

# MYANMAR CASH WORKING GROUP

## Monthly Update

2 May, 2023



This regular monthly update, covering the period from 1 April - 30 April 2023, is produced by the Myanmar Cash Working Group (CWG).

## KEY FIGURES

**2,850 MMK/\$**

USD exchange rate at private counter

**2,100 MMK/\$**

Official Exchange Rate

**1-3%**

Fee to secure physical cash

## MYANMAR CWG UPDATES

- With the aim to include Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) in the Humanitarian Response Plan 2024, the CWG is leading the effort to develop an MPCA strategy and operational guidance. The CWG has organized the next Multi Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) task team meetings on the 8 May at 1pm MMT. The topics covered will include referral pathways and reportings. The presentation from the last task team meeting on monitoring can be found [here](#). Other related documents can be accessed from the [CWG MS Teams site](#).
- Both the [Joint Market Monitoring Initiative \(JMMI\)](#) and [Financial Service Provider \(FSP\) Mapping](#) concept notes are finalized and only need funding to move forward. Donors or Partner Agencies interested in supporting these initiatives, please inform the CWG co-chairs.
- The CWG has updated the CWG mailing list. If you haven't completed the short **3-minute survey** to indicate if you are still interested to be a part of CWG mailing list, please kindly do so. The survey can be accessed [here](#).
- Did you know the Myanmar CWG has a [Microsoft Teams site](#)? There you can find all the latest information from the CWG. We also encourage members to post and share information there for the benefit of all.
- The CWG held its regular monthly meeting on 20 April, 2023. The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Thursday 11 May at 10am MMT.
- The Sub-national CWGs will be holding their May meetings during the first and second week of May. Including [Rakhine](#) on 9<sup>th</sup> May, [Kachin](#) on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, and the [Southeast](#) on 5<sup>th</sup> May. You can find the meeting minutes from last month at the links. Given the new coordination structure recommended by the Peer 2 Peer mission and endorsed by the HCT, the CWG will also look to develop a sub-national CWG for the NW. Any organizations interested in taking a leadership role, please inform the CWG co-chairs.
- The Nutrition Cluster is hosting a webinar on 10 May focusing on CVA for nutrition in Myanmar. The webinar will include the introduction of key concepts on CVA for Nutrition and share evidence and case studies to illustrate how CVA can be used to prevent malnutrition. The CWG will circulate the calendar invite and link soon.
- The CWG will also hold a general workplanning meeting on Friday, 5 May from 1-1:30pm MMT. We look forward to your attendance as we aim to settle on the priorities of the CWG for the coming period.

## MYANMAR UPDATES

- In March, the Market Analysis Unit (MAU) published the commercial transport report in Chin state. Some of the key findings are Mandalay remains the main source of goods for Chin; reduced armed conflict has made route closures less frequent on some routes; however, infrastructure quality on interior and border roads has worsened. All MAU publications are available on [MIMU](#). To receive reports directly you can contact [market.analysis.unit@gmail.com](mailto:market.analysis.unit@gmail.com) or [team.leader.mau@rsp.one](mailto:team.leader.mau@rsp.one).

- IFPRI has published a report on vulnerability and welfare: Findings from the fourth round of the Myanmar Household Welfare Survey (October to December 2022). This report discusses the findings from the fourth round related to shocks, coping strategies, and income poverty. The report can be downloaded [here](#).
- IFPRI also published the report Monitoring the Agri-Food System in Myanmar: The Rising Costs of Diets and Declining Purchasing Power of Casual Wage Laborers: June 2020-February 2023. IFPRI assess changes in food prices and purchasing power of casual wage laborers based on large-scale surveys of food vendors and households in rural and urban areas and in all state/regions of Myanmar. The report can be downloaded [here](#).
- The regular update of April [Myanmar Humanitarian Update](#) was released. A quarter of the way into 2023, just 8 per cent of the required funds have been received. A dramatic increase in funding and an expansion of access will be critical for the humanitarian community to reach those prioritized for lifesaving assistance this year.

## GLOBAL CASH UPDATES

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- The global Cash Advisory Group (CAG) is pleased to invite you to an external briefing on Tuesday 2nd May at 1pm (CET). This session will provide a brief overview of the work of the CAG to date including the upcoming priorities. The briefing will be interactive, and the agenda is geared towards a dedicated Q&A session, where you will have the chance to ask questions and provide your valuable inputs. The session will last for 90 minutes and interpretation will be provided (French/Spanish/Arabic). If you would like to attend this event, please register at the Zoom link [here](#).
- The webinar of “**The Importance of Internal Financial Controls When Implementing CVA**” - hosted by the Cash Hub and the Finance Development Competency Network will take place on **Thursday 4th May 2023**. This webinar will focus on the internal financial controls which should be in place when implementing CVA for Food Security and Livelihoods outcomes, highlighting both the risks that are related to CVA and how they can be mitigated within programmes. If you have any questions or experience any issues on the day, please contact us directly at [contact@cash-hub.org](mailto:contact@cash-hub.org). (Meeting URL: [here](#), Meeting ID: 939 8712 5483, Passcode: 3MJHyg)
- CALP Network is organizing an online training on Core CVA Skills for Programme Staff for Southeast Asia. The online course will start on 23<sup>rd</sup> May and through August. The applications **is for professionals based in Southeast Asian Countries only. The workshops will be held within time zones accessible to the region.** All workshops are between May 30<sup>th</sup> and August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 for two hours at 3pm Manila Time / 2pm Jakarta/Bangkok Time. Deadline for Applications: 10th of May 2023, 11:59 Manila Time. More information about the course in this link: <https://www.calpnetwork.org/event/calp-online-core-cva-skills-for-programme-staff-southeast-asia/>. If you apply, please let the CWG know so we can support your application in advocacy to CALP.
- The March newsletter of SPIAC-B working group on linking humanitarian cash assistance and social protection has published. You can access [here](#). The previous newsletters can be found [here](#).

## RESOURCES

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- The Myanmar Cash Working Group endorsed Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) calculation and Technical summary note and the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) calculation and technical note are available on MIMU Cash Programming site. The latest update to the SMEB took place in January 2023. Questions and feedback can be directed to CWG chairs and co-chairs.
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- Myanmar CVA 4Ws is available online on [MIMU](#), and the dashboard can be found [here](#).
- Mercy Corps Myanmar publishes the Market Price Report Dashboard. The dashboard [is live on MIMU](#) and [standalone dashboard here](#). The *Product Specifications* document (see [here](#)) provides detailed specifications used during price collection to help third parties interpret and use MPR data. These specifications may be updated periodically and available for download on [the MPR dashboard](#) on MIMU.
- WFP has a nationwide [market monitoring dashboard](#) and to access reports, here is the link [to featured reports](#).

We welcome your feedback! For questions or suggestions please contact:

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