



THE SAFETY NET OF LAND

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Wherever you are in the world,
land offers stability and certainty –
a safe harbor to weather the storm.



Welcome, and thank you.

Land is the bedrock of rural economies and communities – a source of income, food security, shelter, heritage and cultural identity. Secure rights to land are essential for creating economic opportunity, promoting gender equity and social justice, and fulfilling human rights for millions of women, men, and families. The economic and social upheaval wrought by the coronavirus pandemic, virtually unprecedented in modern times, have laid these facts bare.

In urban areas around the world, the pandemic had a chilling effect on job markets – and migrant workers in emerging economies bore the brunt. What followed was one of the largest reverse migrations in human history, with millions of laid-off workers returning home to their native villages. In Myanmar, where Landesa has been working since 2015, workers left jobs in the commercial capital of Yangon and neighboring Thailand to return to the countryside. Because of government land reforms, supported by Landesa, many workers have land to fall back on.

Note: While Landesa is proud of the incredible progress made in Myanmar in 2020, we are very concerned with the displacement of the previous government in January, and what this means for the people of Myanmar. The safety of our team in Myanmar is our top priority and we are monitoring the situation carefully. We are hopeful we can continue to serve the people of Myanmar in an environment in which peace, stability and rule of law are maintained.

After losing her job in Thailand, Daw Than Than Aye lived hand-to-mouth in Yangon, Myanmar's largest city, sometimes earning \$1.50 a day at a restaurant. But her fortunes changed when her family in Ayeyarwady Region received its 5 acres of paddy land back from a confiscation 30 years earlier. While waiting for paddy planting season, she will start with high value crops: watermelon, peas, and beans.



Daw Than Than Aye



Daw San Kyi

Daw San Kyi, whose husband is disabled, is caring for five children and two grandchildren. With her land allocation this year, she is finally able to earn a living from working the land. Her daughter, displaced from her job in Thailand, has returned home to her family's plot, where she can help her mother clear their land to make a productive farm, for subsistence and to earn a living.



U Pho Toke

U Pho Toke and his 14-year-old son lost their jobs in Thailand and returned to their mangrove village in Tanintharyi. The area is now certified as a 150-acre Community Forest. With their new certification, they receive free mangrove saplings from the Forest Department for replanting, helping to restore a vital ecosystem. With their sense of security, U Pho Toke and others in his community have the confidence to invest in their land, and will continue to use the mangrove forest as a coastal fishery and food source.

Each of these stories of hope and resilience are rooted in land rights. We saw similar scenarios play out in India and China, in Liberia and Tanzania. Wherever you are in the world, land offers stability and certainty – a safe harbor to weather the storm. The age of COVID-19 has found so many of us doing just that, as we shelter at home and practice social distancing. Dining tables have become home offices and business is being conducted virtually. In rural places around the world, land has always joined the home with a place of work. A plot of land offers a place to farm and earn a livelihood, and a place to construct a sturdy dwelling. But such opportunities depend on whether the rights to that land are secure.

The past year has been a shock to the system for all of us. In rural areas, those with land rights have been better positioned to withstand that shock. It's a principle on which Landesa's work is founded: Land rights help build the confidence and the incentive to make investments that boost productivity and improve lives and livelihoods. By the sweat of their labor and with the support of Landesa, millions of smallholder farmers in more than 50 countries around the world have put themselves on a pathway out of poverty. Thanks to your support, such transformations will continue, now and long after the coronavirus pandemic.



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large loop followed by a horizontal stroke.

Chris Jochnick,
President & CEO





Youth Land Rights

Foundation for Economic Opportunity

Tamuka, a 35-year-old farmer in Zimbabwe, overlooks a plot of land that he's preparing for planting. In sub-Saharan Africa, youth (defined as ages 15-35) frequently lack access to land, which limits their opportunities for on-farm employment and hampers agricultural development on the continent. **Landesa is partnering with government and civil society to advocate for greater access and rights to land for young women and men** – a critical resource for growing opportunity and resilience for youth.

PROGRAM SUCCESS: INDIA



PepsiCo and Potatoes

Members of a women's Self Help Group (SHG) in West Bengal, India, stand among potato plants that they're growing for PepsiCo's potato supply chain. In an effort **to improve women's participation in its potato supply chain, Landesa partnered with PepsiCo and USAID to provide resources and agricultural training for two SHGs** whose members were interested in leasing land to grow PepsiCo potatoes. Both groups produced potato yields that met or exceeded those of other PepsiCo farmers, and made a profit on their crops. Based on the success of the pilot, Landesa and PepsiCo are expanding the project to include more women farmers.

PROGRAM SUCCESS: LIBERIA



Preserving a Vital Ecosystem

Liberia's wetlands represent both an important resource for livelihoods and a vital ecosystem. At the request of the Liberia Land Authority, Landesa conducted research on how women were using wetlands in urban and peri-urban communities. The findings revealed how women rely on wetlands for

their livelihoods, while also emphasizing the conservation importance of wetlands in Liberia. **These findings will help fill a gap in the National Land Use Policy that is under development at the Liberia Land Authority and clarify legal ownership of and access to the country's wetlands.**



Expanding Legal Services for Women



Helen, a community paralegal, holds a mobile phone displaying the Stand for Her Land segment of the Law On Your Palm App. In Tanzania, women are using the mobile application, piloted by civil society organization Sheria Kiganjani and Landesa, to access legal services to settle land disputes and strengthen their land rights. This tech innovation is even more essential in the context of COVID-19, as lockdowns restrict travel

to access in-person legal aid and the pandemic heightens existing threats to women's land rights. Said one woman, a widow from Arusha who accessed legal services through the mobile app, **"I thank God for the support I received from community paralegals. My situation was difficult, in turmoil, but I have peace of mind ensuring that now my land will be in my name."**

Change at Scale



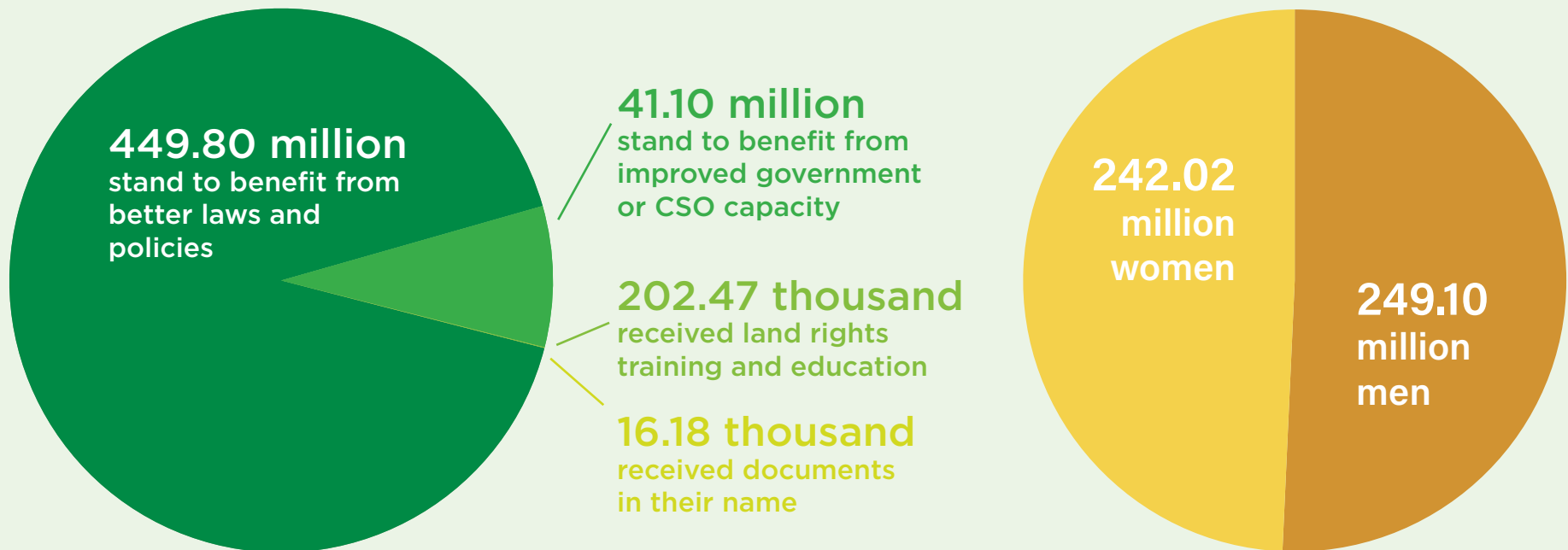
In China, where more than 550 million people reside in rural areas, a single legal change has the potential to have a resounding impact on the economic prospects of millions of people. When China's Amended Land Management Law (LML) took effect on Jan. 1, 2020, it marked further progress toward secure land rights for those millions. **The changes contained in the LML, including legal provisions to strengthen women's land rights and improve due process in land acquisitions, were based in part on the recommendations of Landesa's legal experts.** And they come on the heels of the 2019 revisions to the Rural Land Contracting Law, which strengthened land rights for those living in rural areas. Together, these legal changes, supported by Landesa, mark two steps of progress toward secure land rights for hundreds of millions of people – transformative, systemic change on a massive scale.

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

Stronger Land Rights for **490.91 million people**

Working alongside our partners in government and civil society and within rural communities, Landesa promotes gender-equal land rights in a variety of ways.

Below, you can see number of people whose land rights have been strengthened in the last year, broken down by **type of impact** and **gender**.



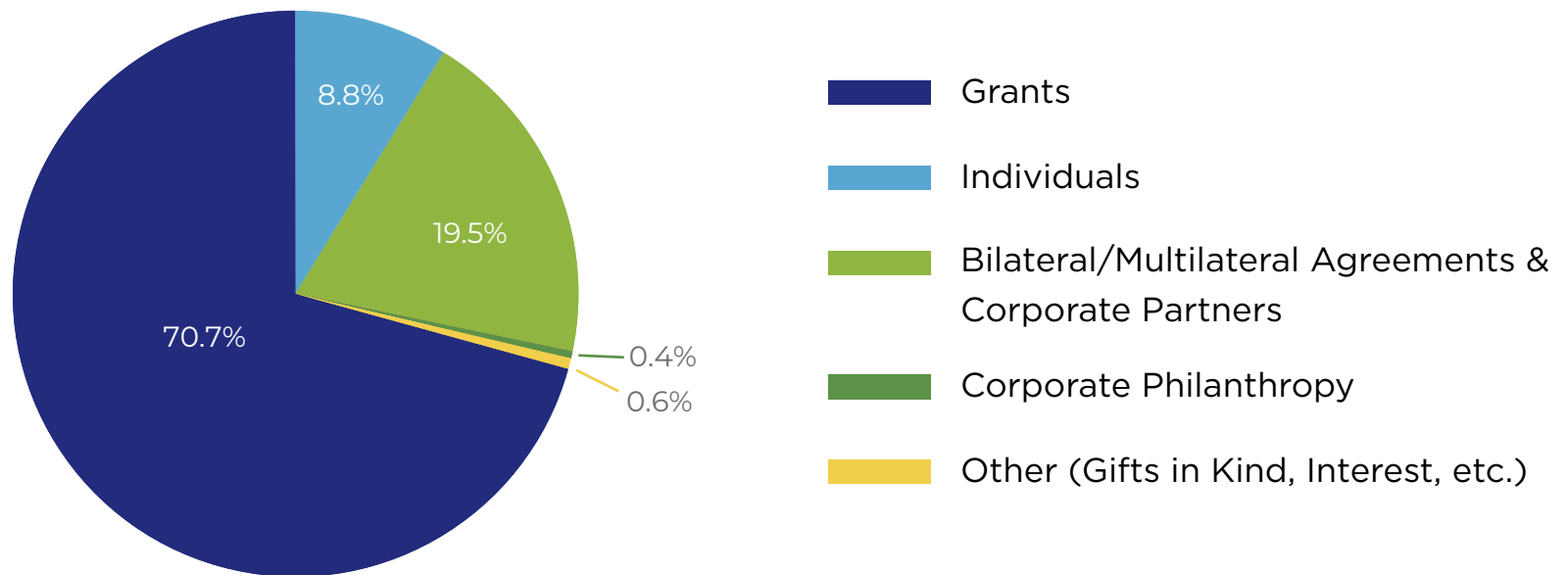
Because the same person may benefit from multiple programs, the combined total may be less than the sum of all program outcomes to avoid double-counting.

FINANCIALS: FY2020

Total Revenue

\$15,186,449

Revenue Sources
(as a percentage)



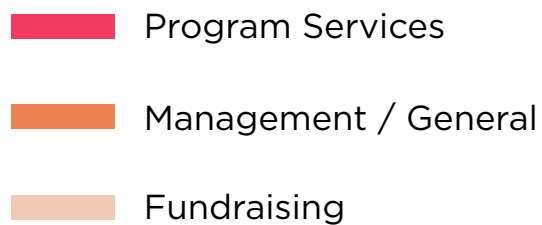
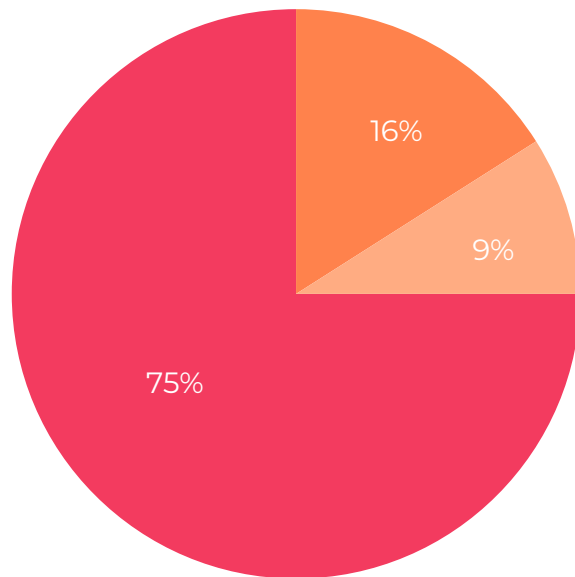
*Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States require Landesa to recognize the full amount of unconditional multi-year grants in the year in which they are awarded. Expenses, however, are recorded in the year they are incurred.

FINANCIALS: FY2020

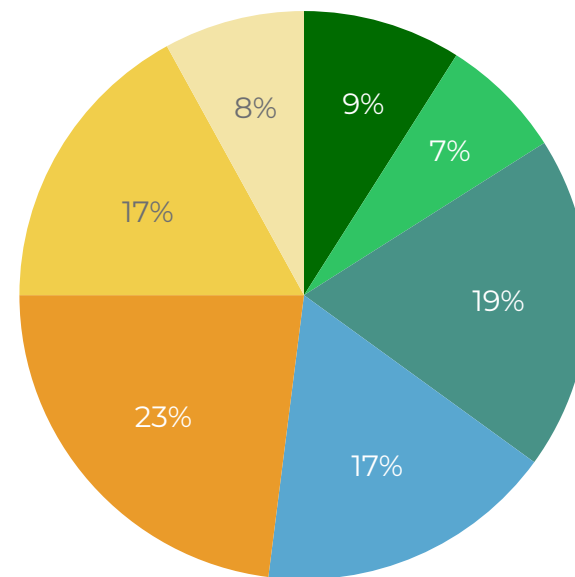
Total Expenses

\$10,727,875

Functional Allocation of Expenses
(as a percentage)



Program Services by Area
(as a percentage)



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Our work would not
be possible without
our supporters.

Thank you to all of the individual
donors, foundations, corporations,
and partners who made
contributions in Fiscal Year 2020
(July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020).

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Landesa's district lead U Myo Zaw Oo (left) works with Forest Department officials to certify a new mangrove forest in Kawthaung, Myanmar.

For years I have seen how the team at Landesa provides impact at an impressive scale. Because we have been involved for many years, we see how Landesa's teams build on decades of land rights work to help thousands, tens of thousands, even millions of people living in a country or region. We are touched by the individual stories of women and families improving their lives because they have secure land tenure, and we are inspired by the scale at which Landesa can work. That is why we continue our involvement and support of Landesa.

PATRICIA KERN-CARDILLO


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We are especially grateful for the current members of Gardeners for Growth, Landesa's monthly giving club. Their donations provide a consistent, stable foundation of support for Landesa's global mission, allowing us to respond to opportunities to strengthen land rights as they arise.

Roberta Adams and
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