



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

# THE GENDER AND LAND RIGHTS DATABASE

The FAO Gender and Land Rights Database (GLRD) was launched in 2010 to highlight the major political, legal and cultural factors that influence the realization of women's land rights throughout the world.

## Objectives of the GLRD

- Highlight gender disparities in land tenure;
- Identify the major political, legal and cultural factors that influence gender-equitable land tenure;
- Provide gender and land-related statistics;
- Support the integration of international standards and best practices into national policy and legal frameworks;
- Support the realization of gender-equitable land tenure through knowledge sharing and dissemination.

## What does the GLRD offer?

- **84+ regularly-updated country profiles** that provide information on national policy and legal frameworks related to gender and land rights;
- **25+ country assessments** based on the **Legal Assessment Tool (LAT) for gender-equitable land tenure**;
- **Gender and land-related statistics** from national agricultural censuses and household surveys available through maps, tables and graphs;
- **Online discussions** on selected topics.

## Country Profiles

The GLRD hosts **84+ regularly-updated country profiles** that provide information on national policy and legal frameworks related to gender and land rights. Country Profiles give an overview of the status of women's land rights at the country level. This is particularly useful for those seeking information about a country's political, social, legal and economic status. Country profiles are regularly updated to reflect the major legal and policy changes that affect men and women's tenure rights.

Each GLRD Country Profile contains information on:

- **the country's background:** population data, economic figures, share of women engaged in agricultural labour and information related to land tenure;
- **the status of ratification of relevant international treaties and conventions**;
- **the national legal framework:** how it promotes or prevents the realization of gender-equitable land tenure, including analysis of the Constitution, personal laws, inheritance, nationality laws and land law;
- **customary law:** the de facto and de jure impact of customary law on gender-equitable land tenure;
- **access to justice and community service organizations:** the legal and practical opportunities as well as the barriers to access justice and relevant community service organizations that advocate or support women's land rights.



**NIGER**

Zara Issa, member of FAO Dimitra Club, who received official recognition of her rights over land  
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## The Legal Assessment Tool

The LAT is a **policy analysis tool** that helps capture the extent to which national legal and policy frameworks are conducive to gender-equitable land tenure. The LAT assessments are compiled by countries and examine how women's land rights are tackled in land and property laws, constitutions, family laws, successions laws, and laws on citizenship.

The LAT flags areas where the legislation and policy contains gender-based distinctions, exclusions or restrictions, and highlights areas where gender neutrality or lack of gender sensitivity in the legislation puts women at a disadvantage. Through the LAT, FAO supports the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGTT).

**25+ country assessments** are now available on the GLRD website from a select number of countries representing each region. The overall results for each LAT indicator are shown on an interactive global map.

### The LAT helps you to:

- **capture**
  - legal and policy provisions that impact on men and women's access to land
  - the existing positive elements in the legal and policy framework
  - the progress made at the national level
- **identify** persistent gender equality gaps in the legal and policy framework
- **target** key areas where reform is needed

## Our tools in practice

In the western Balkans, women's land ownership is particularly low, ranging from 15% to 39%. Long-held customs and traditions often work against the interests of women, with fathers often favouring sons when it comes to property inheritance.

In 2013, FAO and the World Bank initiated a programme to support gender-equitable land tenure in the region. The two organizations supported Albania, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia to integrate the principle of gender equality embedded in the VGGT in their land administration projects.

As part of this efforts, in 2016, with the support of FAO and the German development agency, GIZ, six LAT assessments and new country profiles were prepared for the western Balkans. This process served to identify important gaps in legal and policy frameworks and to formulate recommendations to improve gender-equitable land tenure at the national level.

The results of the LAT assessments were validated with a range of stakeholders, including ministries of land, women's ministries, community service organizations, notaries and representatives of the private sector.

The FAO-GIZ programme in the western Balkans has laid the groundwork for the western Balkans region to monitor and report on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 "Gender Equality". In particular, indicator 5.a.2, which measures the proportion of countries where the legal framework guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control.

The programme has also paved the way for the development of a code of conduct for notaries in the region, with the objective to improve the protection of women's statutory rights in land transactions.

## KYRGYZSTAN

Women grow vegetables in their gardens in the village of Bayzak  
©FAO/Vyacheslav Oseledko



PERU

A women farmer selling her produce.  
©FAO/Cris Bouroncle



## Land tenure statistics

Reliable sex-disaggregated data on land are essential to highlight the disparities in land rights between women and men, improve policy formulations and monitor the progress towards gender equality in agriculture and land tenure.

The GLRD also presents **sex-disaggregated data on land ownership and management** drawing from national household, agricultural surveys and agricultural censuses. The data are shown in the interactive map and are also available in graph and table formats.

## Online discussions

The GLRD hosts online discussions where experts and members of the civil society **share information, experiences and concerns** about women's tenure security in selected countries. These contributions are essential to the proper functioning of the database as they help to update relevant sections and generate quality information for users.

The discussions support the collection of information from the different national and regional contexts and identify key initiatives at country and regional level that promote gender equitable land tenure. This information is then fed into the Country Profiles.

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