



Livelihoods & economic opportunities +

Economic, environmental and social resilience and empowerment are at the core of people’s ability to own their future, especially for women, youth and disadvantaged groups. Around the world Pact works hand in hand with the communities we serve, co-creating sustainable responses to enhance their access to finance, livelihoods and resilience, human capital development and access to markets.

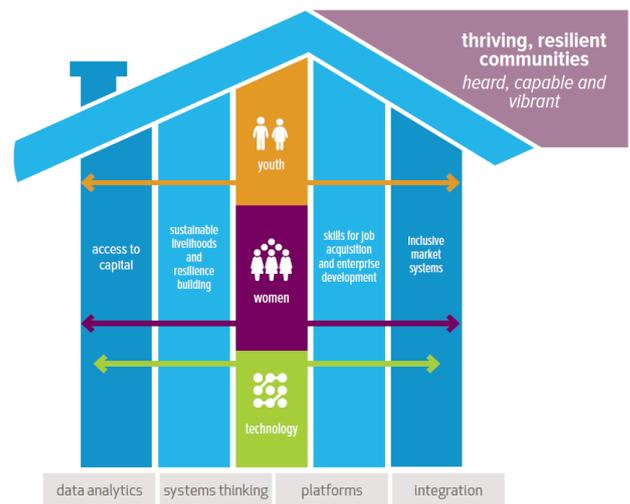
Introduction

At Pact, Livelihoods & Economic Opportunities+ (LEO+) seeks to achieve the vision of thriving, resilient communities by advancing programs in four technical areas: Access to Capital; Skills Development; Sustainable Livelihoods & Resilience Building; and Inclusive Market Systems. Pact recognizes that challenges are in many cases interrelated, requiring an integrated and systems approach to address them. In response, Pact is transforming into a non-profit organization that supports and scales sustainable, inclusive, market-based solutions to address its shareholders’ economic, social, and environmental challenges. From supporting

Ultimately, Livelihoods and Economic Opportunities+ at Pact facilitates the economic, environmental, and social resilience of our shareholders, and their ability to thrive.

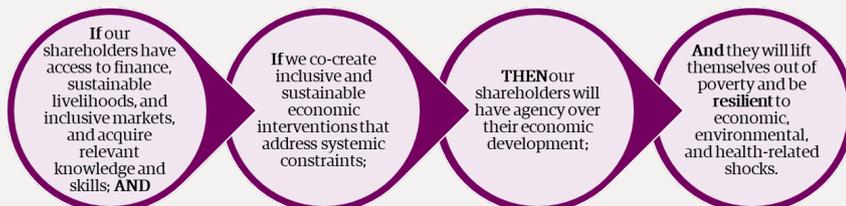
the development of private sector-tested models and climate-smart and resilient MSMEs and social enterprises, to increasing transparency and strengthening of supply and value chains, LEO+ interventions will be guided by the principles of sustainability and inclusiveness. LEO+ efforts advance, support, and enhance the work we do across all technical areas. Ultimately, Livelihoods and Economic Opportunities+ at Pact facilitates the economic, environmental, and social resilience of our shareholders, and their ability to thrive.

Pact co-designs and implements, in partnership with our shareholders and private sector stakeholders, innovative,



climate-resilient, and sustainable economic interventions that address the root causes of poverty, fragility, and economic inequality. Pact facilitates livelihoods diversification; promotes sustainable production and consumption patterns; ensures markets are inclusive; develops human capital to capitalize on, and creates more, equitable employment and entrepreneurship opportunities; and facilitates equal access to capital by women and men that contributes to building assets. We begin by meeting the vulnerable and impoverished households and communities where they are; we will strengthen the enabling environment for sustainable, equitable, and inclusive economic development. Moving shareholders along the development spectrum from acute poverty to effective participation in inclusive markets. Pact embraces and cements its interventions with Data Analytics; Leveraging Platforms; Systems Thinking Principles and Practices; and an Integrated Approach.

Theory of change





Access to Capital

Our shareholders face constant lack of access to adequate capital, financial services, and products responsive

Providing a holistic approach to access to finance by facilitating and enhancing equitable access to capital and financial services and products.

to their needs. This gets compounded by a lack of land titles and productive assets to serve as collateral. In addition, low levels of literacy and numeracy, gender discrimination, and often a lack of appropriate regulatory frameworks that support equal access to capital for all

further impact their asset creation and growth. Learning from our successes and shortcomings over twenty years of programming, LEO+ provides a holistic approach to access to finance by: strengthening and contextualizing the WORTH model to address differentiated needs for various demographics and digitizing WORTH tools and approaches to enhance credit profiling and to support MSME development; working with communities to identify and address societal norms that perpetuate financial discrimination.

Signature Program: WORTH
Global, 2008 - Present

WORTH is an award-winning micro-banking program that empowers individuals to lift themselves and each other out of poverty. WORTH brings community members

together, empowering them to overcome obstacles and achieve their vision. Unique in integrating - literacy training, community banking, and microenterprise development - it enables women to not only increase their income and start businesses, but also to become social activists, entrepreneurs, and leaders who bring about change in their communities. Pact is moving to using smartphones and has digitized the community banking forms to create an app - myWORTH - that provides users with greater learning opportunities and access to linkages with banks and other financial institutions to allow access to more capital. To date, WORTH has been implemented in 16 countries and reached 885,000.

Shae Thot
Myanmar, 2011 - 2018

The Shae Thot program implemented WORTH as a component of its programming, implemented between 2011 - 2018. The program provided access to financial services through self-generated savings—group loan funds and financial and entrepreneurship trainings to over 26,500 members. The support offered to Myanmar women through WORTH has increased women's access to resources, enhanced their livelihoods, and contributed to transformed gender perceptions and roles.

Skills Development

In the complex environments where Pact works there is generally a misalignment between existing human capital skills among our shareholders and those demanded by the market, a lack of appropriate technical and vocational training offerings, and lack of business development service providers to support micro, small, and medium enterprises, all of which constitute a bottleneck for growth. Women, youth, and disadvantaged populations

tend to be more deeply affected by cultural norms that inhibit their full participation in the job market, including early marriage practices, migration, and population

Advancing human capital development and entrepreneurship by supporting our shareholders in their efforts to integrate into their local economic lives.

Skills Development (continued)

displacement. Advancing human capital development and entrepreneurship by supporting our shareholders in their efforts to integrate into their local economies; developing their skills to secure productive and decent employment through market-driven vocational training; improving labor market access; and facilitation skills development for self-employment and entrepreneurship, improving the chances of success and sustainability of MSMEs efforts.

Sauti

Tanzania, 2015 - 2019

The Sauti project is helping to build a sustained reduction in HIV infections in Tanzania. Pact focuses on working with adolescent girls, and young women through our youth adapted WORTH model and providing entrepreneurship and employability training, reaching nearly 100,000. The project has also connected girls

to vocational scholarships, enhancing their learning through in program trainings.

WE Act: Empowering Young Women Entrepreneurs in Cambodia

Cambodia, 2018 - 2023

By supporting young women entrepreneurs to strengthen their skills, business linkages and participation with relevant associations, strengthening families and communities. The project focuses on urban-based micro, small and medium businesses owned by young women, ages 18 to 30. Working to address key challenges to their businesses through capacity development, network expansion, information sharing, access to finance and markets and more. In partnership with existing actors in the entrepreneur system, the project is supporting them to better serve the needs of young women entrepreneurs.

Sustainability and Resilience Building

For many of the communities we work in their livelihoods and food security are intrinsically linked to their natural environment which is increasingly being challenged by climate-related impacts i.e., increased pest prevalence, rainfall variability, drought and post-harvest losses, natural disasters and the lack of early warning systems and access to insurance, and human-induced impacts such as deforestation, topsoil erosion and loss of agricultural productivity, over-consumption of natural resources and degradation of ecosystem services. Enhancing community-based economic and environmental resilience through: the facilitation of livelihoods diversification for nutrition and climate-smart productive activities; advancing of green, blue, and circular economies and enterprises by creating “clean” jobs; strengthening the productivity and competitiveness of MSMEs through sustainable value chain interventions, improved market access, and local economic development; increasing the use of renewable energy for productive purposes; and developing alternative livelihoods that encourage rehabilitation of abandoned mines; and advancing innovative livelihoods.

Facilitating livelihoods diversification and nutrition through climate-smart productive activities.

MyCulture

Myanmar, 2015 - 2019

MyCulture is growing aquaculture in Myanmar, improving both the incomes of small-scale fish farmers and the food and nutrition security of communities in the country's Dry Zone. The project is leveraging aquaculture innovations and best practices, generating knowledge to scale up interventions, and building networks and the capacity of communities to engage in small-scale aquaculture.

Hay Tao

Madagascar, 2018 - 2023

Building the enabling environment for effective community-based management and protection of biodiversity resources in Madagascar. Meaning ‘Know How’ in Malagasy, Hay Tao focuses on empowering local communities to lead the way in the management of their natural resources. The project is using a systems approach to improve the enabling environment for effective, lasting community-based wildlife management and conservation of biodiversity.



Inclusive Market System

A constant challenge in developing and fragile countries is the slow and insufficient growth pace of value

Promoting economic transformation by facilitating equitable and sustainable access to capital, resources, assets, and opportunities for MSMEs and address market failures.

chains and supply chains to be competitive, resilient, and inclusive. Political and economic instability weakens private sector investments and, in some sectors, such as tourism, impacts heavily its opportunities for growth. Specific constraints include low levels of trust among stakeholders, lack of market access intelligence and access to it, lack of technology

upgrading and business development services, and low organizational capacity. Large bureaucracy compounds the problem and disincentivize investments and formalization of micro- and small enterprises. To address these challenges, and to support the above technical areas, LEO+ promotes economic transformation by facilitating equitable and sustainable access to capital, resources, assets, and opportunities for MSMEs to address market failures.

Recent Developments

myWORTH Application to Platform

Based on positive findings of a 2018-2019 Pilot, LEO+ and the Transformation Lab are working on the second iteration of our myWORTH application to serve its WORTH saving groups. The tool will allow us to digitize the paper banking system and cultivate a platform for learning—for shareholders to receive e-learning options, and for us to learn more about their assets and opportunities, and linkages to access capital in a responsible manner through relationships with banks and MFIs.

Youth Agenda

Livelihoods & Economic Opportunities+ (LEO+), with collaboration across the organization, has designed Pact's Youth Agenda, as a guiding tool to best meet the needs of the youth of today and tomorrow.

Contact Information

Meg Bearor, Advisor, Livelihoods & Economic Opportunities, mbearor@pactworld.org

David Bonnardeaux, Technical manager, Natural Resources Management, dbonnardeaux@pactworld.org

Green Invest Asia

Indonesia, Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, 2017 - 2022

The project is catalyzing private sector finance to upscale and drive investments in agriculture, forestry, and other land use toward low emissions, yet profitable business models. USAID Green Invest Asia identifies and develops promising climate-smart business deals with substantial profit potential for investors. Engaging with financial institutions and investors to link them to pipeline opportunities and bridge financial and technical gaps necessary to overcome barriers to investment in businesses that are environmentally and socially responsible.

Forest Incomes for Environmental Sustainability

Liberia, 2015-2020

The Forest Incomes for Environmental Sustainability project is developing key rural forest-based enterprises that provide sustainable economic opportunities for rural farmers and forest-dependent communities while also stemming deforestation and biodiversity loss. The project is strengthening forest value chains, establishing legal and management frameworks for forest enterprises, and building the forest-management capacity of local organizations.

2018 Key Accomplishments

Livelihoods

We empower people with limited livelihood choices to gain the resources and access they need to become income-secure.



1,192,606
people with increased net income and savings

2,000 users saving and conducting village banking on the myWORTH app



95% of those with increased incomes were women



Environment & Resilience Building

We partner with resource-dependent communities to help them gain lasting benefit from the sustainable use of the natural resources around them.

436,841 people benefiting from improved natural resource management

