



# GLTN GENDER AGENDA 2019 - 2023

## MAKING WOMEN AND GIRLS' LAND RIGHTS COUNT

*A WORLD IN WHICH EVERYONE ENJOYS SECURE LAND RIGHTS*

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**GLTN**  
GLOBAL LAND TOOL NETWORK



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## INTRODUCTION

Securing tenure for all, particularly for women, youth and vulnerable groups is at the heart of UN- Habitat's Land and Global Land Tool Network (GLTN).

The GLTN Gender Agenda was adopted by GLTN partners at a Roundtable convened at the World Urban Forum in 2006.

During this meeting, a set of methodologies and strategies for developing land tools that promote equal access and control over land for both women and men were identified. These ideas and approaches have grown over time into dynamic tools, partnerships and change on the ground for women and girls. This brief outlines the GLTN Agenda, reflecting on past achievements and the Network's aspirations for the future.

GLTN partners recognize that women and men have different experiences of, relationships to and

requirements for land. Partners also understand from research and experience working with grassroots communities, that women and girls in particular, because of their gender and sex, are more likely to have limited rights, control over and access to land or have tenure security.

As a result, GLTN Partners have designed tools and approaches that prioritize securing women's land rights. Additionally, from testing tools and working with other Partners and broader stakeholders, GLTN partners acknowledge and appreciate the importance of addressing women not as a homogenous group, but from their diverse identities.

Solutions to improve women's tenure security must consider questions of culture and social norms, place and legal frameworks for example.



STDM mapping in Nepal. Photo: UN-Habitat/Wondi Tesfaye

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## RESPONDING TO INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL FRAMEWORKS

The Sustainable Development Goals (2015) call to “end poverty”, “leave no-one behind” (Goal 1) and achieve gender equality (Goal 5), reinforces GLTN’s work on in improving women and girls access to and control over land.

Indicators 1.4.2, 5.a.1 and 5.a.2 are highly progressive for securing women’s land rights. The specific targets advance women’s land rights through their call for the generation of sex disaggregated data including legally documented tenure rights and importantly, the perception of tenure security.

The indicators are disaggregated by all tenure types enabling the profiling and reporting of issues facing vulnerable women. Indicator 5.a.1 underscore access and ownership of agriculture land, while 5.a.2 enables the monitoring of progressive legal reforms including customary laws in support of women’s and rights land rights.

The New Urban Agenda (2016) strategically supports the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It also prioritizes the mainstreaming of gender equality and women’s empowerment across all social development goals. Importantly, the NUA presents the dual opportunity for women from sustainable urbanization through improved tenure security.

Women and girls can be beneficiaries of the outcomes but also drivers of the change, leveraging from the opportunity that land and inclusive tenure security offer to actually drive the sustainability agenda.

Finally, gender equality is central to all processes and aspects of tenure governance in regard to the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure 2012 (VGGT’s).

This includes policy formulation, institutional set up for administration, service provisioning, land administration programs, access to justice and information.

There are also regional frameworks and initiatives that provide a leverage point and a bridge between national and global initiatives on women’s empowerment. For example

- The Gender Strategy of the African Land Policy Initiative,
- The African Charter, Agenda 2063 and CEDAW Recommendation 34, 2016,
- The Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa (F&G),
- AU-AfDB-UNECA Guiding Principles on Large-Scale Land-Based Investments in Africa 2014,
- Dubai Declaration on Land Governance in the Arab States (February 2018)
- The Nairobi Plan of Action and the Maputo Declarations.
- The Kilimanjaro initiative remains an opportunity for GLTN to embrace and engage with.

There are also a number of frameworks within the UN system that informs and support GLTN’s approach.

UN-Habitat’s Strategic plan which puts gender parity front and centre and includes a focus on women.

The Economic Social and Cultural Rights Committee (ESCR) and UN Special Rapporteurs supporting land rights and women’s empowerment.



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## WHY WOMEN AND GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT (STILL) MATTERS

Attention to women's empowerment continues to be identified as critical to sustainable development. Empowering women and girls lifts them out of poverty, enhances their capacity to participate in decision making, increases their economic choices and influence at all key levels.

Empowering women and girls also reduces their vulnerability to sexual harassment, strengthens community social capital and gives them the peace of mind to invest in their surroundings and future. Land and tenure security are fundamental to this development dynamic and thus mutually reinforcing for women's and girls empowerment.

## KEY APPROACHES TO WOMEN AND GIRLS EMPOWERMENT

GLTN's approach to women's empowerment through improved tenure security, is based on inclusion, integration and the concept of women's diversity and differences.

The approach considers:

- **The continuum of land rights approach** emphasizes an inclusive and nuanced approach to tenure security. It considers all land uses, relationships and rights within formal and informal tenure regimes. The approach has been ground breaking in enabling a more focused and systematic response to women and girls land rights.
- **Mainstreaming gender** across all GLTN projects, processes and where feasible, network's activities with a view on making women the centre of the design, the process and the outcomes.
- **Strengthening knowledge** around women's land rights and effective ways for its dissemination including strengthening knowledge around women's land rights by exploring women and girls' different experiences of land rights around the world.
- **Developing practical, inclusive, gender responsive and value for money tools** which empower the full range of stakeholders to deliver tangible improvements to the lives of women and girls. The information derived from tools like the Social Tenure Domain Model's community mapping tool which can collect sex disaggregated data for example and the Gender Evaluation Criteria often leads to positive change in mind set and approaches to programming and policy and strengthening the participation and inclusion of women in decision making.
- **Initiating capacity development materials and training opportunities for a range of stakeholders.** The materials are presented in a reflective learning manner, encouraging stakeholders to engage in peer learning, knowledge exchange and action research which increases understanding on the challenges and solutions for improving women's tenure security.
- **Fostering multi-sector, multi-scale inclusive partnerships** with attention to the inclusion of grassroots women and key decision makers. The emphasis on diverse partnerships is prioritized especially in country level projects. It improves knowledge, understanding and the likelihood of change as all perspectives are taken into account and women themselves, their concerns and aspirations, are part of all project processes

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## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

GLTN partners are committed and continuously strive to secure women's and rights land rights. GLTN has been acknowledged as making a significant contribution to improving gender and women's empowerment in the land sector (GLTN Evaluation of Phase 2 2018).

*“The GLTN has been effective in shifting the discourse on land governance at global and national levels towards pro-poor and gender responsive land tools and approaches”*

*(point 2, GLTN Phase 2 Evaluation, 2018)*

To date, GLTN's main contributions towards gender and women's empowerment are:

- **New knowledge** on processes to empower women and in understanding their experiences of land rights and tenure security in different parts of the world. For example, 'Handling land: Innovative tools for land governance and secure tenure', which underlined the importance of attention to gender and women through the inclusive continuum approach which requires attention to gender and women's experiences through all land related systems and projects. The GLTN publication 'Women and Land in the Muslim World' provides new knowledge on women's experience of access, control and rights to land, highlighting the importance of considering culture, religion and place when thinking through women's improved tenure security.
- **Approaches and tools** for understanding women's experience, reforming land administration systems and engaging women and girls effectively in projects as both leaders, designers and recipients. For example, The Gender Evaluation Criteria is a guide to help stakeholders more systematically understand

women's experiences of land and tenure security and measure the impact of approaches and tools on delivering change on the ground.

- **Testing and piloting tools** for improved impact and mainstreaming of gender into country level projects. Through collaboration with partners, innovative and gender- responsive land tools, frameworks and approaches have been tested in 13 countries and delivered a range of impacts for women - including certificates of occupancy and first-time sex disaggregated data in slums and informal settlements that have led to improvements in housing and basic services for women.

### Examples of Gender-specific GLTN tools and publications:

1. Gender Evaluation Criteria (GEC) in English, Arabic, French, Spanish
2. Training package on Improving Gender Equality and Grassroots Participation through Good Land Governance
3. Women in Post-Conflict Settlement Planning (Eng. – 2013)
4. Women's Access to Land in Sub-Saharan Africa (Eng. – 2013)
5. Designing and Evaluating Land Tools with a Gender Perspective: A Training Package for Land Professionals (2011)
6. Gendering Land Tools: Achieving Secure Tenure for Women and Men (Eng. -2008)
7. Registration in Ethiopia: Early Impacts on Women Summary Report (Eng. – 2008)

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- **Advocacy.** GLTN Partners were integral in ensuring that both the SDG's and NUA adopt an inclusive gender responsive approach to land. GLTN partners advocated for recognition of 'perceptions' of tenure security in the measurement of tenure security and the importance of collecting of sex disaggregated data in the context of SDGs. These outcomes represent significant shifts in the discourses and approaches to land and tenure security. They underscore efforts towards monitoring land governance issues through the Global Land Indicator Initiative (GLII) facilitated by GLTN.
- **Promoting gender sensitive land policies.** GLTN's work on gender is gaining traction in countries who are upscaling their engagement to deliver tenure security to women and girls by developing gender responsive land policies

and gender land strategies. The role of GLTN in promoting the institutionalization of gender is acknowledged in the GLTN Phase II Mid Term Review and the Phase 2 independent Evaluation report which recognizes GLTN's role in integrating gender and land through monitoring the implementation of gender sensitive land policies.

- **Towards sex disaggregated and comparable land data.** Through the GLII, GLTN partners defined a set of 15 global land indicator for monitoring land governance issues including tenure security 1.4.2 proposed and included in the SDGs – all of which ultimately support women's land rights. For the GLII community, technical experts reviewed and influenced the harmonization of SDGs indicator 1.4.2 and 5.a.1. Custodian agencies also addressed key conceptual, definition and data approaches that profile women's land rights experiences.

GLTN partners continue to provide technical support to SDGs indicator methodology development mainly on 1.4.2; championing disaggregated data and the need to secure quality and authentic data, regularly produced and reported by governments and other actors to monitor progress on key outcomes associated with women's land rights.

A joint GLTN-IFAD guide, supported by the Millennium Challenge Cooperation, the World Bank and the Global Donor Working Group on Land (GDWGL), has developed a guide on impact evaluation of land tenure and governance interventions. The Guide promotes the documentation of key outcomes associated with women's experience of tenure security.



Girl working in a rice field near Chengdu, Sichuan.  
Photo: UNPhoto/John Isaac





# EXAMPLES OF COUNTRY LEVEL IMPACT

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## *Uganda*

In collaboration with local partners and using a multi-sector partnership with the Government of Uganda, ACTogether and the Uganda Land Alliance (ULA), GLTN has supported Uganda governments' land policy development and the implementation process. Through capacity building and the use of inclusive tools (STDM and GEC), the intervention resulted not only the development of a land policy with strong attention to the gender dimensions on land and women's empowerment. GLTN was also able to capitalize on the engagement around gender and women and go on to support the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development (MLHUD) to develop a specific gender strategy on land governance. Under the IFAD funded Tenure Security Learning Initiative for East and Southern Africa (TSLI-ESA) project, GLTN supported the Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (VODP - Vegetable Oil Development Project), ULA, ACTogether and other partners to implement and adopt gender-responsive and pro-poor land tools and empower small holder farmers to improve their tenure security and sustainable livelihood opportunities – many of whom are women. Using the STDM more than 1,200 households of smallholder oil palm growers have been enumerated to date, with 37% being women. A geo-referenced and gender-inclusive database was put in place towards securing their tenure rights. In Pader District, Northern Uganda, GLTN has collaborated with the local government and the Ministry of Lands Housing and Urban Development to document 300 parcels of land (65,167 acres). A total of 6,851 people has benefitted from this process which includes 4,096 women and 2,755 men through the issuance of certificates of customary ownership. Finally, through GLTN and partner organizations such as ACTogether Uganda, 838 women living in informal settlements of Kampala have acquired the Buganda

Land Board Cards (Kyapa Mungalo) to secure tenure for 49 years. Most informal settlements in Kampala sit on Buganda Kingdom land and the insecurity limited women's capacity to invest in livelihood and housing improvement strategies.

## *Zambia*

Highlighting the fundamental role that gender champions play in women's empowerment and specifically, the role of traditional chiefs, GLTN is supporting the documentation of customary lands in the Chamuka Chiefdom, Chisamba District, in the Central province of Zambia with a strong focus on women's empowerment. The initiative is supported by the traditional chief himself who sees the value of women for the development of his chiefdom and for Zambia as a whole. 11 villages comprising of appx. 7 388.12 ha of land have so far been enumerated and mapped. The process has benefitted an approximate population of 3,584 people out of which 2,042 are women. A total of 490 certificates of customary land occupancy have been issued, out of which 209 were presented to women headed households.

## *The Democratic Republic of the Congo*

GLTN has supported the land policy reform process in the DRC and implementation of various GLTN tools, primarily in collaboration with the North Kivu. These include the application of participatory enumeration, STDM, GEC, the Continuum of Land Rights approach and land mediation in post conflict context.

In a largely traditional society and one defined by war and displacement, GLTN and partners are working hard to engage women in the project processes and in ensuring that enumeration data is disaggregated.

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## *Namibia*

GLTN Partners (UN-Habitat, NHAG, GIZ) supported the Municipality of Gobabis in documenting land tenure of the Freedom Square community using STDM and Participatory Enumeration tools. After collecting and analyzing settlement data, the community identified their priority needs and undertook a “re-blocking” exercise. This resulted in Freedom Square getting water services / points installed in 2017, with financial support from the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development. The settlement layout caters for 1,097 residential plots. Out of these, 1,033 occupants were cleared to receive their certificates of occupancy. It is estimated that out of the 1,033 occupants cleared to receive certificates of occupancy, 620 were/are women.

## *Kenya*

GLTN work in the informal settlements and slums in Kenya has had a catalytic effect. Information on informal settlements and slums in Mashimoni, Nairobi county and Kwa Bulu and Mnazi Moja in Mombasa county has been gathered with the emphasis on disaggregated data ensuring women and girls experiences and relationships are documented. This work has not only provided county governments with information to understand its populations and specifically the experiences of women. It has also empowered the community to make clear requests for basic services, and informed by the perspectives and experiences of women and girls. A total of 3,710 households in the 3 settlements (have been profiled, enumerated, mapped. 944 certificates of occupancy have been issued by the Mombasa County government, out of which 399 were issued to women.

## *Philippines*

Since April 2017, GLTN Has been supporting the Philippines Alliance, (LinkBuild Inc., the Homeless People's Federation Philippines Inc. and the Technical Assistance Movement for People and Environment) in the project; “Inclusive application and implementation of the STDM to enhance community development initiatives”. As a result, grassroots communities living mainly in slums and informal settlements, are now able to use the STDM tool to map their settlements and manage their own data. This has promoted community ownership for both the information and the process, which was in part facilitated by the inclusion of women in all aspects of the process. Putting their settlements on the map has also empowered the community again to start to claim rights to basic services and has cultivated the skills in negotiating with local government units (LGUs), Local Housing Boards (LHBs), the Urban Poor Affairs Office (UPAO) for example. A total of 46,563 informal settlers from 17,065 families scattered across 122 communities in 4 barangays of Muntinlupa District I have been covered, with many women and female headed households engaged.



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