

This regular biweekly update, covering the period from 28 August to 10 September 2021, is produced by the Myanmar Cash Working Group. The next update will be issued towards the middle of September 2021.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

* The Central Bank of Myanmar amended the Foreign Exchange Management Law for exporters to sell USD within four months of receipt.[[1]](#footnote-0)
* Access to banking services remains limited. As a result, banks are continuing to impose strict withdrawal limits.
* As of 9 September, the official exchange rate is 1,724 MMK to 1 USD[[2]](#footnote-1); however, the private money changer rate is 1,737 MMK[[3]](#footnote-2). Fuel prices are 1,160 MMK for 95 Octane and 1,115 MMK for premium Diesel per litre[[4]](#footnote-3).
* WFP highlighted that the key commodities remain stable, however, some areas experiencing higher price increases across a range of commodities due mostly to the surge in COVID-19 cases and ensuing mitigation measures (travel restrictions, stay-at-home orders, shop closures) that caused disruption in transportation and supply chains[[5]](#footnote-4).
* In Rakhine, Cash Flow situation remains low due to restriction of normal cash transactions. Members who implement the mobile money transfer have been suspended due to the cash liquidity issue.
* In Kachin, constraints in banking remain a challenge, especially access to cash. In addition, market prices are rising, and access to IDP camps is limited. However, cash distribution to IDPs has been resuming starting from the last week of August 2021.

**KEY FIGURES**

| **1,737 mmk/$**USD exchange rate | **5-7%**Yangon physical cash exchange fee | **1,115 mmk**Premium Diesel |
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**SITUATION UPDATE**

In Rakhine, Cash Flow situation remains low due to restriction of normal cash transactions. Members who implement the mobile money transfer have been suspended due to the cash liquidity issue. Some new notes have started circulating while the Myanmar currency continued to slide against the USD causing concerns over possible increases in the cost of goods and services. Prices of basic food commodities remain relatively stable and supply chains also remain viable. The fuel price continues to increase prompting passenger ferry boats to increase prices by up to 30% at the beginning of September 2021.

In Kachin, all regional CWG members face cash liquidity and banking issues, impacting all program-related activities such as delayed cash received from donors, procurement process, distribution and reporting. However, cash distribution to IDPs has been resuming starting from the last week of August 2021. The Members have been experiencing a high percentage of cash out and delivery fees with high risks. Market prices are increasing across the Kachin state. Due to recent armed conflict, there is security concern for staff members who have access to IDP camps in different townships as staff members are asked by the Military at the checkpoints.

The Central Bank of Myanmar amended the Foreign Exchange Management Law. In which, the exporters have to surrender foreign currency receipts and exchange them for kyats within four months of receipt.1 Access to banking services remains limited. Banks continue to impose strict withdrawal limits, with AYA 200K MMK for ATM and 300K MMK for saving account per week, KBZ 300K for ATM and 200K for saving account per week, and 100K for AGD and CB ATM. For cash and banking, not much changes whilst organizations can withdraw 5 million per week with a request letter. The percentage to access physical cash from bank accounts in Yangon is around 5-7%. Some banks accept cash to cash branch transfers, but the organization must negotiate first based on field-level bank cash availability. MFTB these days allow exchanges and easy to get cash in MMK if around 50,000.

As of 9 September, the official exchange rate is 1,724 MMK to 1 USD2; however, the private money changer rate is 1,737 MMK3. According to the private money changer, one person can only purchase 200 USD per day depending on the availability of USD note3. According to market sources, the price of one US dollar has risen to nearly 1,900 kyats[[6]](#footnote-5). Fuel prices are 1,115 MMK for 95 Octane and 1,045 MMK for premium Diesel per litre4.

According to the July Market Price Update Report from WFP, overall, prices of key commodities were mostly stable when compared to June 2021 (rice +1%, cooking oil +2%, mixed oil +4%), with the notable exception of egg prices that increased dramatically in July (+26%), and a smaller but steady increase in the price of chickpeas (+5%). However, the overall stability masks variations at lower levels, with some areas experiencing higher price increases across a range of commodities due mostly to the surge in COVID-19 cases and ensuing mitigation measures (travel restrictions, stay-at-home orders, shop closures) that caused disruption in transportation and supply chains5.

The military council has started asking restaurants and liquor stores to pay alcohol taxes and is threatening to revoke the alcohol licences if the vendors are unable to.[[7]](#footnote-6)

**key resources**

* [Myanmar CVA 4W](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1xnQ8pFbqxr45WE4tXFFAKg3522Qyv8eR7cbpS8lm1Bw/edit#gid=1230035561)s (2020) is available online and the dashboard can be found [here](https://datastudio.google.com/u/0/reporting/1ab3123c-1589-42c7-bcbe-29bae99a0281/page/IAE6B/edit).
* Myanmar CWG August meeting minutes is available on [MIMU.](https://themimu.info/sites/themimu.info/files/documents/Mtg_Minutes_CWG_Aug2021.pdf)
* Mercy Corps Myanmar publishes the Market Price Report Dashboard. The dashboard is [live on MIMU](https://themimu.info/market-analysis-unit) and [standalone dashboard here](http://mau-mpr-dashboard-beta.herokuapp.com/).
* WFP also has a nationwide market monitoring [dashboard](https://analytics.wfp.org/t/Public/views/MarketMonitoringDashboard/MainSummary?:isGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&:embed=y) and recently released the detailed [July 2021 Market Price Update Report](https://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/myanmar-market-price-update-july-2021).
* A comprehensive financial service provider mapping and [Emergency Cash Transfer Programme Tools for Humanitarian Actors](https://themimu.info/fsp-mapping) site are available on the MIMU website.
* [Myanmar-Emergency-Cash Assistance-Dashboard](https://analytics.wfp.org/t/Public/views/MyanmarEmergencyCashAssistanceInformation/OverallPage) together with FSP dataset and CTP SOPs can be found on the page.

**publication**

* UNHCR published the [Myanmar Emergency Overview Map](https://reliefweb.int/map/myanmar/myanmar-emergency-overview-map-number-people-displaced-southeast-feb-2021-and-remain-1) as of 6 September as well as [Myanmar Emergency Update](https://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/myanmar-emergency-update-01-september-2021).
* The presentation slides of the second MEB webinar by Regional Cash Working Group is available online. Here are: [RCWG MEB webinar session 2](https://drive.google.com/file/d/16TXQJfrlhOYMo_Ek6-vXA1vJ9FLtRKCY/view?usp=sharing) and [Seven Tips for Assembling an Effective MEB](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gPYCs51nKWbBAXKlqDHbj7mhLDZdfTlf/view?usp=sharing)

**recent webinar and training**

* The Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA), Environment, and Climate Change Community of Practice, currently led by CaLP and the [Global Shelter Cluster Environment Community of Practice](https://www.sheltercluster.org/community-of-practice/environment), recently held a webinar showcasing the potential role of CVA in addressing climate change and environmental degradation. The event featured different perspectives, identified opportunities and challenges in CVA programming relating to the subject-matter, and included a call to action for proactive planning in the fight against climate change. You can listen to the recording [here](https://www.calpnetwork.org/event/cva-the-environment-and-climate-change-in-humanitarian-response/?utm_source=Dgroups%20email&utm_medium=dgroups%20EN&utm_campaign=dgroups%20environment&utm_content=environment%20webinar).
* The recording, slides and Q&A from the Global Education Cluster CVA Task Team for EiE webinar held in June are now available. Please find the recording [here](https://worldvision.zoom.us/rec/play/Fbw93tSh4YuC1k8ZYKtjNiQcJIVm58wxU5jldUiLBztoEwU_qb3rWNwbThdI8GbPUbNSkul2-yDjQeKL.jWddpm1L7on-iZzm?continueMode=true&_x_zm_rtaid=t7aZ2ZetR2OTYIAlS9UrrA.1624541157396.e7d3a812a4100fcd95d3729d7c0b74ce&_x_zm_rhtaid=995) and the slides presented by the panellists [here](https://educationcluster.app.box.com/s/63yvlb376jk09s6koazyz2jqzkub2bir). The Q&A from the webinar can be found [here](https://educationcluster.app.box.com/s/sjftju1s8ysihbvxb8yuw0oat7e53g2b).

**regular and ongoing resources and mappings**

* There are many regular and ongoing resources, including mappings, related to linking humanitarian cash and social protection, which can be found [here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ctPU3xYoch2N3pSs92ExQ4KmvEj7XHR2lMLfVPL43Nw/edit).

**upcoming webinar and training**

| **Date** | **Activity** | **Host** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Friday17 September | Lesson Learnt on Coordination of CVA in Kenya([Visit here](https://www.calpnetwork.org/event/lessons-learnt-on-coordination-of-cva-in-kenya/)) | CaLP and KCWG |
| Tuesday21 September | Vendor Experiences with humanitarian CVA: Findings from Chad & Columbia([Register here](https://rescue.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_68EApSKFQT2c47l8xxvzAA)) | IRC |
| Online self-directed learning | Core CVA skills for program staff course, Free 12 weeks online self-directed course ([Visit here](https://www.calpnetwork.org/course/online-core-cva-skills-for-programme-staff/)) | CaLP |





1. BBC News,3 September 2021 ([link](https://www.facebook.com/BBCnewsBurmese/posts/4466082633447587)) [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. Central Bank of Myanmar [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
3. Northern Breeze Money Changer [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
4. Denko station daily fuel rate ([link](https://denkomyanmar.com/all-denko-station-daily-fuel-rates/)) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
5. WFP July Market Price Update ([link](https://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/myanmar-market-price-update-july-2021)) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
6. စျေးကွက်အတွင်း နိုင်ငံခြားငွေလဲနှုန်း တစ်ဒေါ်လာ ကျပ် ၁၉၀၀ ဝန်းကျင်ရှိနေ; Eleven Media; 7 September 2021( [link](https://news-eleven.com/article/215296)) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
7. [Coup regime pressures restaurants to pay alcohol tax as it feels the squeeze from economic turmoil, boycotts](https://www.myanmar-now.org/en/news/coup-regime-pressures-restaurants-to-pay-alcohol-tax-as-it-feels-the-squeeze-from-economic) (Myanmar Now) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)