**Myanmar Cash Working Group**

**Weekly Update #11 (12 December - 18 December 2020)**

| **Recently published:** **Articles/Blogs/Research/Guidance/Discussion threads/Policy briefs** |
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| **In Myanmar:****Publication:*** On December 15, the World Bank Myanmar had launched Myanmar Economic Monitor December 2020: Coping with Covid-19. The report includes the recent developments, policy response, outlook, risks, and policy recommendations. It highlights that the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic is having a more severe impact on Myanmar’s economy than the first wave, Myanmar’s economy is a pronounced slowdown from growth of 6.8 percent in FY18/19, moreover, the pandemic and associated containment measures have had both demand- and supply-side effects, weakening consumption and investment, and disrupting businesses’ operations and the supply of labor and inputs. While the Myanmar government has responded to Covid-19 with a range of measures. The full report, launch video, and presentation are available on [the World Bank website](https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/myanmar/publication/myanmar-economic-monitor-december-2020-coping-with-covid-19).

**Snapshot:** * Mercy Corps Myanmar has published the snapshot on Rakhine Farmers’ perspective on 16 December 2020. To better understand production challenges, Mercy Corps’ Market Analysis Unit (MAU) interviewed **farmers** about the 2020 paddy growing season and upcoming winter crop season. Data collection included phone interviews during November 4-9 as well as a small number of key informant interviews (KIIs) the following week. The study highlights that Sixty-five percent of respondents reported higher than usual labor wages as well as Favorable November weather could boost winter crop yields and drive down prices. You can read [here](https://themimu.info/sites/themimu.info/files/mau_public/Snapshot_MAU_Rakhine_-_Nov_2020_-_Farmers.pdf).

**Blog:** * Writing for IFPRI, DEREK HEADEY, THAN ZAW OO, KRISTI MAHRT, XINSHEN DIAO, SOPHIE GOUDET AND ISABEL LAMBRECHT tell us of the Waves of disease, waves of poverty: New evidence on the economic impacts of COVID-19 in Myanmar. It is a research post of Derek Headey and colleagues who have monitored monthly trends in poverty and food insecurity, and found the lockdowns have dramatic impacts. Based on those findings, they used micro-simulation methods to assess different social protection scenarios to address sharp spikes in poverty. The combination of surveys and simulations provides useful insights into addressing the evolving COVID-19 situation and how Myanmar’s government can address it. [Read here](https://www.ifpri.org/blog/waves-disease-waves-poverty-new-evidence-economic-impacts-covid-19-myanmar)

**In General:****Publications:** * The Global Shelter Cluster invites the launch of this guidance on **publication of the Global Shelter Cluster’s Rental Market Interventions documents** which were developed by CashCap, with support from NRC, CRS, UNHCR and other members of the Global Shelter Cluster Cash Working Group. The guidance comprises: A review of best practice in humanitarian rental market interventions; A collection of five tip sheets to support the planning and implementation of rental market interventions; and A resource library which brings together existing tools, templates, reports and other documents which are relevant to rental market interventions. The documents and resource library are available at the Rental Markets webpage of the Global Shelter Cluster Website. **You can access the documents** [**HERE**](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sheltercluster.org%2Fresources%2Flibrary%2Frental-market-interventions&data=04%7C01%7Cguillauh%40unhcr.org%7Cbc2fb8ed5d2d4bae8ddf08d892f09bbb%7Ce5c37981666441348a0c6543d2af80be%7C0%7C0%7C637420909388325148%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=%2BSVsxTlXjwjnfBDBaiXWs8azTEgI%2FhFLZX6OsfhpjJg%3D&reserved=0).
* USAID/NetHope has launched the **Updated Toolkit for Using Digital Payments in Programs 2020**. This updated version includes new content and tools to reflect the progress made both in the availability of digital payments and their use by development organizations.The Toolkit is designed to be used by organizations regardless of their experience with digital payments and to inspire and enable organizations new to digital payments to make the switch. Toolkit can download [here](https://solutionscenter.nethope.org/resources/c2e-toolkit).
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| **Myanmar Situation Updates**  |
| * ရေစကြိုမြို့နယ်၊ အောင်ပန်းချောင်းကျေးရွာအုပ်စု၊ အောင်ပန်းချောင်းကျေးရွာတွင် (၁၅-၁၂-၂၀၂၀)ရက်နေ့က ချင်းတွင်းမြစ်ရေတိုက်စား၍ ကမ်းပါးပြိုကျမှုကြောင့် ကြိုတင်ဖျက်သိမ်းပြောင်းရွှေ့ခြင်းများ ဆောင်ရွက်ခဲ့ကြရာ ကြိုတင်ဖျက်သိမ်း ပြောင်းရွှေ့ခဲ့ရသည့် လူနေအိမ်ခြေ(၁၁)လုံး၊ အိမ်ထောင်စု(၁၁)စု၊ လူဦးရေ(၅၁)ဦးတို့အတွက် အိမ်ဆောက်ပစ္စည်းဖိုး(၁,၁၀၀,၀၀ဝိ/-)၊ ဆန်ရိက္ခာဖိုး(၁၀၇,၁၀ဝိ/-)၊ စုစုပေါင်းကျပ်(၁,၂၀၇,၁၀ဝိ/-)အား လူ-ကယ်-ပြန်ဝန်ကြီးဌာနမှ တာဝန်ရှိသူများက (၁၆-၁၂-၂၀၂၀)ရက်နေ့၊ (၁၅:၀၀)အချိန်တွင် မြို့နယ်အထွေထွေအုပ်ချုပ်ရေးဉီးစီးဌာနမှတာဝန်ရှိသူများနှင့်အတူ ကျေးရွာအုပ်ချုပ်ရေးမှူးလက်ဝယ်အရောက် ထောက်ပံ့ပေးအပ်ခဲ့၍လည်းကောင်း၊ အင်္ဂပူမြို့နယ်၊ ဝက်လဟာအုပ်စု၊ ကညင်တပင်‌ကျေးရွာတွင် (၁၅-၁၂-၂၀၂၀) ရက်နေ့ ဖြစ်ပွားခဲ့သော ကမ်းပါးပြိုကျမှုကြောင့် ကြိုတင်ရွှေ့ပြောင်းခဲ့ရသော လူနေအိမ်ခြေ (၃) လုံး၊ အိမ်‌ထောင် စု (၃) စု အတွက် အိမ်ဆောက်ပစ္စည်းဖိုးငွေ ( ၃၀၀,ဝဝဝိ/-) ကျပ် ၊ လူဦးရေ (၁၄) ဦးအတွက် ဆန်ရိက္ခာ (၇) ရက်စာဖိုး ထောက်ပံ့ငွေကျပ်(၂၉,၄၀ဝိ/-) ကျပ်၊ စုစုပေါင်းထောက်ပံ့မှုတန်ဖိုးငွေ (၃၂၉,၄၀၀/) ကျပ် တို့ကို လူ-ကယ်-ပြန်ဝန်ကြီးဌာနမှ တာဝန်ရှိသူများက သက်ဆိုင်ရာ တာဝန်ရှိသူများနှင့်အတူ ၎င်းပြည်သူများထံသို့ (၁၆-၁၂-၂၀၂၀) ရက်နေ့ (၁၅:၃၀) နာရီအချိန်တွင် လက်ဝယ် အရောက် ထောက်ပံ့ပေးအပ်ခဲ့ပါသည်။ Ministry of Social Wealfare, Relief and Resettlement has provided a total relief fund of 1,207,100 MMk and 329,400 MMK for house building materials for 6 houses and 7 days food allowance to those landslide affected people from Yaysagyo and Ingapu township respectively. [News here](https://web.facebook.com/mswrrmyanmar/posts/1868829216600028)
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| **Mapping Updates** |
| * **SP/humanitarian cash links mapping (GB cash sub group initiative)**: This can be [accessed here](https://drive.google.com/file/d/14fd9FMcm9ueDsfnLLJPyPOrNk9Ml0KpC/view). The purpose of this live, shareable mapping is to support humanitarian actors in the field. It is light touch and the initial focus is countries/regions that have Humanitarian Response Plans. The mapping has been developed in coordination with other mapping initiatives. Contact Lois Austin (KML consultant for the GB Cash Workstream sub group on Linking Humanitarian Cash and Social Protection) for info/to set up a call. And please do go ahead and add missing information from your country/region into the mapping in order to ensure that it is a helpful tool for practitioners.
* The [IMF Policy Responses to COVID-19 Tracker](https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19) provides a summary of the key economic responses that governments are taking to limit the human and economic impact of the pandemic providing information which is of relevance to humanitarian and development actors, particularly in the design and modification of their COVID-19-related responses.

**Survey:** * **SURVEY ON THE USE OF THE GRAND BARGAIN MULTIPURPOSE OUTCOME INDICATORS:** Has your organisation used the [Multipurpose Cash Outcome Indicators](https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/multipurpose-cash-outcome-indicators-final-draft-for-testing/) developed under the Grand Bargain Cash workstream and published in July 2019? Do you have feedback you want to share on the indicators, including ideas for how they could be improved? If so, complete the survey looking at how the indicators have been used in practice. The survey is a core element of a review that will be used to inform a revised version of the indicators, and to contribute to related collective learning (e.g. webinars). You can access the survey [here](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=3b7_wRbLqkOekwdP02-HR5ACYBAw1vNBshMS3P3krYVUQTBZSlBROEsyS0dWVE83RkNaUk5DU0dQRC4u). The survey will be open for responses until **December 31st 2020.**
* The Myanmar Cash Working Group is updating the countrywide “Who does What, Where, When (4W)” information in order to provide new and updated 4W reports and maps. We would be grateful if you could provide the information to **OCHA Myanmar (ochamyanmar@un.org) by COB Wednesday 30 December 2020**. If you have any questions/queries, please do not hesitate to contact **Ma Moh Moh Htet Kyaw** (mokyaw@mercycorps.org). [4W link here](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xgRxyHobMjHy18gOsD5xAgZLyKSN7t4U/view?usp=sharing)
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| **Webinars and Events** |
| **Recent webinars and events:** * On December 9, Cash Hub Webinar 16 was organised in partnership with the newly launched Anticipation Hub and focused on CVA and Early Action. Kenya Red Cross presented a recent drought response, and the Bangladesh Red Crescent presented a recent flood response. Challenges, lessons learnt, and the work required to get to the point of delivering cash assistance pre-crisis rather than post-crisis were presented followed by Q&A. This Webinar is part of the Global Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action, which is an annual online conference. Please find:recording of the Early Action using Cash Webinar from 9th December - [here](https://vimeo.com/489346466); Webinar [slides](https://cash-hub.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/12/20201209_CashHub_Webinar16_EarlyActionandCVA_Slides.pdf).If you have missed a Webinar in the series and want to catch-up then the link to all the recordings etc. are [here](https://cash-hub.org/resources/webinar-series/).
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| **Resources and Trainings** |
| * [Socialprotection.org](https://socialprotection.org/) continues to host a space on [social protection responses to #COVID19](https://socialprotection.org/connect/communities/social-protection-responses-covid-19-task-force) which provides access to a series of events, newsletters, mappings etc. In addition, the website hosts a number of online communities including one specifically focused on [social protection in crisis contexts](https://socialprotection.org/connect/communities/social-protection-crisis-contexts). Here, as one of the community resources, you can find a page dedicated to th[e Grand Bargain cash workstream sub-group on linking HCT and SP](https://www.calpnetwork.org/themes/cva-and-covid-19-resources-guidance-events-and-questions/) which will give you links to this newsletter and more.
* CaLP has a dedicated space on [CVA and COVID-19: resources, guidance, events and questions](https://www.calpnetwork.org/themes/cva-and-covid-19-resources-guidance-events-and-questions/) and [CaLP-produced guidance on CVA considerations for COVID](https://www.calpnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/CaLP-summary-guidance-version-5-16-April-2020_.pdf). (including a section specific to SP/HCTs).
* The Cash Hub (hosted by the British Red Cross) has developed a number of tip sheets on delivering CVA and advocating for the use of CVA in response to COVID-19. Whilst targeted towards Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, the resources can be adapted to the needs and approaches of other organisations. They can be found here: [here.](https://cash-hub.org/resources/cash-and-covid-19)
* The Cash Hub platform also provides quarterly updates which provide a useful consolidation of CVA-related topics. Subscribe by clicking on this [link](https://r1.dotmailer-surveys.com/4952l7ad-074f9u4b).
* A multi-country cash transfer research initiative – the Transfer Project – provides a quick-access round-up of COVID-19 related resources [click here](https://transfer.cpc.unc.edu/cash-transfers-covid-19/?utm_source=Transfer+Project+Newsletter&utm_campaign=df0f757bb9-)
* The interactive e-Learning Course on Humanitarian Cash Transfer ( HCT) is now available on AGORA.This 2 hour course covers the fundamentals on Humanitarian Cash Transfers (HCT). It provides a first introduction to what are HCT, and how UNICEF uses them in a humanitarian response as an implementation modality across sectors. It includes considerations on UNICEF comparative advantage and its strategic positioning on HCT, as well as showcase examples of programmes and two case studies. UNICEF colleagues can access it [HERE](https://agora.unicef.org/course/info.php?id=28525). Humanitarian partners can access it on the following link on [AGORA platform](https://agora.unicef.org/course/info.php?id=28525). Partners just need to register / create an account, and then log in to access the course.For any queries, please contact Claire Mariani, Humanitarian Cash Transfer Coordinator, Office of Emergency Programmes, cmariani@unicef.org.

**Resources:** * CCD has a page on [Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash](https://www.collaborativecash.org/social-protection-working-group) which includes country case studies and guidance.
* **Foundational webinars**: The [first webinar](https://socialprotection.org/linking-cash-and-voucher-assistance-and-social-protection-demystifying-entry-points-humanitarians) from GB cash sub group series to demystify the concept of linking social protection and HCT; good introduction and primer to the topic. Second: How can SP Systems respond to the COVID 19 crisis? sets the scene on how SP systems can respond and the challenges governments are facing; [recording here](https://socialprotection.org/how-can-social-protection-systems-respond-covid-19-crisis). And thirdly, [Lessons learned and Opportunities: Linking SP systems to humanitarian cash in a pandemic](https://socialprotection.org/discover/blog/lessons-learned-and-opportunities-linking-social-protection-systems-humanitarian-cash). Includes examples within the context of COVID for measures to link SP/HCT.
* Click the link to access [Ugo Gentilini’s Weekly Social Protection Links newsletter.](https://www.ugogentilini.net/) Packed with valuable information, focusing on social protection developments and action across the globe but also referencing humanitarian action where relevant, the newsletter is a helpful resource for practitioners and policymakers alike.
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| **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.** |