

Gold Standard for the Global Goals

Verification Appraisal Report



March 2018 - version 1.1

KEY PROJECT INFORMATION

Title of the project	GS1729 Myanmar Stoves Campaign - Soneva in Myanmar – VPA No. 007
Gold Standard project id	GS ID of the Activity (VPA 007) = GS 6129
Host Country	Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Date of Design Certification	14/06/2018
Start date of crediting period	01/07/2017
Duration of this monitoring period (dd/mm/yyyy) to (dd/mm/yyyy)	01/07/2019 - 30/06/2020
SDG Impacts targeted (as per approved PDD)	<p><u>SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all of all ages</u></p> <p>This VPA alone serves 1953 households and has improved the health and safety of around 10,000 people due to the fuel-efficient cookstove. This is in line with the Target 3.9.1, which states to reduce the number of mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution</p> <p><u>SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all</u></p> <p>This VPA has brought fuel-efficient cookstove to around 10,000 people, thus improving the energy efficiency for their cooking practices as compared to the old, three-stone fires, in line with the Target 7.3, which states, By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency. It also covers the Target 7.b, which focuses on bringing technology to LDCs</p> <p><u>SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all</u></p> <p>Myanmar Stoves Campaign’s project design includes selecting, training and developing the local men and women for the role of sale agents, for distribution and selling of stoves to the households. This provides these local entrepreneurs with transferable skills and income source. This is in line with the Target 8.3.1, which states, to increase the Proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment, by sex.</p>

	<p>Since the start of the program and until the end of this VPA period, 410 such sale agents were trained and developed, which includes almost 40% women.</p> <p><u>SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts</u></p> <p>The VERs (third monitoring period) generated by this VPA are 10266 VERs (capped at 10,000 VERs).</p> <p>In addition to this, in line with Target 13.3, states, to improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning. The Myanmar Stoves Campaign has conducted 37 such village level awareness raising events which were attended by a total of 1262 participants, 810 (65%) of which were women and 452 men (35%)</p> <p>The project, as per Target 13.b.1, also uses the carbon finance to support technology and capacity building for mechanisms for raising capacities for effective climate change-related planning and management, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities.</p>
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SECTION A. PROJECT STATUS DESCRIPTION

>> Please indicate the scheme applicable to the micro-scale project

1. Project is applying under the stand alone micro-scale scheme
2. Project is applying under the micro-programme scheme

Title of the Project or VPA:

Title of the PoA: GS 1729 "Myanmar Stoves Campaign" Gold Standard Micro-scale PoA

Title of the VPA: GS1729 Myanmar Stoves Campaign - Soneva in Myanmar – VPA No. 007

>> Briefly indicate when the project started operation and discuss its current status.

Myanmar Stoves Campaign aims to ensure the use of carbon finance to support the distribution and maintenance of domestic and non-domestic Fuel-Efficient Stoves (FES) through local implementation partner(s) (IP) in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The Myanmar Stoves Campaign is a programme of the Soneva Foundation and the first Gold Standard certified carbon project in Myanmar. This project activity is implemented by three actors, which are the Soneva Foundation, Mercy Corps and Local Vendors in each of the targeted project villages under this VPA.

Myanmar Stoves Campaign was started in September 2013 and currently, the project covers more than 1000 villages in central part of Myanmar. The co-ordinated action by the three actors in this project has been successful in distributing over 25,000 fuel efficient stoves which have improved the lives of more than 125,000 people.

The stoves distributed are the Envirofit SuperSaver GL (Earlier known as M-5000). Each household received at least one stove. There are two methods of payments which are lump sum (15000 MMK for lump sum payment) and instalment (17000 MMK for five (5) months instalment) payments. Instalment is an excellent method for some families who have financial hardship and couldn't afford lump sum payment.



Selected FES model for this VPA:

- Envirofit SuperSaver GL (Earlier known as M-5000), launched in 2011, is the successor model of the G-3300 and is produced in China, India and Kenya
- Product weight 4.2kg
- Size (in cm): 28x26.5x26.5
- CO2 emission reduction compared to three stone fire of 66%
- Wood use reduction compared to three stone fire of 66%
- Thermal efficiency of 29.7%
- Manufacturer guarantee of 2 years on outside and 5 years on the inside parts
- Estimated product life of 5 years

SECTION B. OBJECTIVE OBSERVER'S OPINION

>>Provide an opinion as to whether the project activity is in line with The Gold Standard principles and whether SDG outcomes should be certified.

Not applicable, this study is self-assessed.

SECTION C. DETAILS OF SITE VISIT

C.1 Team on site

>>List Objective Observer(s) that went on site. Provide brief information about his/her (their) background and relevant skills.

Not applicable, this study is self-assessed.

C.2 Period of site-visit

>>Time period during which Objective Observer(s) was (were) on-site.

Not applicable, this study is self-assessed.

C.3 People interviewed

>>Provide the list of the individuals interviewed during the site visit and include relevant information on the group or organisation they represent.

Not applicable, this study is self-assessed.

C.4 Means for interviews

>>Describe the means used to interview individuals during site visit; e.g. one to one interactions, telephonic conversations, etc.

Not applicable, this study is self-assessed.

SECTION D. EVALUATION OF THE STATUS OF MITIGATION AND COMPENSATION MEASURES

>>Evaluate whether the measures to mitigate risks to safeguarding principles identified during project registration have been implemented. Also check if any compensation promised to stakeholders have been delivered.

Mitigation or compensation measure	Comments (provide information on status of implementation)
<u>Safeguarding Principle 1 – Human Rights –</u> Non violation of Human rights and abuses of any kind	Our ongoing discussions with relevant local stakeholders/project partner/participants, reveals that no such incidents have been reported.
<u>Safeguarding Principle 4 - Cultural heritage, Indigenous Peoples, Displacement and Resettlement –</u> Project in sites, structures, or objects with historical, cultural, artistic, traditional or religious values or intangible forms of culture	None of the project installations or other aspects of the project are around sites, structures, or objects with historical, cultural, artistic, traditional or religious values or intangible forms of culture
<u>Safeguarding Principle 6 - Economic Impacts –</u> No forced labour	No forced labour has been employed in this project.

The PP confirms there is no breach in any of the safeguarding principles for this monitoring period. There have been no such reporting or observations during the entire annual monitoring period and monitoring surveys.

SECTION E. STATUS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS OUTCOMES

>> *With reference to the Sustainability Monitoring Report, evaluate the outcomes against the SDGs addressed by the project, including SDG 13.*

Project Developer Sustainability Monitoring Report

Relevant SDG Indicator	SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
Data / Parameter	Improvement in the indoor air quality, and health and safety of the stove users.
Unit	%
Description	Qualitative feedback from the stove users
Source of data	Project Survey
Value(s) applied	100%
Measurement methods and procedures	Household Surveys
Monitoring frequency	Annual
QA/QC procedures	Transparent data collection, analysis and reporting.

Purpose of data	Aimed at gathering and analysing user feedback on improvement in Indoor Air Quality and sub-sequent health benefits (eg: improvements in irritation to eyes, breathing problems, other health and safety benefits). The FES has reported reductions in CO and PM emissions as compared to three stone fires by 82% and 70% respectively (Link), which contributes to the health and well-being by reduction of Indoor Air Pollution.
Additional comment	Not Applicable

Relevant SDG Indicator	SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
Data / Parameter	Number of households served.
Unit	Number
Description	Total households and lives impacted
Source of data	Ongoing data collection and storage.
Value(s) applied	1743 eligible households in this VPA, and 8343 lives impacted.
Measurement methods and procedures	Ongoing, Project User Database. The Total Sales Record collects and maintains the total number of FES distributed in this VPA, from its start date to end date, which helps to estimate the number of lives this VPA has impacted.
Monitoring frequency	Annual
QA/QC procedures	Transparent data collection, analysis and reporting.
Purpose of data	To measure the number of households (and lives) impacted by access of a fuel-efficient cookstove.
Additional comment	Not Applicable

Relevant SDG Indicator	SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
Data / Parameter	Number of Sale Agents (Men and Women) created for the sales/distribution of stoves.
Unit	Number

Description	Employment and local capacity built up
Source of data	Ongoing data collection and storage. The Project Tracking File records the number of sale agents created during each VPA.
Value(s) applied	46 sale agent jobs created during this VPA period.
Measurement methods and procedures	Ongoing, Project Tracking File
Monitoring frequency	Annual
QA/QC procedures	Transparent data collection, analysis and reporting.
Purpose of data	To measure the number of jobs created local men and women in the target region.
Additional comment	Not Applicable

Relevant SDG Indicator	SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
Data / Parameter	Number of: i) Village Level Awareness Raising Events and ii) Attendance
Unit	Number
Description	Local awareness and sensitisation over climate/deforestation issues
Source of data	The Project Tracking File records the number awareness raising sessions conducted and the attendance in such meetings.
Value(s) applied	60 village level events attended by 1560 participants.
Measurement methods and procedures	Ongoing, Project Tracking File
Monitoring frequency	Annual
QA/QC procedures	Transparent data collection, analysis and reporting.

Purpose of data	To measure the number of people made aware and sensitised about the issues of global warming, climate change, deforestation impacts and transitioning towards energy efficient choices in the target region.
Additional comment	The Myanmar Stoves Campaign conducts village level awareness raising campaigns, where it aims to educate and sensitize the target audience broadly on key environmental issues, implications of deforestation, global warming and climate change and the importance of energy efficient cooking solutions. These workshops are conducted from village to village and are attended by the men, women and children and the village head of the respective villages. In these meetings, the discussion is around the environmental challenge and the project idea, design, and partners, the project cookstoves and its advantages, cooking demonstrations, the purchase points, and payment plans and general feedback of the audience/QnA with them. During this VPA period, 60 such events were conducted, which were attended by a total of 1560 participants.

SECTION F. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF CONTINUOUS INPUT / GRIEVANCE MECHANISM & FEEDBACK RECEIVED

>>Evaluate whether the approved/selected methods of Continuous Input/Grievance Mechanism from the LSC report / other consultations have been implemented on site.

Evaluate the stakeholders' comments received by different methods and responses provided by project developer. Also provide opinion if any mitigation measures should be put in place to address the comments raised.

The local stakeholder consultation consisted of two physical meetings in the project region. The project proponent ensured these consultations have adequate representations from all relevant local groups right from end users to the ministry level.

The first meeting was conducted on 07th July 2017 between 1330 to 1630 Hours in Mandalay town. The broader agenda for this meeting was to involve and gather feedback/support from the ministry and local administration from the entire Mandalay division for the project to grow and reach new townships and villages. This meeting saw representation from the Ministry, bureaucracy, local administration, and sub-distributors. The meeting was led by Mercy Corps where: 1) Introduction of the team, partners, carbon finance and project model, its benefits, and operation details were discussed, 2) there was sharing of information, achievements and future plans for the Myanmar Stoves Campaign with regional government and partners, and lastly, 3) to receive inputs/recommendations from the attendees.

The second meeting was conducted on 2nd November 2017 between 0900 Hours to 1230 Hours at Thay Pyay Thar (West) Village in Myittha Township in Mandalay division. This meeting was kept in a village to ensure the specific target group finds it easy to attend it. This meeting included groups of end-users, stove sale agents, village tract leaders, and local administration. The meetings consisted of presentations by the CME (Soneva Foundation) and Mercy Corps. The project participants were introduced, an overview of climate change, carbon finance mechanism, project implementation and its benefits and grievance mechanisms were discussed. The meeting was highly interactive, giving clarity to the attendees on all relevant aspects of the project and getting their feedback on the same.

The project design including Continuous Input/Grievance Expression Methods was also shared with more than 140 external and global stakeholders during the stakeholder feedback round in January 2017.

The assessment showed end-user grievances such as stoves breaking down were addressed and relevant action was taken, especially free replacements during the warranty period. For the stoves breaking down post warranty period, the decision to buy a new one rests with the user. However, the project provides the same financial incentives for these users to buy new replacements. Paper and electronic records of these are maintained at the Mercy Corps project office, and reported to the CME on regular basis. The comments and concerns received during the Local Stakeholder Consultation & Stakeholder Feedback Round were addressed by the project proponent. There were no comments or feedback received from any of the stakeholders for this VPA until the end of the monitoring period.

Safeguarding Principles Assessment:

The PP confirms there is no breach in any of the safeguarding principles for this monitoring period. There have been no such reporting or observations during the entire annual monitoring period and monitoring surveys.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

I, [insert full name], aged [insert age] years, residing at [insert full home address], and working for [insert company name], which is located at [insert company headquarters address], having been selected to serve as an Objective Observer on behalf of The Gold Standard Foundation, hereby certify and declare as follows:

Neither I nor anyone else having influence over me has an interest with any person or in any firm, corporation or other business entity that is involved in the assessed project activity "GS_____" nor have I participated, directly or indirectly, by committee or as a consultant, advisor, employee, officer, director, agent, trustee, or otherwise, in the development, implementation, or administration of GS _____. I further certify and declare that in no way do I have a bias in favor or against any person, firm, corporation or business entity involved with GS_____, and I understand that such bias would disqualify me as an Objective Observer. If at any time during the evaluation process I should become aware of any interest or bias, I will report it immediately to The Gold Standard Foundation.

For purposes of this declaration, I understand "interest" to include any consideration or other thing of economic value, including future consideration.

Name: _____

Signed this _____ day of _____ Year _____