

MYANMAR CASH WORKING GROUP

Monthly Update

3 April, 2023



This regular monthly update, covering the period from 1 February - 31 March 2023, is produced by the Myanmar Cash Working Group (CWG).

KEY FIGURES

2,855 MMK/\$

USD exchange rate at private counter

2,100 MMK/\$

Official Exchange Rate

1-3%

Fee to secure physical cash

MYANMAR CWG UPDATES

- The [Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket \(SMEB\)](#) was updated on 31 January using December 2022 market prices, and the [technical guidance note](#), and [excel calculations](#) were circulated by email. In the technical guidance note, the CWG updated the guidance on MPCA transfer values, recommending that MPCA transfer values align with SMEB values unless there is a clear justification and rationale for providing an alternative amount. While the SMEB is an important tool to help harmonize transfer values, there is also a misunderstanding by many partners regarding MPCA in general. In addition to the SMEB update, please also keep an eye out for potential updates to the full MEB methodology.
- 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 Multi Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) task team meetings on the 16th, 23rd and 30th March 2023. The task team discussed the [overall process](#), [beneficiary targeting - including geographic prioritization](#), and [transfer values](#).
- The CWG held a Cash for Nutrition meeting on 1 March to have better understanding on partners' cash for nutrition activities and to know the types of nutrition activities that cash can support. You can find the meeting notes [here](#).

Going forward the CWG and Nutrition Cluster will work on the following:

- The Global Nutrition Cluster (GNC) is proposing to host a webinar on CVA at the end of April. Global Nutrition Cluster's Technical Alliance's Technical Support Team (GNC-TA TST) will assist with hosting the webinar and interpretation.
- We will have further bilateral discussions with the CWG on what information already exists for feasibility and risk analysis (including assessment of potential delivery mechanisms) that are relevant to Myanmar.
- The Nutrition Cluster will be developing a draft ToR to articulate request for further support from the GNC TA TST. Tightened up ToR early May, after webinar.
- The linked guidance can be useful for the CWG and the Nutrition Cluster. Evidence and Guidance Note on the Use of Cash and Voucher Assistance for Nutrition Outcomes in Emergencies | Global Nutrition Cluster
- Keyaid Consulting is also leading on a paper dedicated to documenting best practices and common challenges of implementing CVA and nutrition in emergency settings. You can find the link [here](#).
- Both the [Joint Market Monitoring Initiative \(JMMI\)](#) and [Financial Service Provider \(FSP\) Mapping](#) concept notes are finalized and only need funding to move forward. The CWG and REACH will continue to fundraise over the coming months.
- The CWG is cleaning up the CWG mailing list. Please complete the short **3-minute survey** to indicate if you are still interested to be a part of CWG mailing list. 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 third batch of CVA ToT training was successfully conducted in Sittwe, Rakhine on **6 February to 9 February 2023**. The activity was supported by UNDP and WFP and a total of 34 participants received the basic CVA ToT. Among them 14 participants were from local organizations such as CSO, CBO and NNGO, 9 INGO staff and 8 UN staff. You can find the training report [here](#).
- The CWG held its regular monthly meeting on 12 January and 16 February 2023. You can find the meeting notes for [January](#) and [February](#).
- The Sub-national CWGs, including [Rakhine](#), [Kachin](#), and the [Southeast](#), all held meetings. You can find the latest meeting minutes 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 next monthly CWG meeting will be held on Thursday, 20 April 2023 at 10 am MMT. It was postponed a week, due to Thingyan holiday. If you did not receive the invite, please let us know.

MYANMAR UPDATES

- In late November/early December the Market Analysis Unit (MAU) conducted a second-round survey of displaced households in Chin and Kayah/Karenni State to understand their challenges they face. The study is based on a probability sample representing 1,900 and 1,300 households currently or previously enrolled in cash assistance programs in Chin and Kayah/Karenni State respectively. You can find the report on the MIMU [here](#). In Chin, more households relied on cash assistance to buy food compared to three months earlier, and fewer relied on credit whereas fewer households described their freedom of movement as poor, but one-quarter were still unable to travel to a food market in the past thirty days. In the Kayah/Karenni report, nine-in-ten IDP households remained displaced in early-January. The portion of IDP households unable to travel to a food market grew to 20%, although freedom of movement was unchanged for most. All MAU publications are available on [MIMU](#). To receive reports directly you can contact market.analysis.unit@gmail.com or team.leader.mau@rsp.one.
- MAT also published a [New Firearm Policy: Aid sector implication](#) report. Of note for the cash provider, this policy is unlikely to quickly increase the number of IDPs but there are risks of more demands on service providers and potentially new security concerns.
- IFPRI has published a report on [Promising Indicators for Effectively Targeting the Poor in Myanmar](#). In this research note, researchers from the [Myanmar Agriculture Policy Support Activity \(MAPSA\)](#) explore some promising indicators which can be used by implementing agencies to effectively target the poor by using data from the Myanmar Household Welfare Survey (MHWS) collected over the phone during July and August of 2022.
- The March [Myanmar Humanitarian Update](#) was released. Cluster partners continue to utilize CVA as a key modality for delivering assistance. In addition, the concerns persist around the impact of new registration requirements on humanitarian operations.
- Asia and the Pacific: Weekly Regional Humanitarian Snapshot (14 – 20 March 2023) was available [here](#). The snapshot presents that humanitarian needs are on the rise due to the continuing conflict in many parts of Myanmar. The Northwest (943,100) and the Southeast (409,400) of Myanmar are hosting the highest number of IDPs since the military takeover.
- The Social and Behaviour Change (SBC) Unit of the UNICEF Myanmar Country Office has created an interactive AAP dashboard to consolidate feedback and suggestions from affected populations. The report is available [here](#).

GLOBAL CASH UPDATES

- The February 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](#).
- The IFRC published the [Annual Report for Asia – Pacific regional Cash and Voucher 2022](#). This report aims to provide a snapshot of the accomplishments of Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) in 2022. A total of CHF 9,846,520.50 has been disbursed in 2022, an increase of more than 300% from 2021, reaching a total of 439,333 people or 77,765 households, which is an increase of 188 % from 2021.
- UNFPA has published the guidance on How to Design and Set Up Cash Assistance in GBV Case Management on 28 February 2023. The purpose is to guide and support GBV and cash practitioners in assessing, designing, implementing, and integrating cash assistance in GBV case management programming in a safe and efficient manner. The Guidance is the result of extensive feedback from cash recipients, their caseworkers, and implementing partners (IPs) in the field. You can download the publication [here](#).
- The Global Cash Advisory Group has rolled out the [Cash Working Group ToR Template](#). This TOR template serves as the foundation for developing country-specific Cash Working Group TORs that should be adapted as necessary. This version, finalised in March 2023, will be updated on a regular basis.
- You can download the presentation slides of “Mainstreaming disability inclusion into humanitarian CVA” on the CaLP Network website. The link is [here](#).

RESOURCES

- 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 can be directed to CWG chairs and co-chairs.
- 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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