

# MYANMAR CASH WORKING GROUP

## Monthly Update

1 June, 2023



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

## KEY FIGURES

**2,873 MMK/\$**

USD exchange rate at private counter

**2,100 MMK/\$**

Official Exchange Rate

**1-3%**

Fee to secure physical cash

## MYANMAR CWG UPDATES

- The CWG is leading the effort to develop a Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) strategy and operational guidance. The CWG organized the 5th Multi Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) task team meetings on the 8 May. The topics covered included referral pathways and monitoring. The presentation from the last task team meeting on referral pathways and 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 **11 May, 2023**. The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Thursday 9 June at 10am MMT. All the meeting notes are available on the MIMU, [here](#).
- 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 CWG organized an Ad-hoc cash working group meeting on Monday 22 May 1:30 PM. The meeting discussed the Cyclone Mocha response. The CWG plans to support partners with transfer value recommendations, MEB/SMEB, Cash for Work, Financial Service Providers, and general feasibility of cash assistance. The presentation can be found [here](#).
- The CWG has developed the cyclone MOCHA MPCA tracker in order to better coordinate MPCA assistance in Rakhine for the Cyclone Mocha response. One is [a template](#) that we kindly ask your organizations to complete and send back to us. The other is the [tracker with data](#) already received by the CWG. We will share this information regularly as we receive data and will update and circulate via email. Here is also the link to the [Market Assessment Tracker](#). Again, we encourage all partners to support in entering in their activities directly into that google sheet.
- In regard to market assessment tools, CWG shared the [Mercy Corps stoplight tool](#) and [MARKit toolkit](#).

## MYANMAR UPDATES

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- In May, the Market Analysis Unit (MAU) published a third-round survey result of displaced households in [Sagaing](#) and [Chin](#). The surveys were done in late-February and early- March to understand the challenges that faced by currently or previously enrolled in cash assistance programs. In addition, MAU published two rapid Market Snapshots. The [first](#) was conducted in Sittwe, Mrauk-U and Ponnagyun in Rakhine. This Rakhine rapid Market Snapshot presents market data following Cyclone Mocha in order to support disaster response efforts. Data were collected on 19 May 2023 through observation and KIIs. The report indicates that Cyclone Mocha badly damaged Rakhine markets, resulting in the increases of prices of essential food, non-food items and services. Moreover, the implementation of large-scale cash transfer programmes should be undertaken with caution although in general cash assistance can be an effective modality where markets are functional. [Second](#) RMA was conducted on 23-24 May and according to the report, both in-kind and cash assistance remain important aid modalities as the speed and degree of market and supply chain recovery continues to vary by location. 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 published a report on Agricultural extension in times of crisis and emergent threats: Effectiveness of a fall armyworm information intervention in Myanmar. This paper uses a randomized controlled trial to test the effectiveness of two cellphone-based extension interventions for fall armyworm control in maize. It can be downloaded [here](#).
- IFRC published the Cyclone Mocha Emergency Operational Strategy, in which shelter, basic needs and livelihoods are now a priority followed by WASH and health services. It can be accessed [here](#). The paper also presents the operational constraints which could be useful for the cash actors.
- UNICEF produced the [Myanmar Humanitarian Situation Report \(Cyclone MOCHA\)](#) on 26 May 2023. The report uses the latest assessments from the Market Analysis Unit (MAU) as a reference. It suggests that humanitarian cash assistance is likely to grow in the coming weeks.
- UNOCHA – Myanmar Cyclone Mocha Situation Report No. 2 has been published and available [here](#).
- Latest Myanmar Emergency – Flash Update on Cyclone Mocha was published on 29 May 2023 by UNHCR. The flash update can be accessed [here](#).

## GLOBAL CASH UPDATES

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- The Global Education Cluster Cash Task Team announced a webinar launching the first ever Cash and Voucher Assistance in Education in Emergencies online training, developed in partnership with Save the Children as part of the INEE-endorsed Education in Emergencies online pathway. This course unit is primarily designed for education in emergencies (EiE) or education practitioners to ensure they have a good understanding of this essential aspect of EiE. It may also serve as a useful resource for those working in other areas, in particular CVA practitioners and wanting to improve their understanding of this topic by diving into this intermediate-level content. This course unit connects with other [EiE Online](#) course units but can also be used as a standalone learning product.” It will start on 6 June 2023. To register in advance for this webinar please click [HERE](#).
  - CALP has just launched revised cash and voucher assistance (CVA) glossaries. This publication marks the fifth version of the English glossary since 2011, reflecting the extent to which the terminology and reach of CVA has evolved in that time. Notable changes in this version include amendments to key definitions such as cash and voucher assistance (CVA), cash transfers/assistance, vouchers, minimum expenditure basket (MEB), multi-purpose cash assistance (MPC/MPCA), and financial service provider (FSP). Markets-related terminology has also been extensively revised, with inputs from Markets in Crisis (MiC) colleagues. There have also been
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a significant number of additions on topics including currencies and economic volatility, social protection, and digital payments and technology. English version here (<https://calp.net/3Lx110w>)

- The April 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. An updated to the SMEB is planned for June 2023.
- Myanmar CVA 5Ws 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](#). 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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