Mobile Applications to Secure Tenure in Tanzania, by the Numbers

BACKGROUND

Mobile Applications to Secure Tenure (MAST) is a blend of participatory mapping approaches and flexible technology tools that USAID developed to empower communities to document and secure their land and resource rights in support of a range of development objectives, including women’s empowerment, food security, climate change mitigation, and biodiversity conservation. Using MAST, community members can efficiently collect and verify information necessary to enhance tenure security—for example, verifying names and photographs of people using and occupying land, including names of neighbors who share a border, details about land use, and providing a basis for their land claims—and use that information to update land use plans, clarify and verify land rights and obtain land documents.

USAID first piloted MAST in 2015 to lower the cost and time associated with mapping and registering customary land. Through the pilot, USAID mapped nearly 4,000 customary land documents called CCROs across three villages in Tanzania. USAID/Tanzania subsequently scaled MAST through the Land Tenure Assistance (LTA) Activity to deliver nearly 100,000 CCROs across Tanzania between 2016 and 2021. The UK Foreign, Development and Commonwealth Office (FCDO) has adopted the MAST approach in its own land registration project in Tanzania, scaling it further to 300,000 parcels and counting.

Here’s a look at MAST’s achievements in Tanzania:

### MAST, By the Numbers

- **97,779** CCROs delivered, accounting for 1/4 of all CCROs issued since 2015.
- **74** villages established, registries and other land registries.
- **69** village land use plans prepared, with the cost of preparing a plan dropping from $6,000 to $2,000.
- **24** villages contributed a total of $209,000 to help pay for their CCROs.

- **50%** of CCROs were delivered to women.
- **99,359** participants received land rights training.
- **6.1 m.** participants reached by radio and **5.2 m.** by TV broadcast.

LTA has provided MAST training to **363 technical staff of 11 organizations and government agencies.**

All figures are taken from the LTA activity as of November 2021.
Findings: LTA Impact Evaluation

18% 
The issuance of CCROs through MAST led to an 18 percent decrease in a household's concern over land expropriation in their community.

32% 
The issuance of CCROs through MAST reduced by 32% the probability that respondents felt they could experience a boundary dispute in the next 5 years.

16% 
The issuance of CCROs through MAST led to a 16 percent increase in a household's perception of tenure security.

2/3 
After the issuance of CCROs, two thirds of households felt reassured that the documentation of their land rights will reduce the risk of future boundary disputes.

83% 
At endline, 83 percent of female primary spouses in treatment villages reported possession of a CCRO, compared to only 13 percent of primary spouses in the control group.

88% 
At endline, 88 percent of female household heads in LTA villages reported having a CCRO, compared to 10 percent of female-headed households in the control group.

Major findings from the LEVERAGE Women’s Economic Empowerment Study

Half of women surveyed said they owned land separately from their husbands. Women owned on average 1.8 parcels, with an average estimated parcel area of 2.6 acres.

Women surveyed felt CCROs and land rights sensitization were instrumental in helping them protect their land rights.

Women surveyed used CCROs as collateral in 21% of bank loans, and in 10% of informal loans. 6.5% of women in this study accessed formal loans, up from less than 1% just a few years ago.

Having a CCRO was associated with a 12% increase in a woman’s likelihood of obtaining a bank loan.

This mixed-methods study, released in July 2022, examined the role of customary land documentation in strengthening women’s economic empowerment in Tanzania.

This document was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared with support from the Integrated Natural Resource Management Task Order 7200AA18D00020, under the Strengthening Tenure and Resource Rights II (STARR II) IDIQ. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.