



COMMITMENT 4



LEARN, SHARE AND BE INSPIRED

LEARNING FROM ILC DATABASE OF GOOD PRACTICES

INTERNATIONAL
LAND
COALITION

EQUAL LAND RIGHTS FOR WOMEN

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EQUAL LAND RIGHTS FOR WOMEN

ILC's **Commitment 4** seeks to promote gender justice in land matters; including both de jure and de facto equality in land rights for women. ILC's **Database of Good Practices** provides concrete examples and guidance to members and partners of the ILC on how to achieve this commitment.

What processes, tools and methods have ILC members successfully used to overcome some of the challenges they face in defending Women's Land Rights? Learn about:

LEGAL ASSISTANCE, LEGAL EMPOWERMENT AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE

How ILC members have improved women's legal literacy, assisted them to enforce their land rights and to access public agricultural credit.

USE OF MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION

How they used media to involve community members and village elders in the resolution of women's land rights matters.

KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT, MAPPING AND LAND REGISTRATION

How ILC members have used cultural and traditional land tenure systems as bases for land mapping.

LAND POLICY AND MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE

How ILC members have used multi-stakeholder engagements to influence land policy reform.

LAND MONITORING, INDICATORS AND ALTERNATIVE REPORTING

How ILC members developed alternative reports to hold Governments accountable and used existing land monitoring tools to create land dispute resolution frameworks.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE, LEGAL EMPOWERMENT AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE

- ▶ **Legal competitions**, which include questions to and answers from the public on women's land rights, aim at developing legal literacy and legal empowerment particularly for women. To get the public's attention, legal competitions are held in open areas such as markets. Furthermore, the facilitators can incentivise the respondents by giving prizes to people who answer correctly. Legal competitions were used by **IFAD** in partnership with the Government of **Burundi** (**C0008**) to increase public legal literacy in land rights issues, including women's land rights. The legal aid team worked with paralegals in holding these competitions. They selected subjects for the competitions based on land frameworks and challenges within the communities. They also linked the competitions with community legal literacy workshops. As a result, communities understood their land rights and the role of judicial processes in enforcing them.
- ▶ **Community paralegal** programmes bridge the legal vacuum that exists between the law and lives of rural women. Paralegals are trained to assist in identifying legal problems, approaching relevant traditional or administrative authorities and liaising with legal counsel to lodge formal court proceedings. For the community to have ownership of the project, they should select

community members who will be trained as paralegals focusing on women's land rights matters. Coupled with public awareness campaigns, paralegals may facilitate dialogue between community women and leaders. **Rwanda's Women Network** (**C0010**) successfully capacitated paralegals to assist women in enforcing and claiming their land rights at community level, lodging appeals in higher courts and drafting wills for community members.

- ▶ **Community-based women's** committees can be established and capacitated on the legal requirements for handling matters that relate to women's access to credit. Legal empowerment is instrumental in sensitising women about their rights to access to public agro-credit; giving them an opportunity to mobilise themselves and approach relevant offices. In **India** (**C0018**), **Swadhinata** has conducted trainings on gender sensitivity, right to land and land-based livelihoods, access to government services and functioning of local government. With the support of Swadhinata, the women's committee was able to approach the public office of the Pachayat Raj to access agro-credit. These women received Agro-Credit Cards which they used to invest in their farming operations.



USE OF MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION

► **Radio broadcasts** in local languages are a powerful tool for communicating with traditional leaders in rural communities. In **Kenya**, **ELCI (C0080)** added an innovative edge to their broadcasts by inviting a local Professor to facilitate their programmes. The facilitator must have an understanding of the traditional context and be diplomatic in introducing new gender sensitive thinking to traditional leaders. This approach allows traditional leaders to understand the full magnitude of the challenges faced by women. ELCI's approach proved to be successful as the traditional leaders eventually worked with ELCI in preparing a petition on women's land rights to the parliamentary committees responsible for drafting the new Kenyan Constitution.

► The formation of **Community Listeners' Clubs** (CLCs), grouping people to listen to radio broadcasts in which women's land rights are discussed, can enhance communication impact. Community members tasked with facilitating debates on women's land rights must be trained on gender sensitivity. In **Niger**, **FAO** and Dimitra Community Listeners' Clubs (**C0032**) managed to mobilise and raise awareness about women's land rights in the community through radio programmes. Their strategy was to invite groups of men and women to systematically listen to radio programmes and discuss the contents. The non-confrontational debates amongst women, men and traditional leaders led to amicable discussions and resolution of women's land rights issues. Ultimately, women's land tenure and livelihoods were strengthened as they were given the right to lease land individually or in groups through formalized long-term lease agreements.

KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT, MAPPING AND LAND REGISTRATION

- ▶ **Learning routes** complement traditional learning methods such as workshops, information dissemination campaigns and publications. In order to bridge gaps that exist between stakeholders' knowledge systems, **PROCASUR (C0019)** developed a methodology for practical learning through experiences in the protection of women's land rights. The learning route in East Africa was an occasion for learning and bi-directional exchange of good practices. PROCASUR first recruited technical experts who identified training needs, selected good practices and potential routes on the subject matter and designed a plan for systematised upscaling of the project. The learning route strengthened the sharing of good practices in women's land rights protection and was up-scaled and replicated in four countries.
- ▶ Issuing **Joint Land Ownership Certificates (JLCs)** can bring governments' attention to women's land rights issues. In **Nepal**, the **Community Self-reliance Centre (CSRC)** and **Abhiyan (C0025)** undertook various activities to provide convincing evidence that joint ownership and increased ownership for women are essential for protecting the land rights of women. CSRC organised the women into cooperatives that met regularly to discuss land rights issues. Abhiyan and CSRC's activities included workshops, peaceful protests, art work and community meetings. These activities, coupled with advocacy campaigns, resulted in the Constitutional Assembly and Parliament declaring their commitment to women's land rights. Most importantly, the Government agreed to register both men and women in the JLCs amongst indigenous peoples.
- ▶ **Land rights competitions**, which include the submission of land-rights related posters, can be used for disseminating information and sensitising communities on the challenges faced by women in land rights matters. In **Kenya**, **ELCI (C0080)** sponsored a poster competition on women's land rights amongst the youth. Through the same programme, community elders were sensitised on constitutional and statutory protections that are afforded to widows and women in intestate succession cases. The community elders also announced the winner of the competition, and the winning poster was distributed amongst the elders and showcased in strategic public locations. Targeting the youth whilst engaging the elders can increase visibility and demographic reach of projects. Additionally, the project strengthened women's legal literacy and increased the number of cases decided in favour of women in traditional land disputes.

LAND POLICY AND MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE

▶ **Joint government and civil society organisation dialogue meetings** can be used to facilitate land policy implementation. Grassroots Civil Society Organisations have invaluable knowledge on policy and implementation gaps; therefore, CSO-government dialogue meetings can significantly influence policy on land tenure security for women. **RISD** in partnership with LandNet Rwanda, a network of 35 CSOs (**C0069**), hosted a joint dialogue meeting with the Ministry of Justice and the Office of the Ombudsman in which they highlighted the effects of land policy implementation on civil society. The CSOs highlighted that unmarried women who lived with their partners were not allowed to register their names on the title deeds of the land they jointly owned with their partners. This influenced change in the land policy: unmarried women can now be registered as co-owners of land.



LAND MONITORING, INDICATORS AND ALTERNATIVE REPORTING

- ▶ At an administrative level, the Gender Evaluation Criteria (GEC) is a tool for assessing land laws' gender sensitivity. **ADHD (C0077)** managed to extend the GEC's utility to include training CSOs on the use of the GEC and setting up a framework for conciliation and land dispute resolution. ADHD had three **training sessions with CSOs, traditional leaders, private sector actors and representatives of ministries. For dispute resolution**, the framework created by ADHD enables reporting and resolving women's land disputes. ADHD also convinced local traditional leaders to abolish practices that discriminate against women.
- ▶ **Alternative reports** containing information on ownership and access to land, raise international awareness of challenges faced by women in access to land. Alternative reports challenge official reports that are presented by governments to international bodies. In **Argentina, Fundación Plurales, Fundapaz, Redes Chaco and Federación Agraria de Argentina (C0022)** wrote

a shadow report that was presented to the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). This report highlighted the challenges that women faced in light of large scale land acquisitions, contrary to the State report. As a result of the shadow report, CEDAW issued policy recommendations to the Argentinian government on the protection of women's land rights.