



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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 programming
 - Past and present experience
 - Strategies for strengthening women's land rights

— DEFINITIONS

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



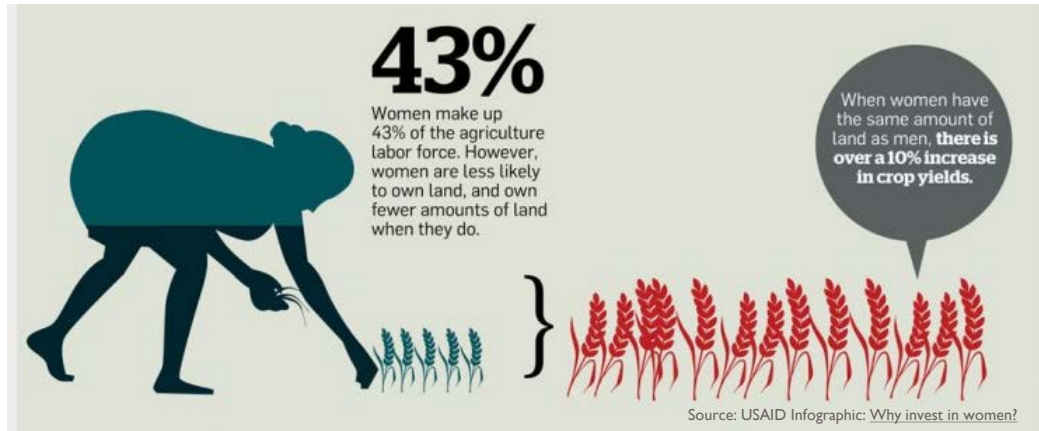
— GEWE IN USAID PROGRAMMING



WHY GEWE IS IMPORTANT TO USAID?

Greater gender equality and women empowerment lead to better societies:

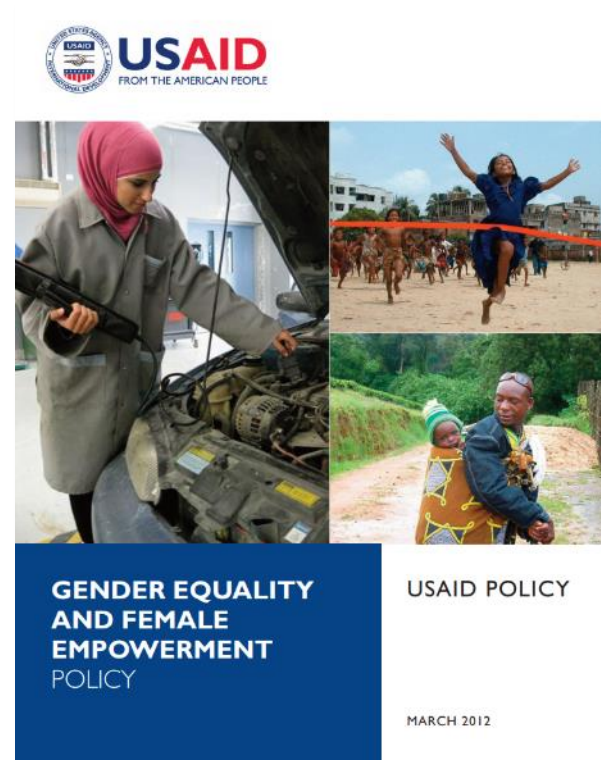
- Faster economic growth and improved food security
- Representative and effective public and private institutions
- Increased democracy and human rights



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

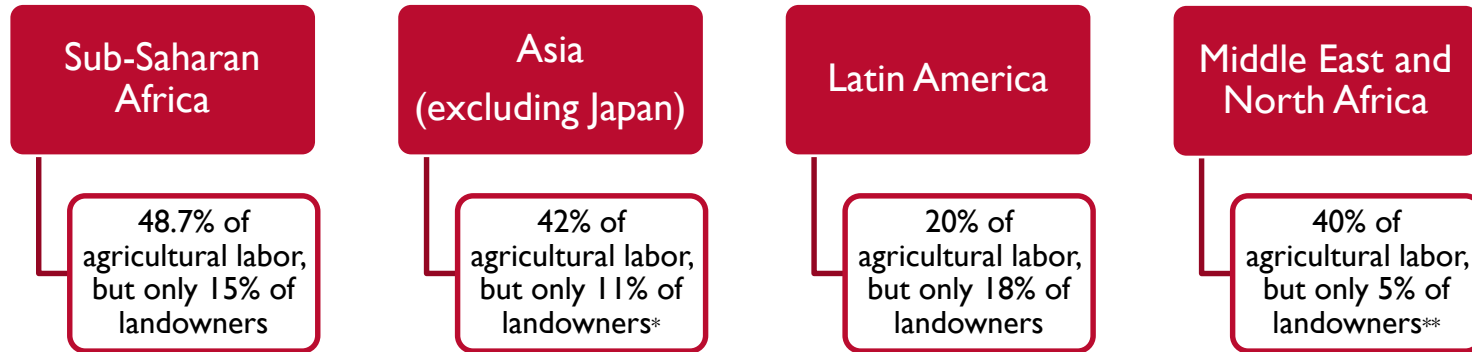


Worldwide, 32% of
farms are held by women,
compared with 68%
for men

Source: USAID Infographic: [Why Land Rights Matter?](#)

FEWER RIGHTS, LESS LAND

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



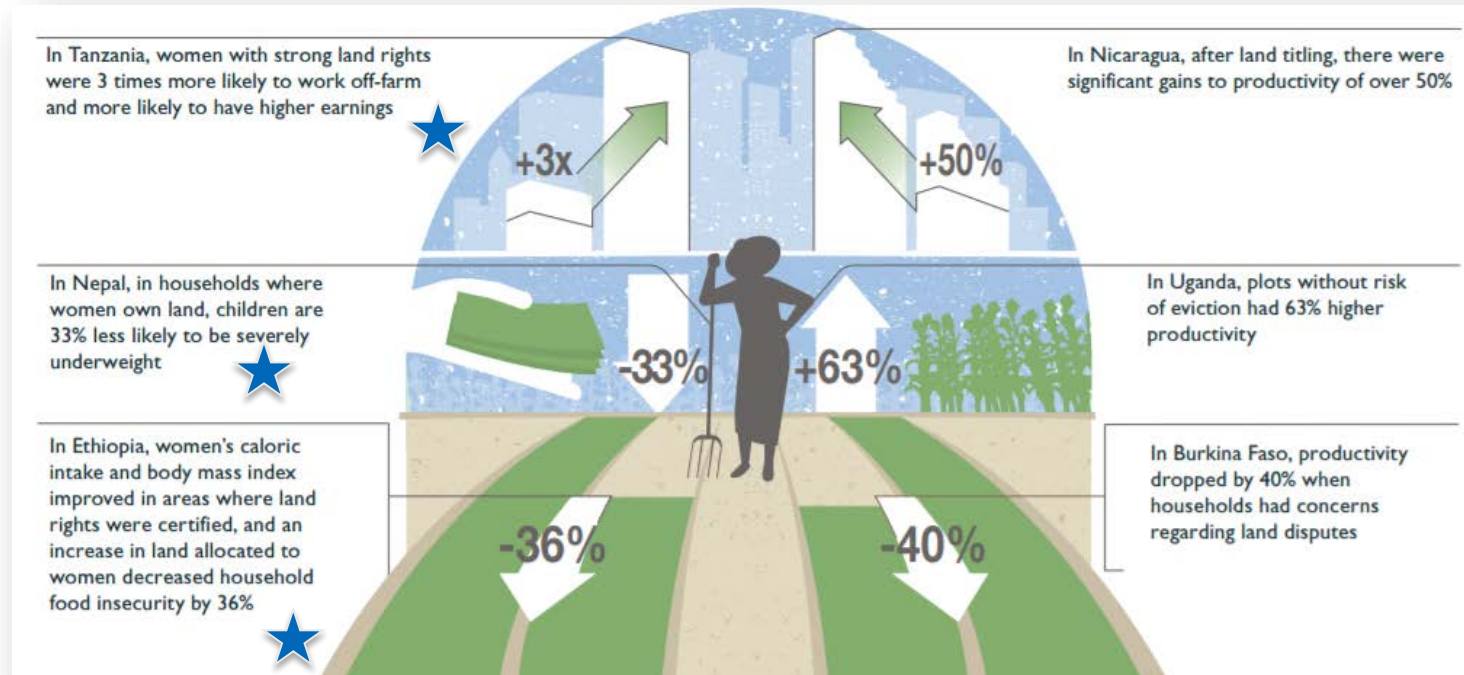
* FAO(2011)

** De La O Campo et al. (2015)

BENEFITS OF LAND & PROPERTY RIGHTS FOR WOMEN



BENEFITS OF LAND & PROPERTY RIGHTS FOR WOMEN



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/ and 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



INTEGRATING GENDER IN LTPR PROGRAMMING

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?



Sandra Coburn, The Cloudburst Group

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)*



USAID WORK: KOSOVO PROPERTY RIGHTS PROGRAM (2014-2018)

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;

A woman on the left wears a purple headscarf and a yellow shawl, holding a green document. A man on the right wears a white cap and a red and white patterned shawl. They are standing in front of a rustic building.

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#landmatters #landrights



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