

Political Repercussion
on COVID-19
Elimination in
Myanmar

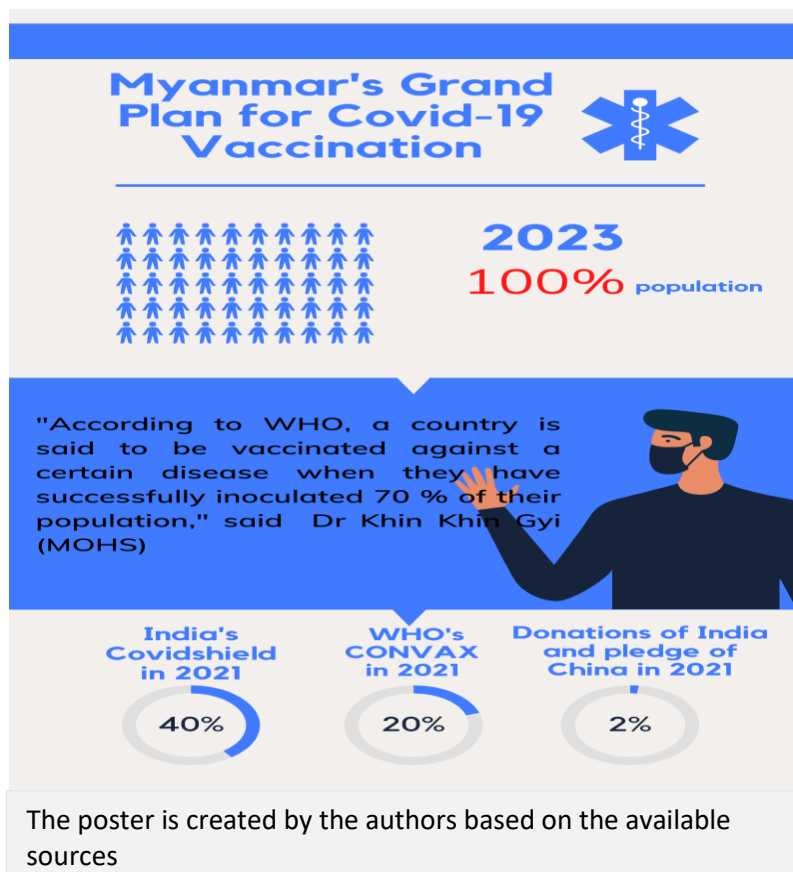
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Political Repercussion on COVID-19 Elimination in Myanmar

The impact of COVID-19 is tremendous, and it led to global economic recession, enormous lives lost, and increasing poverty. In the case of Myanmar, the political juncture is pulling down the country's health and human security and makes to be worse the infectious and death rates currently "COVID-19 Third Wave" within a nation, and disrupts the COVID-19 vaccination program.

COVID-19 Control and Prevention under Former Government

In Myanmar, the first two COVID-19 cases were confirmed on March 20. After that confirmation, the NLD Government led COVID-19 Containment and Emergency Response Committee to establish and take action for "investigation of new cases, implementation of quarantine, and lockdown". According to the official data, there were 187 cases and six deaths on May 18, 2020.



The former NLD government cared for control and prevention of COVID-19 and the people socioeconomic during the outbreak through the collective power of government, Civil Society Organization (CSO), volunteers, donors in and out of the country. Moreover, the government also strongly restricted national and international flights and public gatherings. Because of these controls, the government could control COVID first and second waves as well as possible. The former NLD government also had a plan which is to vaccinate the entire population by 2023.

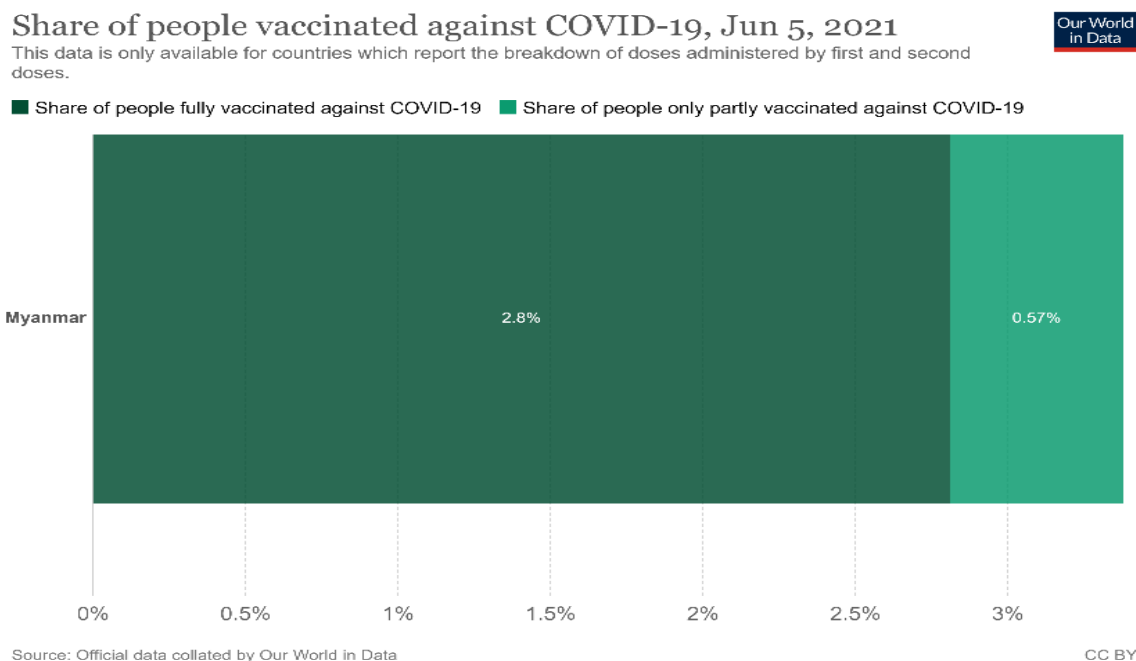
The authority hoped to vaccinate 40% of the people, wherein frontline healthcare workers and the older generation are on the preliminary list. On December 24, 2020, both Myanmar Government and India Government signed to purchase thirty million doses of Oxford

Astrazeneca jab from India's serum institute. And then, gifts from India, 1.5 million vaccines arrived on January 22, 2021, covered 750,000 people with two doses of health workers, frontline volunteers, all parliament representatives, and senior government figures. While the 1.2 million remaining vaccines are scheduled to inoculate in the first week of February 2021, the NLD government was ousted on February 1, 2021 and the country faced the ruling of military dictatorship again.

The Situations of COVID-19 Control and Prevention after Military Coup

Due to the military dictatorship, the formal health care system was weakened by the involvement of doctors in the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM), which is peaceful and non-violent against the Coup d'état. Vaccinations have also been discontinued for some time. Furthermore, when the protests get more prominent, there has been a decline in testing and treatment for the COVID-19 virus. The Ministry of Health and Sports said that another 2 million vaccines had arrived from India on February 10, and the vaccination program would continue.

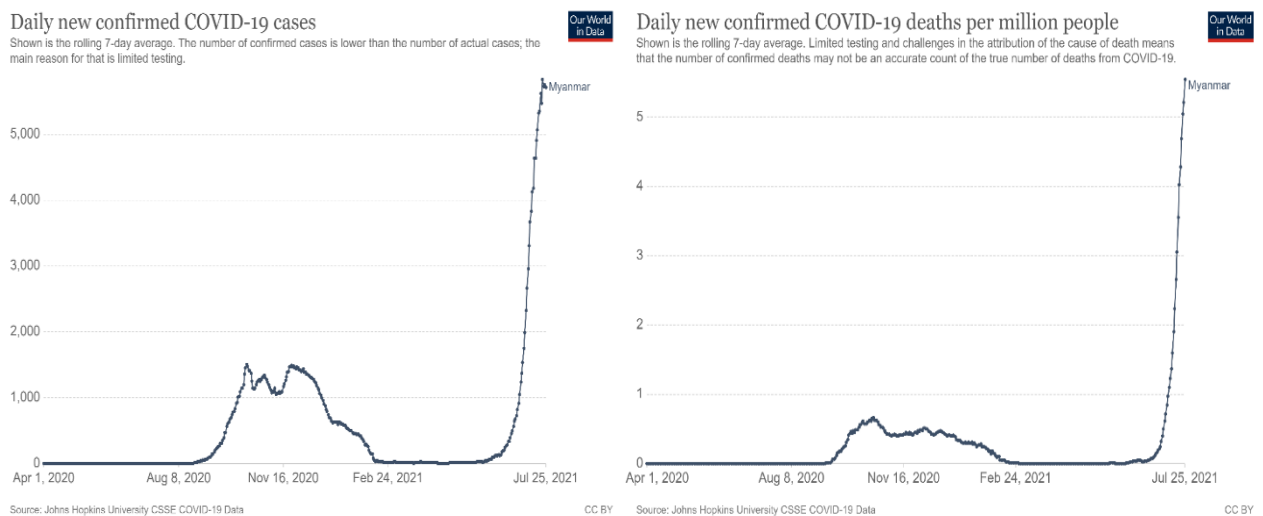
The following figure showed the total percentage of both fully and partly vaccinated against COVID-19 in Myanmar. By looking that picture, the vaccination rate is lower than previously thought.



Although the State Administration Council is processing vaccination across the country, most people do not trust the vaccines and are determined not to inoculate them until democracy

is achieved. In late June, the COVID-19 virus reemerged, and the new COVID-19 virus named the Delta variant, which is 60 % more infections than the Alpha variant spreads. One of the significant challenges is the lack of health workers who participate in the CDM, a peaceful and non-violent movement against the Coup d' etat. While the junta is more focused on power holding than people, they could not control and prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

These figures show the rocketing rate of rising infection and mortality of Covid-19 after the Military Coup.



When we compare the original vaccination plan of NLD, former democratic government (**approximately 62%** vaccinated in 2021) and the actual implementation plan of vaccine management after the Military Coup, the data showed **only 3.38%** already vaccinated in Myanmar. Furthermore, the current situation is that emergency cases threaten national security, and the authorities should deeply consider the benefits of people by practising the standards of human rights. At present, the country is facing failure due to the inability to deal with the massive outbreak of the third wave. Thus, due to the ongoing political unrest in Myanmar and the rapid rise of the third wave of COVID-19, Myanmar's economy, which has been weak since 2020, is now worsening. The country is heading in the right direction as a **failed state**.

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