

IMPROVING WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS IN COLOMBIA

Research from around the world shows that when women have access to land, property, and productive assets, a cascade of benefits accrue. The *USAID Land and Rural Development Program (LRDP)* increases women's access to land and property.



RESEARCH SHOWS...

Women with secure land and property rights earn **4** times more income and save **35%** more than women without access to land and property.¹ Their children are 10% less likely to be sick,² **33%** less likely to be underweight,³ and twice as likely to complete secondary school.⁴

USAID SOLUTION...

USAID addresses the land-based drivers of household poverty by increasing women's access to state-provided land formalization and restitution services. **50%** of the beneficiaries targeted by USAID formalization and restitution activities will be women.



RESEARCH SHOWS...

In post-conflict scenarios, women are left holding only **9%** of land titles.⁵ Three million women were displaced during Colombia's conflict, many of whom were involved in 'informal' marriages, and do not have the documentation they need to prove they own land.

USAID SOLUTION...

USAID helps women living in the most conflict-affected areas of Colombia reclaim their land by alleviating the common law marriage "burden of proof"—the legal evidence required to prove a common law marriage. This makes it easier for displaced women to prove their land ownership and claim the land that is rightfully theirs.



RESEARCH SHOWS...

21% of women displaced by conflict experience violence,⁶ and more than **40%** of Colombian women have experienced gender-based violence, with indigenous, Afro-Colombian, and displaced women being the most vulnerable.⁷ When women have access to land and property they are **8** times less likely to experience gender-based violence,⁸ and over **60%** less likely to experience long-term domestic abuse by their partner.⁹

USAID SOLUTION...

USAID analyzes the ways women are overlooked in land formalization and restitution processes, and trains Colombian land institutions to use a differential approach to ensure the unique needs of women and girls affected by conflict are prioritized and addressed.



RESEARCH SHOWS...

When women do not have land tenure they cannot access credit or membership in agricultural associations.¹³ Evidence from around the world demonstrates the importance of women participation in flexible, efficient, and fair rural labor markets.¹⁴

USAID SOLUTION...

USAID boosts and strengthens women's participation in agricultural associations—the key to connecting women with markets. USAID brings together women's associations, local government officials, rural development councils, and the private sector, strengthening the relationships women need to participate in the agricultural sector.



RESEARCH SHOWS...

Women are responsible for providing **45%** of household food in Latin America,¹⁰ but own only **18%** of the land in the region.¹¹ Inequitable access to agricultural resources—such as land, machinery, and technical assistance—causes women farmers to be **30%** less productive than their male counterparts.¹²

USAID SOLUTION...

USAID works with over 1,000 households to design productive projects, access technical assistance, and connect with markets. By mobilizing funding from national-level budgets into communities where conflict-affected women live, USAID increases investment in the strategic assets they need—like irrigation and roads—to make their land and businesses productive.

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 - 9 Agarwal, B and Panda, P (2007). Towards Freedom from Domestic Violence: The Neglected Obvious. *Journal of Human Development*, 9(3), 359-388 as cited in Landesa (2012) Issue Brief: Women's Secure Rights to Land
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