

Strengthening capacity to assess the impact of tenure security measures on IFAD-supported and other projects within the SDG framework

GRANT RESULTS SHEET



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The goal was to improve the assessment, measuring and reporting of the impact of land tenure interventions.

Goals and objectives

In recent years, growing awareness of the importance of land tenure security and governance for the global development agendas has drawn attention to the lack of global standardized tools and approaches for evaluating the impact of these interventions. To address this challenge, the Global Land Tool Network¹ (GLTN) and UN-Habitat, in partnership with IFAD, embarked on a collaborative venture to conceptualize and develop gender-responsive and fit-for-purpose tools and approaches to evaluate the impact of land tenure and governance interventions.

The project set out to achieve the following specific objectives: (i) contribute to the development and use of guidelines for assessing, measuring and reporting the impact of secure tenure on poverty reduction and food security in IFAD-supported and other projects and programmes; and (ii) improve the knowledge and awareness of IFAD partners, IFAD-supported project and programme staff, GLTN partners and other partners of such guidelines for measuring the impacts of tenure security.

Beneficiaries

The project trained 213 people in the use of the guidelines, including land sector experts, evaluators, donors, civil society organization (CSO) staff and government officers. In particular, over 20 monitoring and evaluation staff involved in field assessments of tenure security measures in IFAD-supported projects were reached.

The project was strategically linked with the Programme in Rural Monitoring and Evaluation (PRiME), developed and implemented by IFAD, and impact measurement capacity-building initiatives to foster cross-learning and

¹ The Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) is a dynamic and multisectoral alliance of international partners committed to increasing access to land and tenure security for all, with a particular focus on people living in poverty, women and youth. The Network's partners include international rural and urban civil society organizations, research and training institutions, bilateral and multilateral organizations, and international professional bodies. See: <https://gltn.net/>.

Facts at a glance

Name of agency

UN-Habitat – Global Land Tool Network (GLTN)

Theme

Impact evaluation of land tenure and governance interventions

Benefiting countries

Global

Total programme cost

IFAD contribution: US\$220,000

UN-Habitat contribution:
USD\$220,000

Partners

IFAD, UN-Habitat, Global Land Tool Network (GLTN), World Bank, Landesa, IFPRI, MCC, USAID and ILC, among others

Effectiveness and duration

2017-2019

dissemination of the guidelines; a process that reached more staff from IFAD-supported projects, partners and practitioners.

Main results

Development of tools

The project led to the publication of a series of tools, which benefited from a technical team of experts from IFAD, GLTN, UN-Habitat, World Bank, Landesa, Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) and Global Land Indicators Initiative (GLII), and from peer review by global experts in land governance and impact evaluation:

- **The Guidelines for Impact Evaluation of Land Tenure and Governance Interventions** include a robust theory of change and evaluation designs informing the design, monitoring and evaluation of land tenure and governance interventions by donors, CSOs, governments and other actors.
- **The “How to” Guide for Integration of Impact Evaluation in Programming** is an operational guidance tool that includes a step-by-step guide and case studies to help clarify key components and processes required from project design to evaluation stage. It helps project designers and managers anticipate and integrate the different needs for better and more cost-effective impact evaluations.
- **Training materials**, such as PowerPoint presentations, case studies and reference materials, featuring diverse field experiences from evaluation agencies in conducting impact evaluation of land tenure and governance interventions.

Capacity development in impact evaluation of land tenure and governance interventions

Six targeted training sessions and learning workshops were organized to disseminate the guidelines. Training and workshops targeting land and evaluation experts from CSOs, government and donor representatives, research and academia were conducted during the 2018/19 World Bank Annual Conference on Land and Poverty, the 2019 LANDac Conference, and the 2019 Conference on Land Policy in Africa. A training session organized by PRiME facilitated direct knowledge transfer and access to the guidelines for 27 participants (18 male, 9 female), who were mainly country evaluation officers in IFAD-supported projects.

The targeted training and learning workshops focused on disseminating the guidelines and related principles, including the theory of change, thus contributing to the establishment of a community of practice on land tenure and impact evaluation under the Global Donor Working Group on Land (GDWGL), consisting mainly of donors and global evaluation experts from various institutions.

At these events, resource persons shared experiences from other agencies, such as the World Bank, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), MCC, GLTN, GLII and International Land Coalition (ILC) partners; and regional and local initiatives, including those by CSOs, were featured to support cross-learning and sharing of best practices.

More than 200 experts were trained to use the guidelines, thus building a global community of practice around this topic.

Training on the guidelines held on 24 March 2019 at the IFAD offices in Washington, DC, USA

The training was jointly organized by UN-Habitat, GLTN and IFAD, and preceded the World Bank Annual Land and Poverty Conference. Forty-five participants (18 male and 27 female) attended from a wide range of backgrounds, including CSOs, government offices, donors, researchers, academics and individual experts. The training covered the following key sessions:

- **Evaluation foundations** focused on why evaluation matters, cost-benefit analysis, and the theory of change model developed by the project. Discussions also addressed how to measure the impact of land tenure interventions in formal and informal tenure regimes, and the need to go beyond land titling to document and measure “perception of tenure security” at the individual or group level.
- **Land evaluation design** explored the research questions, methodology selection, exposure period and sampling frameworks. Case studies from the MCC and World Bank, including studies from Ethiopia, Lesotho and Rwanda, were shared. Evaluation designs such as randomized controlled trials were illustrated.
- **Data insights** examined data sources, including survey data on perception of tenure rights, administrative and geospatial data, lessons learned and common land modules, such as those for measuring individual land rights in SDG Indicators 1.4.2 and 5.a.1. Case studies in land administration and survey data featured a contribution from Duke University/Cloudburst.

Lessons learned

A review of the capacity development sessions and participants’ satisfaction confirmed the usefulness of the events in delivering new knowledge and in providing fit-for-purpose and gender-responsive land tools and approaches for carrying out impact evaluations of land tenure measures. Most participants observed that the sessions were successful at:

- Informing them about the Theory of Change, research questions, data needs, and key processes and procedures for conducting robust impact evaluation, including performance evaluation and application, in various land interventions.
- Looking at cost implications, dispelling fears of very high costs and demonstrating that impact evaluations can be carried out cost-effectively if projects are well designed and integrate evaluation components from the outset.
- Providing supportive learning materials that were relevant and useful in participants’ work.
- Developing and providing pioneering knowledge that informed and strengthened the understanding of how agencies (IFAD, UN-Habitat, etc.), governments and other organizations can improve their ability to capture, document and assess the impact attributable to their investments in land tenure interventions – a process that provides important data and information for policy decisions.
- Linking to the monitoring of the 2030 Agenda, which envisions a “just, equitable, tolerant, open and socially inclusive world in which the needs of the most vulnerable are met”, and aspires to leave no one behind.
- Facilitating the convergence of existing knowledge, experiences and efforts by global agencies that linked monitoring to impact measurement.

Linkages and potential for scaling up

The project provided an opportunity to review relevant IFAD-supported projects, and to gather information on documented evidence of impact related to such interventions. Interviews with IFAD staff provided useful information and recommendations on:

- reviewing the process of impact assessment of tenure security measures and their capacity requirements for strengthened ability to conduct such assessments; and usability of the guidelines produced;
- the draft set of guidelines, including requirements for a training programme on impact assessment of tenure security measures for key actors.

Different agencies have reported the use of the tools developed, both in their work and in facilitating their partners' capacity development. For example, the World Bank, in collaboration with the Network of Excellence in Land Governance in Africa of the Africa Land Policy Centre, used the guidelines as resource materials in training technical staff from various government and donor-funded projects in Africa in 2018. Other private sector agencies, financial institutions (e.g. the African Development Bank), NGOs and GDWGL members have expressed interest in using these tools.

Despite the positive outcomes, more capacity development sessions are needed to scale up the project. More targeted capacity development sessions will benefit CSOs, governments and the private sector working and investing in agriculture, and in rural and urban development. This will further deepen staff knowledge and ensure the institutional capacity to apply the guidelines, and enable improvement of these tools based on real-time feedback and lessons learned in their application.

Knowledge generated

Key publications developed over the project period:

- **Guidelines for Impact Evaluation of Land Tenure and Governance Interventions**
<https://www.ifad.org/en/web/knowledge/publication/asset/41206980> (EN)
<https://www.ifad.org/fr/web/knowledge/publication/asset/41206980> (FR)
- “How to” Guide for Integration of Impact Evaluation in Programming
- Presentation of Committee on World Food Security side-event. Building the base of land governance evidence: frameworks and lessons learned from the project, country and global-level monitoring and evaluation efforts
<http://www.fao.org/cfs/home/plenary/cfs43/side-events/12/it/>
- Launch of the guidelines on the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development
<https://www.donorplatform.org/publication-land-governance/guidelines-for-impact-evaluation-of-land-tenure-and-governance-interventions.html>
- IFAD blog: How to improve impact evaluations of land tenure interventions in IFAD-supported projects
<https://www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/blog/asset/41207100>
- IFAD Social Reporting: The launch of the impact evaluation of land tenure and land governance interventions
<https://ifad-un.blogspot.com/2018/08/the-launch-of-impact-evaluations-on.html>

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