1. Objectives

- Assessing whether Cash transfers would enable people to purchase the things from local shops, stores, or service providers.
- Understanding to what extent markets are functioning, and whether those market systems can continue to provide for the needs of the target population.
- Reviewing Market capacity and market demand.

2. Expected Outputs

Providing the information which have been received form markets and community to International and Civil Society organisations for necessary actions and responses.

3. Methodology of Assessment

The assessment team discussed with the affected families and traders in the market to understand the market situation, cash needed to buy food products and prices of commonly consumed food items at household level. We expected the target group to purchase the basic needs (Food such as Rice, Bean, Cooking oil, Noodle, Onion, Potato, Salt, with the cash support as intervention). The assessment tools developed by DCA (as attached) was used to do this assessment.

Access and Preference

Due to not much flooding in the Magway town, road conditions are good with proper access from Yangon – Magway Highway, Magway – Minbu, and all roads leading to the town. All food prices were stable in Magway – such as Rice- 1100 Kyat per Pyi, Bean- 2000 Kyat per kg, Onion- 750 Kyat per kg, Cooking Oil- 6000 Kyat per Viss, Potato-500 Kyat per kg. Tea shops and restaurants were also found to be functioning. People can buy food products from all these market as stocks were found to be available also. The local shop owners explained the flood situation and efforts doe by them in saving food stock in market.

Women shop owner explaining the situation

During interviews with affected population, it was seen that some people had food stock at household level, some got from their parents while some bought food from neighbouring villages. There was not
much travel or costs involved in accessing food or travelling to buy food. Some families also had received food from donors or private organisations.

**Saedoktaya Township** (also one of the critically affected pocket) can be reached by 2 road ways from Magway (please see the below routes).

- (Magway – MinBu- Monywa – Pathin road – SaLin – Saedoktaya)- 106 miles and takes 4 hour driving. The other option is Saedoktaya – SaLin – Pwint Phyuy – MinBu – Magway) which is 96 miles long, it is also taken time nearly driving 4 hours.
- Salin Township is 36 miles far from Saedoktaya, and not affected by floods and its market is good and functioning, where all the products are available. People from Saedoktaya are dependent on Salin market.
- Saedoktaya is a very small town and it has only some hawkers market in the morning time (6:00 – 9:30). This morning hawkers market is not effected by floods because it is located at the high place. It is functioning now, people can purchase vegetables, bamboo shoots, meat and other food.
- Besides, some small shops such as telephone top up cards & telephone adapter shop, medicine shop, tea shop, fuel shop are starting and opening again in their house in Saedoktaya town.
- The prices are not increased.

**Market Functioning and Recovery/ market prices**

In Magway, Minbu, Salin and Saku townships, the market was functioning but in Pwint Phyuy and Saedoktaya townships which are comparatively remote and happens to be critically affected by flooding, here the markets were not functioning. In these two townships, food stock was perished during floods and the traders were trying to get food from the other near markets. They could buy the food products at the same price as before floods. The distances between (Magway and Min-Bu is 4 miles), (Min-Bu and Lel Kaing is 20 miles), and Lel Kaing (big village), and Pwint Phyuy is 7 miles). As per affected families and traders, these markets will take more than a month to recover. Assessment team checked and asked with some hawkers besides the road, and the clarification was that the prices (egg, onion, potato, tomato and etc.) were not increased, some are cheaper than Yangon, and had been bought form Magway (about 31 miles Magway – Pwint Phyuy). The team also asked some people from Pwint Phyuy and could learn that people purchased rice from their parents, from Lel Kaing (big village), while some families could save stored rice grains at house hold level on the stilts. Other shops like teashops, electrical shops, store, and hard ware are starting to open, so it’s estimated that the market will be functioning *next one month in these small townships.*

In the small townships, mud has also flooded the shops and many of the owners are involved in cleaning the shops after receding of flood waters.

Some tea shop owners like the *one (here in snap)* were interviewed and team could learn that prices were stable and that they had provided support to needy families.
Recommendations

- As local markets are functioning to an extent and will be able to revive in a months’ time by mid-September, cash assistance can be provided to people to buy food from market in meeting the crisis needs in such an emergency situation. The team does not recommend to supply food items and provide to people. Cash transfers to affected population would not lead to inflation as food and other products will be available in other nearby markets also even if it affects the nearest one to the population living in the township.
- With cash grants, the key benefit is that people will have the choice to buy food from market as per their decision and dignity.
- As there are enough sellers (small and big traders), there would not be an increase of price of products and hence with cash in hand people can buy food until they have other livelihood options.
- As per field assessment in Magway, per person food intake of (rice, beans, oil and salt) will account for cash value of 12,000 Kyat per person per month, i.e. approx. 60,000 Kyat per family. This calculation is to meet emergency food needs barring normal situation and is based on rice taken from seed banks or small shops and kept as stock.
- Cash for work would be another viable option for people being able to clean their houses and receive cash close to minimum wages in lieu of their work. Per person day value for CFW would be 3000 Kyat average. This support can help in quick and early recovery of families.
- Cash for work can also be used for preparing land and repairing community assets.