MYANMAR: COVID-19, COUP D'ETAT AND POVERTY

Despite significant progress in poverty reduction, which sees poverty rates halved between 2005 and 2017... vulnerabilities have remained as one third of the population in Myanmar were considered as near poor

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**COVID-19 has set the stage for an increase in poverty rate**

- **Impact of COVID-19 on poverty rate in Myanmar (%)**
  - 0% - 40%
  - 20% - 24.8%
  - 45.1% were earning money from family farms
  - 79.4% were earning from farming since March 2020

- **46.5%** average household income loss in the wake of the pandemic

This loss of aggregate household income as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic has further exposed the effect of short-term shocks on pre-existing vulnerabilities

Existing evidence suggests vulnerable households in Myanmar had minimal recourse to coping mechanisms

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**The coup d’etat has further compounded the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, reducing incomes and increasing poverty rates**

- In the worst-case scenario, over half of children in Myanmar would be living in poverty, further exacerbating an already high child poverty
- Urban poverty is expected to increase more than threefold compared to the MLCS 2017 baseline
- Female-headed households will become even more vulnerable due to the combined impacts of COVID-19 and the coup

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**Compounded effect of the coup d'état on poverty rate in Myanmar (%)**

- **24.8** urban poverty
- **30.8** female-headed households
- **36.1** average household

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*The approach and assumptions for the above scenarios are provided in the full report

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The Household Vulnerability Survey (2020) shows that containment measures have been particularly harmful to small-scale, family-owned businesses, further increasing the vulnerability of the households owning them...