

STAND FOR HER LAND

HER RIGHTS. HER LAND. A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL.

Building a Movement for Women's Land Rights to Achieve Gender Justice

Land is the foundation for shelter, livelihood, and climate resilience. Land is fundamental for survival. Because land is central to power and identity, control over land is fundamental to gender justice. But despite enormous recent progress to ensure women's equal legal rights to land, housing, property, territory, and natural resources (WLR), we are still far from achieving equality in practice. We cannot achieve gender equality without women's equal rights to and control over the world's most elemental resources.

A Transformational Vision for Change

While contexts differ, a consistent pattern globally hampers realization of WLR:

- Governments are unlikely to marshal the resources needed to effectively realize WLR without both sufficient support and the incentive of public demand.
- Women often lack the information, support and allyship, and social freedom they need to exercise agency and realize their rights, especially in rural areas.
- Entrenched patriarchal norms and weak implementation are mutually reinforcing barriers to WLR; discriminatory norms stifle and dissuade implementation, and a lack of implementation lends legitimacy to those who actively deny women their rights.

Stand for Her Land (S4HL) is a global advocacy initiative working to close the "implementation gap" for WLR: the gulf between the strong laws, policies, and standards already in place to protect women's rights to land from international to national levels, and the recognition of those rights in practice at the local level.

How do we do it?

To create a future where Gender Justice is a reality and a world where all women and girls can thrive, S4HL focuses on:

- **Movement Building** | We link arms across other global and grassroots movements (feminist, women's rights, climate justice), bringing together a diverse set of stakeholders to ensure that decision makers at every level make women's right to land a reality.
- **Public Advocacy** | We raise awareness to build public support and drive political will for stronger WLR.
- **Policy Advocacy** | We collaborate with government, civil society, development partners, and other allies to identify and support actions government can take to bridge the implementation gap.
- **Legal Literacy** | We empower women and girls through education about their legal rights to land and natural resources.
- **Capacity Sharing** | We build the ability of civil society (with priority placed on grassroots, women-led efforts) to influence government action and public engagement on WLR.
- **Social Norms and Behavior Change** | We identify attitudes and practices that limit the realization of WLR and implementing contextualized approaches to achieve progress toward gender-equal attitudes and practice.

Jerima Ekka, mother of two in India, struggled to make ends meet. When she received a plot of land and seeds, it was a huge relief: "The land actually solved many of my problems. Today, I have the hope and the capacity to make my dreams come true."



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Centering Leadership and Voices of Grassroots Women

There are 2.5 billion people worldwide depending directly or partially on land for home, livelihoods, food, and identity, and 1 billion living in informal settlements. Half are women and girls. Grassroots women across the rural-to-urban continuum have led the WLR movement for decades, but their efforts have been under-resourced and under-recognized. S4HL elevates grassroots women's essential leadership and voices to build the movement for women's rights to land.

Current Coalitions

Currently, S4HL has six national level Coalitions in Bangladesh, Colombia, Ethiopia, Senegal, Tanzania, and Uganda, each comprised of local grassroots organizations, national civil society organizations, and other non-state actors working towards the shared goal of stronger women's land rights. At the global level, S4HL is facilitated by a Steering Committee of seven global organizations committed to the implementation of women's rights to land globally.

S4HL Coalitions

(click each Coalition to learn more)

[Bangladesh](#): 9 Member Organizations

[Colombia](#): 6 Member Organizations

[Ethiopia](#): 17 Member Organizations

[Senegal](#): 11 Member Organizations

[Tanzania](#): 25 Member Organizations

[Uganda](#): 29 Member Organizations

97 Member Organizations and counting!

Approximately 70% of grant funding currently supporting five of the six S4HL Coalitions is funneled directly to Coalition members for their respective activities. Each Coalition sets their own criteria for how they manage their collaborations and local agendas. Landesa works with Coalition lead organizations and partners to support smaller organizations' capacity to pursue, secure, and manage funding independently. Coalitions partner with and catalyze other key stakeholders, including government agencies and civil society, to realize women's land rights through supporting implementation and reform of laws and policies, shifting discriminatory social norms, and building awareness of women's land rights for the public to enable women to claim their rights.

S4HL is committed to ensuring the sustainable implementation of program activities for S4HL in current Coalitions through 2030.

Where to Next?

S4HL has built significant momentum and now has local level demand for Coalitions in the following countries. In addition to the countries listed below, we have launched Coalitions in Lebanon, Libya, and Tunisia and are working to connect the ongoing work in those national contexts to our global advocacy efforts. S4HL also plans to expand to the following countries in 2024 and 2025:

2024

- Ghana
- Kenya
- Liberia
- Mozambique
- The Philippines
- Pakistan
- Zambia

2025

- Argentina
- Guatemala
- India
- Indonesia
- Malawi
- Peru
- Rwanda
- South Africa

Resources – Click to Learn More

- [Stand for Her Land - website](#)
- [Women's Land Rights Storytelling Platform](#)
- [Why Women's Land Rights Matter](#)
- [A Daughters Right \(Bangladesh\) - Video](#)