

This regular biweekly update, covering the period from 04 - 17 December 2021, is produced by the Myanmar Cash Working Group.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

* Despite cash liquidity and banking challenges, partners continue activities mainly by using financial service providers (FSPs) to secure enough cash for distributions.
* In Rakhine, partners are facing liquidity challenges due and withdrawal limitation is placed, resulting in e-cash activities still on pause. Basic commodities prices remain high along with increased transportation costs due to high fuel prices, however, the supply chain remains viable in most areas.
* After the Central Bank issued a letter about the limitation of cash payment up to 20 million MMK, some informal service providers increased their rates 0.5 ~ 1%.
* As of 16 December, the official exchange rate is 1,780 MMK to 1 USD,[[1]](#footnote-0) while the private money changer (over counter) rate is 1,890 MMK[[2]](#footnote-1). Yangon fuel prices are 1,345 MMK for 95 Octane and 1,280 MMK for premium Diesel per litre[[3]](#footnote-2).

**KEY FIGURES**

| **1,890 mmk/$**  USD exchange rate at private counter | **5 - 7%**  Yangon physical cash exchange fee | **1,280mmk**  Yangon Premium Diesel rate |
| --- | --- | --- |

**SITUATION UPDATE**

Programming for CVA programs face challenges due to the ongoing banking crisis and volatility of the security situation especially in Southeast, Rakhine, and Northwest areas. Travel restrictions and market access constraints are ongoing concerns for CVA programs.

In Kachin, CWG partners still face liquidity issues. Some partners have to pay a high percentage for cash out/ delivery fees (between 5.8 - 6.5 %). There is a need to conduct rapid assessment of the capacity of financial services providers to assess the potential to resume cash interventions at large scale. Security concerns for field staff persists as the clashes continue to happen.

In Rakhine, partners are facing liquidity challenges due and withdrawal limitation is placed, resulting in some e-cash activities still on pause. Basic commodities prices remain high along with increased transportation costs due to high fuel prices, however, the supply chain remains viable in most areas. Evidence suggests that cash interventions are supporting markets. Fuel prices will be monitored in WFP market analysis going forward. WFP cash distribution has resumed and is expected to complete delivery to 183,000 beneficiaries by the end of December. WFP also reviewed the cash entitlement in nine townships of Rakhine including Kyauk Taw depending on market prices.

Daily cash withdrawal limitations at CB and KBZ banks are 200,000 MMK, Yoma and AYA 300,000MMK and AGD 100,000 MMK per day, per savings account.[[4]](#footnote-3)

As of 16 December, the official exchange rate is 1,780 MMK to 1 USD1; however, the private money changer (over counter) rate is 1,890 MMK2. Yangon fuel prices are 1,345 MMK for 95 Octane and 1,280 MMK for premium Diesel per litre3.

**key resources**

* The Myanmar Cash Working Group monthly meeting for December was organized on 9 December. The key presentation materials are here: [Market Price Update (November) from WFP](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1SsGl6oPuuCYAV21-LvJ7FKuEpj5WOk8A/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=114142602097260620093&rtpof=true&sd=true),  [WFP CBT Lessons Learned from Central Rakhine](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/13JXmz7ECeyEQ6HQDDYIdITft3Dsbma2n/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=114142602097260620093&rtpof=true&sd=true), [CVA Preparedness Program in Asia](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/13JXmz7ECeyEQ6HQDDYIdITft3Dsbma2n/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=114142602097260620093&rtpof=true&sd=true) by MRCS, [CWG 4W Data Collection for 2021](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1tp2hrCq-yJVhTM180JueC_Pa8XFPzmxo/edit#slide=id.p1).
* Myanmar Cash Working Group and ICCG have endorsed the [MEB calculation](https://themimu.info/sites/themimu.info/files/documents/Template_Myanmar_Minimum_Expenditure_Basket_MEB_Calculation_CWG_24Sep2021.xlsx) and [Technical summary note](https://themimu.info/sites/themimu.info/files/documents/Summary_Myanmar_Minimum_Expenditure_Basket_MEB_Technical_Note_CWG_24Sep2021.docx) which are available on MIMU Cash Programming site. Questions can be directed to CWG chairs and co-chairs.
* [Myanmar CVA 4W](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1xnQ8pFbqxr45WE4tXFFAKg3522Qyv8eR7cbpS8lm1Bw/edit#gid=1230035561)s - 2021 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). CWG has conducted 3Ws on partners’ implementing surveys in September 2021, data can be found [here](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1yNwgfqsyiNt28yP5gv2n0Lr66a-DW0YX/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=114142602097260620093&rtpof=true&sd=true).
* Mercy Corps Myanmar publishes the Market Price Report Dashboard. The dashboard is [live on MIMU](https://themimu.info/market-analysis-unit) and [standalone dashboard here](http://mau-mpr-dashboard-beta.herokuapp.com/). *Product Specifications* document (see [here](https://mercycorps.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8fb7875546a431ae7abdde05e&id=ee752c57f6&e=aa9b314360)) provides detailed specifications used during price collection in order to help third parties interpret and use MPR data. These specifications may be updated periodically and are also available for download on [the MPR dashboard](https://mercycorps.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8fb7875546a431ae7abdde05e&id=cd4ab8f0c0&e=aa9b314360) on MIMU.
* WFP has a nationwide market monitoring [dashboard](https://analytics.wfp.org/t/Public/views/MarketMonitoringDashboardv2/Overview_?:iid=1&:isGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&:embed=y) and to access reports, here is the [link to featured reports.](https://dataviz.vam.wfp.org/economic_explorer/reports)
* A comprehensive financial service provider mapping and [Emergency Cash Transfer Programme Tools for Humanitarian Actors](https://themimu.info/fsp-mapping) site are available on the MIMU website.
* [Myanmar-Emergency-Cash Assistance-Dashboard](https://analytics.wfp.org/t/Public/views/MyanmarEmergencyCashAssistanceInformation/OverallPage) together with FSP dataset and CTP SOPs can be found on the page.

**publication**

* Mercy Corps’ Market Analysis Unit (MAU) has released several reports such as [Rakhine Market Price Report (November)](https://themimu.info/sites/themimu.info/files/mau_public/Bulletin_MAU_-_Rakhine_-_November_2021_-_Market_Price_Report.pdf), [Southeast Market Price Report (November)](http://www.themimu.info/sites/themimu.info/files/mau_public/Bulletin_MAU_-_Southeast_-_November_2021_-_Market_Price_Report.pdf), [Southeast Myanmar: Farmer snapshot](https://themimu.info/sites/themimu.info/files/mau_public/Snapshot_MAU_Southeast_-_Nov_2021_-_Farmers.pdf), [Retailers’ Perspective in Chin state](https://mcusercontent.com/8fb7875546a431ae7abdde05e/files/0aa5dd61-c262-533d-50fc-810d664385e5/Snapshot_MAU_Chin_Nov_2021_Retailers.01.pdf) and [Post-Covid Recovery of Rakhine State's Shrimp Sector](https://themimu.info/sites/themimu.info/files/mau_public/Report_MAU_Post_Covid_Recovery_Rakhine_Shrimp_Sector.pdf) Report. All MAU publications are available on [MIMU](http://www.themimu.info/market-analysis-unit). To receive reports directly you can contact Jonathan Bartolozzi (jbartolozzi@mercycorps.org).
* Food Security cluster has published Partners’ Presence Map - Sep 2021 and Gap Analysis reports recently. Please download [here](https://fscluster.org/myanmar).
* Comparison of 3W Results - 2020 to 2021 ( November 2021) published by MIMU is available [online](https://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/comparison-3w-results-2020-2021-november-2021). This report compares MIMU 3W results from 2020 to 2021, looking particularly at the impact of events in early 2021 on reported agencies’ activities. Also, Countrywide MIMU 3W Overview is also available [here](https://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/countrywide-overview-mimu-3w-november-2021).
* WFP published Cash Based Transfers - Lessons Learned from Central Rakhine report which is available [here](https://drive.google.com/file/d/11vnOM2rk8AEJx1JShj4prz_5lt5aOOs2/view?usp=sharing). The report highlights that Cash appears to be preferred as the modality of assistance due to its flexibility and the accessibility of markets. Following the military takeover, IDPs raised concerns about the potential impact of the volatile banking situation on cash assistance, as well as the impact of the security situation on transportation if assistance were reversed back to in-kind.

**regular and ongoing resources and mappings**

* There are many regular and ongoing resources, including mappings, and linking humanitarian cash and social protection, which can be found [here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ctPU3xYoch2N3pSs92ExQ4KmvEj7XHR2lMLfVPL43Nw/edit).

**recent webinar and training**

* The materials from Cash Strapped? A Learning Discussion on Market\_Based Programming in Liquidity Crises webinar is available [here](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DMKt26NylAXXWBindbPeWZpWeSq3PM1_?usp=sharing) including Advocacy Note, Q&A.

**upcoming webinar and training**

| **Date** | **Activity** | **Host** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 17 January (4-week course) | Market Based Programming for WASH in Emergencies Distance Learning Course. Participants must commit to dedicate 2 to 3 hours, 5 days a week, for the whole duration of the training. The course will be delivered in English. Interested agencies and individuals can reach out to [jbara@unicef.org](mailto:jbara@unisef.org)  [p.sinibaldi@savethechildren.org.uk](mailto:p.sinibaldi@savethechildren.org.uk) [janet.nyaoro@savethechildren.org](mailto:janet.nyaoro@savethechildren.org) | The course has been developed by Global WASH cluster and its members, under the leadership of  UNICEF, Save the Children and the Humanitarian Leadership Academy (HLA). |
| Online self-directed learning | Core CVA skills for program staff course, Free 12 weeks online self-directed course  ([Visit here](https://www.calpnetwork.org/course/online-core-cva-skills-for-programme-staff/)) | CaLP |



1. Central Bank of Myanmar [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. Northern Breeze money changer [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
3. Denko [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
4. CAR weekly monitoring report, 9 -15 Dec 2021 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)