

Annual Report 2018

The Geography of Land Rights

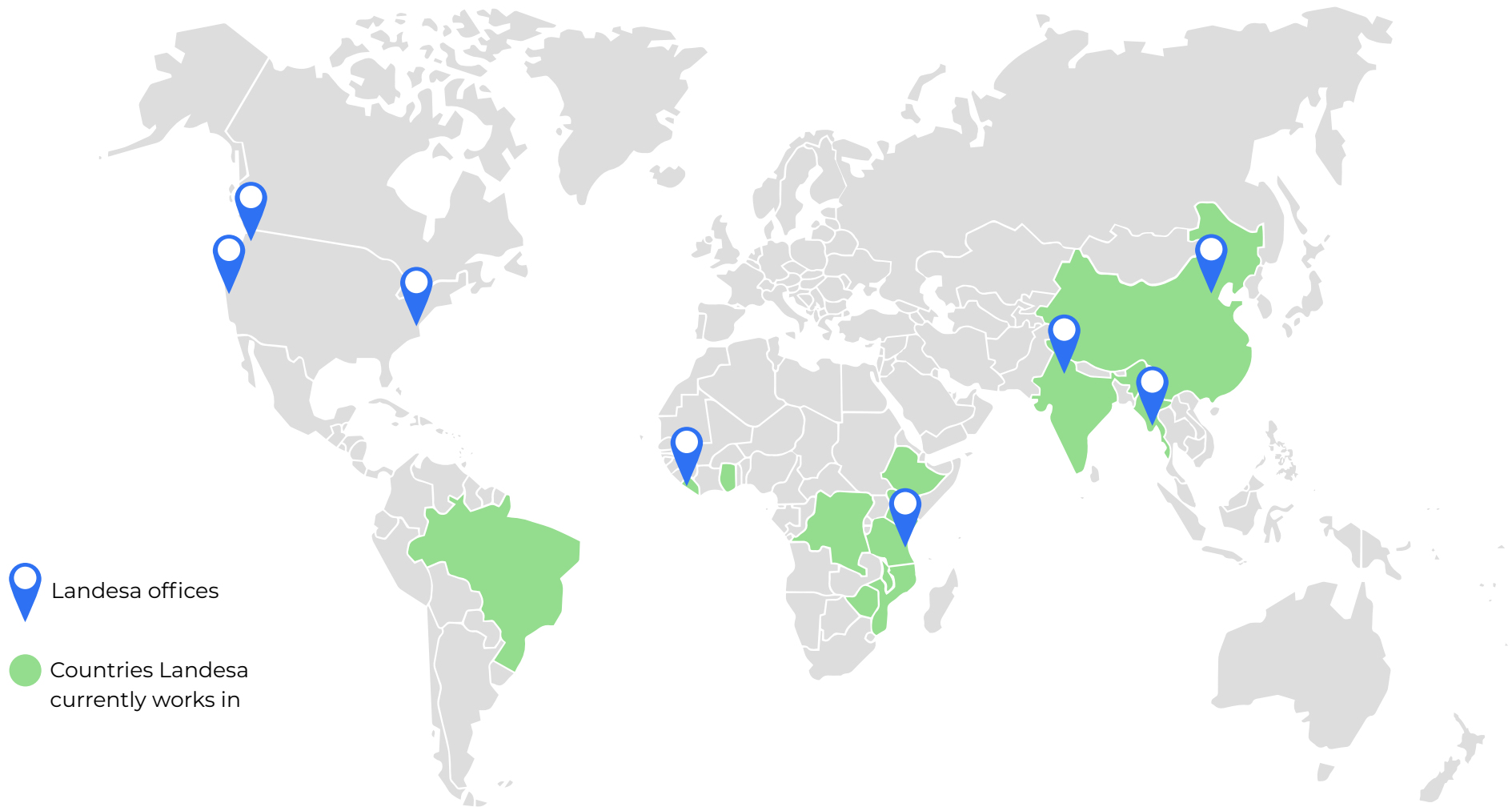
For millions of people worldwide, land is a fundamental asset and source of income, livelihoods, social status, dignity, and opportunity. Secure land rights provide the foundation to improve lives and create pathways out of poverty – for women, men, families, and whole communities.

Landesa's work strengthening land rights for rural people has taken us around the world.



Our Global Reach

Scroll through the map to learn more about a few of the places where we've worked in the past year.



Our Global Reach



After her father died, Kou Berpa was driven off of her land and her rubber trees were burned. Overcoming these obstacles, Kou now rents a small parcel of land to grow maize and uses the income to help pay her grandchildren's school fees.



Liberia

In Liberia, the government passed a historic land reform bill, which for the first time will recognize, protect, and guarantee the land rights of rural Liberians. Landesa has supported Liberia's land reform process with technical inputs on the government's Land Rights Policy and subsequent Land Rights Act, which members of Liberian civil society have hailed as one of the "most progressive" land reform laws on the African Continent.

Our Global Reach



Landesa Land Tenure Specialist Tizai Mauto interviews a small-scale commercial farmer in Zimbabwe.



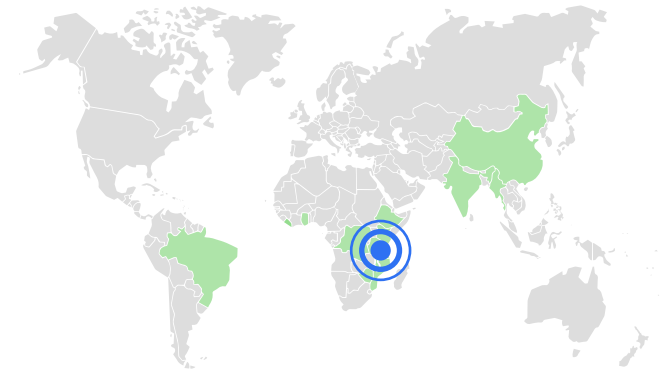
Zimbabwe

Propelled by a new administration, Zimbabwe is embracing progressive land reform to support all Zimbabweans. Addressing land rights is critical to building inclusive prosperity in Zimbabwe, particularly given that two-thirds of its citizens reside in rural areas – including the vast majority of the poorest people. At the invitation of the government, Landesa is advising land officials on best practices to deliver pro-poor, democratic land reform.

Our Global Reach



In Kisarawe district, Zuhura depends on her plot of land for to feed herself and her three grandchildren.



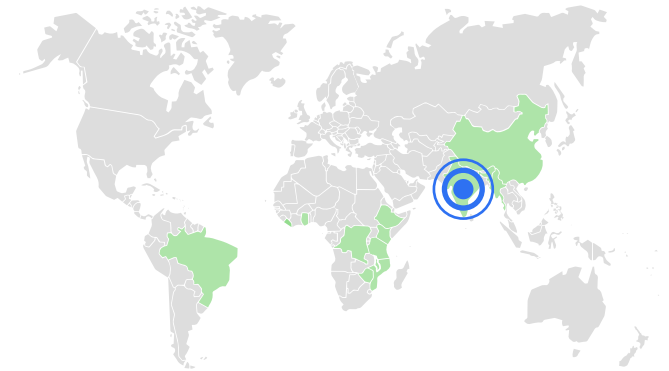
Tanzania

Landesa begins a new chapter in our history with the opening of a new program office in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The office serves as a hub for Landesa's Africa Program and gives us a local presence to support the work of the Tanzanian government in strengthening women's land rights.

Our Global Reach



In Odisha, Indira leveraged a modest loan into a flourishing goat herding venture to boost her family's income.



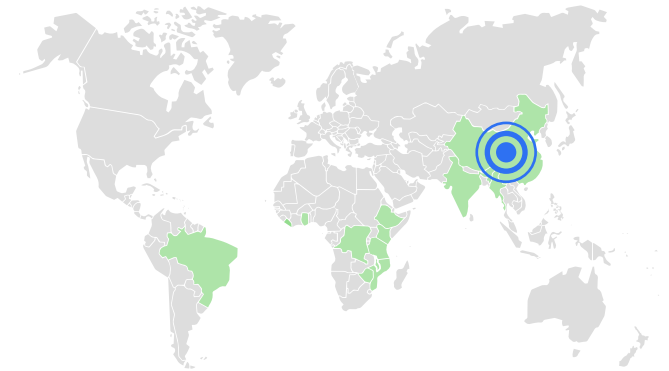
India

The journey for new landholders doesn't end once a household has secure rights to land. In India, Landesa has piloted land livelihoods programs in multiple states that connect rural women and men with tools and resources to improve their use of land. These resources can include access to seeds or fertilizer, microloans or credit for investment, and poultry and livestock to encourage animal husbandry.

Our Global Reach



A farmer in China's Fujian province tends to rice paddy against an urban backdrop.



China

In China, urbanization is transforming the landscape of rural villages and propelling many to move to cities, and strong legal protections for rural land rights are critical to sustainably manage such shifts. In the past year, Landesa land tenure experts provided recommendations to the Chinese central government for draft legislation that would strengthen the land tenure rights of China's rural farmers.

Our Global Reach



In Ta Myar village, nearly all families were landless laborers. These 140 new smallholders are holding up cards indicating which 1-acre plot belongs to them.



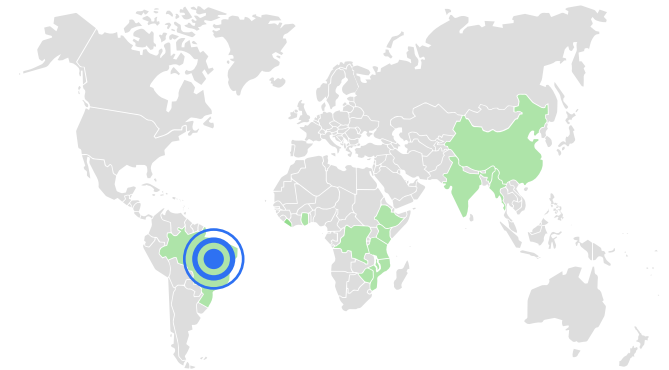
Myanmar

Myanmar's civilian government, with guidance from Landesa, is distributing land to rural families. Many have never before had land of their own. Since the government program began, approximately 22,000 families have received secure land rights through allocations supported by Landesa.

Our Global Reach



DoCarmo, Elvira and Talyta are surveyors from local social movements conducting interviews for Espaço Feminista's quantitative survey. Photo courtesy of Espaço Feminista.



Brazil

In Brazil, Landesa's Research, Evaluation and Learning team reviewed a grassroots effort to strengthen women's land rights within the UN Sustainable Development Goals framework. Created by Espaço Feminista, the innovative model engages communities, local government, and civil society to identify and address gender-based inequalities experienced by women living in northeastern Brazil. Our findings suggest the model is an effective tool for organizations working to empower women and influence sustainable public policy, with potential to be replicated around the world.

Focus on Gender

Through our decades of work in more than 50 countries, Landesa has learned that men and women often use land differently, and experience different barriers and benefits when it comes to secure land rights. Research shows that strengthening women's rights to land and productive assets has powerful continued ripple effects, including:



**Better nutrition
and food security
for families**



**Educational
gains for
children**



**Improved access
to markets and
public spaces**



**Improved
family health**



**Stronger voice and
decision-making
opportunities within
households**



The **Audacity** of Opportunity



Watch the video online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=udILpLgvmIM>

By the **Numbers**

67,477 women
and men

received documented land rights through
government programs supported by Landesa
in the past year



When women and men have documented land rights, they feel more secure and have the confidence to make investments that boost productivity and improve their lives.

By the Numbers

In the past year, Landesa contributed to land-related training and legal literacy programs that reached

489,900 women



Around the world, rural women encounter gender-based discrimination and related barriers that undermine their rights to land. Legal literacy and agriculture training programs equip rural women with the skills, resources, and know-how to exercise their rights and maximize the benefits from their most important asset: the land beneath their feet.

By the Numbers

In the past year, Landesa contributed to policy changes in India and Myanmar that could strengthen land rights for an estimated

76,000,000 men and women



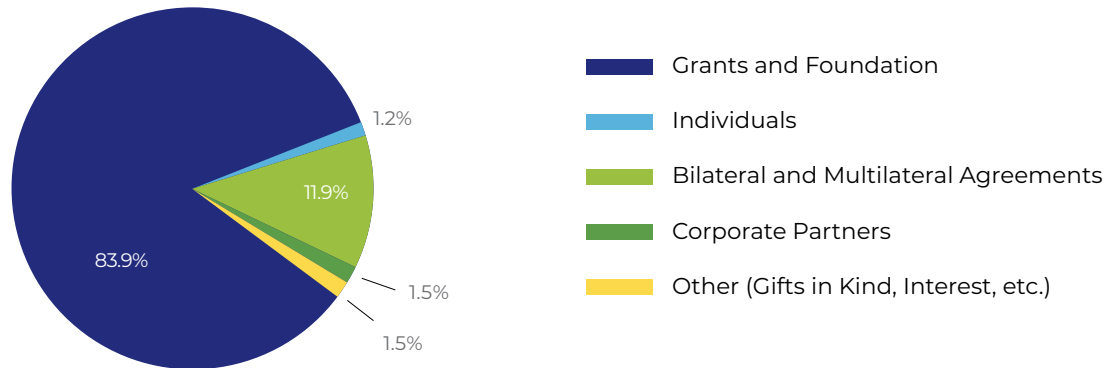
Landesa works alongside national and state governments to advocate for law and policy reforms that can benefit millions of rural women and men.

Financials

Total Revenue

\$13,202,766*

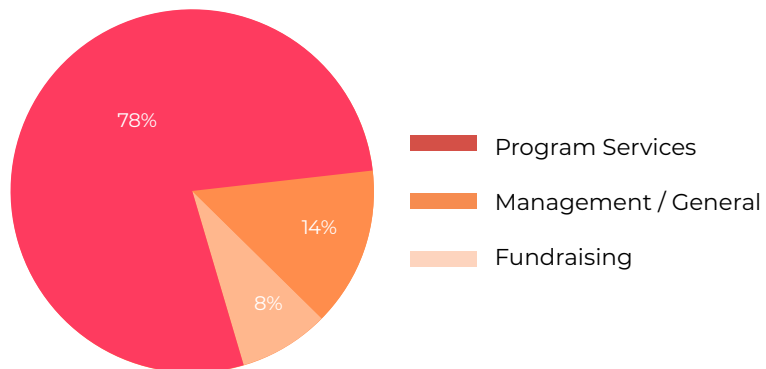
Revenue Sources (As a Percentage)



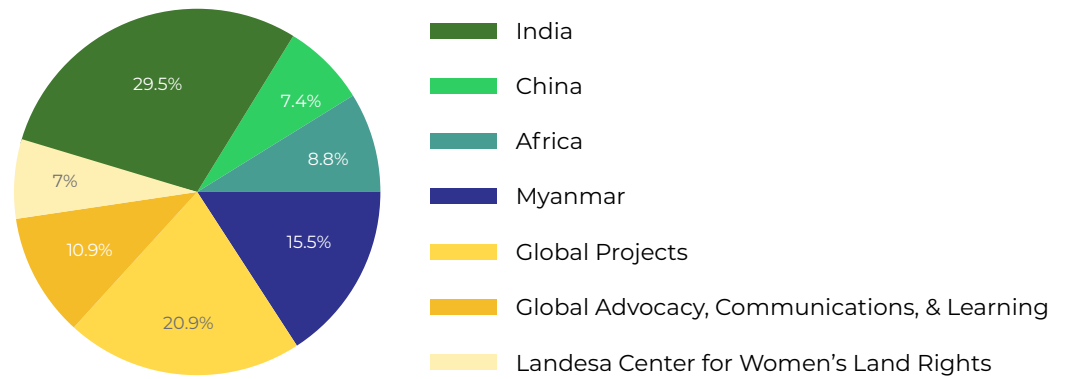
Total Expenses

\$14,130,026*

Functional Allocation of Expenses (As a Percentage)



By Program Area (As a Percentage)



*Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States require Landesa to recognize the full amount of unconditional multi-year grants in the year in which they are awarded. Expenses, however, are recorded in the year they are incurred. In FY 2018, expenses exceeded new grant awards, resulting in the deficit reported here.



“After working together for over a decade, I am more convinced of the need for an organization like Landesa. It’s rare for an organization to work at the issue of property rights from both the top down and the bottom up, and that’s exactly what Landesa does, partnering with governments, foreign aid agencies, and local legal resources to directly help marginalized populations in developing countries to help secure their property rights. The more than \$20 million USD Omidyar Network has granted to Landesa continues to be a rewarding investment in helping the world’s rural poor achieve greater security, stability, and wealth through property rights.

Peter Rabley, Landesa board member and Venture Partner at Omidyar Network

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“

It has been my privilege to work for FORTY years to help spread the democratic land tenure laws formulated by Dr. Roy Prosterman to developing countries.

From its inception as The Rural Development Institute (RDI), up to its brilliant present-day incarnation as Landesa, Roy's ideas, leadership and tireless hard work have resulted in the NGO which today is ranked ninth in the world in its effectiveness.

It is very rare to find a cause so completely worthy and exciting as Landesa has been for me and for others.

Laura Lee Grace, former board member and Landesa donor for four decades

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“ I support Landesa because they're making real sustainable change! I like to give monthly because I know that my consistency will help Landesa focus on their mission.”

Jordan Masao, Gardeners for Growth monthly donor

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