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LANDLINKS

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## #LandMatters Newsletter June 2023

Dear Readers,

I am pleased to share the USAID Land and Resource Governance (LRG) Division's June 2023 newsletter and recent highlights from our programming. In this issue, you will meet our June Women's Land Rights Champion, Semaly Kisamo from USAID/Tanzania, who has supported opportunities for women's empowerment and inclusive access to land in Tanzania. Congratulations to Semaly! In addition, this newsletter features a recording of our March Frontiers event, which took place in conjunction with the sixty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women and focused on women's empowerment outcomes and lessons learned from USAID land documentation work in Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia. We also feature a new piece on our Mining Horizons work in Colombia, which aims to strengthen governance mechanisms and promote gender equality in the mining sector. We hope that you enjoy learning about our recent work!

Sincerely,

**Stephen Brooks**

**Division Lead, USAID Land and Resource Governance Division**

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## Strengthening Women's Land Rights



Photo credit: Ricardo Franco

## **Frontiers: Innovative Approaches for Women's Land Rights event recording**

To celebrate and recognize the sixty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women, USAID and New America joined for the second event of the year-long Frontiers series on Wednesday, March 15th. The discussion explored the gender-related outcomes and lessons learned from the Agency's land documentation work in Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Zambia. This event recording is part of the year-long **Frontiers** event series, which explores the interface of conflict, climate change, and governance of land and natural resources. The Frontiers series is hosted by USAID's Center for Conflict and Violence Prevention and USAID's Land and Resource Governance Division and is made possible by USAID's **Integrated Natural Resources Management Project** in partnership with New America.

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## **Women's Land Rights Champion: Semaly Kisamo**

This [series](#) features **Women's Land Rights Champions** within USAID to recognize their commitment to women's land rights and equitable land and resource governance. We're pleased to celebrate our June Women's Land Rights Champion, Semaly Kisamo, USAID/Tanzania's Project Management Specialist for Policy. Semaly is committed to empowering women and youth and has worked to promote broad

and inclusive formal documentation of land rights in the Iringa and Mbeya regions of Tanzania since 2016. Using Mapping Approaches for Securing Tenure (MAST), which rests on a strong foundation of community engagement and education coupled with inclusive participatory mapping approaches, Semaly was happy to see that after several years of implementation, results of the programming achieved a 50/50 gender balance of land claims.

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## **Three Key Takeaways on Gender and Mining in Colombia**

This blog discusses the artisanal mining sector in Colombia, where most miners who mine for gold in the informal sector are women. They work both as *machadoras*, who sift through mine tailings for gold, and *barequas*, who pan for gold in rivers. These types of artisanal mining are the least lucrative and most dangerous in Colombia. The USAID-funded **Mining Horizon** project builds on previous USAID-supported work to strengthen governance in the mining sector and mitigate negative environmental impacts from gold mining. Because most miners in the informal sector are women, the project included and prioritized various gender activities that aimed to create a safe, equitable, and profitable future for women miners in Colombia. Mining Horizon's work on gender and mining has yielded important insights on gender and ASM gold mining in Colombia.

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## **Woman of the Year: A Leader for All Rural Women in Colombia**

This blog tells the story of Lizette Del Valle, who moved to Guamito village in the municipality of El Carmen de Bolívar 25 years ago, where many farmers wanted to create a farmers' association, but begrudgingly accepted the participation of women. But with the support of USAID-funded Land for Prosperity program, Lizette became the legal representative of Asopromixgua, the association, and became involved in land issues and is volunteering with the Municipal Land Office in her municipality to distribute information on land formalization and women's rights. In 2021, Lizette won the Rural Woman of the Year award, sponsored by the SHE IS Foundation and the CEA Fundación.

**More blogs and related resources can be found on the [Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment page](#) on [Land-Links.org](#)**

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# New Research & Resources Available

## [An Introduction to Water Tenure](#)

This brief is designed to help USAID Missions, Operating Units, and implementing partners understand the concept of water tenure in the context of programs that seek to improve food and water security and address climate change. The brief highlights how incorporating water tenure considerations can contribute to improving water resource governance and management.

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## [Colombia Land for Prosperity - Southern Meta and the Vicinity of Chiribiquete National Park](#)

Impact and Performance Evaluation Design Report – This document outlines the approach to the Colombia Land for Prosperity Southern Meta and the Vicinity of Chiribiquete National Park evaluation recommended by the Cloudburst evaluation team, including research questions, research methodology, analytical framework, sampling strategy, analysis plan, and detailed timeline for data collection. The evaluation team wrote this evaluation design report in November 2022; it builds upon the feasibility study previously conducted by NORC and background sections from the NORC feasibility assessment (FA; Albornoz et al., 2022).

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## [Natural Resource Management Activity Design Guidance](#)

The focus of this document is natural resource management for terrestrial food systems. The U.S. Government’s Global Food Security Strategy (GFSS) 2022–2026 aims to sustainably reduce global poverty, hunger, and malnutrition across three interconnected strategic objectives: inclusive and sustainable agriculture-led economic growth; strengthened resilience among people and systems; and a well-nourished population, especially among women and children. The GFSS recognizes natural resource management as essential to achieving its strategic objectives through Crosscutting Intermediate Result (CCIR) 5: Improved natural resource management, and CCIR 6: Improved water resources management. The GFSS also highlights “healthy ecosystems and biodiversity” and “enhanced climate change adaptation and mitigation” as complementary results that are necessary for improving food security and nutrition. This guidance shares guiding questions to improve current integration approaches in a more coordinated, systematic manner when designing activities, and examples of programming in practice.

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## USAID Land Project Highlights

Here are additional highlights from land and resource governance activities across USAID:



USAID's [Integrated Land and Resource Governance program](#) is a flexible field support mechanism that works with USAID Missions to provide both short- and long-term assistance. Read their most recent publications:

- [Transforming Fear Into Hope: Secure Land Rights as a Pathway for Rural Women's Economic Security](#)
- [Enhanced Prindex Application in Colombia](#)

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**Quote from the field:** *"I was happy to receive money from the payment for ecosystem services scheme. I used it for school fees for my children and food for my family. We also used some for funerals and other social events in the community and put some towards helping complete the building of our new house."* – **Cecelia Boateng** received payment through a local incentive program to maintain naturally occurring trees on her cocoa parcel under a partnership between USAID, Hershey and commodity broker Ecom in Ghana to reduce deforestation in cocoa value chains.



USAID's [Integrated Natural Resource Management](#) activity provides on-demand support services and technical assistance for USAID Missions, Bureaus, and Independent Offices across a wide array of environmental and natural resource management issues, with a focus on gender equality and social inclusion.

Recent publications include:

- [Equitable Resource Governance Helps Build Peace](#)
- [It's Earth Day—Here's Why Securing Land Rights Matters to Our Planet](#)

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**Quote from the field:** *“Initially all work was done by men. But now that our wives are trained, we share farming responsibilities. She reminds me about what work still needs to be done and asks detailed questions when she sees that something is not growing properly. I know that in my absence, Soma can manage and supervise farm laborers. Now I discuss all things with her. She adds value.”* **Rantu**

**Ghosh's wife Soma**, along with 1,800 other women in West Bengal, India, received training in agronomy and sustainable farming practices under a partnership between USAID and PepsiCo to increase women's participation in potato value chains, which are traditionally dominated by men.



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USAID/Colombia's [Land for Prosperity Activity](#) supports the Government of Colombia in improving the conditions of rural households to achieve licit economic development through land tenure strengthening.

Read more in some of their recent blog posts:

- [A Guarantee for Ataco's Ethnic Communities](#)
  - [Titling Land in a Complicated Region](#)
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