GOING GREEN
CLEAN ENERGY THAT SPURS ECONOMIC GROWTH
Globally, over 1 billion people don’t have access to modern energy to meet basic needs.
Many millions more people lack reliable electricity, and face interruptions – often extended and unpredictable – every day.
Arc Finance wants to change that. We’re committed to helping energy-poor people access and afford clean and reliable energy.
Under the USAID-supported Renewable Energy Microfinance and Microenterprise Program (REMMP), we’ve gathered a range of partners: microfinance institutions (MFIs), money transfer organizations, and asset finance solar companies.
We’ve set up and supported programs to enable poor people in developing countries purchase solar energy products through financing.
We’ve seen great results.
Over 270,000 people have purchased clean energy products from our partners, 66 percent of whom are women, and nearly 1.5 million people have benefitted from access to affordable, clean and safe energy in their homes and businesses.
Access to energy – especially energy that is clean, affordable and reliable – is transformative.
We’ve seen clean energy clients use their solar lights to cook and help their children study after dark, and to spend time together as families...
...and also work to generate income inside and outside of the home.
“I use the the lamp all day…to milk the cows first thing, to get the children off to school, when I do housework, when we eat, when the kids study, and when we spend time as a family. Even in the evening I dim the lamp so the children have light all night.”
With access to solar light, clients weave…
...sell mangos and bangles...
...and make tapestries and baskets.
We’ve also supported solar agents in promoting, marketing and selling energy products in their communities.

We’ve found that nearly 2,000 people have started new businesses selling clean energy products.
We’ve found that agents and clients using solar energy products to generate income weren’t just better off financially…
...they were also prouder and more self-confident.
“I get happy when people call us 'light-wali didi' (light-selling lady), when we enter a village. It makes me feel good - I get recognized everywhere!”
“After I started selling solar lights, I got more support from my husband. He appreciates that our income is higher and also that our electricity bill came down!”
This is the beginning of something.
Established in 2008, Arc Finance is a global non-profit that brings together practitioners, funders, pro-poor enterprises, and end-users to finance clean energy and water. Our expertise is in providing the tools, technical services, catalytic investment, and linkages that allow these diverse groups to find common opportunity and achieve mutual benefits.
This photo essay was developed under the Renewable Energy Microfinance and Microenterprise Program (REMMP), which is implemented by Arc Finance and funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The central goal of REMMP is to increase access of underserved populations to clean energy products to improve livelihoods and quality of life, while minimizing climate-damaging emissions.

Photos:
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