

# 3<sup>rd</sup> UK Land Forum: Land and Women's Economic Empowerment

## Summary and recommendations

Date: October 13, 2016

Time: 13:00-16:30

Place: ODI, London

### Background and focus

The event was convened to discuss the link between land and women's economic empowerment (WEE), provide updates on recent activities of Forum members, including DFID, and identify themes for future forum meetings.

The theme of land and WEE was chosen to build on the launch of the High-level Panel (HLP) report on WEE – presented at UNGA on September 2, 2016.

The aim of the meeting was to identify steps the land community can take to critically support the implementation of the HLP recommendations, and additional issues that participants think the report needs to take into account for its recommendations to be truly actionable and effective.

To frame and inform this discussion, the meeting provided an overview of the HLP report and its references to land; presented work done under LEGEND to update the evidence on land and WEE; and offered some concrete examples from the ground of how women's land rights are being strengthened and potential impacts of this through DAI's and RRI's work.

### Key points emerging from the evidence and discussions

- **HLP report on WEE:** the purpose of the HLP report was to show that progress can be made quickly by bringing together key global leaders.
  - The report identifies seven drivers of increasing women's economic empowerment (and implied indicators of progress). Land feeds into five of those drivers through ensuring **equal tenure rights** as one of the crucial means for women to use land more effectively and securely as an asset; **shifting social norms** that constrain women's time, capacity or control so they benefit from land (as a productive asset, investment or social security), and **strengthening women's voice and corporate practice** by mobilising women to negotiate effectively and building capacity to support companies do the right thing.
  - The report highlights the **role of media and public perception** as key to changing social norms.
  - While the HLP report is quite strong about talking about women's rights and speaking out, it contains much less about **governments having to listen and be responsive**.
  - The **next phase for the HLP** is to translate the report into an action agenda, preferably by the middle of 2017. Ideally, each panel member will pick up one of the seven drivers of WEE in an open data way to get inputs about how to take it forward, with regular monitoring by stakeholders. Davos will be a milestone in operationalising this action agenda.
- A **review of the most recent evidence** on land and women's empowerment under LEGEND supported the report's areas of focus, highlighting that:

- **Empowering women means more than just providing them with a property title.** They need to be educated on their rights and find their voice in local and national decision-making processes in order to be able to challenge existing gender stereotypes and claim their rights to access land.
- Agricultural investments specifically need to be grounded in **broad-based consultations** through their initial design, structuring and negotiating stages. They then need to be carefully monitored by governments and development agencies throughout project implementation to ensure that they do not exacerbate existing inequalities around gender and land, but recognise, respect and compensate for the alienation of different land users' rights.
- The review pointed out that empowering women also requires the **inclusion of, and support of, men**, for example through raising awareness about gender and land among men to build social legitimacy for gender-equitable institutions and decision-making processes on land. Certain groups of men also lack access to land and may need to be supported.
- Any focus on women's empowerment must include political and social aspects of empowerment; without looking at power relations, there will not be success in having economic empowerment.
- Examples from DAI and RRI/IFRI demonstrated practical ways to involve women in land tenure reform processes by:
  - Encouraging participation in public meetings and creating safe spaces for women's involvement;
  - Providing public outreach and education, with targeted communication; and
  - Offering extensive training and guidance to different stakeholders on inclusion.
- Certificates issued in an LTR programme should recognise the rights of joint, polygamous and FHH land holders.
- Recent evidence on the gendered impact of large-scale land acquisitions (LSLAs) reinforced existing evidence that women are more strongly negatively impacted by LSLAs, and shone more light on the dietary, nutritional and health impacts.
- Overall, **decision-making processes and social norms/power relations** are key to women's economic, political and social empowerment but also the most difficult to shift. One of reasons it is so difficult to change social norms is that they are all inter-related. It is important to facilitate discussion and negotiation of customary norms and women's involvement in decision-making.

### Key recommendations

#### Next steps for the land forum, land forum members and LEGEND-CLST:

- Engage in the next stage of the HLP on WEE, providing **inputs into the proposed Action Plan**.
- **Promote and disseminate** reports and recommendations from the recent research showcased, using opportunities provided by forthcoming events, such as the CFS 43 and the World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty 2017.

#### National governments managing land should:

- Run **public (media) campaigns** to change the perception of women in different spheres.
- **Listen** to those speaking out about women's rights and **respond** in a constructive way.

#### Donor agencies should:

- Make **long-term commitments** to supporting the shifts needed to use land to improve all aspects of women's economic empowerment, including political and social.

- Provide **financial and technical support to partner countries to strengthen the implementation of the VGGTs** and aligned training programmes, including the gender and land training manual (CHECK TITLE).

Private sector companies should:

- Be aware of other social norms that govern use of land, even if vulnerable women (and men) have formal rights.
- Ensure that they have good knowledge of the VGGTs as an important tool in achieving greater equality on land rights and access.

Civil society should:

- Monitor customary authorities and agri-businesses to ensure that the voices of the most vulnerable (women and men) are captured.
- Support women's involvement in negotiating LSLAs.

## Annex 1: Agenda

### Agenda

Time	Theme	Presenter/Chair
13.00	LUNCH	
13.30	Welcome, aims and proposed outputs of session; recap from 2 <sup>nd</sup> UK Land Policy Forum	Anna Locke, ODI
13.35	Relevance of the theme for DFID	Iris Krebber, DFID
13.40	Round the table update from Forum participants	
13:55	Overview of HLP report findings on WEE in general, highlighting references to land issues.  Present general findings of Evidence Update 2 on land and women's empowerment.	Moderator: Philippine Sutz, IIED  Mel Bohannon, DFID  Elizabeth Daley, Mokoro
15.00	Debate	
15:30	COFFEE BREAK	
15:45	Individual presentations on particular aspects and country experiences: discussants to relate points to country experience/particular issues.  Overview of the two sessions, drawing out key lessons.	Kysseline Chérestal & Arun Agrawal, RRI Felicity Buckle, DAI  Elizabeth Daley, Mokoro Philippine Sutz, IIED
16:15	Discussion of objectives and themes and hosts for future meetings, including recap on poll on themes of interest	Giles Henley, ODI
16:25	Next steps and future meetings	Anna Locke
16:30	CLOSE	Chris Penrose-Buckley

## Annex 2: Participant List

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Alex Simuyandi	AgDevCo
Felicity Buckle	DAI
Iris Krebber	DFID
Melinda Bohannon	DFID
Chris Penrose-Buckley	DFID
Matthew Sullivan	Farm Africa
Nicky Heathcote	HM Land Registry Head Office
Victoria Abbott	HM Land Registry Head Office
Lorenzo Cotula	IIED
Philippine Sutz	IIED
Matt Boyle	KPMG
William Smith	KPMG
Elizabeth Daley	Mokoro
Robin Palmer	Mokoro
Julian Quan	NRI
Anna Locke	ODI
Giles Henley	ODI
Abigail Hunt	ODI
Kate Bird	ODI
Ore Kolade	ODI
Iain Simpson	Omidyar Network
*Kyselline Cherestal	RRI
*Arun Agrawal	RRI
Hugh Bagnall-Oakeley	Save the Children
Maria Faraone	School of the Built Environment, Oxford Brookes University

\*Joined via video-link