**Concept Note for Grant Proposals**

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| **1. Grant Sponsoring Division: ECG** | **2. Co-sponsoring Division(s): PMI**  |
| **3. Title of the grant: Stepping up IFAD’s gender transformative agenda - Women’s land rights initiative** |
| **4. Value of IFAD grant:** *(in US$) 3,000,000* | **5. Co-financing:** *(in US$) At least 500 000* |
| **6. Implementation period:** (*Months) 36* | **7. GRIPS ID**: 2000003133 |
| **8. Selected Strategic Priority: 3. Gender equality and women's empowerment** |
| **9. Window:** Global/Regional [x] Country [ ]  | **10. Country/Countries:** Bangladesh, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Colombia, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Guatemala, Honduras, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Niger, Paraguay, Peru, São Tomé & Principe, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Uganda |
| **11. Recipient:*** Competitive selection at CN stage [ ]  and name of recipient
* To be selected competitively at design stage [x]
* Direct selection [ ]  and name of recipient
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| **12. Rationale for recipient selection and recipient capacity:** The recipient will be selected through competitive bidding. The following criteria will be used:* Practical experience in working on women’s land rights (WLR) in rural settings
* Experience in knowledge management and sharing
* Experience in managing donor-funded initiatives of at least US$ 1 million
* Physical presence or close network to ensure wide geographical coverage
* Amount of co-financing (cash and in-kind)
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| **13. Background/relevance:** Women in many of the poorest regions of the world are denied equal rights to access, use, inherit, control, and own land, though they make up an estimated 43 percent of the agricultural labour force. The challenges are two-fold. First, laws and policies often dilute or deny women’s rights to land. Second, even when laws enshrine such rights[[1]](#footnote-1), sex-discriminatory practices coupled with legal loopholes, gaps in implementation and lax enforcement at times sex-discriminatory practices undercut these formal guarantees. As a result, often women’s only claim to the land they rely on for food, income, and shelter is through their relationship to a male relative – a husband, father, or brother. They are susceptible to displacement and exploitation because they lack control over the land they depend on. That hampers women’s ability to lift themselves and their families out of extreme poverty and impacts on the way they farm in fundamental ways. When women have secure rights to land, women’s status improves and they are better able to take care of themselves, their families, and their land.National and local governments and institutions might not have the capacity or technical know-how to enforce equal tenure for men and women – especially in the face of entrenched social and cultural norms that discriminate against women. Actions developed to tackle gender inequality often underestimate the need to address the root causes of discriminatory behaviours and biased perceptions about women’s rights and roles. A gender transformative approach is needed, which seeks not only to improve women’s access to resources, but also to guarantee their equal rights. Such an approach requires both time and multisector and multilevel engagement to deal with not only the legal (i.e. gender-neutral laws), administrative and socioeconomic constraints limiting women’s access to land, but also to challenge pervasive perceptions and practices surrounding the recognition and promotion of women’s land rights. As mentioned in IFAD’s Strategic Framework 2016-25 and in line with its Policy on improving access to land and tenure security and that on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, IFAD is committed to promoting both gender equality and securing poor rural people’s tenure and equitable rights to, and governance of land. Moreover, IFAD11 places considerable emphasis on targeting women, emphasizing gender transformation in order to address the gender productivity gap and accelerating achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Strengthening women’s access to and ownership of land, which also enables them to access a wider range of financial and other services, is recognised as a key gender transformative approach which tackles the underlying or structural causes of gender inequality and move towards transforming power relations. |
| **14. Direct and indirect target group:** The target group is composed of women and girls living in rural areas in the target countries and involved in IFAD-supported projects in the selected countries. About 40 per cent of them will be younger than 35 years old. Policy makers and development practitioners will benefit indirectly from the outcomes of identifying and testing tools that will be widely disseminated.  |
| **15. Goal, objectives and expected outcomes:** The goal of this grant is to contribute to the development and integration of gender-transformative approaches to promoting women’s land rights into development programmes, policies and strategies in selected countries.This goal will be achieved through the following two objectives:* Develop and test transformative approaches and tools for strengthening women’s land rights[[2]](#footnote-2).
* Improve knowledge and awareness on how to integrate a transformative approach to promoting WLR in rural development interventions.

The following results are expected:* 10 000 rural women’s ownership or user rights over natural resources registered in national cadastres and/or geographic information management systems[[3]](#footnote-3);
* Gender-transformative approaches to promoting WLR tested, documented and disseminated;
* Legal and administrative systems for land governance improved.
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| **16. Key activities by component:** The grant will pilot the integration of transformative approaches to promoting WLR in selected IFAD-supported projects, which will tackle gender power imbalances and aim to change attitudes and beliefs about women’s enjoyment of land rights. As such, it will seek not only to improve women’s short-term access to resources, including land, but also to guarantee their equal rights, increasing their voice in decision-making at all levels. It implies dealing with the root causes of gender discrimination, addressing the legal, administrative and economic dimensions, and also the perceptions and practices around the recognition and promotion of women’s land rights.A first step in addressing these imbalances will be to carry out a gender analysis[[4]](#footnote-4), i.e. to analyse the root causes of the inequalities that limit WLR at the household and community level. The second step is to identify interventions that contribute to tackling these barriers through transformative action, taking account the guiding principles of international codes of conduct such as the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT) and the SDG framework. This includes promoting activities in support of[[5]](#footnote-5):* Recognition of women’s land rights
* Protection of women’s land rights
* Enjoyment of these rights over time

The Theory of Change below illustrates how the initiative will tackle gender power imbalances with the aim of changing attitudes and beliefs about women’s enjoyment of land rights, by piloting transformative approaches to promoting WLR:While on the one hand the integration of transformative approaches to promoting WLR will be piloted in selected IFAD-supported projects, on the other hand, strong emphasis will be placed on knowledge generation and capacity building, which will allow for scaling up. Two components are foreseen:* Tools development and implementation: Building on a gender analysis, innovative tools, guidelines and approaches to integrate transformative approaches to promoting WLR in rural development projects will be developed, tested, implemented and monitored. Gaps in tool development and implementation will be identified and priorities agreed on.
* Knowledge and awareness building: The documentation of good approaches and practices in strengthening women’s land tenure will be facilitated and their dissemination to a larger group of stakeholders will be ensured. Furthermore, learning exchanges will be facilitated between and amongst various IFAD supported programmes/projects and partners. Finally, building on the lessons learned from component one, IFAD will engage in evidence-based and inclusive policy dialogue and multi-stakeholder policy discussions to promote, within national policy and regulatory frameworks, a focus on the land rights of poor rural women.
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| **17. Indicative project cost:**

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|  | ***IFAD Financing*** | ***Co-financing*** |
| ***Component*** | ***Year 1*** | ***Year 2*** | ***Year 3*** | ***(in USD)*** | ***(in USD)*** |
| ***Tools development and implementation*** | 600 000 | 800 000 | 600 000 | 2 000 000 | Tbc |
| ***Knowledge and awareness building*** | 250 000 | 250 000 | 260 000 | 760 000 | Tbc |
| ***Overhead*** | 80 000 | 80 000 | 80 000 | 240 000 | Tbc |
| ***Total*** | 930 000 | 1 130 000 | 940 000 | 3 000 000 | Tbc |

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| **18. Risks***:* The main risk would be resistance to address gender power imbalances. This will be mitigated by involving men and community leaders throughout the process of tools development and implementation and engaging in evidence-based policy dialogue, in line with the selected IFAD supported project’s targeting and gender mainstreaming strategy. Another risk is related to time limitations, given that transformative approaches require time because it implies dealing with the root causes of gender discrimination, addressing the legal, administrative and economic dimensions, and also the perceptions and practices around the recognition and promotion of women’s land rights. This risk will be mitigated by identifying IFAD supported projects with longer than three years left in duration, which would then ensure continued support for the duration of the project. |
| **19. M&E, KM and Learning:** Progress will be evaluated against the grant's objectives and expected outputs and progress monitoring will be done on an on-going basis Annual Work Plans and Budgets and the grant’s log-frame outputs. This will involve setting annual targets, quantitative assessment using indicators, and qualitative analysis. Semi-annual progress and annual reports will be produced by the recipient; simple one page planned versus actual activities will be required monthly. A KM plan will outline what action project staff and implementation partners will take to ensure they are able to generate, access and use knowledge and information. ECG, PMI, RIA and the regional divisions will follow the results of this plan and enable the internalization of lessons. This will be used to: improve project performance; support efforts to scale up or replicate successes; and share lessons with wider audiences, particularly policy makers in the subject countries, to achieve visibility, and for advocacy and influence. |
| **20. Supervision:** The grant will be supervised by ECG’s Gender Team, PMI’s Land Tenure Team and the regional divisions. A specific budget will be foreseen. |
| **21. Linkages**: In close collaboration with the regional divisions, the tools and approaches for securing women’s land tenure will be piloted in IFAD-supported projects in Bangladesh, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Colombia, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Guatemala, Honduras, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Niger, Paraguay, Peru, São Tomé & Principe, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Uganda. In at least ten of the abovementioned IFAD-supported projects, with a minimum two per region, gender-transformative approaches to promoting WLR will be tested. The other projects will be part of the wider community of practitioners for knowledge exchange.Linkages will also be made with other initiatives, such as those with the Global Land Tool Network on land tenure impact assessments, the World Bank’s Africa Gender Innovation Lab[[6]](#footnote-6) on impact evaluation on securing women’s land rights, IFPRI on gendered impact assessments, the International Land Coalition’s programme on WLR and their National Engagement Strategies, and the Global Campaign on WLR supported by Landesa, Habitat for Humanity, UN-Habitat/GLTN Secretariat, the World Bank and the Huairou Commission. |
| **22. Scaling up:** The results from this proposal will be scaled up using different operational instruments: (i) projects: systematically building approaches and tools into new projects; (ii) policy: strong emphasis on policy engagement to help achieve the policy and institutional conditions needed for successful national-level scaling up or to attract investment from other partners; and, (iii) knowledge: strong focus on developing and disseminating the public knowledge that has been created. |
| **23. Sustainability:** A set of guidelines and an action plan will be developed for systematically mainstreaming the transformative tools and approaches developed into IFAD’s new projects. Project M&E systems will allow to evaluate and adapt if necessary in the future. |
| **24. Other aspects:** The project builds on past analyses of challenges and good practices and has already identified key tools and approaches that can be tested and scaled up more systematically in IFAD supported projects. It is linked to various initiatives for strengthening the M&E of improving WLR in the SDG framework as well as a global campaign that is expected to gain significant momentum in the next few years. |

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1. There are three principal rights linked to the spatial dimension of land: use rights, control rights and transfer rights. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The focus on land does not mean that the inherent linkages to other natural resources, especially water, are ignored. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. IFAD Core Indicator 1.1.1 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. This will be context-specific, build on the livelihoods analysis carried out at project design and look at: (i) legal aspects; (ii) cultural norms; (iii) socio-economic conditions; (iv) political participation; (v) perceptions. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. The project will capitalize on various lessons learnt on the challenges and good practices developing approaches and tools in these three key areas. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. IFAD is currently developing a collaboration with the Africa Gender Innovation Lab to support the integration of impact evaluations on women’s land rights in three IFAD supported projects in Burkina Faso, Niger and Uganda plus one co-financed IFAD/WB project in Ethiopia. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)