Land Rights, Gender Equality, & Women’s Empowerment

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WHAT DOES GENDER MEAN TO YOU?
GENDER is …

…the socially-defined set of roles, rights, responsibilities, entitlements, and obligations of females and males in societies…..

…..relational and refers not simply to women or men but to the relationship between them.

The social definitions of what it means to be male or female vary among cultures and change over time.

GENDER ≠ SEX
WHAT WE’LL COVER
OUTLINE
OUTLINE

• Definitions

• GEWE in USAID programming

• LTPR and GEWE linkages

• Gender integration in LTPR programing
  – Past and present experience
  – Strategies for strengthening women’s land rights
GEWE DEFINITIONS

Gender Equality

“…..concerns women and men…..means 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.”

Female empowerment

“…is achieved when women and girls acquire the power to act freely, exercise their rights, and fulfill their potential as full and equal members of society.“

Gender Integrations

“…..involves identifying, and then addressing, gender inequalities during strategy and project design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.”

(USAID, 2012: 3)
FORMS OF GENDER EQUALITY

• 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 REAL gender equality
GEWE IN
USAID PROGRAMMING
WHY GEWE IS IMPORTANT TO USAID?

Greater gender equality and women empowerment lead to better societies:

– Faster economic growth and improved food security
– Representative and effective public and private institutions
– Increased democracy and human rights

43%

Women make up 43% of the agriculture labor force. However, women are less likely to own land, and own fewer amounts of land when they do.

When women have the same amount of land as men, there is over a 10% increase in crop yields.

Source: USAID Infographic: Why invest in women?
WHY GEWE IS IMPORTANT TO USAID?

Gender at USAID - guiding policies and directives

• Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Policy (2012) [*Policy assessment in 2016*]
  – Reduce Gender Gaps
  – Address Gender-Based Violence
  – Empower Women and Girls

• ADS Chapter 205 on “Integrating Gender Equality and Female Empowerment in USAID’s Program Cycle” [*revised 2017*]
LTPR & GEWE LINKAGES
FEWER RIGHTS, LESS LAND

- Women are less likely to own or control land than men
- Women usually own and control lower quality and less amount land than men

More information at www.land-links.org
FEWER RIGHTS, LESS LAND

Best data points to large differences between women’s participation in agricultural production and their ownership of agricultural land

Sub-Saharan Africa
48.7% of agricultural labor, but only 15% of landowners

Asia (excluding Japan)
42% of agricultural labor, but only 11% of landowners*

Latin America
20% of agricultural labor, but only 18% of landowners

Middle East and North Africa
40% of agricultural labor, but only 5% of landowners**

* FAO(2011)  ** De La O Campo at al. (2015)
BENEFITS OF LAND & PROPERTY RIGHTS FOR WOMEN

- EDUCATION
- FOOD SECURITY & NUTRITION
- LIVELIHOODS
BENEFITS OF LAND & PROPERTY RIGHTS FOR WOMEN

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

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

In Nepal, in households where women own land, children are 33% less likely to be severely underweight.

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

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%.

In Burkina Faso, productivity dropped by 40% when households had concerns regarding land disputes.
HOW DO WOMEN ACQUIRE LAND?

INHERITANCE
– Statutory laws are discriminatory or “gender neutral”
– Customary laws favor sons

MARRIAGE
– Husbands decide what and how much land to give to their wife
– Widows are usually at the mercy of the husband’s relatives

PURCHASE
– Need of resources
LAND OWNERSHIP FOR WOMEN: A PANACEA?

Can programming focused on women’s rights to land and property help prevent and respond to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) or Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)?

MAYBE YES BUT MORE RESEARCH WOULD HELP HERE

• Lessons learned:
  – Context matter
  – Gender supportive to gender unsupportive environment continuum
  – Better outcomes may depend upon reinforcing activities

• Recommendations:
  – GBV risk assessment
  – Work with men who can serve as champions
  – Monitor and track activities designed to prevent and reduce GBV
GENDER INTEGRATION IN LTPR PROGRAMMING
INTEGRATING GENDER IN LTPR PROGRAMMING

• Finding ways to relocate rights and resource without persons in power (often men) feeling as they are “sacrificing” or losing out

• Need to create awareness of the importance of women’s LTPR not only among adults, but also among adolescents

• How might we do that?
  – Gender Analysis
  – Learning from IE
GENDER ANALYSIS

• Are women and men treated and regarded equally by the customary and formal legal system?

• How do men and women spend their time in relation to land and other natural resources?

• Who has access to land and its resources?

• Is there difference in the type, quantity and quality of land accessed by men and women?

• Who has the power of decision making when it comes to land?
PAST AND PRESENT EXPERIENCE

• 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
• USAID’s Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy of 2012
• Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT)
USAID WORK: JUSTICE PROJECT

Kenya

• Goal
  – Improving women’s access to customary justice, particularly related to women’s land rights

• Outcomes:
  – Significant increases in women’s access to land & control over household level decision-making around land and other family assets.

Women’s land rights can reduce child marriage
USAID WORK: MOBILE APPLICATION TO SECURE TENURE

Tanzania - Pilot & LTA*

• Women's land certification jumped from 0 to 49.4% in the villages where USAID’s MAST pilot was deployed

Burkina Faso**

• In only 25 days, 12 villagers used MAST to map and capture data on over 2,700 rural land parcels in 4 villages.

* MAST pilot was conducted in 3 villages during 2015; Land Tenure Assistance project (2015 – 2019)

** MAST – Burkina Faso (2016-2017)

Objective

– Enhance Women’s Rights to Use Property in Practice

Outcome

– Increased capacity of Civil Society Organizations to advocate for women’s rights to property

– Increased number of women inheriting property and securing access to credit
STRATEGIES

• Supporting efforts to help women exercise their legal rights & undertaking land governance reforms, to harmonize family, marriage, and inheritance laws;

• Educating local land administration officials on women’s land rights and how to promote and enforce these rights; educating both women and men on the benefits of recognizing women’s land rights;

• Giving attention to individual rights within a household, not just household rights as a whole;

• Addressing norms and customs for how women acquire land (e.g., purchase, inheritance & prevent or mitigate GBV/IPV effects);

• Working with customary leaders and systems to promote women’s access to and control over land;