Objective

• To identify and address non-technical (aka institutional issues)
  • Developing/implementing LIMS isn’t only about computerization!
  • Even more so in developing and poor communities.
  • Concerns that equally demand attention
    • Policy and legal
    • Organizational
    • Human capacity building (formal and non-formal training)
  • Getting the non-technical (institutional) issues right is far more complex than the bits and bytes dimensions.
Broader conception of the term institution...

- Institutional economics: the humanly devised constraints that structure human interactions. They are made up of
  - formal constraints (rules, laws, constitutions),
  - informal constraints (norms of behavior, conventions and self-imposed codes of conduct) and
  - their enforcement characteristics.
- Management: organizations (people, facilities, systems and processes)
- The above two are traditional areas of capacity development
  - knowledge, skills, and attitude of individuals
  - quality of organizations and institutions
  - enabling environment

STDM Overview: what is STDM?

- A multi-partner (GLTN, UN-HABITAT, ITC, FIG, WB) land information management software development initiative to support pro-poor land administration in an integrated framework.

- Integrated: the ultimate goal is to provide seamless land information management system for needs in informal, customary and formal land administrations.
Why STDM?

The need to provide pro-poor land tools
• Propriety LIMS solutions and conventional surveying hasn’t served the poor in informal, customary, small holder agric., etc areas
  • parcels are ‘untidy’
  • land rights are complex and ‘messy’ with high incidence of overlapping claims and informal tenures
• Right holders are many
• Tools that accommodate social tenures/spatial and non-spatial realities of the poor are needed!
• To get around prohibitive costs
  • STDM is being developed with public resources by non-profit entities and based on open source methodology (no acquisition costs, no license fees, no upgrade fees, etc)

LIMS typically computerizes LA functions and processes: data modeling in STDM
LI MS: Software / STDM main widow - an example

LI MS: Software data entry example from STDM
The I in LI MS: information fit for purpose, scalable, gendered, and affordable!

HRSI
- Low cost; digital data
- Well suited to participatory methods
- Useful where land values don’t justify costly precision terrestrial surveying

Information: enumeration

- ‘Count me in…’
- Another low cost information to begin to improve access to land and tenure security
  - detailed information strengthens position during negotiations, political debates, even in courts (if evidentiary rules are flexible)
  - will influence decisions (not always ‘win’)
  - trustworthiness through:
    - legal backing (missing)
    - expert involvement (needs to grow)
    - experience of quality
Issues in implementing inclusive LIMS

- Enabling environment at macro level
  - political stability, framework for transparent and accountable land governance;
  - acceptance of broader social tenure (not only conventional rights) at higher political level; anchored in major policy/legal documents
- Knowledge, skills, and mindsets
  - training of change agents; ToT
  - attracting and retaining trained people
- Enabling Institutions (formal rules of the game and informal norms)
  - Ghana: 6 agencies in 3 ministries; 200 different land laws

Quality of organizations: complex process

e.g. this is an actual process map!
LI MS challenges in developing countries

- Resources (especially after the departure of donors)
- Difficulties to sustain isolated initiatives (land agencies) vis-à-vis government-wide reform
- Inability to reuse data / no data sharing / lack of comprehensive framework (e.g. SDI)
- Quick apathy towards paper records (not using these back-ups)
- Weak data maintenance due to
  - complex, slow, expensive procedures discouraging updating
  - lack of reporting culture in many countries
- Power interruption, virus, low internet bandwidth/no internet connection challenge the added value of computerization

Conclusion

- Sensitization of change agents and building partnerships among land administrators, donors, private sector, advocacy groups, traditional authorities
  - Land agencies (registry, survey, planning, ... etc)
  - Non-state actors – civil society and private practitioners (lawyers/notaries, surveyors, planners, valuers)
- Areas of awareness creation
  - pro-poor, scalable, affordable, gendered solutions
  - different approaches for different contexts vis-à-vis one-size-fits-all type of approach
  - ‘coverage over accuracy’; coverage that enhances tenure security.
  - simple and incremental solutions (which may be upgraded in the future)
Conclusion

- Enabling policy/legal framework, well-thought through institutions and rationally constituted organizations including staff whose capacities are enhanced through continuous learning the non-technical aspects of implementing pro-poor LIMS like STDM.
- Software development should go hand in hand with institutional reform
- Human capacity development – sustained changes in knowledge, skills, and attitudes – needs to take place up until a critical mass in human resources is achieved (and to sustain this from there on).
- Capacity for what? – key to realizing comprehensive reform
  - capacity for developing/appreciating/adapting innovative and pro-poor land tools
  - capacity for citizen and civil society engagement
  - capacity for innovative training and education
  - capacity for knowledge management (land tools documentation, dissemination, etc)

Thank you!