

# Measuring Individuals' Rights to Land

An Integrated Approach to Data Collection for  
SDG Indicators 1.4.2 and 5.a.1



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Land is a key economic resource inextricably linked to access to, use of and control over other economic and productive resources. Recognition of this, and the increasing stress on land from the world's growing population and changing climate, has driven demand for strengthening tenure security for all. This has created the need for a core set of land indicators that have national application and global comparability, which culminated in the inclusion of indicators 1.4.2 and 5.a.1 in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda. Having indicators on land ownership and rights in the SDG framework is an opportunity to routinely generate comparable, sex-disaggregated data to support evidence-based decision making on responsible land governance for sustainable development.

The custodians of SDG indicators 1.4.2 (UN-Habitat and the World Bank) and 5.a.1 (FAO) have joined forces to develop a standardized and succinct survey instrument designed to collect the essential data for computation of both indicators simultaneously. As the data collection requirements for each indicator largely overlap, great gains in efficiency are possible by implementing a joint module in existing survey questionnaires. This document aims to facilitate the successful, efficient, and cross-country comparable data collection for computation of SDG indicators 1.4.2 and 5.a.1 in line with the methodologies approved by the IAEG-SDGs. The survey instrument discussed in this document was designed with an eye for the integration of essential questions for both indicators into existing survey instruments, with the possibility of stand-alone implementation. Use of the proposed module encourages the standardization of indicator definitions and data comparability across countries and over time.

Significant attention is paid to the concept of respondent selection and the implications of this for indicators measurement. While the majority of household surveys currently rely on proxy respondents, studies of self-respondent versus proxy respondent reporting of assets suggest that proxy respondent reporting has the potential to distort information. Therefore, the custodians strongly recommend the use of respondent self-reporting wherever feasible, though options are presented for proxy respondent implementation as well.

This methodological note is prepared primarily for use by national statistical offices (NSOs) and other survey practitioners, in order to inform the monitoring of these two indicators and to provide guidance on the collection of data necessary for their regular reporting. The document provides an overview of the indicators, a discussion of the various questionnaire modules proposed, and detailed question-by-question guidance for each. Questionnaire modules have been designed for use with self- and proxy-respondent approaches, and for integration in surveys with and without a parcel roster. As Indicator 1.4.2 is relevant for all land, not only agricultural land as in the case of Indicator 5.a.1, integration of the proposed module is suitable with nationally-representative household surveys (e.g. income and expenditure surveys, household budget surveys, living standard measurement surveys, etc.).





# Part 1

## Background

# Part I - Background

## BACKGROUND

The importance of land tenure in sustainable development has been recently recognized by the establishment of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators 1.4.2 and 5.a.1. In order to measure and monitor progress towards reaching these goals, along with the many other SDG targets, wide-reaching data collection efforts are necessary. The custodians of indicators 1.4.2 (UN Habitat and the World Bank) and 5.a.1 (FAO), with the support of GDWGL and GLII,<sup>1</sup> have joined forces to develop a standardized and succinct survey instrument designed to collect the essential data for computation of both indicators simultaneously, based on the meta data as presented to the [IAEG-SDG](#). Use of the proposed module encourages the standardization of indicator definitions and data comparability across countries.

As the data collection requirements for each indicator largely overlap, great gains in efficiency are possible by implementing a joint module that captures data for both indicators. The survey instrument discussed in this document was designed with an eye for integration in existing survey instruments, yet with the possibility of stand-alone implementation whenever feasible. Of

This methodological note is prepared primarily for use by national statistical offices (NSOs) and other survey practitioners. The aim is to provide the rationale for the SDG indicators on land tenure security for men and women (1.4.2 and 5.a.1) as well as guidance for data collection to enable reporting on these two indicators.<sup>2</sup> Ultimately, the document aims to facilitate the successful, efficient, and cross-country comparable data collection for computation of SDG indicators 1.4.2 and 5.a.1.

In what follows, an overview of the indicators is provided, as well as key definitions, a discussion of the questionnaire module (and variations thereof) and detailed, question-by-question guidance.

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