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USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

LANDLINKS

#LandMatters Newsletter November 2023

Dear Readers,

We recognized the International Day of Rural Women in October with a special feature about our gender and land programming in India and Ghana and the importance of private sector engagement in order to increase women's participation in agricultural value chains. This month's newsletter includes several other pieces about the important work that the Land and Resource Governance Division is doing to promote women's equitable access to land and resources in Mozambique, Tanzania, and Zambia. In addition, we are pleased to congratulate Serge Ramanantsoa (USAID/Madagascar) as our most recent Women's Land Rights Champion, who has been tirelessly working to promote land rights for women and youth in Madagascar. Congratulations Serge, and thank you for your great work!

Sincerely,

Stephen Brooks

Division Lead, USAID Land and Resource Governance Division

Strengthening Women's Land Rights



Women's land leasing group Eid Mubarak, from India, stands in front of their potato harvest in the 2021-2022 growing season. These women collectively leased land from a local landholder under the Integrated Land and Resource Governance (ILRG) project in order to join PepsiCo's potato supply chain as independent suppliers.

Credit: Landesa

"Now they call me a farmer" - Rural women make an impact in global agricultural value chains

In honor of the International Day of Rural Women, this blog post highlights USAID's work with private sector partners to empower women and expand their access to agricultural supply chains.

Women's Land & Property Rights and Economic Security Brief

Strengthening women's land rights can have a striking and positive impact on women's economic security, job creation, and entrepreneurship. To this end, the **USAID Land and Resource Governance (LRG) Division's** programs have a significant focus on improving women's land rights and equitable access to land and property globally. This short brief provides a high-level overview of the links between women's land and resource rights and economic security, job creation, and

entrepreneurship, as well as examples of past and current USAID projects that work towards these development goals.

Applying MAST for Enhanced Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Outcomes

USAID has helped address the need for stronger land and resource rights for women through [Mapping Approaches for Securing Tenure](#) (MAST), a blend of participatory land mapping techniques and flexible technology tools developed to help communities document and secure their land and resource rights. MAST has several applications in food security, climate change mitigation, and biodiversity conservation, but in women's land tenure, MAST has promoted women's empowerment in communities throughout Mozambique, Tanzania, and Zambia, among other countries. This brief provides an overview of these participatory mapping efforts as they relate to gender equality and social inclusion, as well as key outcomes, challenges, and considerations from implementation.

Women's Land Rights Champion: Serge Ramanantsoa

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 latest Women's Land Rights Champion, Serge Ramanantsoa, USAID/Madagascar's Project Management Specialist and Climate Integration Lead. Serge is committed to advancing women and youth empowerment and has supported work to carry out analyses on the complexity of land and resource governance in Madagascar, then develop a roadmap for land tenure considering women's access to land and the preservation of watersheds and forests.

Partnering to Close the Gender Gap in Agrifood Systems

In order to achieve more productive food security, nutrition, and resilient food systems, we need to help more women succeed as farmers, workers, and entrepreneurs in agrifood systems. Currently, women farmers and agricultural workers face hurdles that men do not. While there has been progress to shift long-held discriminatory gender practices in agrifood systems, there is much more work to be done. This blog discusses the ongoing challenges that women in agrifood systems continue to face, the persistent gender gap between men and women, the

support USAID is providing to address these obstacles, and what we stand to gain in economic development, food security and resilience should we succeed.

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

New Research & Resources Available

[Scaling and Sustaining MAST](#)

This brief provides an overview of lessons learned on the sustainable utilization and scaling of MAST, as well as recommended practices for ensuring continued use of the approach. The brief draws on USAID's experience using MAST to strengthen tenure security and improve resource governance in local communities throughout Tanzania, Zambia, and Mozambique by providing solid foundations for further land mapping and property formalization, both systematically and on an on-demand basis.

[Follow-On Impact Evaluation of the Tenure and Global Climate Change Project in Zambia](#)

This report presents the results of an impact evaluation (IE) of the **Tenure and Global Climate Change** (TGCC) activity in Zambia. The evaluation was designed to provide USAID with evidence of the longer-term impacts of TGCC's customary land formalization and agroforestry components. Evaluators found strong evidence of a clear link between TGCC's land tenure interventions, beneficiaries' stronger tenure security and confidence in land governance, and farmers' increased adoption of agroforestry.

[USAID and NASA Support Bangladesh Land Planning for Food Security and Sustainable Development](#)

This blog showcases the work of [SERVIR Hindu Kush Himalaya](#), a joint project of NASA and USAID, and their partners in Bangladesh. SERVIR has provided technical support to Bangladesh to develop and use a national land cover monitoring system to track land cover change across the country. By using this geospatial data mapping

system, Bangladesh is better able to monitor its forests and will strengthen their ability to be more resilient to extreme weather events.

USAID Land and Resource Governance 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:

- [Follow-On Impact Evaluation of the Tenure and Global Climate Change Project in Zambia](#)
- [Gender-Responsive Land Administration for Local Authorities in Zambia](#)
- [Women's Leadership and Empowerment Training Manual for Community Natural Resource Governance in Zambia](#)
- [Practical Implementation Guide on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in Customary Land Documentation in Zambia](#)

Quote from the field: *“For some time, we had been farming informally on Grupo Madal’s land, but now we are doing it formally as members of ingrower clubs. I am in a group of 24 women. We are now secure in using the land because we signed a contract with Grupo Madal. We do regular training at the Grupo Madal extension agent’s house. We like this because we are starting vegetable gardens, which will help us to improve the nutrition of our children and ourselves. Last year we had a*



field of cowpeas that we divided after harvesting. With my share of the money, I bought a basin and more dishes here for my house. I will earn more money to rehabilitate my house.” – **Dona Ana Rijuane** was one of many people in her community informally farming and living on land held by agroforestry firm Grupo Madal in Mozambique. Under a partnership with USAID, the company set up an ingrower scheme with this community (over 80 percent of whom are women) that grants them formal land use agreements and farming contracts to enter commodity value chains as producers.



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:

- [Frontiers: Global Opportunities for Strengthening Resource Security](#)
 - [Women’s Land & Property Rights and Economic Security Brief](#)
 - [Scaling and Sustaining MAST](#)
 - [Applying MAST for Enhanced Gender and Social Inclusion Outcomes](#)
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Quote from the field: *“As a woman, my focus is the women. Looking at the way my fellow women face problems, like as widowers, I decided to run for a Customary Land Committee so that I will be the one to help them to claim their rights. Before training, I had no knowledge of gender [equality], but now I know a lot more and am able to provide new awareness. Before, men had considered themselves as the only owners of the land. The women were last in everything, but the project taught us otherwise. We have learned that women should also own land. We as women have a right to do anything like farming or having a business to transform the family without depending on our husbands. I am a changed woman now.”* **Rose Zuze** is a Customary Land Committee member in Malawi where USAID supported the Government of Malawi to implement a gender-responsive customary land documentation process. Rose helped her fellow community members document their land rights, encouraging households to jointly register land in the name of both men and women.



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:

- [The Seeds of Reconstruction](#)
- [In the Limelight](#)
- [A Future of Forests](#)
- [Returning the Land they Own](#)

Quote from the field: *“As a man, there has been a lot of taking for granted of opportunities and positions that society seems to provide or give to us, where we seemingly aren’t the allies for women’s participation and women’s mobilization. But we are privileged to be the ones who should be championing these causes. For me, it’s something I hold dear and I would like to use my manhood as an ally for diversity, inclusion and enhancing women’s participation in our communities.”* – **Philip Muyoma** from The Nature Conservancy in Zambia took part in USAID’s women’s empowerment and leadership training, which brought together leaders from conservation organizations across the country to strengthen their capacity to advance women’s empowerment initiatives within their organizations and in the communities they serve.



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