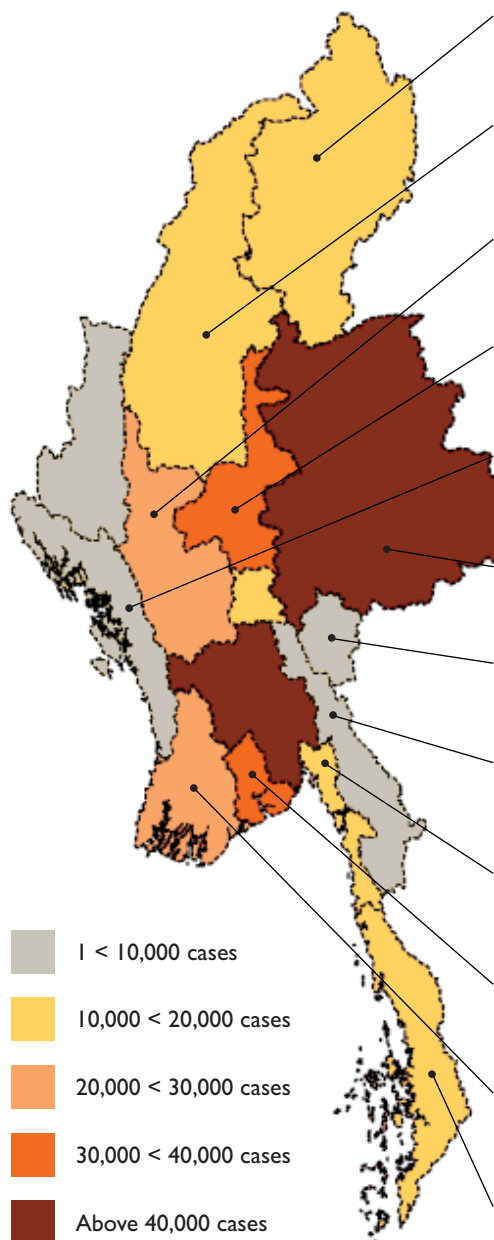


Map of VFM Impact and COVID-19 Confirmed Cases in Wave 3



| Region | Disbursement | Saving Withdrawals | Impacted Women | Impacted Children | Jobs |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------|
| KACHIN | 2,608,600,000 MMK | 197,593,130 MMK | 3,361 | 6,603 | 4,285 |
| SAGAING | 613,050,000 MMK | 46,982,177 MMK | 532 | 618 | 973 |
| MAGWAY | 277,450,000 MMK | 15,409,981 MMK | 346 | 540 | 476 |
| MANDALAY | 1,140,950,000 MMK | 109,795,407 MMK | 1,419 | 1,883 | 2,305 |
| RAKHINE | 1,037,250,000 MMK | 31,216,146 MMK | 1,242 | 1,730 | 1,555 |
| SHAN | 1,341,600,000 MMK | 110,121,989 MMK | 1,450 | 1,934 | 2,412 |
| KAYAH | | 3,386,669 MMK | | | |
| KAYIN | 650,450,000 MMK | 37,502,377 MMK | 445 | 713 | 641 |
| MON | 791,350,000 MMK | 57,059,164 MMK | 764 | 1,121 | 1,040 |
| YANGON | 802,300,000 MMK | 108,009,551 MMK | 622 | 812 | 204 |
| AYEYARWADDY | 1,653,800,000 MMK | 159,943,766 MMK | 1,774 | 2,443 | 2,526 |
| THANINTHARYI | 646,000,000 MMK | 31,728,886 MMK | 590 | 1,117 | 841 |

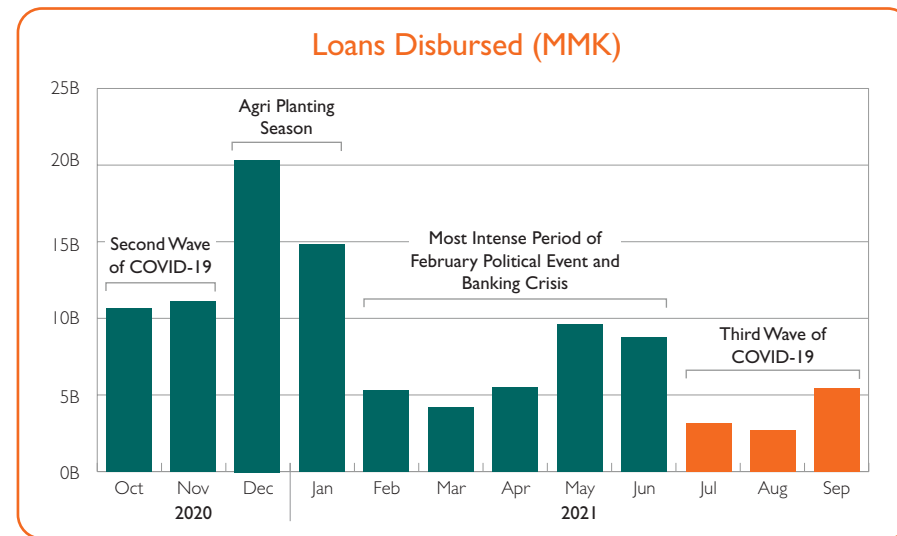
*Reference: [Ministry of Health and Sport](#)

Country Overview

The new surge of COVID-19 and the political crisis refueled the social and economic instabilities across Myanmar in a perfect storm during the third quarter of 2021. The Ministry of Health and Sports reported a cumulative of 464,076 confirmed COVID-19 cases with 17,735 deaths on 30 September. To control the spread of COVID-19, the Government extended Public Holidays from 17th July to 10th September 2021.

Since early July, the number of transmitted cases continued to increase rapidly across the country; with most cases reported in Shan State (47,777) and Bago Region (46,503) followed by Yangon Region (32,131) and Mandalay Region (over 30,003) between July and September. The huge rise of over 300,000 new cases with more than 14,000 deaths was reported during the third wave. The actual number of cases is likely more as home deaths were not included in released statistics and people have limited access to testing, especially in areas such as Chin, Kayin, and Kayah, which have seen the most violence and conflict during the political unrest.

Around 206,000 people have been internally displaced since 1 February according to UNHCR. The dual impacts of the pandemic and the political crisis could lead 25 million people, that is half of the country's population, into poverty by 2022 based on the UNDP report.



Key Figures



11,562,800,000 MMK
Total Disbursement



908,749,243 MMK
Total Saving Withdrawals

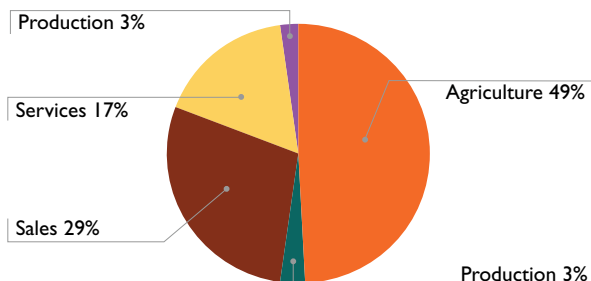


- 407 loans amounting to 259,700,000 MMK to clients in high-risk areas
- 249 loans amounting to 116,050,000 MMK to internally displaced (IDPs) clients
- 411 loans amounting to 332,400,000 MMK to clients with disability

Key Highlights

- VFM disbursed **14,777 loans** totaling **MMK 11.56 billion** between July and September 2021 providing clients with much needed funding to continue their business operations.
- Nearly 50% of loans** disbursed since 1 July were in the **agriculture sector**, highlighting the relative strength of the sector; and also our prioritizing of agri loans to ensure food security of communities.
- All offices were closed for the second half of July at the start of the government mandated public holiday. Active armed-conflict in Kayah state resulted in limited branch operations since May. Other branches started reopening in August, averaging 47 branches fully operational in August, and 53 in September.
- Repayments through mobile money channels have rapidly increased over the past three months, from 3% of all repayments in June, to 26% in August, allowing safer and more convenient payments for clients and staff.
- VFM served **656 clients** who are in **high risk areas and internally displaced** especially in Kachin, Kayah, Kayin and Shan as of September 2021.

Business Types of Loans Disbursed between July and September 2021



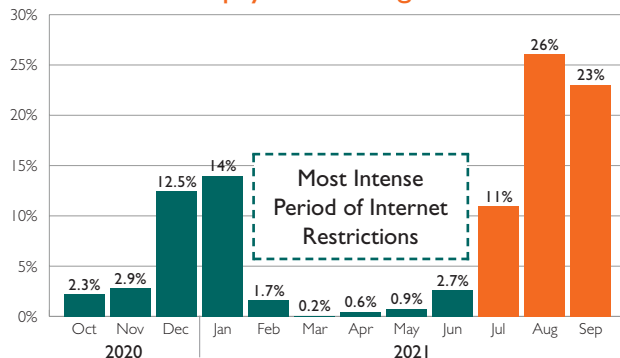
Staff Well-being

VFM continues to regularly reinforce prevention measures with all staff and how best to operate in this environment. Some key initiatives undertaken during WAVE 3:

- Staff rotation programs
- Case management approach for those that are sick
- Weekly health tips and encouragement to staff
- Branch and staff assessments and action planning on gaps identified
- Motivating clients to use Agent Collections and reduce traveling



% of loan repayment via agent or wallet



Client Resilience

Daw Khin Phyu Phyu Thet, a wife and mother of three children, has been partnering with VFM for two years. She runs her own business as a qualified nurse and registered midwife managing pharmacy and health-care services in Hmawbi on the outskirts of Yangon.

In July when the infection rate was very high, Phyu Phyu managed her clinic in line with COVID-19 prevention guidelines to safely help patients both in person and via telemedicine in the case of travel restrictions. As an essential health-care service provider for her community, especially for women and children, she decided to keep running her clinic

and pharmacy in spite of many challenges during this year:

The most challenging issue for health care businesses was running out of medicines and medical supplies. Phyu Phyu was able to mitigate this problem by taking a loan from VFM, which allowed her to stock up on necessary medicines and supplies before market shortages and price increases.

As a result, her clinic and pharmacy continues to service nearly 100 people per day. While some clinics and health-care services shut down due to shortage of supplies, Phyu Phyu was able to continue offering health-care services to her community throughout the height of the pandemic.

