

Background

Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) continues to be a cornerstone of the humanitarian response in Myanmar, especially in hard-to-reach and high-need areas. The Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) is a critical tool for setting transfer values, informing program design, and monitoring the adequacy of assistance. The MEB defines the monthly monetary threshold required for a household to meet essential needs, based on a standardized basket of goods and services.

The MEB comprises of essential goods, utilities, and services required by households to ensure minimum living standards. It sets a monetary threshold, which is defined as what a household requires to meet its essential needs on a regular monthly basis. Once constructed, the MEB can be used to identify households that have the economic capacity to cover their needs using the market network¹.

An MEB is useful because:

1. It is a tool that can inform transfer values, assessments, program design, profiling (including targeting), and monitoring;
2. It ensures responses are built around needs and not mandates;
3. It can help assess the unrestricted cash assistance's contribution to sectoral outcomes.

The MEB is not equivalent to the transfer value – it is a tool that can help inform the transfer value

For 2025, the MEB has been updated using the latest Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) data, with a focus on **state-level** specificity to reflect Myanmar's diverse economic and market conditions. This state-level application ensures representativeness and comparability across Myanmar's diverse contexts. *The food basket composition remains unchanged from previous years and is applied uniformly across all states.*

Methodology

The primary objective of the MEB is to determine the monetary value that a household in Myanmar requires to meet their monthly multi-sectoral basic needs without resorting to negative coping strategies. Recognizing the diversity of needs across Myanmar and the capabilities inherent to each household, the proposed MEB methodology endeavors to average these needs.

The MEB is crucial for developing MPC transfer values because it determines the amount of money households need each month to cover basic needs, which helps set the amount of humanitarian assistance required. The importance and impact of different expenditure items on the household's ability to meet their basic needs were determined using AI models.

¹ WFP Minimum Expenditure Basket Interim Guidance, 2018.

Using the MSNA data as the primary data source, the CMWG has updated the MEB according to the below methodology:

1. Calculations were done at the household level using the MSNA dataset.²
2. Households used for the analysis are determined based on the proposed MEB sample frame.
3. Households' expenditure data was used to establish the average monthly household expenditure as the MEB.
4. Households' income data was used to determine the capacity to meet basic needs on their own.
5. The difference between income and expenditure – the gap analysis – was calculated to determine the MPCA transfer value.
6. The MEB is reviewed quarterly and adjusted only if there is a $\geq 20\%$ cumulative increase of the MEB food basket price **and** CMWG partners agree that the current MEB no longer reflects the cost of meeting basic needs. The use of World Bank and Joint Market Monitoring Data will be used for the analysis.

Myanmar MEB Explanation of Calculations

There are three main approaches to MEB development:

- a) **A rights-based approach** uses assessed needs and standards (e.g., rights as protected by international human rights and humanitarian laws, Sphere Standards, national technical standards) to define the composition of the basket, and local market prices to define the cost.
- b) **An expenditure-based approach** focuses on effective demand by using local consumption patterns to define the composition and cost of the basket.
- c) **A hybrid approach** is a pragmatic option combining rights-based and expenditure-based elements.

This MEB was developed using a **hybrid approach**. It applied an itemized approach for the food basket, incorporating market prices in the calculations. For other sectors, an expenditure-based approach was used, relying on expenditure data from the 2025 MSNA.

This hybrid approach is intentional and reflects both technical and contextual considerations.

Normative, itemized food baskets provide a more reliable estimate of minimum food requirements than aggregate expenditure recall, particularly in crisis-affected contexts. At the same time, expenditure-based non-food components better capture observed household trade-offs across diverse settings.

Combining these approaches ensures that the MEB remains needs-based while still grounded in empirical household data.

² Average household size of the 2025 MSNA is 4.6

MEB Sampling Frame

The households in the MSNA survey data that are just able to meet their essential needs were identified and their expenditures were examined. Including households below this level would generate a basket that does not satisfy essential needs, while including relatively wealthier households would lead to the inclusion of non-essential needs and therefore inflate the MEB. Thus, the sampling frame used includes:

- **FCS:** Households that had acceptable FCS, but not the highest end of the scale. Therefore, above 42, but below 90 FCS scores were selected.
- **Coping:** Those who can meet their needs should not be engaging in lots of negative coping strategies. Therefore, the high end of the coping, i.e., use of emergency strategies were excluded.
- **Self-reported meeting basic needs:** “All” and “none”, representing the both ends were excluded.
- **Expenditure:** Expenditure deciles 1 and 10 were excluded.

Households that reported no monthly food expenditure were eliminated from the sample. This was done to avoid any participant response or data entry concerns, as it is doubtful that households spend no money on food, and those that do will be getting significant aid, which may bias the MEB calculation. With these parameters in mind, Figure 1 displays the sampling frame by household type.

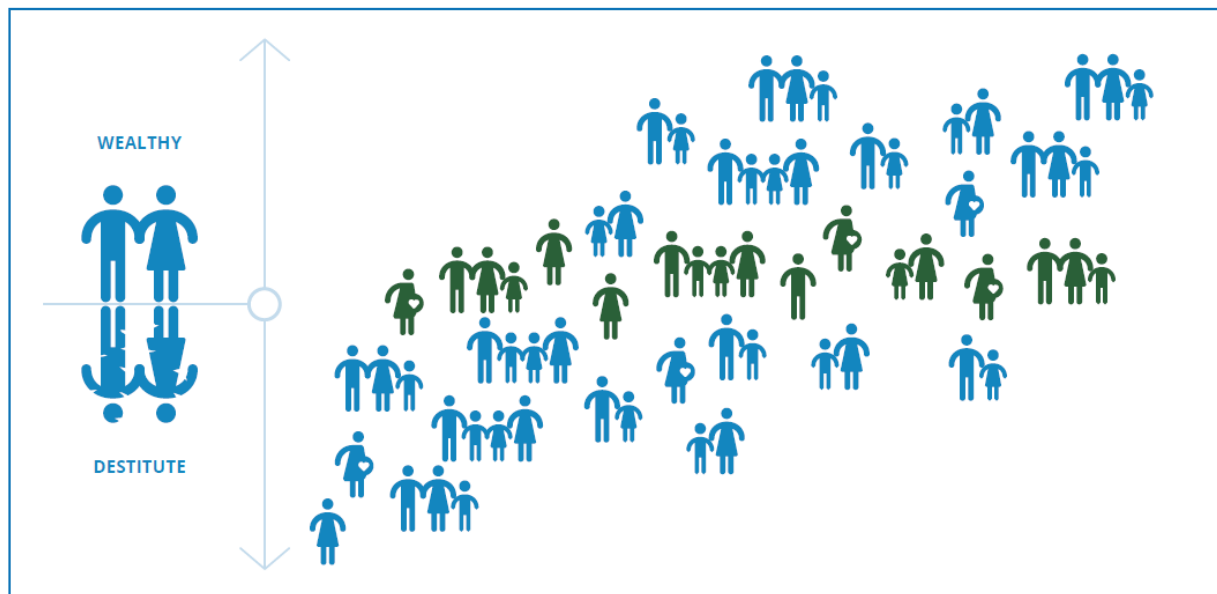


Figure Selecting the MEB cohort.

In simple terms, it is useful to think of the green people in the figure as the basis for selecting the reference cohort: they are not amongst the worst-off, nor the wealthiest – but rather, are just able to meet their essential needs.

Figure 1. MEB Sampling Frame

<i>Population Type</i>	<i>Number of Households</i>	<i>Number of Selected Households</i>	<i>Percentage of Sample within the selected households</i>
<i>Internally Displaced People (IDPs)</i>	3,059	1,106	30%
<i>Non-displaced Stateless People (NDSP)</i>	203	69	2%
<i>Other Crisis Affected People (OCAP)</i>	3,795	1,605	43%
<i>Returnees (RET)</i>	2,445	933	25%
TOTAL	9,502	3,713	100%

Price Data Sources and Harmonization Approach

To ensure robust and locally representative state-level MEBs, we integrated price data from three key sources: World Bank (WB) price datasets, WFP Market Price Monitoring (WFP-MPM), and JMMI reports. The WB dataset provides broad commodity coverage at the state level, while WFP-MPM offers high spatial granularity for key staples at market and sub-state levels. JMMI reports supplement these with additional market insights. To harmonize these sources, we developed conversion factors between WB and WFP prices for overlapping items, and between country-level and state-level data. For each state and sub-state, median adjustment factors were calculated using the ratio of WFP to WB prices for common commodities. These factors were then applied to WB-only items to ensure realistic sub-state differentiation and full basket coverage. Where neither source provided valid prices, national WB prices were adjusted using state-specific staple factors. All price adjustments and imputations are documented for transparency and reproducibility. This hybrid calibration and disaggregation approach ensures that each state's MEB reflects both local market conditions and national consistency.

Use of Relative Indices and Conversion Factors

To ensure that state-level MEBs accurately reflect local price dynamics and recent market trends, we constructed and applied relative indices using data from WFP, World Bank, and JMMI sources. For each state, conversion factors were calculated to harmonize price levels between national and subnational datasets, as well as to adjust for temporal changes (e.g., comparing current and previous months' JMMI data). These indices allowed us to calibrate state-level prices against national benchmarks and to account for both spatial and temporal price variation. The resulting adjustment factors were systematically applied to the relevant items in the MEB calculation, ensuring that each state's basket is both locally grounded

and nationally comparable. All indices and conversion factors are documented for transparency and reproducibility.

Household Expenditure Calculation

Figure 2 illustrates the updated Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) for 2025, representing the average monthly expenditure required by a crisis-affected household in Myanmar to meet essential needs and avoid negative coping strategies. Based on the latest data, the national MEB value has increased by **11.5 percent**, rising from **665,534 MMK in 2024** to **741,967 MMK per month in 2025**, reflecting inflationary trends and adjustments for localized market conditions.

Food remains the dominant component of household spending, accounting for approximately **61 percent** of the total basket, or **454,966 MMK**. Non-food items (NFIs) represent **39 percent** of the MEB, totaling **287,001 MMK**. Within the NFI category, the largest share is allocated to **rent** (80,000 MMK, 28 percent of NFIs), followed by **fuel and energy** (35,000 MMK, 12 percent) and **transportation** (30,000 MMK, 10 percent). Other essential NFI expenditures include **clothing** (25,000 MMK), **communication** (20,000 MMK), **health and education** (16,667 MMK each), and **shelter maintenance** (30,000 MMK). These figures underscore the multifaceted nature of household needs beyond food, highlighting the importance of comprehensive assistance strategies.

A key methodological advancement in 2025 is the introduction of **state-specific MEB calculations**, which reveal substantial geographic disparities. These variations are primarily driven by localized market prices, differences in access to goods and services, and distinct economic conditions within each state. By presenting state-specific MEBs, the analysis enables more targeted and context-sensitive programming, ensuring that transfer values and assistance strategies are better aligned with the actual needs of households in each region.

Implications for Cash Transfer Values and Program Planning

The updated MEB has direct implications for cash-based programming. Transfer values must be recalibrated to align with the revised basket, ensuring that assistance adequately covers basic needs. Applying outdated benchmarks risks underfunding households and increasing vulnerability. Furthermore, state-level differences necessitate context-specific transfer values, as a single national figure would fail to address disparities between high-cost and low-cost areas. Programs should also prioritize monitoring food prices, given that food accounts for nearly two-thirds of household expenditure, while ensuring complementary support for NFIs such as shelter, fuel, and transportation. These findings reinforce the need for flexible, evidence-driven programming that adapts to inflationary trends and localized market realities.

Figure 2. MEB Household Expenditure

<i>Expenditure Sector</i>	<i>Monthly Expenditure (MMK)</i>	<i>MEB Share</i>	<i>2025 NFI percentages</i>
<i>Food</i>	454,966	61%	
<i>Rent+Shelter</i>	80,000	11%	28%
<i>WASH/Water</i>	12,000	2%	4%
<i>NFI Regular</i>	25,000	3%	9%
<i>Utilities</i>	10,000	1%	3%
<i>Fuel/Energy</i>	35,000	5%	12%
<i>Transportation</i>	30,000	4%	10%
<i>Communication</i>	20,000	3%	7%
<i>Shelter</i>	30,000	4%	10%
<i>NFI Infrequent</i>	11,667	2%	4%
<i>Health</i>	16,667	2%	6%
<i>Education</i>	16,667	2%	6%
<i>NFI Total</i>	287,001	39%	100%
<i>Total (MEB)</i>	741,967	100%	

State-Level MEB, Food Basket, and Food Share Analysis

Figure 3 provides a comprehensive visualization of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB), food basket, and the proportion of the food basket within the MEB³ across Myanmar's states and regions, benchmarked against the national MEB average. This analysis reveals several critical insights into the spatial heterogeneity of household economic vulnerability and the drivers of essential needs across the country:

1. Geographic Disparities in MEB Values:

State-level MEBs range from approximately 540,000 MMK in Bago to over 980,000 MMK in Shan (East), underscoring the impact of localized market conditions, conflict dynamics, and supply chain disruptions on household cost structures. States such as Shan (East), Sagaing, and Chin State have MEBs that far exceed the national average, highlighting acute cost pressures and the need for differentiated transfer values.

³ **Interpretation note on food and non-food shares:** The food basket used in this analysis is a normative, itemized and costed basket and is not derived from household food expenditure data. An expenditure-based approach was not applied to the food basket because food expenditure captured through the MSNA relies on a single aggregated monthly recall question, which is widely recognized to underestimate food consumption in crisis-affected contexts, particularly where purchases are frequent and small, households receive partial in-kind support, or recall and aggregation are difficult. Food basket shares presented in this section therefore reflect normative minimum food requirements relative to the total MEB and should not be interpreted as observed household spending behaviour.

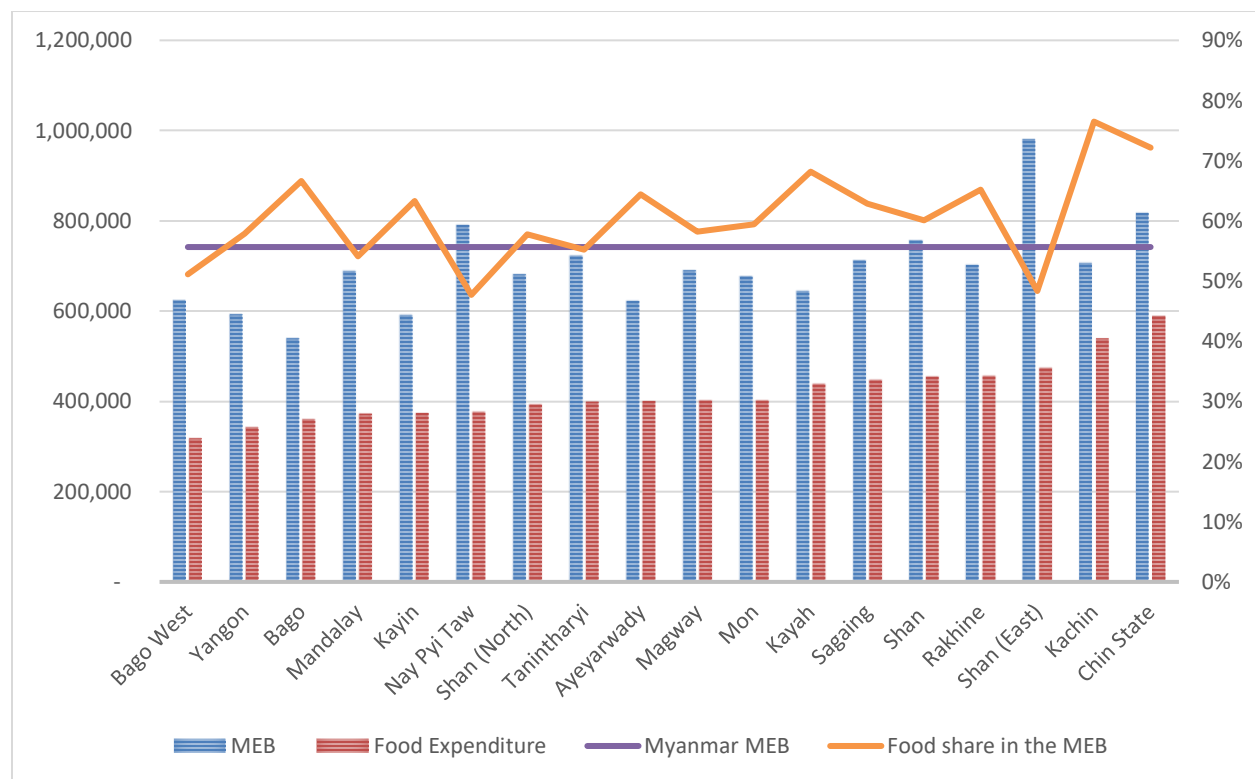
2. Food Basket as a Cost Driver:

The Food basket remains the dominant component of household spending in all states, but its absolute value varies considerably. Higher food costs often correlate with remoteness, market access constraints, and inflationary pressures.

3. Benchmarking and Programmatic Implications:

Several states exceed the national MEB benchmark, reinforcing the inadequacy of a uniform national transfer value and the imperative for localized calibration. In high-cost states, transfer values must be adjusted upward to ensure assistance is commensurate with actual needs. Where food dominates the MEB, food security interventions should be prioritized, while in others, greater emphasis may be needed on shelter, energy, or essential services.

Figure 3. Myanmar MEB, and MEB, Food Basket Share Value and Food Share Percentage per State⁴



⁴ Note: Food basket shares reflect normative costed minimum food requirements relative to total MEB values and should not be interpreted as observed household expenditure behaviour.

Figure 4. MEB, Food Basket and Food Basket Shares per State ⁵

State	MEB	Food Expenditure	Food share in the MEB
Bago West	623,343	318,342	51%
Yangon	592,583	343,000	58%
Bago	540,394	360,228	67%
Mandalay	688,501	372,334	54%
Kayin	591,272	374,605	63%
Nay Pyi Taw	791,241	377,407	48%
Shan (North)	680,945	393,445	58%
Tanintharyi	723,068	399,235	55%
Ayeyarwady	622,132	400,785	64%
Magway	690,226	402,059	58%
Mon	677,140	402,473	59%
Kayah	644,061	439,061	68%
Sagaing	713,131	448,131	63%
Shan	756,349	454,849	60%
Rakhine	701,522	457,355	65%
Shan (East)	980,871	474,204	48%
Kachin	706,325	540,325	76%
Chin State	817,321	589,821	72%

State-Level Rent and Shelter Expenditure and Share in the MEB

Figure 5 examines the rent and shelter component within the MEB across Myanmar's states and regions, alongside the national MEB benchmark. The analysis integrates absolute MEB values, rent+shelter expenditure, and the proportional share of rent+shelter within the MEB, offering a detailed perspective on household vulnerability and cost drivers:

1. Benchmarking and Policy Implications:

Several states with high rent+shelter shares also have MEBs above the national average, compounding household vulnerability. This dual burden necessitates recalibration of transfer values and programmatic priorities to ensure shelter needs are not systematically underfunded. In states where rent and shelter represent a significant share of household expenditure, humanitarian actors must prioritize cash assistance for housing, rental subsidies, or support for shelter rehabilitation.

⁵ Note: Food basket shares reflect normative costed minimum food requirements relative to total MEB values and should not be interpreted as observed household expenditure behaviour.

2024-2025 Changes

The MEB increased **665,534 MMK in 2024** to **741,967 MMK in 2025**, representing an **approximately 11.5 percent increase** over the period. Figure 6 illustrates the changes in overall household expenditure shares between November 2024 and 2025 MEBs, with a notable increase in rent and shelter costs. In 2024, rent and shelter accounted for 9 percent of household expenditure, rising to 13 percent in 2025. While shelter costs have become a more significant component of household budgets, most other non-food categories have remained relatively stable or decreased slightly.

Figure 5. Myanmar MEB, and MEB, Rent and Shelter Expenditure and their Shares per State

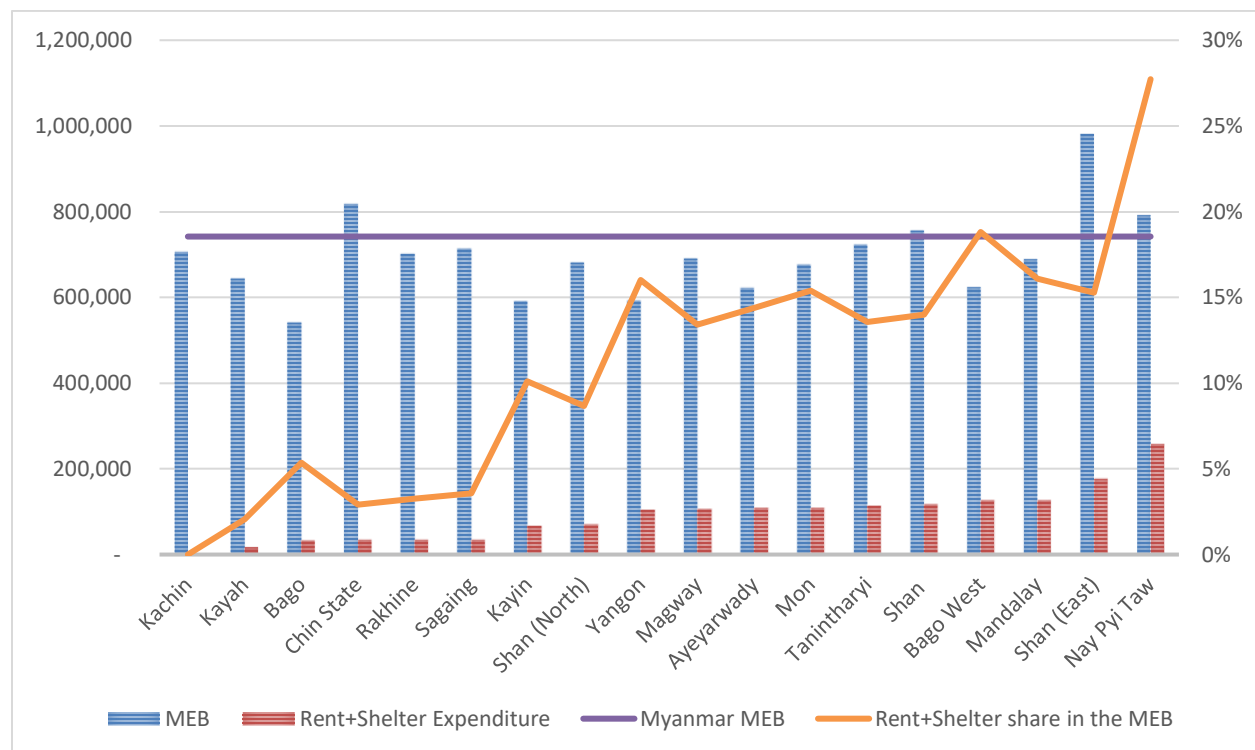
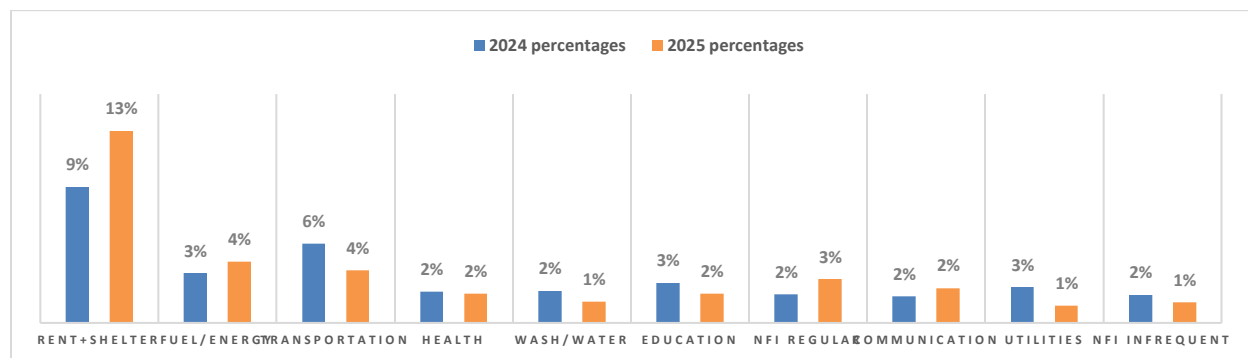


Figure 6. 2024 – 2025 MEB Expenditure Shares Comparison



Gap Analysis Calculation

The MEB gap analysis is a method used to calculate the amount of humanitarian assistance that needs to be provided in order to meet the basic needs of targeted households. It takes into account the cost to meet needs (MEB), but also the capacity (income available) of target households to meet their needs on their own. The gap analysis is calculated as ‘MEB amount’ minus ‘Average Monthly Income’, which is equal to the amount of humanitarian cash assistance required, on average, for the average households to meet their basic needs. On average, households need **265,537 MMK per month** in humanitarian assistance to meet multi-sectoral basic needs as indicated in Figure 9, covering 35.8% of their monthly needs.

The capacity of a household to meet its needs calculation

Four different population types were assessed, including Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) etc. Figure 7 shows the average monthly income of households included in the MEB sample. There is some capacity, on average, to meet needs on their own.

Figure 7. Households Capacity To Meet Needs On Own

Population Type	Number of Households	Percentage	Average Monthly Income
IDPs	1106	30%	430,605
NDSP	69	2%	422,754
OCAP	1605	43%	534,041
Ret	933	25%	433,038
TOTAL	3713		476,430

Figure 8. Gap Analysis Calculation

<i>MEB Value (MMK)</i>	<i>Monthly Income of Households (MMK)</i>	<i>Monthly Gap to be Covered by Humanitarian Assistance (MMK)</i>	<i>Per Capita Gap (MMK)</i>	<i>Percentage of HH Needs to be Covered by Humanitarian Assistance</i>
741,967	476,430	265,537	57,725	35.8%

Gap Analysis and Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) Transfer Value

The gap analysis method calculates the amount of humanitarian assistance required for targeted households to meet their basic needs, considering both the cost to meet needs (MEB) and the capacity (income available) of target households. **For further details on the gap analysis methodology and its application to MPC transfer value recommendations, see Annex 2.**

Key Results

- The cost of the updated August 2025 MEB is 741,967 MMK per household per month, with food making up most of the basket, 454,966 MMK (61%) with notable variation across states.
- August 2025 MEB has risen 11.5%, with the food share increased by 10% from 412,036 MMK to 454,966 MMK, while the NFI has increased by 13%.
- The next highest driver for the increase in the MEB is coming from rent and shelter, which increased by 4% compared to last year.
- The difference between the MEB value and households' ability to meet their basic needs on their own is large. The monthly gap is 265,537 MMK, indicating that humanitarian assistance needs to cover, on average, 35.8% of their needs.

Annex 1: Food Basket Composition and Calculations

The number of food items included in the 2015/2017 food poverty line (more than 50) was reduced to 11 items contributing to the highest calories among the most consumed foods by the people of Myanmar. These account for around 86% of calories in the total basket and 62% of expenditures. The remaining expenses, which are for foods with a relatively high price per calorie, are included as a lump sum in "other food".

The food MEB provided below should be interpreted as the average, recurring food demands of Myanmar's people in 2017, but priced at WFP monthly market price data for September 2025. These prices are determined both monthly and per capita. To facilitate comparison, we also include per household values for a household of 4.6 from the 2025 MSNA survey.

Nutritional value

The proposed ration, which is intended to ensure a diverse diet for the target population, meets at least 100% of the general population's energy requirements (> 2,100 kcal). Furthermore, based on the 11 food items identified, it meets approximately 70 percent protein and 92 percent of fat requirements. Furthermore, it is intended to provide 20 to 45 percent of nutrients such as iron, calcium, zinc, vitamin B1, B2, folate, and vitamin C.

Figure 11. National Itemized food basket and its 2025 cost

Food Groups	Food item	Cost per household/ per month 2026	Cost within the basket
Cereals	Rice Ngasein	117,848	25.9%
Fish and other seafood	Fish Paste	5,926	1.3%
Fish and other seafood	Dried Bummalo	34,724	7.6%
Meat, eggs	Pork	28,899	6.4%
Meat, eggs	Chicken	21,147	4.6%
Meat, eggs	Chicken eggs	9,144	2.0%
Oils and fats	Palm oil	34,730	7.6%
Pulses, beans, nuts, and seeds	Gram	11,378	2.5%
Vegetables	Tomato	14,837	3.3%
Vegetables	Onion	8,278	1.8%
Fruits	Banana	20,256	4.5%
Other food items	Pulses, veggies, meat, and dairy	147,798	32.5%
TOTAL		454,966	100%

Limitations of the analysis

The ongoing conflict in Myanmar is making data collection a challenge for the humanitarian actors. As for collecting the food item prices, WFP market monitoring covers fewer townships, and not all MEB food item prices can be collected every month.

Annex 2: Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPC) Transfer Value Recommendations

The MEB is a tool for developing transfer values and there are different methods for calculating transfer values using the MEB, one of which is the gap analysis presented in this technical note by assessing the household's capacity to meet its own needs (income). To ensure a harmonized humanitarian cash response, the CMWG recommends implementing partners to align transfer values where feasible and appropriate. The MEB and Gap Analysis helps to harmonize a standard Multi-Purpose Cash (MPC) transfer value.

In the current operational and funding environment in Myanmar, transfer value setting requires a balance between technical needs-based benchmarks and practical implementation realities. While the MEB and gap analysis provide a relevant reference for understanding the cost of meeting basic needs, funding constraints, access limitations, and delivery risks mean that a single uniform transfer value is not always feasible across all contexts. The options presented in this annex are therefore intended to support harmonization in coordination with sub-national CMWGs and donors.

MPC Transfer Value Recommendations

State-Level Per Capita Transfer Values

Multi-Purpose Cash (MPC) transfer values are calculated at **state level** and expressed on a **per-capita basis**, using the state-level Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) and observed average household income across **all MEB sampled households**. This option is intended to support harmonization, reflect current funding realities, and provide a transparent pathway toward per-capita MPC design.

Methodology

The state-level MEB is retained as the normative benchmark for basic needs. Average household income for **all sampled households within each state** is used as the capacity to meet needs indicator, reflecting observed capacities across the populations.

For each state, the standard MPC transfer value is calculated as:

State-level gap = State MEB – Average state household income of MEB sample

To support equity across household sizes and facilitate harmonization, the resulting household-level gap is then converted into a **per-capita transfer value** using the average household size for each state.

Per-capita transfer values are presented and **recommended** for MPC programming under this option. Household-level figures are shown for transparency and derivation purposes only.

Minimum Transfer Value Floor

To avoid transfer values that fall below a certain threshold a **minimum floor of 55,000 MMK per person per month** is applied to the standard MPC transfer value across all states and regions.

The application of this floor serves three key purposes:

- It ensures MPC transfer values remain above prevailing food-only cash transfer benchmarks used by other humanitarian actors.
- It prevents formula-driven transfer values that are artificially low in contexts where average income levels mask persistent food and basic needs gaps.
- The food component is aligned with the MEB gap analysis, with food representing approximately 60–65% of the total basket, consistent with current cash-for-food transfer values.

Where the calculated per-capita MPC transfer value falls below this threshold, the **55,000 MMK minimum** should be applied. Where the calculated value exceeds the floor, the calculated value should be used.

Household-Level Transfer Value Application (Clarification)

While per-capita transfer values are the preferred standard, distribution using a household-level transfer value is also acceptable where applying per-capita values is not feasible or would create operational challenges or community tensions, including due to access constraints, time limitations, verification feasibility, or partner capacity considerations. In such cases:

In such cases:

- The household-level transfer value should be derived using the state average household size applied to the recommended per-capita transfer value.
- Implementing partners should document the rationale for using an average household-level approach and apply it consistently within the same geographic area.
- This approach should be considered a pragmatic implementation adaptation, not a deviation from the recommended transfer value methodology.

Implementation Guidance

- The standard per-capita rounded transfer value, subject to the 55,000 MMK minimum floor, should be used for all MPC programming.
- Complementary sectoral or in-kind assistance should be considered where MPC alone is insufficient to meet specific sectoral outcomes.

- Any deviation from the recommended transfer values should be based on contextual evidence and agreed through coordination mechanisms to avoid confusion and inequity among assisted populations.

Figure 11. State Level Recommended MPC Transfer Values

State / Region	MEB (MMK / HH)	Avg HH Income (MMK)	Avg HH Size	Rounded MPC TV (MMK / person / month) with floors	Household-Level Transfer Value with floors (MMK/HH/month)
All Myanmar	741,967	476,430	4.6	60,000	275,000
Ayeyarwady	622,132	563,333	4.6	55,000	255,000
Bago East	540,394	463,755	4.3	55,000	235,000
Bago West	623,343	554,840	3.8	55,000	210,000
Chin	817,321	311,048	5.2	95,000	495,000
Kachin	706,325	396,665	4.9	65,000	320,000
Kayah	644,061	268,083	4.8	80,000	385,000
Kayin	591,272	307,703	4.4	65,000	285,000
Magway	690,226	491,750	4.5	55,000	250,000
Mandalay	688,501	517,490	4.2	55,000	230,000
Mon	677,140	509,696	4.4	55,000	240,000
Rakhine	701,522	486,624	5.0	55,000	275,000
Sagaing	713,131	649,156	4.9	55,000	270,000
Shan (East)	980,871	703,646	4.9	55,000	270,000
Shan (North)	680,945	442,524	4.0	60,000	240,000
Shan (South)	756,349	488,650	4.7	55,000	260,000
Tanintharyi	723,068	540,683	4.7	55,000	260,000
Yangon	592,583	548,119	3.9	55,000	215,000

Rationale

This approach is grounded in evidence showing that many households with acceptable food consumption scores and no emergency coping strategies still report mean household expenditure of significantly below the MEB value, indicating some capacity to meet essential needs despite low expenditure and income. Using average state-level income avoids over-reliance on narrower vulnerability sub-groups and supports consistent, scalable transfer value setting of the average MPC program participant.

In the current operational environment, overall funding envelopes have contracted despite increasing levels of need, as reflected in the latest HNRP. This option aligns MPC transfer values with these constraints while preserving the MEB as the underlying needs requirement benchmark and allowing higher per-capita assistance in high-cost, low-income states.

Transfer Value Updates

Transfer values are reviewed quarterly and adjusted only if the MEB is adjusted per the criteria of a $\geq 20\%$ cumulative increase of the MEB food basket price **and** CMWG partners agree that the current MEB no longer reflects the cost of meeting basic needs. The use of World Bank and Joint Market Monitoring Data will be used for the analysis.

Exchange rate fluctuations will be tracked and taken into account in any update, as they directly affect USD-denominated partner budgets and can either create scope for higher transfer values or place constraints on partners' ability to absorb increases.

Operational Flexibility in Applying CMWG Recommended Transfer Values

The CMWG recommended MPC transfer values are anchored in the gap analysis and MPC's ability to meet basic needs and should be used as the primary reference for programme design. At the same time, the CMWG recognises that partners operate in highly constrained environments and that operational realities may affect how transfer values are applied in practice.

Where partners face practical constraints—such as rapid response, limited verification or targeting capacity, security or access limitations, or implementation across bordering townships or regions—simplified approaches may be used. These may include applying national average transfer values, provided that the resulting transfer values remain aligned with the national MPC framework.

Flexibility in application is intended to support effective and timely delivery of assistance, not to redefine agreed transfer values. Partners should apply simplified approaches consistently within their operational areas, document the rationale for their approach, and coordinate with other MPC actors and the relevant sub-national coordination group to support harmonisation and manage community expectations.

The CMWG will track MPC transfer values across Myanmar to support coordination, monitor alignment, and assess whether transfer values are meeting basic needs as intended.