

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:

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.



5.2 m.

Public awareness campaigns reached 6.1 million people by radio and 5.2 million people by TV broadcast.

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

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.

16%

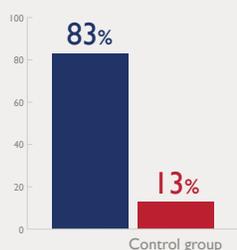
The issuance of CCROs through MAST led to a 16 percent increase in a household's **perception of tenure security**.

32%

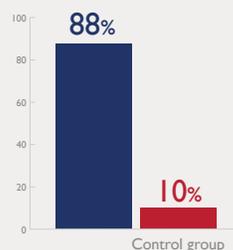
The issuance of CCROs through MAST reduced by 32% the probability that respondents felt they could experience a **boundary dispute** in the next 5 years.

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.



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.



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.

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