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REAL COSTS OF COMMUNITY-LED RIGHTS DOCUMENTATION FROM USAID'S EXPERIENCE IN BURMA AND ZAMBIA

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REAL COSTS OF LAND RIGHTS DOCUMENTATION

- Do low per parcel costs include all tradeoffs?
- Factors that decrease costs of implementation may also decrease the quality and legitimacy of outputs, including ability to be formalized
- Rights documentation is a comprehensive process, not just about technology
- Appropriate technology to ensure legitimacy is key



TENURE AND GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

LAND RIGHTS DOCUMENTATION PILOTS

- BURMA

- 2015 – 2017
- Communities
- 59 communities
- Testing the National Land Use Policy in practice
- Outputs hosted on OneMap Myanmar Platform

- ZAMBIA

- 2014 – 2017
- Communities and households
- 650+ communities and 16,000+ parcels
- Modeling rights documentation to inform policy development
- Outputs housed on National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI)



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SIMILAR PROCESS

- Worked through and with local partners as trusted intermediaries
 - Burma: 7 civil society organizations (CSOs)
 - Zambia: 2 district land alliances
- Focus on capacity building for partners
- High and low tech mapping
 - Open source (not free)
 - Zambia included land administration technologies
- Remote and rural communities

COST FACTORS IDENTIFYING WHERE TO WORK

- Communities with no prior land disputes require more outreach and sensitization to understand objectives
- Communities with existing land disputes require more investment regarding conflict resolution
- Working in communities before pressures from active disputes arise is more cost effective





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COST FACTORS LOCAL PARTNERS

- Important to work with partner that has longstanding relationship with community
- Local staffing plans – use university-educated parasurveyors? Community members?
- Tradeoffs on quality and oversight required
- Most important factor is spatial awareness

COST FACTORS

CAPACITY BUILDING

- Local partners required extensive training and oversight
- Range of subjects needed from administrative and financial skills to broad understanding of tenure to technical mapping skills
- Structured, consistent application of tenure principles and social engagement proved biggest challenge to train and monitor





COST FACTORS OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS

- Investments in communication, outreach and engagement result in more community buy-in
- Need for education on eligibility requirements for accessing land rights
- Simple, highly visual communications materials (films, cartoons, posters) are effective

COST FACTORS ENSURING COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION AND VALIDATION

- Inclusive and broad representation of community members
- Requires strong relationships and trust building
- Documenting tenure is often iterative and communities may reveal more important information later in a process
- Reaching reluctant participants is key, but contributes to higher cost





COST FACTORS GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

- Working with local government champions is key to success and an important cost factor
- Decision makers at district/regional level difficult to engage
- Government recognition important for scaling

COST FACTORS APPROPRIATE DATA COLLECTION TOOLS

- Open source mobile data collection on tablets and handheld GPS units
- Large format paper/vinyl maps were critical for engagement
- Need combination of low and high tech tools





COST FACTORS DATA MANAGEMENT

- Need to plan for data management system from the start
- Zambia utilized open source data management, but required international expertise and oversight to maintain
- Planning for costs related to administration should be factored into per parcel costs

MAKING MAPS USEFUL

- Mapping process not just about recognizing customary rights in statutory systems
- Important for advocacy, dispute resolution, planning
- Tradeoffs between cost effectiveness and sustainability
 - Documentation sets expectations of long-term relationship





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