

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT THROUGH STRENGTHENING LAND RIGHTS KNOWLEDGE AND TRAINING CAPACITY

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Country: Tanzania

Principal Organisation: **LANDESA**

ABSTRACT

Tanzania's high youth unemployment is linked to the high levels of landlessness among young people. Landesa, an international NGO specialising in securing land rights for people experiencing poverty, empowers youth through training on youth land tenure and natural resource management.

The capacity development efforts involve a youth land tenure assessment led by Landesa, developing a training manual, a training-of-trainers (ToT), and advocacy. Landesa's multi-stakeholder and multi-level approach to land governance prioritises the inclusion of youth in land-related decision-making processes.

ILC COMMITMENTS



SECURE TENURE RIGHTS



INCLUSIVE DECISION-MAKING



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COMPETENCIES

AREAS

YOUTH

SKILLS

**LAND POLICY AND
MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE**

RESEARCH AND TRAINING

BACKGROUND

The agricultural industry plays a vital role in building the national economy and reducing inequalities among Tanzanians by increasing their incomes and employment opportunities. The sector employs three-quarters of youths, contributes about 29% to the country's GDP, and produces more than 70% of the country's food. Thus, youth engagement in agriculture is vital, as youth aged between 15 and 35 constitute about

35% of the population. However, it is increasingly difficult to engage youth in agriculture as young people are constrained by extreme poverty, unemployment, and inadequate access to land. Additional factors that constrain young people's access to land include insufficient access to finance and other productive resources and exclusion from decision-making processes that affect their lives, including within the agricultural sector.

THE CHALLENGE

Article 24 of the Constitution of the Republic of Tanzania, the National Land Policy (1995), the Land Act (1999), and the Village Land Act (1999) are the main frameworks that protect citizens' rights to own land in Tanzania. These frameworks further guarantee equality between men and women in accessing, owning, and controlling land and ensure that land rights and tenure security are protected for different groups, enabling them to engage in agriculture.

The National Agriculture Policy (2013), the National Strategy for Youth Involvement in Agriculture (2016-2021), National Development Vision 2025, and the National Youth Development Policy (2007) identify youth as critical drivers for economic transformation. The National Strategy for Youth Involvement in Agriculture directs all Local Government Authorities to allocate land for youth groups interested in

agribusiness. However, the main policy and legal frameworks governing land neither contain youth-specific provisions nor recognise youth-specific challenges in accessing land. Instead, youth have implied protections as adults under the existing frameworks, leaving out the unique needs of young people in accessing land.

Under customary laws and norms, land rights are allocated differently, according to gender, age, social values, and social and marital statuses. Customary norms offer few options for youth to control land while their parents are still alive, exclude young people from land allocation processes, and delay inheritance. Further, under customary patrilineal systems, women do not have direct inheritance rights to land and housing property, and their access to land depends upon relatives or marriage.

OVERCOMING THE CHALLENGE

Landesa promotes youth land rights, food and nutrition security, and agriculture-based livelihoods by cooperating with governments, civil society, and communities to strengthen youth inclusion in land-related decision-making processes. In Tanzania, Landesa works with civil society members such as the Tanzania Land Alliance (TALA) and PELUM Tanzania.

To promote youth land rights in Tanzania, Landesa first conducted a youth land tenure assessment to understand youth land rights, identify gaps and challenges, gender-based barriers affecting young women's access to land, and issue policy recommendations.

In the assessment, it became clear that youth lacked information and knowledge on existing tenure governance systems, land policies and laws, women's land rights, their rights to participate in decision-making processes, and access to justice in land-related matters. As a remedy, Landesa designed a training manual to engage the youth in capacity building for young people to understand the land governance and management system. Additionally, Landesa will be speaking at the National Land Forum on Youth Land Rights organised by TALA.

MOVING TOWARDS PEOPLE-CENTRED LAND GOVERNANCE

Landesa embarked on a capacity-building exercise, supporting young people on a wide range of issues related to land governance and youth access to land. The capacity-building programme aimed to facilitate social norms changes so that the youth understand their challenges in accessing land and become agents of change. They also learned about youth land rights, the land administration system, land conflict resolution, and the implementation of youth and gender-friendly laws and policies.

In November 2019, Landesa worked with 20 young men and women from Mvumi and Mabengwa in the Kilosa District to train them on selected youth land rights topics. The topics include:

- land tenure and administrative systems in Tanzania,
- the historical background and existing laws and policies,
- key provisions that youth can use to protect their land rights,
- defining youth and identifying challenges and opportunities for securing youth land rights,
- land dispute resolution frameworks,
- the sustainable development goals and land-related targets,
- youth's role in practical and global advocacy to advance women land rights, such as the "Stand for Her Land" campaign, a global and national level women's land rights campaign that sought to bridge the gap between law and practice.

THE GOOD PRACTICE IN FIVE SIMPLE STEPS



1

YOUTH LAND TENURE ASSESSMENT

The assessment sought to evaluate youth land tenure as provided in existing policy and legal frameworks, plans, programs, strategies, and initiatives; define youth in Tanzania; and identify barriers, opportunities, and mechanisms for youth access to land. It further identified the strengths and weaknesses of youth tenure systems and provided recommendations for enhancing and strengthening youth land tenure rights in Tanzania. The assessment focused on the period between 1990 and 2020, as major land-related policy and legal reforms happened.

2

DEVELOPING A TRAINING MANUAL

Based on the assessment, Landesa developed a training manual to better equip the trainees with the information and methodology needed to train community members, including women and youth, on land rights. It provides guidance and instructions that enable trainees to understand the historical background and context, policies and principles governing land rights, and practical aspects of youth land rights and governance. The manual also focuses on the policy and legal frameworks governing land, gender and women's land rights, youth land rights, and alternative dispute resolution. The manual is in Swahili to enable users to understand and refer to the content.

3

YOUTH TRAINING OF TRAINERS MODEL

Landesa engaged in training-of-trainers (ToT) to coach new and less experienced trainees to become competent youth land rights trainers who teach the material to other people. The ToT model aims to prepare future trainers to present information effectively, respond to participant questions, and lead learning activities. Other goals include ensuring that new trainers can lead future discussions, apply new skills in delivering training, and participate in national and policy dialogues regarding youth land rights.

4

YOUTH TRAINING

Landesa engaged the Kilosa District Council to identify active youth leaders to participate in the ToT. As a result, the District Council identified 20 young men and women to participate in the training in November 2019. Landesa covered seven topics, including identifying the existing land institutions, land policies and laws, youth involvement in land-related decision-making processes, and natural resource management systems. They also learned about women's land rights to change young people's perceptions and transform social norms.

The COVID-19 pandemic interrupted the training; thus, the planned follow up training sessions, in which the trainees would present their work, were postponed. However, the trainees can also use the manual to train other youth in their villages. At the end of the training, the trainees created their action plans, each committing to training 50 young people from their towns and sharing their newly gained knowledge.

5

ADVOCACY AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

Although the National Strategy for Youth Involvement in Agriculture caters to the land needs of young farmers, the primary policy and legal frameworks governing land do not contain youth-specific provisions, offering few options for youth to control land. Youth are still excluded from land-related decision-making processes, and young women face additional challenges in patriarchal communities as they do not have direct inheritance rights. Instead, their access to land depends upon relatives or marriage.

To raise the government's awareness about the challenges of young people in accessing land, Landesa used the assessment as a basis for evidence-based advocacy for policy reforms at the national level. As a result, Landesa authored a policy brief highlighting the challenges of young people and policy recommendations to the government to adopt pro-youth land allocation and market mechanisms and credit facilities. Further, the brief emphasised the importance of involving youth in the development of agricultural policies. Finally, Landesa presented the brief to the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlement via email and will hold a webinar in July to promote the brief.



KEY FACTORS OF SUCCESS FOR REPLICABILITY AND ADAPTABILITY PURPOSES

6

- 1 Conducting the youth land tenure assessment** The youth land tenure assessment laid the foundation for Landesa's work on youth access to land in Tanzania. The assessment assisted in identifying the challenges young people face in accessing land, opportunities to leverage the current regulatory framework for the benefit of youth, and recommendations for policy and legislative changes at the national level.
- 2 Developing a youth training manual** The youth training manual consists of a set of methodologies and guidance to support the trainers and trainees. Landesa compiled the manual as a resource for training youth trainees interested in advocating for youth land rights. This manual provides instructions on a collection of topics to foster effective learning, training, and knowledge transfer, leading to capacitated trainees who are well-prepared to take on youth land rights challenges.
- 3 Youth-led planning** Landesa gave the youth the platform to develop an action plan based on their newly gained knowledge on youth land rights, youth-related land policies, youth involvement in land-related decision-making processes, and women's land rights. The youth decided that each trainee would train 50 other young people on youth land rights and use the village meetings as a platform to share their knowledge with the District Council members and the broader community.

7

LESSONS LEARNED

Build alliances with the government

Government is an essential partner in development programming as it influences the legal, policy and economic environment. By involving the government and other stakeholders from the design stage, Landesa responded to the challenges faced by young people and promoted youth access to land. Further, Landesa found that innovative solutions to youth challenges in accessing land lie in open public debate; thus, Landesa encouraged youth involvement in land-related decisions. Accordingly, Landesa established partnerships with the District Council and emphasised their role in young people's access to land.

Invest in quality training for the youth

Landesa trained twenty trainees at once to yield high-quality trainees. A smaller group of trainees allowed Landesa to ensure that the trainees understood and were familiar with the content and the approach to youth land rights. Although this approach is costly, providing in-depth training to a few trainees ensures that they are qualified to train others in future. As such, Landesa brought the trainees to Morogoro for a two-day training. However, the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted the planned training sessions, which will resume in future.



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Youth Land Rights in Tanzania: Challenges, Opportunities, and Policy Options
Tanzania Youth Land Rights Assessment