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Tenure and Gender Equality

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What does gender equality mean to you?

“Gender equality concerns women and men.....
means more more than parity in numbers and
laws on the books;
it means expanding freedoms and improving
overall quality of life
without sacrificing gains for males or females.”

(USAID, 2012: 3)



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Gender Equality has two forms

- Formal equality
 - Women have the legal right to own, inherit, or sell land (“laws on the books”)
- Real equality
 - Women receive / are able to access the entitlements granted

Formal equality is a necessary but not a sufficient condition to create gender equality



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Benefits of Land and Property Rights for Women





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Land Ownership for Women: A Panacea?

- A current focus of both programmatic and academic exploration is the extent to which and in what contexts land ownership:
 - Might increase violence against women and if so, for how long?
 - Short, medium or long term

See additional information here:

<http://usaidlandtenure.net/commentary/2013/12/do-secure-land-tenure-property-rights-reduce-gender-based-violence>



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Changing Access Changes Social Relationships

- Because increasing women's ability to own and access land and resources
 - Redistributes resources between men and women
 - Fundamentally changing relationships between men and women

Access to resource often equals access to power.

It is rarely easy for anyone to give up power!



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Integrating Gender in LTPR Programming means

- Finding ways to reallocate rights and resources without persons in power (often men) feeling as though they are “sacrificing” or losing out
- How might we do that?



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Land ownership is gendered & inter-generational

Need to create awareness and the importance of LTPR not only among adults, but also among adolescents.

“The majority of parents give largest portion of land to their son, because from that land the son must maintain the family economy. For girls some land portion can be kept [for them], because after parent’s die, daughters might have some wish to get a share of their parents’ land”

Landesa / Nike Foundation "Security for Girls through Land" Project



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How might you start integrating gender into your programming?

Simple gender analysis questions that you can ask:

- Where are the women?
- Where are the men?
- How do men and women end up in these positions?
- Who benefits from women being where they are? Who benefits from the men being where they are?
- How does this placement of men and women affect how the household / village / society works?