Programme Framework: Women's Rights to Land

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Acronyms

AU	African Union
CBOs	Community-based organisations
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
CSOs	Civil society organisations
EC	European Commission
FGLP	Framework and Guidelines for Land Policy
GEC	Gender Evaluation Criteria
GLTN	Global Land Tool Network
HRBA	Human rights based approach
ICCARD	International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development
IS	International Secretariat
LSLAs	Large scale land acquisitions
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MNCs	Multi-national corporations
NGOs	Non-governmental organisations
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
PAMF	People's Action Monitoring Framework
rai	Responsible agricultural investment principles
STDM	Social Tenure Domain Model
UN	United Nations
VGs	Voluntary Guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security

Glossary of key terms

Access to and control over land and other natural resources: Implies that people have a secure right to use resources; make independent decisions on how to allocate, transfer or share resources; and to impose that decision on others (but often according to, for example, customary laws).

Active agency: We believe in supporting people living in poverty to play a central role in bringing an end to poverty; taking charge of their own empowerment; actively organising themselves; and taking action. Organisation is fundamental.

Advocacy: The deliberate process of influencing policy-makers.

Campaigning: Harnessing people's power through organisation, mobilisation and communication around a simple and powerful demand, to achieve a measurable political or social change.

Capacity development: An on-going process where people and organisations improve their ability to achieve strategic change in a sustainable way.

Conscientisation: A process of reflection and action, where people look at the social, political and economic contradictions in their lives and take action against them.

Duty-bearers: Individuals and institutions with the obligation to respect, protect and fulfil rights. The state and its various organs, such as parliaments, local authorities and the justice system are usually the primary, or ultimate, duty-bearers.

Empowerment: The process through which we enable people living in poverty to become rights activists. We do this by making them more aware and more critical of power relations and by strengthening their own power.

Human rights based approach: Our human rights based approach centres on supporting people living in poverty to become conscious of their rights, to organise themselves to claim their rights, and to hold duty-bearers to account. We build on international human rights law, but go beyond a legal or technical approach, supporting people to analyse and confront power imbalances and taking sides with people living in poverty.

Key Change Promises: The ten specific commitments ActionAid is working towards over the next five years, published in our *People's Action to End Poverty Strategy 2012-2017*.

Land grabbing: Acquisitions or concessions over land that are one or more of the following:
- In violation of human rights, particularly the equal rights of women
- Not based on free, prior and informed consent of the affected land users
- Not based on a thorough assessment, or disregard social, economic and environmental impacts, including the way they are gendered
- Not based on transparent contracts that specify clear and binding commitments about activities, employment and benefits sharing

- Not based on effective democratic planning, independent oversight and meaningful participation

Livelihoods: The means by which people – individuals and households – achieve well-being. Well-being will be differentially defined according to context and circumstances of an individual or household. Livelihoods include the acquisition of skills, and the expansion of assets and other resources, required for livelihoods (including the creation of informal work opportunities). Livelihoods also embrace formal work and access to jobs under state social protection schemes. Finally, our concept of livelihoods embraces life skills, health and safety for women.

Lobbying: Direct attempts to influence policy-makers, public officials or other decision-makers, including, for example, face-to-face meetings or letters.

Natural resources: Are both renewable and non-renewable. Renewable resources include land, soil and biological resources, such as trees, plants, seeds, livestock, fisheries, wildlife, water and all genetic materials. Non-renewable resources include minerals and fossil fuels.

Participation: The active involvement of people in a process. Participation can range from tokenistic to full. We always work towards the latter.

People living in poverty: We avoid talking about "poor people" which has an element of condescension. "People living in poverty" emphasises common humanity and poverty being a state that people are living in, which we are trying to end.

Reflection-Action: A new approach to change that integrates Reflect, PVA, STAR, ELBAG and other participatory methods into a single coherent rights-based process for conscientisation and empowerment.

Solidarity: The process of uniting allies in a politically supportive relationship that may cross geographies or "areas" of struggle to support and strengthen a movement for change.

Sustainable agriculture: Food, feed and fibre production that sustains the health of soils, ecosystems and people. It relies on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions.

Sustainable livelihoods: Those *"which can cope with and recover from stress and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for the next generation; and which contribute net benefits to other livelihoods at the local and global levels and in the short and long term"* (Chambers and Conway, 1992). This concept also includes lifestyles and work styles that do not deplete the social and environmental capital of economies.

Theory of change: How ActionAid believes change will happen - the underpinning belief and logic of how our actions will lead to the change we want to see.

Programmes / M&E terminology:

Change results: *Outcomes* and *impact* of our work.

> **Impact** is the positive and negative, primary and secondary long-term effects produced by a development intervention, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended. It is the ultimate changes in conditions – social, economic, civic, environmental**.**

> **Outcomes** are specific changes we work towards in a programme, project or campaign. Outcomes can range from initial or short-term results, such as people achieving improved knowledge or skills in campaigning against gender-based violence, through to more significant / longer term results, such as these groups successfully taking action in reducing the incidence of early marriages in their programme area.

Change indicators: The indicators we select to track our progress towards the achievement of an outcome or impact.

Critical pathway: A visual representation of how we believe we will achieve impact, linking actions at different levels to outcomes and impact. A tool to help us design strong human rights based approach programmes.

Impact: The ultimate change in people's lives and in the case of this framework, in the lives of rural women we work with.

Indicators: The things we choose to track to find out whether we are making a difference. We look at change indicators (to measure the impact and outcomes of our work).

Intermediate outcomes: The stepping stones we need to go through to achieve a long term outcome.

Outcomes: The specific changes in women's lives that will be achieved over the length of the programme and which will assist us to achieve the promised impact.

People's Action Monitoring Framework: The framework identifying the four interconnected elements (our theory of change, our impact, the people we work with and our organisational priorities) that we monitor at all levels, through all programmes, to know if we are on track to deliver our strategy.

Global Matrix: Monitoring and evaluation framework for each of the ten Key Change Promises. It includes six indicators for each of the Promises: three around *change and results* and three around *programme performance*.

Performance indicators: The indicators we use to monitor our performance.

Performance: Performance is defined as our efforts in bringing about the desired *change result*. This is related to inputs, process, actions, and outputs/reach. It is the degree to which the interventions are operated according to specific criteria/standard/guidelines, guided by stated objectives and plans.

I. Introduction

The following programme framework aims to promote a common understanding and approach to ActionAid's work on women's rights to land. It aims to consolidate and build upon experiences built up from past and current programmes and projects in this area, and is a key programmatic component central to achieving Key Change Promises 1 and 2 of our global strategy (as shown in Diagram 1).

It can be used for two main purposes and by different groups:
- By ActionAid country programmes in order to develop funding projects;
- By ActionAid partners to design and implement programmes for women's rights to land.

This programme framework was informed by the experiences of ten ActionAid country programmes and partners, particularly those that have committed to play a strategic role on women's rights to land. These are: India, Sierra Leone, Guatemala, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Zambia, South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya and USA. These countries convened in a workshop in October 2013 to share their experiences and lessons learnt and to develop a programme framework for this area of work. The workshop built on the findings of the EC-funded *Women's Rights to Land* project in Guatemala, India and Sierra Leone. It was attended by women leaders, representatives from grassroots organisations', and ActionAid staff from these countries and the International Secretariat (IS). It also builds on over five years' experience in some countries, working with diverse partners to bring about change.

During the workshop participants agreed on the broad elements of a five-year global programme framework, noting that this is only the starting point for effective change to be achieved. The programme framework outlines what needs to change; how this change will happen; which tools and strategies can be used to achieve this change; how the change will be monitored and impact assessed; and finally how risks will be managed and change sustained.

This programme framework aims to guide and link our local, country-level and global-level work and programming, as well as generating programme-led fundraising plans and proposals. The programme framework addresses what ActionAid aims to achieve globally and its strategies for doing so. It will benefit women who use land for their livelihoods, and it will work to support changes in attitudes and improved policy implementation at the local, national and global levels.
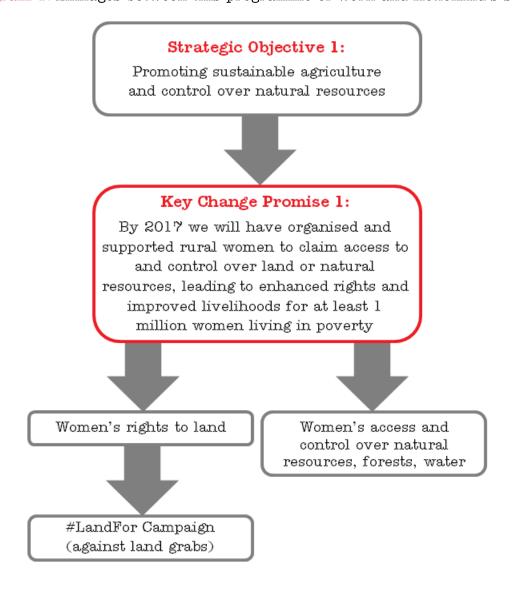
This programme framework seeks to involve women at all levels both in the design and implementation of activities. The IS and each of the countries working in this area of work will then use this programme framework to develop their own, context-specific plans of action.

II. Theory of change for this programme of work

ActionAid's international strategy, *People's Action to End Poverty*, has five Strategic Objectives and ten Key Change Promises. This particular programme of work will contribute directly to Strategic Objective 1 and its Key Change Promise 1.

Diagram 1: Linkages between this programme of work and ActionAid's strategy

Strategic Objective 1:
Promoting sustainable agriculture and control over natural resources

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Key Change Promise 1:
By 2017 we will have organised and supported rural women to claim access to and control over land or natural resources, leading to enhanced rights and improved livelihoods for at least 1 million women living in poverty

Women's rights to land

Women's access and control over natural resources, forests, water

#LandFor Campaign (against land grabs)

Although this programme framework focuses exclusively on women's rights to land, it is also linked to the other aspects that come under Strategic Objective 1 regarding natural resources - namely water, forests and extractives. A strong link exists between land rights and the rights to other land-based resources and their tenure governance. For instance, many women from marginalised communities - such as the indigenous communities - are highly dependent on natural resources, like forests and forest produce, which are mostly based on public or communal land tenure. Thus, given the interdependence of these different rights and the broad and complex nature of land issues that affect women and their livelihoods, there is a need for a specific programme framework that addresses these comprehensively as well as independently.

Given the centrality of women's rights to ActionAid's work, this programme will also speak to several other Strategic Objectives and relevant Key Change Promises:

Strategic Objective 1:
- **Promise 2:** Promoting sustainable agriculture: Through this Promise ActionAid aims to improve the food security of 25 million people by supporting marginal and smallholder farmers, the majority of whom are women, to gain a good living from climate resilient sustainable agriculture. Strengthening women's rights to land will contribute towards this Promise by laying the basis for this change.

Strategic Objective 2: Democratic governance
- **Promise 3:** Holding governments to account on public services: This programme of work on women's rights to land is linked to Promise 3 as it will enable women to hold governments accountable in relation to their land rights, which are strongly linked to public services (education; health; water and sanitation; food; housing; and human security).
- **Promise 4:** Achieving redistributive resourcing of development: By strengthening women's rights to land, this programme will ensure that women are beneficiaries of these redistributive policies.

Strategic Objective 4: Resilience-building and disaster response
- **Promise 7:** Building people's resilience to conflict and disasters: By empowering women and strengthening their rights to land, this programme will ensure that they are better able to protect their lives and livelihoods in the face of disasters and climate change impacts, thus increasing their resilience.
- **Promise 8:** Responding to disasters through rights: As for this programme, Promise 8 aims to empower women, and to build and strengthen their institutions at community level, to enable them to lead emergency preparedness and response.

Strategic Objective 5: Women's empowerment
- **Promise 9:** Increasing women's and girls' control over their bodies: Owning land means becoming more resourceful, and being resourceful makes an individual more powerful. Thus, strengthening women's rights to land makes women more powerful. This programme will empower women to challenge patriarchal practices; it will entrust them with more power within the household; and will consequently allow them to increase their control over their bodies.
- **Promise 10:** Generating women-centred economic alternatives: This programme on women's rights to land will support women to organise themselves into local groups and organisations, which will then be able to build and advocate gender-responsive economic alternatives.

This programme will have key linkages with the multi-country campaign **_"#LandFor"_**. This campaign is a core component of the programme on women's rights to land and will help deliver on ActionAid's Key Change Promise 1. The aim of the campaign is to stop land grabs

and safeguard the rights of communities, and women's rights to land in particular. In order to address the issue of land grabbing, the campaign will target unequal power relations and will work at local, national and international levels. It will tackle the problem of land grabbing by challenging and reducing the incentives that fuel these large scale land acquisitions, while simultaneously strengthening communities' rights for future prevention, and mobilising them to resist external pressures.

Specific theory of change[1] for this programme

During the programme framework development workshop, ActionAid countries and partners agreed on the broad elements of a global five year programme framework on women's rights to land. This is premised on the theory of change where rural women, empowered through political consciousness, will claim and enjoy security of tenure to the land they depend on, leading to enhanced rights. We believe this change will happen if women have increased capacity, awareness and knowledge of their rights, and are supported by collective actions and campaigns that result in effective laws that promote women's right to land. This is also premised on a fundamental change of attitude on women's ownership and control over land by leaders and family members, which will create secure spaces for women to exercise control over land as well as their lives.

The section that follows elaborates and builds upon the agreed framework while also outlining the possible indicators that can be used to monitor and evaluate the programme.

Impact

The ultimate impact that ActionAid aims to achieve through this programme of work on women's rights to land is: **By the end of five years, one million women across the globe will enjoy improved livelihoods and enhanced rights as a result of increased security of tenure through increased capacity, awareness and knowledge of their rights coupled with effective laws and policies which promote and uphold women's rights to land.**

Land tenure security is the degree of confidence that land users will not be arbitrarily deprived of the rights they enjoy over land, and the economic benefits that flow from it. It varies from context to context and can mean different things according to the tenure regime in place. Factors that affect land tenure security include the breadth, scope and duration of rights; the social, legal and cultural legitimacy of rights; and the adequacy and enforceability of rights.

This programme of work aims to achieve an increase in women's land tenure security across all tenure regimes and arrangements - ranging from customary; adverse possession; leases; public; group tenure; or freehold. Women will be empowered through independent access to land in their own right as rights holders. Through this programme, ActionAid strives to bring about a decrease in the number of landless women and dispossessed women; increase the participation of women in governance over land and in decision-making processes; and

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[1] Please see Annex 2: ActionAid's theory of change for more information on the Federation's overall theory of change.

ensure the effective implementation of gender-sensitive policies and practices. It will also aim to increase women's access to the judiciary and other justice systems for redress. They will be able to more powerfully and effectively organise to fight for their rights, and to hold duty-bearers accountable to their commitments on women's rights to land.

This programme of work will serve to deepen and ground ActionAid's already existing efforts in the area of women's rights to land, which are fundamental for achieving sustainable livelihoods and are closely interconnected with all our areas of intervention. In order to achieve success, the multiple dimensions of women's land rights issues – the personal realm; the cultural context; the structural and political systems; and the legal framework – must be tackled contemporaneously in an integrated manner at the local, national and international levels.

Impact indicator

To assess our progress towards the achievement of the programme's impact, the following indicator has been selected: **Number of women with greater security of tenure[2] in relation to access and control over land, leading to enhanced land rights.**

In addition, fourteen change indicators have been selected to track our progress in achieving the three programme outcomes (see below).

Outcomes

The desired impact will be achieved by working towards the following substantial outcomes:

1. Outcome from the Global Matrix: Women are aware of their rights and legal entitlements and organised to claim these in practice through participation in decision-making processes

Indicator: Number of women aware of rights and entitlements to land and natural resources

2. State policies and programmes and institutions support women's access to, defence of and sustainable use of land

Indicator: Extent to which national and local legislation on land tenure respects, protects and fulfils women's rights

3. Women have enhanced access to and control over land and the income / produce flowing from this

Indicator: Number of women that report increased control over land or other land-based natural resources

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[2] Security of tenure: The degree of certainty that a person's rights to land will be recognised by others and protected in cases of specific challenges.

The three outcomes are interlinked and mutually dependent. For example, outcome 1 is a necessary condition for both outcomes 2 and 3. Similarly, outcome 1 and 2 together contribute to the achievement of outcome 3. It is therefore important for countries to work towards the achievement of all three outcomes simultaneously in order to bring about the desired change. In the adoption of this programme framework, each country or ActionAid partner will have to put more or less emphasis on specific actions and outcomes based on the context they work in.

In working towards these substantial outcomes, the following **intermediate outcomes** should first be pursued:

➢ Land administration institutions, local officials, male household members' attitudes and practices change in support of women's ownership of and control over land;

➢ There is national support for the adoption of international land governance guidelines that promote women's rights to land;

➢ Women's organisations are strengthened and are better able to claim, advocate and lobby for their rights to land;

➢ Civil society organisations recognise women's rights to land as an important issue to be addressed and are engaged in holding the state to account for them;

➢ State policies for the protection of women's rights to land are developed and implemented;

➢ There is a legislative and judiciary framework in place that is easily accessible to women;

➢ Political will and resources exist to protect women's rights to land;

➢ There is accountable leadership for governance of land which places gender equity at its core;

➢ Women are represented and actively participate in decision-making processes and institutions that deal with land;

➢ Women are empowered to monitor policy implementation;

➢ International agencies provide technical support and recommendations to national governments and promote the implementation of international guidelines on women's land rights;

➢ Measures are introduced to limit and regulate land leases and sales;

➢ The protection of women's rights and their inclusion in negotiations become a condition for any land transactions between the state and internal/external buyers.

Change indicators

To monitor and evaluate progress being made towards the attainment of the above mentioned intermediate and substantial outcomes, the following fourteen change indicators have been selected:

1. Number of women that have increased access to, control over and ownership of high-quality land (secure tenure);

2. Number of women that take action based on increased awareness and knowledge of their rights to claim them;

3. Evidence of women advocating and campaigning for women's rights to land and thereby holding duty-bearers accountable;

4. Evidence of men supporting women in their rights struggle and supporting their demands for change;

5. Number of organised women who report having more control over their income;

6. Evidence that laws and institutions in place promote and uphold women's rights to land;

7. Evidence that laws and institutions in place are used to hold the government accountable;

8. Reduced cases of land grabbing (by MNCs, local elites and family members) that dispossess women;

9. Percentage of women participating in land-related decision-making structures at local and national levels;

10. Evidence of greater accessibility of land administration systems and institutions for women, as well as the legal and judiciary system in place;

11. Quantity and quality of land allocated to women (size of landholding; degree of accessibility; fertility levels; water availability etc.);

12. Women's income levels derived from the use of land;

13. Women's control over proceeds derived from land;

14. Evidence of women's increased food security levels as a result of their strengthened land rights.

Actions

Several actions can be supported to work towards the above mentioned outcomes and impact. These cut across ActionAid's three pillars: empowerment, campaigning and solidarity.

Some **empowerment actions:**

➢ Build women's awareness, consciousness, capacities and knowledge of the issues and how they can claim their rights through training (e.g. Reflection-Action processes). *Performance indicator* = Number of women trained on rights etc;

➢ Support women to organise into local groups and organisations and link them up with already established alliances, platforms and movements at the local and national level. *Performance indicator* = Number of women's local groups and organisations; examples of platforms and movements they are engaging with;

➢ Organise annual or bi-annual national forums for women to exchange their experiences and strengthen their movements. *Performance indicator* = Number of forums organised;

➢ Link women's organisations to youth groups and platforms to combine their struggles;

➢ Work with women to identify strategies and short term (immediate) solutions to some of their problems;

➢ Support local women to hold their local and national governments accountable on their promises related to women's rights to land through trainings, mobilisation and facilitating dialogues;

➢ Enable rural women to participate more actively in local and national government bodies;

➢ Set up 'legal clinics' for awareness-raising and capacity-building purposes;

➢ Organise and facilitate learning visits between communities to raise awareness of the issues and strategies adopted and to create solidarity between neighbouring communities;

➢ Create community resource spaces where local gatherings can be held and participatory methods used to raise awareness and increase consciousness of women's rights to land within communities;

➢ Identify local 'champions' and train women to be educators within their community targeting other women and men;

➢ Organise learning events in local schools to teach children about women's rights to land issues.

Some **campaigning actions:**

➢ Research to map out and appraise policies, laws and programmes and the extent to which they tackle women's land rights;

➢ Raise awareness of women's rights to land at local, national and international events;

➢ Raise awareness on the issue of land grabbing at the local, national and international level and how it affects women;

➢ Advocacy and lobbying to influence decision-makers on the issue of women's rights to land;

➢ Collaborate with other international NGOs and UN agencies (such as UN Women or OHCHR) to raise the visibility of women's rights to land.

Some **solidarity actions**:

➢ Create dialogues/support discussions within families, communities, schools and religious institutions;

➢ Raise awareness of women's rights to land issues among other interest groups and potential allies (such as youth groups) at the local, national and international level;

➢ Identify and mobilise allies to join and support advocacy and campaign efforts at the local and national levels;

➢ Mobilise solidarity through global women's networks, NGOs and other international organisations;

➢ Use local media to raise awareness and solidarity of women's rights to land issues within local communities and at the national level.
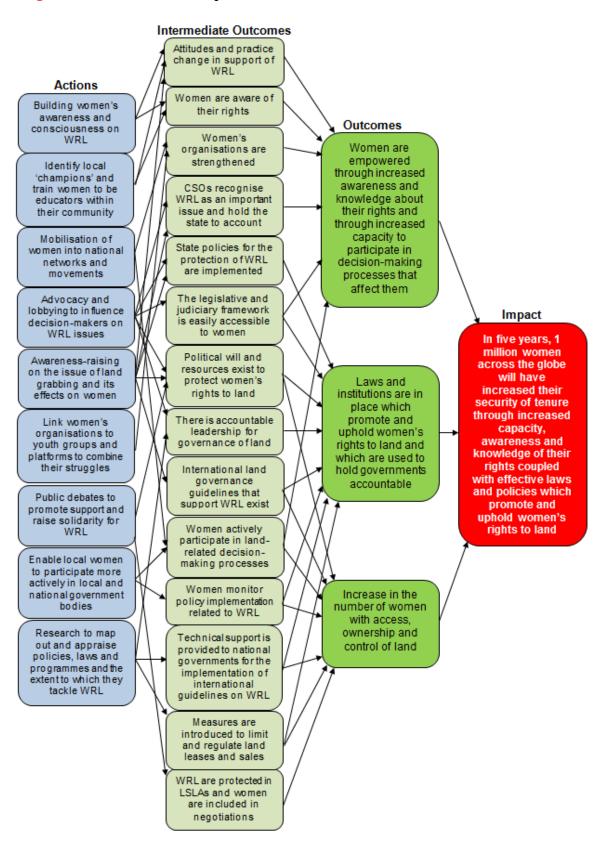
Performance indicators:

Performance indicators relate to the actions taken to bring about change and will therefore depend on the specific context. Possible performance indicators include the following:

➢ Number of women trained on rights and entitlements;

➢ Number of women's organisations created and strengthened over time;

➢ Number of women trained to be community educators;

➢ Number of 'legal clinics' and community resources spaces established and supported by partners, where women can be supported and learn about their rights;

➢ Availability of permanent legal assistance structures where women receive long-term support to claim their rights;

➢ Evidence that men and local leaders within the community understand women's rights to land and support their rights;

➢ Extent to which national and local legislation on land respects, protects and fulfils' women's rights;

➢ Percentage of government budget allocated to policies directed towards strengthening women's rights to land;

➢ Evidence that government accountability on women's rights to land has increased;

➢ Number of advocacy and lobbying initiatives undertaken by women's organisations, ActionAid, and its partners in support of women's rights to land;

➢ Number of local, national and international level campaigns that defend women's rights to land and are supported by a diverse range of stakeholders;

➢ Number of people mobilised in solidarity with women;

➢ Evidence that governments increasingly support international regulations on women's rights to land at the local, national and international levels;

➢ Evidence that CSOs recognise women's rights to land as an important issue and hold governments and duty-bearers to account;

➢ Evidence of increased regulation of large scale land acquisitions in favour of communities' rights, particularly women's rights;

➢ Greater legal and regulatory enforcement actions against MNCs violating women's rights to land undertaken by the government;

➢ Number of effective consultations between the communities and MNCs transacting with land.

Diagram 2: Critical Pathway[3]

Intermediate Outcomes

Actions

- Building women's awareness and consciousness on WRL
- Identify local 'champions' and train women to be educators within their community
- Mobilisation of women into national networks and movements
- Advocacy and lobbying to influence decision-makers on WRL issues
- Awareness-raising on the issue of land grabbing and its effects on women
- Link women's organisations to youth groups and platforms to combine their struggles
- Public debates to promote support and raise solidarity for WRL
- Enable local women to participate more actively in local and national government bodies
- Research to map out and appraise policies, laws and programmes and the extent to which they tackle WRL

Intermediate Outcomes

- Attitudes and practice change in support of WRL
- Women are aware of their rights
- Women's organisations are strengthened
- CSOs recognise WRL as an important issue and hold the state to account
- State policies for the protection of WRL are implemented
- The legislative and judiciary framework is easily accessible to women
- Political will and resources exist to protect women's rights to land
- There is accountable leadership for governance of land
- International land governance guidelines that support WRL exist
- Women actively participate in land-related decision-making processes
- Women monitor policy implementation related to WRL
- Technical support is provided to national governments for the implementation of international guidelines on WRL
- Measures are introduced to limit and regulate land leases and sales
- WRL are protected in LSLAs and women are included in negotiations

Outcomes

- Women are empowered through increased awareness and knowledge about their rights and through increased capacity to participate in decision-making processes that affect them
- Laws and institutions are in place which promote and uphold women's rights to land and which are used to hold governments accountable
- Increase in the number of women with access, ownership and control of land

Impact

In five years, 1 million women across the globe will have increased their security of tenure through increased capacity, awareness and knowledge of their rights coupled with effective laws and policies which promote and uphold women's rights to land

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[3] Note: this diagram presents a non-exhaustive selection of possible actions for representation purposes.

Strategies and tools for realising WRL

Strategies

Several strategies can be adopted to promote women's rights to land. The selection of the strategy depends on the specific issue to be addressed and should be context-specific, given the great variety in land tenure regimes – there is no magic solution for realising women's rights to land. It is important to remember that while some strategies have been successful in certain circumstances they may not be effective solutions in other contexts. ActionAid programmes should therefore be cautious when developing and adopting any strategy. The best strategies are those that maximise women's internal empowerment and minimise the external challenges and blockages (including institutional, social, political and legal blockages) that prevent women from realising their rights. Given that control over land defines power, it is important for the strategies selected to challenge and address the unequal power balances that may exist in that specific context[4].

A series of elements distinguish an effective programme strategy from an ineffective one. To successfully tackle the root causes of women's unequal access to, control over and ownership of land, a good strategy should:

> ➢ Have a good understanding of the problem and the root causes. Although the land question manifests itself differently in different countries, the general picture should be understood clearly, and applied in the local context: '*Why is land an issue?*' / '*For whom is it an issue?*' / '*How does land issue manifest for different people?*' etc.;

> ➢ Empower women to access information, gain knowledge about their rights and hold duty-bearers accountable. The strategies adopted should not disempower women by treating them as 'ignorant helpless groups' and mere recipients of services; rather, they should empower them by giving them an active role in programme design, implementation and monitoring. ActionAid should act as a facilitator, connecting and activating different actors to contribute to the realisation of women's rights to land;

> ➢ Men can be involved in programme activities and strategies, if it is deemed strategically important to involve them by the women affected and those who are supporting their struggles. However, caution must be taken to ensure that women's land rights organisations and their allies do not compromise on their autonomy and rights to organise as women, by ensuring that women are empowered first to map their own path and that men's involvement is only to enforce that path;

> ➢ Interventions and strategies must be linked to systemic and strategic actions, as opposed to being carried out in isolation. Given the vastness of the problems addressed, it is essential for interventions to be linked on different levels – local, national and global – so as to bring about change in a more effective and timely manner.

Several strategies and approaches can and have been adopted by ActionAid programmes and partners to address women's right to equal access, use and control over land. Very often interventions will tackle more than one challenge simultaneously and will adopt different approaches to increase their efficiency.

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[4] Please see Annex 1: The problem analysis for more on the issue of land and power.

Empowerment

A very successful strategy is **awareness-raising**, which leads to the conscientisation of women (including young women and girls) so that they become conscious of their rights; the power dynamics around them that affect their ability to enjoy the rights; and how they can claim them. This approach can take different forms, such as training of women leaders; awareness-raising events among the women; setting up local Reflect circles; or "legal clinics" where women can go to learn about their rights; and so on. **Supporting women to identify and document their rights** related to land and natural resources is also empowering. This should capture all legitimate rights, whether legally recognised or not, and be used as a tool for advocacy for their protection.

Uganda's most successful strategies focused on **awareness-raising and campaigning**. Campaigns on women's rights to land were carried out shortly before political elections, thus increasing politicians' risk of ignoring these demands. Given that the majority of voters were women, the campaign successfully ensured their rights were addressed and taken into account.

Collective empowerment for women is equally important. **Mobilising women** and **forming women's groups and cooperatives** is a very successful strategy, particularly when linked to other interventions at programmatic and policy level: organising women to build their agency and lead movements is very important to ensure their rights to land.

In **India, mass mobilisation of women** was used to bring about change. Specifically, this strategy worked well for interface meetings and consultation meetings. By focusing on **advocacy work** ActionAid India has helped women take the lead.

Another strategy often adopted by programmes that tackle women's rights to land is **capacity-building**. Very often women do not have the means to defend their rights, and through capacity-building activities they can be empowered to fight for these rights. This type of strategy can aim to achieve different things, such as increasing literacy levels of women within the community, or training women to become legal advisors or community educators. Legal clinics can be used for this purpose. Capacity development initiatives can also target local or national institutions.

Guatemala provides a good example of **capacity-building** activities. Women were trained on political issues to build their dyty and increase their knowledge of the issues involved. Alliances amongst women groups were also formed to empower them to fight for their rights.

Solidarity

Zimbabwe's experience with regards to women's rights to land saw the **combination of awareness-raising and capacity-building strategies**. Politicians were trained on gender issues and gender-budgeting while the community was sensitised on women's rights to land through awareness-raising activities.

Awareness-raising and capacity-building are crucial to enable women to move from claiming to attaining their rights. However this process does not occur automatically and will often require further support to ensure it happens smoothly. **Legal assistance/support** can be used to realise accountability and to help women attain their rights. It is an expensive undertaking and as such it must be considered based on the resources available and/or partnerships with pro-bono legal support providers or paralegals.

Community level interventions are particularly important, especially in the context of customary land governance systems. These can take different forms: from sensitising men and the community on women's rights to land, to setting up support groups for community women. These support groups could be used in case a household breaks down, women are abandoned, pushed off their land or if they are widowed, for example.

Campaigning

Closely linked to awareness-raising activities is one of ActionAid's pillars: **campaigning**. Campaigns can be carried out at different levels, thus targeting different actors, and can be used to shed light on the issue of women's rights to land. ActionAid believes that it is very important to mobilise people to change national and international policies, laws and practices and to address the fundamental causes of the problem at hand. This can be done through advocacy and lobbying of decision-makers as well as through mass communications to engage people and motivate others to act. Women's rights to land can also be strengthened through **legal and institutional reform**. The reform itself is carried out by governments but can be instigated and supported by ActionAid programmes, CSOs and CBOs for example, through the use of campaigns. This particular strategy, which can include constitutional and law reforms or initiatives to clarify rights and responsibilities in plural legal systems, can take a long time to come to completion. **Engaging duty-bearers** has also proved to be a very successful strategy in many different contexts.

The matrix in Annex 4 summarises the discussions that were held at the workshop when ActionAid country staff and partners discussed the strategies necessary for realising women's rights to land. They analysed the strategies that been successful, those that didn't work so well, and those that could be used in the future in order to reach the three agreed outcomes of the programme framework. In selecting the strategies to be employed for the achievement of programme goals in any given context, the issues of sequencing and prioritisation should be taken into account. Moreover, all strategies should address the issue of power, which is fundamental to understand the causes of unequal access, control and ownership of land. Finally, it is crucial for ActionAid countries and partners to document and share best practices with regards to the successful strategies adopted.
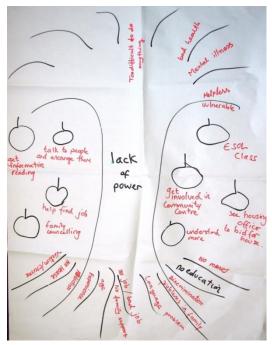
Tools[5]

Specific tools exist to realise women's rights to land, that can be jointly used with the strategies described above. ActionAid programmes already use a wide selection of participatory tools that form part of its Reflection-Action approach[6].

We believe that the process of building people's agency starts with conscientisation, through which people arrive to an understanding of their own reality. Through a Reflection-Action process we facilitate a comprehensive analysis whereby people can analyse their rights (and women's rights in particular); power relations; vulnerabilities; different actors and institutions; their own communication skills; and risks.

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[5] According to the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN), a land tool is "a practical way to solve a problem in land administration and management".

[6] Please see Annex 5: Participatory tools used by ActionAid for the spectrum of participatory tools available.

Problem trees are used to explore cause and effect

The Reflection-Action approach is guided by the eight HRBA principles which underpin all of ActionAid's work. It includes a great variety of participatory tools that can be used for different purposes and at different stages of the programme: during design; implementation; and monitoring and evaluation phases. Tools act as a catalyst for debates and discussion so that people can base their analysis on the systematisation of their own knowledge.

There are different categories of tools. **Visual tools** can be a very effective means of assessing the context and the dynamics at play in specific communities. They are normally constructed by the communities themselves, making the process more participatory and more flexible to accommodate agreed changes. One of the main strengths of visual tools is that they allow for immediate validation of information with other people. Moreover, they allow for the empowerment and participation of illiterate people, who would otherwise not be able to benefit from these processes. Examples of visual tools include maps, Venn/chapatti diagrams, rivers etc.

Creative tools can also be used in programme activities to help reach a specific objective. These can include songs, dance and drama – these tools can help people explore the issues they face, communicate their messages to a wider audience and also provide material and scope for analysis. Another way of raising awareness is the use of **participatory ICT tools**, such as videos, the use of community radio stations and mobile phones. Finally, there are **accountability tools**, which can be used to engage with policy making and budgets and to hold governments accountable. These include social audits, people's report cards and participatory budgeting.

Maps are an effective way of presenting local information, problems and opportunities in a clear, visual way

Country-level programme framework development

The following matrix summarises the steps involved in developing a country-level programme framework on women's rights to land. Each step builds on the previous one(s): following this sequence is essential for the development of an effective country level programme framework. Examples of possible participatory tools are provided for each step of the process. Please refer to Annex 5 for more information on how to use these tools.

Table 1: Country-level programme framework development

	Steps	Tools

Context Analysis I	➢ Define the problem: *"Why is land an issue?"*
	  • Who is affected?
	  • Are some women affected more than others? Why?
	  • What caused this situation?
	  • What are the consequences on women's lives and rights?
	➢ Analyse the political situation and the legal framework in place:
	  • What does the law say?
	  • What does the Constitution say?
	  • Who makes decisions at the national and local levels?
		➢ Access and control matrix
		➢ Problem tree
		➢ Maps
		➢ Timelines/rivers
		➢ Daily schedule chart

<u>Context Analysis II</u>	➢ Carry out a **stakeholder and power analysis**:
	  1. Who are the **actors at play at the household, community and national level**? Who holds power over land? What power do they hold? What is the source of this power?
	  2. These could be male relatives of the women, traditional authorities, NGOs, religious organisations, CBOs, the private sector, MNCs etc.
	  3. Analyse the **social and cultural factors** related to women's rights to land and the role of CSOs and CBOs.
	  4. Who are the **right holders** and who are the **duty-bearers**?
	  5. Who are the **potential allies** we could partner with for solidarity and campaigning work?
		➢ Access and control matrix
		➢ Force field analysis
		➢ Venn/chapatti diagrams
		➢ Gatekeeper tool
		➢ Rights registers

An *access and control matrix* can be used to help participants
analyse who has access to and control over different resources,
and who is denied this

III.   Challenging power and associated risks

Given the vastness and depth of the issues involved, as well as the large number of
stakeholders who have interests in women's rights to land, there will inevitably be several
programme risks. It is therefore important to manage and minimise these risks in order to
ensure the success of the programme. Table 2 outlines some of the possible risks that may
hinder programme implementation.

Table 2: Risk analysis

Risk	Risk management strategy	Responsible actor
Resistance of stakeholders that benefit from women's unequal access to land – male relatives, traditional authorities, local elites etc.	It is important to carry out a stakeholder analysis and to work with them in order to build their support and manage their resistance. This can be done through awareness raising strategies, campaigns and lobbying and advocacy.	➢ Women's organisations; ➢ ActionAid staff and partners at local, national and international levels
Risk of backlash against women and human rights defenders who speak out on land rights violations against powerful actors - particularly in the context of oppressive governments or post-conflict situations.	Efforts should be made to protect human rights defenders by linking them up to legal aid work organisations to pre-empt any possible backlash against them.	➢ ActionAid staff at local, national and international levels; ➢ Women's organisations

Unwillingness of government to defend and promote women's rights to land - lack of political will.	As outlined in the theory of change, the programme framework will address this possible challenge by increasing awareness of the issues involved of government officials and by carrying out campaigns (local, national and international level), lobbying and advocacy with the aim of influencing the government's views.	➢ Women's organisations; ➢ ActionAid staff and partners at local, national and international levels
The State is not willing to regulate large scale land acquisitions in a way that protects women's interests.	As for the above challenge the programme envisions mass mobilisation and sensitisation campaigns, to ensure that the state and local government protects the rights of women and other communities against land grabbing.	➢ Women's organisations; ➢ ActionAid staff and partners at local, national and international levels
Consultations with MNCs are ineffective in ensuring women's rights to land are protected.	This risk will be averted by ensuring the government's support in protecting women's rights to land and making clear the negative consequences of failing to protect these rights for the MNCs involved.	➢ Women's organisations; ➢ ActionAid staff and partners at local, national and international levels; ➢ Local government
Insufficient resources for the effective rollout and implementation of the programme activities.	Given the large scope of the programme, lack of financial resources might arise as a challenge. Effective fundraising campaigns should be carried out.	➢ ActionAid staff at international level. National level staff will also contribute to fundraising initiatives through concept development and providing information from the national level.

IV.   Programme sustainability, learning and management

There are several dimensions of programme sustainability that must be addressed. Firstly, given that a programme will run for a period of time, it should be recognised that some women's rights to land issues will not be resolved or addressed within a short time frame. Bringing about changes in attitudes and beliefs is a lengthy process and, given the vastness of the issues involved, it will require working on different levels simultaneously in order to tackle deeply-rooted political, economic and social inequalities. As such, it is important that ActionAid strengthens the capacity of women's groups and organisations at the local level in order to ensure some degree of sustainability into the future. While some programme

activities will no longer be running after the end of the programme, women will have been empowered and their organisations will be able to continue raising awareness on the issues that affect them, as well as carrying out some lobbying and advocacy work.

For programme sustainability to be ensured, it is crucial for the women's rights to land struggle to remain independent of the wider struggle for rights to land that affects communities more generally. Currently, there is a natural tendency to associate these two struggles. However, we must first and foremost focus on women's rights while fighting a separate, parallel and complementary battle for communities' and other vulnerable groups' rights to land. It is equally important to work with other land rights movements to strengthen the women's rights to land movement.

Throughout the course of the programme implementation efforts will be made to innovate and learn. This aspect is extremely important for ActionAid's theory of change. Learning and innovation will be critical to strengthen programming and to ensure sustainability. Ongoing documentation and sharing of best practices and cross-country learning will be encouraged throughout the course of the programme at local, national and international levels. This will be done both through face-to-face methodologies and online platforms. The success of these learning and sharing processes will depend on the quality and consistency of monitoring, which should be carried out throughout the course of the programme to yield useful lessons.

Besides being rooted with the right holders, another critical dimension of ActionAid's programming approach is the identification of innovations and alternatives and linking these at all levels, local, national and international. These should be documented and shared widely - both internally and with external stakeholders, including policy-makers - to ensure a wider reach. The means to do so could include the use of ActionAid's intranet, website and other online-based platforms coupled with actual learning events at local, national and international levels.

Annex 1: The problem analysis

Women's rights to access, control and own land are a fundamental prerequisite for sustainable development and for their empowerment. However, women often do not enjoy independent access to land. In many countries across the world, women get access to land via their husbands, brothers or even their male children. This is based on customary laws, tradition and social norms that do not value women and accord them the same status as men. Women also often do not have control over the land that they use, since they access it through the men in their lives. For example, although women account for a large part of the world agricultural output and are primary users of agricultural and non-agricultural land their ownership of land is estimated to be less than 2% worldwide, even though there are significant variations from region to region[7]. In their *personal realm*, women often lack financial resources and are thus financially dependent on men. This means women tend to lack power to decide what to use the land for, when to use it and - most importantly - they do not control and enjoy the fruits of their own labour. An added problem is that women do not have secure tenure which puts their livelihoods and those of their dependents at risk. Land tenure security is understood to be the degree of confidence that land users will not be arbitrarily deprived of the rights they enjoy over land and the economic benefits that flow from it.

By having no independent access to and control over land, women are often unable to make independent decisions over the land. This also diminishes women's negotiating power and exposes them to potential sexual exploitation and violence. In many countries women lack information and knowledge of their rights and are thus in a weaker position to negotiate for their access to land and other natural resources. This phenomenon is further perpetuated by the fact that decision-making processes tend to be male-dominated, even within the household. Furthermore, female-headed households tend to be disadvantaged when it comes to access to land and other natural resources.

Women's lack of land rights disempowers them on several levels: at the household and food security level; socially; politically; and economically. This in turn also affects levels of investment in education and healthcare. Control over land defines *power.* Politically, land is used as a tool for securing and exercising political patronage; economically, the revenues generated from land allow the person who controls that land to secure control over other resources; and socially, the controllers of land and natural resources head family and social structures and take a lead in decision-making. Given their important role within the household, women's access to land influences the amount of food they can produce for themselves and their family, and also affects their ability to provide firewood and water. It also directly affects their access to credit and their decision-making powers within the household. The importance of empowering women both economically and socially and of protecting their rights to land is self-evident, and can be a successful factor in ending poverty and preventing the violation of other women's rights: *"The more precarious a woman's land rights are, the less capacity she will have to produce from, and reinvest, in the land and to*

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[7] UN Women, "Facts and Figures on Gender and Climate Change", accessed 29/10/13 at:
http://www.unifem.org/partnerships/climate_change/facts_figures.html#1 .

advocate for representation...the stronger a woman's claims over land, the greater her participation in the household and the community and the fulfilment of other rights"[8].

The right to land is not explicitly recognised in the international human rights framework. However, lack of access to land has a negative impact on the enjoyment of several other human rights such as the right to food and meaningful participation[9]. Several international frameworks implicitly address women's rights to land. The Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) for example, calls for an end to discrimination against women in laws, policies and practice. Its article 14.2 states that measures should be taken to ensure that women and men participate in and benefit from rural development, which includes guarantees of equal treatment in land and agrarian reform, as well as in land resettlement schemes[10]. Similarly, the Beijing Platform for Action calls on governments to enable women *"to obtain affordable housing and access to land and to undertake legislative and administrative reforms to give women equal access to economic resources, including the right to inheritance and ownership of land"*[11]. The AU Framework and Guidelines for Land Policy (FGLP) also address women's rights to land specifically by stating that: *"Better and more productive use of land requires that the land rights of women be strengthened through a variety of mechanisms including the enactment of legislation that allows women to enforce documented claims to land within and outside marriage. This should come hand in hand with equal rights for women to inherit and bequeath land, co-ownership of registered land by spouses and the promotion of women's participation in land administration structures"*[12]. The recently developed Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (2013) underscore the importance of gender equality concerning tenure rights and access to land, fisheries and forests. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) also address the issue of women's rights as a means of ending poverty through the third goal to *"Promote gender equality and empower women"*[13].

Women's access to, control over and ownership of land are thus of paramount importance. Land represents different things for women in different contexts. It is sometimes seen as an issue of identity, power or class - as in the case of Dalits in India, to name but one example. As such, it has always been at the root of social and political struggles. Generally speaking, land affects five different realms in the lives of women and consequently takes on a different meaning for them based on their personal situation: it has an *economic* aspect, whereby it represents some degree of financial independence; a *social* aspect, since land is a physical space; a *cultural* value; a *political* aspect, since considerations regarding ownership, access to and control over land are often closely linked to power dynamics within society; and finally land also involves *environmental* considerations, since women decide how to use it and take care of it based on their level of tenure security.

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[8] ActionAid (2013),"From marginalisation to empowerment: The potential of land rights to contribute to gender equality – observations from Guatemala, India and Sierra Leone", p.22.

[9] OHCHR and UNWomen (2013), "Realising Women's Rights to Land and Other Productive Resources", p.10.

[10] Ibid, p.11.

[11] Ibid, p.13.

[12] African Union (2010), "Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa: Land Policy in Africa: A Framework to Strengthen Land Rights, Enhance Productivity and Secure Livelihoods", p.15.

[13] UN, "Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women", accessed 19/11/13 at: http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/gender.shtml.

The issues faced by women with regards to land vary based on context. They can be framed into four broad categories which represent different aspects of women's day-to-day lives: the personal realm, the cultural context, the structural and political context and finally the legal framework.

Women's insecure tenure is also closely linked to the *cultural context* in which they live. In many communities women do not enjoy equal rights as their male counterparts, as they are subject to men's authority and as such there is an imbalance of power. This is often the result of tradition and social norms that do not accord women the same status as men. The lack of equality between men and women also affects land inheritance matters, where boys and other male relatives are favoured. Moreover, certain cultural practices - such as polygamy - negatively affect women's rights to land. In the case of a husband's death tensions arise between the wives, their children and among male relatives regarding the inheritance of land, yet the women are not involved in resolving such disputes. Women are often denied their right to land if they belong to a certain caste or class, such as Dalit women in India. Other sources of discrimination could include poverty, tribe, race, class, or HIV status

Women's land rights are also affected by the *structural and political systems* in place. In many countries the political context is not conducive for women to be able to access their rights. Women are generally not viewed as independent heads of households, farmers in their own right, nor decision-makers on most issues. This starts at the household and family level and is reflected at the higher community, national and international levels. Hence women are not represented or under-represented on official land bodies. They tend to be excluded from land transaction processes, including negotiations for large scale land acquisitions and are thus unable to defend their rights. Moreover, governments (which are often male-dominated) lack the political will to implement policies in women's favour. Women face many difficulties in mobilising and organising themselves, due to complex and unfriendly processes and procedures that can be very expensive, especially for those in rural areas. Another problem linked to the structural system in place is that social movements and NGOs often do not view women's land issues as a priority. In some cases, some might see women's demands as splitting the movements of the poor, excluded etc. This presents a challenge for women to raise their voices within these mixed spaces and to organise autonomously.

Finally, women's rights are not always recognised or protected under the *legal frameworks* in place. Even where laws exist, they are not always representative of the way land is administered in reality. It is not uncommon for customary and statutory systems to coexist – women face distinct challenges under both of these tenure regimes, and even more so where dual legal systems operate together. Often, land laws accord absolute rights to the person whose name is registered as the owner of the land, on assumption that they will hold interests in that land in trust for those who depend on the land. This is often the men, also regarded as the head of the household. The reality has proved this not to be the case, and the notion of trusteeship does not always materialise. Even where the laws are in place to defend women's rights to land by providing for equal rights for men and women, they are often not implemented in a way that guarantees these rights; the practice is often different, and more in favour of men.

On the other hand, under customary systems, traditional authorities hold a lot of the decision making power with regards to land issues and women are generally not represented in these groups. Patriarchal attitudes are deeply entrenched in many cultures, and result in discrimination against women. Customary law affects access to and control over land and security of tenure through household power dynamics as well as land registration processes, with women being at a significant disadvantage, since land is normally registered in the husband's or brother's name. Under the statutory system instead, land issues are managed by official government bodies under specific laws. As in customary systems, women are under-represented in decision-making bodies.

External factors also have an impact on women's rights to land, such as climate change and the rising rate of large scale land acquisitions - which are both increasing pressures on agricultural land to the detriment of excluded and marginalised groups, including women. In recent years the increasing transfer of use, control or ownership of land to multi-national corporations (MNCs) in developing countries has led to the dispossession of communities from their land, affecting women and their rights in a disproportionate manner – due to their heavier dependence on land and land-based resources, including these resources supporting their reproductive responsibilities. It has been documented that in cases of LSLAs women tend to have even less negotiating power than men.

The experiences of the ten countries present at the workshop for the development of this programme framework resonate with the issues described above. Despite the very diverse contexts and the different meanings that land can take for those who depend on it for their livelihoods, women are facing largely similar challenges the world over. Given the economic and political interests at stake, women's access, control and ownership of land are hampered by structural problems. In most countries women are struggling with a dual tenure regime that denies them their rights to land. Another common feature of these different contexts is the commoditisation of land with the presence of MNCs, putting women's precarious situation at even greater risk.

The dynamics described above reinforce and perpetuate the denial of women's rights to land. Given the complexity of these issues, it appears clear that a multi-pronged strategy that tackles the root causes of the problems is necessary. It should include the strengthening of: women's power within themselves as citizens and independent beings who have rights to access, control and own land; the power to claim these rights as individuals and to challenge the status quo from household to community, national and international levels; and the collective power of women, i.e. mobilising and organising women in movements or groups to demand these rights. At the same time the capacity of existing institutions and duty-bearers to support these claims must be strengthened.
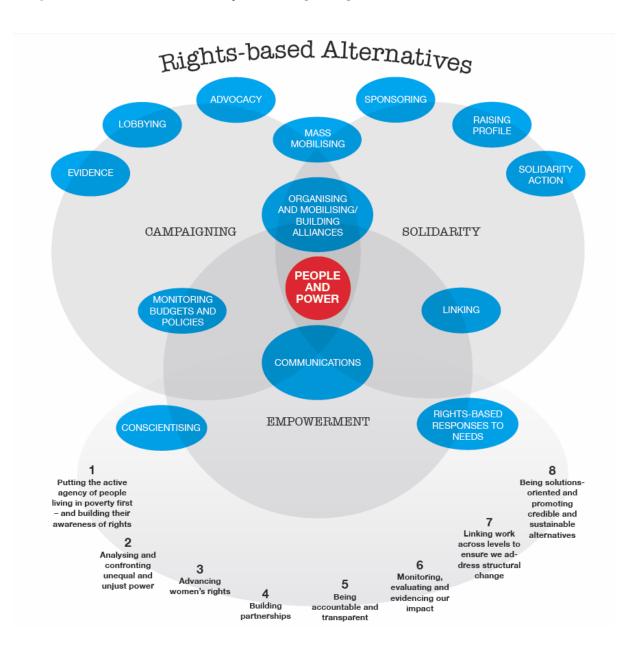
Annex 2: ActionAid's theory of change

ActionAid's overall theory of change as described in *People's Action to End Poverty* states that:

> *"An end to poverty and injustice can be achieved through purposeful individual and collective action, led by the active agency of people living in poverty and supported by solidarity, credible rights-based alternatives and campaigns that address the structural causes and consequences of poverty".*

This theory of change is visually represented in Diagram 3 below. It underpins all of ActionAid's work, as well as this programme framework for women's rights to land.

Diagram 3: ActionAid's theory of change: Rights-based alternatives

ActionAid's work is guided by the eight principles shown in the diagram. It works through a human rights based approach (HRBA) to development, which places people living in poverty and women's rights at the centre of our work. Our approach aims to build the active agency of people living in poverty by supporting them to become conscious of their rights, organise and claim their rights and hold duty-bearers to account. We see our work, and that of our partners, as challenging unequal power relations which we consider to be the cause of rights violations and injustices which affect people living in poverty. Our approach asserts the indivisibility and interconnectedness of rights, recognising that for marginalised groups to enjoy their rights we must work to challenge policies and laws as well as practices and behaviours that perpetuate inequality, poverty and exclusion.

ActionAid's theory of change is built on three interconnected pillars: empowerment, campaigning and solidarity.

Empowerment is at the heart of our approach to change. Human rights can only be realised if people living in poverty have active agency. As such, we empower people living in poverty by supporting them to organise and mobilise for individual and collective action within their communities and through social movements. Through our programmes we help people build critical awareness of their situation (conscientisation) and develop platforms through which they can communicate their messages. We empower people to monitor public policies and budgets and we respond to vulnerability and needs through rights-based approaches to service delivery.

The second pillar of ActionAid's theory of change is *campaigning*. Campaigning creates and harnesses people's power around a simple and powerful demand in order to achieve a measurable political or social change to the structural causes of poverty. In order to address the fundamental causes of poverty people should be mobilised to change national and international policies, laws and practices. This can be done through advocacy and lobbying of decision-makers as well as through mass communications to engage people and motivate others to act.

Solidarity involves people and organisations sympathetic to the struggles of people living in poverty supporting and sustaining a movement for change, with people living in poverty taking the lead. Connecting people through solidarity actions is important if we are to truly address the fundamental causes of poverty. Solidarity can take several forms: sponsoring children and donating money; linking different struggles; taking action through demonstrations or letter writing; using communications to raise the visibility of an issue; and building broader alliances.

While working to combat the structural causes of poverty we work towards uncovering and consciously building **alternatives**. We work with people living in poverty and our partners and allies to find and popularise new ways of doing things; challenge dominant paradigms; promote innovation, piloting and being solutions-oriented.

Annex 3: ActionAid's Monitoring and Evaluation Framework[14]

ActionAid requires every programme to have an M&E framework. An M&E framework is the learning and quality improvement tool that informs **what** is to be monitored to help us track our progress, as well as the **how** and **when**. It helps us learn and challenge our assumptions of change so that we can improve our work as a result. A well-developed M&E framework helps us gather information and make judgements based on evidence rather than perception or presumption.

It is good practice to plan for M&E at the time of programme or project design. M&E can help sharpen strategies and gives us a basis for evaluating our work. The M&E framework is your plan for data collection and analysis. It provides clarity on:

- ➢ **What** is to be monitored and evaluated (clear objectives, outcomes, indicators, baseline when required).
- ➢ **How**: Methods, processes, activities needed to monitor and evaluate.
- ➢ **Where** we will find the data (sources of evidence).
- ➢ **Who** is responsible for M&E activities?
- ➢ **When**: Frequency and timing of M&E activities.
- ➢ **Resources:** Do staff have the capacity and time?

There are several reasons why an M&E framework is needed. These can be summarised as follows:

- ➢ To ensure that we consistently and systematically track our work for accountability and learning purposes, providing evidence for the value of our work and making changes to it to improve where necessary;
- ➢ To cost effectively and systematically gather information to meet the needs of different stakeholders (donors, supporters, board and colleagues);
- ➢ To provide data and analysis to support our advocacy work;
- ➢ To generate insights and learning on which strategies are most effective and successful in different contexts;
- ➢ To help track and take account of the changing context and ensure a timely response;
- ➢ To help us maintain focus on our long term change goals;
- ➢ To demonstrate to internal and external audiences what our work and their support can achieve.

The People's Action Monitoring Framework (PAMF) allows us to monitor progress in our three programme areas (empowerment, campaigning and solidarity) and towards our eight HRBA principles. It is important to monitor programmes continuously so as to be able to

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[14] https://hive.actionaid.org/OE/Evaluation%20and%20Accountability%20Unit/MEReal/SitePages/Home.aspx – M&E Made Real (for all our key documents on M&E including the general template for CSP M&E framework)

make adjustments in the course of implementation if necessary. An M&E framework covers the following elements:

- ➢ Key changes we are working towards – impact, outcomes and intermediate outcomes;
- ➢ Key indicators (quantitative and qualitative);
- ➢ Baseline data;
- ➢ Data collection methods and tools to support the indicators and questions you have prioritised;
- ➢ Clarity on what data is collected, by whom and at which stages.

During the design phase of a programme it is crucial that a thorough context and gap analysis be carried out. During this stage, the change desired and the indicators to measure it will be identified. Baseline data can be drawn from the context analysis and if required through additional data collection processes in relation to what we want to measure over time.

Programme indicators

Programme impact, outcomes and intermediary outcomes tell us what change we want to bring about, and the indicators help us identify whether we are making progress. They also tell us what type of evidence and data we must collect to support our monitoring. Having clear indicators of success is therefore of paramount importance.

There are different indicators that must be considered in developing an M&E framework:

- • Change indicators – the indicators that track our progress in the achievement of an outcome;
- • Performance indicators – the indicators that allow us to track our progress towards the achievement of the intermediate outcomes.

Data collection methods and tools

Data collection tools and methods depend on the indicators that have been selected and what is needed to assess progress towards these. It should be clear at the beginning of the programme who will be collecting the relevant data; what methods will be employed; when this will take place; and whether they possess the necessary skills, resources and knowledge to do so.

As for the indicators, data collection tools and methods can be of a qualitative or quantitative nature. The list that follows is by no means exhaustive.

Table 3: Data collection methods and tools

Quantitative	Qualitative
➢ Local government official statistics ➢ Participatory appraisal processes such as mapping ➢ Surveys, questionnaires and measurements ➢ Official government documents and	➢ Stakeholder perspectives gathered through participatory review and reflection processes ➢ Field observation visits ➢ Diaries ➢ Stakeholder meetings

reports ➢ Documents, reports and data from other institutions including universities, think tanks, research institutes, international organisations, NGOs, CSOs, etc.	➢ Women's groups meetings ➢ Interviews ➢ Community group discussions ➢ Documentation of case studies ➢ Citizen reports cards ➢ Tools for strengthening women's rights to land

Evaluation and Impact Assessment

To ensure that the programme for women's rights to land is successfully moving towards the achievement of the change we wish to see, reviews will have to be carried out at regular annual intervals. These will be designed and implemented internally with inputs from project beneficiaries, partners, some key allies/stakeholders and programme staff working at local, national and international levels. An evaluation will have to be carried out at the conclusion of the five-year programme by an external consultant.

Annex 4: Strategies for realising women's rights to land

The following matrix summarises some of the strategies that have already been adopted to realise women's rights to land. During the workshop, ActionAid country staff and partners analysed the strategies that have already been employed successfully, those that didn't work so well and those that could be used in the future in order to reach the three agreed outcomes of the programme framework.

Table 4: Strategies for realising women's rights to land

	Strategies that worked well	Strategies that didn't work so well	Strategies that could work in the future
Outcome 1: *Women have increased awareness and knowledge about their rights and have increased capacity to participate in decision-making processes that affect them.*	➢ Targeted capacity-building for women leaders ➢ Training and skills building ➢ Awareness creation on legal and legitimate rights ➢ Capacity-building for women in power analysis	➢ Failure to tailor materials for the audience	➢ Simplifying the language of existing international frameworks and guidelines on WRL to reach a broader audience ➢ Engaging the state to provide public information on WRL ➢ Strengthening women's organisations and groups
Outcome 2: *Laws and institutions are in place that promote and uphold women's rights to land, and that are used by the women and their supporters to hold governments accountable.*	➢ Coalition building and partnerships of institutions at the local level ➢ Engagement with local authorities coupled with mass mobilisation at the national level ➢ Movement building and mass mobilisation ➢ Timely advocacy initiatives ➢ Media efforts *Note:* Increased community awareness was perceived as being a requirement for policy change	➢ Engaging with the national government without strong grassroots pressure ➢ Strategies that don't account for the problem of corruption ➢ Combating full proof land grabbing by corporations since often they are portrayed as being legal transactions	➢ Closer community engagement with corporations and the private sector to increase their accountability ➢ Stronger and more effective media strategies at the local and national level ➢ Strategies that address the problem of corruption ➢ Empowerment of communities to resist violations of their land rights as a prevention strategy ➢ Change that is anchored in cultural norms and community beliefs:

			- community involvement is key - Adoption of existing international instruments such as the VGs, AU instruments and the rai principles
Outcome 3: *Increased number of women with access, ownership and control of land.*	- Training land rights experts in communities to serve as resource people - Inclusion of women in national consultations and legislative processes - Workshops to raise awareness with different groups: women, traditional authorities, etc. - Community-based land mapping - Public finance for agricultural work (India) - Legislative campaigns for co-registration of land (Zimbabwe) (success depends on cultural context)	- Campaigns that gain promises on which the government never follows through - Insufficient support and protection of human rights defenders - Civil society coordination is often unsuccessful despite a shared vision - Key legal cases not being put to best use due to lack of resources - Activities/marches that are big one-off events but soon fade and lack traction	- Protect human rights defenders by linking them up to legal aid work organisations (ActionAid USA) - Finding corporate government case studies to fight for change - Work with traditional leaders to develop land distribution guidelines - Expansion of land clinics as a community resource space where women can go to - Formation of women's cooperatives to demand land as collectives - Linking up more effectively with environmental struggles - Land occupation - Build a cadre of empowered women capable of advocacy/lobbying work - More effective use of partnerships to increase impact - Build alliances at the local, national and global level not just to share information but to organise collectively

Annex 5: Participatory tools used by ActionAid programmes

Practical participatory tools can be used at different stages in ActionAid programmes that deal with women's rights to land. The table below summarises some of these tools. Those listed in the first section are useful to analyse the situation and understand rights and power relations, as well as the stakeholders involved. Tools for monitoring and evaluation purposes try to look at the impact of project activities: for this reason, two versions of the tool must be developed showing both the starting conditions and the final result, allowing for an analysis of change.

Table 5: Practical tools for strengthening women's rights to land[15]

Tools for the design phase and context analysis	
Access and control matrix	Used to help participants analyse who has access to and control over different resources (including land) and who is denied them.
Force field analysis	Used to identify "helpers" and "spoilers" – people or organisations who can either help or hinder your work.
Problem tree	Used to explore cause and effect. The trunk usually symbolises the situation to be studied, the roots represent causes, the branches are the consequences and fruits may be added to represent possible solutions or actions.
Maps	Used to present local information, problems and opportunities in a clear, visual way. A basic map of a local area can be overlaid with information on any pertinent local issue, such as natural resources, public services, sources of livelihoods, or land use. Maps can be developed to show changes over the years, and to anticipate changes or expectations for the future.
Ladder diagrams	Used to show progress towards a goal, such as women's participation in decision-making processes.
Timelines/Rivers	Used to explore what happened over a given time period. They can help us identify trends, assisting with the documentation of key events, turning points and changes.
Venn/Chapatti diagrams	Used to carry out a stakeholder analysis and explore relationships between things – particularly the relative importance, influence or power of people, organisations or groups.
Daily schedule chart	Used to help participants analyse how their time is used every day.
Project fish	Used to help participants explore the inputs needed for a project whilst avoiding the use of technical terms. Participants will draw a big fish representing the project and little fish representing the inputs (food) needed by the project to survive and flourish.
Helping relationship	Used to help participants map out the web of people and

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[15] More information can be found on these tools on the Hive. Reflection-Action trainers basecamp online forum: https://reflect-action.basecamphq.com

web	organisations that can provide support to a person in distress situations.
Gatekeeper tool	Used to identify people who can help you get access to powerful people that you want to contact/negotiate with in connection with your advocacy or campaigning work.
Tools for monitoring and evaluation purposes	
Maps	Before and after maps can be used to show how the context has changed as a result of the programme.
Evaluation bottles	Used to show and assess how satisfied a participant is with his/her learning on a specific issue, such as his/her knowledge of women's rights to land.
Problem trees	Before and after problem tree can be used to show to what extent the problem has been solved as a result of the programme.
Venn/Chapatti diagrams	Used to show how power relations between groups, institutions and individuals have changed as a result of the project.
Timelines/Rivers	Used to explore what happened over a given time period. They can help us identify trends, assisting with the documentation of key events, turning points and changes.
Ladder diagrams	Used to show progress towards a goal, such as women's participation in decision-making processes.

The Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) has developed a series of tools that could be used under this programme framework. These have not yet been tested and implemented by ActionAid programmes. However, they could be piloted by ActionAid country programmes working around women's land rights with the support of the IS. Please refer to Annex 6: The Global Land Tool Network for more information on the network and on the types of tools available and relevant to this programme of work.

Annex 6: The Global Land Tool Network

The Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) is an alliance of global, regional and national partners contributing to poverty alleviation through land reform, improved land management and security of tenure particularly through the development and dissemination of pro-poor and gender-sensitive land tools. It was established in 2006 and it is hosted by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). As of October 2013, the GLTN comprises 60 partners including international professional groups, networks of civil society, research and training institutions and donors. ActionAid is a GLTN partner.

The objective of the GLTN is to contribute to poverty alleviation and the Millennium Development Goals through land reform, improved land management and security of tenure. As a network the GLTN advocates for a continuum of land rights rather than just focus on individual land titling. It works to improve and develop pro-poor land management as well as land tenure tools. The GLTN also assists in the development of gendered tools which are affordable and useful to grassroots, professionals and other stakeholders.

Several land tools have already been developed by the GLTN. One tool in particular could be of interest to this specific programme framework: the **Gender Evaluation Criteria (GEC)**. The GEC is a land tool that allows us to evaluate the gender-responsiveness of other land tools and processes. It is a checklist of 22 questions around six key topics: participation; capacity-building; legal and institutional considerations; social and cultural considerations; economic considerations and scale; coordination and sustainability. This evidence-based tool is used by working together with all types of structures and institutions, from grassroots organisations to national level governments. It can be adapted and implemented according to needs by GLTN partners. So far it has been successfully piloted in Ghana, Nepal, Brazil and Uganda.

Other possible GLTN tools that could be used are:

➢ The **Gender Equality, Grassroots and Good Land Governance training package** to improve women's land and property rights and to promote participation of grassroots communities in the land processes.

➢ The **Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM)** is a an open source GIS software which allows for the recording of a wide range of land rights and land claims, including private and public, individual and collective and customary or traditional rights.

More information on the GLTN and on the tools available can be found at: www.gltn.net