

Making the Village Land Act 1999 work for Maasai women – A tool for Empowerment

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At the FIG Working Week
Rome, ITALY
6–10th May 2012

Introduction

- ❖ Over 80% of land in Tanzania is owned through customary practices.
- ❖ Only 2% of land has been legally registered
- ❖ Land delivery process last 1 to 3 years on average
- ❖ Land Act and the Village Land Act of 1999, provides granted legal ownership and customary rights of occupancy to both women and men in Tanzania.
- ❖ Customary certificates of occupancy provides adequate security.
- ❖ Titled land provides greater security of tenure.

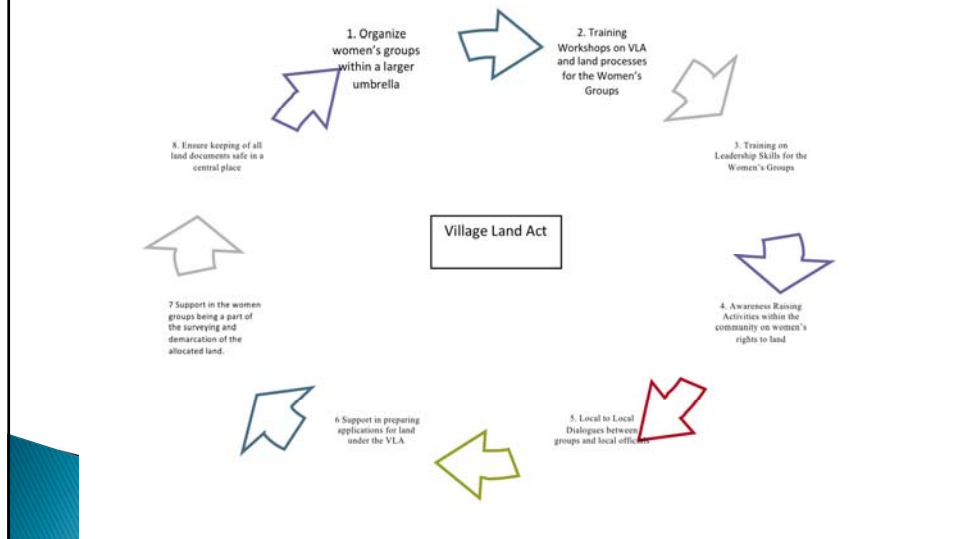
SCALING-UP GRASSROOTS WOMEN'S ACCESS TO LAND AND PROPERTY IN TANZANIA

- Organizing women to participate in decision making processes at local and national levels
- Create customary land delivery processes
- Train women and men to use simple survey equipment
- Speed up the registration through customary mapping and land demarcations.
- Register community village land use plans at village and district land registry
- Deliver local survey plans for district authority for approval.

Strategies:

- ▶ Supporting the organization of women's groups and empower women to form networks to conduct community mapping within the umbrella of the Pastoralist Women's Forum;
- ▶ Training on the Village Land Act and land administration processes for women's groups;
- ▶ Training on leadership skills for women's groups;
- ▶ Awareness-raising activities within the community on women's rights to land, e.g. on women's rights to representation within village decision-making bodies;
- ▶ Local-to-Local dialogues between groups and local officials;
- ▶ Support in preparing applications for land under the Village Land Act;
- ▶ Facilitating plot demarcation with group members and the district land officer; and
- ▶ Ensuring that land documents are safely stored.

Using the VLA as central tool



Results through Partnership with Huairou Commission and GLTN Pilot project:

- ▶ 850 women have access village lands
- ▶ Allocations were for the individuals (households), but the majority received the allocations of land as collective (groups)
- ▶ 30 groups land demarcated and surveyed
- ▶ 25 women in leadership positions
- ▶ Collaboration with local and national governments strengthened
- ▶ Improved livelihoods through increased incomes and skill development
- ▶ Over 2000 women graduated from adult literacy and land rights trainings

Challenges:

- ◉ Land survey and processes are too expensive for rural grassroots women
- ◉ Long delay in government procedures and processes
- ◉ Limited credits and finance to develop large amount of land for production
- ◉ Women are not given priority for national subsidies
- ◉ Lack of improved tools and technology to develop farms and increase production.

Grassroots Women's Organizations Recommendation

- ▶ Surveyors to build bridges between communities and administrators in government, land registrars, other land professionals, etc.
- ▶ Support grassroots organizations' advocacy demanding to relax measurement criteria
- ▶ Build partnership for sustainable dialogue and engagement with grassroots organizations
- ▶ Work with communities leadership structure to effective collaboration
- ▶ Recognize and integrate indigenous knowledge approaches understanding of the demarcation physical space of the community (as well as social, political etc) and work with this knowledge when carrying out the survey
- ▶ Support and share tools for community to enhance their own documentation



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THANK YOU!