

Young women & digital skills

Initial findings of IREX's study



The problem



Equitable access to digital skills is a universal public good, but Myanmar's rapid growth in mobile access has been uneven and risks deepening existing inequalities.

Methodology

- 70+ interviews with women and girls in Yangon, Taunggyi, Naypyidaw
 - Included civil society, government, business owners, university students, community members
- Focus group discussions, key informant interviews
- about 40% of focus group participants were over the age of 30 and the remaining 60% were under 25.



Finding 1

Early adolescence is the key stage to target women with skills and support services



Finding 2

Young women need more — and more local — digital skills training in order to participate fully in the 21st-century economy



Finding 3

Literacy, numeracy, and fundamental soft skills, such as leadership and communication, are vital for young women to benefit



Recommendations



Use Myanmar's pending Universal Service Fund to ensure that public access internet and technology is available to all, and specifically target youth and women



Recommendations



Make use of Myanmar's expansive public library network, as safe spaces for young women to access technology, digital skills training, and support services