

PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET

Empowering Women for Women (W4W) : Access to Land for Sustainable Peace in Nepal



UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



Donor	The UN Peacebuilding Fund (UNPBF), a global UN multi-donor trust fund supported by over 50 international donors. These funds are managed through the UN Peace Fund for Nepal (UNPFN)
Implementing Agency	International Organization for Migration (IOM) United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Lead Partner Institutions	Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR) Ministry of Land Reform and Management (MoLRM) Ministry of Women and Children and Social Welfare (MoWCSW) Community Self Reliance Centre (CSRC) Lumanti Support Group for Shelter District Land Rights Forum Nepal Mahila Ekata Samaj
Geographic Coverage	Central, Regional, Nawalparasi, Surkhet and Morang
Target Groups	Landless and Conflict Affected Women (CAW)
Duration	December 2015 – June 2016 (18 months)
Overall Objective	Male and female policy makers design gender responsive land reform process and policies
Specific Objective	Nepal's leaders are prepared to develop a national transition plan for implementation of land reform and property return

Context

Land issue was one of the primary drivers of ten years of armed conflict in Nepal. The conflict has devastated thousands of lives and properties in the country. In 2006, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was signed and both the CPA and the 2007 Interim Constitution committed to implement a scientific land reform for resolving land-related disputes and to move Nepal's peace process forward. Nonetheless after over eight years of signing of the agreement, land reform in Nepal remains far from implementation and land issues still prevail equally complex and contentious.

Like in many countries, Nepal also faces significant challenges in regards to equal access to land and security of tenure for women. According to the High Level Scientific Land Reform Commission report, women are responsible for almost 61% of agricultural production, yet only around 20% of women own around 5% of land throughout Nepal, and only around 11% have effective control over their property.

Women are still a minority in land related discussions and policy making processes and are generally excluded from the resolution of conflicts over usage and ownership of land, at both community and national levels. On the other hand, land insecurity and difficult access to land ownership have proven to fuel a vicious circle of pervasive poverty and tensions in many different situations in Nepal.

The conflict and subsequent internal and external migration fluxes has caused a significant shift in household gender roles and responsibilities throughout the region. Most importantly, given the thousands of cases of disappearances, physical injuries and deaths during the conflict, the number of de facto female headed households, as well as women taking a lead role in cultivation and other land use matters, has significantly increased.

In responding to the several progressive gender sensitive directives passed by the Supreme Court (SC), the Government of Nepal (GoN) has introduced mechanisms and undertook an effort to enhance women's access to land and property and women's tenure security. For instance, depending on the geographic location, the GoN has been exempting 25% to 50% tax on registration, when land is owned by women and in case of a single woman; she gets an additional 10% tax exemption. Moreover, the Government is promoting joint registration of land rights in the names of husbands and wives. These initiatives have the potential to make a significant contribution to peace building efforts undertaken in Nepal during the transition period.

The patriarchal norms and conservative social dynamics, however, still influence the application of norms that are embedded in the deep social fabrics in Nepal. This can often be translated by a lack of recognition of women's land rights and a lack of support to the latter in their

fight against discrimination in their access and control over land. This is a socio-cultural phenomenon that takes place despite the GoN's legislative efforts, mentioned above.

This project "Empowering Women 4 Women (W4W): Access to Land for Sustainable Peace in Nepal" is built upon the main findings and gaps identified by the Catalytic Support on Land Issues, a joint project of IOM, UNDP and UN Habitat (2013- 2015). It includes women that were almost absent and/ or not able to make their voices heard in the land reform discussions process. It aims to support processes associated or linked with land reform in Nepal by enabling women to play an active role as agents of change.

In doing so, the project will contribute to ensuring gender equality in land policy discussions and enable women to influence the policy decisions. It promotes "W4W", where qualified women teachers use contextualized modules to enhance capacities of other women, on land rights and system as well as advocacy and negotiation skills.

The W4W approach ensures a constructive environment for learning as well as participatory and long-lasting impacts. This way, it will continue to unpack land issues pertinent to women in small steps and will introduce components related to women empowerment and rights to women over land and property.

Planned Intervention

Outcome 1: Policy-makers (males and females) feel confident and committed to implement gender-responsive land reform policies

Output 1.1 Enhanced skills of women leaders at the district level to advocate on land issues.

The project will be conducting survey and consultations about the needs, gaps and weaknesses of women leaders in terms of knowledge on land issues and rights as well as on negotiation, advocacy and political skills. Based on the knowledge gaps identified through the consultations and surveys, the project will design training modules, information graphics on land rights, tenure security, institutional processes and land governance system in Nepal. The project will impart adequate trainings to women leaders involved in regional dialogue initiatives on collaborative leadership and dialogue tools so as to enhance their advocacy and negotiation skills at a regional level.

Output 1.2 Enhanced understanding of male policy-makers for gender-responsive land reform policies

The project will be conducting surveys and consultations about the positions, perspectives and willingness among male policy makers about the inclusiveness of women in land discussions. Based on the knowledge gaps identified through the consultations, the project will design training modules about policy information related to land rights and specifically to women's specific issues.

The project will conduct programs such as trainings to Government officials and parliamentarians on collaborative leadership and dialogue to promote inclusive and gender responsive approaches to developing land policies.

Outcome 2: Inclusive national and regional levels land discussion forums are gender-responsive

Output 2.1 Gender specific land concerns are identified and formulated into policy proposals with common understanding of leaders at the district, regional and national levels.

In support to the on-going regional multi-stakeholders dialogue forums, the project will be organizing dedicated sessions on gender-related land issues and facilitate women's participation in the programs. These dialogue initiatives at central and regional levels will actively reach out to support the inclusion of leaders of women's political parties, National Indigenous Women's Federation and Federation of Dalit Women as well as representatives to the National Women's Commission.

The project will bridge and share information, analysis and initiatives from regional Dialogues upwards with the central level land dialogue forum and vice versa. The project will be organizing programs such as inter-regional workshops with both male and female policy makers from different districts to enable the exchange of experiences, discussions and to create consensus. In addition, central level workshops will be organized to disseminate inter-regional workshops key findings.

Output 2.2 Declaration of Good will on gender-responsive land reform adopted.

The project, in close coordination with the Government, will bring together male and female policy makers to design, discuss and draft a "Declaration of Good Will". The project will organize a national event to settle the symbolic signature of all male and female policy makers on the agreed voluntary declaration and draft a working plan to policy makers to ensure the promotion and development of the "Declaration of Good Will" throughout the entire land discussions and reform process and in the conception of land policies.

Outcome 3: Improved national process and mechanisms enhance access of vulnerable groups to land tenure and ownership

Output 3.1 Obstacles faced by women in accessing land tenure and ownership identified and recommendations provided.

The project will undertake a rapid assessment of the land offices in Kathmandu as well as in the three selected districts to identify possible logistical and institutional shortcomings to create access avenues for landless in general and specifically for women. In addition, an in-depth survey on logistic and institutional barriers will be conducted for women to access avenues for land registration.

Similar survey will be conducted on the translation of progressive centrally developed laws at the districts level, cultural barriers, mindsets and traditional practices forming obstacles for women to be able to exercise their rights over land and on educational gaps and fissures regarding land laws and procedural structures. The project will develop a report based on the main findings of the research together with a set of technical recommendations to enhance women responsive processes and procedures of land registrations.

Output 3.2 SOLA system integrated with new module on vulnerable groups.

The project will develop a module on landless women and landless Conflict Affected Women (CAW) and integrate it into the existing SOLA system with disaggregated data, enabling filtered and advanced research for information on the affected populations.

Output 3.3 Access to land tools to enforce rights of vulnerable groups

The project will design and develop a comprehensive system including the conception of tools, standard forms and mechanism to collect, identify and verify the information available on the situation of each landless persons, especially landless women. Further-on, a system will be established to issue operational suggestions on how to better implement processes of identification, verification and registration (IVR) of landless people in Nepal.

In this context, the project will be issuing institutional and legal recommendations aimed to guarantee that the framework of the IVR process is politically neutral and ensures the highest level of gender equality and transparency.

The project will also customize pro-poor gender responsive land tools to support land administration, land management and land governance. Lastly, the project will be designing and implementing an outreach strategy to ensure the highest level of information dissemination amongst women.

For more information, please contact:

IOM Nepal W4W Project Team

768/12, Thirbam Sadak, Baluwatar-5,

P.O. Box 25503, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: +977 1 4426250

Email: iomnepal@iom.int

UNDP Nepal W4W Project Team

Pulchowk, Lalitpur

P.O. Box 107, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: +977 1 5010135

Email: registry.np@undp.org

UN-Habitat Nepal W4W Project Team

Pulchowk, Lalitpur, Nepal

Tel: +977 1 5542816

Email: unhabitat.nepal@unhabitat.org.np

Or visit the followings:

www.nepal.iom.int

www.unhabitat.org.np

www.undp.org.np

facebook.com/iom.oim.nepal

twitter.com/IOM_Nepal

www.transitionandrecoverynepal.com