Land is synonymous with power and identity around the world. But despite strong human rights standards, and enormous progress toward more equitable legal frameworks at the national level over the last few decades, women’s land rights are still unrealized in practice. Women are marginalized not just in the rights they hold, but in their status vis a vis land and property. Land is almost universally seen as a male purview, and women and girls are too often treated and spoken of as property themselves rather than standing as equal agents alongside men and boys.

The Stand for Her Land Campaign (S4HL) is closing the implementation gap for women’s land rights: the gulf between the strong standards in place to protect women’s rights to land, and the realization of those rights in practice, so that millions of women can realize the transformational power of rights to land.

Stand for Her Land is built on collective action.

Our community of diverse allies works via a coalition model, linking global and local actors and empowering grassroots women leaders and men who are champions for gender justice to advocate for stronger women’s land rights.

A Global Steering Committee of international non-governmental organizations with deep women’s land rights expertise facilitates the campaign. The Steering Committee provides resources, tools, and support for national and local advocacy in focal countries, and leads advocacy at regional and global levels, amplifying the voices of grassroots women. Stand for Her Land is the first advocacy campaign of its kind to merge global and local efforts to radically accelerate land rights for women from the ground up.

Country Coalitions comprise local grassroots organizations, national civil society organizations, and other non-state actors working towards the shared goal of stronger women’s land rights. Led by a coordinating organization, these Coalitions partner with and catalyze other key stakeholders, including government agencies and civil society, to realize women’s land rights.
Stand for Her Land in Colombia and Bangladesh:

With support from the United States Department of State Office of Global Women’s Issues, S4HL is strengthening coalitions of women’s land rights and other civil society actors in Colombia and Bangladesh, working with a cadre of partners including: the International Land Coalition (ILC), the Center for Research and Popular Education (CINEP), the Association for Land Reform and Development, and Landesa. The campaign in both countries is working to: 1) generate demand and build political will for stronger women’s land rights tenure and governance; 2) increase social recognition by the public at large of the legitimacy and importance of women’s land rights, to reduce social and cultural barriers to women’s land rights; and 3) deepen local civil society organizations’ experience and learning in innovative approaches to directly address social norms and legal literacy related to women’s land rights to spur local implementation and accountability.

Stand for Her Land in Senegal, Uganda, and Ethiopia:

With support from the German government (BMZ), S4HL is strengthening coalitions of civil society actors to unite on women’s land rights in Senegal, Uganda, and Ethiopia. S4HL partners under this project include ILC, the Pan-African Institute for Citizenship, Consumers, and Development (CICODEV), the Uganda Community-Based Association for Women and Children’s Welfare (UCOBAC), and Habitat for Humanity. The broad shared objectives across the three national contexts are to: 1) catalyze sustained, locally-driven movements for women’s land rights; 2) increase knowledge and resources for diverse groups of stakeholders (with a primary focus on building capacity for government officials) to realize women’s land rights; and 3) engage communities in realizing women’s land rights via legal literacy and social norms and behavior change programming.

Stand for Her Land in Tanzania:

Tanzania’s S4HL Coalition launched the S4HL campaign, and remains the model for locally-led work to implement women’s land rights. Recent successes for S4HL Tanzania include work with community paralegals to provide legal literacy via the “Women and Land” mobile application, which allows women and youth to register land claims and violations of land rights, and to connect with legal services to resolve their claims. S4HL has also been working with widows to support formalization of land rights, and was asked by the Ministry of Gender to present on this work at the national level in recognition of the International Day of Widows in June of 2021.