Ahlin Yaung: Improving Access to Renewable Energy in Rural Myanmar

UNDESA Seminar on Ensuring Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy for All (SDG 7)
Addis Ababa
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Pact Myanmar
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Pact’s Presence in Myanmar

- Operating in Myanmar since 1997
- National Microfinance portfolio
- Integrated Development portfolio
- Impacting over 5 million citizens in over 11,000 villages
Energy Access in Myanmar

- 32% have access to grid; 15% in rural areas
- 40,000+ villages w/o grid
- Biomass = 70% of primary energy
- 61% earn <$2/day
Sustainable Access to Funds

- 60,000 empowered women with $2.5 M in Village Savings & Loan funds - “WORTH”

- 1,400 Village Development Funds worth $1.3M

Communities’ top development priority – electrification

=> Diesel generators
**Ahlin Yaung: Revolving Capital Fund**

**Target communities:** 100,000 people in Pact villages with functioning VDCs/VDFs in Dry Zone

**Approach:**
- Revolving capital financing for hire-purchase of solar home systems.
- 9-month repayment period
- Households access low-interest financing for 75% of the initial capital.
- To encourage ownership, the remaining 25% is financed through personal savings or loans from the VDF.
RE Results to Date

• Present in **308 villages** across 5 townships
• **99,300** people have improved access to electricity
• **35,600** individuals trained to bring improved RE knowledge to communities
• **200,000** people by 2017
Challenges, Adaptation

- The grid is coming
- Inexpensive, low-quality products
- Market disturbances
- Lack of familiarity with solar energy
- Lack of access to capital
- Policy: government rural electrification policies/programs
Pact’s Comparative Advantages:

- Links to & trust in 1000s of villages
- Understanding consumer needs
- Lasting community management structures = sustainability
- Financial access mechanisms
Energy Access and Influence

**Ahlin Yaung Rural Energy Access Fund**

- **Diversified Energy Access Funds**
- **Revolving Fund Base**

**Direct Pact / Facilitation by Pact**
- Solar Home Systems, charging
- Mini-grid, expansion
- Village entrepreneur products

**Government Engagement**
- Convening, Influence, Advocacy, Research
  - Policy
  - Data

**Sub-Granting and Loans**
- Social entrepreneurs
- Innovation
- Civil Society growth

**Strategic Partnerships**
- Private linkages
- Corps/Social Enterprises/local NGOs

**Corporations, Revolving Fund Income**
- Bilateral Donors
- Social Ventures
- Impact Investing
Powering the future she wants