

LIFT Strategy 2019-2023

Livelihoods and Food Security Fund



LIFT
Strategy
2019-2023



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1 Introduction

As the Livelihoods and Food Security Fund (LIFT) enters its fourth strategy cycle, Myanmar is in the midst of multiple changes that create new opportunities and challenges. Refreshing LIFT's Strategy for 2019-2023 provides the opportunity for LIFT to update its previous strategy, reflecting and building on achievements and lessons, and refining approaches to address Myanmar's emerging priorities.

This strategy document first describes key changes in the Myanmar context and sets out LIFT's strategic intent for the 2019-2023 period, defining LIFT's approach and highlighting the key 'strategic shifts' that define this strategy cycle. The remainder of the document details each of LIFT's four interdependent thematic programmes, providing the rationale for LIFT's specific investments, defining key results and detailing the focus, approach, and intervention strategy.

1.1 LIFT 2009-2018

LIFT is a multi-donor fund established in 2009 with the overall aim of reducing by half the number of people living in poverty. It is driven by the conviction that pooling donor resources enables programme coherence and leads to greater impact. LIFT has received funding from 14 donors to date. Donors contributed more than USD 505 million to LIFT between 2009 and the end of 2018. The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) is contracted as the Fund Manager to administer the funds and provide monitoring and oversight. LIFT is reaching large numbers of rural households (9.4 million people have been reached by LIFT in 74 per cent of the country's townships) and its assistance is making a difference (3.7 million people have improved resilience and 2.2 million people have increased their food security).¹

LIFT's strategy has been updated three times since 2009 to ensure LIFT maximises its impact in a dynamic and changing context. LIFT's first strategy 2009-2012 focused predominantly on humanitarian and rehabilitation work, supporting the recovery of rural households affected by Cyclone Nargis. The second strategy 2012-2014 recognised the progress made towards recovery and emerging opportunities in the country and shifted towards a more development-oriented approach that prioritised increasing food security and incomes through agriculture and non-farm income generating activities. A major strategy revision was undertaken for 2014-2018. This phase took an explicitly development-oriented approach, underpinned by its differentiated livelihood strategies intended to assist rural households to 'step up', 'step out' and 'hang in'. Recognising that progress towards food security did not specifically address significant nutritional deficits, particularly for women and children, LIFT explicitly included a stronger focus on nutrition. LIFT also developed a new stream of work focused on migration as part of its broader 'stepping out' strategy, combined with a shift towards greater private sector engagement through both its financial inclusion and agriculture portfolios. This phase was characterised by a regional approach to programming that aimed to address major contextual variations in development across the country.

The context continues to evolve in Myanmar. As the economic, political, rural development and conflict contexts change so does the operational context for LIFT. LIFT's strategy refresh for 2019-2023 incorporates a greater focus on inclusion and social cohesion, increased support to areas affected by conflict, bringing displaced people into LIFT's development programmes and engaging with the civilian Government at all levels on targeted policies that achieve gains in these areas. The next phase of LIFT has at its heart 'leaving no one behind' in Myanmar's rural transition. Strategies to assist rural households 'step up', 'step out' and

¹ LIFT Household Survey (2015, 2017)



'hang in' remain relevant. Programming around financial inclusion, nutrition, decent work and labour mobility, and agriculture, markets and food systems also remain relevant.

1.2 Context

The dynamics of Myanmar's rural economy continue to change and there remain significant opportunities to reduce poverty, improve people's resilience and improve agriculture productivity. Agriculture is undergoing rapid change with labour moving out of the sector, mechanisation being increasingly adopted and more rural people working off the farm. There is great potential for catch-up growth in agriculture and the rural non-farm economy, boosting agricultural productivity and stimulating markets in order to lift people from poverty, improve their incomes and enhance their resilience to shocks and setbacks.

Myanmar's structural economic transformation continues. As industry and service sectors grow, propelled by recent economic growth, Myanmar is witnessing a rapid expansion in the number of people migrating from rural areas to seek urban employment opportunities. Urbanisation in Myanmar is expected to rapidly mirror the Asia-Pacific regional average of 47 per cent of the population living in urban areas, a dramatic increase from the 30 per cent found in the 2014 population census.² The LIFT-funded CHIME study shows that unemployment and underemployment at home, and the promise of higher wages at destination, are the key factors driving these movements.³ Conflict and lack of social cohesion in some areas also drives migration. Although the shift from a rural to a more urbanised economy is an important contributor to Myanmar's economic development, pursuing these job opportunities often entails significant risk for rural households. Many itinerant workers experience poor labour market outcomes, including the possibility of exploitation and abuse. Migrants in peri-urban areas are also vulnerable to poverty and malnutrition, with over-indebtedness a common contributing factor.⁴

Environment and climate change. Myanmar is characterised by diverse agro-ecological zones. Climate change, changing weather patterns, and the emergence of new diseases and pests challenge traditional agricultural practices and contribute to a loss of biodiversity. Large-scale deforestation has accelerated in recent decades. Myanmar is one of the world's most disaster-prone countries exposed to multiple hazards, including floods, cyclones, earthquakes, landslides, and droughts. Myanmar ranks second out of 187 countries in the 2016 Global Climate Risk Index and ninth out of 191 countries in the INFORM Index for Risk Management. The effects of disasters on Myanmar's population vary. Farmers and communities that depend on water for their livelihoods suffer the most from floods and droughts. This is particularly true for women, who often have less access to adaptation measures. The most acute vulnerabilities are associated with gender inequality and social inequity. Solutions must address the threats experienced by the poor residing in hazard-prone and informal settlements. The government's and public's disaster planning and disaster response requires further development.

Economic growth strengthens but poverty rates remain high. Emerging from decades of economic stagnation, Myanmar has enjoyed a period of high growth and is one of the fastest growing economies in

² Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, 2016, The 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census: Thematic Report on Population Dynamics. Nay Pyi Taw.

³ IOM and University of Sussex, 2018, Capitalising on Human Mobility for Poverty Alleviation and Inclusive Development in Myanmar. Yangon.

⁴ Save the Children, 2016, Lives on Loan: Extreme Poverty in Yangon. Yangon



Southeast Asia⁵. Myanmar's abundant natural resources, strategic geographical location and young population provide the basis for the transformation of the economy. Economic growth is forecast to slow to 6+ per cent in 2019, still robust by regional and global standards⁶. Main downside risks are a slowdown in China, the potential loss of preferential market access to the EU, persistent twin deficits and continuing violence in Rakhine state.

Myanmar has the opportunity to embed sustainability into its development process and avoid the pitfalls its neighbours have endured. According to the most recent estimates of the World Bank,⁷ 32 per cent of people live below the poverty line and rural areas account for 85 per cent of all poverty cases in Myanmar. Thirty per cent of the population live within 50 per cent of the poverty line and 14 per cent are 'near poor'. People clustered around the poverty line are highly vulnerable to unanticipated shocks that can push them below the poverty line. Poverty in Myanmar's rural areas is substantially higher than that in its urban areas: 38.8 per cent of the rural population are estimated to be poor compared to 14.5 per cent of those in its towns and cities. Rural populations are characterised by high levels of vulnerability. Female-headed households, landless households, households with persons with disabilities, and households in fishing communities are among the most vulnerable. Vulnerability is also high among increasing numbers of people internally displaced by conflict and people who migrate to cities and live in peri-urban informal settlements and slums. Poverty remains geographically spread: in the coastal and mountainous areas, four in ten of the population are poor and one in six struggle to meet their basic food needs. Sixty-five per cent of the poor live in the Dry Zone and Delta.⁸

Inequality is evident. There is considerable inequality in access to natural resources, opportunities and social services across the country and among different social groups. The obstacles to inclusive growth are technical, political, institutional, and in some border and mountainous areas, also physical. The main technical constraints include access to finance, land, infrastructure, macroeconomic stability, skills, weak regulation and competition. The political and institutional factors that need to be addressed for inclusive growth relate to conflicts, the slowing pace of reforms, low capacity and accountability of the public sector, and the elite's domination of key economic sectors, services and assets.⁹ If economic growth is not adequately inclusive and if efforts to address existing inequality in living standards between genders, ethnicities and regions fail, the entire reform process could flounder.¹⁰

More than half of Myanmar's workforce is employed in agriculture and generating 29 per cent of gross domestic product. Agriculture remains commercially oriented; despite small average farm sizes, most farmers produce primarily for markets. However, profitability and productivity of most major crops is low with average yields at about half of their potential. This is further exacerbated by post-harvest losses that are often greater than 40 per cent in certain commodities (e.g. mangoes as high as 50 per cent). While non-farm businesses now account for a significant share of rural incomes and employment (approximately 20 per cent across survey locations), most of these businesses are self-operated micro-enterprises and thus

⁵ Asian Development Bank 2017. Asian Development Bank outlook 2017. Transcending the middle-income challenge. Mandaluyong City, Philippines.

⁶ E.g. World Bank's Myanmar Economic Monitor; Myanmar Economic Outlook, FOCUS, Feb 19, 2019.

⁷ An Analysis of Poverty in Myanmar, World Bank, December 2017. Nay Pyi Taw.

⁸ Myanmar Poverty Assessment 2017:Part two, WBG

⁹ Myanmar Inclusive Growth Diagnostic DFID November 2015

¹⁰ Pursch, S.J., Woodhouse, A.F., Woolcock, M., Zurstrassen, M.P. 2017. Documenting Myanmar's social transformation: Insights from six rounds of research on livelihoods and social change in rural communities. Policy Research working paper; no. WPS 8055. Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/942201494420176178/Documenting-Myanmars-social-transformation-insights-from-six-rounds-of-research-on-livelihoods-and-social-change-in-rural-communities>



hire no labour.¹¹ Agriculture is undergoing rapid change with labour moving out of the sector. Surveys in key agricultural producing areas suggest that 40 per cent of households have members working off the farm.¹² This, in part, is driving mechanisation across the country – 97 per cent of households in recent surveys are using agricultural machinery instead of draft animals compared to 36 per cent in 2006.¹³ This is freeing up labour and improving productivity. However, the potential to further improve productivity in agriculture and increase profitability for farmers is substantial.

Secure land tenure and rights over other natural resources such as water, forest and biodiversity, are key to ensuring future investments and growth of the agricultural sector and of rural areas more generally. Yet the challenges facing the nation in managing the complexities associated with land administration reform in a context of overlapping land right claims, unclear administrative guidelines, large-scale concessions and largely informal and customary rights are immense and require consultation, dialogue and compromise. The Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land Law and recent amendments have brought land reform, rights, tenure and administration to the forefront of public debate and policy discussions.

Malnutrition rates are high. One child in three below the age of five in Myanmar is stunted – below the average height for age. This is mainly due to inadequate diets of children and pregnant and breastfeeding women, micronutrient deficiencies, and repeated infections in the first 1,000 days of life. Stunting has long-term effects on a child’s development and economic potential. In parts of the country affected by conflict, stunting rates are considerably higher than the national average. In Kachin State, 36 per cent of children under the age of five are stunted, considered high by the World Health Organisation. In northern Shan State, the prevalence of stunting is 47.6 per cent, classified as an emergency. Given that the drivers of malnutrition are localised, context-specific strategies are required to address the prevailing barriers and opportunities for improved nutritional outcomes.

Myanmar is a country on the move and the pace of migration is expected to increase rapidly. Myanmar’s population is highly mobile, with over 9.39 million internal migrants¹⁴ and an estimated 4.25 million international migrants.¹⁵ Added together, this represents a quarter of Myanmar’s population. One in every four people in Myanmar is a migrant, while the global average is one in every seven.¹⁶ Both supply and demand factors continue to fuel the expansion of internal and international migration for employment. Myanmar has a relatively young population. People in the working-age group account for 65 per cent of the population.¹⁷ On the demand side, labour shortages in urban areas, industrial zones and destination countries continue to grow. The garment industry alone is projected to expand from 700,000 to 1.5 million workers by 2020. In Thailand, by far the largest destination country for Myanmar migrants, modelling of labour market supply and demand has predicted a shortfall of some 4.7 million workers during the same period due to a rapidly ageing population.¹⁸

¹¹ Data is drawn from surveys and field work conducted by the Food Security Policy Project (FSP) in Mon State, the Delta, the Central Dry Zone, and Shan Highlands since late 2014.

¹² Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, 2015

¹³ Michigan State University, 2016.

¹⁴ Myanmar Census 2014

¹⁵ Census Thematic Report on Migration and Urbanisation, 2016

¹⁶ UN DESA, 2013

¹⁷ Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, 2015, Myanmar labour force, child labour and school to work transition survey 2015. Nay Pyi Taw.

¹⁸ Maung, T. K., “Textile and Garment Industry of Importance for Socio-Economic Development”. *Global New Light of Myanmar*, 7 January 2018; Harkins, B. *Thailand Migration Report 2019*, Bangkok, 2019.



Migrants are vulnerable to poor health and nutritional outcomes in growing peri-urban slums. It is estimated that nearly half a million people are living in informal settlements and urban slums with poor sanitation facilities, high water contamination, risk of flooding, poor quality drinking water, and no access to health services – significant risk factors for undernutrition and high rates of wasting. The prevalence of wasting in Yangon is almost twice the national figure with 12.9 per cent of children under 5 years acutely malnourished. Urban and peri-urban settings carry a high burden of acute malnutrition with risk factors for a worsening situation. As a result of climate change, peri-urban areas are also increasingly vulnerable to natural disasters, further contributing to the precariousness of livelihoods and living conditions in these townships.

Large scale displacement continues across the country due to conflict. Political grievances related to ethnic self-determination, representation and equality, war-related security and development grievances, as well as the mistrust and resentment fuelled by failed peace initiatives continue, with around 118 of 330 townships in Myanmar affected by long-term sub-national conflict. Continued tensions over political structures and the role of the military in national and local governance have stalled democratisation processes and undermined peace negotiations. Conflicts over access to natural resources including land and forests, as well as fishing and mineral rights are significant in many areas, and are exacerbated by environmental degradation. Large scale illegal production of opium and heroin, as well as other illegal amphetamine-type stimulants, has adversely affected socio-economic development in many of the same areas, despite the potential. Protracted conflicts have impeded economic development and caused large-scale displacement of affected populations. As of December 2018, there were more than 97,000 internally displaced people in 140 camps or camp-like settings in Kachin and over 8,800 displaced in 32 camps or camp-like settings in northern Shan State.

Violence and conflict in Rakhine have displaced large numbers of people and resulted in a state-wide and cross-border humanitarian, development and human rights crisis¹⁹. Rakhine is one of the least, if not the least, developed areas of Myanmar with a diverse ethnic and religious population – the human rights, development and security crises affect all communities. An estimated 596,000 stateless Rohingya²⁰ remain in Rakhine State following armed attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) and subsequent security operations led by the Myanmar Military that resulted in the exodus of refugees, mostly stateless Rohingya, to Bangladesh in 2016-18 (over 90,000 between October 2016 and August 2017, and over 700,000 more since August 2017). The violence in 2016 and 2017 also led to the temporary internal displacement of about 25,000 Rakhine Buddhists and people from ethnic minority groups, with these people subsequently returned or resettled by the Government. Approximately 128,000 Muslims (of whom about 126,000 are stateless Rohingya) remain in camps or camp-like settings in central Rakhine as a result of the violence in 2012, segregated, facing severe restrictions on their movement and with limited access to livelihoods and essential services. 2019 has seen escalating violence in northern and central Rakhine State and Chin State as the Myanmar Military and the Arakan Army engage in heavy fighting, leading to displacement of thousands of civilians. Access for humanitarian and development agencies and the implementation of programmes is set to become increasingly constrained and difficult.

Unmet demand for financial services remains. Myanmar is still opening to the global economy and in recent years has experienced significant growth in investment and trade. There is still a pressing need for

¹⁹ Sourced from Myanmar: 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview, United Nations and Partners, Humanitarian Country Team, Dec 2018.

²⁰ The term Rohingya Muslim is used in this document in recognition of the right of people to self-identify. Since there are Rohingya and non-Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine, in some cases the more general term Muslims is used.



foreign direct investment. The lack of an efficient regulatory system and effective laws has continued to perpetuate a widespread informal system and political instability. The ongoing Rakhine crisis is also creating serious concerns for foreign investors. The cumulative equity base for the microfinance sector increased from USD 83 million in 2016 to USD 159 million in 2017, demonstrating potential for investors to fund Myanmar microfinance institutions (MFIs). Although credit sources are diversifying, there remains a large unmet demand for financial services, particularly in remote and conflict-affected areas. Access to MFI financial services in the upland and ethnic areas is estimated by LIFT at 10 per cent of all households, compared to 36 per cent in other areas of Myanmar. MFI practitioners worldwide estimate maximum saturation at 50 per cent. Further, MFIs operating in the upland and ethnic areas have a financial ratio of total loans outstanding to total assets of greater than 0.9 (the efficient standard is 0.8) - this indicates there is significant loan-size and loan-quantity rationing and unmet demand for financial services in these areas.

Space for civil actors on governance issues remains highly restricted and a political culture of public participation and consultation remains a distant prospect at all levels. An increasing trend of arrests and detentions runs counter to post-junta expectations of greater freedom of expression, assembly and organisation as the National League for Democracy Government begins its fourth year in office. The tools of social organisation and voice are, as elsewhere, increasingly adopted by more introverted and nationalistic movements and where the role of the military is challenged in public spaces or in the media, official sanctions have been uncompromising and harsh. At the same time, a surge in access to social media and the re-engagement of regional and international advocacy groups now provide a wealth of alternative information and analysis. In some states and regions new space is being claimed by civil society and there is evidence of youth movements growing in confidence in their own role in their country's development.

Gender equality and women's empowerment. Myanmar has made progress on women's rights and gender equality in recent years, yet women and girls remain often deprived of their rights and under-represented in all governance sectors. Disadvantages and discriminations are mostly created and perpetuated by patriarchal power relations found in laws, norms and practices at institutional and societal levels, as well as in unequal gender roles, the distribution of resources and obligations at the family and individual levels. Poverty line estimates in 2015 and 2017 show a substantially larger proportion of female-headed households were living below the poverty line. Only 11 per cent of the female-headed households reported an increase in assets compared to 14 per cent of male-headed households, and 19 per cent of female-headed households increased their resilience compared to 24 per cent of male-headed households.²¹ Many women in male-headed households are also poor because they are powerless and suffer serious deprivation in all areas of capability. In fact, some of the poorest women may live in male-headed households and even in male-headed non-poor households, particularly if they are elderly, disabled, or victims of gender-based violence.²² Women's work is undervalued, with the jobs available to them paying lower wages and affording fewer labour protections. Women in remote, poor communities have less access to information about good nutrition practices, impacting on their health and the health of their children. In agriculture, women need greater control and decision-making power over resources to benefit from developing opportunities in the sector.

Gender-based violence (GBV) which includes sexual violence, intimate partner violence, forced marriage, early marriage, and exploitation is widespread in Myanmar and exacerbated in conflict-affected areas. The

²¹ LIFT Annual Report 2017

²² Asian Development Bank, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Population Fund, and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, 2016, Gender Equality and Women's Right in Myanmar - A Situation Analysis



stigma and associated silence around GBV issues in many communities hinder awareness, understanding, protection, prevention and response. In conflict-affected areas, GBV has been exacerbated by violence and conflict and is linked directly to the presence of armed actors, increased militarisation as well as the breakdown of community protection mechanisms.

Discriminatory attitudes and social norms restrict women’s employment opportunities. There is currently limited awareness of the problem that the gendered division of labour poses for women’s empowerment in Myanmar. Women’s participation in the labour force is low compared to men (52 per cent vs 80 per cent)²³ and women are concentrated in low productivity and low wage jobs, largely due to discriminatory social norms that limit their options. For example, women are disproportionately responsible for performing unpaid work within their households. They are also assumed to have “nimble fingers”, making them more effective as workers in detailed manual labour jobs. In addition, some employers consider women to be more obedient and easier to control than men in factory settings.²⁴ However, there is nothing biologically inherent that makes women or men better able to do specific types of work and application of gendered stereotypes can limit job opportunities and have a negative impact on working conditions for women.

Political outlook.²⁵ The democratically elected government has widened the space for more inclusive policymaking in some areas. The government’s Agriculture Development Strategy and Implementation Plan launched in 2018, for example, provided an opportunity to engage with government on improving agriculture productivity. Similarly, the Multi-Sectoral National Plan of Action on Nutrition, also launched in 2018, to reduce all forms of malnutrition in mothers, children and adolescent girls provided an avenue for engagement with government, and across government, on contributing to healthier and more productive lives and to the economic and social aspirations of the country. Hierarchical decision-making processes, however, and mistrust between the National League for Democracy government and the civil service due to the military background and loyalties of many bureaucrats, threaten to hamper progress. Continued military control of key ministries, weak political representation and uneven administrative capacity continues to undermine the democratisation process in Myanmar. Strategic engagement with the government and the public administration is required to support long-term change that is inclusive, promotes social cohesion and leaves no one behind.

²³ Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, 2015, Myanmar labour force, child labour and school to work transition survey 2015. Nay Pyi Taw.

²⁴ Oishi, N. (2005). *Women in Motion: Globalization, State Policies, and Labor Migration in Asia*. Stanford University Press.

²⁵ Adapted/summarised from: Stokke, K., Vakulchuk, R, and Overland, I. (2018). *Myanmar: A Political Economy Analysis*. Oslo, Norway: Norwegian Institute of International Affairs

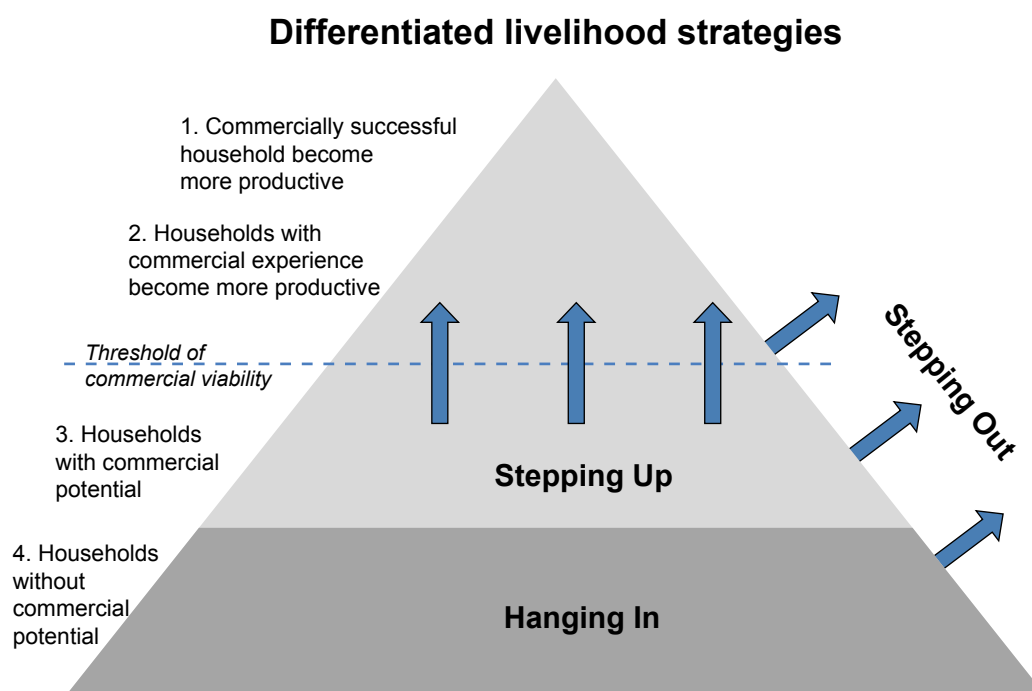
2 Strategic intent 2019 to 2023

2.1 Building on the previous strategy

A centrepiece of LIFT’s 2014-2018 strategy were the differentiated livelihood strategies designed to help people ‘Step up’, ‘Step Out’ or ‘Hang In’. LIFT continues to support a diversity of livelihood strategies with labour mobility a key part of a livelihoods systems that allows people to adapt well to constraints in agriculture and opportunities in other sectors. In 2019-2023, as in 2014-2018, LIFT will support:

- i. Rural households with land, labour and/or commercial potential to **‘step up’** the value ladder and out of poverty through increases in labour and land productivity as well as through enhanced capacity to market production.
- ii. Rural households or household members to productively **‘step out’** of agriculture and into more productive sectors of the economy over time. This could be a local **‘step out’**, finding better-paid employment in local non-farm activities. It can also be a ‘migration step out’ to take advantage of opportunities further afield.
- iii. Households without commercial potential or the ability to ‘step out’, **‘hang in’**, using agriculture and social protection as a safety net and improve their food security and nutrition outcomes during Myanmar’s period of economic transition.

The above strategies are not mutually exclusive and households – or some household members – may pursue more than one strategy simultaneously or different strategies over time. For example, local non-farm employment is often an important source of financing for ‘step up’ investment strategies.





2.2 Strategic shifts and LIFT's strategy

The 2019-2023 phase will be marked by a series of strategic shifts that intensify LIFT's focus on inclusion of the most vulnerable:

- ❖ LIFT will focus further on **inclusion and social cohesion** in the next five years, with a strengthened emphasis on women, and those vulnerable to trafficking. LIFT will continue to engage in social protection with government and at village level to ensure people with disabilities, children and older people benefit from LIFT interventions.
- ❖ LIFT's new strategy will intensify its focus on **gender equality and women's empowerment**, by mainstreaming gender into its results framework and core programming, implementing gender budgeting, and strengthening human resources and competencies for gender-responsive programming and policy support.²⁶
- ❖ LIFT will have an increased geographical focus on the **ethnic/border states and conflict-affected areas** in order to support more sustainable and robust approaches to poverty and hunger reduction for communities in protracted crises and marginal areas. LIFT will ensure that, where relevant, a conflict-sensitive approach is implemented across its portfolio and will address conflict issues at a strategic level, integrating conflict sensitivity into its programme approaches, calls for proposals, monitoring and evaluation, and other upstream processes.²⁷
- ❖ LIFT will work to bring **internally displaced persons and returnees** into its development programmes by supporting the humanitarian development transition, contributing to improved nutritional outcomes, helping displaced people secure jobs and income, preventing exploitation, providing protection services to victims of trafficking and building cohesion with host communities.
- ❖ In response to the rapid movement of people out of rural areas, LIFT will increasingly seek to programme in underserved **urban and peri-urban areas** where malnutrition and poor working conditions – particularly for women – present a major challenge.
- ❖ To support the **adoption and implementation of policies and reforms** for the delivery of more and better public services, LIFT will work with government at different levels on targeted policies and policy reforms to contribute directly to poverty reduction, inclusion and peace, government accountability, and to give more voice and control to oppressed minorities.

2.3 Goals and results

LIFT will retain its main focus on strengthening the resilience of the people of Myanmar through its work on livelihoods, food security and nutrition.

LIFT's goal is to contribute to Myanmar's broader efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 11.²⁸

²⁶ Refer to LIFT's Gender Strategy for more information <https://www.lift-fund.org/lift-gender-strategy-0>

²⁷ Refer to LIFT's Conflict Strategy. Also LIFT's Conflict Sensitive Principles <https://www.lift-fund.org/lift-conflict-sensitive-principles>

²⁸ Especially SDGs 1: End poverty; 2: End hunger; 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being; 5: Achieve gender equality; 6: Ensure clean water and sanitation; 8: Promote economic growth and decent work; 10: Reduce inequality; and, 11: Make ... human settlements ... resilient and sustainable.



LIFT's purpose is to strengthen the resilience and sustainable livelihoods of poor and vulnerable groups in Myanmar, particularly women, internally displaced people, migrants, smallholder farmers, landless people, people with disabilities and those vulnerable to trafficking and forced labour.

LIFT's contribution to its goal and purpose will be measured through three impact-level outcomes:

- **Improved nutrition status, particularly of women and children**
- **Increased household income and assets, with greater control by women**
- **Reduced vulnerability of households and individuals to shocks, stresses and risks**

2.4 LIFT's approach

LIFT's approach is underpinned by its three-tiered strategy that aims to support people to 'Step Up', 'Step Out' and/or 'Hang In'.

LIFT will work toward the achievement of these outcomes through innovation, piloting and the generation of evidence-based interventions organised into four thematic areas that respond to the strategic shifts. Programmes will sharpen LIFT's focus while building on its experience, core competencies and strategic advantage.

The four thematic areas are:

- Nutrition
- Financial inclusion
- Agriculture, markets and food systems
- Decent work and labour mobility

Each thematic area aims to contribute to changes at the policy, system and household/individual levels:

- **Policy** includes policies, laws, regulations, advocacy, parliamentarians, and advisory support.
- **Systems** includes organisations, institutions, value chains, networks, government departments, community-based organisations (CBO), businesses, small and medium enterprises and front-line service providers.
- **Household and individual** includes men, women, smallholder farmers, the landless, internally displaced people, people with disabilities, migrants and those living in conflict-affected areas.

Myanmar's development hinges on a vibrant collaboration between civil society, the government and the private sector. To contribute to its goal, LIFT will work closely with these stakeholders wherever there are appropriate opportunities to strengthen the development process.

- **Civil society:** LIFT will support a variety of modalities for supporting and strengthening civil society, including thematic partnerships (to garner civil society contribution to LIFT's four thematic areas); strategic partnerships (with established organisations demonstrating commitment to strengthening civil society beyond their own organisation, with a good track record in livelihoods and mutually shared long-term goals with LIFT); small grants funds (to support township-level CSOs working to strengthen livelihoods systems); and learning and networking (to support the exchange of knowledge and ideas).
- **Government:** LIFT will support engagement with the government at multiple levels, from the national level to the townships. The emphasis of this engagement will be on leveraging new opportunities and supporting the formulation and implementation of gender-responsive and



inclusive policies linked to LIFT's four thematic programmes. LIFT will contribute to formal policy processes and increase interactions with parliamentarians and state/regional level governments.

- **Private sector:** LIFT recognises that the private sector is fundamental to achieving inclusive development in Myanmar. LIFT's approach to engagement with the private sector will be consistent with the following principles: independence, impartiality and transparency; development and economic rationale; minimising market distortions; contribution to systemic change; support to ethical business practices (social responsibility and environmental impact); brings clear value to LIFT's target groups; provides sustainable benefits; demonstrates additionality; provides good value for money for LIFT, and supports a proven business model.
- **Ethnic Armed Organisations (EAO):** EAOs are key stakeholders in Myanmar's development. LIFT will engage with EAOs, particularly in the conflict-affected areas and in the areas they control, to facilitate co-operation on interventions and support interaction between government and non-government entities for the delivery of services to the most vulnerable communities. The programme will ensure that the engagement does not disrupt organisations' responsibilities but rather sets a good example in dealing with power holders to support livelihood development.

For a visual representation of LIFT's approach, see the strategy diagram in appendix (page 38).

2.5 Knowledge management and monitoring and evaluation

Central to the new strategy is the commitment to monitoring and evaluation for accountability and learning (MEAL) at all levels within LIFT, from the Fund Management Office (FMO) through to the implementing partners (IPs). LIFT has accumulated a significant body of knowledge from surveys and studies, forming a credible basis that enables it to become a knowledge resource for the development sector. However, further investments in capacity, research partnerships and infrastructure are needed. In particular, LIFT will strengthen IPs' capacity to generate robust evidence that can be utilised inside LIFT and at the national and global level. LIFT will work closely with key government departments and national and international research institutions on studies and learning initiatives. This will enable more sophisticated and systematic generation, use, and dissemination of LIFT's learning to guide its own programming, to enhance the evidence base for the sector, and to inform government in policy formulation. Opportunities to bring in experience and evidence from the region and further afield to inform programmes and policy dialogue will also be pursued.

Key principles for LIFT's knowledge management and M&E in the strategy will include:

- A more intensive outcome- and learning-oriented approach to MEAL at programme and implementing partner levels;
- A stronger and more explicit thematic learning agenda tied to the four thematic programmes;
- Improved tracking of contributions to policy development and its links with programmes;
- A more strategic and systematic approach to knowledge management to contribute to LIFT's effectiveness and Myanmar's development.

In line with the refreshed strategy and revised logframe for 2019-2023, the LIFT Fund Management Office will refresh its MEAL framework, including updating current indicator reference sheets and drafting new ones, revising current data collection and management systems and developing new ones, (re)training implementing partners and acquiring additional MEAL resources as needed.



3 LIFT's programmes

3.1 Nutrition programme

3.1.1 Rationale

In Myanmar, one in three children below five years of age is stunted, or chronically malnourished. Rates are highest in remote and conflict-affected areas with the highest prevalence in Chin, Rakhine and Kayah States.

When addressed at scale, good nutrition can transform economies. Experts assess that stunting costs Myanmar somewhere between USD 2 billion and USD 6 billion every year due to lost opportunities and high health costs. Investing in nutrition is one of the best development interventions that can be made; for every dollar spent on nutrition in the first 1,000 days of a child's life, an average of USD 45, and in some cases as much as USD 166, is saved by eliminating the need for future development interventions.²⁹
Economic development demands investment in nutrition.

The first 1,000 days from conception to a child's second birthday is a window of opportunity to ensure the good nutrition necessary for optimal growth, development and health throughout the life cycle. Inadequate diet, micronutrient deficiencies, and repeated infections in the first 1,000 days, along with poor maternal nutrition and low birthweight, are major causes of stunting.

Good nutrition is transformational at the individual level and children who get the right nutrition in the first 1,000 days complete more grades of school, earn up to 21 per cent more as adults and are 10 times less likely to die of childhood diseases. Poor nutrition is linked to 45 per cent of child deaths.³⁰

Wasting, or acute malnutrition, is a result of immediate food insecurity, morbidity or underlying infection and affects 7 per cent of pre-school children. Wasting can coexist with stunting in the same child and share many of the same risk factors. A child who is both wasted and stunted is 12.3 times more likely to die than a child who is not and is more susceptible to development delays and illness.

Undernutrition, particularly acute malnutrition, is a clustered phenomenon and can be found in all states and regions, although **Rakhine, Tanintharyi and Yangon have the highest prevalence. Urban and peri-urban populations are also particularly vulnerable**; according to the limited available data in Yangon approximately 180,000 children aged under the age of five are identified each year as needing treatment for acute malnutrition.

3.1.2 LIFT's work to date

Since 2014, LIFT has established itself as a leader, coordinator and catalyst for nutrition in Myanmar. **LIFT was instrumental in the State Counsellor, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's, commitment to leadership on nutrition and the actions that resulted from it, including the establishment of the Nutrition Sector Coordination Group**, led by the Ministry of Health and Sports. LIFT has also been active in the development of key nutrition-related policies including the **Myanmar Multi-Sectoral National Plan of Action for**

²⁹ Post 2015 Consensus: Food Security and Nutrition, Horton and Hodinott

³⁰ 2015 Global Nutrition Report



Nutrition (MS-NPAN)³¹, the Agriculture Development Strategy, the Rice Fortification Policy, the Social Protection Policy and contributing to the **Nutrition Social Behaviour Change Communication Strategy**. These collectively provide the platform within which to collaborate with government and non-government stakeholders for nutrition investments.

To date, **LIFT has reached over 43,000 mothers with maternal child cash transfers (MCCT) linked to social and behaviour change communication (SBCC)** in the Delta, Dry Zone and Rakhine. The investments supported rigorous studies, including randomised controlled trials to establish programme impact on nutrition outcomes.

LIFT works across government departments, including the Department of Social Welfare and the National Nutrition Centre, Health and Literacy Promotion Unit, in support of the government-led MCCT programme in Chin State.

Global evidence demonstrates that a cash transfer combined with social and behaviour change approaches (SBC) can have a significant impact on stunting, which is why LIFT emphasises the inclusion of SBCC interventions to achieve the change needed in nutrition practices and outcomes. LIFT has invested in the use of technology to engage with mothers through mass media and mobile platforms for both the delivery of the cash transfer and the provision of nutrition information and support.

LIFT promotes nutrition-sensitive programming, investing in and building the capacity of local and international organisations to design, implement and measure livelihood interventions that have a positive impact on nutrition outcomes.

LIFT's leadership in building rice fortification production capacity has led to major policy developments and to the inclusion of fortified rice in social welfare facilities, and as part of food distribution to internally displaced people.

“Social and behavior change (SBC) is an approach to programming that applies insight about why people behave the way they do, and how behaviors change within wider social and economic systems, to affect positive outcomes for and by specific groups of people (SPRING 2017). Nutrition SBC aims for social and individual behavior changes that improve nutrition outcomes for priority groups.

Nutrition social and behavior change communication (SBCC) is a set of interventions that combines elements of interpersonal communication, social change and community mobilization activities, mass media, and advocacy to support individuals, families, communities, institutions, and countries to adopt and maintain high-impact nutrition-related practices. Effective nutrition SBCC seeks to increase the factors that encourage these behaviours while reducing the barriers to change (USAID 2017)”³²

3.1.3 What is LIFT aiming to achieve?

LIFT's priority is to reduce stunting in children aged under the age of five by focusing on nutrition during the first 1,000 days.

³¹ The MS-NPAN aims to “Reduce all forms of malnutrition in mothers, children and adolescent girls” through an approach that relies on inter-ministerial leadership from the Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS), the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI), the Ministry of Education (MoE), and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MSWRR). This is the framework within which LIFT can prioritise support at the national and sub-national level.

³² USAID and Spring: Moving Nutrition Social and Behavior Change Forward – Lessons from the SPRING Project



The Nutrition Programme will contribute to the following programme-specific results:

- **New and/or improved gender-responsive public sector policies, programmes, and expenditure that support:**
 - **Implementation of the Multi-Sectoral National Plan of Action on Nutrition (MS-NPAN) including social and behaviour change (SBC) approaches for maternal and child cash transfers (MCCT) & maternal infant and young child feeding (M-IYCF), integrated management of acute malnutrition (IMAM) scale-up, food fortification, and an Agricultural Development Strategy (ADS) nutrition-sensitive agriculture component**
 - **Increased sub-national support for the implementation of the MS-NPAN**
 - **Implementation of National Social Protection Strategic Plan (NSPSP) including MCCT, social pensions, people with disabilities**
- **Increased quality and coverage of nutrition interventions**
- **Increased adoption of improved nutrition, dietary, sanitation and hygiene practices**

3.1.4 How will LIFT deliver these results?

LIFT interventions focus on both nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive approaches that are proven to have a positive impact on nutrition outcomes of children, adolescents and women.

LIFT uses the Lancet recommendations and the Myanmar Multi-Sectoral National Plan of Action for Nutrition (MS-NPAN) to guide investment in interventions that are known to have a direct impact on the immediate causes of malnutrition; inadequate dietary intake and/or illness and disease, by addressing the underlying causes of household food insecurity, inadequate care and an unhealthy environment. These interventions include improving dietary and hygiene practices amongst adolescents, mothers and children aged under two through evidence-based social and behaviour change approaches, overcoming barriers to affordability and availability of nutritious foods by increasing household income and the availability of more diverse and nutritious foods in the market. To address illness and disease, efforts also need to improve access to good quality health services, safe water and sanitation facilities, and hygiene information.

Improving nutrition outcomes is a cross-sectoral endeavour. Reducing stunting and wasting requires action in health, agriculture, social protection, water and sanitation and the labour market to impact on the basic and underlying causes of malnutrition, especially in populations affected by conflict, protracted humanitarian crisis, and for migrants and excluded groups.

Implementing a multi-sectoral package of interventions to reach the most vulnerable, along with strengthening evidence generation, securing cross-sectoral leadership, harnessing the potential of the private sector, supporting policy development and ensuring budget commitments are proven to have the most impact on stunting. LIFT will partner with the Access to Health Fund (formerly 3MDG) through joint planning, coordination and collaboration on strategic investments for greater impact.

To achieve impacts on nutrition, efforts need to cut across all programmes and requires a focus on gender equality and women's empowerment as a known driver of nutrition outcomes. Interventions will be designed with specific objectives and measurement frameworks to achieve and capture their effect on expected nutrition-related outcomes.

As LIFT shifts into prioritising conflict-affected areas and urban settings, the nutrition needs of affected residents and internally-displaced and migrant households will be addressed. LIFT will continue to focus on addressing the barriers to access, affordability and utilisation of a safe, nutritious and appropriate diet, while moving to incorporate the links between acute and chronic malnutrition.



LIFT will support national and sub-national mechanisms to implement the priorities identified as part of the MS-NPAN, supporting government initiatives to promote nutrition-sensitive agriculture, social protection and health services, investing in sustainable community structures and creating an enabling environment for improved nutrition outcomes.

3.1.5 Strengthening nutrition-related policy implementation

Building on LIFT's existing support for the Scaling Up Nutrition movement and capitalising on the new opportunities presented by the MS-NPAN, LIFT will provide support to the effective implementation of nutrition-related policies. A particular focus will be placed on implementation and scaling up of social and behaviour change (SBC) approaches for MCCT and Maternal, Infant and Young Child Feeding (M-IYCF), nutrition-sensitive agriculture, food fortification and Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM), leveraging LIFT's experience, technical expertise and resources to promote effective delivery. LIFT will also increase sub-national support for the implementation of the MS-NPAN and nutrition sensitive opportunities within the Agricultural Development Strategy (ADS), working with regional and township governments to bolster their capacity to effectively design, roll-out and monitor key nutrition interventions in their respective geographies.

A further key area of LIFT's policy support will focus on the implementation of the National Social Protection Strategic Plan (NSPSP), which includes MCCT, social pensions and pensions for people with disabilities.

3.1.6 Nutrition-specific Approaches

LIFT will invest in improving nutrition and infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices through comprehensive social and behaviour change (SBC) strategies to improve optimal diet and care practices throughout the lifecycle. LIFT will support contextual analysis to understand the drivers of key nutrition-related practices and behaviours, specifically among displaced, excluded and vulnerable communities, to inform approaches that are nested within a package of nutrition interventions, to support positive behaviour change. LIFT will engage strategically with public and private partners to influence not only mothers and caregivers but also the wider households and communities, key influencers, health professionals and policy makers.

As part of a comprehensive approach to prevent chronic malnutrition, **LIFT will support early detection and treatment of acute malnutrition in children aged under the age of five through home-based, community interventions and engagement with service providers** especially in areas affected by conflict or with high prevalence of malnutrition. LIFT will increase the number of children who are receiving treatment through community-level efforts such as social mobilisation, community treatment, support for outreach services, screening, referral, and follow up. In support of these interventions LIFT will support IPs to help drive the demand for nutrition-related services (MCCT, IYCF, IMAM, GMP and ANC).

3.1.7 Nutrition-sensitive Approaches

Maternal and child cash transfers in conjunction with SBC strategies to address key practices are proven to have a positive impact on nutrition outcomes and have been adopted by the Government of Myanmar. LIFT will continue to provide technical backing, advocacy for more inclusive approaches and support improved linkages with SBC approaches, which are essential for impact on nutrition. LIFT will directly support MCCT plus SBC interventions in conflict-affected areas, urban settings, and among IDP



populations, migrant communities and in areas with low service coverage. Areas of potential expansion include linking MCCTs and SBCC with digital platforms, education or information services for vulnerable or hard-to-reach groups, and as part of social protection packages to support prevention and treatment of acute malnutrition, or provide maternity support for migrant women.

Approaches under the Agriculture Programme will be nutrition-sensitive in order to maximise the positive impact that agriculture, livestock and aquaculture value chains can have on nutrition outcomes.

LIFT will support conducting gender responsive, in-depth contextual analyses to identify appropriate, economically viable and sustainable nutrition-sensitive strategies, setting specific nutrition objectives and measuring impact to improve nutrition outcomes. LIFT will place emphasis on the generation of evidence in nutrition-sensitive agriculture programming in order to contribute to the national and global dialogue on effective interventions.

Nutrition-sensitive market interventions will support diversification of commercial and homestead production of animal and non-animal source foods for improved income and consumption at the household level. This will contribute to improved nutrition outcomes, by increasing the availability and affordability of more nutritious foods at the household level and in local markets. This will be achieved through promoting the adoption of new technology and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) in production and post-harvest storage, providing support for improved marketing opportunities, safe food processing, transportation and consumption. LIFT will tap opportunities for robust and context-specific research and evidence generation on nutrition-sensitive agriculture in Myanmar.

Promotion of good hygiene and sanitation practices, improved access to safe water and environmental hygiene are all crucial to decreasing incidence of illness and improving nutrition outcomes. Improving hygiene behaviours, access to improved water sources, underpinned by environmental impact analysis, household water treatment and safe storage technologies, improving the safe and hygienic disposal of faecal matter and reducing open defecation, protecting food, play and water sources from animal contamination are all required to prevent the cycle of transmission of disease, which leads to diarrhoea, environmental enteropathy and poor nutrition outcomes. Developing public private partnerships to support improved environmental hygiene is a particular focus in IDP and peri-urban contexts.³³

Fortification of rice and other products forms part of an integrated approach to address micronutrient deficiencies in vulnerable and IDP communities. Future investment will build on the progress thus far, focusing on overcoming barriers of affordability and access by the most vulnerable households. In conjunction with policy development to increase product availability and reduce production costs, as outlined in the MS-NPAN and ADS, LIFT and partners will focus on driving awareness and demand so as to increase the use of fortified rice by the poorest and most vulnerable, such as those displaced by conflict or excluded.

LIFT will invest in gender responsive workplace initiatives and interventions that meet the needs, including those of migrant households, in reducing specific vulnerabilities to malnutrition. LIFT will invest in gender responsive workplace initiatives and interventions that reduce vulnerability to malnutrition specifically in communities affected by urbanisation, displacement and migration. LIFT will support work to improve access to services, maternity and breastfeeding friendly workplace policies as part of decent work approaches and increased access and availability of a more nutritious and safe diet.

³³ See LIFT's private sector principles for further detail.



Enhance the impact of financial services on nutrition outcomes by identifying opportunities to promote nutrition-sensitive investments along the value chain and improving women's access to financial resources. LIFT will promote gender-responsive investments and optimising engagement with mothers, women of reproductive age and other key influencers by linking the digitisation of financial services with core nutrition messaging and links to nutrition services.

3.2 Financial inclusion programme

3.2.1 Rationale

Socially responsible and inclusive financial services provide a wide range of benefits to both individuals and the economy. While savings can play a vital role in helping households to smooth their consumption and cope with risks, access to credit is a prerequisite to the growth and development of enterprises and businesses that generate employment and income streams across all sectors of the economy. Additionally, for the poor and vulnerable, savings are a means to manage risks, invest in education and reduce vulnerabilities to external shocks. LIFT's emphasis and investment in the Financial Inclusion Programme is guided by the view that its development supports a pathway out of poverty and rural economic growth.³⁴ Inclusive access to financial services is also critically important for social cohesion in areas that have received large numbers of people displaced by conflict. Microfinance institutions have fostered a climate that is beneficial to the strengthening and expansion of community social ties through transforming social capital of solidarity groups (the most common credit technology); this contributes to social, political and economic community development.³⁵

Despite substantial expansion of the financial sector since Myanmar's economy started opening in 2012, large sections of the population remain unserved or underserved. This is particularly the case in Rakhine, among ethnic populations, or in border states and conflict-affected areas where just 1.8 per cent of the population were microfinance clients as of 2017. Access to financial services is critically important in environments where informal financial service providers, such as moneylenders, dominate with high interest rates and a low volume of transactions. Moreover, **there is an absence of financial products suited to the most vulnerable groups, including landless people, people with disabilities and those at risk of trafficking.**

MFIs require access to more capital to expand their credit services. While there has been a significant influx of capital in recent years, **the unserved demand for debt financing in December 2017 was estimated at USD 560 million.** A survey conducted by The Currency Exchange (TCX) in December 2017 revealed that 11 LIFT-supported MFIs were planning to raise USD 170 million in new funding in 2018 to meet their target growth of 70 per cent. With an overall solvency (equity to assets) ratio of 0.74 for MFIs in Myanmar (i.e. nearly three-quarters of MFIs' assets are funded by equity), the sector is significantly under-leveraged. This means there are great possibilities for investors to provide safe and sound debt financing to Myanmar

³⁴ According to the PPI results of 9 LIFT MFIs from 2015 to 2017: 1) 20 percent of clients under USD 1.25 per day in 2015 graduated to above USD 1.25 per day; 2) 4 percent of clients under USD 2.50 per day in 2015 graduated to higher than USD 2.50 per day by 2017. This suggests that access to MFI financial services may have played a role in facilitating the transition of the most vulnerable clients to a more resilient position.

³⁵ https://www.uni-trier.de/fileadmin/fb4/prof/VWL/PRK/1_MF-and-Culture_Research-Paper- Kenya-2012_01-11-2012.pdf;

Bourdieu, P. (1983). "Forms of Capital", in J.C. Richards (ed.), (*Handbook of Theory and Research for the Sociology*) (New York: Greenwood Press).

Coleman, J.C. (1988). "Social Capital in the Creation of Human Capital", in *American Journal of Sociology*, 94: 95-120.



MFIs. The long term prognosis is that MFIs will progressively find alternatives to build their capital structure and could rely on other local and international banks to hedge their foreign exchange risk.

Progress in expanding access to deposit taking services has been slow amongst Myanmar MFIs, limiting their development into full-fledged financial intermediaries. This is due in large part to restrictive regulations that, until recently, limited MFIs ability to secure licenses for deposit taking services. While recent liberalisation of these regulations has opened up opportunities, **most MFIs offer only credit, and savings mobilisation remains the forgotten part of microfinance in Myanmar.**

Changes in the financial sector, coupled with the rapid rise of mobile phone ownership have opened considerable opportunities for digital financial services (DFS) to extend the reach of both savings and credit to the poor. Banks, MFIs (if capital constraints can be addressed), and mobile operators can leverage mobile phones and growing networks of agents to provide physical cash in/cash out functionality in ways that were previously not possible. However, barriers remain substantial and overcoming them will require investment and innovation.

3.2.2 LIFT's work to date

LIFT has provided capital and institutional support to 64 financial inclusion partners—13 international microfinance institutions (MFIs), 10 local MFIs, one commercial bank, two township savings and credit unions, and 38 primary credit cooperatives.

Collectively, they have reached 2.1 million clients, of whom 94 per cent are women, from 16,211 villages and wards. Of 2.1 million clients, an estimated 1.68 million are poor (living below USD 2.5 per day), and of those, 420,000 are extremely poor (living below USD 1.25 per day). The total loans outstanding is USD 399 million. The portfolio at risk (PAR) - LIFT's indicator on over-indebtedness and loan portfolio quality - is less than one per cent. All LIFT-supported MFIs target poor households. The loan size ranges from MMK 100,000 (USD 75) to MMK 400,000 (USD 298), with a mean loan size under MMK 200,000 (USD 150).

By establishing a swap market to hedge foreign exchange risk in partnership with The Currency Exchange (TCX), LIFT was the market-maker in the development of Myanmar's MFI capital market. Through the MFI capital market, LIFT secured USD 80 million in private sector co-financing. The private sector co-financing is made up of 40 loans that were issued by 11 lenders to 12 MFIs. These MFIs served an additional 340,000 clients, with average loan size of USD 237. Eighty four per cent of these clients are women, and 64 per cent of the clients live in rural areas. As a result of this growth, the 12 MFIs increased their workforce by 21 per cent and more than 1,000 new jobs were created.

LIFT's support to financial services has also played a critical role in stimulating the development of agricultural markets and the mechanisation of agriculture. A total of USD 106 million in new agricultural equipment was purchased through credit and a further USD 87 million purchased through hire purchase arrangements that helped to finance 5,128 small and medium size businesses to purchase 1,235 transport vehicles, 702 combine harvesters, 2,923 four-wheel tractors (4WTs), 255 two-wheel tractors (2WTs) and 13 harvesters. LIFT estimates that nearly 109,000 farmers, covering 544,000 acres of land, now have access to 4WTs and combines. The resulting mechanisation of agriculture is estimated to have saved USD 11.9 million in production costs while gross margin per acre increased by USD 21.9.

Further achievements include: (1) the introduction in mid-2017 of a discounted receivables/unsecured overdraft based on the value of inventories, or receivables on the balance sheet, of large agriculture input suppliers resulting in the disbursement of USD 7 million, impacting an estimated 20,000 farmers; (2) the



introduction in late 2017 of a payables finance product that allows input dealers to buy inputs on credit from their supplier, resulting in the disbursement of USD 1.5 million by the year end, benefitting an estimated 4,000 farmers; (3) Yoma Bank's introduction of a seasonal overdraft that provided USD 4 million in credit to 50 maize traders (maize is the third largest crop in Myanmar and of vital importance to the economic importance throughout the Uplands, including in conflict-affected areas), enabling them to buy and sell more goods and reaching an estimated 10,000 farmers with early payments. Overall, USD 12.5 million in financing benefitted 34,000 farmers.

LIFT, together with the Myanmar government, the microfinance sector and microfinance institutions have in place social performance norms and client promotion principles that are essential to ensuring that MFIs do not inadvertently harm their clients. MFIs must take reasonable care that their products, policies, and practices avoid harmful or unfair treatment and appropriately balance clients' and their own interests as they conduct business. This minimum standard of 'do no harm' is part of the good conduct of business, regardless of the MFI's specific mission, profit goals, or ownership structure. Social performance is achieved if MFIs go beyond the 'do no harm' standard of client protection to measure and manage progress against a specific social mission, ensuring effective translation of the mission into client benefit and appropriate behaviour toward staff, the community, and the environment. While MFIs' social missions may vary, the most common social goals pursued are outreach to underserved and vulnerable people, poverty reduction, and empowerment of women.

3.2.3 What is LIFT aiming to achieve?

The thrust of LIFT's work on microfinance is to expand access to inclusive financial services that can serve as a catalyst for inclusive economic development in Myanmar.

LIFT is committed to ensuring that Myanmar's most vulnerable people in villages and wards across the country, irrespective of their economic and social status, can benefit from a developing rural financial market. This allows the population, including the poor, women, landless, internally displaced persons, farmers and small businesses, to have sustainable access to a wide range of quality financial services that meet the diversity of their demands, and that people are able and willing to repay.

To effectively achieve this, LIFT's Financial Inclusion Programme will contribute to the following programme-specific results:

- **New and/or improved gender-responsive public sector policies, programmes, and expenditure that:**
 - **Support the Financial Regulatory Department (FRD)'s examination and supervision of MFIs**
 - **Support the Ministry of Planning and Finance (MoPF)'s implementation of the National Savings Mobilization Policy**
 - **Support the revision of microfinance regulation and practice to better serve MFI clients**
- **Increased institutional capacity for provision of inclusive and socially-responsible financial services**
- **Increased utilisation of socially-responsible and sustainable financial services**
- **Increased control of savings and credit by women**

Access to financial services is an enabler of LIFT's work in nutrition, agriculture, markets, decent work and labour mobility and thus the achievements of impacts at the overall LIFT level. Thus, this programme will



contribute to results across other pillars, including reduction in child labour, the adoption of improved agricultural practices and technologies and associated gains in production efficiencies, the development of agricultural value chains through the expansion of agricultural enterprises and businesses, and improved employment and job opportunities.

3.2.4 How will LIFT deliver these results?

Building on the achievements of the previous strategy, LIFT will continue to support key microfinance institutions, private and central banks and policy-making bodies to achieve the aforementioned results.

LIFT will work with policy makers, regulatory authorities and key financial institutions to enhance institutional capacity to supervise, monitor and take action on institutions that come under financial stress. This is of particular importance to ensuring that the expansion of saving products is carried out responsibly.

LIFT will support MFIs to increase their supply of a broad range of demand-driven financial services tailored to diversified market segments.

LIFT will also increase the presence of MFIs in the ethnic/border states and conflict-affected areas to support more sustainable and robust approaches to poverty and vulnerability reduction for communities in protracted crises, conflict-affected and marginal areas. Technical assistance to this end will be an integral part of the strategy.

Close coordination with interventions across the other thematic programmes, e.g. nutrition messaging, financial literacy, loans to migrants, social cohesion, will help to ensure that access to diversified, inclusive and socially-responsible financial services enables and supports their objectives.

The key components of the work under the Financial Inclusion Programme include: MFI Capital Market; Savings Mobilisation; Expansion of Pro-Poor Financial Services; Digital Financial Services; and Agribusiness Finance Program—attracting a second provider.

3.2.5 Improved policies and strengthened regulation for socially responsible financial services

To ensure an enabling policy environment for inclusive and socially-responsible financial services, LIFT will focus on three key areas: (1) supporting the Financial Regulatory Department's examination and supervision of MFIs, particularly as this pertains to deposit taking services; (2) supporting Ministry of Planning and Finance's (MoPF) implementation of the National Savings Mobilization Policy; and (3) supporting the revision of microfinance regulation and practice to better serve MFI clients. LIFT will leverage its existing relationships and networks within the sector to achieve this.

3.2.6 Microfinance institutions' capital market

The expansion of capital markets for MFIs is fundamental to their ability to extend their coverage and, therefore, spread access to inclusive financial services across the country. **By making modest sums available in the swap market, LIFT will support the hedging of foreign exchange risk in partnership with The Currency Exchange (TCX).** A USD 12 million investment is expected to leverage an additional USD 100 million in private sector investment.



3.2.7 Savings mobilisation

LIFT will provide continued direct and indirect technical assistance to MFIs and government regulators to develop savings services in Myanmar. Key areas to be addressed include: managing interest rate spread between cost of mobilising savings and earnings on loans to ensure institutional sustainability; improving the Financial Regulatory Department's (FRD) prudential regulation and supervision with guidelines for sound financial management practices that will safeguard the interest of depositors. Central to this will be ensuring that FRD has the capacity to effectively monitor and enforce penalties to ensure that savings are not placed at risk.

LIFT will also seek to catalyse the transformation of MFIs to deposit-taking entities, and manage the more complex risks associated with deposit taking, ensuring MFIs match assets and liabilities, which is critical to appropriately managing liquidity.

3.2.8 Expansion of pro-poor financial services

The Financial Inclusion Programme will continue to support existing MFIs to increase their supply of a broad range of demand-driven financial services tailored to diverse market segments. Key examples include deposit services, lines-of-credit, leasing, term-finance, financing for seasonal crops (beans/pulses, oilseeds, maize), livestock, small business, debt consolidation loans, and customised loans for low-income women, migrants, disabled and the internally displaced.

To support the expansion of MFIs into unserved and underserved geographical areas including conflict-affected areas, particularly Rakhine and the Uplands, LIFT will cover MFI branch start-up costs up to the point at which the branch achieves operational sustainability. It will also support other forms of market development such as technical assistance for research and development of financial services targeting vulnerable populations, and catalysing the expansion of MFI-led extension services by training loan officers in livelihoods development.

MFIs proposing to work in conflict-affected areas will be provided with access to equity capital grants to partially offset the inherent risk.

3.2.9 Digital financial services (DFS)

LIFT will invest in researching, identifying and building DFS distribution channels. This work will primarily target women, equipping them with access to credit and savings products as well as financial literacy and nutrition-sensitive knowledge.

3.2.10 Agribusiness Finance Programme (AFP)—attracting a second mover

The AFP has achieved remarkable results: nearly 6,000 small and medium agribusinesses financed; leveraging more than USD 175 million in private sector co-financing; 109,000 farmers, covering 544,000 acres of land, now have access to four-wheel tractors and combine harvesters; farmers have saved USD 11.9 million dollars in production costs, and gross margins per acre increased by USD 21.9 because of lower production costs as mechanisation replaces farm labour and draft animals in land preparation, harvesting and threshing.



The scale and scope of agricultural finance opportunities remains vast. To expand the reach and benefits of the AFP, LIFT will work to attract a ‘second mover’ in the market – another financier with the capacity to build a sizeable agricultural equipment portfolio. There have been a number of financial institutions launch hire purchase products for agricultural equipment but their portfolios remain small due to risk and their lack of capacity to effectively underwrite the risk. Research conducted by Michigan State University confirms that market opportunities exist for no-till equipment, harvesters for maize/beans and pulses, planters for maize/beans and pulses, and irrigation equipment.

3.3 Agriculture, Markets and Food Systems

3.3.1 Rationale

The agriculture sector contributes approximately 30 per cent to gross domestic product (GDP) and is second only to the services sector in its contribution to economic growth. Nonetheless, approximately 72 per cent of the population lives in rural areas where 85 per cent of poverty is concentrated. With 56 per cent of the nation’s labour market positioned in the agriculture sector, it is Myanmar's largest employer.

Over the past several decades, however, **the agricultural sector has languished compared to other sectors of the economy**³⁶ due to lack of investment in infrastructure, limited financial services and weak extension and research. **While there is considerable potential for production and productivity gains in Myanmar agriculture, fisheries and forestry, the sector faces numerous challenges.** These include weak rural and border infrastructure; a set of complex, mostly unresolved land tenure issues; low agricultural productivity and competitiveness of agri-food products; an underfunded and poorly organised agricultural research, education and extension system; limited access to timely and quality inputs (i.e. seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, animal health drugs, etc.); insufficient access to financial services; poor quality and safety of agriculture products; weak coordination within line agencies and other stakeholders; and vulnerability to natural disasters (floods, droughts, cyclones, sea level rise) and climate change.

There is also evidence of an ‘agrarian transformation’ occurring across the sector, in part as response to the improved economic performance and opportunities that have emerged in the labour market.³⁷ **Labour costs have risen along with a reluctance of young people to engage in the agricultural sector. Changes in the labour market and farmers striving for efficiencies have driven a shift toward mechanisation and a reduction in labour intensive farming systems.**

Within the context of this transformation, there is a need to acknowledge potential unintended consequences associated with **unsustainable natural resource use and degradation of ecosystem services along with unequal access to these resources** by smallholder farmers. Foreign direct investment and the expropriation of resources place smallholder farmers at a significant disadvantage due to their weak bargaining capacity to protect their rights to access to resources. Achieving sustainable development and equal access to these resources will be critical to ensuring equitable and inclusive economic growth that will contribute to poverty alleviation and meet the aspirations of its people and the country's commitment to the sustainable development goals.

³⁶ ADS 2018. Myanmar Agriculture Development Strategy and Investment Plan (2018-19 – 2022-23)

³⁷ ADB 2015. Myanmar: Unlocking the potential. A strategy for high, sustained, and inclusive growth. ADB Economics Working Paper Series No. 437



Tapping into the opportunities and addressing the systemic bottlenecks could help to stimulate the contribution of agricultural development to Myanmar's 2030 Agenda commitments and the Sustainable Development Goals targets.

3.3.2 LIFT's work to date

Agriculture and market development have been central to LIFT's work since 2012. LIFT has supported and learned from a wide range of interventions to sustainably improve the productivity and incomes of smallholder farmers. These interventions have engaged civil society, local NGOs, networks, farmer organisations, the private sector, financial institutions and the government.

LIFT supported the development of the Myanmar Agricultural Development Strategy (ADS) – a key piece of Myanmar's agriculture sector policy. LIFT's policy support helped to identify key areas where policy engagement and reform would have significant implications in supporting the transformation of the agricultural sector, including changes in current policies and regulations associated with crop production, fertilisers and agro-chemicals, veterinary services and government services supporting quality and phytosanitary certification of products. Moreover, LIFT's engagement in agricultural policies has been successful in the livestock sector and is promising in the fisheries sector.

LIFT's work has identified promising models for expanding the reach of advisory services and promoting climate-smart and nutrition-sensitive agriculture. For example, LIFT's work with International Fertilizer Development Centre (IFDC) linked agri-service providers with farmers and state extension services through innovative business models to promote the adoption of improved nutrition-sensitive agricultural practices and inputs as highlighted in the final evaluation of LEARN 2 project. This has emerged as a scalable and financially sustainable model with potential for adaptation to new contexts in Myanmar.

LIFT has made a substantial contribution to climate smart agriculture through agricultural mechanisation financed by the Agribusiness Finance Program. Other initiatives, such as the promotion of sunhemp as green manure to improve water and nutrient retention of Dry Zone soils; promotion of good agricultural practices (GAP)³⁸; expanding access to improved seed, and ensuring responsible groundwater irrigation has had positive impacts on building resilience and increased diversification of farming systems.

Investments in nutrition-sensitive agriculture have contributed to increasing the diversity and nutritional quality of household diets. LIFT has achieved this through improving livestock and aquaculture production systems, diversifying production throughout the year, improving access to quality seed, supporting women's empowerment, funding SBCC for improved nutrition knowledge and practices and engagement in economic activities, and rice fortification to address widespread micronutrient deficiencies. **LIFT's efforts have also yielded important learnings about the conditions for success in the agricultural sector:**

- Economic sustainability must be embedded from the outset and demands systematic engagement with both input and output markets rather than a more narrow focus on increasing productivity at the farmer level.

³⁸ The main principles of GAP revolve around the production process, the environment, food safety, and animal welfare. As such, GAP aims at improving conditions for producers, including the welfare of farming families (poverty alleviation) and others involved in the production process, to the end that food produced is cleaner, safer, and more nutritious. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-a1193e.pdf>



- Projects attempting to develop new value chains and product markets require specialised expertise to understand and respond to the complexities of business and must be adaptive by design in order to respond to changing contexts.
- Attempts to establish farmer-owned, fair trade businesses falter because of the lack of business experience, economic business acumen, cash flow challenges associated with fledgling businesses, and are often based on false assumptions as to how markets operate.
- Making farmer organisations competitive has revealed itself to be a long-term challenge that extends beyond the life of an individual project.

3.3.3 What is LIFT aiming to achieve?

LIFT's work on agriculture, inclusive markets and food systems will continue to reduce risk and increase the resilience of smallholder farming households and vulnerable/landless entrepreneurs, thereby enabling them to increase their incomes and address their nutritional requirements.

LIFT is explicitly seeking to address women's empowerment and gender equality through its agriculture, markets and food systems programme. Women often face difficulties accessing finance, market information, extension services and entering higher growth markets. The ownership and control of land and property is also a significant challenge for women in rural areas and evidence supports the role of women's empowerment in agriculture in improved nutrition outcomes.

Definitions:

An **agri-food system** is defined as the **activities** and **relationships** that determine how food is **produced, processed, distributed** and **consumed**, together with the **human** and **biological systems** that shape these activities at **every stage**. Central to the promotion of an agri-food system agenda is to build **resilience** to shocks and stress along the entire continuum. LIFT will follow this definition in the implementation of the programme.

Nutrition-sensitive agriculture refers to improving, or at least avoiding harm to, the underlying causes of malnutrition. It is a food-based approach to agricultural development that places nutritionally rich foods, dietary diversity, and food fortification central to addressing malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies. It stresses the multiple benefits derived from a variety of foods, recognising the nutritional value for good nutrition, and the importance and social significance of the food and agricultural sector in supporting rural livelihoods. FAO 2014 (<http://www.fao.org/3/a-as601e.pdf>)

Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) is an approach that guides actions needed to transform and re-orient agricultural systems to effectively support development and ensure food security in a changing climate. CSA explicitly aims to: sustainably increase agricultural productivity to support equitable increases in farm incomes, food security and development; adapting and building resilience of agricultural and food security systems to climate change at multiple levels; and reducing greenhouse gas emission from agriculture (including crops, livestock and fisheries). CCAFS <https://ccafs.cgiar.org/climate-smart-agriculture-0#.XEL4eFwzblU>

Key results that this programme will contribute to are:

- **New and/or improved gender-responsive public sector policies, programmes, and expenditure that support:**
 - **Implementation of the ADS and MoALI's contribution to MS-NPAN**
 - **Inclusive value chains**
 - **Inclusive, nutrition-sensitive crop, livestock and aquaculture practices**



- **Inclusive climate-smart crop, livestock, and aquaculture practices**
- **Land tenure security for smallholder farmers**
- **Natural resource management**
- **Value chain actors promote inclusive, climate smart and nutrition-sensitive agriculture**
- **Increased production, income and food security through commercialisation of sustainable and/or nutrition-sensitive agriculture**
- **Increased control and decision-making over agricultural production and related income by women**

3.3.4 How LIFT will deliver these results?

LIFT will work towards the achievement of these results by supporting interventions and initiatives at the system and policy levels.

At the system level, LIFT will adopt an inclusive value chain approach with an emphasis on working with and through private sector actors, the public extension system and relevant market actors to establish scalable and financially sustainable approaches in order to improve living conditions for poor and vulnerable households. LIFT will promote and support the development of accreditation systems for farmers in the adoption of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and policy reform, in line with the Government's Agricultural Development Strategy (ADS).

In its land programmes, LIFT will continue to engage government, EAOs, private sector and a range of civil society constituents through the generation of evidence based knowledge, promoting the piloting of innovative approaches to land allocation, and supporting land administration reform. As part of LIFT's commitment to the ADS, we will support the implementation of the National Land Use Policy (NLUP) and strengthening of the National Land Use Council (NLUC) in enhancing and promoting transparent and effective land administrative structures through the subsequent National Land Law serving in particular the needs of smallholder farmers, women and ethnic minorities. Further, LIFT will encourage best international practice in the implementation of land tenure and rights over other natural resources.

Through its focus on nutrition-sensitive agriculture, the Agriculture, Markets and Food Systems Programme will contribute to improved nutritional outcomes, including through women's empowerment, diversification of available and affordable food when economically viable, and increased income for improved nutrition-related expenditure. Linkages will be established with other nutrition-sensitive and specific interventions outlined in the Nutrition Programme to addresses issues of dietary choices and practices. Recognising the central role of women in agriculture and nutrition at the household level, LIFT will promote equitable division of labour, introducing time- and labour-saving farming technologies and support time for self-care and childcare, especially for pregnant and breastfeeding mothers.

To help achieve increased resilience and nutritional security, LIFT will also support rural poor households to gain income from a variety of farm and non-farm sources (i.e., beyond crop, livestock and fisheries). Improved market linkages and technical, as well as entrepreneurial skills, will serve to reinforce livelihood strategies and address those households who 'step out' of farming.

The programme will harness links with the Financial Inclusion Programme to catalyse the transformation of the agricultural sector by supporting poor smallholder farmers and other entrepreneurs involved in crop production, livestock rearing and other agricultural activities. It will also continue to fuel the trend of



increased mechanisation, helping smallholder farmers to cope with rapidly changing labour market conditions.

Furthermore, and recognising the sizeable population employed in the agricultural sector, **the programme will seek synergies with the Decent Work and Labour Mobility Programme and promote decent working conditions for returning migrants and aspiring entrepreneurs in communities by expanding agribusinesses as a livelihood option.**

A greater focus on activities and interventions in conflict-affected areas and Rakhine State will require adaptation of proven concepts and the testing of new approaches. LIFT will seek experienced partners who are sensitive to the local context, while also recognising the need to build the capacity of existing players.

3.3.5 Gender-responsive, inclusive nutrition-sensitive and climate smart agricultural policies and strengthened implementation

LIFT's policy work will focus on areas defined in the ADS, including land tenure (e.g. promoting equitable access to land and securing tenure rights), **crop production** (e.g. fertiliser and pesticide trade and use), **agricultural extension** (e.g. role of public and private extension services), **investment, strengthening institutional capacities and the development of functional markets and value chains that are inclusive and supportive of women.**

LIFT will gather and generate evidence on approaches, interventions, partnerships, constraints and bottlenecks related to enhancing production and productivity, and inclusive access to markets that support nutrition-sensitive and climate-smart agriculture. LIFT will use this evidence to engage in advocacy and policy dialogue with government and parliament at relevant levels. This includes contributing evidence to support the implementation of the Multi-Sector National Plan of Action on Nutrition (MS-NPAN), the promotion and adoption of good agricultural practices (GAP) and encouraging the inclusion of gender-responsive climate smart interventions into policies that ensure women are not disadvantaged. LIFT will also expand its advocacy efforts with mid-level institutions at the local and regional levels and will engage directly with Parliamentarians whose constituencies receive LIFT assistance.

3.3.6 Value chain actors promote inclusive, climate-smart and nutrition-sensitive agriculture

LIFT will strengthen the livelihoods of diverse poor small-scale producers and vulnerable rural households through interventions that increase public and private value chain actors' engagements with them. This will address governance, producers and markets and will span agricultural products and inputs/services, such as fertilisers, seeds, finance, mechanisation, storage and transport. Key target groups include women, smallholders, landless and other vulnerable households. Support will entail technical and entrepreneurial skills development linked to agricultural markets and business activities including livestock, aquaculture, and non-farm activities and services. A particular focus will be placed on ensuring that value chain actors adopt and promote nutrition-sensitive and climate-smart agricultural innovations, including natural resource management.

LIFT will support nutrition-sensitive market interventions that support diversification of local food production and consumption. Ensuring adequate nutrition security for poor and vulnerable households and their individual members will require the mainstreaming of nutrition-sensitive agriculture. LIFT will leverage production and value chain investments to achieve measurable impacts on nutrition by improving



the diversity and nutritional quality of local food production, affordability, and dietary practices of producer households.

For farmers with commercial potential, LIFT will focus on supporting commercialisation of key commodities, supporting households to engage with markets through the production of quality, marketable produce in sufficient quantities and integration with output markets. Nutritional awareness will guide households to use their income to address their nutritional requirements through markets.

To support farmers with limited commercial potential, LIFT will support efforts to improve the production and productivity of home-based diversity of food sources, including homestead food production, small livestock, aquaculture and access to water resources through individualistic irrigation systems, and the introduction of nutrient-dense crops into production systems while also exploring value chains to support these commodities. It will promote livestock-oriented programs that include training and veterinary support services and initiatives focused on aquaculture, fisheries and small-scale irrigation.

In the case of landless and vulnerable households, LIFT will stimulate the growth of an inclusive rural non-farm economy focused on the provision of agricultural services. Examples include irrigation, drilling and maintenance services and equipment operations, mobile labour teams for land preparation and chemical application, and post-harvest processing services.

Given the central role of women in shaping nutrition outcomes at the household level, LIFT will also promote approaches that give women access to resources and decision making.

LIFT will promote innovative climate smart agriculture (CSA) production technologies and market initiatives. At the farmer level, LIFT will support the identification, demonstration and promotion of available CSA technologies considering local climatic risks in support of agricultural entrepreneurship development. This will include the promotion of conservation agriculture and good agricultural practices (GAP), and the adoption of approaches that enhance the provision of ecosystem services. LIFT will promote improved soil, crop and water management practices, livestock management, forestry, agroforestry and aquaculture.

Appropriate CSA practices and techniques will further be identified, demonstrated and scaled up through participatory learning and extension mechanisms. CSA interventions will actively engage with women and vulnerable groups living on marginal lands who are most vulnerable to climate change.

LIFT will engage national research institutions to provide scientific support, and learn from field evidence. There is a need to increase engagement with academia and the agricultural and nutrition research sectors as part of LIFT's commitment to increasing capacity and supporting innovation in alignment with the ADS and MS-NPAN. LIFT will support the active engagement of research entities within projects as a means of providing support to implementing partners.

3.4 Decent Work and Labour Mobility Programme

3.4.1 Rationale

Myanmar's transition towards a more open and market-oriented economy is accelerating the mobility of workers between employment sectors and geographic locations. The shift from agricultural livelihoods in



rural areas to wage employment in the service and manufacturing sectors in cities is increasing, driven by expanding foreign direct investment and international trade. Myanmar's economic growth has brought with it improved prospects for workers to find better remunerated work within the labour market, including for a growing number of workers who are pursuing employment abroad.

As Myanmar's economy rapidly transforms, **skills development to support sectoral mobility within Myanmar's labour market has become essential for enabling the country to maintain its growth trajectory.** According to the Labour Force Survey, only 2 per cent of the working age population has undergone any skills training during their lifetime. Strengthening the skills of the workforce is critical for improving labour productivity and helping the country find entry into higher value-added sectors. This will enable Myanmar to diversify its economy, moving from its heavy reliance on extractive industries towards an economic model driven by the quality of its human resources.

The spatial redistribution of workers should be understood as a natural part of the development process rather than a problem to be solved. Labour migration has long been an important livelihood strategy for the people of Myanmar. By migrating internally and internationally, migrants and their communities have been able to survive periods of severe economic hardship and stagnation. Based upon the population census conducted in 2014, it is estimated that there are currently 4.25 million international migrants. More than double that number (9.39 million) have migrated internally, with a large proportion bound for Yangon, and the Ayeyarwady Region the most significant origin area. **The LIFT-funded CHIME study demonstrates that this migration contributes substantially to greater labour market efficiency in Myanmar, as the majority of migrants were not economically active prior to their migration.**

At the macroeconomic level, the impact of migration on Myanmar's economy is substantial. According to the World Bank, **an estimated USD 3.5 billion was remitted by international migrants in 2017, which does not include the billions more that are remitted through informal channels.** Formal remittances alone constitute 5 per cent of Myanmar's GDP and are considerably larger than the combined official development aid provided by donors. A nationally representative study on financial inclusion by UNCDF estimated that the real remittance account may be closer to USD 10.8 billion.

Myanmar has yet to establish a governance framework fit to the task of managing its immense internal and international labour migration flows. As a result, **migration is often a considerable gamble for migrant workers and their families, with many experiencing exploitative practices during their recruitment and employment, including forced labour and human trafficking.** The benefits of migration disproportionately flow to unscrupulous recruiters, exploitative employers and rent seeking authorities rather than contributing to the social and economic development of migrant households.

Women face additional challenges in accessing safe migration opportunities in Myanmar. Protectionist policies currently restrict the migration of women into domestic work abroad, leaving many with no choice but to migrate through irregular channels. In destination countries, the types of work typically available to women offer fewer labour and social protections due to lack of formalisation. This reflects a systematic undervaluing of occupations that are traditionally viewed as women's work. It further compounds the unequal treatment that women migrants often experience as foreign workers.

The recent political and economic reforms within Myanmar have provided an exceptional opportunity to begin development of a more transparent and rights-based approach to internal and international migration governance, in line with international standards and good practices. Greater protection for the labour rights of migrant workers, whose enduring social and financial remittances continue to fuel the



country's development during this critical transition period, must be viewed as both an economic and human rights imperative.

3.4.2 LIFT's work to date

To expand the opportunities for safe and rewarding migration, LIFT began funding a USD 20 million Migration Programme in 2016. Through interventions at union, state and local level, LIFT partners have contributed to increased income and resilience for poor and vulnerable populations throughout the country. The seven projects supported by LIFT constitute the largest funding window for migration within Myanmar:

- **Capitalising on Human Mobility for Poverty Alleviation and Inclusive Development in Myanmar** (IOM, University of Sussex, Metta Development Foundation)
- **Increasing the Developmental Impact of Labour Migration through Strengthened Governance and Partnership** (IOM, Mon Women's Organization, Parami Development Network, Chin Human Rights Organization, Pact Global Microfinance Fund, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population)
- **Migration as a Livelihood Diversification Strategy in the Delta** (International Organization for Migration - IOM)
- **Development of Internal and International Labour Migration Governance** (International Labour Organization – ILO)
- **Making the Most of Migration and Money** (BBC Media Action)
- **Safe Migration and Empowerment for Migrant Women in Urban Areas** (Eden Project)
- **Industry Solutions for Safe Employment** (CARE International, Business Kind Myanmar)

The Migration Programme has supported the Government of Myanmar to improve the key policy instruments of its labour migration governance framework. Through a partnership with the ILO, LIFT has facilitated social dialogue and technical comments during the amendment of the *Law Relating to Overseas Employment* to ensure the new act is in line with international labour standards and is responsive to the needs of all stakeholders. LIFT also supported the development of the National Plan of Action on Labour Migration (2018-2023), which represents a significant step forward on migration policy through establishing a whole-of-government approach and establishing greater mechanisms for accountability.

Interventions of LIFT's Migration Programme have proven effective in improving working conditions and reducing the vulnerability of internal migrants in Yangon. Responding to the challenge of integrating workers into urban labour markets, the Care Consortium implemented a comprehensive intervention to assist migrant women obtain quality jobs and access protection services in the critically important garment sector. The results of the project have been promising so far, with over 1,000 skills development beneficiaries finding employment and 71 per cent receiving a higher income than untrained workers. There has been great demand from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population to replicate the model of vocational skills training provided by the project, including through development of National Occupational Competency Standards to be applied throughout Myanmar.

The Migration Programme conducted major awareness-raising campaigns on safe migration across Myanmar through its partnerships with BBC Media Action and IOM. To provide potential migrants and family members with the information they need to make safe and informed decisions, LIFT partners have made use of a wide range of communication channels to ensure the reach and effectiveness of the messaging. Through partnership with local civil society organisations, IOM has conducted direct outreach to 53,000 migrants across 600 villages in the states and regions of Chin, Mandalay, Ayeyarwady, Magway,



Shan, Mon, Kayin and Tanintharyi. BBC Media Action made use of social media, radio, listener clubs and media training to reach millions of beneficiaries nationwide.

LIFT contributed to a more gender-responsive approach to both policy and practice on migration in Myanmar. Advocacy on ratification of the *ILO Domestic Workers Convention (No. 189)* has begun to bear fruit. Consultations with parliamentarians have led to a proposal to set up an informal working group to develop legislation on domestic work within Myanmar, a highly vulnerable group of women workers who are currently excluded from coverage by labour rights and social protection. Eden's project has delivered outreach and aftercare assistance to women and girl survivors of trafficking in the sex industry, providing trauma-based cognitive behavioural therapy to help restore their confidence and personal strength.

The Migration Programme established a knowledge partnership to drive the migration discourse in Myanmar. A series of reports to build labour migration policy coherence are creating a suite of resources for improving multi-sectoral coordination on labour migration governance in Myanmar. LIFT also supported a large-scale research study on the relationship between migration and development in Myanmar, which analyses the impact of migration at the household, community and regional level and provides recommendations for maximising the positive contribution it makes to rural livelihoods.

3.4.3 What is LIFT aiming to achieve?

In the next phase of the LIFT strategy for 2019-2023, the thematic area of Decent Work and Labour Mobility has been established. This represents a shift in approach to **engage more broadly with establishing conditions for decent work within Myanmar's labour market, while maintaining a focus on internal and international migrants as some of the most vulnerable populations of workers.**

Under the framework of this thematic area, **the protection of fundamental labour rights will be the cornerstone for building a foundation for decent work in Myanmar.** This change makes explicit that the path to achieving sustainable and inclusive economic growth must be rooted in a labour market that provides fair wages and working conditions, allows for freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining and does not permit forced and child labour or discrimination in respect to employment and occupation.

LIFT will contribute to the following Decent Work and Labour Mobility results:

- **New and/or improved gender-responsive public sector policies, programmes, and expenditure on:**
 - **Labour rights and social protection (e.g., ratify C189, *Violence Against Women Law, Social Security Law*)**
 - **Labour migration governance (e.g., *Law Relating to Overseas Employment, Plan of Action on Labour Migration*)**
 - **Forced labour, child labour and anti-trafficking (e.g., *Plan of Action on Forced Labour, Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law*)**
 - **Employment and skills development (e.g., *Skills Development Law, TVET Law, National Occupational Competency Standards*)**
- **Enhanced capacity of stakeholders to support decent work (including through reducing the gender wage gap), labour mobility and anti-trafficking.**
- **Increased access to information, training and support services for women and men migrants and other vulnerable workers.**



- **Expanded opportunities for decent work, particularly for workers who are at a heightened risk of exploitation and abuse.**

3.4.4 How will LIFT deliver these results?

The Decent Work and Labour Mobility strategy is based on the theory that strengthening policy and legislation, enhancing stakeholder capacity and technical resources and providing women and men migrants and other vulnerable workers with greater access to information, training and services will contribute to the expansion of opportunities for decent work in Myanmar. Interlinking programme outcomes will serve as a key multiplier of impact, creating synergies between interventions at policy, system and household levels.

To incorporate the four strategic shifts within its programming, LIFT will apply the following approaches: **(1) support inclusion and social cohesion** by reducing structural vulnerabilities to abuse, including exclusions from labour and social protection laws, ineffective labour mobility systems, criminalisation of sex work and gender-based bans on deployment; **(2) focus interventions on ethnic/border states and conflict-affected areas** by increasing accessibility and quality of information and services for people from these areas and promoting decentralised migration policies to reduce the barriers to regular migration; **(3) enable access to opportunities for decent work and entrepreneurship, particularly for refugees and displaced persons**, through vocational training, enterprise development training and policy advocacy; and **(4) catalyse policy change** through inclusive social dialogue and empowerment of women, ethnic minorities, informal sector workers, people with disabilities, LGBTQI, and other groups facing discrimination within the labour market to voice demands for equal treatment.

3.4.5 Strengthened policies and legislation on labour rights and social protection, migration governance, anti-trafficking, and skills development and employment.

The existing policy and legislative framework does not provide adequate protection from exploitation and abuse for migrants and other marginalised groups within the labour market. To address this, LIFT will provide technical support, organise consultations, conduct empirical research and advocate for changes to policies that will reduce the structural vulnerabilities of workers. It will focus on four areas of policy and legislative development: (1) labour rights and social protection; (2) labour migration governance; (3) forced labour, child labour and anti-trafficking; (4) employment and skills development.

Technical support will focus on the development of gender-responsive policies and legislation, in line with international standards and good practices. This will include the preparation of technical comments and position papers on proposed legislation. Key legislation to be targeted includes the *Law Relating to Overseas Employment* and secondary legislation on recruitment, complaint mechanisms and the migrant welfare fund; legislation on labour protection for domestic work (ratifying the *Domestic Workers Convention (No. 189)*); *Violence Against Women Law*, *Skills Development Law*; *TVET Law*, *Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law*; *Labour Organizations Law*; *Social Security Law* and others.

LIFT will also organise policy consultations and discussions between government, employers, recruitment agencies, labour organisations, civil society organisations and workers themselves to **support social dialogue and enhance the voice of migrants and other marginalised workers.** Particular policy instruments for consultation include implementation of the Decent Work Country Programme, the National Plan of Action on Labour Migration, bilateral agreements on labour migration with destination countries and revision, lifting the ban on deployment of migrant domestic workers, Action Plan on Forced Labour,



National Occupational Competency Standards, the revisions to the *Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law* and others.

Empirical research will improve the evidence base for development of policy and legislation. Studies will focus on the implementation and impact of the existing legal and policy frameworks, working conditions in high-risk sectors for exploitation (including domestic work, sex work and mining), access to justice for women migrants, migration profiles at national and regional levels, labour market assessments to support greater matching of supply and demand for labour, migration cost surveys using the KNOMAD methodology to obtain comparable data by corridor for key destination countries, public attitude surveys on migration, process tracing studies on policy changes, policy coherence between migration and other sectoral policies and barriers to financial inclusion of migrants.

LIFT's advocacy work will eliminate structural vulnerabilities to abuse by establishing a more inclusive and gender-responsive labour market governance framework. LIFT will support advocacy groups among informal sector workers (who are disproportionately women) and their allies to develop inclusive labour laws that expand their coverage by labour and social protection. Public campaigns will be conducted to build recognition of the value of women's work, highlight the gender gap in wages and raise awareness of the importance of ending violence and harassment of women in the workplace to build momentum for policy change. LIFT will also support advocacy by sex worker organisations for amendment of the *Prostitution Act (No. 7/98)* to decriminalise sex work and expand labour rights protection.

3.4.6 Enhanced capacity and technical resources of stakeholders to support decent work, labour mobility and anti-trafficking.

To equip key stakeholders with the capacity to promote decent work and labour mobility, **LIFT will deliver training for the government, social partners and civil society on the implementation and enforcement of labour laws and migration governance.** Priority areas include accessible and gender-responsive service delivery by migrant worker resource centres, effective complaint mechanisms, high-quality pre-departure training, effectively trained labour attaches, and equal access to social protection for migrant workers and policy advocacy for CSOs and labour organisations.

LIFT will support the development of a labour inspection training module for the Myanmar Labour Inspectorate to **build the capacity of labour officers to inspect workplaces in high-risk sectors for exploitation.** It will also support the delivery of trainings to increase the capacity of the labour inspectorate to enforce laws in sectors at-risk of forced and child labour and to deliver protection services to vulnerable workers, including children and victims of forced labour and human trafficking.

LIFT will work with the private sector to establish self-regulatory regimes on ethical recruitment and employment practices and monitor compliance. It will also build the capacity of employer bodies, recruitment agencies and private sector partners to implement these codes of conduct. Specific attention will be paid to expanding acceptance among the private sector of the principle that migrant workers should not bear the cost of their recruitment, in line with international standards and guidelines.

LIFT will support worker-driven social responsibility initiatives to achieve meaningful and lasting improvements in labour rights protection within corporate supply chains. To ensure practical impact, worker organisations will be the driving force behind the establishment, monitoring and enforcement of programs designed to improve wages and working conditions - as opposed to top-down corporate social responsibility approaches. To facilitate this, buyers will sign legally binding agreements with worker



organisations that require them to provide sufficient financial support to their suppliers to meet labour standards and to stop doing business with suppliers who violate those standards. Implementation will be monitored through mechanisms that provide workers with an effective voice in the protection of their own rights, supports rigorous workplace inspections that are independent of buyer influence, and requires public disclosure of the results.

Given the extra-territorial nature of international migration, **LIFT will work with CSOs and trade unions to enhance cross-border cooperation on service provision to migrant workers**, linking services to ensure end-to-end delivery and providing opportunities for migrant service providers in Myanmar to benefit from lessons learned and good practices from other countries in South-East Asia.

LIFT will deliver training to national and sub-national media actors to change the discourse on labour migration communicated in the media. In particular, it will promote a more positive understanding of the contribution of migrants, and work to eliminate overly simplistic and sensationalistic narratives on human trafficking that can lead to counter-productive responses.

LIFT will also support the development and expansion of financial products and services to increase financial inclusion for migrants and other vulnerable workers. Specifically, LIFT will support the development and expansion of innovative financial services and products (e.g. digital wallets and remittance-linked savings products) to lower the cost and increase the safety of sending remittances. LIFT will also work with financial institutions to ensure that financial products are responsive to migrant workers' needs and serve to reduce migration-linked debts.

3.4.7 Increased access to information, training and support services for women and men migrants and other vulnerable workers.

A substantial gap remains in the delivery of information and services to migrant workers within Myanmar. **LIFT will seek to expand cooperation between CSOs/labour organisations and Labour Exchange Offices on service provision for migrants through migrant worker resource centres.** The partnerships will aim to build trust between migrant workers and service providers to enhance access to safe migration information, formalise the dispute resolution processes to ensure fair remedies are provided for labour rights abuses and eventually lead to a handover to government agencies to support sustainable service delivery.

Migrants and other vulnerable workers will be organised into unions and associations to provide peer support and collective bargaining capacity. Particular attention will be placed on nurturing the formation of associations in sectors where trade unions are not traditionally active, such as domestic work, sex work, fishing and other informal sectors.

LIFT will build on its experiences to date to support the delivery of skills training and job matching services for migrants seeking employment in urban areas, particularly for women in the garment and domestic work sectors. It will also expand access to skills training in underserved rural communities to broaden the livelihood opportunities available for those wishing to remain in their states and regions of origin. In addition to skills development, the training provided will address the need for increased awareness about labour rights, sexual harassment and access to essential services among workers in these areas.

Through provision of enterprise development training, LIFT will support returning migrants and aspiring entrepreneurs in communities of origin to start and improve their businesses. The training content will be



matched with financial services, including access to credit through MFIs, and will be particularly targeted to women and people in ethnic/border states and conflict-affected areas.

LIFT will also provide migrants and other vulnerable workers with legal aid to seek remedies for exploitation and abuse and help them to successfully navigate the complaints process. In particular, legal assistance will support complainants to obtain larger amounts of financial compensation for their grievances. To serve as a deterrent against exploitation and abuse, the legal aid services will seek punitive damages and establish precedents through strategic litigation. By increasing the financial penalties for such practices, the services will help to discourage repeat offences by employers and recruiters against migrant workers – increasing the cost for those profiting from exploitative practices.

LIFT will support outreach within red-light districts and support women and girls to leave exploitative situations within the sex industry. By providing shelter and holistic support programmes, survivors of trafficking will be able to obtain sustainable livelihoods and successfully reintegrate into their communities. Using a financial literacy curriculum developed specifically for migrant workers and members of their households, **LIFT will support training in communities of origin to assist them with achieving their financial goals.** The training content will cover topics such as setting a household budget, using a bank account, saving money and sending remittances safely and affordably.



4 Managing risks

There will be increased risks associated with moving to more difficult to reach, remote and conflict-affected areas. LIFT will ensure that the capacity and skills are in place to deliver programming in these areas.

- **Delivery risks:** A greater focus in hard-to-reach areas and groups, including in conflict/post-conflict environments, will challenge LIFT's ability to continue to deliver quality results at scale. Processes around programme design, data collection, data quality and timeliness of reporting will be reviewed and revised. Problems with obtaining government travel authorisation to conduct monitoring visits will be continually assessed and discussed with government. If necessary, new approaches to monitoring (third-party/remote monitoring) will be considered.
- **Operational risks:** The move to the new programme strategy will require the capacity, experience and capability among staff in LIFT and careful management of implementing partners. We will ensure the safety and security of our staff and partners through due diligence and reviewing duty of care.
- **Safeguarding risks:** As LIFT moves to focus on the most vulnerable populations, LIFT and implementing partners will need to understand and monitor their effect on the communities in which they work and revise as necessary policies and practice on safeguarding, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, protection of human rights and non-discrimination as well as sector-specific safeguards.
- **Fiduciary risks:** LIFT will expand its range of strategic, policy and implementing partners, work with new partners and work in increasingly difficult contexts. This may raise the risk of fraud and may result in slow or ineffective disbursement of funds. LIFT has robust systems in place to identify and follow-up on fraud risks, as well as a strong system of audit of downstream partners. LIFT will need to increase its focus on capacity-building as necessary.

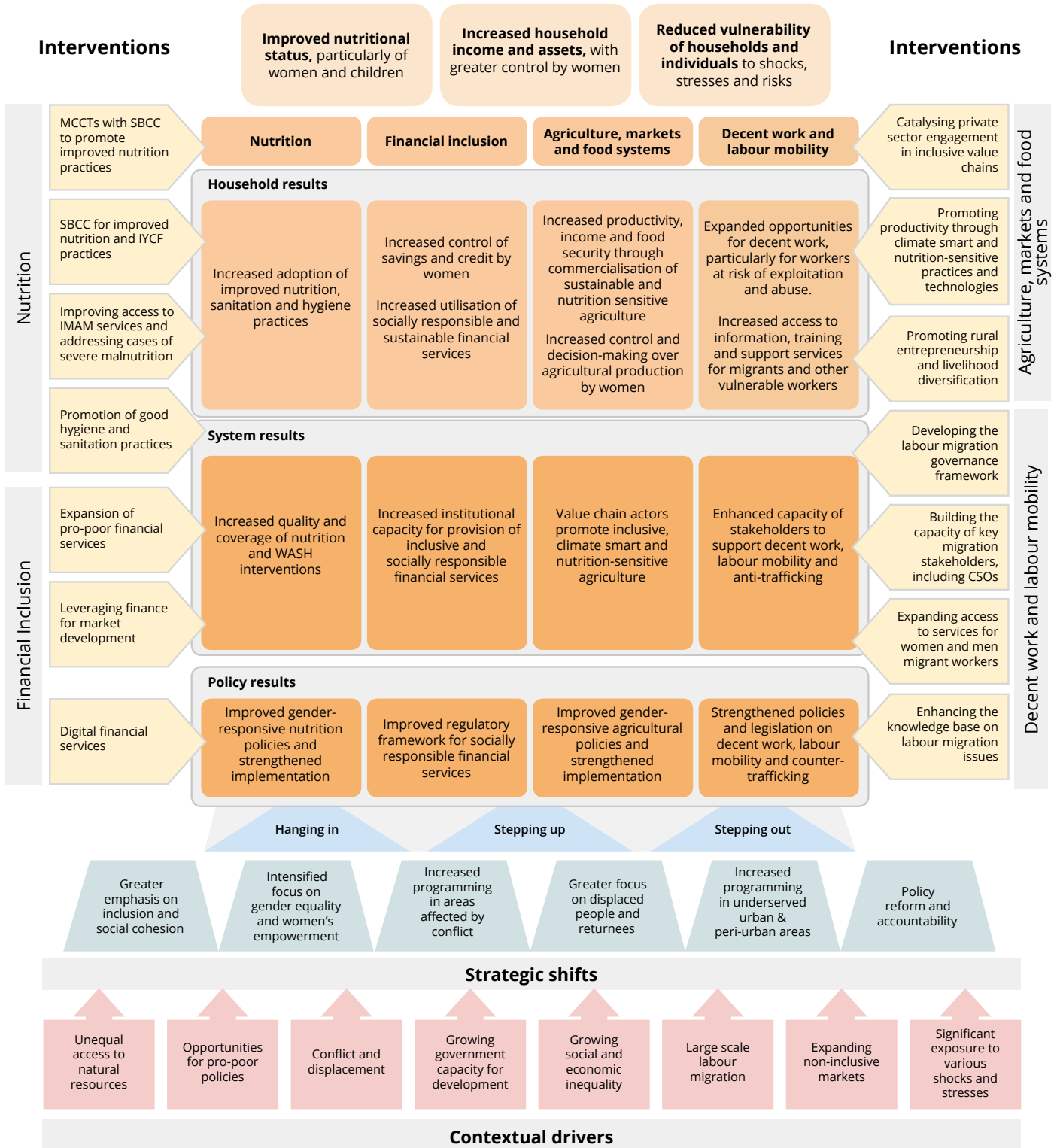
Appendices

- [LIFT Strategy Diagram](#)
- [LIFT Logical Framework 2019-2023](#)

LIFT Strategy Diagram - 2019 to 2023

Goal:
To support Myanmar in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (1, 2, 5, 6 and 8)

Purpose:
To strengthen the resilience and sustainable livelihoods of **poor and vulnerable groups in Myanmar**, particularly women, internally displaced people, migrants, smallholder farmers, landless people, people with disabilities and those vulnerable to trafficking and forced labour



LIFT LOGICAL FRAMEWORK 2019-2023

Milestones and targets currently under consideration

| Result | Indicator ¹ | Data Source | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| GOAL To support Myanmar in achieving SDGs | G1: % of moderately/ severely stunted children under 5 at national level | MOHS, DHS | | | | | | |
| | G2: % of women of reproductive age achieving minimum dietary diversity at national level | MOHS, DHS | | | | | | |
| | G3: % of population below the international extreme poverty line at national level | World Bank, MPLCS | | | | | | |
| | G4: % of moderate and severe food insecurity at national level | FAO, Food Insecurity Experience Scale | | | | | | |

| Result | Indicator | Data Source | 2018-2018 Achievement | 2019 Milestone | 2020 Milestone | 2021 Milestone | 2022 Milestone | 2023 Target |
|--|---|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| I-1: Improved nutritional status, particularly of women and children | PURPOSE: To strengthen the resilience and sustainable livelihoods of poor and vulnerable groups in Myanmar, particularly women, internally displaced people, migrants, smallholder farmers, landless people, people with disabilities and those vulnerable to trafficking and force labour | | | | | | | |
| | I-1.1: %/# of households in LIFT areas with an acceptable household dietary diversity score | LIFT HH Survey (HDDS) | | | | | | |
| | I-1.2: % of moderately/ severely stunted children under 5 years in LIFT areas | LIFT HH Survey (H/A) | | | | | | |
| | I-1.3: % of women of reproductive age (15-49 years) in LIFT areas achieving minimum dietary diversity | LIFT HH Survey (MDD-W) | | | | | | |

1. Coding System:

- G – Goal
- I – Impact
- N – Nutrition programme
- F – Financial Inclusion programme
- A – Agriculture, Markets & Food Systems programme
- D – Decent Work & Labour Mobility programme

- P – Policy level
- S – System level
- H – Household level

Result No. # Indicator No. #

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LIFT LOGICAL FRAMEWORK 2019-2023

Milestones and targets currently under consideration

| Result | Indicator | Data Source | 2010-2018 Achievement | 2019 Milestone | 2020 Milestone | 2021 Milestone | 2022 Milestone | 2023 Target |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| I-2: Increased household income and assets with greater control by women | I-2.1: % of households in LIFT areas below the international extreme poverty line | LIFT HH Survey (PPI) | | | | | | |
| | I-2.2: %/# of households in LIFT areas with increased income | LIFT HH Survey | | | | | | |
| | I-2.3: %/# of households in LIFT areas with increased asset ownership | LIFT HH Survey | | | | | | |
| | I-2.4: % of male-headed households in LIFT areas in which women report at least equal control over assets and income | LIFT HH Survey (WEAI) | | | | | | |
| I-3: Reduced vulnerability of households and individuals to shocks, stresses, and risks | I-3.1: Prevalence of moderate and severe food insecurity in LIFT areas | LIFT HH Survey (FIES) | | | | | | |
| | I-3.2: %/# of people in LIFT areas whose resilience has been improved and ability to cope has increased | LIFT HH Survey (Resilience index) | | | | | | |
| | I-3.3: %/# of households in LIFT areas categorised as vulnerable | LIFT HH Survey (Vulnerability Index) | | | | | | |
| | I-3.4: % of informal employment in non-agriculture employment in LIFT areas | LIFT HH Survey | | | | | | |

LIFT LOGICAL FRAMEWORK 2019-2023

Milestones and targets currently under consideration

| Nutrition Programme | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|--|
| Result | Indicator | Data Source | 2010-2018 Achievement | 2019 Milestone | 2020 Milestone | 2021 Milestone | 2022 Milestone | 2023 Target | |
| <p>NP-1: New and/or improved gender-responsive public sector policies, programmes, and expenditure that support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the MS-NPAN including SBCC for MCCT & MIYCF, IMAM scale-up, food fortification, and the ADS nutrition-sensitive agriculture component. • Increased sub-national support for the implementation of the MS-NPAN • Implementation of National Social Protection Strategic Plan (NSPSP) including MCCT, social pensions, people with disabilities. | NP-1.1: # of changes to nutrition related public sector policies and programmes supported by LIFT | Programme/ IPs | | | | | | | |
| | NP-1.2: # of changes in nutrition related public sector budget allocation/spending supported by LIFT | Programme/ IPs | | | | | | | |
| | NP-1.3: # of LIFT supported nutrition related policy oriented events organised | Programme/ IPs | | | | | | | |
| | NP-1.4: # of LIFT supported nutrition related policy oriented publications provided to key policy makers | Programme/ IPs | | | | | | | |
| <p>NS-1: Increased quality and coverage of nutrition interventions</p> | NS-1.1: # of individuals reached with LIFT supported nutrition specific interventions | IPs | | | | | | | |
| | NS-1.2: # of individuals reached with LIFT supported nutrition sensitive interventions | IPs | | | | | | | |
| | NS-1.3: # of households in LIFT areas with access to improved drinking water and sanitation facilities | IPs | | | | | | | |
| <p>NH-1: Increased adoption of improved nutrition, dietary, sanitation and hygiene practices</p> | NH-1.1: % of children under 6 months in LIFT areas who are exclusively breastfed | LIFT HH Survey | | | | | | | |
| | NH-1.2: % of children 6-23 months in LIFT areas with minimum adequate acceptable diet | LIFT HH Survey | | | | | | | |

Nutrition

Updated: 12 February 2019

LIFT LOGICAL FRAMEWORK 2019-2023

Milestones and targets currently under consideration

| Result | Indicator | Data Source | 2010-2018 Achievement | 2019 Milestone | 2020 Milestone | 2021 Milestone | 2022 Milestone | 2023 Target | |
|--|--|---|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|--|
| Nutrition | NH-1.3: %/# of households in LIFT areas using (a) safely managed sanitation services and (b) a hand-washing facility with soap and water | LIFT HH Survey | | | | | | | |
| | NH-1.4: %/# of households in LIFT areas using safely managed drinking water services | LIFT HH Survey | | | | | | | |
| | NH-1.5: % of men/women in union with children under two in LIFT areas who make child health and nutrition decisions jointly with spouse/partner | LIFT HH Survey (FtF) | | | | | | | |
| Financial Inclusion Programme | | | | | | | | | |
| Financial Inclusion | FP-1: New and/or improved gender-responsive public sector policies, programmes, and expenditure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support FRD's examination and supervision of MFIs Support MOPF's implementation of the National Savings Mobilization Policy Support the revision of microfinance regulation and practice to better serve MFI clients | FP-1.1: # of changes to FI related public sector policies and programmes supported by LIFT | Programme/ IPs | | | | | | |
| | | FP-1.2: # of changes in FI related public sector budget allocation/ spending supported by LIFT | Programme/ IPs | | | | | | |
| | | FP-1.3: # of LIFT supported FI related policy oriented events organised | Programme/ IPs | | | | | | |
| | | FP-1.4: # of LIFT supported FI related policy oriented publications provided to key policy makers | Programme/ IPs | | | | | | |
| | FS-1: Increased institutional capacity for provision of inclusive and socially responsible financial services | FS-1.1: %/# of LIFT supported MFIs financially self-sustaining | Programme/ IPs | | | | | | |
| | | FS-1.2: %/# of LIFT supported MFIs operating efficiently | Programme/ IPs | | | | | | |
| | | FS-1.3: # of individuals with access to LIFT supported financial services (active clients) | Programme/ IPs | | | | | | |
| FS-1.4: Value of private sector investment leveraged | Programme | | | | | | | | |

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LIFT LOGICAL FRAMEWORK 2019-2023

Milestones and targets currently under consideration

| Result | Indicator | Data Source | 2010-2018 Achievement | 2019 Milestone | 2020 Milestone | 2021 Milestone | 2022 Milestone | 2023 Target |
|---|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| FH-1: Increased utilization of socially responsible and sustainable financial services | FH-1.1: # of clients using micro, small and medium enterprise loans from LIFT supported MFIs and banks | Programme/ IPs | | | | | | |
| | FH-1.2: Total value of loans disbursed by LIFT supported MFIs and banks | Programme/ IPs | | | | | | |
| | FH-1.3: % of clients of LIFT supported MFIs and banks who do not meet their loan repayment terms | Programme/ IPs | | | | | | |
| | FH-1.4: % of individual households receiving LIFT supported financial services moving out of extremely poor/poor to near poor status over the last twelve months | Programme/ IPs (PPI) | | | | | | |
| | FH-2.1: %/# of households with women reporting equal or greater control over LIFT supported credit and savings | LIFT HH Survey (WEAI) | | | | | | |
| FH-2: Increased control of credit and savings by women | | | | | | | | |
| Agriculture, Markets, & Food Systems Programme | | | | | | | | |
| AP-1: New and/or improved gender-responsive public sector policies, programmes, and expenditure that support: • Implementation of the ADS and MoALI's contribution to MS-NPAN • Inclusive value chains • Inclusive, nutrition-sensitive crop, livestock and aquaculture practices • Inclusive climate-smart crop, livestock, and aquaculture practices • Land tenure security for small smallholder farmers • Natural resource management | AP-1.1: # of changes to agriculture related public sector policies and programmes supported by LIFT | Programme/ IPs | | | | | | |
| | AP-1.2: # of changes in agriculture related public sector budget allocation/spending supported by LIFT | Programme/ IPs | | | | | | |
| | AP-1.3: # of LIFT supported agriculture related policy oriented events organised | Programme/ IPs | | | | | | |
| | AP-1.4: # of LIFT supported agriculture related policy oriented publications provided to key policy makers | Programme/ IPs | | | | | | |

Financial Inclusion

Agriculture, Markets, & Food Systems

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LIFT LOGICAL FRAMEWORK 2019-2023

Milestones and targets currently under consideration

| Result | Indicator | Data Source | 2010-2018 Achievement | 2019 Milestone | 2020 Milestone | 2021 Milestone | 2022 Milestone | 2023 Target |
|--|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| AS-1: Value chain actors promote inclusive, climate smart and/or nutrition-sensitive agriculture | AS-1.1: # of LIFT supported value chain service providers (public, private, CSO) promoting inclusive, climate smart and/or nutrition-sensitive agricultural production | IPs | | | | | | |
| | AS-1.2: %/# of LIFT-supported input/service providers reporting business growth | IPs | | | | | | |
| | AS-1.3: %/# of individuals reached by LIFT-supported agricultural advisory services | IPs | | | | | | |
| | AS-1.4: # of value chain related decent jobs created for vulnerable individuals with LIFT support | IPs | | | | | | |
| AH-1: Increased production, income and food security through commercialisation and/or diversification of sustainable and nutrition-sensitive agriculture | AH-1.1: %/# of people reached by LIFT-supported advisory services using Good Agricultural Practices, inputs and technologies (including mechanisation) | IPs | | | | | | |
| | AH-1.2: Area/% of cultivated land under Good Agricultural Practices in LIFT areas. | Programme/ IPs | | | | | | |
| | AH-1.3: Average estimated value of agricultural production, consumed or sold, by households receiving LIFT supported agricultural advisory services | IPs | | | | | | |
| | AH-1.4: %/# of LIFT supported farmers reporting increased income from agricultural activities | IPs | | | | | | |
| AH-2: Increased control and decision-making over agricultural production and related income by women | AH-2.1: %/# of women in LIFT-supported households reporting equal or greater access, control and decision-making regarding agricultural production and related income | LIFT HH Survey (WEAI) | | | | | | |

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Milestones and targets currently under consideration

| Decent Work and Labour Mobility Programme | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|--|
| Result | Indicator | Data Source | 2010-2018 Achievement | 2019 Milestone | 2020 Milestone | 2021 Milestone | 2022 Milestone | 2023 Target | |
| <p>DP-1: New and/or improved gender-responsive public sector policies, programmes, and expenditure on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Labour rights and social protection (e.g., ratify C189, Violence Against Women Law, Social Security Law) Labour migration governance (e.g., Law Relating to Overseas Employment, Plan of Action on Labour Migration) Forced labour, child labour and anti-trafficking (e.g., Plan of Action on Forced Labour, Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law) Employment and skills development (e.g., Skills Development Law, TVET Law, National Occupational Competency Standards) | DP-1.1: # of changes to labour related public sector policies and programmes supported by LIFT | Programme/ IPs | | | | | | | |
| | DP-1.2: # of changes in labour related public sector budget allocation/ spending supported by LIFT | Programme/ IPs | | | | | | | |
| | DP-1.3: # of LIFT supported labour related policy-oriented events organised | Programme/ IPs | | | | | | | |
| | DP-1.4: # of LIFT supported labour related policy oriented publications provided to key policy makers | Programme/ IPs | | | | | | | |
| <p>DS-1: Enhanced capacity of stakeholders to support decent work (including through reducing gender wage gap), labour mobility and anti-trafficking</p> | DS-1.1: # of representatives of government, private sector, civil society, labour organizations and media trained with LIFT support on labour and social protection, safe migration and anti-trafficking, by sex | Programme/ IPs | | | | | | | |
| | DS-1.2: # of private sector enterprises whose compliance with ethical code of conduct related to recruitment and employment practices is audited | Programme/ IPs | | | | | | | |
| | DS-1.3: Amount of financial compensation awarded to workers for redress of grievances related to labour rights abuses and human trafficking | Programme/ IPs | | | | | | | |

Decent Work and Labour Mobility

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LIFT LOGICAL FRAMEWORK 2019-2023

Milestones and targets currently under consideration

| Result | Indicator | Data Source | 2010-2018 Achievement | 2019 Milestone | 2020 Milestone | 2021 Milestone | 2022 Milestone | 2023 Target |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| DH-1: Increased access to information, training and support services for women and men migrants and other vulnerable workers | DH-1.1: # of individuals successfully completing LIFT supported training on technical and vocational skills and enterprise development | IPs | | | | | | |
| | DH-1.2: # of migrant workers and family members provided with LIFT supported information, training and support services on safe migration and financial literacy | IPs | | | | | | |
| | DH-1.3: # of survivors of trafficking provided with LIFT supported shelter and/or support services | IPs | | | | | | |
| | DH-2.1: %/# of individuals successfully completing LIFT supported training who establish their own enterprises (including trafficking survivors) | IPs | | | | | | |
| DH-2: Expanded opportunities for decent work, particularly for workers who are at a heightened risk of exploitation and abuse | DH-2.2: # of individuals employed six months after completing LIFT supported vocational skills training | Programme/ IPs (Tracer Studies) | | | | | | |
| | DH-2.3: %/# of individuals successfully completing LIFT supported training with increased income from their employment or enterprise | Programme/ IPs | | | | | | |
| | DH-2.4: % of individuals employed in a situation of forced labour within LIFT target areas | LIFT HH Survey | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |

Decent Work and Labour Mobility

Updated: 12 February 2019



Livelihoods and Food Security Fund

