

ABOUT

LANDESA



MISSION Landesa works to secure land rights for the world's poorest people—the 2.47 billion chiefly rural people who live on less than two dollars a day. Landesa partners with developing country governments to design and implement laws, policies, and programs concerning land that provide opportunity, further sustainable economic growth, and promote social justice.



WHY LAND RIGHTS MATTER

A majority of the world's poorest share two traits: they rely on agriculture to survive, but they don't have secure rights to the land they till. This paradox is one of the root causes of global poverty.

In fact, landlessness is one of the best predictors of extreme poverty. Without secure land rights, families can't invest in the land they farm to improve their harvests and build a better future. They are in a poverty trap.

However, when a family has control over their land, they have opportunity. Nutrition and health improve, children attend school longer, the family's finances improve as does their access to credit and other government services.

When broadly distributed, land rights can provide structural change that is enduring and multi-generational.

OUR APPROACH

Landesa partners with governments to design and implement land systems that reduce poverty, promote economic growth, improve nutrition and health, encourage women's empowerment, reduce and prevent violent conflict and foster environmental stewardship.

Our programs are carefully crafted to fit the particulars of geography, political institutions, history and culture.

Key aspects of our approach include:

- Our work harnesses the power of markets

and economic incentives. Our land rights programs are not confiscatory or punitive.

- Our land rights programs strengthen the rights of existing landholders with tenuous legal claims, while broadening secure land access for the poorest people.
- Our work is often focused on providing micro-ownership for landless families. Our research shows that a family can raise itself from poverty on as a little as 1/10th of an acre.
- We place special emphasis on establishing and protecting land rights for women and inheritance rights for girls.

Our work is by invitation, and ranges from short-term assignments to long-term programs.

There are typically five steps to our engagement:

1. Conduct field research to identify existing laws, policies and cultural considerations.
2. Propose revisions to laws, regulations and programs to encourage successful land systems.
3. Promote and assist in the adoption and implementation of new laws.
4. Collaborate with public officials and other stakeholders to build public awareness of new land laws, rights, and regulations.
5. Monitor and evaluate impact in order to learn from successes and to make changes when appropriate.



CORE PROGRAMS AREAS

Landesa Center for Women's Land Rights

The Landesa Center for Women's Land Rights champions women's secure access to land by providing resources and training that connects policymakers, researchers, and practitioners around the world. We pilot innovative solutions to secure women's land rights and educate development experts about the gap between customary and institutional law.

India

In India, more than 15 million families are both poor and landless. With offices in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha, West Bengal and New Delhi, we partner with state and national governments to design, implement, and scale pro-poor land rights solutions. To date we have helped more than 1 million small holder farming families gain legal rights to their land.

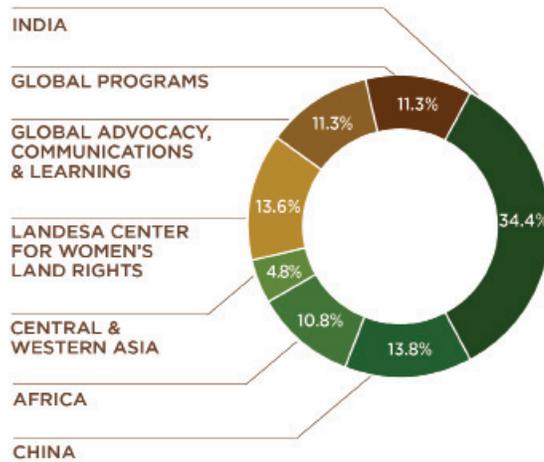
China

Landesa research and policy recommendations have helped more than 85 million families in rural China to gain secure land tenure and provided millions of farmers with legal education regarding their land rights.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Landesa conducts policy and community research on a range of land rights in Burundi, Ghana, Kenya, Ethiopia, Liberia, Mali, Rwanda, and Uganda.

ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES BY PROGRAM AREA



OUR SUPPORTERS

Thanks to thousands of individuals and organizations like Omidyar Network, Skoll Foundation the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Nike Foundation among others.

LANDESA'S IMPACT

Since 1967, when our work started in South Vietnam, we've helped bring secure land rights to more than 105 million families in 45 countries—3.4 million families in fiscal year 2011 alone. Below is a summary of our impact.

Nation	Years	Families Benefited
India	2001-present	1,105,000
China	1996-present	85,100,000
Ukraine	2001-2006	3,450,000
Russia	1992-2003	17,800,000
Kyrgyzstan	1992-2002	232,000
Moldova	1997-2000	522,000
El Salvador	1980-84	49,000
Philippines	1972-80	161,000
South Vietnam	1970-73	1,000,000
		109,419,000