**Myanmar Cash Working Group**

**Weekly Update #14 (09 January - 15 January 2021)**

| **Recently published:** **Articles/Blogs/Research/Guidance/Discussion threads/Policy briefs** |
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| **In Myanmar:****Publication:*** Malteser International (Myanmar) has published the PDM report on **Cash transfer as part of the COVID-19 response within the “Health as a Bridge to Peace” project, Kayin State, Myanmar**. The report highlighted that all beneficiaries felt that the cash transfer took place honoring beneficiaries’ dignity and respect. The survey found out that food supplies and healthcare were the top categories of spending. Report is available [here](https://drive.google.com/file/d/10ugKvUuOoxLL6fdjV-l0JPgymJen7I3R/view?usp=sharing). Please reach out to Claudia Plock ;claudia.plock@malteser-international.org; for any questions and suggestions.
* The Monthly Digest No.6, December 2020: Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 in Myanmar is recently published and this product is developed by the Office of the Resident Coordinators in Myanmar. You can find all Monthly Digests on [website](https://myanmar.un.org/en/resources/publications).
* United Nations Myanmar Monthly Newsletter, January 2021 is out on 13 January 2021. This newsletter highlighted that Myanmar is now on the brink of graduation from the category of Least Developed Countries (LDC) as well as the launch of the National Youth Policy Strategic Plan (2020 - 2024). You can read [here](https://myanmar.un.org/en/107656-united-nations-myanmar-monthly-newsletter-january-2021).

**In General:****Publications:** * **A Safer Cash Toolkit** published by USAID and IRC is [available here](https://www.rescue.org/sites/default/files/document/5388/safercashtoolkit.pdf). It is a set of tools and guidance to help practitioners evaluate and mitigate Protection-related risks of Cash and Voucher Assistance activities. While its focus is on CVA, the toolkit does include questions for market actors re: the safety of accessing target items in local market places, and much of the guidance and questionnaires is likely relevant to other types of interventions.

**Child Safeguarding for Cash and Voucher Assistance Guidance published** by Save the Children is available in the CaLP library. This guidance gives the tips on how to think about child safeguarding in CVA programs. [Read here](https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/library/child-safeguarding-cash-and-voucher-assistance-guidance).* The report on [Mobile money enabled cash assistance: User journeys in Burundi](https://www.gsma.com/mobilefordevelopment/cva-user-journeys-burundi/) is published by GSMA’s Mobile for Humanitarian Innovation programme teamed up with Ground Truth Solutions. It provides insights into how humanitarian organisations and mobile money providers can optimise their cash programming, enhance the user experience, and unlock the wide-ranging benefits of digital and financial inclusion.
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| **Myanmar Situation Updates**  |
| * Construction works for a disaster-resistant public shelter in Dala Township on government-owned land beside Bogyoke Road, Ant Gyi West Ward, Dala Township, Yangon Region, will be completed in eight months this year. The project will be managed by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) with financial support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). အစိုးရပိုင်မြေများပေါ်တွင်သဘာဝဘေးဒဏ်ခံနိုင်ရည်ရှိသည့်လူထုနေထိုင်ရာအဆောက်အအုံ ကိုယခုနှစ် ရှစ်လပိုင်းတွင် အပြီးတည်ဆောက်မည်ဖြစ်ကြောင်းသိရသည်။ Read the [News here](https://www.gnlm.com.mm/public-shelter-in-dala-to-be-completed-in-2021/)
* The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved the release of second financial assistance amounting to SDR 258.4 million to Myanmar to minimise the economic and social impacts of Covid-10 pandemic. The statement from the IMF was released on 13 January. နိုင်ငံတကာငွေကြေးရံပုံငွေအဖွဲ့ က မြန်မာနိုင်ငံ၏ ကိုဗစ်ကြောင့်ဖြစ်ပေါ်လာသော စီးပွားရေး၊ လူမှုရေးသက်ရောက်မှုများလျော့နည်းစေရန် ဒုတိယ အကြိမ်ငွေကြေးထောက်ပံ့မှုကို အတည်ပြုလိုက်သည်။ News [here](https://www.mmtimes.com/news/imf-approves-second-emergency-financial-aid-myanmar.html)
* On january 11, Rakhie state Minister declared that Rakhine has spent around K2.2 billion to construct and maintain the refugee camps in the state. ရခိုင်ပြည်နယ် ၀ န်ကြီးက ရခိုင်ပြည်နယ်က္ခသည်စခန်းများကိုတည်ဆောက်ရန်နှင့်ထိန်းသိမ်းရန်ကျပ် ၂.၂ ဘီလီယံခန့်သုံးစွဲခဲ့သည်ဟု ကြေငြာခဲ့သည်။ News [here](https://www.mmtimes.com/news/rakhine-expends-k2-billion-state-budget-refugee-camps.html)
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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.

**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** |
| **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 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 mplementation 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.** |