



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

# Shared Prosperity, Healthy Planet



# The Landesa Way

As our world changes more rapidly than ever, from climate impacts to new technologies to narrowing civic spaces, land rights advocacy faces fresh challenges and opportunities. I am pleased to share Landesa's new [strategic plan and vision for 2025-27](#): a response to our changing world that embodies our core values—Adaptive, Bold, Collaborative—and reflects an approach that has served us for more than 40 years.

Landesa's new strategic plan will enable us to prioritize those areas of work that maximize our impact. It will devolve more authority to local leaders in our offices across Africa and Asia. And it will ensure that we do more work through partnerships and collective efforts, strengthening our collaborations with adjacent sectors like conservation, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, women's rights, and Indigenous People's rights.

Our vision has always been to change systems through legal reforms. This strategic plan compels us to be more thoughtful about how systems change happens and to consider a broader range of interventions to ensure that legal reforms lead to tangible benefits in people's lives. Again, this will require a broader range of partnerships aimed at supporting the work of local advocates and strengthening the land rights sector generally.

We are grateful for your commitment to Landesa's mission and solidarity on this journey. We invite you to explore our 2024 annual report, which describes our accomplishments from the past year. Thank you for being a part of our work in pursuit of shared prosperity and a healthy planet through secure land rights.

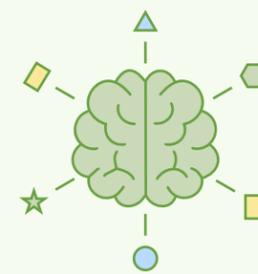
With gratitude,



Chris Jochnick  
President & CEO

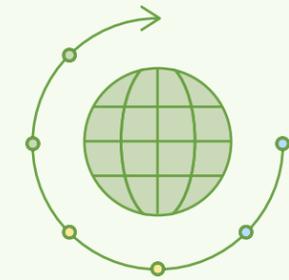
## Our Focus: Systemic Change

Landesa's new [strategic plan](#) identifies four key approaches to drive systemic change that improves people's lives, empowers women, and combats climate change.



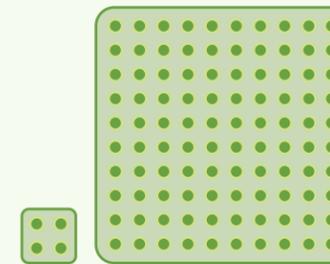
### SYSTEMS MINDSET

*Approach all our interventions with an understanding of the political and social factors and the constellation of stakeholders and interventions that will make outcome-oriented, systemic change possible.*



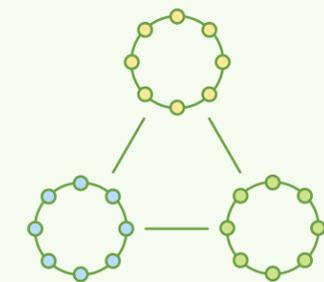
### SYSTEMS CHANGE

*Seize opportunities to affect change in laws, policies, and cultural norms covering entire systems.*



### SCALABLE INTERVENTIONS

*Help to catalyze collective efforts with public and private sector actors and civil society groups that will lead to effective implementation of positive reforms at scale.*



### BUILD THE FIELD

*Mobilize and support relevant land rights advocates at global, national, and local levels who will provide the long-term engagement around land and resource rights to ensure that changes endure.*

# Our Work

## CHAMPIONS

### Champions for Change



Progressive laws in Tanzania declare equal land rights for women and men. But in many pastoral communities, long-upheld traditions, customs, and practices supplant these laws and marginalize women in matters of land access. Community and family decision-making seldom includes women's voices.

This year, Stand for Her Land Tanzania—one of ten national Coalitions in the global campaign for women's land rights—trained community members from six pastoral and agricultural villages in gender-transformative approaches to drive change. Three hundred and twenty participants, including traditional leaders, grassroots women, young people, local government officials, and other influential figures—more than half of whom were women—learned about women's land rights as enshrined in the law, land governance and decision-making, and the importance of gender equality and justice. These new women's land rights champions developed action plans with commitment to dismantle socio-cultural barriers that restrict women's access to land in their communities and will work alongside Stand for Her Land Tanzania to advocate for women's land rights and inclusion in land governance.

“Many women in our society face discrimination in land ownership due to cultural norms. As a women's land rights champion, I am committed to educating the community to bring about positive change.”

— A participant in a women's land rights champion training led by S4HL Tanzania



Right: A community dialogue on women's land rights led by S4HL Tanzania.



OUR WORK - CHAMPIONS

## Power to Protect



*Systems Change*



*Scalable Interventions*

One of the world's largest gold mines lies in the remote Papua Region of Indonesia—home to six million Indigenous Peoples who depend on their land for food, protection, and livelihoods. Despite having stewarded their land for generations, these communities lack formal rights to their land, leaving them ill-equipped to protect it against encroachment from gold mining, copper mining, irregular logging, and more.

In February, Indonesia's Ministry of Agrarian Affairs and Spatial Planning passed a new regulation—drafted with Landesa as lead advisor—to protect the land rights of the more than 50 million Indigenous Peoples nationwide. In the remote provinces of Papua, Landesa is beginning to support the bottom-up, gender-sensitive, and inclusive customary land registration following the enactment of this new regulation to ensure affected communities understand the advantages, risks, and decision-making involved. In an unprecedented effort, this customary land registration will also protect climate-critical mangrove forests over which communities will ultimately hold formal rights and agency.

## Countries to Communities



Systems Change



Build the Field

In East Africa, land means food, dignity, and peace. Yet too many smallholder farmers and pastoralists—and particularly women in these communities—lack secure rights to their land. Landesa works in Kenya and Rwanda to transform the complex systems that result in weak land rights for millions of rural residents and grow an environment where communities can invest in their future.

Landesa's holistic approach addresses land reform at a variety of levels to create lasting change. In Kenya, Landesa works with the Ministry of Lands to accelerate implementation of the Community Land Act and reform policies to improve smallholder farmers' access to land administration services. This year, the Multi-Stakeholder Platform, a regular convening of 30 government representatives, grassroots women, youth, smallholder farmers, and civil society organizations launched by Landesa and Kenya Land Alliance, contributed to the review of Kenya's draft National Land Policy and implementation of the women's land rights agenda. At the community level, in an effort scalable nationwide, Landesa trained 260 paralegals in three counties on land succession. More than half of these newly minted paralegals are women.

In Rwanda, Landesa provided technical and financial support to the Ministry of Environment to develop a Prime Minister's Order relating to protection, conservation, and efficient use of land. Landesa collaborated with the National Land Authority to sensitize 2,115 land administration duty bearers—42% of whom were women—on land law and land-related disputes. Landesa also worked with the Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board to incorporate inclusive and secure land rights for smallholder farmers in agricultural productivity initiatives.



**KAKAMEGA, KENYA.** Dimitila Azangala (right) stands with Aggrey Majimbo, the paralegal who helped her protect her land rights against an unlawful attempt to take control of her land. Dimitila nearly lost her land when a local chief began asserting control over her property after Dimitila was unable to pay back a loan. Soon, it became clear that the chief was no longer interested in the money and planned to take her land.

Determined to protect her rights, Dimitila sought support from Aggrey, a paralegal at the local community center. When the chief realized Dimitila was working with a paralegal, he dropped his demands and accepted payment for the loan. Today, Dimitila has the security of knowing her land belongs to her and the legal resources she needs to protect her rights.



OUR WORK - SYSTEMS

## Grassroots and Global



2024 saw devastating droughts in sub-Saharan Africa, deadly cyclones in Southeast Asia, and the hottest year ever recorded. It also came with meaningful opportunities for action against climate change as all three Rio Conventions—the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)—each held their Conference of Parties (COP) in the final quarter of the calendar year.

Landesa and Stand for Her Land advocated on the global stage of all three conferences for women’s land rights as a path to climate action, as research shows efforts to protect biodiversity, restore land, and address climate change are more successful when women have strong land rights. Landesa and Stand for Her Land offered technical support for inclusion of gender and land rights in updated Nationally Determined Contributions (commitments made by each country to reduce greenhouse gas emissions) and the Global Biodiversity Framework, promoted ongoing and stronger integration of gender and land rights into global frameworks on land restoration and gender equality, and elevated grassroots women’s voices for land rights as a vital foundation for effective action across the Rio Conventions.



*Left: Ngone Ngom (CICODEV / S4HL Senegal) speaks at UNCCD COP16.*

*Center: The S4HL delegation at COP16. Advocates from 10 countries are pictured.*

*Right: Landesa hosted the event "Land Rights for Climate Justice" at UNFCCC COP29 in Baku.*

## Forests for the Future



Scalable Interventions

### “We want to claim our land for the future for our children.”

Dekontee Matt, an assistant town chief and fishmonger in Rivercess County, Liberia, radiates hope and pride as she describes the rich value of her community’s land. Their tropical rainforest hugs the sea, its mangroves a nursery for numerous species of fish, which develop and return to the ocean larger and more viable. Community members plant coconut trees and catch fish to generate income. Dekontee, who also grows crops to sell at the market, has sent all seven of her children to school. She explains that because her community’s land is rich in beauty and resources, it lies under heavy external pressure, and there is no formal land title to protect it.

Landesa works with local organization Development Education Network Liberia to guide communities through the multi-step process required to obtain an official deed for customary land in Liberia. This year, Dekontee’s community, along with four others across two counties, received their formal land title. In total, 45,000 people like Dekontee now have stronger land rights to protect their 51,229 hectares of land and invest in their futures.



Above: Dekontee Matt, Assistant Town Chief and fishmonger.  
Right: Teresa and Esther, Panta Clan.





OUR WORK - PEOPLE & PLANET

# Stewards of Sustainability



Scalable Interventions



Build the Field

The forests of northeast Cambodia are rich in biodiversity, offering critical habitat to threatened animals like the Asian elephant, Indochinese tiger, and giant ibis, as well as countless tree species. Hundreds of thousands of Indigenous Peoples have stewarded these forests for generations while collecting food, medicine, and other products to sustain their livelihoods.

Commercial logging, mining, and clearcutting for agriculture increasingly threaten these forests and the habitats, livelihoods, and cultural significance they provide. With secure rights to these forests, Indigenous Peoples could better protect both this lush ecosystem and their own unique way of life. Landesa works with Cambodian civil society organizations to support 68 Indigenous communities in northeast Cambodia to establish formal ownership of more than 100,000 acres of traditional forestland. This year, six new communities in three northeast provinces began the arduous process of applying for a title, developing internal by-laws, and mapping 10,485 acres of ancestral land with the goal of obtaining Indigenous Communal Land Titles.

*Top: Members of the Phi Indigenous Community in Ratanakiri meet with Ministry representatives to get documentation needed to communally register their land.*

*Bottom right: Rolling hills in Mondulakiri. Adam Roberts Photography.*

*Bottom left: The Kroeng Indigenous Community in Ratanakiri celebrates receiving official recognition of self-identification, an important step in their legal protection.*



# Media Highlights

Check out some of Landesa's top news mentions from 2024:



## Character Development: Helping Women Transform Their Destinies

November 20, 2024

Julia Quinn, international best-selling author of the Bridgerton series and a longtime Landesa supporter, joins our Senior Ambassador Chitra Hanstad for a compelling conversation about Landesa's mission to strengthen land rights worldwide.

[Watch the video ->](#)



## Ground Realities: Making land work for renewable energy

June 26, 2024 | India Development Review (IDR)

Senior Land Tenure Advisor Pinaki Halder explores the challenges and strategies for responsibly acquiring and using land in India to meet the country's renewable energy goals, while addressing the social and environmental impacts.

[Read the article ->](#)



## The rise of movements championing women's land rights

August 6, 2024 | The Nation

Kenya Land Alliance and Landesa launched Ardhi Caucus to strengthen coordination between government and non-government actors and improve land rights outcomes, especially for women and marginalized groups. Members include public and private sector, as well as academia and research institutions.

[Read the article ->](#)



## In Mufindi, where widows struggle to get land rights

June 25, 2024 | The Guardian Tanzania

Landesa Outreach Director-Africa Dr. Monica Magoke-Mhoja explains that widows in Tanzania often encounter severe inequality when it comes to land ownership, which has profoundly far-reaching effects on various aspects of their lives.

[Read the article ->](#)



## Landesa: Breaking the poverty cycle through land rights

April 8, 2024 | The Borgen Project

The Borgen Project profiled Landesa's work to tackle poverty through the power of land rights, with a special focus on projects in Liberia and Southeast Asia.

[Read the article ->](#)



## To Invest in Women's Economic Empowerment, Finance Solutions From the Ground Up

March 11, 2024 | Global WA

Landesa's Ayman Soliman explains that in order to close the gap on women's land rights, we must challenge discriminatory social norms, empower grassroots women to lead, and finance solutions from the ground up.

[Read the article ->](#)



# Our Impact

FY2024 programmatic impact

**432,900,000 women**

stand to benefit from stronger land rights thanks to our work.

**455,676 people**

received land literacy trainings and educational services from Landesa, empowering them to better protect and enjoy their rights to land.

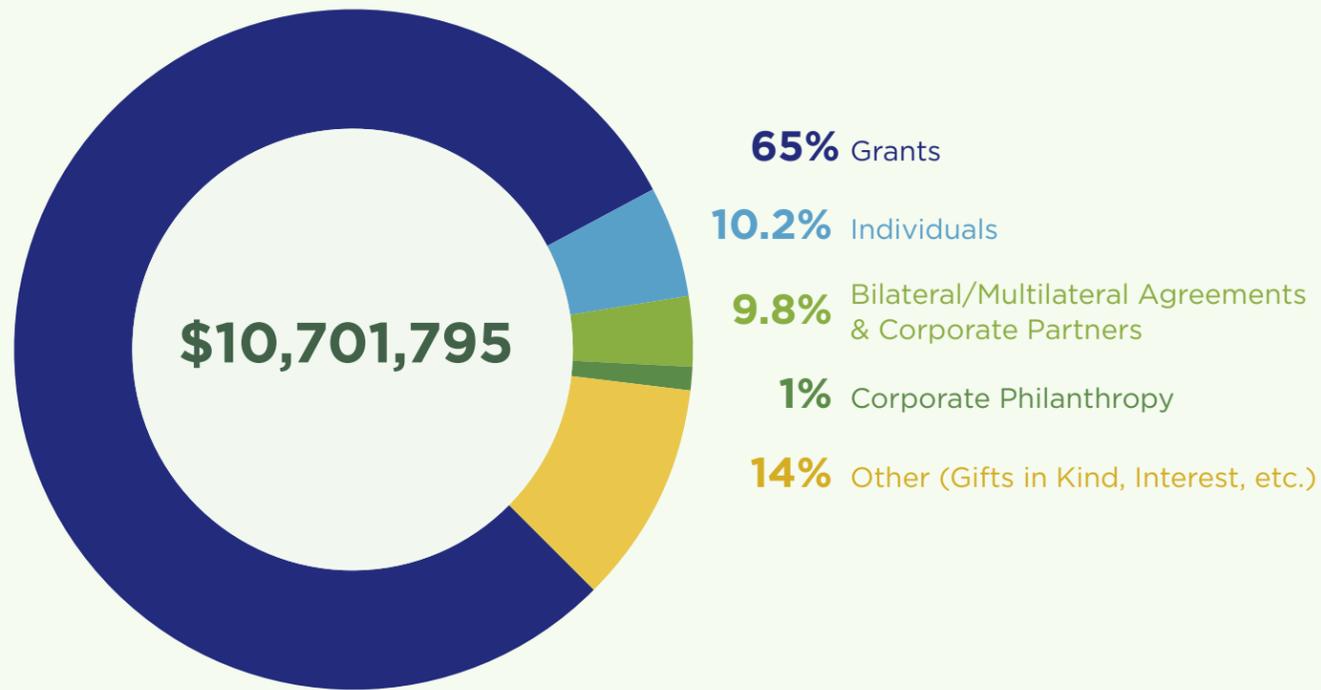
**2,793**

government officials, service providers, practitioners, and other key influencers received training and resources through Landesa to strengthen and protect land rights.

# Financials

FY2024 | July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

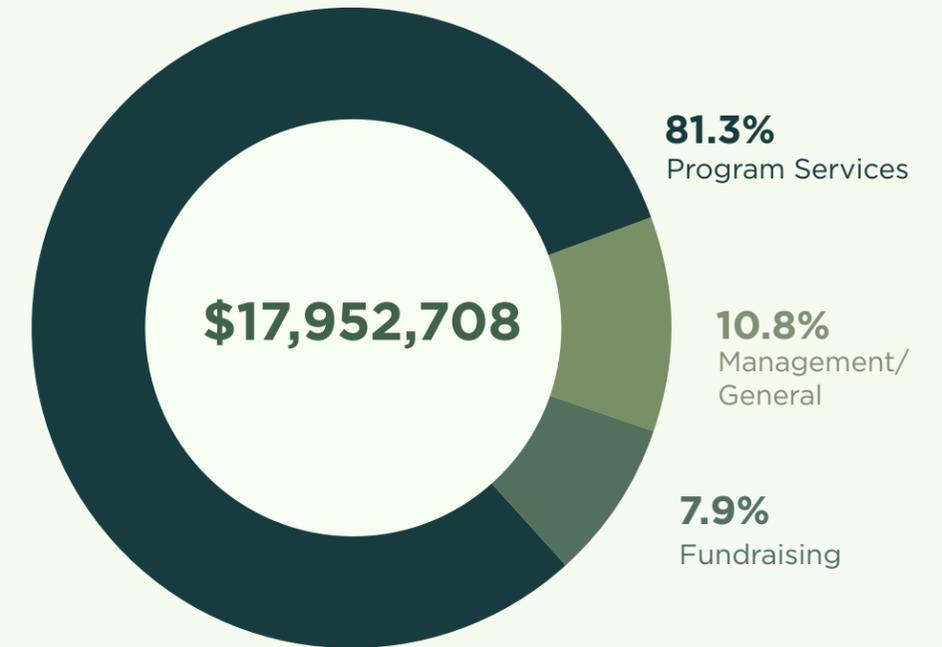
## REVENUE BREAKDOWN



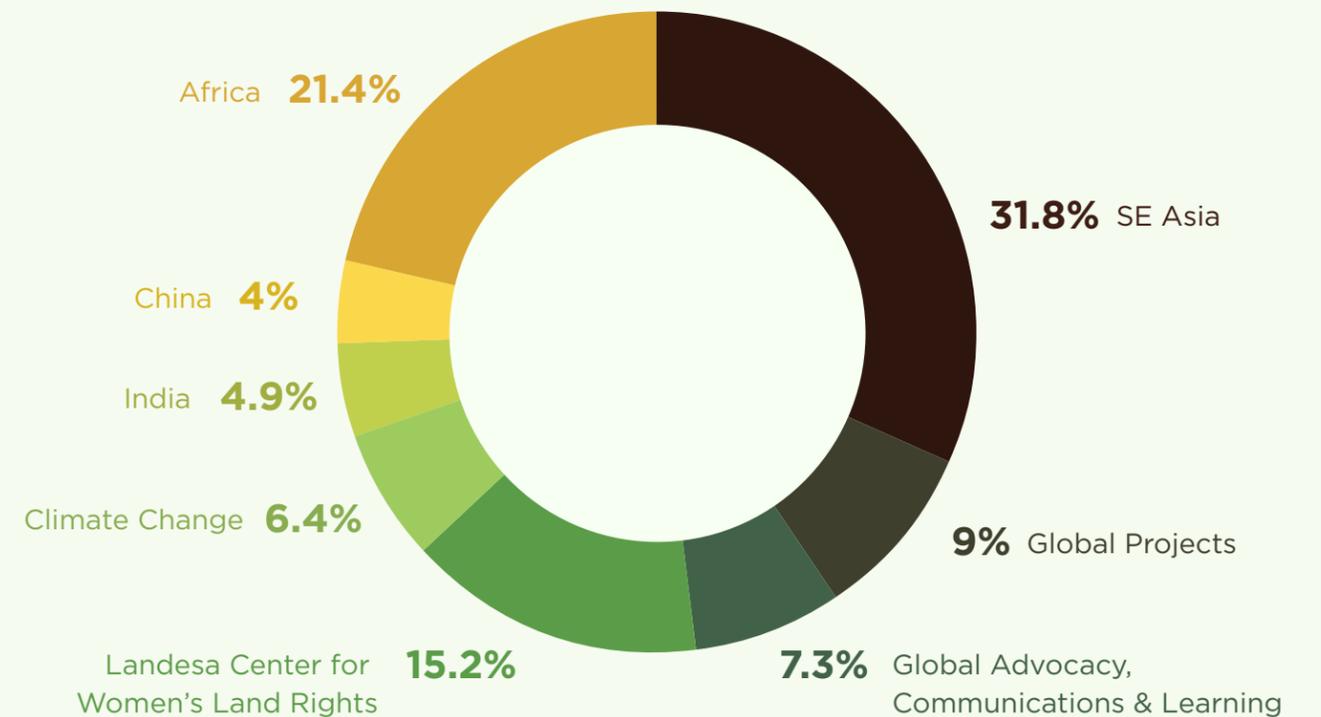
Note: Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States require Landesa to recognize the full amount of unconditional multi-year grants in the year in which they are awarded. Expenses, however, are recorded in the year they are incurred.

## EXPENSES BREAKDOWN

### Functional Allocation of Expenses



### Program Services by Area



# Our Supporters

FY2024 | July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

The stories of change in this report are possible thanks to the people, foundations, corporations, and governments that support Landesa and our work. We express our deepest gratitude to this growing community of supporters.

*Right: S4HL Tanzania and partners hosted a Rural Women Forum in celebration of International Rural Women's Day 2024.*



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Vera Horiuchi

*Paralegal training in Kisumu County, Kenya.*



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## Pollinators Monthly Donors

*We are especially grateful for the current members of Pollinators, 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.*

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*Special thanks to these individuals who served on Landesa's Board in 2024.*

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**Thank you for  
supporting Landesa.**

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