

MAKE LAND RIGHTS

reality for millions of women around the world



Stand For Her Land:

Project Overview

Collective Advocacy to Realize Women's Land Rights

Women's land rights (WLR) are essential for gender equality, dignity, food security, climate action, poverty eradication, and sustainable economic growth. Global leaders have committed to ensuring securing land rights

The 2030 Agenda, the Rio Declarations, and the African Union Vision 2063. Despite these commitments, legal frameworks vary widely, and even where laws exist, effective implementation is often lacking.

Stand for Her Land (S4HL) Global Campaign

The Stand for Her Land (S4HL) Ethiopian Campaign promotes women's equal rights to own and use land. The campaign is part of a collaborative global initiative aimed at advancing secure and equitable WLR through locally led advocacy. The project will establish S4HL Country Coalitions in Uganda, Senegal, and Ethiopia, focusing on three key objectives:

1. Catalyze a local movement for WLR.
2. Increase knowledge and resources for stakeholders.
3. Engage communities in realizing WLR.

Why Do Women Need Housing, Land, and Property Rights?

Women's rights to housing, land, and property are crucial for social and economic development. They enhance women's empowerment, participation in decision making, and protection against gender-based violence and health hazards. Secure access to these rights provides women with stability, independence, and freedom.

Economic Benefits

Securing women's rights leads to increased agricultural productivity and food security. Women make up a significant portion of agricultural labor, yet less than 13% of agrarian landholders are women. Weak tenure security and limited decision-making power hinder productivity, affecting families and communities. Increased access to land allows women to invest in education, health, and nutrition for their families.

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The human right to security of tenure is vital for an adequate standard of living. For displaced and vulnerable women, secure land rights often represent their only protection. Access to land enables better management of

Leadership and Decision-Making

Access to land empowers women to participate more actively in decision-making processes, enhancing their social security and status within families and communities. This involvement is crucial for increasing their civic engagement and political power.

Protection Against Violence

There is a complex relationship between land rights and gender-based violence. Ownership of land can empower women to exit violent relationships. However, claiming these rights can also expose women to violence from relatives threatened by their independence.

Declarations and Frameworks

Numerous international frameworks support women's housing, land, and property

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948): Recognizes adequate housing as part of a standard of living.
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women: Affirms women's equal rights to property.
- Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure: Call for equal tenure rights for women.

Ethiopia Legal Context

Equality exists in law but often not in practice. National laws must align with international human rights frameworks to ensure equal access to housing, land, and property for women. Customary law refers to an established system of indigenous people and local communities' cultural norms and practices which vary across cultures, also play a significant role in land rights. This is particularly evident in housing, land and property. Federal and national constitutions, policies, laws and regulations are crucial in protecting and ensuring women's rights to housing, land and property. Aligning statutory laws with international human rights frameworks is crucial for achieving equality in accessing, using, controlling, acquiring and transferring housing, land and property.

Proclamation no. 1324/2024 Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Rural Lands Administration and Use Proclamation

The proclamation states that it has become necessary to improve the livelihood of farmers, semi pastoralists, and pastoralists at the level of the Country's economic, political, and social development by establishing improved rural land administration and use system that enhance the land property rights of farmers,

Representing Women and Other Vulnerable Groups

power hinder productivity, affecting families and communities. Increased access to land allows women to invest in education, health, and nutrition for their families.

Participatory Registration Process The rural landholding registration shall be participatory

Regional States shall ensure that the laws they enacted protect the rights of landholders who may not be present during the rural land adjudication process for reasons beyond their control. Special emphasis shall be given to the protection of rights of children; people with disabilities; and women who may not be present at the time and place of adjudication of rights. Registering organs shall ensure that representatives or tutors who appear during adjudication processes or registration of holding right.

Rural Land Surveying, Registration, and Certification Surveying and Registration of Land Holdings

Private, communal, and state holdings shall be surveyed using modern surveying instruments and registered. Holders of lands surveyed and registered shall have the right to get a holding certificate for their parcels showing boundaries and land size. The holding certificate shall be prepared in the name of all joint holders where the land belongs to spouses or other joint holders.

Registration of Rural Landholdings of Couples in a Polygamous Marriage

Without prejudice to the prohibition of polygamy under the Criminal and Family Codes, where a person has two or more wives the landholding shall be registered in a manner that protects the rights of all the wives in the polygamous marriage. Without prejudice of this Article where a husband concludes polygamous marriage after entering into force of this Proclamation, the common land property of the husband and the first wife shall be partitioned, updated, and registered in the name of each spouse. The share of the husband shall be reregistered with his new spouse in a manner that protects the rights of women.

Recognition of Customary Land Administration and Use Systems

Regional laws shall recognize customary institutions, customary land use and management practices, and conflict resolution mechanisms and shall provide support and follow-up. Customary land use and management rules and conflict resolution mechanisms shall be of no effect where they contravene the fundamental constitutional rights, women rights, as well as the rights and obligations provided by other laws. Acceptance and enforcement Laws alone are not sufficient to secure women's housing, land and property rights.

The effectiveness of laws depends on multiple factors:

- Awareness of the laws – through increased and accessible legal literacy.
- Ability to invoke them – through access to gender responsive dispute-resolution mechanisms and legal support

Conclusion

Women's land rights are foundational for achieving gender justice, economic empowerment, and resilience against climate change. We must stand together to support these rights.

Call to Action

Let's advocate for women's land rights and work towards a more equitable future.

Contact us!

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