



Women's Land Rights Visiting Professionals Program

Who Are We?

The Landesa Center for Women's Land Rights is an initiative of Landesa, an international nonprofit organization that works with developing country governments and non-governmental organizations to secure land rights for the world's poorest people. Over the last 40 years, we have partnered with more than 45 countries on legal reforms that have provided secure land rights to more than 100 million families. Currently, Landesa is working in countries as diverse as China, India, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Ethiopia.

At the Landesa Center for Women's Land Rights we partner with governments, foundations, and organizations around the world to research, improve legal frameworks, create tools, pilot innovative approaches, and develop a network of professionals focused on improving the condition of women and girls by strengthening their access and control over land.

Why Do We Focus on Women's Land Rights?

Three quarters of the 1.2 billion people surviving on less than a dollar a day live and work in rural areas. For most of them land is a key input—their ability to lift themselves out of poverty is strongly influenced by the extent to which they have secure access to and control over a plot of land.

Women are particularly vulnerable. They may lose access or control over land when they get married, get divorced, or become widows or when their husbands take another wife. They may be prevented from inheriting land from their parents. They may not have a say about how the family land is used or how the income it generates is allocated. They may not know their rights. They may not be able to enforce the rights they do have. Research has shown that addressing these issues can improve the lives of women, their families, and their communities.

What Are the Goals of the Visiting Professionals Program?

We seek to cultivate a network of qualified professionals from India, China, and East Africa (Kenya, Tanzania, or Uganda) who are strongly committed to strengthening women's land rights at national, local, and international levels.

Our goal is to enhance these visiting professionals' capacity to strengthen women's land rights, to foster their ability and motivation to participate in a women's land rights network, and to reinforce their commitment to strengthening women's land rights.

What Do We Offer?

The program begins with a six-week period of intense training, mentoring, and sharing with land tenure experts at Landesa's main office in Seattle, Washington. Visiting professionals will have the opportunity to enhance their understanding of the challenges to strengthening women's land rights, expand the set of approaches they can consider to address these challenges, and improve their effectiveness by strengthening their leadership, managerial, and communication skills. In addition to enhancing visiting professionals' capacity, the six weeks in Seattle are designed to foster the ties and mutual trust that will lay the foundation for an international network of women's land rights professionals.

What Will the Visiting Professionals Program Entail?

This is a competitive program for experienced and strongly motivated professionals who want to enhance their ability to improve women's land rights in their countries or communities. Visiting professionals will work closely together and with Landesa staff to enhance their skills, expertise, and commitment to support each other by:

- Participating in and contributing to substantive discussions;
- Sharing knowledge and expertise through presentations and informal conversations;
- Working on leadership, managerial, and communication skills;
- Providing and receiving constructive feedback;
- Fostering the trust and ties that will lay the foundation for a sustainable women's land rights network that can be a resource for those working in this field.

For the first six weeks, visiting professionals will be based at our main office in Seattle. Upon the visiting professionals' return to their countries, they will continue to engage their peers in the visiting professionals' network. We cover travel expenses and provide housing and a small stipend for the six weeks in Seattle.

Which Professionals Are Eligible to Apply?

- Practitioners, policy advocates, community organizers, educators, and other professionals who are strongly committed to strengthening women's land rights;
- Professionals with at least five years' development experience, two of which are focused on issues related to land tenure or women's rights;
- Professionals who are currently working in-country for an organization (NGO, educational institution, government agency, etc.) located in India, China, or East Africa (Kenya, Tanzania, or Uganda);
- Professionals with advanced English proficiency skills (speaking, reading, and writing).

How Should You Apply?

Please make sure we receive the following documents by **Friday, February 14, 2014**:

1. Cover letter explaining your interest in the Women's Land Rights Visiting Professionals Program
2. Application form
3. CV
4. One writing sample that demonstrates your understanding and involvement in development work and/or women's land rights
5. Two references (please include name and contact information)

Applications may be submitted online at landesa.org or sent via email to inquiries@landesa.org.

Finalists will be notified for interviews by mid-March. Visiting professionals for 2014 will be notified and announced in late April. The appointment starts on September 8, 2014.

