**Myanmar Cash Working Group**

**Weekly Update #12 (19 December - 01 January 2021)**

| **Recently published:** **Articles/Blogs/Research/Guidance/Discussion threads/Policy briefs** |
| --- |
| **In Myanmar:****Publication:*** On December 14, NRC organised the virtual event on the presentation of the results of NRC’s Indebtedness Study. This study was funded by HARP-Facility, and carried out in two central Rakhine IDP camps: Thet Kae Pyin (TKP) and Maw Ti Ngar (MTN), as well as in some villages of Maungdaw Township. You can read the report [here](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1k3vO_lzf-6LmZp86fayaSnhkVGOwNbIu/view?usp=sharing).

**Newsletter:*** Myanmar Humanitarian update No.2 is released on 23 December 2020 and is produced by OCHA Myanmar in collaboration with the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group and humanitarian partners. Here is the [link](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/OCHA%20Myanmar%20-%20%20Myanmar%20Humanitarian%20Update%20No%202.pdf).

**In General:****Publications:** * The findings of UNICEF’s study titled: [How Effective are Cash Transfers in Mitigating Shocks for Vulnerable Children? Evidence on the impact./l, of the Lesotho Child Grant Programme on multidimensional deprivation](https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/1150-how-effective-are-cash-transfers-in-mitigating-shocks-for-vulnerable-children.html?utm_source=Transfer+Project+Newsletter&utm_campaign=3d61474442-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_05_31_05_28_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f21d91e46d-3d61474442-329887578) draws from the experience in Lesotho and highlights the importance of designing social protection programmes which include a shock-coping component which takes into account gender and labour-constrained households.
* CaLP has published [The Environmental Implications of Cash Transfers](https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/the-environmental-implications-of-cash-transfers/) - from which Organisations involved in CVA can learn from the recent efforts to adopt greener policies and strategies in the humanitarian sector.

**Guidance:** * UNHCR and NRC have revised the **Multi-Sector Market Assessment Guidance and Toolkit**, to make better programme design decisions, to help ensure that our work uses and supports the markets in which the people we serve get the goods and services needed for survival and their livelihoods. Link available from [UNHCR](https://www.unhcr.org/5fd8cfb64) and [NRC](https://www.nrc.no/resources/toolkit/multi-sector-market-assessment-guidance-and-toolkit/) websites.
* Key Aid Counselling has published [**Cash Assistance: How design influences value for money – How to note**](https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/cash-assistance-how-design-influences-value-for-money-how-to-note/)**.** This ‘how to note’ offers guidance on the key value-for-money considerations when making critical design decisions related to the operational models for CVA delivery.
* **GBV Risks and Benefits Analysis Tool for CVA** has been translated into many languages and is in editable format for easy uptake. This tool goes with the CVA & GBV Compendium and is referenced within the associated training package too. The Compendium, the training package and other key resources are available here: [RESOURCES FOR MAINSTREAMING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) CONSIDERATIONS IN CASH AND VOUCHER ASSISTANCE (CVA) AND UTILIZING CVA IN GBV PREVENTION AND RESPONSE](https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/research-resources/mainstreaming-gender-based-violence-considerations-cash-voucher-assistance/)

**Blogs:*** Writing for Oxfam, Kristin Smart’s blog - [A Locally Shaped Future for CVA](https://www.alnap.org/blogs/a-locally-shaped-future-for-cva) – highlights the ongoing sidelining of local and national humanitarian actors with regard to cash and voucher assistance funding flows and inclusion and participation in global fora. The four key takeaway messages from a recent panel event by the Grand Bargain cash workstream local partnership group held to discuss the topic are: Local actors and partnerships facilitate informed, adaptable and cost-effective responses for those affected by crises; 2. Local actors are at the centre of CVA delivery and the forefront of risk, particularly in the context of COVID- 19; Lack of equal participation in decision-making forums and clarity on cash coordination continue to challenge local actors and their ability to respond effectively; Partners are still viewed as 'implementers' that need 'capacities' to deliver.
* Sayanti Sengupta’s blog for the Cash Hub - [Beyond the Pandemic, towards Climate Emergencies: Learnings from National Societies on linkages with Social Protection](https://cash-hub.org/news-and-events/news-articles/beyond-the-pandemic-towards-climate-emergencies-learnings-from-national-societies-on-linkages-with-social-protection/) – discusses how the pandemic has accelerated linkages between National Societies and governments, with stronger collaborations to adapt and expand coverage of cash and social protection interventions. Key insights include that cash preparedness of Red Cross and Red Crescent national societies, which is often determined by availability of funds, established transfer channels, accessible distribution points and engaged community actors, is important to complement government schemes and extend support rapidly during climate emergencies. In addition, while social protection can go beyond cash and voucher assistance, cash transfers remain a tried and tested mechanism that is often favoured by governments and can be delivered rapidly and on scale.
* Ugo Gentilini shares with us his favourite cash transfer papers from the last year in his latest blog, helpfully broken down by theme. You can find it: [here](https://blogs.worldbank.org/developmenttalk/round-key-cash-transfers-papers-2020?cid=SHR_BlogSiteShare_EN_EXT).
* Writing from St. Lucia, Tara Morris tells us how, through extended government social protection programmes, cash top-ups have been a lifeline for families during the COVID-19 crisis. You can find the blog here: [here](https://socialprotection.org/discover/blog/cash-top-ups-%E2%80%93-lifeline-families-during-covid-19-crisis).
* Gabrielle Smith offers [Five practical insights on linking humanitarian assistance and social protection](https://socialprotection.org/discover/blog/five-practical-insights-linking-humanitarian-assistance-and-social-protection) designed to guide humanitarian practitioners on how this can be achieved.
 |
| **Myanmar Situation Updates**  |
| * ၂၀၂၀ ပြည့်နှစ်၊ ဒီဇင်ဘာလ (၁၁)ရက်နေ့၊ (၁၅၀၀)အချိန်တွင် ပြည်ထောင်စုအစိုးရအဖွဲ့ရုံး ဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ပြည်ထောင်စုဝန်ကြီး ဦးမင်းသူသည် ပုံမှန်ဝင်ငွေမရှိသော အခြေခံလူတန်းစား အိမ်ထောင်စုများအား ငွေကြေးထောက်ပံ့မှုနှင့်ပတ်သက်၍ တိုင်ကြားစာများအပေါ် စိစစ်ဆောင်ရွက်မှု အခြေအနေများ၊ အထွေထွေအုပ်ချုပ်ရေး ပြုပြင်ပြောင်းလဲရေးလုပ်ငန်းစဉ်များနှင့်စပ်လျဉ်း၍ လုပ်ငန်း ညှိနှိုင်းအစည်းအဝေးကို တိုင်းဒေသကြီး/ပြည်နယ် အုပ်ချုပ်ရေးမှူးများနှင့် Video Conferencing ကျင်းပပြုလုပ်ခဲ့ပါသည်။ The minister of the Ministry of Union Government led the workshop on the process of handling the complaints of Covid-19 cash assistance. Read news [here](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=796218784261962&id=370881926795652).
* လှိုင်းဘွဲမြို့နယ် ဝေါကျယ် ကျေးရွာမှာ လူထု ဗဟိုပြု စီမံကိန်းမှ ထောက်ပံ့ငွေ ကျပ် သိန်း ၁၂၀ ဖြင့် စိမ့်စမ်းရေ သွယ်တန်းခြင်း ဆောင်ရွက် NCDDP Supports Ks 12 million for Water Supply Installation Built in Waw Kyael Village of Hlaingbwe, Kayin. [News here](https://www.cdd.drdmyanmar.org/mm/news-57005)
* "မကွေးတိုင်းတွင် Cash for Work စီမံကိန်းအတွက် ကျပ်ငါးဘီလီယံကျော် လျာထား"- Cash for Work စီမံကိန်းမှာ ကျေးရွာဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးအတွက် တစ်ရွာလျှင် အစိုးရဘတ်ဂျက်မှချပေး ငွေကျပ်သိန်းတစ်ရာစီကို ပစ္စည်းအတွက် ၄၀ ရာခိုင်နှုန်းသုံး၍ ၆၀ ရာခိုင်နှုန်းကို ဒေသခံများအား အလုပ်ခန့်ကာ လုပ်အားခပေးသည့်စီမံကိန်းဖြစ်ကြောင်း တိုင်းကျေးလက်ဒေသ ဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်ရေးဦးစီးဌာန ဦးစီးမှူး ဦးမျိုးအောင်က ပြောကြား သည်။ Magway Region has launched Cash for Work project to create the jobs for people in rural area during the pandemic. The project has been set up with K5.28 billion in 528 villages, said U Myo AUng, Director of Rural Department. Here is the news in [Myanmar](https://7day.news/209244) and [English](https://www.mmtimes.com/news/magwe-launches-cash-work-project.html).
 |
| **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)
 |
| **Webinars and Events** |
| **Recent webinars and events:** * The Cash Hub’s recent webinar which was organised in partnership with the newly launched [Anticipation Hub](https://www.anticipation-hub.org/) held an interesting discussion on Cash and Voucher Assistance and Early Action. During the webinar, the Kenya Red Cross presented on a recent drought response, and the Bangladesh Red Crescent presented on a recent flood response. Challenges, lessons learned, and the work required to get to the point of delivering cash assistance pre-crisis rather than post-crisis were also discussed. You can find the recording: [here](https://vimeo.com/489346466). You can find more on this topic at this link: [Forecast Based Financing Manual – Cash-based Early Actions](https://manual.forecast-based-financing.org/chapter/cash-based-early-action/).
* You can find the recording of IPA’s webinar on the digitization of cash assistance in Colombia during the COVID-19 pandemic [here](https://socialprotection.org/digitization-cash-assistance-during-covid-19-pandemic-colombia). The webinar saw the presentation of findings from one of the first randomized evaluations of a digital cash transfer programme during the pandemic in Colombia. This research explores the impacts of cash transfers on a range of outcomes such as financial health, food access and security, and political attitudes. Data on the impact of digitization on recipient behaviour during quarantine, barriers to new technology adoption by recipients, and implications for the digitization of future cash transfer programmes were also presented.
 |
| **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.
 |
| **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.** |