USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Land Tenure & Resource Management

Why Land Rights Matter

Strengthening land rights is central to ending extreme poverty and promoting resilient societies. Clear, secure land rights create incentives that enhance food security, economic growth and sustainable development.

Worldwide, less than 20% of agricultural land is held by women

50% of forests in the developing world have insecure tenure, which is often a key driver of deforestation

70% of land in developing countries is unregistered

27

Land issues have played a major role in 27 conflicts in Africa since 1990

In many countries, land rights and land governance systems are weak. Rights and claims to land are often undocumented and overlapping. Demand for land is rising, fueling competition, conflict and increasing barriers to access for some groups.

Evidence suggests that

Understanding, Clarifying and Enforcing Land Rights

can have a powerful impact on all members of society, especially women

In Tanzania, women with strong land rights were 3 times more likely to work off-farm and more likely to have higher earnings

+3x

In Nicaragua, after land titling, there were significant gains to productivity of over 50%

+50%

In China, the probability of investment increased by 76% with land registration

+76%

In Uganda, plots without risk of eviction had 63% higher productivity

+63%

In Ethiopia, women's caloric intake and body mass index improved in areas where land rights were certified, and an increase in land allocated to women decreased household food insecurity by 36%

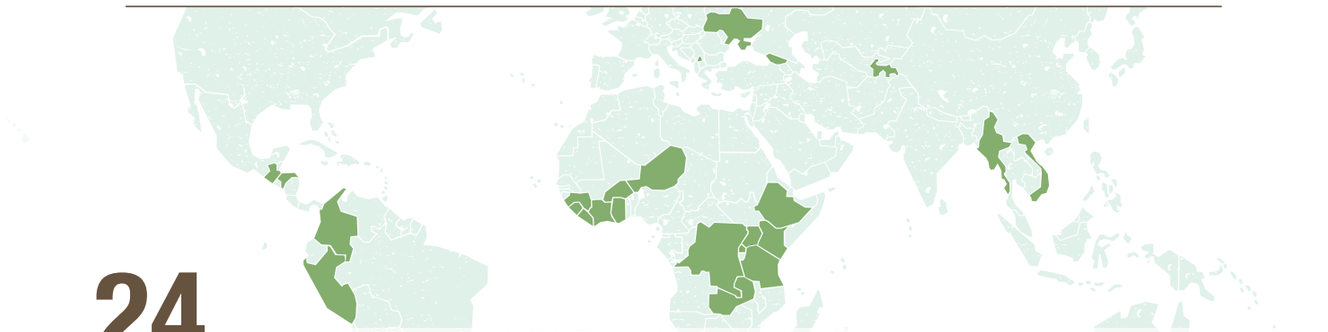
-36%

In Burkina Faso, productivity dropped by 40% when households had concerns regarding land disputes

-40%

Land Rights Matter to USAID

USAID works to improve land and resource governance and strengthen property rights for all members of society, especially women.



24 countries with active USAID land tenure programs

300 Million dollars committed to those programs

USAID's Land Tenure Programs by the Numbers (since 2013)

Strengthening the land rights of indigenous peoples	**6** Projects
Strengthening women's land rights	**15** Projects
Mitigating conflict and resolving disputes over land and resources	**8** Projects
Addressing global climate change	**6** Projects

Number of households receiving formal documentation of land rights: **29,667**

Number of land-related disputes resolved: **574**

Number of people trained on land and property rights: **25,875**

Number of laws or policies adopted that strengthen land rights: **3**

Number of land administration offices established or upgraded: **12**

Number of impact evaluations underway: **7**

Featured Project

Colombia Land and Rural Development Project (since 2013)

USAID is supporting the Government of Colombia to develop tools, systems, and skills to resolve the land issues at the heart of the nation's long-running conflict.

Number of land-related disputes resolved **567**

Number of women and vulnerable populations directly benefiting from project assistance in land restitution and formalization **1,235**

Sources:
Global Land Tool Network: http://bit.ly/1JVgrqV ; **Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN:** http://bit.ly/1BmRA9N ; **Rights and Resources Initiatives:** http://bit.ly/1zMIpuE
UN: http://bit.ly/1JVhxTw ; **World Bank:** http://bit.ly/1DhZu0P ; **USAID:** http://usaidlandtenure.net/documents/food-security-briefer-land-policy-next-generation