



## **Press Release**

May 15, 2015

### **Landesa Announces New CEO**

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SEATTLE - Landesa's Board of Directors announced today that Chris Jochnick, a Harvard Law School graduate and lecturer with decades of experience in international development and land rights, will become Landesa's new CEO.

Jochnick currently leads Oxfam America's work on business and development including shareholder engagement, value chain assessments, and collaborative advocacy initiatives, such as the "Behind the Brands" campaign.

Jochnick is the co-founder and former director of two successful and pioneering non-profit organizations devoted to economic and social rights. Before entering the non-profit sector, Jochnick worked as a corporate attorney with a Wall Street law firm on corporate governance and social responsibility issues.

"In Chris Jochnick, we saw a remarkable alignment: leadership; vision; a track record as a leader, CEO, advocate, and fundraiser; experience in this field; and a nuanced understanding of land rights," said Christine Grumm, Landesa Board Chair. "These credentials will allow Chris to hit the ground running as a leader in this field, who can represent Landesa and the issue of land rights at the highest levels. And who can continue to build a stronger, more impactful organization."

Jochnick will assume the helm of Landesa at a time of unprecedented opportunity for the organization. The issue of land rights is gaining traction on government agendas from Madagascar to Myanmar, and taking its rightful prominent place among an increasing number of international agencies, organizations, and companies.

"Landesa and land rights in general are at a tipping point," said Tim Hanstad, Landesa's current President and CEO. "Landesa is poised to leverage this attention into more and deeper partnerships with governments, organizations, and companies to strengthen and protect land rights for the rural poor – especially women."

Hanstad, who requested that Landesa's Board of Directors find a replacement for him last year, will continue in a leadership role in the organization and spend more time doing program work.

Hanstad joined the organization more than 28 years ago. Then, the organization was founded by Roy Prosterman and a few law students with a shared dream. Over the years – the last decade with Hanstad at the helm – the organization has established its work as a proven model for durable, broad-based economic and social change. Its staff and impact have grown exponentially. Last year the organization, which now has more than 115 staff worldwide, was recognized by *Global Journal* as the #1 human rights organization in the world.

"I am committed to continuing the remarkable trajectory the organization has followed for the last four decades – one of ever greater impact," said Jochnick. "Landesa's model – to partner with governments and others to change laws, policies, and programs to strengthen land rights

for women, men, and communities – has already helped more than 110 million families. That is a remarkable impact.”

Landesa founder Roy Prosterman, who turns 80 this year, continues to work for the organization full time. Jochnick, who becomes available to step into this new role in mid-August, said he was delighted to have both former CEOs remain in the organization as resources for him in the months and years ahead.

“I believe this says a great deal about the organization and its values,” said Jochnick.

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To learn more about Landesa, please visit [www.landesa.org](http://www.landesa.org).

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