**Myanmar Cash Working Group**

**Weekly Update #13 (02 January - 08 January 2021)**

| **Recently published:** **Articles/Blogs/Research/Guidance/Discussion threads/Policy briefs** |
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| **In Myanmar:****Publication:*** Mercy Corps Myanmar just published the **MAU Rakhine Market Price Report (Nov 2020)** report, on 7th January 2020. This monthly market price report summarizes median product prices, based on data from three vendors per product per market. November data were gathered Nov. 25 – Dec. 6, 2020 in Kyauktaw, Maungdaw, Minbya, Mrauk U, Rathedaung and Sittwe Townships. It highlighted that the prices of essential food items remained stable while Rice showed a possible trend toward slightly rising prices in Mrauk U. The full report is available on [MIMU](https://themimu.info/rakhine-market-analysis-unit).
* Recently, IFPRI has published the policy note of **Monitoring the impact of COVID-19 in Myanmar: Agricultural production and rural livelihoods in two irrigation schemes – October 2020 survey round,** in January 2021.The policy note includes the highlights and recommendations. It is available in [Burmese](https://www.ifpri.org/node/25023).
* **UN in Myanmar: Monthly Digest No.6** has been published in December 2020. This monthly digest aims to summarize the key findings of these assessments as the pandemic unfolds and more and more analysis becomes available. The assessments presented are part of the UN’s COVID-19 response as outlined in the [UN’s Framework for the Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19 in Myanmar](https://themimu.info/sites/themimu.info/files/documents/Core_Doc_UN_framework_for_Immediate_Socio-Economic_Response_to_COVID-19_in_Myanmar_Jun2020.pdf). [Available here.](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://drive.google.com/file/d/19T8XVPPTCDGP8SIqxn4N7nzAxKuudn8c/view?usp%3Dsharing&sa=D&ust=1610083765475000&usg=AOvVaw1W_H3sE3SAw7o2GOLEzKUa)

**In General:****Publications:** * Published in the BMJ, a review and meta-analysis of [cash transfers and child nutritional outcomes](https://gh.bmj.com/content/bmjgh/5/12/e003621.full.pdf) looks at nutrition- responsive social protection programmes to improve child nutrition and makes recommendations to inform the design and implementation of future interventions. Data is drawn from development and humanitarian contexts.

**Media, News Articles and Op Eds:** * **UN News looks back at 2020 with an article which reflects on the impact of COVID-19 on the global** economy and highlights a number of emergency and humanitarian cash transfer programmes that were initiated as a result. You can find the article here: [The virus that shut down the world: Economic meltdown](https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/12/1080762)

**Blogs:** * You can find the summary blog from last month’s Grand Bargain Sub-Group on Linking Humanitarian Cash (HC) and Social Protection (SP) webinar on donor perspectives on the potential for forging stronger links between HC transfers and SP [here](https://socialprotection.org/discover/blog/donor-perspectives-what-potential-forging-stronger-links-between-humanitarian-cva-and).
* Writing from Cape Verde, the UN Resident Coordinator, Ana Patricia Graça, reports how COVID-19 is threatening development gains. In a country where free access to social protection is on the rise, the pandemic has struck a blow to the economy and the UN Country Team has had to shift to emergency development mode resulting in the provision of cash transfers (among other forms of support) to 100,000 people. You can read the blog: [here](https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/12/1080752).
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| **Myanmar Situation Updates**  |
| Government officials are sorting through hundreds of thousands of complaints from households that missed out on a November cash transfer, as new research from the World Bank reveals the heavy toll of the pandemic on vulnerable families. Please read [here](https://www.frontiermyanmar.net/en/were-really-struggling-desperate-families-seek-covid-cash-handout/).* မကွေးခရိုင် အတွင်း သောက်သုံးရေလုံလောက်စွာ ရရှိရန် ၂၀၂၀-၂၀၂၁ တွင် ရံပုံငွေ ကျပ်သန်းပေါင်း ၈၀၀ကျောိဖြင့်ဆောင်ရွက်သွားမည်ဖြစ်ကြောင်းသိရသည်။ More than 800 million kyats will be provided in 2020-2021 to provide sufficient drinking water in Magway District. Here is the [link](https://myanmar.mmtimes.com/news/149480.html?fbclid=IwAR1mHfHrLN_-01dawIOhNONvZLRP0FlJHenNpUTADqoEM5MZDyR5xEBdBIk).
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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:** * 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 Friday 15 January 2021**. 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:** * IPA’s webinar on the “Impact of Cash Transfers During the COVID-19 Pandemic in Africa” held in December 2020 considered a number of issues including whether cash transfers help people to cope when a pandemic hits on top of the lean season; how cash assistance affects food security and public health behaviour within refugee populations; the extent to which universal basic income programmes help recipients navigate unforeseen shocks; and whether COVID-19 disrupted markets in rural areas, and the extent to which cash cushioned the blow. If you missed the event you can watch the recording: [here](https://socialprotection.org/impact-cash-transfers-during-covid-19-pandemic-africa).

**Upcoming webinars and events:*** Final webinar on the IDEAL funded, CARE led and Key Aid Consulting researched study “Better Gender Outcomes in Food Assistance through Complementary and Multi-Modal programming”.With the evidence in hand, this final webinar will address how front-line practitioners can use these findings in the design, implementation and evaluation of similar projects. The study contributes to the gender and cash sub workstream’s work plan, which is part of the [Grand Bargain’s Cash Workstream](https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/grand-bargain-official-website/grand-bargain-cash-workstream-webinar-week-recordings-and-0). **Please join us on January 20, 2020 at 8 am EST/ 14:00 CET / 16:00 EAT / 20:00 ICT.** [**Click here to register**](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_npdDAUM1SvuG_9KDM5facQ)
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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.** |