More than 65 percent of Myanmar’s population, a total of 7 million households, has no access to grid-based electricity services. In rural areas, more than two thirds of households rely on candles, kerosene, low-quality batteries and diesel generators to meet their energy needs.

To address this, the Government of Myanmar, with the assistance of the World Bank Group and other donors, has adopted the National Electrification Plan, which aims to achieve universal access to sustainable electricity services by 2030 through a combination of grid extension and off-grid programs.

Launched in June 2016, the IFC-led Lighting Myanmar project will support this goal by helping international and Myanmar-based companies create a commercial and sustainable market for high-quality off-grid energy solutions, including solar lanterns, solar home systems, and mini-grids. The focus of this work will be in central Myanmar, where more than 75 percent of the country’s population lives and more than 4.5 million households use inadequate lighting solutions like kerosene or diesel. Solar is already widespread in this area but most systems are low quality and unreliable, providing an opportunity for quality assured solar lighting products to enter the market and compete.
Lighting Global supports the growing global market for modern off-grid lighting with a widely applicable, rigorous Quality Assurance (QA) framework. The Lighting Global framework served as the foundation for—and is now based on—International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) Technical Specification 62257-9-5, which provides the global QA framework for off-grid lighting. More than 80 products from more than 40 companies have passed Lighting Global QA testing at labs across the world, and are eligible to participate in country-specific projects like Lighting Myanmar.

For more information on the QA standards, and the list of quality verified products and companies, please visit www.lightingglobal.org.

Lighting Myanmar is implemented in partnership with Austria, Australia, Canada, Denmark, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

**About IFC**

IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, is the largest global development institution focused on the private sector in emerging markets. Working with 2,000 businesses worldwide, we use our six decades of experience to create opportunity where it’s needed most. In FY16, our long-term investments in developing countries rose to nearly $19 billion, leveraging our capital, expertise and influence to help the private sector end extreme poverty and boost shared prosperity.

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