



SUMMER 2022

IMPACT REPORT



Dear Friends,

I am glad to write from a place of optimism this year—in the early months of 2022, we at Landesa are encountering great opportunities to strengthen land rights. Our novel partnerships to promote women’s empowerment, small farmer productivity, positive industry reforms, community resilience to climate change, and more have attracted generous support to strengthen land rights at scale.

This support comes at a critical juncture for our planet. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released its Sixth Assessment Report over the past year, warning us we are on a fast track to an uninhabitable earth. The need for audacious action against climate change is no longer in question. As we see declining agricultural productivity, waves of climate refugees, increasing forest destruction, and mounting resource conflicts, land remains paramount to both mitigating and adapting to climate change. Landesa has recently embarked upon a six-country effort to strengthen stewardship of forests and mangroves from India to Indonesia by securing community land rights.

Landesa is also beginning work to transform subsistence farming into a productive source of employment for millions in Rwanda, Kenya, and Ethiopia in partnership with One Acre Fund and Co-Impact’s Agricultural Systems Change Initiative. Stand for Her Land, the global

campaign to strengthen women’s land rights for which Landesa serves as Secretariat, has brought on board new donors and new networks of local NGOs in half a dozen countries. We are also leading a consortium of organizations working to strengthen and scale inclusive and effective natural resource governance by improving consultation and consent practices through the BHP Foundation’s Natural Resource Governance Global Program.

These partnerships are vital as we seek to reach another billion people still living off land without secure ownership. We were humbled earlier this year to receive a transformative gift from author and philanthropist MacKenzie Scott. The gift could not have come at a better time as we open work in new geographies and accelerate efforts around gender equality and climate action.

So much remains to be done, but the generous investments in land rights from donors old and new gives me much reason for optimism. I hope you enjoy reading about the impact of strengthened land rights made possible by supporters and allies like you. Thank you for being part of our community and helping us to empower millions to build better lives and futures.

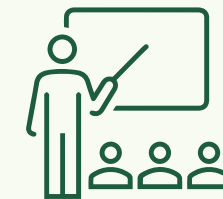
Sincerely,

Chris Jochnick, President & CEO



LANDESA’S GLOBAL IMPACT

Our global impact in the first quarter of 2022:



450,874 people
received land rights
training and education



509,500 people
stand to benefit from improved
government or CSO capacity

To see more years of our impact, visit landesa.org/global-impact/

Our Mangrove Forests, Climate Change, and Livelihoods Program seeks to:



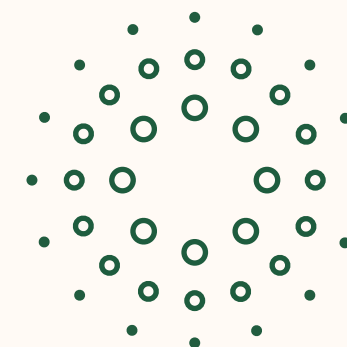
Strengthen the coastal
tenure rights of up to
73 million people



Mitigate up to
**943 million metric
tons of carbon**



Protect up to
**4.6 million hectares
of mangrove forests**



Nearly **100 groups are mobilizing to Stand for Her Land** in Bangladesh, Colombia, Senegal, Tanzania, and Uganda.



Photo by Zahara Abdul

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

MOMENTUM SURGES FOR WOMEN’S RIGHTS TO LAND

Landesa accelerates women’s land rights at global levels through a grassroots global campaign and engagements with the United Nations

Women’s land rights are a foundational element of gender equality, economic empowerment, and climate justice. And yet, only 23 percent of countries have laws granting women and men equal rights to land—and even within that group, discriminatory social norms and implementation struggles mean a gap between policy and practice.

This status quo is a significant obstacle to achieving the transformative change women’s land rights engenders for every person on our planet. Secure rights to

land translate to secure decision-making power for women at home and in their communities. Women’s control over land could increase yields on women-owned farms by 20 to 30 percent, a gamechanger for global food security and poverty reduction. With strong land rights, women can act as natural resource managers and build resilience to the climate crisis—fundamental to protecting our one shared planet.

Landesa saw new momentum this year with its core work strengthening gender-equal land rights as the Stand for Her Land

(S4HL) campaign launched in four new countries. As Secretariat of this global campaign, Landesa leads efforts to strengthen women’s land rights through global and regional level advocacy, while championing and supporting the work of local actors who are driving lasting change at the grassroots level.

“Stand For Her Land is committed to empowering grassroots women and land actors to effectively and with urgency bring the attention on the fundamental role secure women’s land rights plays in advancing gender equality, ending poverty, and addressing the challenges of climate change,” says Esther Mwaura-Muiru, global advocacy director for the campaign. “This critical work is grounded in the communities that are most impacted by the gap in women’s land rights and driven by grassroots and women-led organizations attuned to local realities. It is a campaign that belongs to the women with the most at stake.”

On International Women’s Day in Nairobi, Kenya, S4HL formally launched in Senegal and Uganda, bringing together grassroots organizations, national actors, and international champions to call for women’s land rights progress on the ground. A campaign tour through Senegal and Uganda preceded the Africa Regional Launch, during which campaign partners visited communities, held dialogues with key stakeholders, and engaged in strategy workshops to share in the vision for women’s rights to land.

S4HL is also building up member coalitions in Bangladesh, where fewer than 13 percent of women in rural landowning households have documented rights to land, and Colombia, where it is extraordinarily rare for a woman to individually hold a registered land title.

Landesa’s work advocating for women’s land rights saw a variety of achievements

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beyond S4HL. We built on partnerships within the Women’s Caucus at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties to engage in joint advocacy for women’s land rights and climate action. Through Landesa’s work as a co-leader of the Land and SDG Momentum Group, a highly visible coalition of non-governmental organizations, we continue to drive action toward land-related commitments under the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), increasing the visibility of the SDGs at the local level and supporting grassroots organizations to call for progress. Beth Roberts, Landesa’s Center for Women’s Land Rights director, published a chapter on applying a land and gender lens to SDG implementation in a recent Thomson Reuters book publication, *Gender and Land Rights in Changing Global Contexts*.

Women and girls experience the harsh effects of poverty and climate change disproportionately. Landesa’s recent global advocacy gains are building the movement for gender-equal land rights and supporting women and girls as key change agents in addressing the inequalities of poverty and climate change. Landesa is proud to accelerate momentum for and generate global impact from women’s land rights—an essential ingredient in a better future for all. 



Knowledge Is Power

Ndombalo village sits in the fertile coastal region between Dakar and Saint Louis that provides nearly 80% of Senegal’s production of fresh vegetables. In this area, women have access to land, but discriminatory customs limit their control of resources, access to markets, and sourcing of inputs like seeds and water.

“Women and men might have equal rights on paper, but we still need trainings and capacity building to ensure women take advantage of those rights,” said Margaret (pictured speaking above), a women’s land rights expert. The S4HL Senegal coalition is bringing their commitment and expertise to support and empower grassroots women through collective organizing and action.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

ADVANCING LAND-BASED SOLUTIONS TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS



Landesa deepens its climate work, embarking on a new regional mangrove forest and livelihoods protection program and partnering on global land management strategy

Worldwide, 2.5 billion people rely on land for their livelihoods—land that is under threat from the harsh impacts of climate change like flooding, drought, and soil degradation. People living in poverty shoulder the brunt of these impacts and are also more susceptible to climate-induced displacement and conflict.

Land rights offer an opportunity to flip this script toward resilient environments and communities. Land tenure security allows



Recognizing the inextricable nexus between climate change and poverty, Landesa continues to deepen its commitment to advancing land-based solutions to the climate crisis.

families to have a long-term mindset and invest in climate mitigation and adaptation measures like reforestation, soil restoration, and water conservation. Recognizing the inextricable nexus between climate change and poverty, Landesa continues to deepen its commitment to advancing land-based solutions to the climate crisis.

In 2022, Landesa launched an ambitious law and policy initiative in the Bay of Bengal and Southeast Asia to strengthen the coastal tenure rights of communities living among mangrove forests. Both a critical source of livelihoods for the region's forest dwellers and a vital force in mitigating climate change, these mangrove forests lie threatened by large enterprise expansion and insecure land tenure.

Landesa is working with national governments and local partners in Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, and Thailand as well as with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the regional governing body, to shape law and policy to protect both the mangrove forests and the communities who depend on them. With support from King Philanthropies and other generous donors, and in collaboration with local partners, this new initiative seeks to strengthen the

coastal tenure rights of up to 73 million people, mitigate up to 943 million metric tons of carbon, and protect up to 4.6 million hectares of mangrove forests.

At the global level, Landesa partnered with the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) to raise awareness on how land rights are foundational to climate mitigation and adaptation. Secure land rights help achieve land degradation neutrality, the state of no net loss of productive land, balancing degradation with land restoration and sustainable land management that is crucial for carbon storage and climate resilience.

With tenure security, land users are better able to invest in sustainable land management practices and have reduced incentive to overuse resources or migrate for economic reasons. Women especially are more likely to invest in sustainable land management given land rights, yet are more often excluded from land use-related decision making. Landesa produced an options paper at the request of the UNCCD Secretariat to support integration of gender-equal and socially inclusive land rights to achieve land degradation neutrality among its 197 signatory countries. At the UNCCD Conference of Parties in May, signatory country delegates voted to advance this exploration of land tenure implementation in pursuance of UNCCD goals.

Landesa believes climate justice starts with secure land rights. The impact is twofold: increased livelihoods and strengthened environmental and community resilience. This recent progress championing climate actors on the ground and advancing land-based solutions to the complex and urgent climate crisis will further drive Landesa's efforts toward climate justice. 🌱

Growing Resilience in the Sundarbans



Tapasi and Susanta farm rice and seasonal vegetables on a .85-acre plot of land on the bank of the Raimangal River in India's Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest delta. In 2009, Cyclone Aila rendered the farmland infertile for three years, followed by the devastation of Cyclone Amphan in 2020.

Tapasi joined her women's community Self-Help Group in cultivating mangrove seedlings in nurseries for planting along the riverbanks, part of a new government effort to increase employment opportunities and build climate resilience.

"We have been taught since childhood that mangroves help us survive by arresting the cyclone thrust and tidal surge," explains Susanta.

The couple receives supplementary food support and income through this initiative, and hopes to earn enough to finance their children's education—which according to Tapasi means more opportunities to mitigate climate change.



Main photos on page 1, 2, 7, and 9 are courtesy of District Administration, South 24 Parganas.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Check out some of Landesa's top recent news mentions:

- [Nation Leadership Forum: Women's rights are human rights](#) | *NTV Uganda*
Stand for Her Land steering committee members partnered with UCOBAC and Nation Media Group to host the Nation Leadership Forum in Kampala, Uganda. The event brought together representatives from government, civil society, and grassroots women to discuss issues of land governance, gender equality, and how women are organizing to break down barriers to land rights in Uganda and across Africa.
- [Watch: Landesa's Chris Jochnick and Shipra Deo on Building Resilience](#) | *Devex*
In a short video, Chris Jochnick and Shipra Deo discuss how humanitarian organizations can build resilience to address future crises.
- [From Being Property to Owning One: A Maasai Woman's Struggle for Land](#) | *Al Jazeera*
Al Jazeera interviewed Landesa Africa Region Director Margaret Rugadya for context on women's land rights in their story about a 57-year-old Maasai woman's tortuous path to owning land.
- [Give Land Rights to Youth to Boost Rural Economies](#) | *Thomson Reuters Foundation*
For Thomson Reuters Foundation, Landesa Sr. Youth and Land Tenure Specialist Tizai Mauto explains why youth land rights are key to revitalizing rural economies and creating job opportunities for millions of young people worldwide.
- [How Climate Change Can Be Fought with Secure Property Rights](#) | *The Quint*
Rachel McMonagle, Landesa's climate change & land tenure specialist, discusses using land rights to adapt to climate change on Property Rights Research Consortium's Land of a Billion podcast.
- [We Cannot Be Equal Until We Are People](#) | *AVPN*
Landesa's Director of Women's Land Rights Beth Roberts and University of East Anglia's Nitya Rao argue the importance of women's land rights for the realization of their full personhood, citizenship, and identity.



ENGAGE IN GREATER IMPACT

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