

Experience from Creative Home in Sagaing, Chin, Karen

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Abstract

This presentation will show how women's groups have been effective in mobilizing climate action amid the current conflict in Myanmar. Creative Home has been working with women's and youth groups in the community. They have formed a feminist justice alliance of 35 women's groups to raise awareness on women's rights. After the coup, they have worked in humanitarian assistance. In their project area, deforestation has increased with increased fighting as well as an increase in IDPs. The difficulty in livelihoods has led to more deforestation. Men leaders are not interested in tackling deforestation. On the other hand, women's groups have observed that deforestation leads to biodiversity loss and the depletion of forest resources on which they depend for food security. Therefore, women's groups came together to advocate for addressing deforestation and environmental degradation. Their experience showed that women's groups are more effective at highlighting climate change and environmental degradation, while male leaders prioritize fighting.