

Agricultural wages amidst turmoil: Evidence from Myanmar

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1 Motivation

- 25% of the world's population lives in conflict areas¹
- The agriculture sector is vulnerable to conflict
- Agricultural laborers are some of the poorest of poor
- Especially women who face gender-based violence and pay discrimination
- The effect of conflict on labor and wages remains unclear

2 How does conflict affect labor and wages?

- Human capital losses
- Displacement & migration
- Production shocks
- Labor & technology
- Labor reallocation

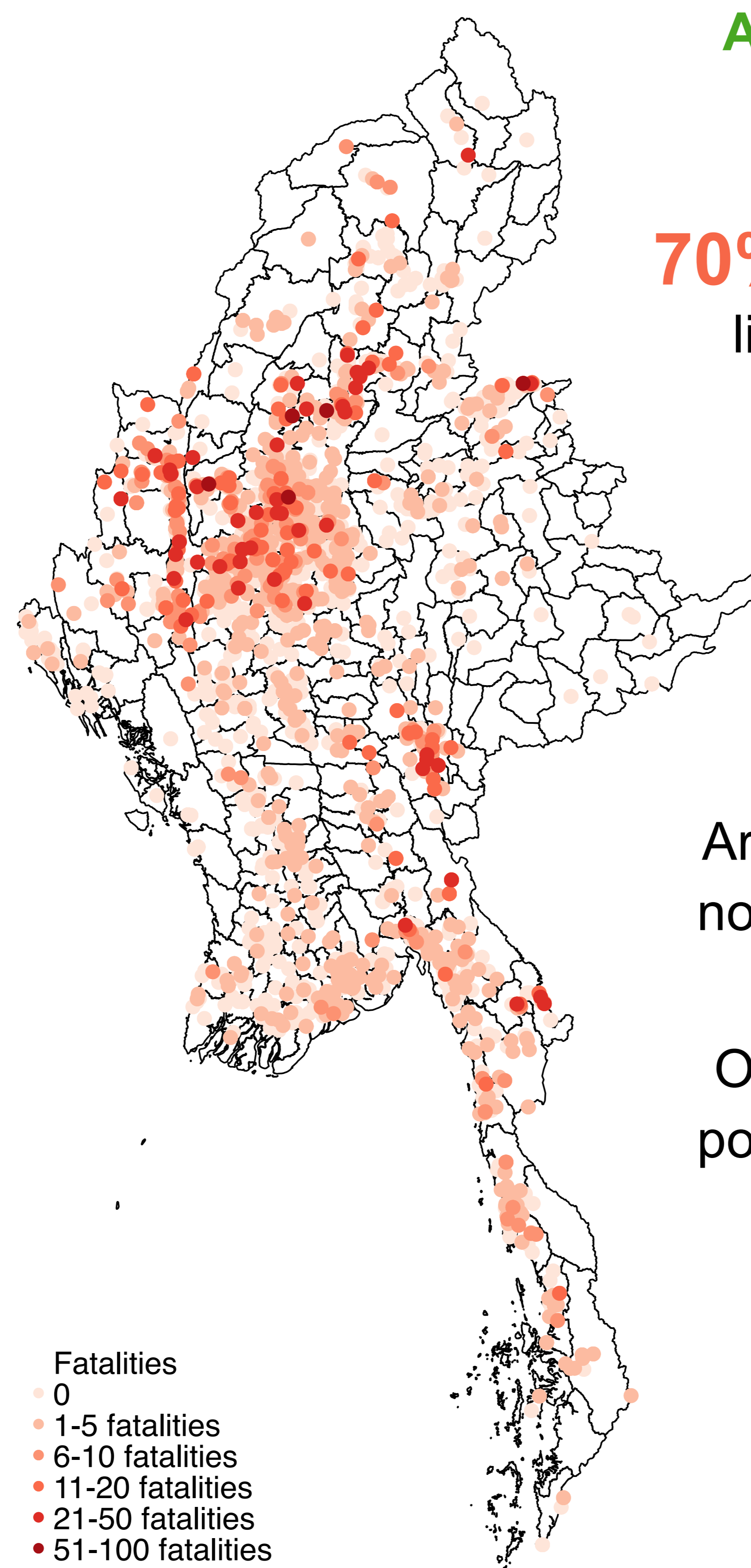


3 Data & method

The Armed Conflict, Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) and Nationally and regionally representative panel phone survey data collected from **6,121** farms in 2021 and 2022
Econometrics approach: fixed-effect method

4 Results

Conflict intensity Aug 2021 - Jan 2022
Wet season 2021

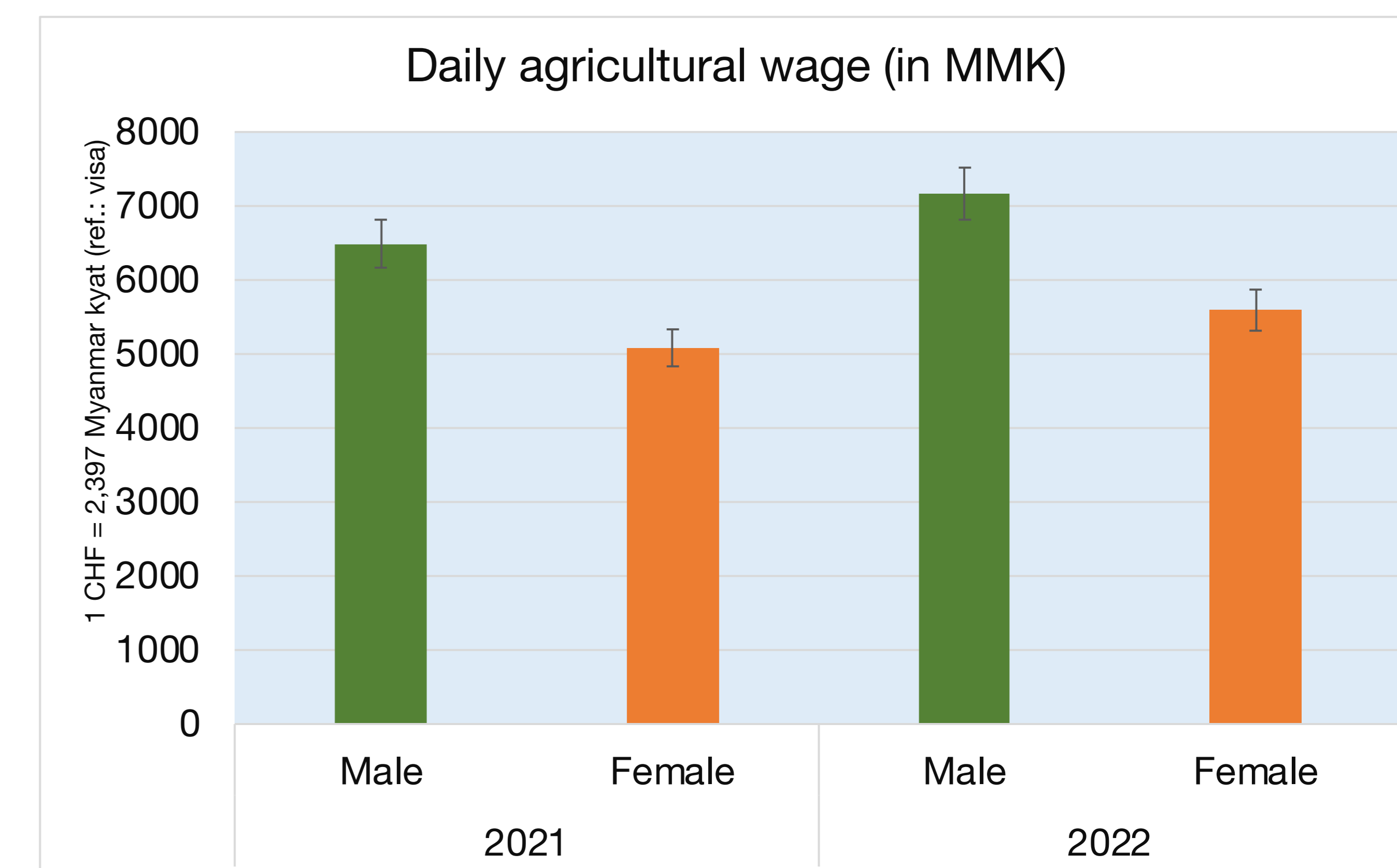


Fatalities
 0
 1-5 fatalities
 6-10 fatalities
 11-20 fatalities
 21-50 fatalities
 51-100 fatalities

Source: Authors calculation based on data from ACLED

Agriculture
33% of GDP
70% of people's livelihoods²
6 million workers³

Conflict
 Around **1,500** non-state armed groups
 Over **14,059** political violence events and more than **28,071** fatalities



5 Conclusion

- Where conflict severity is extreme
- Male wage increased by **9.4%**
 - Female wage increased by **10.5%**
- Female wage in rural area is **8.6%** lower than in urban area



References

- ¹AP. 2022. "UN Chief: 2 Billion People Live in Conflict Areas Today."
²CSO, UNDP, WB. 2019. "Myanmar Living Conditions Survey 2017."
³IFPRI. 2022. "The Precarious Situations of Agricultural Wage Laborers in Myanmar."