

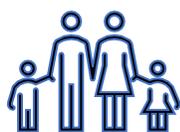


COVID-19
RESPONSE

UN in Myanmar: Monthly Digest No. 1, June 2020

Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 in Myanmar

Understanding the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 across sectors, population groups, gender, and geographic areas is essential for designing effective policies and measures to mitigate the impact of the pandemic and recover better. To contribute to an increased evidence-base and inform policymaking, the UN Organizations in Myanmar are currently undertaking a multitude of socio-economic impact assessments. These range from forecasts of trends and scenarios and assessments of policy needs and responses, to deep dives into sectoral impacts and the impacts of specific population groups. This monthly digest aims to summarize the key findings of these assessments as the pandemic unfolds and more and more analysis becomes available. The assessments presented are part of the UN's COVID-19 response as outlined in the [UN's Framework for the Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19 in Myanmar](#).



Impact of Covid-19 on Children and their families

Assessment Information

Organization	UNICEF
Assessment type	Rapid Monitoring of Household-level Changes
Demographics	120 households in 6 states (Kachin, Shan, Kayin, Rakhine, Yangon, Mandalay)
Time period	April and May 2020

Note: Finding from the 1st and 2nd rounds, out of 4 planned rounds

Summary

This panel monitoring exercise involves 120 households in UNICEF's COVID-19 priority townships across six states/regions. The first round of the survey was conducted in April and the second in May. In April about half of the households reported having experienced a change in their work situation, this share increased to over

65% in May. Daily wagers and self-employed / business owners were the once worst affected.

Almost all the respondents in the first round reported that food and other consumables were either becoming more expensive and/or unavailable. However, the responses in May indicated that access to food and other consumables was returning to normal, with prices and availability of products back to pre-COVID-19 levels.

While in April almost all families interviewed reported being worried about the health consequences of the pandemic, by May - with the outbreak relatively under control - their main worries were about losses of income and livelihoods, and children's education. In April almost 3 out of 4 women reported having experienced an increase in their load of household work as a result of COVID-19 and changed childcare arrangements. In May, they continued to report an increase in household chores but to a lesser extent than in April.

Key Findings

Work/income situation

- In May, over 65% of respondents reported a change in their work situation due to COVID-19.
- Daily wagers and self-employed / business owners were most affected by decrease in work.

Access to consumables

- In April, close to 50% reported that daily consumable items had become more expensive; and 20% reported that consumables were unavailable.
- In May, 65.8% of respondents reported that daily consumables could be accessed easily, and in the same manner as before the pandemic. Indicating restorations in supply chain disruptions.

Children's Eating Habits

- 37.5% reported changes in eating habits in April.
- In May, eating habits have begun to return to normal as 80% of respondents reported no change in what they are eating.
- Respondents in urban areas reported to eat more food than usual due to spending more time at home and as a way to boost their immune system.

Worries related to Covid-19

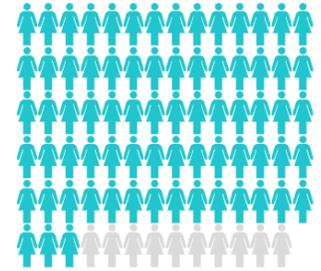
- In April, almost all respondents reported being worried about COVID-19 (94.1%), in May this number had decreased to 74.1%.
- Worries about health (own health, children's and other family members') decreased, while more parents worried about losing their jobs, and children's' education.
- In April, 94% reported that their children were happy and relaxed as usual.

Family Arrangements

- In April, 73% of women reported an increase in their load of household work.

73%

Of women had said their chores or share of household work had increased as a consequence of the measures taken in the context of COVID-19



- By May, Women continued to report an increase in household chores as a result of Covid-19 and current childcare arrangements, but to a lesser extent.
- In April, 84% of children spend their time at home and 97% spend their time indoors. 12.1% of children were left at home under the care of neighbours. Children are reportedly unaware of the seriousness of the pandemic and are happy to spend more time at home with parents.

Learn more

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Impact on residents of informal settlements

Assessment Information

Organization	UN-Habitat
Assessment type	Phone interviews
Demographics	100 respondents living in informal settlements in three different townships in Yangon
Time period	Last week of April 2020

Summary

This assessment based on phone interviews with 100 residents of informal settlements in Yangon shows that households face a multitude of pressing issues including worsening livelihood security, with job losses and fall in incomes reported by the large majority of households, rising household indebtedness, widespread food insecurity, tenuous security of tenure, and an inability to follow preventive actions against COVID-19 despite awareness. On the other hand, a majority of households in informal settlements reported an ease of access to health facilities, high rates of awareness about key COVID-19 prevention actions, and access to information through channels including government notices and announcements and television.

Key Findings

Livelihood security and Household income

- 81% of the households in informal settlements have at least one member who lost their job in the past 30 days.
- Job loss for females were 13.2 % higher than for men (87.7% among female respondents compared to 74.5 % among male respondents).
- 94 % of households reported a fall in income over the past 30 days.
- 90 % of households reported having no alternate sources of income.

Household Debt

- 69 % of households have taken a loan in the past 30 days. 61 % of which took out a loan of value greater than MMK 100,000.
- 88 % of households used the loan taken out in the past 30 days to buy food.

Food Security

- 60 % of households in informal settlements reported receiving food assistance from the government.

- 100 % reported that they are worried that their stock of food will run out before having money to buy more.

Security of Tenure

- 53 % of households reported not feeling secure from eviction. Female respondents reported more eviction-related insecurity (57 %) compared to men (49 %).

Awareness and ability to practice COVID-19 protection measures

- Households reported high awareness of three key actions for the prevention of COVID-19 - handwashing, use of masks and physical distancing.
- However, 62 % of households do not have space for physical distancing
- 1 in 3 households do not have money to buy masks. 23% of households have no money to buy soap/hand sanitizer.

Learn more

Access full assessment [here](#)

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This product is developed by the Office of the Resident Coordinators in Myanmar. You can find all Monthly Digests on our [website](#).

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