

GLOBAL LAND TOOL NETWORK GENDER STRATEGY (2019–2030)

Towards Securing Women's and Girls' Land and Property Rights

A WORLD IN WHICH EVERYONE ENJOYS SECURE LAND RIGHTS





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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Gender is central to Global Land Tool Network's overall Strategy for 2018–2030. Our Gender Strategy reflects and reinforces this. It focuses on securing women's and girls' land tenure, land-related resources and property rights, including housing in rural, peri-urban and urban contexts.

Improving the rights of women and girls to land is vital to overcome poverty and inequality, ensure justice and human rights, and counter trends that further undermine the rights and wellbeing of women.

Our gender strategy has four core **objectives**:

- Engender the implementation of our overall 2018– 2030 Strategy to deliver gendered outcomes based on specific commitments to secure women's and girls' land tenure and property rights.
- Increase the use and institutionalization of land tools and approaches for gender-responsive land governance and legal frameworks strategies and programmes.
- Increase the number of women and girls whose land tenure and property rights are secured, regardless of tenure regimes, context or situations in each country.
- Strengthen knowledge and capacities for mainstreaming gender equality and human rights principles, and for monitoring progress in local, national, regional and global policy and governance processes that secure women's and girls' land, natural resources and property rights.

We will undertake the following **measures** as part of our gender strategy.

Partnerships. We will strengthen our innovative partnerships, as anchored in our overall mission. We connect and inspire work that secures women's and girls' land and natural resource rights. We work to integrate gender-responsive and fit-for-purpose land tools and approaches into the policies and practices of governments and related land institutions at regional and global levels. We support efforts to achieve gender equality and promoting women's and girls' rights.

Governance. We will embed gender further into the governance and management of GLTN. Our documents and workplans will clearly recognize and promote our network's action towards gender equality in land and related resources. We will include gender in our targets and indicators for measuring progress. For our Secretariat staff, we target 50 percent of either gender by 2023.

Land tools. We will continue to develop and promote gender-responsive and fit-for-purpose land tools. We will strengthen existing land tools to make them more gender-responsive, and we will promote the uptake and development of technological innovations in land administration and governance that secure women's and girls' rights.

Country initiatives. We will scale up country-level initiatives for sustainable gendered outcomes. We support the development of national-level policies to secure land tenure and property rights for women and girls. We foster local and national partnerships that further this aim through the sustainable use of gender-responsive and fit-for-purpose tools. We will support efforts to introduce accelerated land reform, gender-responsive land policies and capacity development for governments and other partners.

Other sectors. We will strive to integrate secure land rights for women and girls and development outcomes in other key sectors. We will raise awareness of the connections between women's land rights on one hand and economic wellbeing, agriculture and environmental conservation on the other. We will enter into collaborative projects with relevant role players and actors at global, national and local levels as part of our ongoing work in promoting tenure security for all.

Women leaders. We will facilitate the capacity development of women leaders, including grassroots women and young professionals, through institutional placement in our network and with our partners. We will strive to expand the pool of women leaders, professionals from the global North and South, through targeted placements with our partners and Secretariat. We will promote an increasingly active role for women in peace and conflict-resolution processes related to land.

Capacity development. We will strengthen the capacity of policymakers and practitioners on women's and girls' land and property rights. We will use various approaches to foster a deeper understanding

of institutional gaps, map approaches to addressing women and girls' tenure issues, and place women's and youth issues at the centre of policy discourse and programme initiatives.

Policy. We will convene and facilitate our partners' access to policy and decision-making platforms. We will press for women's voices to be heard so they can influence decisions on land governance and management, and we will promote their access to the appropriate tools for engagement.

Advocacy. We will mobilize and lead efforts towards joint advocacy, influencing and campaigning to secure women's and girls' land rights. We will strengthen our engagement with policymakers to advocate for women's and girls' rights and will better link local initiatives to national processes and regional and global efforts.

Research. We will boost our efforts for research and knowledge management on land issues that concern women. We will sustain and promote action research on various aspects relating to women's land rights: gaps in knowledge and practice; programming, financing and scaling up; customary tenure; conflict; urban land and property; agriculture; climate change and land degradation; and the application of land tools.

WHY IS TENURE SECURITY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS IMPORTANT?

A LACK OF WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS LEADS TO POVERTY, INEQUALITY AND VIOLENCE

Compared to men, women often have weaker tenure and housing rights – or no secure rights at all. That makes them more likely to be poor, subject to discrimination and violence, and unable to inherit land.

The feminization of poverty is in part due to a lack of land rights for women. Millions of women who live in remote rural areas and informal urban settlements are affected. Improving their rights to land helps eradicate poverty and reduce income and gender inequality.

WEAK POLICIES AND REGULATIONS HINDER WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Laws and policies (including religious and customary laws) often fail to recognize women's and girls' land rights, and they deny them inheritance rights. In patriarchal societies, women may have weaker or no rights to land and property, or they may lose their rights if a husband or father dies. Under customary, religious, territorial or group rules, it is men who often make the important decisions: how to use the land, what to grow on it, and whether to rent it out or sell it.

WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

Women's and girls' land and property rights are human rights, enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international conventions including the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS ARE ERODING FURTHER

Global trends such as climate change, land degradation, land-based conflicts, population growth, food insecurity, migration and rapid urbanization are increasing competition and conflict over land and other natural resources, undermining women's and girls' tenure rights even further.

WOMEN FACE SPECIAL CHALLENGES IN CONFLICT SITUATIONS AND FRAGILE STATES

Land rights for women are even more problematic in conflict and post-conflict situations. Female refugees and internally displaced persons, as well as returnees, often face extra hurdles in securing housing, land and property rights.

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