

# LandNet

**CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
RESPONSIBLE AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT IN  
MALAWI FROM A CSO PERSPECTIVE**

# LandNet's Role as CSO

- LandNet's mandate is to advocate for pro-poor and equitable land and natural resources policies and legislation to enhance livelihoods and sustainable utilization of land.
- In advocating for sustainable utilization of land, LandNet partnered with UNFAO to implement the principles of Responsible Agricultural Investment as part of the project "*Promotion of Secure land Rights for Women and other Vulnerable Groups*" with Respect to:-
  - *the Right to Food Framework*
  - *Principles of Responsible Agriculture Investments; and*
  - *Awareness on Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Lands, Fisheries and Forest*".

# RAI as an Advocacy Program

- Nationwide training workshops to raise awareness on RAI to promote sustainable utilization of land and natural resources.
- LandNet/OXFAM/FAO engaged various stakeholders at national, district and local levels-MPs, CSOs, TAs, government officials and communities.
- Target districts of Mzimba, Chikwawa, Thyolo, Salima, Ntcheu and Phalombe.

# Key Challenges


- Inadequate resources
- Rampant corruption in land transactions
- Fear of government retaliation
- Weak working relationships/collaboration amongst CSOs
- Cultural barriers

# Opportunities/Benefits

- National Launch of VGGT implementation by Government, through MoLHUD
- Encouraged funding from various donors/stakeholders
- The inclusion of the civil society in the establishment of a multi-stakeholder land governance working group
- Availability of awareness materials and guidelines from FAO
- Empowerment of communities
- Empowerment of marginalized groups

# Key strategies adopted and implemented

- Ongoing Landnet / FAO/UN Women project in 6 districts of Mzimba, Salima, Chikwawa, Thyolo, Ntcheu and Phalombe
- Ongoing project by Landnet and Oxfam on VGGT/RAI/RtF engagement at national level
- Training workshops on principles of RAI
- Target groups- Government officials ,CSOs at district level, TAs , ADCs, MPs and communities.
- Dissemination of leaflets in English, Tumbuka and Chichewa.
- Training of facilitators in the targeted districts.

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- These strategies have led to the promotion of marginalized groups within the communities.
  - Communities are encouraged to distribute available land to marginalized groups to enable them to practice RAI.
  - Projected results:-
    - Strengthened land rights
    - Promotion of Right to Food among vulnerable groups
    - Empowerment and inclusion of women in economic development
    - community development
    - Strengthened abilities of poor people to participate and benefit from investment

# Way Forward

- Promotion and monitoring adherence to the Analytical Framework for Land-based Agriculture Investments in Africa - Due Diligence and Risk Management
- Promotion and monitoring adherence to the Principles of Responsible Agriculture Investments and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Forests and Fisheries
- Advocacy for transparency and accountability in land transactions / deals
- Promotion of women land rights
- Sustainability of project outcomes
- RAI visibility- using available channels within the Agriculture sector to disseminate information on RAI
- Improved networking and sharing amongst CSOs





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● THANK YOU