



EVENT IN BRIEF

UN WOMEN POSITIONS WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS AT THE FOREFRONT OF SDGs LOCALISATION IN EAST AFRICA



UN Women, in collaboration with the Government of Ethiopia and the Embassy of Finland in Ethiopia hosted a Regional Workshop on “Women’s Land Rights and Tenure Security” from 28-29 November 2017 at the Economic Commission of Africa in Addis Ababa. The Workshop was conducted as part of UN Women’s project, **‘Women’s Land Rights and Tenure Security in the Context of the SDGs’**.

The aim of the workshop was to bring together stakeholders from the three participating countries, Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania and to build on the compilations of the Country Situation Analysis Reports regarding advancement of the measurement and monitoring of the land-related Sustainable Development Goals in the countries’ National Development Plans.

The two-day workshop gathered over 40 participants, mostly national stakeholders and government officials, but also international development partners and civil society organizations from the region.

Women’s Land Rights in Africa are key to their economic empowerment, as 70 to 90 percent of all wealth in Africa is generated through land. Additionally, anecdotal evidence strongly illustrates that a smaller proportion of women in Africa have secure land tenure rights. Women’s access to land and tenure security is a key human rights issue as well as an obstacle to women’s economic empowerment, gender equality and continental economic development more broadly.

The Project Manager Mr. Sami Frestadius outlined the achievements of the project and the future prospects. The Women’s Land Rights Community of Practice is already functional at international, regional and national levels to a certain degree, but more work is needed. More advocacy will be needed to ensure that all national and global duty bearers are aware of gender and land tenure security issues.



Ms. Letty Chiwara(left) and Ms. Tiina Byring-Ilboudo(right) delivering opening remarks.

Ms. Letty Chiwara underscored the role of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in identifying land as central to poverty reduction and gender equality and achieving all Sustainable Development Goals.

“UN Women is the global champion for gender equality and supports the Sustainable Development Goals in achieving gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls”.

Ms. Letty Chiwara, UN Women representative for Ethiopia, AU and UNECA

Ms. Tiina Byring-Ilboudo emphasized, that as the first full democracy to grant Women the Right to vote and participate in Elections 111 years ago in 1906, Finland is proud to be the global leader in supporting the advocacy for women’s land rights through this campaign with global mandate and is committed to support this piloting in Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania.

“Finland is long-standing and committed development partner of Ethiopia and UN Women. Director General Tedros Adhanom and Minister Pekka Haavisto were the key advocates and the first signatures of this initiative. Today we are proud to see this initiative being implemented by UN Women”.

Ms. Tiina Byring-Ilboudo, Counselor - Water, Land administration, Agricultural Growth Embassy of Finland, Addis Ababa

The Workshop agenda included global and national updates on the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals and their alignment with national development plans and priorities.

The country presentations, in the context of the indicators 1.4.2, 5.a.1 and 5.a.2, enabled the participants to share national experiences of the process to localize the land-related SDGs. These highlighted the importance of resources, coordination capacities, awareness of gender equality considerations in data collection and accountability to monitor and measure the indicators. Sessions were held to discuss and develop tools for the localization of these SDGs indicators at national level.



Participants in small groups discussions.



Representatives from Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania present updates on SDGs localization in the context of the SDGs indicators. From left: Bruno Kassiani from the Ministry of Lands of Tanzania, Seblewengel Denege from Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Agency, Abebaw Abebe from the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resource of Ethiopia, and Isaac Kamande from the Ministry of Devolution and Planning of Kenya.

Diana Fletschner, Senior Director of Research, Monitoring and Evaluation of Landesa, led the workshop session on building consensus around rights and measurement in the SDGs. Sessions were then held to develop a regional guidance tool for the localization of these SDGs.

The workshop will produce a publication that will not only be owned and used by the respective countries, but provide useful information for those interested in promoting women's land rights and tenure security elsewhere globally.

About the Project

UN Women, with the support of the government of Finland and the participating countries, launched the project on "Women's Land Rights and Tenure Security in the Context of the SDGs" in 2016. The project is currently implemented in Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania with the aim of upscaling in the three countries and expanding to more countries.

The overall goal of the project is to support countries in advocacy and policy work to advance women's land rights and land tenure security in national monitoring frameworks during the SDGs era. It promotes national action on advancing women's rights to land and tenure security through the localization of SDGs indicators 1.4.2, 5.a.1 and 5.a.2, in so doing, promoting gender equality and women's economic empowerment through improved survey design, collection and dissemination of sex-disaggregated land data.

The main objectives of the project are to:

- Increase coordination among gender and land tenure information and data providers and users at the global level;
- Ensure that governments (policymakers, legislators, statisticians) informed about gender and land tenure security issues and women's land rights;
- Raise awareness amongst national stakeholders about gender and land tenure security issues: need to improve and implement laws, policies and statistics to realize women's land rights;
- Support national statistical offices and land administration authorities in implementing the gender-and-land-related SDGs.

During the first year of implementation, the project has gathered detailed data and information of the land sectors in the three participating countries. The project team has developed three country-specific situation analysis reports, which were developed in consultation with national stakeholders, on gender and land rights in all countries, including government, representatives, international development partners and civil society organizations.

