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)
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
• 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
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
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.
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
• 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