

Experience from Minu Au-Aw Group in Chin

Van Hnm Per

Abstract

In Chin State, landslides and deforestation have been problems, but they have worsened since the coup. There is no entity working to prevent landslides and deforestation. An increase in conflict leading to the influx of IDPs has exacerbated the problem. IDPs need to open up the forest to establish their own livelihoods. Economic difficulties have also led local farmers to open more forest to expand farmland. At the same time, a lack of waste management led to waste accumulating along the mountain slopes, which worsens the impact when a landslide happens. The gender norms in Chin State mean that all decisions are made by men, and the leaders are also men. However, women have been active in plastic reduction and waste management in the community, since these were considered women's work. These women's groups have begun to extend their actions and advocacy to address deforestation, in the face of a lack of male leadership on the matter of landslides and deforestation. This presentation shows how women are beginning to take up leadership roles in conflict situations related to climate change.