

Women's Land Rights

DRIVING EMPOWERMENT,
EQUALITY, AND
OPPORTUNITY



“ I want women to be able to hold a portion of land as their own property.”

When her father died, Kou Berpa's rights to land went with him. She was supposed to inherit a share of his land in rural Liberia, where she earned a living cultivating rubber. Instead, her uncles drove her off the land, took it for themselves, and threatened her with violence if she resisted.

Unfortunately, what happened to Kou is far too common. Though they make up a quarter of the world's population, rural women like Kou are too often excluded from owning or managing land due to gender discrimination.

WHEN WOMEN HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS TO LAND, THE OPPORTUNITIES ARE ENDLESS.

For rural women, land provides a home, fields to feed their family and grow food for markets, and access to critical natural resources they need to survive. **Yet in half the world's countries, established laws and social customs deny women their rights to land.**

Without rights to land, women:

- lack decision-making power within their households and communities
- find their voice and social status undermined
- are unable to access government services like agricultural extension or credit
- are regularly thrown off land by governments, family members, and elites who want control over this increasingly scarce and valuable asset.

This widespread discrimination and inequity places women, their children, and their communities at risk.

**LANDESA WILL LEAD BROAD, SYSTEMIC
CHANGE BY STRENGTHENING LAND RIGHTS
FOR MILLIONS OF WOMEN WORLDWIDE.**



Landesa[™]
Rural Development Institute

CHANGE IS POSSIBLE.

Recognizing and respecting women's land rights—in law and in practice—will empower millions of women both economically and socially, and create more prosperous, safe, and productive societies. For governments, strengthening women's land rights can help fulfill human rights obligations and make progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 1, 2, and 5 especially).



Secure women's land rights create a wave of impact:



Boost incomes and savings for women



A stronger voice in decision-making within the household



Increased spending on food and education



Improvements to child nutrition

A GIFT OF:

\$1
MILLION

would fund the work of the **Center for Women's Land Rights** in advocating for needed reforms and strengthening a network of women's land rights advocates and professionals around the world to effect real change for women (2 years)

\$5
MILLION

would fund a **global initiative to advance women's land rights**, including advocating for inclusion of women in land-focused SDGs, and amplifying Stand For Her Land, a collaborative advocacy campaign merging global and local efforts to strengthen land rights for women from the ground up (3-5 years)

\$10
MILLION

would fund a comprehensive approach to women's land rights reform at a country or regional level with a timeline suitable for **permanent systemic change in law and policy** (5+ years)

LANDESA CREATES CHANGE THAT IS SUSTAINABLE, SYSTEMIC, AND SCALABLE, IMPACTING TENS OF MILLIONS OF RURAL POOR, ESPECIALLY WOMEN, IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

Landesa works with governments, civil society, and grassroots organizations to create more gender-equitable legal and policy environments, build awareness of the importance of women's land rights, and help women gain the skills they need to claim and enforce their rights. Landesa's commitment to gender-equal land rights is embodied by the Center for Women's Land Rights.

This team of attorneys, sociologists, and gender experts champion solutions that level the field, strengthening women's land rights and improving outcomes for women. The Center drives change at the local, national, and international levels by improving policies and laws, advocating for needed reforms, and building the capacity of women to exercise their rights in collaboration with government and civil society.