

A training package

Improving gender equality and
grassroots participation through
good land governance



A Training Package: Improving gender equality and grassroots participation through good land governance

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Volume 1: Trainees handbook -
readings and references

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“One is not born a woman, but becomes one”

Simone de Beauvoir

Introduction

The world today faces many complex challenges, including climate change; rapid urbanisation; increased demand for natural resources; food, water and energy insecurity; increased natural disasters; and addressing conflict. Many of these challenges have a clear land dimension including: unequal access to land; insecurity of tenure; unsustainable land-use; weak institutions for dispute and conflict resolution.

Land is the single greatest resource in most countries. Access to land and other natural resources and the associated security of tenure have significant implications for development. However, these rights are being increasingly undermined by weak governance, climate change, conflicts and natural disasters, population growth and urbanization and demands for new energy resources such as bio-fuels. The poor and the vulnerable bear the heavier brunt in regard to degradation of land and property rights.

Globally, only some 30 percent of land is formally registered, 70 percent remains unregistered. Only some 2 percent of women have formally registered land rights. Conventional technical approaches to land will not be adequate to address these issues. Part of the reason why technical solutions are inadequate is that existing land administration tools are not able to cope with current, let alone future challenges. They are not attuned to the needs of the poor either due to technical complexities or prohibitive costs.

The other part of the reason is that the nature of the problems is simply too complex for traditional linear analysis and sectoral approaches. Issues such as informal settlements, landlessness and hunger and food insecurity have been intractable land problems for many decades. Land reform and urban upgrading, for example, have been implemented in numerous countries in different ways, yet landlessness persists and informal settlements are expanding. Climate change further poses new challenges for land management. The above points signal the need for a new perspective and approach to land issues since changes in analysis and practice are key to improving land governance.

This training package is designed for professionals, working in the field of land, governance, grassroots participation and gender in public institutions or civil society organizations. It is one initiative of many, being taken by GLTN/TCBB-UN-HABITAT to further the agenda for improved land governance. This training package provides an introduction to the important, complex, and sometimes daunting theme of improving land governance as a means to, among other things, enhance gender equality and grassroots participation in land matters.

The overarching goal of the training is to improve women's land and property rights and promote the participation of grassroots communities in land processes. The focus is obviously on gender equality and grassroots participation as key dimensions of good land governance. This is in sync with the concept of 'good enough governance' in that it allows zooming in on and making a difference in select but arguably the most decisive elements of good land governance.

The training package is prepared in two volumes: 'Trainee's Handbook: Readers and References' and; 'Trainer's Guide and Training Tools'. The volume you are about to read is the training toolkit which provides the content part of the package. Training providers and other stakeholders interested in carrying out the training course are encouraged to fully utilize the package and implement it as set out in this and the accompanying volume. This is vitally important for coherence and attaining training objectives. Partial use of the package is also possible. But, the message could be incomplete and learning outcomes might not be realized.

[“You can only govern men
by serving them”
Victor Cousin]

Introduction to the Training Package

The Global Land Tool Network (GLTN)/UN-HABITAT and its partners have been involved in the development and dissemination of land tools to assist stakeholders involved in improving access to land and securing tenure to better understand and incorporate the new land governance centred thinking in their practice. A key area of global consensus for improving land governance is that pro-poor gender responsive analysis is essential to changing relations of land governance. Improved grassroots participation is another area that can benefit from good land governance as well as in turn improve land governance.

This training package provides an introduction to improving land governance in which pro-poor, gender-sensitive approaches and grassroots participation are front and centre. It identifies some of the competencies needed to address the complex yet day-to-day issues of land management and administration.

Target group of the training

The target group of this training includes professionals and leaders working in public institutions and civil society organizations who deal with land, governance, grassroots participation and gender issues. Examples of such professionals include surveyors, administrators, planners, policy makers, community workers, and staff of NGO's involved in advocacy and development workers.

Objectives

The objectives of this training are to:

- ♦ Facilitate better understanding of concepts of land governance and its pivotal role in improving access to land and security of tenure for poor women and men.
- ♦ Demonstrate how good land governance could lead to improved land rights for both women and men and

increased participation of grassroots communities in land matters.

- ♦ Define and explore competencies that can contribute to improving land governance.

Expected training outcomes

Participants will be able to:

- ♦ identify and explain concepts involved in improving land governance.
- ♦ differentiate, assess and develop mechanisms and processes for improving land rights of women and grassroots communities.
- ♦ point out and analyse competencies for improving land management and administration with a view to making them gender sensitive and participatory.

Overview of sessions

Session	Activity
1	Activity 1.1 Introductory game – Where is everyone from? Who are they? Activity 1.2 Introductions, expectations, training objectives and outcomes Activity 1.3 “Governing ourselves” – ground rules
2	Activity 2.1 Building a common understanding of land concepts with emphasis on land governance Activity 2.2 Land governance today: the challenges Activity 2.3 Understanding and promoting principles of good land governance
3	Activity 3.1 Grassroots participation Activity 3.2 Criteria for assessing and promoting grassroots participation Activity 3.3 Grassroots participation strategy for Las Flores Activity 3.4 Introducing gender Activity 3.5 Gender equality and land Activity 3.6 The tribulations of Madam Abiba Suleiman Activity 3.7 Competencies for improving land governance
4	Activity 4.1 Understanding discrimination Activity 4.2 Exploring the negotiating territory Activity 4.3 Reducing land conflicts – your experiences Activity 4.4 Role play – conflict resolution in the case of multiple sales of peri-urban land in Accra, Ghana Activity 4.5 Web-mapping land stakeholders Activity 4.6 Partnerships for producing housing Activity 4.7 Lowering communication barriers
5	Activity 5.1 Improving land governance – my action plan

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