

# GROWING THE FIELD

*A collaborative approach to change*



2022  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

# Welcome to our 2022 Annual Report

Land rights are ascendant across the development sector. Movements addressing women's empowerment, poverty, social justice, food security and climate change are all increasingly turning to land rights to strengthen their cause. In 2022, renowned philanthropist MacKenzie Scott joined these efforts by making an unprecedented \$20 million investment in our work. Ms. Scott's generous gift represents a profound endorsement of the power of land rights to improve the lives of women, men, and communities around the world.

This past year, Landesa greatly expanded its reach by cultivating partnerships in new countries in Africa and Asia and deepening work around women's land rights, youth land rights, smallholder farmers and climate change. In all of these efforts, Landesa has prioritized collaborations with national NGOs and grassroots organizations. These local groups and networks are essential to creating lasting change on the ground and represent the future of land rights advocacy.

Through its work as the Secretariat of the global campaign, Stand for Her Land, Landesa is helping to initiate, develop and support coalitions of local land rights advocates. Landesa and campaign partners have raised funds for country coalitions in Bangladesh, Colombia, Ethiopia, Senegal, Tanzania, and Uganda, which are now working to ensure that millions of



women can realize stronger land rights in their daily lives. In six adjoining countries from India to Indonesia, Landesa is working with national organizations and government actors to help secure the rights of communities to protect and regenerate their mangrove forests – critical to livelihoods and the broader cause of climate change. In Cambodia, Landesa is simultaneously advocating for national-level policy reforms, while providing institutional support and land rights guidance to almost a dozen local NGOs.

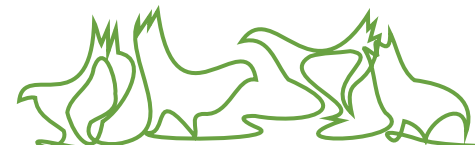
The gift from MacKenzie Scott will supercharge these efforts. Over the coming years, we aim to strengthen the field of land rights by building the evidence base, encouraging global actors to support land rights efforts, and working with a broader range of advocates to bolster their capacities and influence. In terms of impact, Landesa has set the goal of helping 400 million rural women realize the benefits of stronger land rights by 2027.

This report provides a look back at a watershed year for Landesa – and a look ahead to what’s on the horizon. Thank you for walking this journey with us.

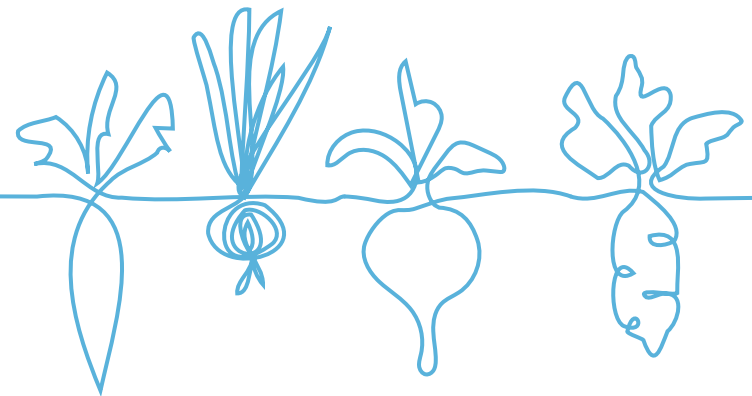


A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large loop followed by a series of smaller, connected loops and a trailing line.

Chris Jochnick,  
President & CEO



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



# GLOBAL TO GRASSROOTS

## *Collective advocacy furthers women's land rights*

Secure women's land rights create a powerful ripple effect, with the potential to advance gender equality, economic empowerment, and climate resilience.

Landesa acts as Secretariat for Stand for Her Land (S4HL), the global campaign advancing women's land rights through coalitions of grassroots women and women-led organizations. On International Women's Day 2022, S4HL celebrated its Africa Regional Launch, adding national coalitions in Ethiopia, Senegal, and Uganda to join Tanzania on the continent. National coalition launches in Colombia and Bangladesh followed, with over 100 groups worldwide mobilizing for the campaign.

At the regional and global levels, S4HL helped put women's land rights on the agenda at key advocacy moments, including the African Union's mid-year meetings and at the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27). At COP27, S4HL representatives helped surface gender-just climate action and women's land rights in critical conversations about the global response to climate change.





# RESTORATION AND RESILIENCE ACROSS BORDERS

*A regional initiative seeks to preserve sustainable livelihoods and ecosystems*

The coastal mangrove forest ecoregion swathing the Bay of Bengal and Southeast Asia is critical for both livelihoods—such as fisheries and non-timber forest products—and climate mitigation, storing over one billion metric tons of carbon. In 2022, Landesa launched the Coastal Livelihoods and Mangroves Project, an ambitious law and policy initiative within six countries (Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, and Thailand) that forms a contiguous stretch of ecoregion. The project will address laws and policies regarding forest tenure, land use planning, and climate mitigation and adaptation to protect 4.6 million hectares of mangrove forests and the more than 73 million people who rely on them. At the same time, Landesa is collaborating with the regional body ASEAN to offer policy recommendations, mutually reinforcing the country-level efforts.



# INCLUSIVE & SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

## *Land use planning driven by people, for people, the planet and prosperity*

Secure land rights are the bedrock for strengthening agriculture, advancing climate justice, and empowering rural communities. And who has a voice in decision-making on land use and access is a key component of equitable land management. In Tanzania, Landesa is supporting local efforts for community-centered land management, helping to ensure that all voices are heard – including women, youth, and others who are traditionally excluded from decision-making around land.

In partnership with the Mufindi District Council and PELUM Tanzania, Landesa supported government land use planning efforts to promote rural development that places communities in the foreground in decision making. In 2022, the collaboration successfully delivered over 4,000 Certificates of Customary Rights of Occupancy to smallholder farmers in eastern Tanzania, in conjunction with land rights education, village land mapping, and inclusive land use planning processes. More than 45% of these certificates were issued to women, jointly or individually and more than 19% to youth, increasing their ownership and control over land, and the power to decide how their land is used.

Landesa and partners encouraged communities to integrate climate resilience in land use plans, laying the groundwork for sustainable development in the face of climate shocks.



*I grow crops on the land I purchased. I raised enough money to start my own timber business. ... I have also employed some people who are growing maize for my family. By so doing, I have created employment opportunities [in the community]. So far, I have employed about 20 people in my projects.*





# ADVANCING LAND RIGHTS EDUCATION AND ACCESS

## *Innovative audio technology builds legal awareness in Liberian communities*

In 2018, Liberia adopted the Land Rights Act, widely considered to be one of the most progressive land rights reforms on the African continent. Full implementation of this landmark legislation is contingent on widespread awareness on rights and challenging social norms such as those that deny women their rights to land. The new land law, for the first time offered the legal base for 2-3 million Liberians who live in rural areas to formally register and secure legal recognition of their land.

To increase access to legal information and education around the Land Rights Act in the face of low literacy rates in rural communities—particularly for women—Landesra collaborates with local organization DEN-L to circulate Amplio Talking Books, simple hand-held audio players with messages in local languages. Four hundred Talking Books are currently in circulation across 5 of Liberia's 15 counties, offering messages on land rights in seven languages. Since 2020, over 41,275 Liberians have directly been reached through this program, having learned about the process to obtain land deeds, methods for land conflict resolution, and the importance of women's land rights. Future topics will include sustainable land management and climate adaptation techniques, helping to promote more resilient livelihoods in the face of climate change.



# ON THE HORIZON

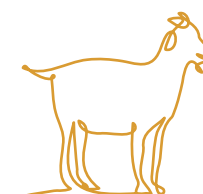


# SMALLHOLDER CHAMPIONS

In no place are the challenges of extreme poverty and food insecurity more pronounced than in sub-Saharan Africa – particularly in rural areas, where agriculture is the backbone of the economy, but land rights are frequently undocumented and insecure. And women farmers are overrepresented among those experiencing poverty, in large part because of discriminatory social norms that undermine their rights to land.

With the Agricultural Systems Change initiative, funded by Co-Impact, Landesa is partnering with One Acre Fund to transform food systems and create a more gender-equitable future for Africa's smallholder farmers. In Kenya and Rwanda, Landesa will partner with

government and other stakeholders to strengthen land rights for smallholder farmers, increase on-farm assets, and work to uproot social norms that deny women equal rights to land. These efforts will be led from new Landesa offices in Kenya and Rwanda and carried out by national teams of land and gender experts steeped in local contexts. In combination with access to improved seeds and other farm inputs, the program is expected to benefit nearly six million people across the two countries by 2025.



# INCLUSIVE CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

Around the world, women and girls are disproportionately impacted by climate change. They're also critical allies in the fight to arrest the climate crisis, because of their roles as stewards of land and natural resources. But without secure rights to land, they are greatly diminished in their potential to protect land and forests that are critical for climate mitigation, or to help their communities adapt to extreme weather, food insecurity, and other severe consequences of climate change.

Landesa is working to spur regional collective action on climate change among women-led grassroots organizations in some of the most climate-vulnerable places in the world. The Women-led Collective Advocacy for Climate Action project, funded by the U.S. Department of State, will convene coalitions of women-focused organizations and develop national coalition climate strategies, with an emphasis on the role of women's land rights to foster climate resilient communities in Bangladesh, Maldives, and Nepal. By centering climate action within women-led organizations, Landesa is putting the power to effect lasting change in the hands of those who are best positioned to act against climate change while fostering a regional network of climate activists.



# YOUTH LAND RIGHTS FOR FUTURE FOOD SYSTEM LEADERS

In Ghana, aspiring young farmers face many barriers in accessing land – a trend that can be observed across much of the continent, where lack of land rights keep youth sidelined from working in agriculture. The consequences of this gap in land rights contribute to high youth unemployment, propel social unrest and migration, and weaken food systems.

But with the right reforms to land rights, markets and changes to customary practices around who has the right to manage and access land, youth can be equipped with the tools and resources necessary to grow their livelihoods, increase access to decent jobs, improve food security, and transform agriculture across Africa. Landesa, in partnership with COLANDEF, a Ghanaian land rights NGO, is helping Ghana's young farmers realize dignified employment through on-farm careers along value chains. Supported by the Mastercard Foundation, the project aims to improve land documentation and access as a pathway for strengthening and creating 1.3 million jobs for Ghanaian youth in agriculture and agriculture-adjacent opportunities by 2025, helping to usher in a new generation of African agripreneurs.



# CREATING A SENSE OF BELONGING FOR WOMEN IN JHARKHAND AND WEST BENGAL

The sense of not belonging is an all-too-common experience for women in India and, indeed, around the world. Patriarchal notions about land and inheritance serve to deny women of their rights to land in their birth homes. But women who marry are likewise treated as outsiders in their marital homes and are thus caught between two worlds, an outsider in both.

In the state of Jharkhand in eastern India, Landesa is launching a new effort to strengthen the land rights of women living in Scheduled Tribe communities. The project builds upon Landesa's 2021 assessment that found persistent and widespread instances of social and legal barriers to land rights for women in the state. With continued funding from Oak Foundation, Landesa's land and gender experts are applying what we've learned from our previous research into new programming designed to strengthen women's land rights through better land governance and community sensitization and legal awareness.

In West Bengal, the drive to promote women's land literacy through the network of women's self-help groups continued to gain momentum. With technical support provided by Landesa, the initiative reached an additional 500,000 rural women with education about their land rights and the benefits of secure land tenure and the recording of rights, bringing the total number of women reached to 2.1 million since the program began.



*As girls grow up, they keep hearing, 'This is not your home, you will go one day to your [marital] home.' But when she gets married, she realizes that the marital home is not hers either.*

# OUR IMPACT

Our FY2022 programmatic impact



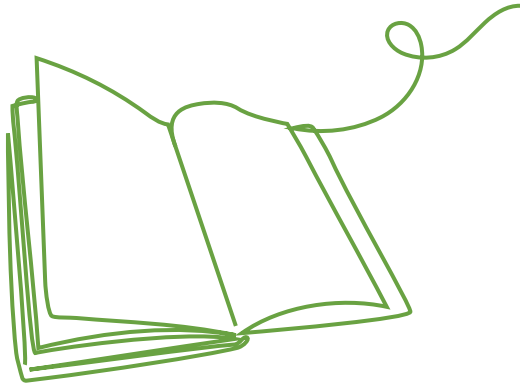
A total of

**2,083,753 people**

1,746,169 women + 337,584 men

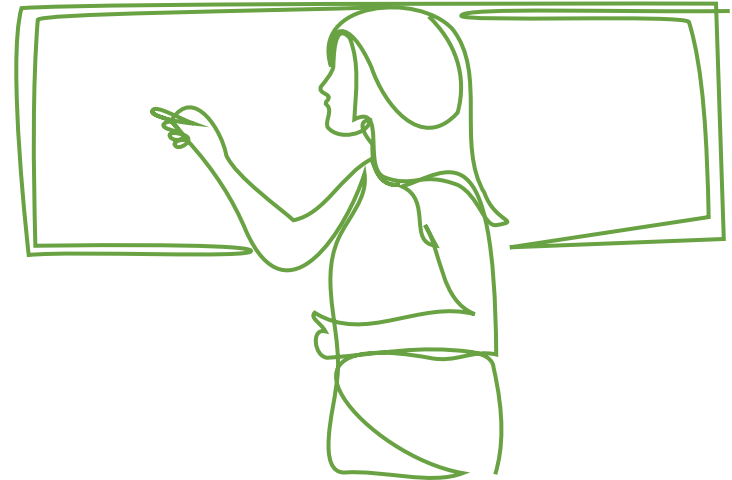
stand to benefit from stronger land rights thanks to our work.





**720,193 women**

received land literacy trainings and educational services from Landesa, empowering them to better protect and enjoy their rights to land.



**5,141** government officials, service providers, practitioners and other key influencers received training and resources through Landesa to strengthen and protect land rights of the

**1,438,590**

women and men they serve.



# 2021 MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Check out some of Landesa's top news mentions from last year:



## **Lifting the fog on climate change: Complex impacts need complex solutions**

Sep. 23, 2022 | The Seattle Times

Climate Change Program Director Rachel McMonagle is featured in a Seattle Times article about the importance of multi-pronged, systemic solutions to address the impacts of climate change.

[Read the article ->](#)



## **OPINION: Give land rights to youth to boost rural economies**

Feb. 11, 2022 | Thomson Reuters Foundation

Landesa Sr. Youth and Land Tenure Specialist Tizai Mauto explains why youth land rights are key to revitalizing rural economies and creating job opportunities for millions of young people worldwide.

[Read the article ->](#)



## Why Do Women Farmers Still Lack Access to Agricultural Land Ownership?

Jan. 21, 2022 | The Quint

Shipra Deo, Landesa's director for women's land rights in India, talks about the hurdles women face to owning land on the Land of a Billion podcast.

[Read the article ->](#)



## Weathering the storm: Building resilience in the humanitarian sector

Aug. 3, 2022 | Devex

Alongside fellow Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize recipients, Landesa's Chris Jochnick and Shipra Deo discuss how humanitarian organizations can build resilience to address emerging crises.

[Read the article ->](#)



## Is Africa the next global breadbasket?

Apr. 27, 2022 | Investment Monitor

Investment Monitor interviewed Margaret Rugadya about how smallholder land rights are key to developing a robust, productive agriculture sector across the African continent.

[Read the article ->](#)



## At COP27, a Call to Root Climate Action and Justice in Land Rights for Women and Rural Communities

Nov. 4, 2022 | AVPN

In Bangladesh's Sundarbans, life revolves around coastal mangrove forests. But as climate change effects worsen, livelihoods are under threat. Landesa's Rachel McMonagle coauthored an article with ALRD's Moni Rowshan about what global actors can do amid the deepening climate crisis.

[Read the article ->](#)



## Land Tenure: A cross-cutting solution for poverty, climate change, and women's rights

Oct. 11, 2022 | Skoll Foundation

Landesa Global Advocacy Director Esther Mwaura-Muiru writes that if we want to improve lives and alleviate poverty, achieve food security globally, and guarantee human rights and full dignity for all, we must invest in land rights for women.

[Read the article ->](#)

# FINANCIALS

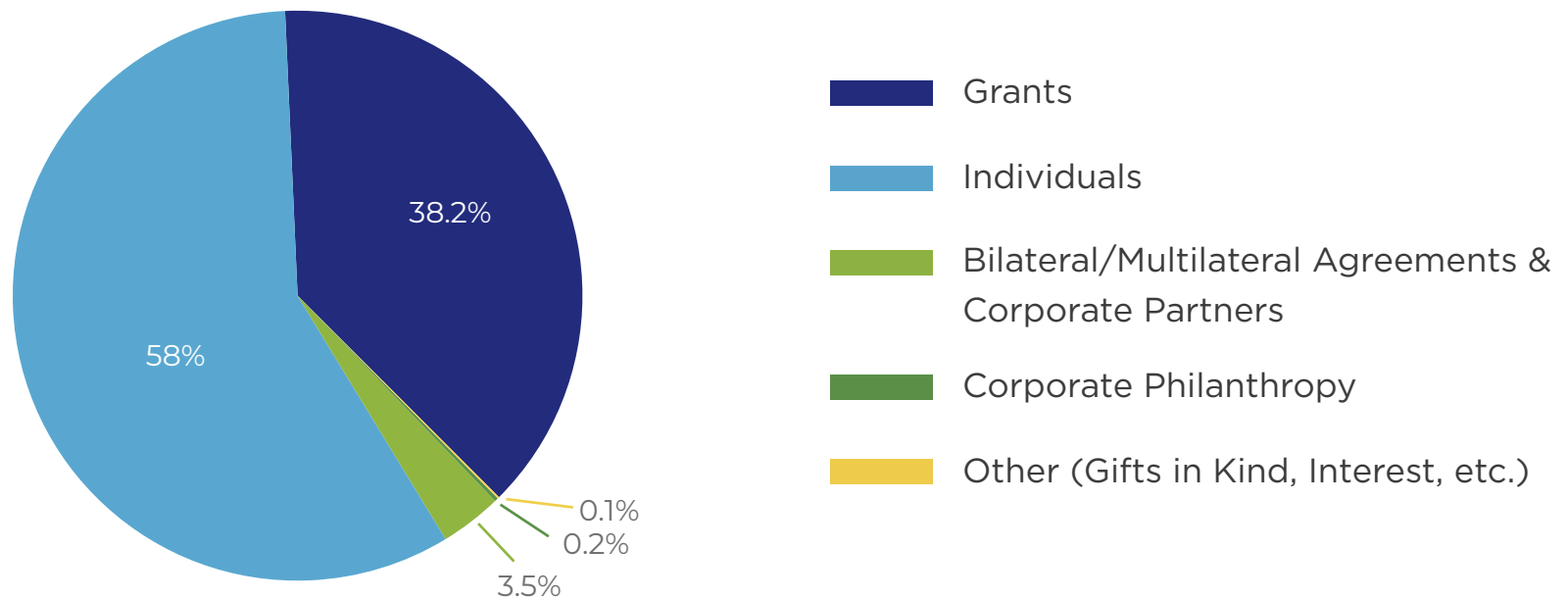
FY2022 | July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022



# Total Revenue

\$36,920,933

Revenue Sources  
(as a percentage)

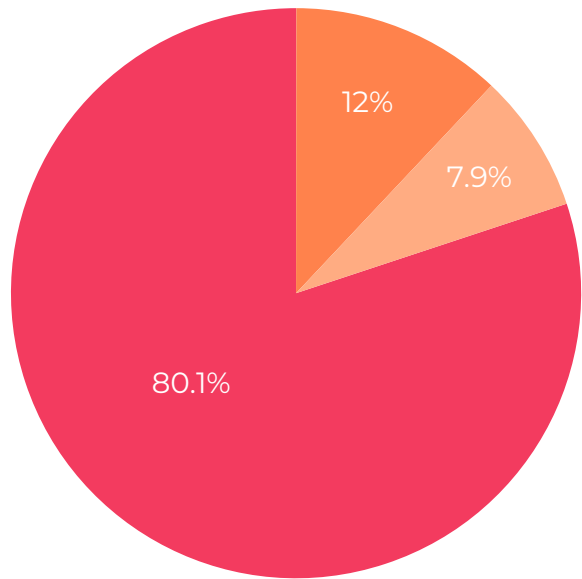


Note: Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States require Landesa to recognize the full amount of unconditional multi-year grants in the year in which they are awarded. Expenses, however, are recorded in the year they are incurred.

# Total Expenses

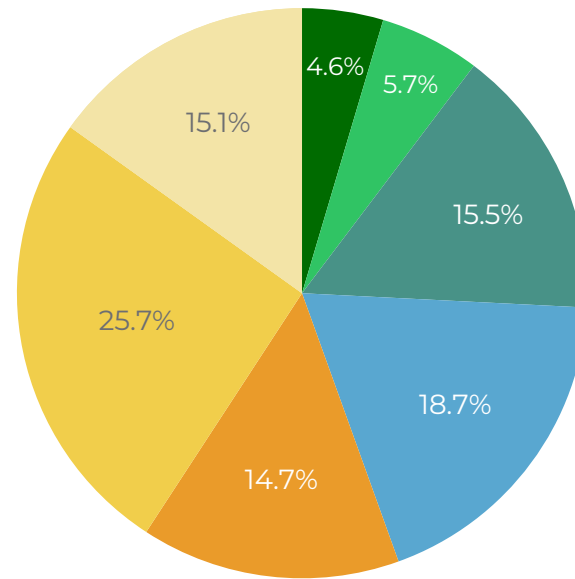
\$11,943,417

Functional Allocation of Expenses  
(as a percentage)



- Program Services
- Management / General
- Fundraising

Program Services by Area  
(as a percentage)



- India
- China
- Africa
- SE Asia
- Global Projects
- Global Advocacy, Communications, & Learning
- Landesa Center for Women's Land Rights

# OUR SUPPORTERS

FY2022 | July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022





# Our work would not be possible without our supporters.

Thank you to all of the individual donors, foundations, corporations, and partners who made contributions in FY2022 (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022).





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BHP Foundation

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## **\$25,000-\$99,999**

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We are especially grateful for the current members of Gardeners for Growth, Landesa's monthly giving club. Their donations provide a consistent, stable foundation of support for Landesa's global mission, allowing us to respond to opportunities to strengthen land rights as they arise.



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Shamaprasad Bangalore

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