

MYANMAR CASH WORKING GROUP

Biweekly update No. 37

24 September 2021

This regular biweekly update, covering the period from 11 to 24 September 2021, is produced by the Myanmar Cash Working Group.

HIGHLIGHTS

- In Kachin, cash distribution to IDPs has resumed starting from the last week of August 2021. Cash distribution for 3 months (July, August, September) is ongoing in 103 camps under 12 townships; it will cover 45,000 IDPs.
- M-Pitesan is discontinuing mobile money operations for all UN/NGO partners across the country over the next 2 months.
- Additional restrictions were in place for the USD bank accounts with its full impact still to be determined. Documentation is needed for the USD transfer lower than \$ 10,000 as most transactions are over the counter and outward transfer.
- As of 24 September, the official exchange rate is 1,755 MMK to 1 USD¹; however, the private money changer rate is 2,105 MMK². Fuel prices are 1,275 MMK for 95 Octane and 1,255 MMK for premium Diesel per litre³.

KEY FIGURES

2,105 MMK/\$

USD exchange rate at private counter

5-7%

Yangon physical cash exchange fee

1,255MMK

Premium Diesel

SITUATION UPDATE

CWG members have been facing cash liquidity and banking issues since 1 February 2021, impacting all program-related activities such as delayed cash received from donors, procurement process, distribution and reporting.

In Kachin, cash distribution to IDPs has resumed starting from the last week of August 2021. Cash distribution for 3 months (July, August, September) is ongoing in 103 camps under 12 townships; it will cover 45,000 IDPs. Agencies who are implementing in NGCA are trying to deliver assistance to IDPs ASAP. Market prices have increased due to the current political circumstances and the COVID-19 restriction. There are safety and security concerns for the staff members who are accessing IDP camps in different townships as staff members continue to experience checkpoint scrutiny.

On 21 September, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement (MSWRR) provided cash assistance of 45,000 MMK (\$24 USD) per person to 2,351 pregnant women and 1,823 children <2 years in 20 townships in Northern Shan, who have been included in the National Programme of Maternal and Child Cash Transfer. The programme has been facilitated by the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) and will be distributed quarterly.

M-Pitesan is discontinuing mobile money operations for all UN/NGO partners across the country over the next 2 months. Given the current situation, M-Pitesan is cutting their ground team staff and will no longer be able to provide necessary support to partners. As a business, they plan to scale back over-the-counter payments while keeping the digital payments app going.

Last week, additional restrictions were placed on all Myanmar USD bank accounts by the CBM, with the full impact still to be determined, including some USD accounts that were temporarily frozen. Access to banking services

¹ Central Bank of Myanmar

² Northern Breeze money changer

³ Denko

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. A major highlight is that there is more documentation needed for the USD transfer which is even lower than \$ 10,000.

The Central Bank of Myanmar sold \$15 million, \$8million, \$15million and \$10million on 13, 15, 20 and 22 September respectively, with the rate of 1,750 MMK¹.

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KEY RESOURCES

- Myanmar Cash Working Group monthly meeting for September was organized on 10 September. The key presentation materials are here: [Market Price Update \(August\) from Mercy Corps](#), [MEB update](#), [Hundi task team presentation](#), [CSO training presentation](#), [CWG Implementing Survey](#). .
- [Myanmar CVA 4Ws](#) is available online and the dashboard can be found [here](#).
- Myanmar CWG September meeting minutes is available on [MIMU](#).
- Mercy Corps Myanmar publishes the Market Price Report Dashboard. The dashboard is [live on MIMU](#) and [standalone dashboard here](#).
- WFP also has a nationwide market monitoring [dashboard](#) and recently released the detailed [July 2021 Market Price Update Report](#).
- A comprehensive financial service provider mapping and [Emergency Cash Transfer Programme Tools for Humanitarian Actors](#) site are available on the MIMU website.
- [Myanmar-Emergency-Cash Assistance-Dashboard](#) together with FSP dataset and CTP SOPs can be found on the page.

PUBLICATION

- Mercy Corps Market Analysis Unit (MAU) has published Rakhine: Market Price Report (August 2021). The full report can be found [here](#) and is also available on [the MAU page](#) on MIMU.
- IFPRI released the reports on [The impact of COVID 19 and food system response](#), [Monitoring the agri-food system in Myanmar: Mechanization service providers-July 2021 survey round](#) and [Crop production and farm incomes in two areas of the central dry zone: Findings from June 2021](#).

RECENT WEBINAR AND TRAINING

- The last Asia-Pacific Regional Cash Working Group meeting was held on 31 August. The meeting notes and presentations from the 2021 Q3 Asia-Pacific RCWG meeting, are available [here](#).

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](#).

UPCOMING WEBINAR AND TRAINING

Date	Activity	Host
Tuesday 28 September - Oct 18, 2021	CSO Basic ToT training	Myanmar Cash Working Group
Online self-directed learning	Core CVA skills for program staff course, Free 12 weeks online self-directed course (Visit here)	CaLP

This report is produced by CWG Information Management team. The CWG Information Management team will be supporting with collecting links to relevant reports, tools, and news stories for dissemination to members. We will aim to send this out on bi-weekly basis. If you come across any reports that you think would be relevant for the wider group, please do let us know, and we will include in the update.

We welcome your feedback. It is important to allow us to tailor the newsletter to your needs and to make decisions on what is useful.

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