**Myanmar Cash Working Group**

**Weekly Update #3 (10 - 16 October 2020)**

| **Recently published:** **Articles/Blogs/Research/Guidance/Discussion threads/Policy briefs** |
| --- |
| **In Myanmar:** The Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement organized a virtual meeting on providing cash assistance for internally displaced persons in Kyaukme Township, Shan State. The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, Permanent Secretary Dr Ko Ko Naing, Directors-General, officials of Shan State Disaster Management Department, head and officials of Kyaukme District General Administration Department and representatives of civil society organizations. During the meeting, the Union Minister said the government was working with priority on ethnic affairs and internal peace and on the developments of the states and regions depending on the development index. He further said that development depends on peace and expressed empathy for the difficulties of the IDPs during COVID-19. [MoSWRR provides cash assistance for IDPs in Kyaukme, Shan State](https://www.gnlm.com.mm/moswrr-provides-cash-assistance-for-idps-in-kyaukme-shan-state/)   * Logistic sector meeting was organised on 9th October 2020 and meeting notes can be [accessed here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/16TF-A4yWRbYNEJ9jE5H4SO7mgAoLA8K8/edit?dls=true). * **Presentation** of the results of a RAFT-NRC conflict sensitivity assessment carried out in two central Rakhine IDP camps. NRC is the camp management agency for both Thet Kae Pyin (TKP – approximate population: 6,500 people) and Maw Ti Ngar (MTN - approximate population: 3,500 people) where the assessment has been undertaken. These camps see higher than average residence of people with specific needs, as they are closer to medical and other services, compared to the other central Rakhine IDP camps. The presentation slides can be found [here](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1X0Tzt2kV39GZkehjiWvKeRyJBctbwpho/edit).   **In General:**  **Publications:** The Iraq CWG has released [a mapping of financial service providers (FSPs)](https://www.calpnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/ninja-forms/2/CWG-FSP-Mapping-Iraq-2020.pdf) in the country, highlighting delivery options tailored to different groups, regulatory frameworks in place, and the capacity of FSPs to deliver cash at scale.   * UNHCR’s [COVID-19 cash assistance post-distribution monitoring report](https://www.calpnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/ninja-forms/2/UNHCR-PDM-COVID-report.pdf) gives an overview from various countries as to what recipients have used humanitarian cash for, how expenditures have changed, and market functionality. It also summarised UNHCR’s cash assistance during the pandemic that is complementing government responses. * A country mapping of large-scale cash transfers in response to COVID-19 in Cameroon from OCHA (written by Mihai Magheru) provides useful insights into HCT and SP schemes and calls for improved coordination among all cash actors (and resources to support that coordination), including in relation to targeting. Find the mapping [here](https://www.calpnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/ninja-forms/2/CAMEROON-REPORT-Country-mapping-large-scale-cash-transfers-COVID-19.pdf). * FCDO and GIZ’s SPACE initiative has released a series of documents all available in [the publications section on socialprotection.org](https://socialprotection.org/discover/publications/). The most relevant in relation to linking HCT and SP is the new version of its paper on: [Identifying Practical Options for Linking Humanitarian Assistance and Social Protection in the COVID-19 Response](https://socialprotection.org/sites/default/files/publications_files/SPACEI~1.PDF).   **Research:** ACAPS has released a brief thematic review of [common household characteristics of vulnerability in Cox's Bazar.](https://www.acaps.org/sites/acaps/files/products/files/20201004_acaps_thematic_review_vulnerable_households_rohingya_refugee_response_0.pdf) The review highlights the shift of coping mechanisms as a result of COVID-19 containment measures, with increased reliance on community and family support to meet basic needs. The review concludes that an increase in small-scale, more nuanced programming is required to support extremely vulnerable households experiencing a combination of compounding vulnerabilities.   * Mercy Corps has shared the end-line evaluation report from its recent multi-purpose cash programme in the Gaza Strip. The [report](https://web.kamihq.com/web/viewer.html?state=%7B%22ids%22%3A%5B%221Q1ABXP9CCBxcw3O7n5Y44XkcO51a5F7b%22%5D%2C%22action%22%3A%22open%22%2C%22userId%22%3A%22114142602097260620093%22%7D&kami_user_id=17775128) presents the key findings of the pilot programme, implemented by Mercy Corps Palestine in two governorates in the Gaza Strip during 2019-20.   **Briefings and Briefing Notes:** WFP’s recently produced policy brief: [“Why does Food Security and Nutrition Matter in Social Protection Responses to Systemic Shocks in the Southern Africa Region”](https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000119569/download/?_ga=2.41541793.2021717111.1602220742-2104619152.1542605659) highlights how the pandemic has added to the food security and nutrition challenges faced in the region. Among the examples of linkages between HCT and SP that are provided in the brief is the experience in Zambia where the Zambia Red Cross harmonized HCT targeting, coverage and transfer value with a social protection response that included cash transfers. |
| **Myanmar Situation Updates** |
| * [**Maersk to stop using military-owned ports in Myanmar after being named on ‘Dirty List’;** The world’s largest shipping company, A.P. Moller - Maersk, has announced it will stop using military-owned ports in Myanmar after facing criticism from UK-based activists. The Danish company was added to a “Dirty List” of firms linked to human rights abuses in Myanmar by the Burma Campaign UK pressure group in May.](https://www.myanmar-now.org/en/news/maersk-to-stop-using-military-owned-ports-in-myanmar-after-being-named-on-dirty-list?fbclid=IwAR16Xd-AqRxIOFxVGP44SfX91Zf6R95uIh51sFa3i2El_n3Ag-MpBAPiwFg)   [ကမ္ဘာ့အကြီးဆုံး ရေကြောင်းသယ်ယူပို့ဆောင်ရေးလုပ်ငန်းတစ်ခုဖြစ်သည့် Maersk သင်္ဘောလိုင်းက မြန်မာနိုင်ငံရှိ စစ်တပ်ပိုင်ဆိပ်ကမ်းများတွင် ဆိုက်ကပ်အသုံးပြုခြင်းကို ရပ်ဆိုင်းတော့မည်ဟု အကြောင်းကြားခဲ့ကြောင်း ယူကေအခြေစိုက် လူ့အခွင့်အရေးတက်ကြွလှုပ်ရှားသူများအဖွဲ့ Burma Campaign (UK) အဖွဲ့က ယမန်နေ့ (အောက်တိုဘာ ၈) တွင် ကြေညာလိုက်သည်။ မြန်မာဘာသာဖြင့်](https://www.myanmar-now.org/mm/news/4681?fbclid=IwAR1-AfaGCZh1qyXvXTvftupLaYlLQBbRHb69T5r-JFWvT5Qq_viOZSSdTKo)   * Due to the intensification of the second wave of Covid-19,, Yangon has been designated a Stay at home and some markets have been closed and many bazaar sellers become mobile sellers. ကိုဗစ်နိုင်တင်း ဒုတိယလှိုင်းကူးစက်မှု ပြင်းထန်လာမှုကြောင့် ရန်ကုန်မြို့ကို Stay at home သတ်မှတ်ထားပြီး ဈေးအချို့လည်း ပိတ်ထားသောကြောင့် ဈေးသည်များသည် ရွေ့လျားဈေးသည်များအဖြစ်ပြောင်းလဲလာကြသည်။အိမ်ရှေ့အထိရောက်လာသည့် ရွေ့လျားဈေးသည်များကြောင့် အိမ်မှာနေကြသည့် ပြည်သူများအတွက် စားသောက်ရေးဖြေရှင်းရန် အတိုင်းအတာတစ်ခုအထိ ပြေလည်သွားနိုင်မည်ဖြစ်သည်။ [Myanmar Now Youtube Channel](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2FlRyUmAjLrEM%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR0lqCl4JqeZ5Rn9lIsCrUk6S4aHXNw0kvH4XTJAk6yVRj32PqcprJgle5Q&h=AT2-98syVcy_v8JL6xUQsuK1BR25DgILzJA4TAI_rzOq2DvQk8woRRHgX4dQnd_FMN2EC7pnzVQ3mLKUNIjO5QJ6rekwaEcOieXf0PoOvQM_0V69ackpPoUyoVy2pWed_pO4&__tn__=-UK-R&c%5B0%5D=AT0_Ybib8qqZEZ9-3-gylscuxcLHXXO9N-xgTGdxRRWLwiyR5iPJv4qhfTDJ2fwDiTq-bgcriDSToUA8QXuFJI6bvZveMf7ynWjOJD5fTi8P4K6Lgs1FjM3B8HgDeqw7v22vBEZ8JQrf54XshiUXYxHADTiok6Sym91uEYpby1jbDNkvHXYkVwf5VDkCnIAdlV_4g18) * [***Discussion on the issue of social security allowance during the COVID-19 epidemic***](https://news-eleven.com/article/195093?fbclid=IwAR2JMeuj4770_NtW1zSM0fexMEromeBQocR45kjsUIFXG6lEmwZJbGkU098)**:** Over 31 million kyat has been disbursed to 313 departments and 40,000 insured workers who have applied for 40% of the social security allowance. Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Thein Swe said, according to a statement from the Ministry of Information. အစည်းအဝေးတွင် ပြည်ထောင်စုဝန်ကြီးက COVID-19 ကပ်ရောဂါ ပထမလှိုင်းတွင် ကူးစက်ပြန့်ပွားမှု ကာကွယ်ထိန်းချုပ်နိုင်ရေးအတွက် ထောက်ပံ့ကူညီမှု အကျိုးခံစားခွင့် ရာခိုင်နှုန်း ၄၀ ခွင့်ပြုအလုပ်ဌာနပေါင်း ၆၄၂၉ ဌာနရှိပြီး အာမခံ အလုပ်သမား ၈၀၀၂၆၀ အတွက် ခွင့်ပြုထုတ်ပေးငွေ ကျပ်သန်းပေါင်း ၁၉၆၄၀ ဒသမ ၆၃၆ ကို ခွင့်ပြုထုတ်ပေးခဲ့ပြီး ဖြစ်ကြောင်း၊ ကျန်ရှိသည့် အလုပ်ဌာနများကိုလည်း အချက်အလက်များ စိစစ်ပြီး ဆက်လက်ခွင့်ပြု ထုတ်ပေးသွားမည် ဖြစ်ပါကြောင်း ပြောကြားသည်။ |
| **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.  • 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. |
| **Webinars and Events** |
| **Recent webinars and events:** [**"Myanmar’s Mobile Finance Revolution? Disruption and Promise"**](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tYjSltTn2fjLkHcKaC7a4kLnu2-H6rIM/edit)was arranged by ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute and it was led by **Associate Professor Sean Turnell**, Special Economic Consultant to Myanmar’s State Counsellor; Director of Research, Myanmar Development Institute (MDI), Naypyitaw. The webinar is about the rise of mobile phone-based financial services brings with it the promise of economic inclusion on an unprecedented scale. This is especially true in countries, such as Myanmar, where banking and finance have historically been the vehicles for monopoly rents, and the systemic core of a political economy of restricted access and control. Mobile financial services, partly as delivered and fairly as extrapolated, offer the channels for the aggregation and allocation of capital, the smoothing of consumption, and the potential basis both for the regularisation of economic life, and some protection against its vicissitudes. This paper explores the beginnings of mobile financial services in Myanmar, their dramatic expansion since the country’s (albeit, incomplete) political transformation, the state of play of the sector, and the issues and obstacles it faces. The paper concludes by exploring future extensions and possibilities of what beckons as a genuine revolution in Myanmar’s financial and economic affairs. Webinar Series 2020-2021: Financial Transformation, Credit Markets and Household Debt in Southeast Asiacan be [accessed here](https://www.iseas.edu.sg/events/workshops/workshops-2020/webinar-series-2020-2021-financial-transformation-credit-markets-and-household-debt-in-southeast-asia/).   * On October 15, 2020, the Myanmar Agriculture Policy Support Activity held a virtual policy seminar in collaboration with USAID, Mercy Corps, the Myanmar Fruit, Flower, and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association, and Karzo, presenting findings based on recent phone surveys of COVID-19’s impact on food markets in Myanmar. [THE PANDEMIC’S EFFECTS ON FOOD MARKETS IN MYANMAR](http://myanmar.ifpri.info/2020/10/15/join-us-for-covid-19-and-food-market-disruptions-in-myanmar/) seminar addressed the negative effects of the COVID-19 crisis on rural and urban food vendors and highlighted market disruptions caused by the second wave of the pandemic. * As part of its [series of webinars](https://spherestandards.org/event/humanitarian-standards-covid19/) to share good practice and technical guidance on humanitarian standards in the COVID-19 response, Sphere’s webinar at the beginning of the month analysed how local humanitarian actors in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region are responding to the COVID-19 pandemic in the framework of complex and protracted crises. You can see the slide presentation and watch the webinar recording (in Arabic and English) [here](https://spherestandards.org/event/complex-emergencies-covid-mena/). |
| **Resources and Trainings** |
| * **CaLP** shared a [recording](https://1930181.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/1_hdt5b56m) of a presentation of the State of the World’s Cash 2020 by CaLP for a seminar organized by the World Bank’s Social Protection & Jobs Global Practice on 23 September. This joint event featured an excellent presentation by Development Initiatives on the [Global Humanitarian Assistance](https://devinit.org/resources/global-humanitarian-assistance-report-2020/) report, followed by an overview by CaLP staff of the key changes in the CVA landscape and a focus on social protection findings, along with concrete proposals to strengthen humanitarian-SP linkages from Yemen and Iraq. * [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](https://transfer.cpc.unc.edu/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:** 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. |
| **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.** |