

MARKET PRICE REPORT – RAKHINE STATE (JULY 2021)

Mercy Corps - Market Analysis Unit

August 19th, 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. July data were gathered on July 27-31 in Kyauktaw, Maungdaw, Minbya, Mrauk U, Paletwa, Pauktaw, Ponnagyun, Rathedaung and Sittwe Townships. Prices for February - June 2021 are provided for comparison.

Highlights: July 2021

- **Prices for essential foods were mostly stable in July**, although prices for pulses—which are typically quite stable—and rice rose modestly in a few townships;
- **Palm oil prices held stable for a second straight month in July**, suggesting that the four-month rise from February to May may have halted;
- **Vegetable prices were stable in July**, although watercress prices fell in some markets;
- **Mrauk U, Pauktaw and Sittwe Townships saw rising meat prices**, however this was partly a rebound from falling prices in June;
- **Prices for hygiene products and NFIs were mostly stable in July**, notwithstanding isolated increases in a few markets;
- **Sittwe stood out among townships in July for prices increases on many products**—particularly meat and vegetables—possibly due to its greater reliance on imported foods.

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

Product	Kyauktaw	Maungdaw	Minbya	Mrauk U	Paletwa	Pauktaw	Ponnagyun	Rathedaung	Sittwe
Better Rice (1 kg)	1,000	1,000	900	900	1,400	900	1,000	1,200	1,000
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	800	750	700	700	800	600	900	1,000	800
Palm Oil (1 liter)	2,600	2,700	2,800	2,700	3,000	2,800	3,100	2,800	2,400
Pulse (1 viss)	3,000	2,550	3,000	3,000	3,000	2,500	2,500	3,500	2,800
Salt (500 g)	200	250	150	300	320	200	300	150	150

I. Price Stability in July

Essential Food Items – Rice prices in some townships rose gently in July, as did pulses, while palm oil remained mostly flat for a second straight month. Kyauktaw, Ponnagyun and Sittwe Townships saw prices rise by 10-15% for better and/or cheaper rice, while prices elsewhere were largely stable. Palm oil prices were fairly level for the second month straight, after four months on the rise. Prices for pulses—typically quite stable—were up 10% or more in Mrauk U, Rathedaung and Sittwe Townships but held steady elsewhere.

Vegetables – Vegetable prices showed characteristic fluctuation in July but were overall stable, with only watercress showing a clear downward-trend in prices. Prices for watercress fell for a second straight month in half of all markets but remained flat elsewhere. Long bean, garlic, onion and eggplant were all relatively stable in July, notwithstanding price increases of 10% or more in some markets. Green chili prices rose by 33% in Kyauktaw, Ponnagyun and Sittwe Townships but held steady in most markets. Sittwe stood out among townships in July for generally-rising prices, possibly due to a greater reliance on imports.

Meat and Fish – Seafood prices rose in several markets in July, although this was partly a rebound from falling prices in June. Five markets saw prices for fresh and/or dried fish rise by 20% or more in July. Meanwhile shrimp and chicken prices fluctuated in July, with prices rising in some markets and falling in others (although typically not more than 15%). Most price increases for meat and fish occurred in Mrauk U, Pauktaw and Sittwe Townships.

Hygiene Products – Prices for hygiene products were fairly stable in July. Recent months have seen prices for hygiene products rise slowly in some markets, however in July they were largely stable. Toothpaste, detergent, soap and sanitary pads each saw prices increase in one or two markets—typically a 10-20% shift—but these were the exception to the rule.

Other NFIs – NFI prices were very stable in July, although a few products showed some signs of rising in several townships. Towels, longyis for men, and mosquito nets each saw price increases of 20% or more in three townships, although prices for these goods were stable elsewhere. Price increases for NFIs were more common in Sittwe Township than elsewhere—with four of the nine NFIs monitored rising by 10% or more—but the increases were not dramatic.

II. Market Price Tables and Charts

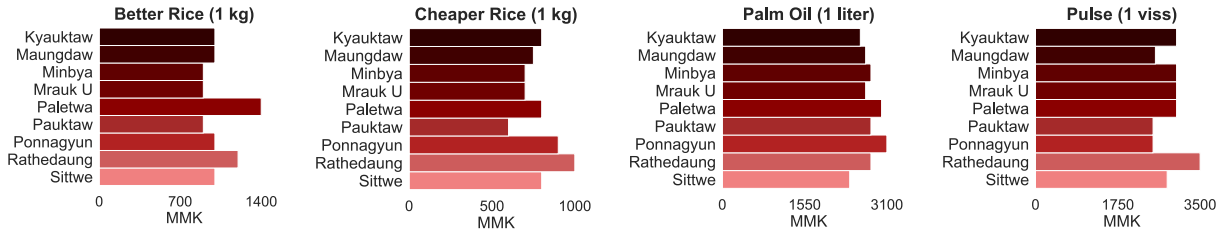
Table 2. July Market Prices (by Township)

Product	Kyauktaw	Maungdaw	Minbya	Mrauk U	Paletwa	Pauktaw	Ponnagyun	Rathedaung	Sittwe
Better Rice (1 kg)	1,000	1,000	900	900	1,400	900	1,000	1,200	1,000
Cheaper Rice (1 kg)	800	750	700	700	800	600	900	1,000	800
Palm Oil (1 liter)	2,600	2,700	2,800	2,700	3,000	2,800	3,100	2,800	2,400
Pulse (1 viss)	3,000	2,550	3,000	3,000	3,000	2,500	2,500	3,500	2,800
Salt (500 g)	200	250	150	300	320	200	300	150	150
Garlic (1 viss)	3,000	3,500	3,000	4,000	4,500	3,700	3,000	4,000	3,000
Onion (1 viss)	900	700	800	800	1,500	800	800	800	700
Eggplant (1 viss)	-	2,100	1,300	1,200	-	1,200	2,000	2,000	2,500
Long Bean (1 viss)	1,000	2,800	600	1,500	3,000	2,000	1,500	2,000	3,000
Watercress (1 viss)	500	1,000	500	1,000	1,500	1,000	650	600	2,000
Green Chili (1 viss)	2,000	7,000	-	1,500	5,000	1,300	2,500	500	2,000
Toothpaste (140 g)	800	700	1,000	1,000	1,000	900	1,000	1,000	1,000
Detergent (400 g)	700	700	700	875	850	625	775	400	800
Soap (60 g)	300	350	400	400	650	400	400	350	400
Sanitary Pad (10 pc)	700	500	600	500	800	600	600	500	600
Shrimp (1 viss)	6,000	5,000	7,000	4,500	-	4,000	3,600	3,000	8,000
Fresh Fish (1 viss)	9,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	-	15,000	18,000	15,000	15,000
Dried Fish (1 viss)	5,500	6,500	7,000	7,500	8,000	6,000	7,600	9,000	5,000
Chicken (1 viss)	9,000	9,000	7,000	9,000	-	10,000	8,000	8,000	6,000
Charcoal (1 viss)	500	1,000	600	550	-	600	700	-	500
Cooking Pot (4 cans)	3,500	3,500	3,000	2,500	3,000	2,500	2,600	3,000	3,000
Blanket	4,500	5,000	5,500	6,000	4,500	4,000	4,600	3,500	5,000
Mosquito Net	2,500	3,000	2,800	1,800	4,500	1,800	2,600	2,000	4,200
Plastic Tarpaulin	3,600	4,000	6,000	4,000	5,200	2,800	3,600	7,000	4,000
Men's Longyi	4,500	4,000	4,500	3,500	5,000	3,500	4,600	4,000	4,500
Women's Longyi	3,500	4,000	4,000	3,600	4,000	4,000	3,600	3,000	4,000
Umbrella	3,600	3,500	4,000	4,500	4,500	4,000	4,600	4,000	3,500
Towel	1,300	1,500	1,800	1,400	3,000	1,500	2,600	3,000	3,000

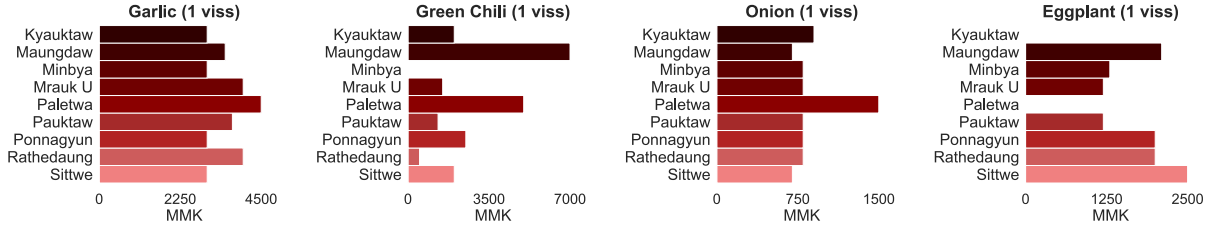
*Dashes indicate products that were unavailable at specification.

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

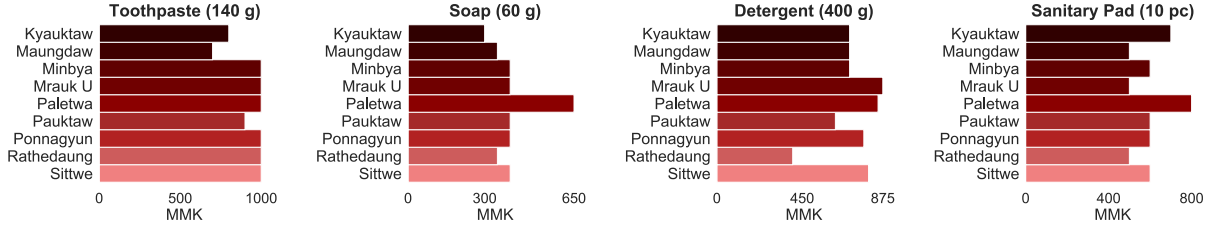
Essential Food Items



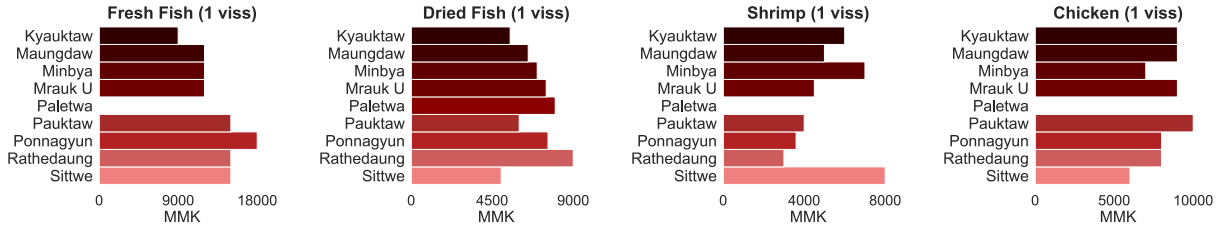
Vegetables



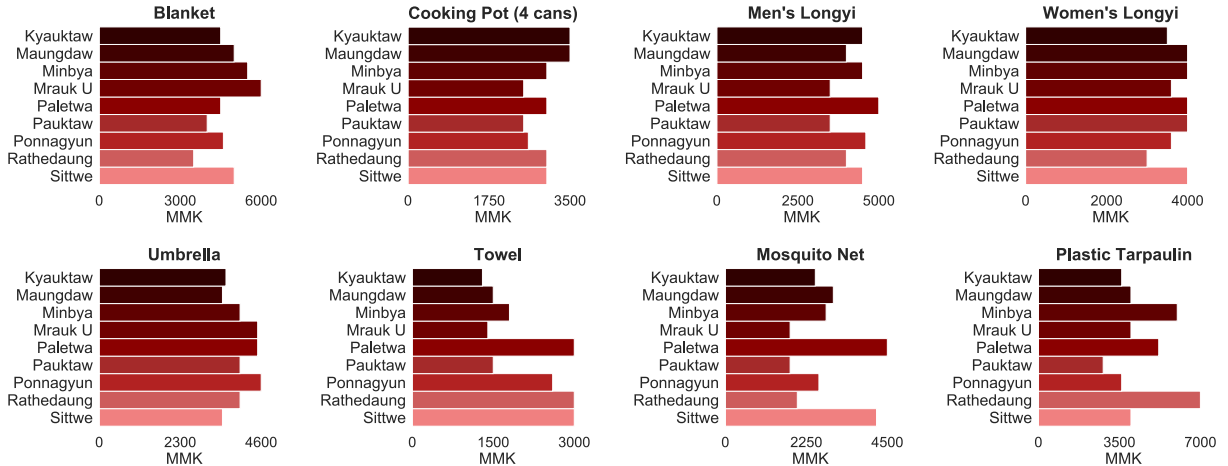
Hygiene Products



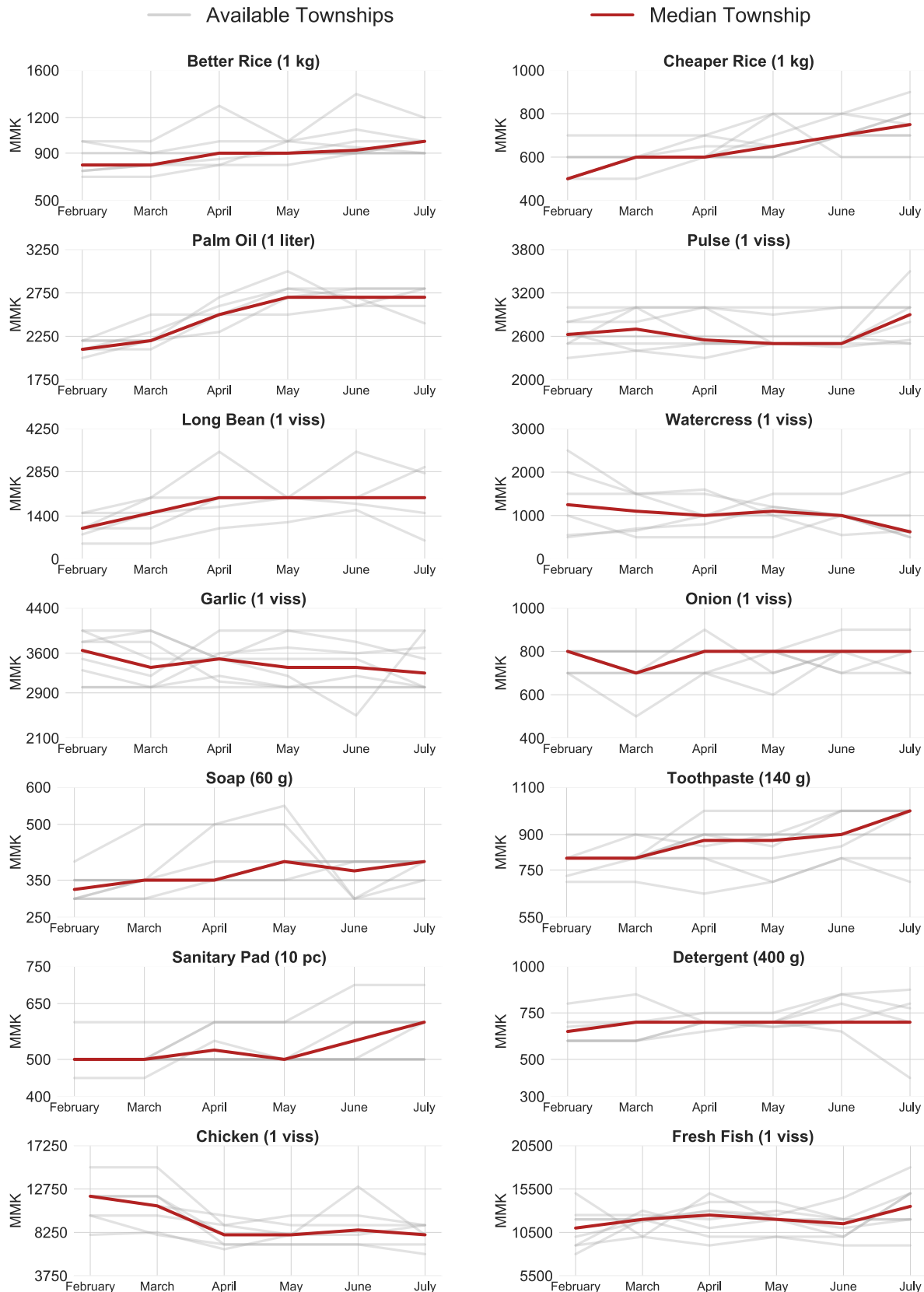
Meat / Fish



Other Non-Food Items



Charts 25-38. Change in Price for Selected Products (February 2021 - July 2021)



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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