Mixed methods study in Bangladesh for the "Equal Stake in the Soil" Project of the Stand for Her Land (S4HL) Campaign

Request for Proposals (RFP) November 8, 2022

Landesa is a research and advocacy organization that partners with progressive governments and civil society to develop pro-poor and gender-sensitive laws, policies, and programs that strengthen land rights for the poorest people. Landesa is currently seeking proposals from qualified organizations to conduct structured surveys. This study is part of the four-year, US Department of State-funded "Equal Stake in the Soil" project, which is taking place in Bangladesh and Colombia. Globally, it is headed by Landesa with the support and cooperation of the International Land Coalition (ILC). In Bangladesh, the work is headed by the Association for Land and Rural Development (ALRD).

The overall goal of the project is to strengthen and sustain the capacity of networked, women-driven NGOs and CSOs in Bangladesh and Colombia (the "Country Coalitions") to create the enabling environment needed to recognize and promote women's land rights (WLR) for women's economic empowerment. The three primary objectives of the project are to (1) generate demand and build political will for stronger WLR; (2) increase social recognition by the public at large of the legitimacy and importance of WLR, measurably reducing social and cultural barriers to WLR; and (3) deepen local CSOs' experience and learning in innovative approaches to directly address social norms and legal literacy to spur local implementation of and accountability for WLR.

The goal of this mixed methods study is to evaluate social norms and behavior change (SNBC) and legal literacy pilot interventions conducted under objective (3) in three Unions in Faridpur, Patuakhali, and Dinajpur districts of Bangladesh.

SNBC and Legal Literacy Pilot Interventions

ALRD will train staff members of local CSOs, who will train community advocates. These trainings will focus on topics such as advocacy, legal literacy, and changing social norms and behaviors related to women's land rights. Local CSOs and community advocates will conduct regular meetings/activities/interventions with women who have rights to land that they can claim, their husbands, staff at agricultural and land offices, and community leaders such as Union Council members, religious leaders, teachers, and others. The aim of these meetings/activities/interventions is to enhance knowledge about women's land rights and to shift social norms to encourage (i) women to visit land offices to apply for public (khas) land or documents for private land, (ii) staff in agricultural offices and Union Council members to treat women as farmers by providing them with access to services such as trainings and agricultural inputs, and (iii) women leaders to support women in their communities in claiming their rights to land, trainings, and other services (see Table 1 for additional details). The legal literacy intervention will reach approximately 1,150 people and the SNBC intervention will reach approximately 150 individuals by 2025.

Table 1. Priority groups, behaviors of interest, and reference groups for SNBC interventions

Priority Group (who will perform the behavior)	Behavior of Interest (behavior that interventions will promote)	Reference Groups (who influences this behavior)
Women in the community who have rights to land they can claim	To claim and pursue their land rights in both public (khas) and private land by getting certification from the Union Council, going to the land office, applying for khas land, and obtaining land documents	Community chiefs/leaders, men in their families and communities, vested interest group, land officials
Staff in the agriculture office and Union Council chairman and members	To include women in training and distribution of equipment and access to services of the Union Council	 For agricultural/land staff: community men For Union Council: Community members who have been elected to the union council, religious leaders, political supporters
Women leaders in the community (teachers, maternal figures, elected women)	To support local women to go to land offices and trainings	Community chiefs/leaders, religious leaders, land officials

Research Objectives

The objective of this research is twofold. The first objective is to provide descriptive baseline information on levels of legal literacy, the determinants of behavior change, including attitudes, knowledge, skills, descriptive and injunctive norms, agency, social sanctions and rewards, and intentions to perform the behaviors, as well as the prevalence of the behaviors described in Table 1. This information will help us identify current barriers to women's land rights and improve the design of the interventions.

The second objective is to evaluate the effect of these pilot interventions. By comparing baseline and endline data, we will assess whether the pilot interventions enhance legal literacy, alter any of the determinants of behavior change, or change behaviors related to women's land rights. If so, how? If not, why not?

We plan to conduct a panel survey in villages that receive the interventions before and after the interventions are implemented. Despite the wide array of mixed methods studies assessing the effect of SNBC interventions on gender equality, there is a lack of research on whether such interventions can strengthen women's land rights. This analysis will provide valuable insights on this topic. If the pilot interventions successfully change behaviors, understanding why and in what ways will help with scale up. If the pilot interventions do not change behaviors, understanding if the interventions changed any of the determinants of the behaviors and, if so, why this did not (or not yet) result in behavior change will help improve the design of future interventions.

Study Locations

The research team selected communities for inclusion in the evaluation based on the existence of suitable local partner CSOs who will help with coordination, as well as geographic and community diversity. SNBC and legal literacy interventions will be conducted in the locations listed in Table 2.

Table 2. Intervention locations

	District	Upazila	Union	Village
1	Faridpur	Faridpur Sadar	North Channel	Sultan khan Dangi
				Kaimuddin Matubbar Dangi
2	Dotuglibali	tuakhali Bauphal Nazirpur	Mazirour	Nimdi
	Patuaknali		Nazirpur	Dhundhi
3	Dinajpur	Sadar	Chealgazi	Karnai

Data Collection Activities and Suggested Sequence

In the baseline study, we plan to conduct structured surveys of agricultural office staff and Union Council members, women in each village who have rights to land that they can claim and their husbands (for those who are currently married), and women leaders such as teachers, maternal figures, and elected women.

The main themes for data collection include but are not limited to:

- Household composition and demographic information
- Access, use, control, and ownership of land
- Tenure security and land disputes
- Knowledge of women's legal rights to land
- Attitudes regarding gender equality and women's rights to land
- Skills, descriptive and injunctive norms, agency, social sanctions and rewards, intentions to perform the behaviors of interest, and behaviors of interest (see Table 1)

Landesa and ALRD will prepare the following questionnaires:

- 1. Structured survey of agricultural office staff and Union Council members (about 50)
- 2. Structured survey of women who have rights to land that they can claim (about 250-300)
- 3. Structured survey of husbands of married women who have rights to land that they can claim (less than 250-300)
- 4. Structured survey of women leaders (about 30)

The current contract will cover baseline data collection from 2022-2023. Endline quantitative and qualitative data collection will be conducted in 2025. We will reinterview the same individuals at endline using the same (or slightly modified) structured survey questionnaires. Additional qualitative research in the form of focus group discussions, key informant Interviews, and/or individual level semi-structured interviews will be carried out at endline. The methods and sample selection for endline data collection will be determined after implementing the interventions. Landesa and ALRD will prepare discussion guides, interview guides, and related materials. While we would prefer to hire the same firm for endline data collection, a contract for the endline is not guaranteed.

Landesa and ALRD will oversee and co-lead the enumerator training and join the supervision team for the data collection. Data management and property rights information is in Annex 1.

Selected Research Firm Responsibilities

The research firm will be expected to oversee all aspects of the data collection including, but not limited to,

- hiring and managing personnel for data collection and management,
- obtaining permissions for data collection,
- carrying out the logistics of data collection, including transportation and community preparation and provision of any necessary supplies, in coordination with ALRD and Landesa,
- pretesting data collection tools using cognitive interview techniques,
- collaborating with ALRD and Landesa on the sampling strategy, design of data collection instruments, and reviewing and adjusting the tools after pretesting,
- communicating regularly with ALRD and Landesa, including periodic check-in meetings (the frequency of these meetings will vary depending on the phase of the project),
- translating data collection tools, inputting the questionnaires in electronic instruments for data collection, and sending the final versions to Landesa in English,
- training data collectors,
- quality assurance in the field,
- cleaning, translating, and processing survey data, including removing personally identifiable information, and transferring de-identified data to Landesa,
- preparing written field reports.

The research firm will ensure that all activities related to data collection and management and conduct of their staff follow Landesa's Ethical Guidelines for Research (see Annex 2). The firm will not sub-contract any or all parts of the research to another firm.

Timeline

Tentatively, the project anticipates the following timeline:

- Selection and contracting: December 2022
- Finalizing design and protocols: November-December 2022
- IRB review: December 2022
- Training, pretesting, and logistical arrangements: January 2023
- Quantitative data collection: January 2023
- Clean quantitative data and field reports delivered to Landesa: February 2023
- Endline quantitative and qualitative data collection, which will not be included in this contract, will take place in 2025. The timeline for the endline will be set in 2024.

Submission guidelines

Qualified firms may submit proposals by November 29, 2022 to Michael Zaki at michaelz@landesa.org, with copy to Dr. Caitlin Kieran at caitlink@landesa.org. RFPs should provide the following information:

- 1. A statement of the firm's qualifications for the assignment, demonstrating both quantitative and qualitative research expertise (3 pages maximum)
- 2. Descriptions of past projects relevant to the assignment, including contact information of clients for at least two projects (2 pages maximum)
- 3. CVs of up to 3 personnel who would lead/coordinate activities and personnel

- 4. Staffing, including the roles and responsibilities of each team member (manager, coordinator, supervisor, etc.) named above
- Logistics, including a description of who will collect data, how data collectors will be selected, trained, and supervised, how you will acquire permissions for research, mitigate risks, and any other relevant logistical information.
- 6. Estimated budget (in USD), between \$16,000 and \$22,000, for baseline data collection. The budget should include all costs for data collection, data cleaning, translation, staffing requirements, travel costs, office expenses, etc. Please indicate how much of the budget will be transferred before data collection begins. The remaining funds will be transferred upon Landesa's approval of the deliverables, including the questionnaires, de-identified datasets, and field reports.

If you have any questions, please contact Michael Zaki at michaelz@landesa.org and Caitlin Kieran at caitlink@landesa.org by November 22, 2022.

Selection process

Landesa will evaluate the proposals in the interest of Landesa's mission, technical merit of the proposed evaluation, and on the qualifications of the proposed data collection team using the following criteria:

- Based in Bangladesh with experience on land rights
- Understanding of gender issues and how to apply gender lens in research
- Preference will be given to teams with experience collecting data on SNBC interventions
- Technical merit & qualifications of the team
- Value-for-money

During the review process, applicants may be contacted by Landesa, on behalf of the review panel, for more detailed information. Requests for more information can relate to any part of the proposal.

Annex 1: Data Management, Intellectual Property Rights and <u>Dissemination</u>

Landesa is committed to sharing data from its research to enable independent rigorous analysis of data collected and the sharing of learnings to maximize the impact of its work. The selected team will help Landesa prepare and document the data for public use. Landesa will not require the local data collection firm to participate in the strategy and timeline for dissemination of findings.

The contract with the selected firm will be governed by the Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 200 and as such, the contractor should be aware of all responsibilities and limitations listed within CFR § 200.315 regarding Intangible property (https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200/subpart-D/subject-group-ECFR8feb98c2e3e5ad2/section-200.315). Through execution of the agreement, the contractor will agree to act within the rules and regulations stipulated by Landesa and CFR 200 broadly.

Annex 2: Landesa's Ethical Guidelines for Research

Approved on 05 May 2020 -Updated in January 2022

Introduction: Our Guidelines are Grounded on Three Widely Accepted Principles of Ethical Research

Principle 1 Respect for Persons

Research subjects are autonomous agents our research should respect their opinions, choices and actions unless they are clearly detrimental to others.

Persons with diminished autonomy should be protected—our research should acknowledge their vulnerability and grant them adequate protection.

Principle 2 Beneficence

Do not harm. Our research should not harm anybody physically, mentally, or socially, regardless of the benefits that it might bring to others.

Maximize benefits to participants and reduce risk or harm. Our research should carefully weigh likely benefits and risks to all involved in deciding whether and how to proceed.

Principle 3 Justice

Participation, benefits, and risks should be fairly distributed even if some categories of participants are easier to recruit, manipulate or benefit. Assessments of interventions or settings to influence policy, laws, or programs expected to affect many types of people should include all these categories to ensure they are safe, effective, and acceptable for all.

Researchers must...

- Implement protocols based on informed consent and assent.
- Identify and employ socially and culturally appropriate ways to interact with research participants.
- Explain what you will do with the data and whether and how it will be helpful to participants.
- Respect confidentiality of responses and anonymity of participants.
- Protect the physical, mental, and social well-being of participants.
- When necessary, register research with formal authorities and/or work with partners to ensure authorities of communities where the research will take place are engaged.
- Reduce risks to minimum.
- Retain the individual and the community perspective & present the researcher's own view separately from this.
- Collect data when is necessary: when there is a gap and that knowledge will be beneficial directly or indirectly for the participants.
- Use sound methods to select participants.
- Ensure that the participants in your research are not always the same.
- When possible, report back to the participants and ensure that the research specifically produces lessons applicable for the participants and their communities/countries.

These guidelines align with international standards to protect research subjects and adhere to broader ethical standards for research. The Belmont report provides the framework for the US. The legal background includes the Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects or the "Common Rule", published in 1991, and codified in separate regulations by 15 US Federal departments and agencies. The HHS regulations, 45 CFR part 46, includes four subparts: subpart A, also known as the Federal Policy or the "Common Rule"; subpart B, additional protections for pregnant women, human fetuses, and neonates; subpart C, additional protections for prisoners; and subpart D, additional protections for children. Each agency includes in its chapter of the Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] section numbers and language that are identical to those of the HHS codification at 45 CFR part 46, subpart A. https://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/regulations-and-policy/regulations/common-rule/index.htm.

Why does Landesa require that its research adhere to ethical guidelines?

- Intrinsic power dynamics of development work may cause subjects to believe their participation in a research project or their responses are tied to their ability to benefit from goods, services, or opportunities.
- We often work with populations who may need protection or special consideration.
- We often conduct research on sensitive topics that may put research participants at risk.
- We want to ensure our work adheres to federal and international research ethics standards as well as specific policies or guidelines our funders/partners might have to protect human subjects and "do no harm".

What research should be covered by Landesa's ethical guidelines?

All research conducted by Landesa or by consultants, contractors, or collaborators on behalf of Landesa. **Research** includes:

- Systematic and generalizable qualitative or quantitative studies to describe a certain population or situation.
- Systematic qualitative assessments or quantitative evaluations to determine whether and how certain activities, pilots, projects, programs, or policies have worked.
- Systematic monitoring and tracking of progress.
- Geographic mapping that connects with personally identifiable information.

Guidelines: How does Landesa ensure its research complies with Landesa's ethical guidelines? Research Activity Leads must ensure that:

- they plan (in Smartsheets) and budget (in Adaptive) for all the steps required to comply with these ethical guidelines (see following Ethical Field-Based Research Checklist for Research Activity Leads),
- contracts related to these activities meet the guidelines provided and include this clause:
- "The Contractor shall conform to Landesa's Guidelines for Ethical Research and related foreign laws and regulations.

 This includes training individuals who will recruit, obtain informed consent or assent, or collect data on Landesa's Guidelines for Ethical Research."
- starting 2022, research activity leads will need a CITI certificate every three years. For this, they will have to register, complete the course here. Once you click on "learner" you will be in this site where you can register and create an account. Please, seek the approval of your project lead and program director before registering. Please, send your certificate to ginaa@landesa.org with CITI certificate and your name in the subject line.
- the execution of the research activity aligns with the letter and the spirit of Landesa's ethical guidelines; and,
- they keep the project lead informed of any ethical risks or challenges associated with the design or implementation of the research or with the reporting of findings.

Project Leads must ensure that:

- research activity Leads have been trained on ethical guidelines;
- budget for CITI certification for all RAL that do not have one.
- research activity Leads fulfill their responsibilities as indicated above; and
- they keep Program Directors/Managers informed of any ethical risks or challenges associated with the design or implementation of the research, or with the reporting of findings.

<u>Program Directors/Managers</u> must ensure that:

- Team members who are likely to be Project Leads, Research Activity Leads, or responsible for generating or
 communicating research findings are trained on ethical guidelines. Since January 2022 all research activity leads
 should have a CITI certificate valid for 3 years. For this, they will have to register, complete the course here. We
 advised the research activity leads to seek the approval of their project lead and program director before registering.
 Advise research activity leads to send their certificate to ginaa@landesa.org
- report to the CPO on the status of all research activities in their quarterly program reviews; and,
- ask Landesa's Red Flags Committees for guidance in situations in which any aspect of the research activity has the potential to harm respondents.

<u>Anyone generating, handling, or reporting data for research and monitoring</u> is responsible for respecting and protecting research subjects as follows:

Paper-based information: surveys, field notes and transcripts shall use identification numbers not respondents'

names. Note that attendance lists include names and other identifiable information that should not be linked to opinions or information given by meeting participants in the same file. Lists with respondents' names, addresses and IDs should be saved in a separate password protected file and kept separate from their responses.

- Upon return from the research site, all paper data must be secured in a locked filing cabinet in Landesa's or the contractor's office and destroyed once the data has been saved in an electronic database.
- All personal identifiable information should be encrypted at all points of the data flow process, from point of origin (interview) to storage on local devices or the <u>'Data Storage' Team</u>.
- At Landesa, all data collected should be stored in a secured folder accessible only by the researchers in the <u>'Data</u> Storage' Team channel created for this purpose.
- Landesa staff and contractors should ensure that respondents' information is stored in folders with restricted access. Landesa's lists containing personal identifiable information of respondents should be stored on the data storage teams folder that is only accessible to the Research Activity Lead and Landesa's IT administrators. In the case of survey data, the researcher should use software that can be encrypted and stored in a folder that is password protected. The password should protect opening or editing the files. Excel and Word allow the user to create passwords.
- When receiving or sending data, request that passwords are sent separately from the links to the encrypted databases.

 Password can be sent by email, WhatsApp, or other applications that allow the exchange of encrypted information privately.
- Landesa should never share data with personal identification unless specifically agreed upon in a contract. This obligation includes potential government requests to provide names and contact information of participants. Contact the Human Protections Administrator, currently ginaa@landesa.org, if you need support to respond a request of that type. REL can provide language to respond.
- Recordings during research should start after respondents' have shared their names and avoid any mentions of their names during the interview. Recordings should be destroyed once an electronic transcript of the conversation exists. Transcripts should not include respondents' names but should contain identifiers relevant for the research such as gender, age, district.
- During research, Landesa should not take photos in which research respondents can be recognized. If photos are needed, researchers can take photos of other people who are from the area but did not partake in the interviews, request their permission to be photographed and add their name, location, and disclosure note to each photo.

Process for Human Subjects Research

Using the Ethical Field-Based Research Checklist, Project Research Activity Leads engaging in possible Human Subjects Research (HSR) should immediately contact the Human Protections Administrator (HPA) to determine if a project is in fact HSR. Using the HSR project intake form, the HPA will determine whether the project will engage in HSR and these projects will conform to Common Rule compliance in alignment with the IRB of record.

Process and Guidelines for Storytelling and Photography

Landesa uses photographs, video, and testimonials from women, men, and communities to explain how its land rights work can improve lives and livelihoods. These images and stories are shared with Landesa's supporters, funders, prospective donors, staff, and other allies via a variety of communications channels, including online and through social media.

The process of obtaining consent to be photographed and/or interviewed for communication purposes should be separate from the research process. Even if this is right after you have consented a participant and finished the interview that this person agreed to take part of for research, you should conduct this process separately and be prepared if the participant refuses to share the story they just shared as part of research for other purposes. When photographing subjects, consent to be photographed must always be obtained. Landesa has two standards for photography consent, depending on how the resulting images and materials will be used.

<u>Verbal Consent:</u> Subjects who will not be identified by name in external materials must give verbal consent to be photographed. This will most often be the case in group photographs and in candid photographs in villages, markets, etc.

<u>Written Consent:</u> Subjects who will be identified by name in external materials must give written consent to be photographed. This will most often include subjects who are quoted and profiled in Landesa impact and "success" stories.

Members of the Research, Evaluation and Learnings (REL) team are certified as trained on basic research ethics for social science research and are available to support any research activities' compliance with these ethical guidelines. Please email the human protections administrator if you need support to ensure all aspects of your research align with these ethical guidelines.

Ethical Field-Based Research Checklist for Research Activity Leads

As you are planning the research		
Do you have a plan to ensure confidentiality and anonymity including a plan to store, keep, transfer, share and destroy data?		
Have you set aside time to visit field sites and ensure that the interviews will be conducted in locations that are safe, that these locations offer privacy and confidentiality and that alternative locations have been secured in case of disruptions?		
Do you have a plan to deal with uninvited participants who might show up while the interviews are being conducted?		
Have you set aside resources and time to train consultants and data collectors on ethical research, as needed, adjusting the suggested power point to your research activity? Training should include theory and practice with hypothetical situations.		
If the work includes contracts with data collectors, do their contracts include the clause on page 2 of these guidelines as well as the necessary provisions and resources to apply ethical considerations?		
Have you obtained permissions/ or discussed the research with from formal /informal local authorities?		
Do you have the resources and the means to visit the respondents or to mobilize respondents to study locations, as long as this is permitted by law? Prioritize getting as close to the respondents' location as feasible and appropriate, avoiding asking respondents to travel long distances.		
Do you have informed consent forms (see template below) in respondents' language adapted to the purposes of your research? $^{\rm 1}$		
[If the research will interview minors] Do you have a plan to obtain assent and consent from the adult or responsible authority such as parents, teachers or school principal?		
Do you have <i>resource cards</i> (see template below) that include local, accessible contacts that can help respondents with questions about the research or with services or support respondents may need?		
Do you have a plan for compensating respondents (e.g., money for transportation allowance)? 2		
Do you have a plan to provide refreshments, at least water and snacks, to respondents who have travelled to take part in the research activity?		
Do you have a plan to double check that data does not allow individual identification before making it public and before publishing?		
Do you have a plan and procedures to manage audio or visual recordings, including an opportunity for respondents to opt out?		
Do you have a plan and have you explained to data collectors how to deal with people who elect not to participate or opt out in the middle of the survey/interview?		

¹ The consent form should be translated to the respondent's language and should be read out loud to them. Participants should be asked for oral consent only and should receive a copy of the form for their perusal.

² Government officials are often not allowed to receive compensations or gifts. Low-income farmers can receive compensations or culturally appropriate gifts for their time and resources.

Resource Card - Template

Resource Cards must include phone numbers of contacts who speak respondents' language or have easy access to a translator and who can provide additional information on the research or can provide services or support respondents might need.



Landesa partners with governments, NGOs and private companies to strengthen the land rights of women and men who are poor or vulnerable. (add a brief comment on local work, if appropriate)

This study is conducted to ... (add a brief description of the study and its objectives).

Please contact the following numbers if you are facing land-related issues, have additional questions about this study or would like to ask for services or support on [Issue(s)].

Contact for land-related issues or questions about this study in [Location]

Name:

Organization:

Phone number:

E-mail (if appropriate):

Contacts for services or support on [Issue(s)]

Name:

Organization:

Phone number:

E-mail (if appropriate):

Name:

Organization:

Phone number:

E-mail (if appropriate):

Name:

Organization:

Phone number:

E-mail (if appropriate):

Informed Oral Consent Form for Surveys, Interviews and Focus Group Discussions - Template

[Study name]

Hello, my name is [Name of enumerator/researcher]. I am working with [Landesa or the contractor, an NGO based in [City].

We are conducting a research study to better understand [Research objectives]. This information will contribute to advise efforts to strengthen the land rights of [Groups expected to benefit from this research, e.g., the youth in this district]. We would like to invite you to participate in this study.

Participation in this study is voluntary. You will not be penalized or lose any rights, services or benefits if you choose not to participate.

If you choose to participate,

- If a survey: we will interview you [and your partner separately] and will ask you questions about [mid-level items of your survey, e.g., access to land and financial services, employment, and knowledge of land-related laws]. The survey will take approximately [amount of time] of your time.
- If a focus group discussion or interview: we plan to record the conversation to make sure we can accurately capture what is being said.

If any of our questions makes you feel uncomfortable, you will be free to skip the questions or to stop the interview at any point.

- If a survey or an interview: simply tell me that you no longer want to be part of the study and I will stop.
- If a focus group discussion: we ask that you please exit the room quietly to minimize disruptions to the other participants

Your participation in this study will be completely confidential. Your answers will be stored in a secure office at [office, city]. Nothing you say will be disclosed to anyone else, so please speak openly and freely. Only the affiliated researchers will have access to identifying information. This information will not be included in reports or shared with other organizations.

Do you have any questions?

If you have any questions about our work, don't hesitate to ask us:

[Field Manager/Researcher's name and phone number] [Researcher/Manager's name and phone number]

If I have answered all your questions, do you agree to participate in this study? (*Enumerator should indicate subject's response*):

Yes	No
103	110