

Land and Tanzania's Journey to Self-Reliance

KEY LAND ISSUES IN TANZANIA

Demand for and pressure on Tanzania's land and resources is growing rapidly. Global interest in **acquiring arable land for commercial agriculture** combined with **population growth, rapid urbanization, and conservation pressure** (Tanzania is the only country in the world to allocate more than 25% of its total area to national parks and other protected area status) is **driving competition for Tanzania's increasingly scarce land**. Currently, about **30% of Tanzanians are estimated to have insecure land rights**.



1961 - 1985 | African socialism policies encourage collective cultivation of the land. The system **inhibits investment**, resource management, and economic growth, and **the country remains among the poorest** in the world.

1999 - onwards | Despite policy reforms, **progress on land remains slow** due to a lack of local capacity and other challenges. Few land certificates have been issued and many villages lack legally-required land use plans. **Customary lands remain vulnerable** to expropriation or encroachment.

2014 | USAID pilots a new participatory approach to documenting land rights that intentionally includes women and youth and uses mobile mapping technology. The **Mobile Applications to Secure Tenure (MAST)** initiative successfully demonstrates the potential of **low-cost, sustainable documentation of land rights**, with women's claims for individual land certification jumping from 0 to 30% on average across three pilot villages.

2018 | The World Bank announces it will **scale up USAID's approach** through a new \$100 million Tanzania Land Tenure Improvement Project. DFID is also helping scale USAID's approach nationally in Tanzania.

2019 | USAID will have supported the registration of over **50,000 parcels**.



IMPACTS OF USAID LAND PROGRAMS (Since 2014)

 **Registered over 36,000 land certificates**, covering an area larger than Singapore across 32 villages



Lowered the cost of land use planning through participatory approach, from **\$10,000 to \$2,000 per village** and from \$20.57 to \$10 per parcel



Lowered the number of unresolved disputes through the MAST approach's extensive community training, participation and transparency



Empowered women to claim their land rights: **48% of all beneficiaries are women**, and 27% of CCROs are in a woman's name only



Enabled farmers' use of customary land certificates to apply for bank loans as part of a business plan application



Scaled up **decentralized, sustainable land administration** in under-served rural districts through USAID's estimated \$6 million investment