




An introduction to Prindex

A Webinar Report



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The webinar An introduction to Prindex took place on 28 November, 2018. This webinar presented a basic understanding of how Prindex works. The Prindex team presented results of data collected from 15 countries. It focused on pathways for using Prindex to propel policy conversations and movement-building for policy reform with the help of panellists from some of the countries where data was collected.

Panelists were asked to address the following questions:

- What is the importance of perceptions on land governance and its consequences?
- What were some key results of the Prindex data in your country?
- How can you use this data?

The webinar was co-hosted by Prindex and the Land Portal Foundation.

Moderator: Co-Executive Director of the Global Land Alliance and Co-Director of Prindex

Panelists:

- Alfred Brownell, Green Advocates (Liberia), Distinguished Scholar Northeastern University Law School (Boston USA), and Scholar Rescue Fund Chair, Beau Biden Foundation
- Ibrahima Ka, Doctor of Public Law, Land Specialist, IPAR, Senegal
- Claudia Mondragon, Director, Land Management Observatory, National University of Honduras

194 people registered for the webinar, with 86 people ultimately participating.

A complete recording of the webinar is available on YouTube:
<https://youtu.be/iEHaufrxKBQ>



Key Takeaways

- Big differences in rates of tenure insecurity exist around the world, ranging from 8% in Rwanda to 44% in Burkina Faso.
- Across all countries renters felt more tenure insecure than owners.
- Surprisingly, there is little difference between men's and women's perceptions of tenure security, except in the event of divorce or spousal death, in which case women were markedly more worried than men.
- Younger people feel more insecure than older ones and people with formal documentation feel more secure than those without.
- Cooperation between Prindex and the African Land Policy Center (ALPC) will support the commitment made by African Heads of State to poverty eradication with the view to raising the living standards of peoples and the wellbeing of future generations and the centrality of land to sustainable socio-economic growth, development and the security of the social, economic and cultural livelihoods of the people.
- Insecure perceptions of tenure can lead to limited access of land rights by women, and marginalized communities such as Afrodescendants.

Webinar Summary

1) WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF PERCEPTIONS ON LAND GOVERNANCE AND ITS CONSEQUENCES?

- Insecure perceptions of tenure security also limits access to land rights by women, as they assume that their demands will not be genuinely considered according to the laws of **Senegal**, which is mostly patriarchal.
- In **Honduras**, the biggest threat to the exercise of secure tenure rights is the concentration of land in the hands of the few, which is one of the greatest expressions of exclusion and injustice. This situation affects both men and women. The small-scale peasant economy has become precarious, to the extent that the size of a small agricultural unit has reduced its size from 2.3 to 1.5 hectares, insufficient to ensure the dignified life of a peasant family. On the contrary, the properties of more than 50 hectares have maintained a similar number, but their hoarding of agricultural land has increased.
- Despite these historical, legislative and judicial attributions relating to perception, ownership and custodial land rights and governance in **Liberia**, ambiguities, fraud and false assumptions have characterized the interpretations and protection of the land and property rights, especially the customary land and property rights of the Aborigines in Liberia. Consequently, successive Liberian governments have treated all land not privately held under a deed as public while ignoring these legal requirements in the awarding and granting of land concessions or private property rights on community held land.

2) WHAT WERE SOME KEY RESULTS OF THE PRINDEX DATA IN YOUR COUNTRY?

- In **Senegal**, 77% feel their tenure is secure, while 21% of people do not feel secure. 64% believe that property rights in the country are protected. 83% know how to defend their rights if they are challenged. 82% remain convinced that the authorities would protect them in the event of a disturbance of their rights.
- 19% of respondents in **Honduras** feel insecure about their land tenure. Respondents in urban areas feel more insecure in tenure than respondents in rural areas. Men feel more insecure than women. 53% of respondents in Honduras say they have formal documents to prove ownership or use of the rights to at least one of their properties. 46% of respondents in Honduras think that property rights are well protected in the country, 79% say they know how to defend their property rights and 62% say they rely on the support of the authorities in case the rights are challenged.
- In **Liberia**, 43% of respondents felt insecure about their tenure rights in 2018. 51% felt secure about their property rights. 64% said they possessed some kind of formal documents, 3% indicated possessing informal documents and 33% had not documentation. 70% of people believe their land rights are protected, and 90% said they know how to defend their land rights.
- These data are in a context in Liberia of unsecured land rights and rural to urban migration with many migrants who come from rural communities ending up in poor slums and squatter communities.

3) HOW CAN YOU USE THIS DATA?

- Prindex data in **Senegal** is used in the Dashboard, which is a land governance monitoring initiative developed by the International Land Coalition (ILC). The Dashboard is now in a test phase in three countries - Nepal, Colombia and Senegal. The Dashboard evaluates the national framework through 30 indicators organized around the ten ILC commitments for people-centered land governance.
- In **Honduras**, Prindex data can be an ideal platform to help family farmers with agricultural insurance, technical assistance and strengthening drainage systems. Prindex can also provide complementary information linked to data of indigenous and Afro-descendant groups.
- In **Liberia**, Prindex data will be used to support the implementation of the Land Rights Act. It will also be used to support the co-creation and design of a Global Land Tenure Security Index (GLTSI) to measure, rank and score how governments protect the land rights of their citizens especially vulnerable ones and put land data and tools in a digestible format in the hands of local stakeholders to drive policy reforms and implementation.

Notable Quotes from the Panelists



“WOMEN ARE MORE TENURE INSECURE THAN MEN IN ONLY 2 OF 15 COUNTRIES SO FAR, BUT WOMEN ARE MORE WORRIED ABOUT LOSING TENURE IN SPOUSAL DEATH AND DIVORCE SCENARIOS.”

- MALCOLM CHILDRESS, CO-DIRECTOR OF PRINDEX



“GIVEN THE HISTORICAL CONFLICTS ASSOCIATED WITH LAND RIGHTS, THE ROLE THAT LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES PLAYED IN FUELING LIBERIA CIVIL CONFLICT, CONTEMPORARY MASSIVE GRABBING OF CUSTOMARY LAND AND PROPERTY RIGHTS OF COMMUNITIES MAY CREATE PERCEPTIONS DISRUPTIVE OF LAND GOVERNANCE, POTENTIALLY CREATING INSTABILITY AND UNDERMINING THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF LIBERIA.

- ALFRED BROWNELL, GREEN ADVOCATES, LIBERIA



“PERCEPTIONS CAN LEAD TO INJUSTICE BECAUSE WHEN PEOPLE PERCEIVE THE JURISDICTIONAL SYSTEM AS WEAK, PEOPLE DON'T TRUST IT AND THEY WILL NOT CLAIM THEIR RIGHTS. THEY WILL THEN RELY ON ALTERNATIVE JUSTICE MOST OF THE TIME, BUT THIS SYSTEM CAN PRODUCE UNEXPECTED AND NEGATIVE RESULTS.”

- IBRAHIMA KA, IPAR, SENEGAL



“COMMERCIAL CROPS THREATEN THE CONDITION OF THE TERRITORY, THE ADEQUATE DISTRIBUTION OF LAND, THE FULFILLMENT OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND PEOPLE-CENTERED GOVERNANCE, SINCE THE PERCEPTION OF KEY ACTORS IS THAT TENURE IS CENTERED ON PRIVATE INTERESTS, IN SEARCH OF THE CONTINUED ACCUMULATION OF WEALTH OF A FEW.”

- CLAUDIA MONDRAGON, DIRECTOR, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF HONDURAS



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