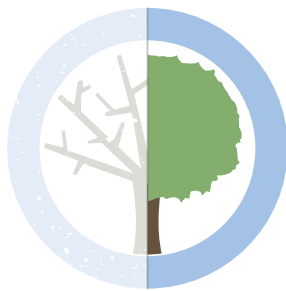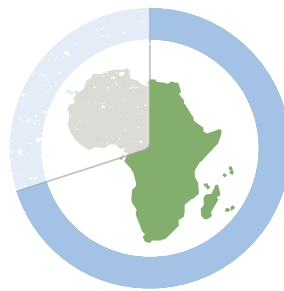USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Why Land Rights Matter

Strengthening land rights is central to ending extreme poverty and promoting resilient societies. Clear, secure land rights create incentives that enhance food security, economic growth, and sustainable development.

Worldwide, 32% of farms are held by women, compared with 68% for men

50% of forests in the developing world have insecure tenure, which is often a key driver of deforestation

70% of land in developing countries is unregistered - leaving residents more vulnerable to displacement

27

Land issues have played a major role in 27 conflicts in Africa since 1990

In many countries, land rights and land governance systems are weak. Rights and claims to land are often undocumented and overlapping. Demand for land is rising, fueling competition, conflict, and increasing barriers to access for some groups.

Evidence suggests that
Understanding, Clarifying, and Enforcing Land Rights
can have a powerful impact on all members of society, especially women

In Tanzania, women with strong land rights were 3 times more likely to work off-farm and more likely to have higher earnings
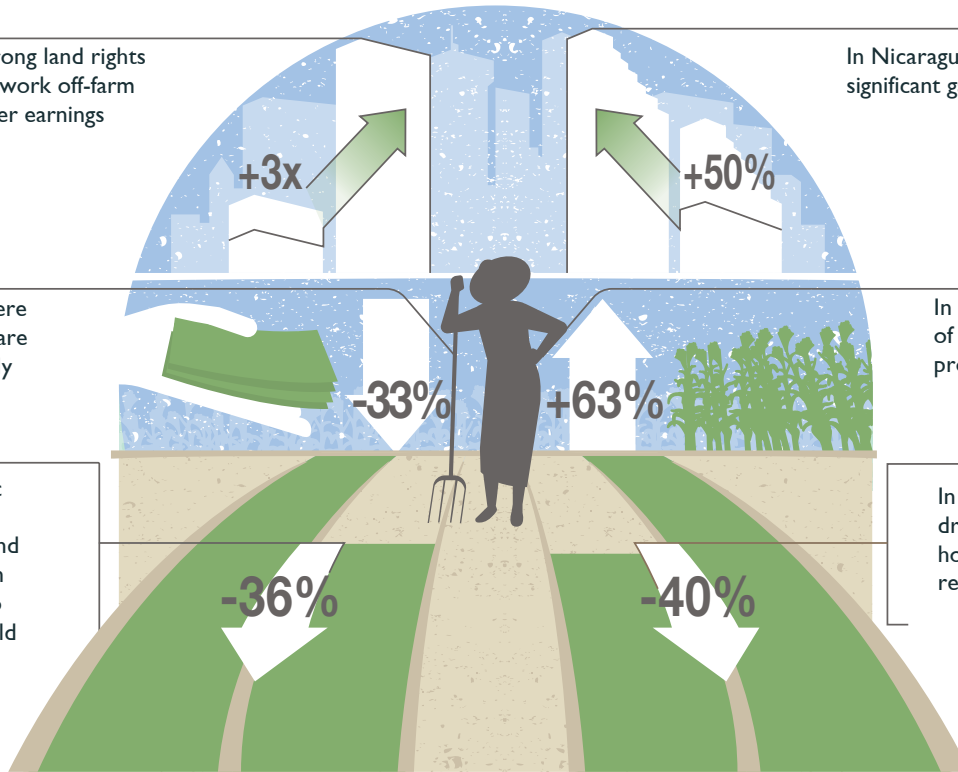
+3x

In Nicaragua, after land titling, there were significant gains to productivity of over 50%

+50%

In Nepal, in households where women own land, children are 33% less likely to be severely underweight

-33%

+63%

In Uganda, plots without risk of eviction had 63% higher productivity

In Ethiopia, women's caloric intake and body mass index improved in areas where land rights were certified, and an increase in land allocated to women decreased household food insecurity by 36%

-36%

-40%

In Burkina Faso, productivity dropped by 40% when households had concerns regarding land disputes

Land Rights Matter
to USAID

USAID works to improve land and resource governance and strengthen property rights for all members of society, especially women.
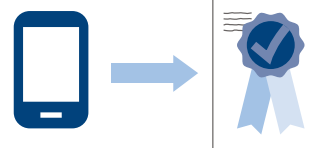
23 countries with active USAID land tenure programs

215 Million dollars committed to those programs

USAID's Land Tenure Programs by the Numbers (since 2013)

Powerful Innovations

USAID created a suite of low-cost, open-source Mobile Applications to Secure Tenure, providing flexible tools that help people and communities secure their land rights.

Local Results

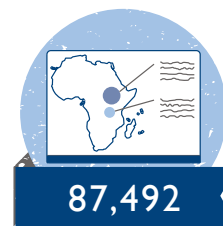| Empowering Women	Resolving Conflicts
*In Tanzania, **women's land certification** jumped **from 0 to 32%** in the first villages where USAID's Mobile Application to Secure Tenure was deployed.*	*In Colombia, USAID's **land formalization** and **restitution activities** have benefitted over **17,000 families** in the country's most affected regions.*

Global Impact

Number of households receiving formal documentation of land rights — **140,623**

Number of people able to benefit from laws/policies adopted that strengthen land rights — **182 million**

Number of people trained on land and property rights — **87,492**

Evidence-Based Programming

Number of impact evaluations underway — **7**

Featured Project

Tenure and Global Climate Change Project - Zambia (since 2013)

In Zambia, USAID is working with four chiefs and a local NGO to clarify, map and certify customary land rights while supporting sustainable land use practices, such as agroforestry.

Villages with parcels demarcated and incorporated into a digital land administration system	**134**
People implementing risk-reducing practices to improve resilience to climate change	**3,498**
***Women** implementing risk-reducing practices to improve resilience to climate change*	**1,832**

Sources:

Global Land Tool Network: http://bit.ly/1JVgrqV ; **Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN:** http://bit.ly/1BmRA9N ; **Rights and Resources Initiative:** http://bit.ly/1zMlpuE
UN: http://bit.ly/1JVhxTw ; **World Bank:** http://bit.ly/1DhZu0P ; **USAID:** http://usaidlandtenure.net/documents/food-security-briefer-land-policy-next-generation