

Up-scaling Strategies for Strengthening of Women's Land Rights

Keywords

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Keywords: Access to land, Informal settlements, Land distribution, Security of tenure, Gender

SUMMARY

The paper presents proposals on strategies of up-scaling based on the concepts of gendered land tools, described in the 'Gender Mechanism' document by the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN, 2006). The 23 priority land tools selected by GLTN are discussed, in view of how the existing land tools best can be applied in a global quest for strengthening women's land tenure security and access to land. It is argued that the GLTN concept of gendering land tools is about building gender-sensitive processes of upgrading land tenure security.

The paper links the priority land tools to their potential roles in systematic up-scaling, and outlines the structure of the up-scaling process. Up-scaling is seen partly from the perspective of the status of land rights in the field, and partly from the governance perspective, while participatory processes interlink the two, as sketched in a flow diagram.

Through a review of a large number of studies on women and land, the following key criteria were derived for up-scaling of gendered land tools:

1. Establish local context prior to up-scaling
2. Mobilize local resources and include participatory and representative mechanisms in up-scaling
3. Develop partnership between grassroots' and land authorities
4. Strengthen tenure framework and capacity prior to full scale tenure reform
5. Create room for diverse forms of tenure arrangements
6. Safeguard common space, common resources and community land rights
7. Prepare early land use planning and spatial planning with allocation of land for low-cost housing
8. Prepare early cost studies and plans for sustainability in financing and organisation of land administration
9. Apply appropriate standards for documents (wills, deeds, etc.) and public land records
10. Implement public information standards in land governance and use ICT as far as possible.

During a stepwise reform process tenure security can be strengthened in indirect ways, whereby on one side chocks can be avoided, which could put at risk the rights of the most vulnerable stakeholders, in particular poor women, and on the other side land governance capacity be given a chance to develop over time. A key feature of the paper is an up-scaling diagram developed to illustrate how GLTN land tools, themes and phases interlink as components of an up-scaling process.

Many indirect steps of tenure upgrading are relatively affordable and simple in administrative terms. Gendered Land Analysis (GLA) has been introduced by GLTN as a necessary stage in developing women's security of tenure. Gendered land analysis is basically about deepening the understanding of the complex patterns of rights, stakeholders and governance in a particular territory. The paper presents a further elaboration of Gendered Land Analysis.

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