

Achieving social and economic development by

# INCREASING WOMEN'S ACCESS TO LAND IN THE MUSLIM WORLD

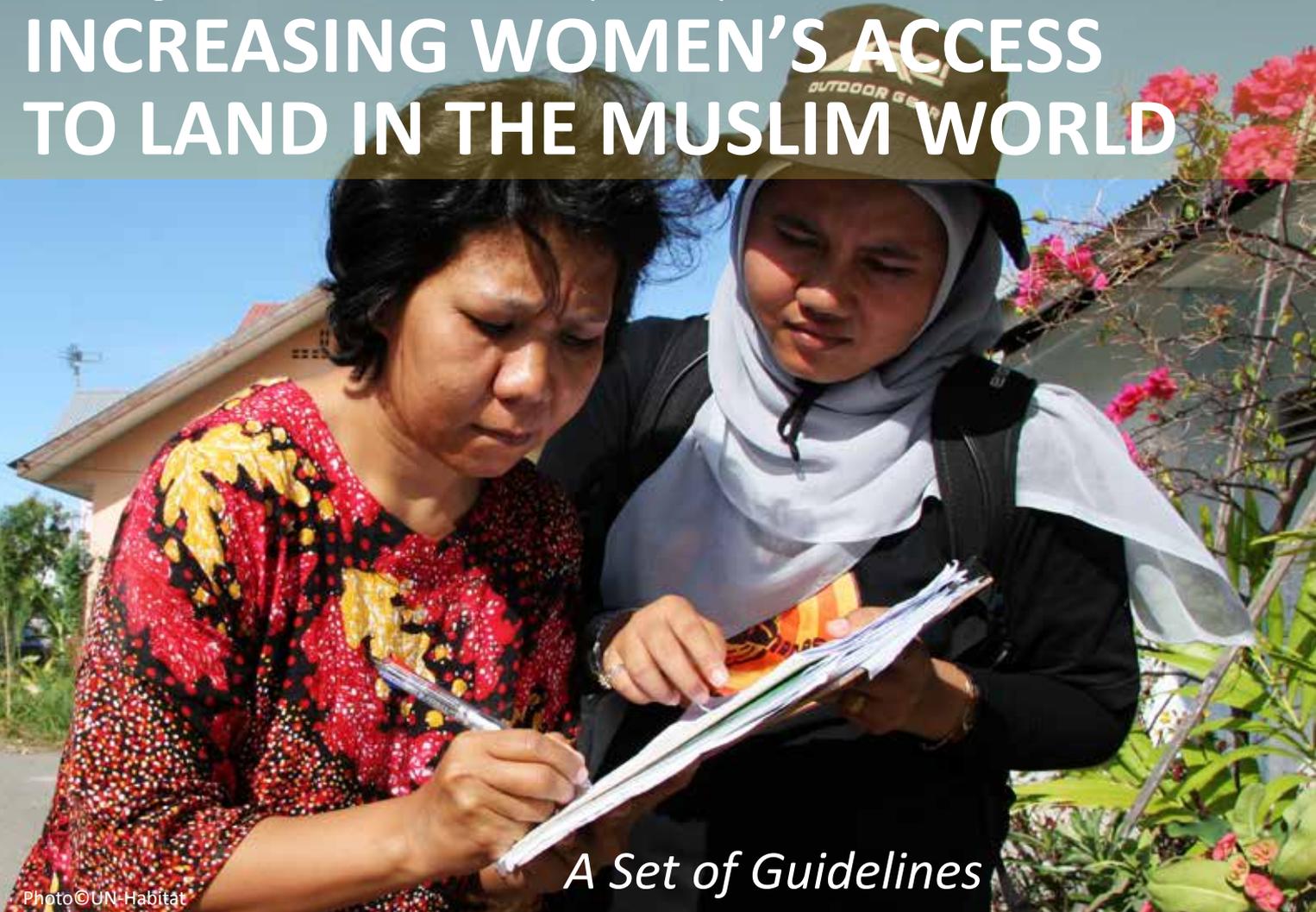


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## *A Set of Guidelines*

**LAND, WOMEN,  
MUSLIM WORLD**

### **WHY FOCUS ON ACCESS TO LAND FOR WOMEN IN THE MUSLIM WORLD?**

The social and economic development of every society goes hand in hand with the social and economic development of women. Access to, use of, and control over land are necessary cornerstones of this positive change. Through cross-sectoral international partnerships, the Global Land Tool Network develops and promotes pro-poor and gender-responsive tools and approaches to increase access to land and tenure security for all. While the tools developed have a global scope and application, GLTN recognizes the value of context-specific approaches that are particularly appropriate for some key areas of work, such as women's access to land.

The challenges faced by women in the Muslim world do not substantially differ from those faced by women in other parts of the world. However, 20 per cent of the world's population is Muslim and certain land-related patterns reflecting Islamic land principles and practices can be recognized in the Muslim World. GLTN looks at these elements in the context of legal pluralism along with international legal frameworks, national laws, customs and traditions to promote women access to land in the Muslim world.

## WHAT IS THIS TOOL?

This tool has the working title of: "Achieving Social and Economic Development by Increasing Women's Access to Land in the Muslim World: A Set of Guidelines". It is based on global, gender-responsive land approaches, a series of consultations with partners and experts, case study reviews and analysis, and on GLTN research on Islamic land principles offering opportunities for enhancing women's land and property rights. International and regional legal and policy frameworks, Islamic land law provisions, lessons learnt and good practices are combined into a set of guidelines that will help women, families, land practitioners, community workers and decision makers to increase access to land for women in the Muslim world.

The key elements of the guidelines include:

- What protects women's access to land;
- How women can access land – including ownership, secondary rights, customary and Islamic land-related mechanisms.
- What role marriage has in securing access to land for women – including joint marital property regimes, land and property arrangements during and after marriage, land and property options for different categories of women, etc.
- Women inheritance rights and provisions, including compensatory and alternative mechanisms
- Case studies and lessons learnt.



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## TOOL DEVELOPMENT AND THE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

The guidelines were developed through a multi-stakeholder approach that included research, brainstorming, expert group meetings and a series of exchanges between the members of the tool development committee. The Action Learning methodology was used as a learning tool to determine the key elements of the change model on which the tool is based. The tool is at an advanced stage of development and the next planned steps are the collection of additional case studies and research, peer reviews by a broader group of partners, and the validation. The tool will be used to support specific ongoing processes contributing to access to land for women in the Muslim world.

## PARTNERS

UN-Habitat, the University of East London, the Arab Union of Surveyors, the Urban Training and Studies Institute, and the International Islamic University of Malaysia all contributed to the development of the tool. A number of other organizations have contributed to different steps of the process, including the Norwegian Refugee Council, Habitat International Coalition in addition to other local and regional civil society organizations..

*To get more information or join the group of organisations supporting this work you are welcome to contact: Ombretta Tempra (Ombretta.tempra@unhabitat.org)*



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