**Myanmar Cash Working Group**

**Weekly Update #26 (24 - 30 April 2021)**

| **Myanmar Situation Updates** |
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| **Key Resources:**   * [Excel file of the cash based intervention data of 2020](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1xnQ8pFbqxr45WE4tXFFAKg3522Qyv8eR7cbpS8lm1Bw/edit#gid=1230035561) for Myanmar Cash Working Group 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). * Mercy Corp Myanmar publishes the **Market Price Report Dashboard -** The dashboard is [live at MIMU](http://themimu.info/rakhine-market-analysis-unit) and [standalone 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 released this week the [March Market Price Update Report](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1D5JYIowBBl-HzWhTBx2VuswnJWeE4sAO/view?usp=sharing).  A comprehensive financial service provider mapping and [Emergency Cash Transfer Programme Tools for Humanitarian Actors](https://themimu.info/fsp-mapping) site are available on MIMU website.[Myanmar-Emergency-CashAssistance-Dashboard](https://analytics.wfp.org/t/Public/views/MyanmarEmergencyCashAssistanceInformation/OverallPage) together with FSP dataset and CTP SOPs can be found on the page. **In the News:**   * On Tuesday, a bipartisan group of U.S senators sent a letter calling on Washington to target or freeze all foreign currency revenues and foreign exchange reserves held in state accounts outside of Myanmar. The senators said that the administration’s first step should be imposing sanctions on the state-owned Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE), now under the control of the junta’s leaders. ([Irrawaddy news](https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/us-senators-call-for-sanctions-on-myanmar-oil-and-gas-enterprise.html)) * Myanmar’s interim civilian government is working to pay the salaries of civil servants taking part in the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) against military rule, according to the [news](https://www.myanmar-now.org/en/news/nug-says-it-will-pay-salaries-of-striking-civil-servants). * According to [reuters](https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/half-myanmars-population-risks-falling-into-poverty-by-2022-undp-2021-04-30/), In a report released on Friday, UNDP said the dual impacts of the pandemic and Myanmar's political crisis triggered by a military coup could result in nearly half the population, or as many as 25 million people, dropping into poverty by 2022. * Groups offering emergency medical services and help with funerals are closing around Myanmar amid a drop in funds and with volunteers targeted by junta forces for assisting anti-coup protesters injured in army and police crackdowns. (R[FA](https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/closing-04292021192556.html)) * The **Myanmar** Oriental **Bank** (MOB) has fired more than 200 CDM employees including senior **bank** assistants to lower-level employees. * The Central **Bank** of **Myanmar** (CBM) announces that new **bank** accounts that deposit money from May 3 will be allowed to withdraw without any limits as per the statement. Banks have set withdrawal amount limit to 2-5 lakhs/ per day since Feb 1 coup.  According to [European Council, Council of European Union](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/04/29/myanmar-burma-council-extends-sanctions-for-another-year/), today the Council prolonged the restrictive measures in view of the situation in Myanmar/Burma for one year, **until 30 April 2022**.  * U.S., UK and EU authorities continue to expand sanctions targeting the Tatmadaw, Myanmar’s armed forces, following the February 17, 2021, military coup in Myanmar. ([JDSUPRA](https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/myanmar-update-u-s-uk-and-eu-continue-8667540/)) * Mobile data has been re-established for banking apps only. This should ease financial transactions for numerous Myanmar people. |

| **Recently published:** **Articles/Blogs/Research/Guidance/Discussion threads/Policy briefs** |
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| **In Myanmar:**  **Publication:**   * Mercycorps has released the Rakhine: Perspectives from the Construction Sector (Apr 2021).; During April 7-11, 2021, Mercy Corps’ Market Analysis Unit (MAU) conducted phone interviews with construction companies which execute government tenders for road, bridge and building construction. Questions focused on measuring the impact of recent events on the sector and workers who rely upon it for their livelihood. Data are based primarily on KIIs with 21 companies operating in 12 townships of Central and Northern Rakhine State. The full snapshot is available on [MIMU](https://themimu.info/rakhine-market-analysis-unit). * IFPRI just published the report on **Monitoring the impact of COVID-19 in Myanmar: Agricultural input retailers - March 2021 survey round.** This is to understand the effects of recent disruptions on Myanmar’s agricultural input sector, a telephone survey of input retailers was conducted in March 2021.Key findings from this report showed that the majority of input retailers report declines in sales of all types of inputs compared to a year ago. Report can be found [here](https://www.ifpri.org/publication/monitoring-impact-covid-19-myanmar-agricultural-input-retailers-march-2021-survey-round). * Another publication from IFPRI is **Monitoring the agri-food system in Myanmar: Agricultural commodity traders - March 2021 survey round.** The objective of this study is to understand how Myanmar’s crop marketing system has been affected by political instability, telephone interviews were conducted in March with 108 agricultural commodity traders. Read [here](https://www.ifpri.org/publication/monitoring-agri-food-system-myanmar-agricultural-commodity-traders-march-2021-survey).   **In General**  **Publication and Research:**   * The Cash Hub has shared a case study on [Linking Cash and Voucher Assistance with Humanitarian Response and Social Protection Systems - Experience of Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society (BERCS)](https://cash-hub.org/resource/linking-cash-and-voucher-assistance-with-humanitarian-response-and-social-protection-systems-experience-of-baphalali-eswatini-red-cross-society/?utm_campaign=590967_April%202021&utm_medium=email&utm_source=British%20Red%20Cross&dm_t=0,0,0,0,0) which gives an overview of the BERCS’s experience in cash and voucher assistance and in influencing the Government of Eswatini to shift their humanitarian response and social protection programmes into mobile cash as part of its Covid-19 response. * The Global Protection Cluster's Task Team on Cash for Protection has launched its new webpage within the Global Protection Cluster's website: [here](https://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/gpc-task-team-on-cash-for-protection/). The webpage features the Task Team ToR and work plan as well as field resources published by the Task Team.   **News/Media and Op-Eds:**   * As part of the Government of Gambia’s response to the negative economic effects resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Nutrition Agency quickly put in place basic delivery systems and provided support to over 78,000 households in 30 of the poorest districts in the country. Supported by the World Bank, temporary unconditional cash transfers were provided through the Nafa Quick programme to these households for a period of four months (July-October 2020) using a near-universal approach. [Read more here](https://thepoint.gm/africa/gambia/national-news/nafa-quick-providing-emergency-cash-transfers-to-households-in-the-poorest-30-districts-in-the-gambia-during-the-covid-19-pandemic)   **Blogs and Podcasts:**   * On their departure from CaLP, Nathalie Klein and Sophie Tholstrup share their perspective on changes in cash and voucher assistance that they have witnessed in recent years and their hopes for the future. You can read more [here](https://www.calpnetwork.org/blog/seven-years-of-cva-wisdom/). * CaLP’s recent podcast [A Short History of Cash and Voucher Assistance](https://www.calpnetwork.org/news/podcast-a-short-history-of-cash-and-voucher-assistance/) looks back over the evolution of cash and voucher assistance and then leaps forward to explore where it’s going next. |
| **Webinars and Events** |
| * **Global Cash Working Group CANCELLED:** Unfortunately, CaLP and OCHA have had to take the decision to cancel the planned meeting of the Global Cash Working Group as staffing and absences have not allowed this meeting to move ahead as planned. Look forward to circulating the invitation for the next meeting which hoping to host in mid-May!   **Recent webinars and events:**   * The Grand Bargain Sub-Group on Linking Humanitarian Cash and Social Protection held its bi-monthly webinar which this month, focused on outreach and communication. Expert speakers from GIZ, Ground Truth Solutions, UNICEF, and the Serbian Red Cross shared their experiences from Somalia, Nigeria, Kenya and Serbia. The [recording](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GNYOdfrKds8) and [presentations](https://socialprotection.org/discover/publications/webinar-presentation-keeping-recipients-humanitarian-cash-and-social) are available at these links. * In the Cash Hub’s recent webinar the Albanian Red Cross and the Serbian Red Cross shared learning on their cash and voucher responses to the COVID-19 outbreak. The IFRC Cash Global Lead opened the webinar with global reflections on the use of CVA in responses over the last year. You can find the recording and slides: [here](https://cash-hub.org/resources/webinar-series/#Webinar20).   **Upcoming webinars and events:** **Making Market Assessments Fit for Your Purpose** webinar will be jointly hosted by CaLP, NRC, UNHCR, and The Markets in Crises Community of Practice, on 4 May 2021. Participants will be able to put their questions to a panel of experts and will gain a better understanding of market assessments and the tools available to conduct them. Register [here](https://www.calpnetwork.org/event/making-market-assessments-fit-for-your-purpose%e2%80%af/) |
| **Survey, Resources and Trainings** |
| * Save the Children, Plan International and the Women's Refugee Commission are developing a training package on Child Protection & Cash and Voucher Assistance that will be available in on-line and in person formats. To ensure the training package is tailored to gaps and needs at the field-level, a survey is conducting which is live now through May 2nd which specifically targets country-level child protection and CVA practitioners. The survey will take approximately 10 minutes and is available in English, French, and Spanish [here](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=V20wlrdexE2lvSKg5cwKq0pXD-qPIMNFp0nlFpyXQJBUNlAwQjNCOTUwMlk4WUNJTlVWS1FDUDVLNi4u). Further questions about the online survey, get in touch with Hannah Thompson on: Hannah.rachel.thompson@gmail.com * [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](https://cash-hub.org/resources/cash-and-covid-19) in English and Spanish. * 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-)   **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. * **CaLP’s Global Capacity Building Team** have some great video playlists on CaLP’s YouTube channel, combining new training videos, with previous webinars and shorter sound bites! Topics include: * Gender & CVA * Monitoring CVA * Multipurpose Cash (MPC) * COVID-19 & CVA * Data Responsibility & CVA * Preparedness & Organisational Capacity Building for CVA * Market Based Programming * Improving our work on Minimum Expenditure Baskets * Cash Coordination   Take a look [here](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtu6QnuH68z3thAeFt8o5Og/playlists).   * CaLP has updated a number of its tools for training facilitators including for the “Linking CVA and Social Protection” course. You can find the materials [here](https://kayaconnect.org/course/info.php?id=603). |
| **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.** |