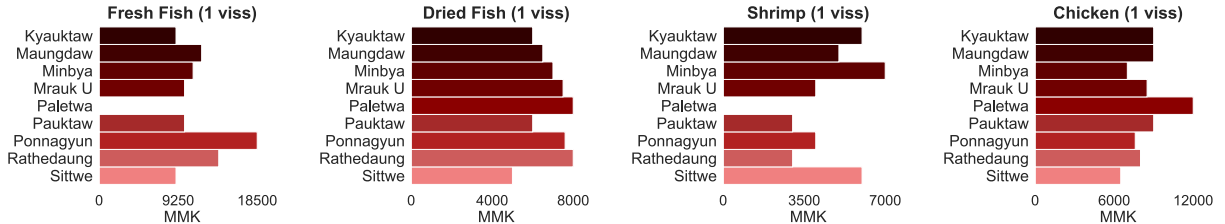
Vegetables



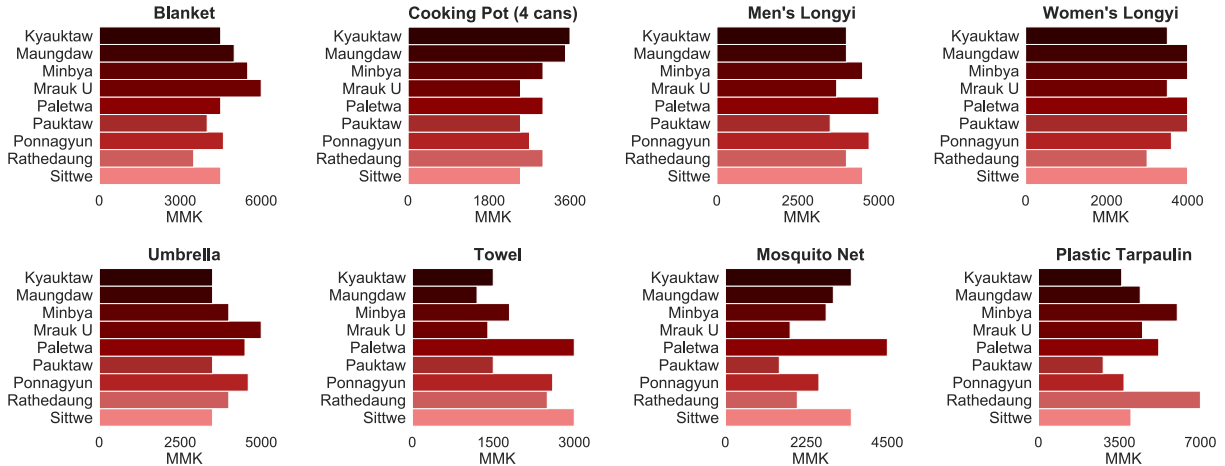
Hygiene Products



Meat / Fish

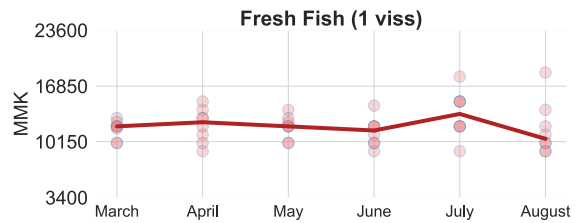
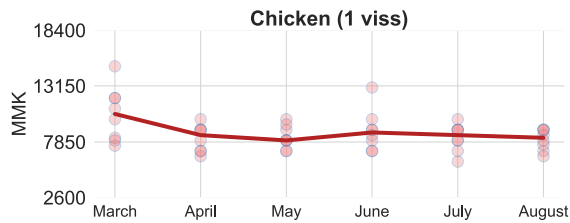
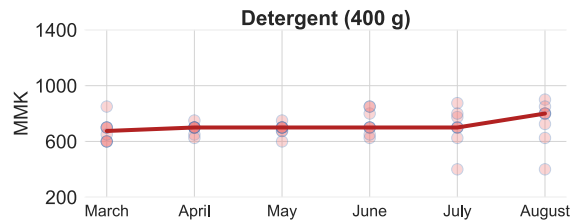
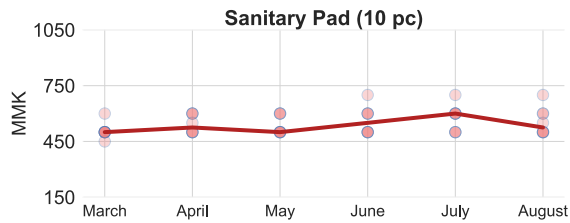
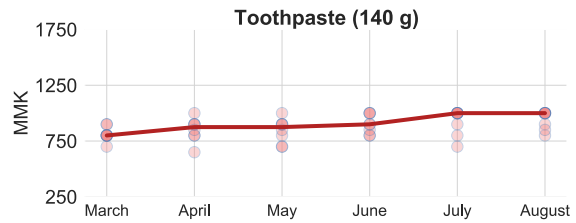
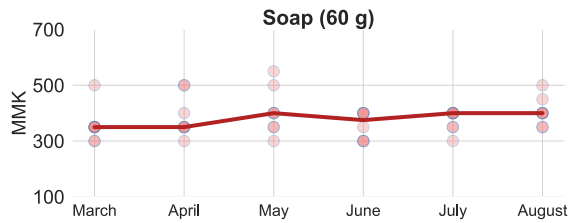
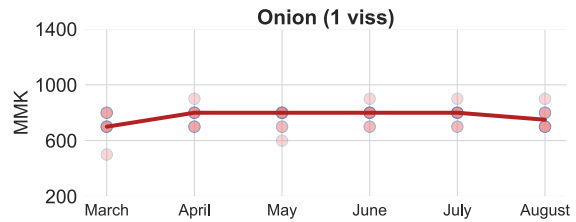
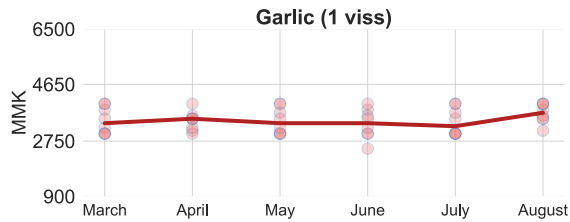
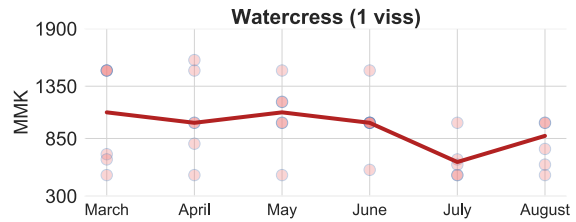
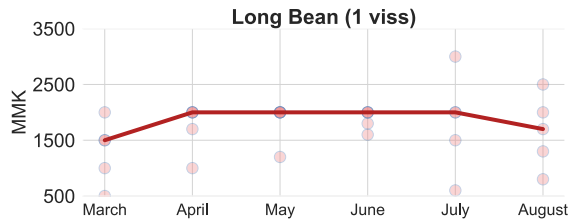
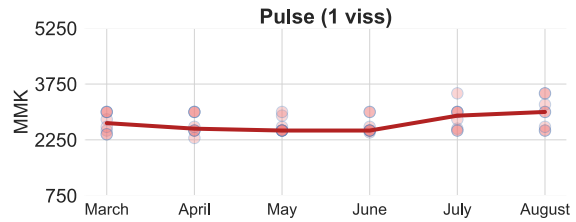
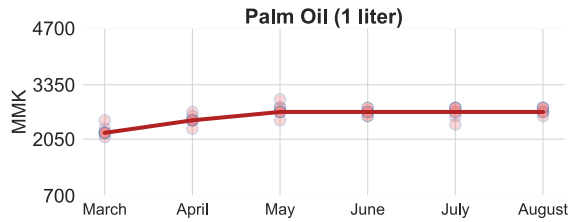
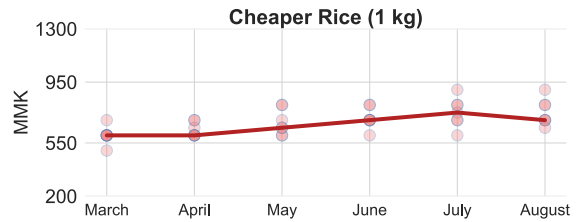
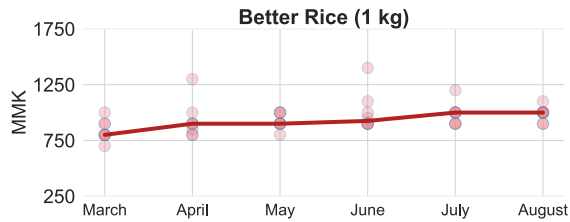


Other Non-Food Items



Charts 25-38. Change in Price for Selected Products (March 2021 – August 2021)

● Available Townships — Median Township



Mercy Corps' Market Analysis Unit (MAU)

The Market Analysis Unit provides development practitioners, policymakers and private sector actors in Myanmar with data and analysis to better understand the present and potential impacts of Covid-19, conflict and other crises on:

- **Household purchasing power**, including coping mechanisms, safety nets and access to basic needs;
- **Supply chains**, including trade, cross-border dynamics and market functionality (particularly as it relates to food systems);
- **Financial services**, including financial services providers, household and business access to finance and remittances; and
- **Labor markets** (formal and informal), with a focus on agricultural labor and low-wage sectors (e.g., construction, food service).

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