

GUIDANCE ON DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL (SDG) 1.4.2

The goal of this brief is to provide National Statistical Organizations (NSOs), regional statistics agencies and managers of national household surveys guidance on how to collect and report data on SDG 1.4.2 for 2018/19 and beyond. This summarized methodology has been agreed upon by the custodians (UN-Habitat and the World Bank) for this SDG indicator together with the custodians of SDG 5.a.1 (FAO and UN-Women). The custodians of 1.4.2 (UN-Habitat and the World Bank) and 5.a.1 (FAO and UN-Women) will coordinate their support to country and regional statistical agencies for country data collection, analysis and reporting.

Why does land tenure matter? Land tenure security has been recognized as highly relevant to the achievement of SDGs for ending poverty and hunger, achieving food security, gender equality, sustainable cities and human settlements, and for the protection and sustainable use of land ecosystems. Secure tenure rights to land are vital for poor populations to access basic resources, develop and sustain their livelihoods. Inadequate and insecure tenure rights reduce investments and resilience, hamper productivity and can lead to conflict and environmental degradation (UNSD, 2016).¹

There is also an important gender component to land tenure. Empirical evidence demonstrates that securing women's property rights contributes to lower poverty and vulnerability and has positive consequences for women's empowerment, nutritional and health outcomes, and children's schooling.² The complementary construction for SDG 1.4.2 in using land documentation and perception reflects these insights: (i) land is a key asset that is essential for poverty reduction, human rights and equality of opportunity; (ii) secure land tenure creates incentives for investment, transfer and use as collateral; and (iii) there is a need to complement formal measures of tenure security with perception-based measures given there can be significant discrepancies between these measures. Finally, reporting on 1.4.2 and 5.a.1 will help governments understand the relationship of land tenure to other sectors.

¹ Land tenure is part of Goal 1 and Goal 5, via 5.a.1 (access to agricultural land) and 5.a.2 (legal framework for land governance). Tenure security also matters for Goal 2, Target 2.3 (2.3.1 and 2.3.2 addressing smallholder farmers and Target 2.4 (2.4.1 on agricultural area), Goal 11, to Target 11.1 (access to affordable housing/upgrading slums) and Target 11.3 (sustainable urbanization/settlement planning), Goal 14 (b) to provide access to small-scale fishers and marine resources, and Goal 15 on the sustainable use of land and natural resources. Similarly, land is a significant source of conflict, and thus matters for Goal 16 for promoting peace and inclusive societies and institutions.

² See Agarwal and Panda, 2007; Deininger et al., 2010; Doss et al, 2015; Field, 2007; Kumar and Quisumbing, 2013; Peterman, 2011

Background for SDG 1.4.2 and 5.a.1.³ Increasing demand for pro-poor land reforms has created the need for a core set of land indicators that have national application and global comparability. This culminated in SDG 1.4.2, which measures gender disaggregated progress in tenure security, as well as SDG 5.a.1, which measures progress for agricultural land specifically. Indicator 1.4.2 considers two aspects of tenure security: legally recognized documentation and perception of tenure security. Only documentation that is official is considered under indicator 1.4.2. Documentation is combined with perception of tenure security, which is captured through the respondent-estimated probability of involuntary loss of land rights in the next five-year period as well as the reported right to bequeath.

SDG 1.4.2 moved to Tier II status following approval of the meta data based on extensive consultation and piloting, collaboration with NSOs and land agencies to assess feasibility and willingness of data collection, and development of an established methodology for calculation and collection. Movement to Tier I status requires that the indicator is regularly collected and reported by at least 50 percent of countries and 50 percent of the population in every region where the indicator is relevant.

Collecting 1.4.2 in the context of a multi-topic survey (Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), Living Standards Measurement Survey (LSMS), Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS)) increases its analytical value. Beyond generating an indicator for the SDG monitoring process, countries can explore how land tenure issues relate to other development outcomes including poverty, food security and nutrition, women's empowerment, other SDG goals, etc. While 1.4.2 may be collected as a standalone indicator, it is recommended to collect 1.4.2 using an existing survey (DHS, LSMS, MICS) given no major changes are required to such surveys and existing survey processes (and associated efficiencies) can be utilized.

Data collection and reporting required for 1.4.2. Both administrative and survey data is required to construct 1.4.2. Data collection is the responsibility of land agencies and national statistical agencies, respectively. Coordination at the country level between NSOs and land agencies is essential, both for developing country specific metadata as well as reporting on these indicators.

Administrative data are used for measuring legally recognized documentation and can be reported on an annual basis in countries with electronic land information systems in place, with the accompanying population data made available from censuses. For countries with electronic land information systems, this data can be generated routinely for low cost and disaggregated by gender and type of tenure. Countries with paper-based systems will have more difficulty with reporting. For these countries the main source of data on documentation for this

³ SDG Indicator 1.4.2: *Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, with (1) legally recognized documentation and (2) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and by type of tenure*; SDG Indicator 5.a.1: *(a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land by sex; and (b) Share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure.*

indicator will initially be household surveys. For countries that do not collect information on gender for registered land and in which there is no means to match with other core data (i.e. social security numbers, IDs, etc.), land agencies are encouraged to begin collecting this information on newly registered land.

Standardized survey module. The essential questions required for reporting on this indicator have been combined in a module with the custodians of 5.a.1 (FAO and UN-Women) to ensure a harmonized approach to data collection, as data requirements are partly similar. To facilitate the standardized collection of survey data, UN-Habitat and the World Bank, together with the FAO and UN-Women, developed a standardized, consolidated and succinct survey module (see Figure 1). The module leverages the work of the United Nations' Evidence and Data for Gender Equality ([UN EDGE](#)) project, which is the most advanced in using and testing gender sensitive methodologies and approaches. The common land tenure module (Figure 1) is designed to provide the data required to compute indicators 1.4.2 as well as 5.a.1. The module incorporates lessons learnt from methodological experiments, as well as from implementation at national scale by the national Statistical Office of Malawi in its 2016/17 Integrated Household Survey (IHS4).

How to customize survey instruments and country level meta data. While the common land tenure module (Figure 1) has been carefully designed to be as universal as possible to maintain applicability as well as comparability across time and countries, some customization is required at the country level given the varying legal systems and land tenure arrangements across countries. The survey module has been designed to permit customization of the *response categories* to determine legal ownership. Country-specific metadata lists should be developed by each country in coordination with the land agencies to guide customization of the survey module. The lists should provide an inventory of the tenure types, types of documents in use and identify which documents are legally recognized as evidence of land rights. Additionally, the first page of each document should be put into the CAPI survey⁴ to aid interviewers and respondents in identifying the source of legal ownership (see additional guidance [here](#)).

⁴ If a paper-based survey is used a paper copy example of the document type should be provided.

Data collection process, tools and training

- ***Respondent selection.*** Household surveys generally collect household-level data from proxy respondents.⁵ This approach is problematic for measuring tenure rights and security because proxy reporting by one member of the household tends to incorrectly assign rights and underestimate both women's and men's rights and use of land (See Box 1). Therefore, ideally indicator 1.4.2 and 5.a.1 should be based on *self-reported* rather than proxy data. Developing statistical agencies' capacities for collecting individual self-reported data will be progressively expanded through DHS, MICS, LSMS and other types of surveys in coordination with the FAO and UN-Women. Data will still be used for countries that use proxy data and do not yet have survey instruments in place based on self-reported data.
- ***Training and question guidance.*** The implementation of the common land tenure module is fairly intuitive, yet training is recommended prior to implementation. An enumerator manual to guide data collection, including images of the range of tenure related documentation in use by land holders, is also recommended. Detailed explanatory notes on each question should be included in the enumerator manual (see Malawi's IHS4 Enumerator Manual for the Agriculture Questionnaire and Fishery Questionnaire as an example [here](#)).
- ***Questionnaire module.*** The questionnaire module has been designed for paper assisted personal interviewing (PAPI) implementation to have the widest reach. However, implementation of the module via CAPI is recommended, as this can minimize data entry errors, allow for more immediate data review and analysis and enable quick use of photo aids (which can improve data quality). An electronic version of the questionnaire will be created using the World Bank's open access CAPI platform, Survey Solutions. The survey questionnaire is available [here](#). The CAPI application can be customized from the base module as necessary based on whether plot or individual level data is collected, whether it is self- or proxy-reported, etc. (see "Decision tree for version selection" page 3 [here](#)).

Case study results of interviewing direct versus proxy respondents:

Findings from the Methodological Experiment on Measuring Asset Ownership from A Gender Perspective (MEXA) experiment revealed that data from proxy respondents yield different estimates than self-reported data, with variations by asset, by type of ownership and by the sex of the owner. For instance, the study found that self-reported data increase both women's and men's reported ownership of agricultural land in Uganda. The increase is greater for men (15 percentage points) than for women (10 percentage points) and is less pronounced when considering documented ownership (+7 percentage points for men and +2 percentage points for women) (Kilic and Moylan, 2016).

⁵ Proxy respondents are often identified as the household head or spouse of the household head. However, this individual is not necessarily the most informed on the subject matter.

Figure 1: Common land tenure module

Version 5 -- Individual level (not parcel level), proxy respondent, assuming separate household member roster with gender.

Implementation / CAPI Notes: Use "currently" or set a specific date -- country level decision. Codes to be customized at country level - to include all legally recognized Named agencies and documents. Rental contracts of some form should be included, as long as rights are legally protected. Photo aid to be shown to respondents.

Q0. Do you or does any member of your household own or hold use rights for any parcel of land, either alone or jointly with someone else, irrespective of whether the parcel is used by your or another household, and irrespective of the use of the parcel (including dwelling plot, agricultural, pastoral, forest and business/commercial plots)?

| LIST ALL ADULT HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS FROM ROSTER (FED FORWARD) | 1. ENTER THE ID OF THE INDIVIDUAL RESPONDING FOR (NAME) | Agricultural Land | | | | | | | Non-Agricultural Land | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|--|---|--|--|--|-------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|--|
| | | 2. Does (NAME) currently own or hold use rights for any agricultural land (including pastoral land), either alone or jointly with someone else? | 3. Is there a document for any agricultural land (NAME) owns or holds use rights to that is issued by the Land Registry/Cadastral Agency, such as a title deed, certificate of ownership, certificate of hereditary acquisition, lease or rental contract? | 4. What type of documents are there for the agricultural land (NAME) owns or holds use rights to, and is (NAME) listed on any of the documents as owner or right use holder? | 5. Does (NAME) have the right to sell any of the agricultural land (NAME) owns or holds use rights to, either alone or jointly with someone else? | 6. Does (NAME) have the right to bequeath any of the agricultural land (NAME) owns or holds use rights to, either alone or jointly with someone else? | 7. On a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 is not at all likely and 5 is extremely likely, how likely is (NAME) to involuntarily lose ownership or use rights to any of the agricultural land (NAME) owns or holds use rights to in the next 5 years? | 8. Does (NAME) currently own or hold use rights for any non-agricultural land, such as residential or commercial purposes, either alone or jointly with someone else? | 9. Is there a document for any non-agricultural land (NAME) owns or holds use rights to that is issued by the Land Registry/Cadastral Agency, such as a title deed, certificate of ownership, certificate of hereditary acquisition, lease or rental contract? | 10. What type of documents are there for the non-agricultural land (NAME) owns or holds use rights to as owner or right use holder? | 11. Does (NAME) have the right to sell any of the non-agricultural land (NAME) owns or holds use rights to, either alone or jointly with someone else? | 12. Does (NAME) have the right to bequeath any of the non-agricultural land (NAME) owns or holds use rights to, either alone or jointly with someone else? | 13. On a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 is not at all likely and 5 is extremely likely, how likely is (NAME) to involuntarily lose ownership or use rights to any of the non-agricultural land (NAME) owns or holds use rights to in the next 5 years? | | | | | | | |
| | | DOCUMENT #1 | | | DOCUMENT #2 | | | DOCUMENT #3 | | | DOCUMENT #1 | | | DOCUMENT #2 | | | DOCUMENT #3 | | | |
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Color Codes: SDG 1.4.2 (blue), SDG 5.a.1 (red), Both 1.4.2 & 5.a.1 (green)

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