**Myanmar Cash Working Group**

**Weekly Update #6 (7 November -13 November 2020)**

| **Recently published:** **Articles/Blogs/Research/Guidance/Discussion threads/Policy briefs** |
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| **In Myanmar:** **Research**: IFPRI has published “Poverty, food insecurity, and social protection during COVID-19 in Myanmar”. The study is combined evidence from a household telephone survey and micro-simulations of different cash transfer amounts, which provides the major findings and policy recommendations. You can view the summary [here](https://www.ifpri.org/publication/poverty-food-insecurity-and-social-protection-during-covid-19-myanmar-combined-evidence), burmese [here](https://www.ifpri.org/node/24250).**Publication:** USAID/Burma share the latest **monthly contextual report** for Rakhine, Kachin, and northern Shan covering from 25 September - 24 October 2020 under USAID’s Community Strengthening Project (CSP). The report is a snapshot of security trends, governance, livelihoods and market and state of essential services in Rakhine, Kachin and northern Shan areas. Full report can be found [here](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qnqQPUrU_7LiPaQ5uYHf0ur_vmcjOP2O/view?usp=sharing).* Mercy Corps published - SNAPSHOT OF FARMERS’ PERSPECTIVES: PADDY AND WINTER CROPS (OCT. 7-13, 2020) - on 12 November 2020. The study aim to have better understanding on the challenges of local agricultural production. The study reveals that Covid-19 and/or Conflict is a significant challenge. You can read the article [here](https://drive.google.com/file/d/124Dk-tNnh7FK3qkps2sFlt05H5H1KFHa/view?usp=sharing).

**In General:** **Research:** SPACE’s recent research - [Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash and Food Responses to COVID-19 - Needs, Coverage and Gaps](https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/space-social-protection-and-humanitarian-cash-and-food-responses-to-covid-19-needs-coverage-and-gaps/) - looks at the past nature and distribution of humanitarian cash transfers and social protection as well as how these have been used in response to COVID-19. The findings are drawn from countries where both humanitarian cash transfers and social protection are being provided, namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Chad, DRC, Ethiopia, OPT, Syria, Yemen, and Zimbabwe.**Publication:** [Gender Based Violence and Cash and Voucher Assistance: Tools and guidance](https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/gender-based-violence-and-cash-and-voucher-assistance-tools-and-guidance/) is an output of the gender and cash sub workstream of the Grand Bargain’s Cash Workstream, designed with the input of various members, led by Key Aid Consulting and funded by CARE. This comparative overview enables agencies to quickly select and test the most relevant guidance, tool or combination of tools to fit their context and programmes. * The document - [**Gender Equality and Cash and Voucher Assistance: Tools and guidance-**](https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/gender-equality-and-cash-and-voucher-assistance-tools-and-guidance/) is an output of the gender and cash sub workstream of the Grand Bargain’s Cash Workstream, designed with the input of various members, led by Key Aid Consulting and funded by CARE.

**Blog:** At the [State of World’s Cash 2020](https://www.calpnetwork.org/state-of-the-worlds-cash-2020/) launch event, Sorcha O’Callaghan, Director of Humanitarian Policy Group at ODI warned that, “Cash offers a huge transformative potential, but as far as the system is privileging the interest of the agencies over people in crisis, we won’t be able to see it”. Sophie Tholstrup and José Jodar writing forSPACE[:https://www.calpnetwork.org/blog/is-cash-transforming-the-humanitarian-system-or-is-the-system-limiting-how-cash-is-used/](https://www.calpnetwork.org/blog/is-cash-transforming-the-humanitarian-system-or-is-the-system-limiting-how-cash-is-used/)* Writing for SPACE, Ruth McCormack put forward [As Cash and Voucher Assistance scales up, can quality keep pace? Four systemic changes needed](https://www.calpnetwork.org/blog/as-cash-and-voucher-assistance-scales-up-can-quality-keep-pace-four-systemic-changes-needed/)
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| **Myanmar Situation Updates**  |
| * [Donations and support flood in for Yangon’s sex workers](https://www.myanmarmix.com/en/articles/donations-and-support-flood-in-for-yangons-sex-workers?fbclid=IwAR0hOiRqhX2IIWSBlIp6MHHT3YAtXe9Kv6MZoDtTOXW0BF2VmFXIhusX9kk) Generous *Myanmar Mix* readers have raised funds and created job opportunities for sex workers affected by the pandemic. We ran a feature on the [**plight of Yangon’s sex workers**](https://www.myanmarmix.com/en/articles/second-wave-worsens-plight-of-yangons-sex-workers), who are among the worst hit by Covid-19 restrictions. They said rising unemployment and fear of the virus have dramatically dropped the number of clients, wiping out their already meagre earnings.ရန်ကုန်ရှိလိင်လုပ်သားများအတွက်လှူဒါန်းမှုများနှင့်ထောက်ပံ့မှုများ
* Chair NLD page publicized the government support to citizens during Covid 19. [Here is the link](https://web.facebook.com/chairnld/photos/pcb.153641129778820/153640916445508/). COVID-19 ကာလ အစိုးရက ပြည်သူများအတွက် ထောက်ပံ့ခြင်း

[European Union instrumental in providing support to vulnerable women in northern and central Rakhine State](http://www.fao.org/myanmar/news/detail-events/en/c/1322620/) In partnership with the European Union (EU), from 13 to 28 October 2020 the FAO has completed unconditional cash distributions to 1,513 pregnant and lactating mothers in Buthidaung, Kyauktaw, Maungdaw, and Rathedaung townships in Rakhine State. The cash transfer for pregnant and lactating women (PLW) is complementary (top up) to the Government Maternal and Child Cash Transfer (MCCT). This cash will cover the nutritional needs of pregnant and lactating mothers and their infants. Along with these cash grants, face masks and bar soap were provided to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.ဥရောပသမဂ္ဂသည်ရခိုင်ပြည်နယ်မြောက်ပိုင်းနှင့်အလယ်ပိုင်းရှိအားနည်းချက်ရှိသောအမျိုးသမီးများကိုထောက်ပံ့ပေးခဲ့သည်။ |
| **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 touchand 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.
* CalP shares with actors responding to ETA that OCHA has integrated CVA into the 345Ws. Click [here](https://rolac345w.humanitarianresponse.info/) to register and upload information to the dashboards and [here](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/latin-america-and-caribbean/hurricane-eta-nov-2020#honduras3w) to view dashboards on [humanitarianresponse.info](http://humanitarianresponse.info/). 345Ws are an important coordination tools to share information about activities by sectors that are being implemented in the field.
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| **Webinars and Events** |
| **Recent webinars and events:** * IFPRI organised the virtual policy seminar on 11 November 2020. This virtual policy seminar provided the review of the impacts of the first wave of COVID-19 disruptions, provided a preliminary assessment of the impacts of the second wave, and highlighted potential actions for social protection and economic recovery strategies. The seminar highlights that rural livelihoods strongly affected and coping mechanisms potentially jeopardizes future income and health. The study conducted by IFPRI suggests that flexibility increase cash transfers during lockdowns to combat extreme poverty. The World Bank study revealed that as of August 2020, some households have benefitted from Government support in terms of electricity subsidy, food assistance and cash assistance. Here are the links: [Book: Covid 19 and Global Food Security](http://bit.ly/IFPRICovidBook); [IFPRI Resources and Analyses of Covid-19 Impact](https://www.ifpri.org/covid-19); [Poverty, food insecurity, and social protection during COVID-19 in Myanmar: Combined evidence from a household telephone survey and micro-simulations](https://www.ifpri.org/publication/poverty-food-insecurity-and-social-protection-during-covid-19-myanmar-combined-evidence)
* The third and fourth of CaLP’s five webinars on the topic of Minimum Expenditure Baskets were held during last two weeks and the last webinar takes place this Thursday 12th of November, at 13H00 GMT. The third webinar was about how to effectively include energy needs in your MEB calculation. You can now [watch the recording here](https://calpnetwork.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=74f7b2471e270255e5194abb9&id=786a9ed7f4&e=f67ab7fbb7) and you [will also find here,](https://calpnetwork.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=74f7b2471e270255e5194abb9&id=b886935de3&e=f67ab7fbb7) the Questions & Answers document addressing some of the questions asked during the session. You can watch the fourth webinar discussing about "Turning MEB into transfer value for MPC", recording [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hk_U22sEPns&amp;feature=youtu.be).
* You can also watch the recent webinars taking a look at CaLP’s Organisational Cash Readiness Tool (OCRT) - <https://www.calpnetwork.org/event/webinar-series-organisational-cash-readiness-tool-ocrt/>

**Upcoming webinars and events:*** The webinar “**Improving the design of Food CVA to contribute towards nutrition objectives”**, organized by the gFSC Cash and Market Working Group. It is now taking place on **Monday 16 November, at 2:00 – 3.30 pm Rome time (GMT+1). The login for this webinar is:** [**https://zoom.us/j/98613474625?pwd=a25NeFVoNmR5dGZLaStkUW84S1Jsdz09**](https://nam03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fzoom.us%2Fj%2F98613474625%3Fpwd%3Da25NeFVoNmR5dGZLaStkUW84S1Jsdz09&data=04%7C01%7Ccorrie.sissons%40crs.org%7C5352907ad990479abe1b08d8827290e6%7Cb80c308cd08d4b07915c11a92d9cc6bd%7C0%7C0%7C637402775860648554%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=%2F%2FQfjYIrxtSpYP%2B95A3%2FfOIq8ASGkIK%2BVrl%2F4FIvuRk%3D&reserved=0)**; Passcode: 735671**
* The webinar - Donor perspectives: What is the potential for forging stronger links between humanitarian CVA and social protection in light of COVID-19 and how can this be financed?- wil be held on Nov 19, 2020 08:00 AM in Atlantic Time (Canada). [Register now](https://socialprotectionorg.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_38k-5N6MSA2K5V7EelFPjw)
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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).
* CaLP’s Global Capacity Building Team have refreshed the ‘CVA – The Fundamentals’ e-learning course in which you define key CVA terminology and concepts. Within the course are links to various case studies as you explore the risks and mitigations, as well as the benefits of CVA. Take some time to give yourself a reminder on the fundamentals of cash and voucher assistance here - <https://kayaconnect.org/course/info.php?id=496>
* Currently in full flow is a webinar series on Core CVA Skills for Supply Chain, Finance & ICT Staff – delivered by Fritz Institute with support from CaLP. Whilst it is no longer possible to join the cohort, you can take two e-learning modules based on some of the course content here - <https://kayaconnect.org/course/view.php?id=1449>

**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.
* 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.** |