

UN-HABITAT AND GLTN YOUTH-LED ACTION RESEARCH ON LAND COMMENCEMENT WORKSHOP

Workshop report

SECURING LAND AND PROPERTY RIGHTS FOR ALL





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INTRODUCTION

A. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT OF THE YOUTH-LED ACTION RESEARCH ON LAND PROJECT AND COMMENCEMENT WORKSHOP

Persistent tenure insecurity, and high levels of informal settlements are found throughout the developing world. Inequalities and discrimination are inherent to conventional land systems, with youth rarely recognized as equal stakeholders. The rights to over 70% of land remain unregistered worldwide, and less than 2% of registered land has been registered under a woman's name – suggesting that female youth face even greater exclusion from land issues.

The land challenge is central to the broader youth dynamics of migration, employment, livelihoods and belonging. The more than 1.8 billion youth living worldwide represent not only a land challenge, but an untapped potential in moving the tenure security

agenda forward. Recognizing this, the Global Land Tool Network has partnered with UN-Habitat to develop youth responsive land tools through the Youth-led Action Research on Land program. Five action research projects will be undertaken by youth organizations in Brazil, Kenya, Nepal, Yemen and Zimbabwe. Each focuses on the engagement of youth in land decision making, the needs of youth relating to land, and the development of tools that will support pro-poor, pro-youth good land governance. The projects will help advance the development of youth-inclusive and participatory approaches to land governance, by identifying youth as both a target group for tenure security as well as important drivers of change in the land sector.

Youth-led Action Research on Land builds on previous youth and land engagement and consultations that have identified critical needs and knowledge gaps in the space of youth and land. These include the









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first Expert Group Meeting held in Oslo in January, 2012, Youth21 held on in Nairobi, Kenya in March 2012, the Youth Assembly of the Sixth Session of the World Urban Forum held in Naples, Italy in September 2012 and the Youth and Land training event held in Morocco in December 2012.

The Commencement Workshop for the Youth-led Action Research on Land project had the aim of building on the five existing project plans and strengthening the participating youth organizations capacity for research. Participants were provided training in action research, an overview of existing GLTN land tools and existing research on youth and land, and peer review and dialogue across all projects and country contexts. This document provides a report from this workshop.

DAY ONE

Participants attending the meeting are listed in Annex I. The first day of the workshop provided some important context to participants in terms of the Global Land Tool Network, existing work on youth and land and the principles of good land governance. Toril Iren Pedersen of the Global Land Tool Network presented this material. The participants also each provided an overview of the key challenges of youth and land in their regions, and their projects.

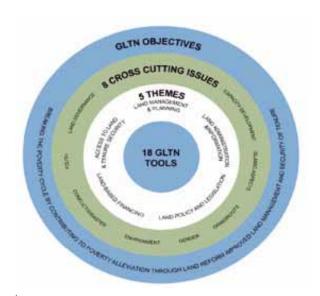
B. THE GLOBAL LAND TOOL NETWORK

The Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) is a multi sector and multi stakeholder partnership focused on establishing a continuum of land rights and the creation of innovative, pro poor, scalable and gender sensitive land management and land tenure tools. It achieves its overall goals through a range of activities including promoting research and disseminating materials on land, supporting documentation of tools and best practices, developing innovative methodologies and approaches, organising workshops and consultations, facilitating a wide range of stakeholder inputs and strengthening capacity of land stakeholders.



Discussing Youth and Land

The network was initiated in 2004, and officially launched at the World Urban Forum in 2006 in Vancouver. The Network currently has around 60 international partners covering land stakeholders from the land professions, civil society and grassroots organizations, academia and training institutions, bilateral and multilateral organizations. The vision of the Network is to provide appropriate land tools at global scale to implement prop poor land policies and land reform. The mandate is to work through its network of partners in implementing land policies that are prop poor, gender and youth responsive through collaboration with United Nations member states. More information on the GLTN can be found at www. altn.net.



The GLTN Model: An integrated model supporting a holistic approach to land issues



WHY IS IT SEEN AS AN ADULT ISSUE?

- Land is a limited, precious commodity which youth are often expected to access through adults – youth are unable to compete for land unless their land rights are specifically recognized and promote
- Land process are complex which youth often find difficult to penetrate awareness of rights and opportunities, capacity development and tools addressing inclusive land management are needed
- Attitude and cultural biases frustrate land rights of young men and women strategies must adopt social lens alongside the political, legal and technical approaches





The Global Challenges of Land.

C. YOUTH

Youth account for up to 70% of the population in many developing countries, and make up a large proportion of slum dwellers in the urban centres of the developing world. There are estimated to be around 1.8 billion youth (those aged 15-24) worldwide - prompting the reference to this being the "age of youth". There is hence an increasing demand for greater youth focus from all stakeholders in development.

Youth are increasingly seen as partners, not just beneficiaries, in poverty reduction interventions and within the sustainable urbanisation discourse – yet their visibility within the land sector remains limited. While young people seek more economic opportunities and claim further property rights, there appears to be a lack of understanding on the specific youth needs from land and land policies. Young people who are able to own land are invariably from privileged backgrounds, while the majority of middle class and poor youth's access to land is mediated through family, politics and community.

D. YOUTH AND LAND

The 2011 Scoping Study on Youth and Land provided important context to the need for further research

on youth and land. As a significant majority in most developing countries, access to land and safe urban space is important for the protection, voice and empowerment of urban youth. In addition, the creativity, adaptability and 'outside-the-square' thinking of youth will be important to harness the full potential of public spaces and underutilized or restrictive rural and urban spaces. There is a need to recognize the dynamic relationship of youth to land – the opportunities of globalization and the pressures of climate change mean that youth's relationships to land are not identical to adults' relationships. Youth are understood to be more mobile and less likely to be concerned with private ownership. Economic pressures in many countries are seeing a trend of 'delayed adulthood', with many youth forced to remain at parents homes or share homes, hence youth may be more concerned with public spaces and economic (entrepreneurship) opportunities. Agricultural land and opportunities are increasingly limited in many contexts.

Land is not a neutral commodity and the power structures that exist in communities and governments dictate access to land. The characteristics of poverty and marginalization increase the vulnerability to access, control and use of land.

Why do youth need land?

Economic Rights: Land for livelihoods, work place, economic assets, income generation, (renting), markets/shopping, accessing services, and skills training

Social Rights: Land for shelter and family life, education recreation, open spaces, parks, health

Cultural Rights: Land and public space for community events, religious practices, entertainment, cultural/

art events

Civil and Political Rights: Land allocated for youth projects, one stop centers, information, media

"We may not be land owner, we might not be voters, but we still want to have a say in what happens to the land in our community"

There is a clear need to develop land tools that are pro-poor, equitable and gender-responsive, affordable, sustainable and scaleable. The Youth led Action Research on Land projects will be key determinants of appropriate youth-responsive land tools that meet these needs. Two potential tools were discussed that could be developed further: a Youth Responsiveness Criteria and a Youth (transect) Walk. Projects may also find it useful to adapt existing GLTN land tools – such as existing good governance tools, the continuum of land rights or the social tenure domain model (STDM) – and identify additional youth elements to these.

and management of competing interests and the transparency of decision-making processes are all critical.

'Governance' in the context of land has a broad definition. It can encompass statutory, customary and religious institutions; state structures (land agencies, courts, ministries); and non-statutory actors such as traditional bodies and informal agents. Legal policies and frameworks and traditional and informal practices that are legitimised by communities may also be included.

E. YOUTH AND LAND IN BRAZIL, KENYA, NEPAL, YEMEN AND ZIMBABWE

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