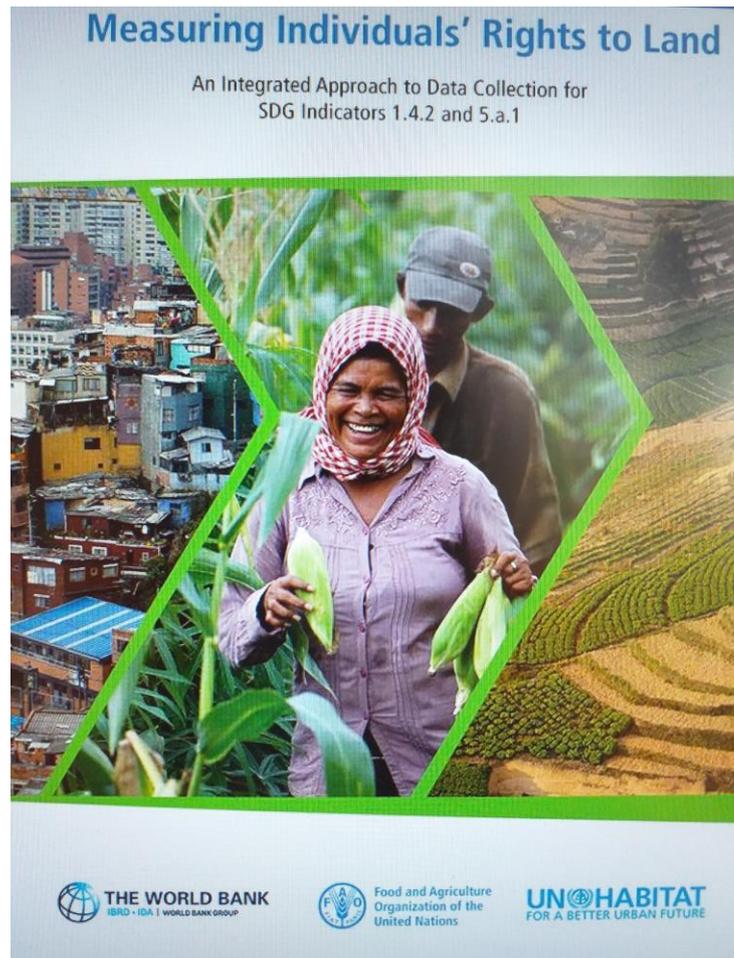


GLII Briefing Note: Status of Land Indicators, SDGs Progress 2019 and Related Efforts

August 2019



Report by:

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1.0 Introduction to the SDGs and Progress Made 2019

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a conceptual framework of 17 goals and 169 targets. An abundance of interlinkages exists between them. Land targets are core to achieving most of the SDGs including poverty eradication, food security, gender equality and empowerment of women, adequate housing and urban development, mitigating and adapting to climate change, reducing and preventing land degradation, and fostering peace and stability for prosperity. “The world will soon (2020) enter a decade that will be decisive for both current and future generations and for all life on this planet. It is the world’s responsibility and within its power to make it a decade of action and delivery for sustainable development” (SDGs Progress Report 2019).

Four years into the 2030 Agenda, progress on implementation of SDGs and key targets including reducing poverty and fighting inequality has been slow. The share of the world population living in extreme poverty declined to 10 per cent in 2015, down from 16 per cent in 2010 and 36 per cent in 1990. However, the pace of poverty reduction is decelerating, with a nowcast of 8.6 per cent in 2018 (SDGs Progress Report 2019). Moreover, baseline projections suggest that 6 per cent of the world population will still be living in extreme poverty in 2030, missing the target of **less than 3 per cent of the world living in extreme poverty by 2030**. The UN Secretary General has identified a series of systemic gaps in the overall response to the 2030 Agenda and calls for among other actions placing special focus on the most vulnerable to ensure that as countries progress, they leave no one behind; ensuring adequate and well-directed financing; strengthening institutions and making them more effective and inclusive; strengthening collection, access and effective use of data for measuring progress on the Goals; and harnessing science, technology and innovation with a greater focus on digital transformation for sustainable development.

Many actors in the land community including policy makers, CSOs, donors and others are committed to review and measure progress made towards achieving land related targets in the SDGs, particularly targets 1.4 and 5.a. on securing land tenure rights, among others. Will achieving land related targets present opportunities to tilt poverty scales down among the poor and vulnerable communities and countries? This remains an unanswered question for lack of data evidence to back any assertions as relates to SDG1. Unfortunately, most countries are yet to collect land tenure data and report on land indicators 1.4.2 and 5.a.1 on securing tenure security among other land indicators. Can a direct link be drawn between the possible outcomes of land tenure security and the lack of this on the sustainable development goals lagging behind including those related to poverty and hunger, gender and income inequality among other issues? ‘Yes’ is the probable answer by most, but there is an urgent need for data to measure and validate such relationships. Securing land tenure rights and ensure responsible land governance is key to achieving the SDGs (VGGT,2012).

The data requirements for SDGs monitoring presents unprecedented challenges for both National Statistical Systems (NSSs) and custodian agencies. While data collection activities and global data reporting across many thematic areas has been taking place for many years, several new types of data, requiring the involvement of additional data producers, will need to be integrated into the global reporting framework in order to ensure all parts of the agenda can be reviewed (SDGs Progress Report 2019). This challenge affects most of the land related indicators in the SDGs including 1.4.2, 5.a.1 and 5.a.2. For more information on the progress made in implementing the SDGs and resulting achievement against each goal, see the UN SDG Progress Report 2019 at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2019/>.

SDG Summit September 2019, New York: On 24 and 25 September 2019, Heads of State and Government will gather at the United Nations Headquarters in New York to follow up and comprehensively review progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The event is the first UN summit on

the SDGs since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in September 2015. Find out more about this event here: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgsummit>.

2.0 Status of Land Indicators, Decisions by IAEG-SDGs-March 2019 and Looming Comprehensive Review in 2020

The Ninth Meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on the Sustainable Development Goals (IAEG-SDGs) was held on 26-28 March 2019, at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, in Beirut, Lebanon.

- All Tier I and II indicators that are either missing data in the Global Indicator Database or metadata in the Metadata Repository were reviewed. The Secretariat presented a review of these indicators and highlighted that while 56 indicators were initially identified that met these criteria, upon a more comprehensive review and after consultations with custodian agencies, it was determined that many of these indicators lacked data and/or metadata because they had recently been reclassified from Tier III to Tier II and data collection was just commencing. There was, also, a small sub-set of these indicators (a total of 12) that required additional follow-up, and the IAEG-SDG will request custodian agencies to either provide the missing data/metadata or indicate their plans for data collection by the end of May 2019.
- *Land related indicators in the SDGs including 1.4.2, 5.a.1, 5.a.2, still remain in Tier II, as earlier reclassified by the IAEG-SDGs. For these indicators, no data is yet reported to the UN Statistical Division. Although these indicators are not scheduled for the Open Consultation during the upcoming IAEG-SDGs 10th meeting in October 2019 (see <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/ope-consultation-comp-rev/Proposals%20in%20Open%20Consultation%20for%202020%20Review.pdf>); failure to collect data and progressively report on these land indicators may result to them being dropped from the SDGs monitoring frameworks. This is an important challenge requiring action. Supporting national data collection and reporting on these indicators is the only sure way to secure them and meet the overall objective to track progress against key land targets in the SDGs.*
- Custodian agencies are already supporting country efforts towards data collection, analysis and reporting on land indicators including dissemination of approved methodologies and data collection tools; and capacity development for National Statistical Organisations for integration of questionnaire module in relevant surveys at country level. More information on actual progress made in data collection at the country level is expected later this year.
- Among other decisions, the Commission endorsed the “Criteria for the implementation of the guidelines on data flows and global data reporting for the Sustainable Development Goals. **See attached file- Best Practices in Data Flows and Global Data Reporting for the SDGs.** Presentations and materials from this meeting can be accessed via: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/meetings/iaeg-sdgs-meeting-09/>.

UNSD announced that the **10th Meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on the Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) is scheduled to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 21-24 October 2019**, hosted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. The UN Statistics Division is facilitating the application process to identify representatives from civil society organizations, academia and the private sector to attend the plenary session of the Tenth meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, taking place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 22-24 October 2019. Please see information about this meeting here: <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/meetings/iaeg-sdgs-meeting-10>. Note that the **deadline for registration is 31st August 2019**.

3.0 Land Tenure Data Drive and Responses from NSOs, Registries and Cadastre Systems

In the bid to access available land tenure data from countries and disseminate the joint module for data collection for indicator 1.4.2 and 5.a.1 (as developed by custodian agencies - UN-Habitat, the World Bank and FAO), GLII initiated land tenure data drive at country level. GLII contacted NSOs and land registries in 141 countries globally between April and July 2019. As of 5 August 2019, diverse feedback has been received from 50 countries, with 10 countries sharing existing land related data sets on tenure security, others expressing interest to collect and report on these indicators and calling for capacity support on application of the joint module; while yet others indicated that the indicator 1.4.2 was not a priority hence no data plans were underway. This effort is linked to UN-Habitat Global Urban Indicators Database.

The purpose of the land tenure data drive is three-fold:

- Profile the data that exists, and the level of effort required to deliver country-level data to achieve Tier I status for indicator 1.4.2.
- Establish a baseline on SDG indicator 1.4.2 for member States by building on existing land datasets.
- Inform the work of the custodian agencies in planning, dissemination of the joint module for indicator 1.4.2 and 5.a.1, and capacity support by partners' including CSOs, private sector, donors, and other development agencies for data efforts

A separate report (**see attached file- *Data Drive for Indicator 1.4.2: Summary Findings from NSOs***), provides a quick overview of the opportunities and challenges in collecting land tenure data for monitoring indicators 1.4.2. Feedback received from countries will be used to facilitate planning and consideration of several strategies for implementing data collection and capacity support for national institutions towards reporting on these indicators. It was noted that despite global acceptance and appreciation of the importance of securing land tenure rights in achieving SDGs, countries face specific challenges in data collection and reporting on these indicators including lack of capacity to integrate required modules in relevant surveys and budget limitations.

Findings of the land tenure data drive are not only informative but will also help custodians, donors, CSOs and other actors better plan, map opportunities and strategize on possible support to different countries taking into account their unique contexts, progress and interest to monitor the land tenure issues against national, regional and global targets. It further shows that achieving Tier 1 status for land tenure indicators 1.4.2, 5.a1 (among other land indicators) requires more dedicated support at the country and regional level to bolster capacity for NSOs, land registries and cadastres to collect data and report on the land tenure indicators.

3.1 Preliminary Conclusions from Land Tenure Data Drive:

Based on the responses and data received from the countries contacted so far, the following preliminary conclusions are drawn:

- I. There is a lack of comprehensive, sex disaggregated and comparable data. both survey and administrative, available at country level to report on land indicator 1.4.2. This may also be the case for other land indicators hence the need for urgent action.
- II. The joint questionnaire module for measuring indicator 1.4.2 and 5.a.1 available at: https://gltn.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/190824_Measuring_Individuals_Rights_to_Land_publishing_web.pdf is a great resource for which country level action for data collection and reporting can easily be mobilized, supported and achieved. However, many countries need technical and

- financial assistance including technical accompaniment missions to integrate essential questions in relevant national surveys.
- III. There is need to translate the joint module for indicators 1.4.2 and 5.a.1 into all UN official languages to facilitate contextualized implementation at country level.
 - IV. To achieve the reclassification of SDG land indicator 1.4.2 from Tier II to Tier I status, there is *an urgent need* for custodian agencies, with the support of donors and other actors to support and facilitate individual countries to implement the joint module for indicators 1.4.2 and 5.a.1.
 - V. To enhance access to correct information, communication and advocacy on responsible land governance and importance of country level, sex disaggregated land data for evidence-based policy decisions; and measuring progress against specific land related targets in the SDGs including 1.4. and 5.a; Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) including grassroots organizations, NGOs and other organized groups need to do more to engage governments, data agencies and participate in national SDGs processes to build and sustain momentum to allocate resources for data collection and reporting on land indicators.
 - VI. The role of private sector and donor support for data efforts including capacity development and data collection efforts needs to be strengthened; including tapping into sub-national and national wide land reform projects and programs at country level in supporting data collection and reporting on indicator 1.4.2 and other land indicators.

4.0 Highlights from GLII at a Glance

Measuring Individuals Rights to Land; An Integrated Approach to Data Collection for SDG Indicators 1.4.2 and 5.a.1 is a Joint publication by the custodian agencies (UN-Habitat, World Bank and FAO) is and available: https://gltn.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/190824_Measuring_Individuals_Rights_to_Land_publishing_web.pdf and <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/32321>. The publication features the methodology and modules for data collection needed to compute indicators 1.4.2 and 5.a.1. It serves as a guide for NSOs technical officers and other data producers. The publication includes inputs received from NSOs who attended the training in Dubai in October 2018; organised by GLTN-GLII in collaboration with custodian agencies and hosted by Dubai Land Department.

- **Call for GLII partners to ‘adopt a country(ies)’ and provide needed support for data collection and reporting.** CSOs, private sector agencies and partners are requested to put their foot forward, dedicate resources and work with custodian agencies, and GLII to provide in-country support to NSOs for integration of data modules in upcoming surveys, and or work with land registries and cadastres to report on land indicators. To achieve this, **land actors including members of the Global Donor Working Group on Land (GDWGL) are invited to ‘adopt a country(ies)’ and provide needed financial and technical support for data collection and reporting on land indicators**, especially in countries they support land reform agenda. Such support can be made through GLII’s coordinated efforts with custodian agencies, directly through custodian agencies; build on existing donor-country support; and or other capable partners. There is limited time to turn around data for reporting on these indicators and it is time to dedicate more resources and show support to this cause.
- **Quality of Women’s Land Rights Data Matters:** Improving quality of women’s land rights data in the context of SDGs, the VGGT, AU Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa continues to be GLII’s priority. Through partnership between GLTN-GLII and UN Women, a draft **Guidance Tool for Improving Quality of Women’s Land Rights Data and Statistics** has since been developed. The guidance tool is currently under finalization and is expected to complement and strengthen the capacity of data agencies at all levels in ensuring generation

of quality and reliable women's land rights data for policy decision. The tool will be shared once ready.

- **Getting Impact Evaluation of Land Tenure and Governance Interventions Right:** Dissemination of the **GLTN-IFAD Guidelines for Impact Evaluation of Land Tenure and Governance Interventions** for capacity strengthening has so far reached 127 participants (71 female and 56 male) from diverse institutions globally – including government, private sector, CSOs, donors, researchers and academia. Four trainings and learning sessions have so far been conducted – at IFAD offices on 24th March 2019 at the margins of Annual World Bank Land and Poverty Conference, followed by a masterclass held 29th March 2019 during the main conference in Washington DC. During the Advanced Training on Impact Evaluation by PRIME-CLEAR held in Turkey Istanbul in May 2019 a session featuring the Guideline was also delivered.

A pre-conference Masterclass was also held on 3rd July 2019 at the LANDac Conference in Utrecht, the Netherlands. These sessions were also helpful in informing participants of processes and procedures of conducting robust impact evaluation including t performance evaluation at a significantly lower cost; with several approaches to impact evaluation available for application for various projects. Most participants who attended the different sessions confirmed having found the trainings informative and useful in their work. They also noted their interest to learn more and develop practical skills and understand the technicalities involved in designing and conducting impact evaluations of land tenure and governance interventions; applying cost effective ways of data capturing and documentation of impacts. GLTN-IFAD will continue to organise such training and learning sessions from time to time including a planned masterclass at the Africa Land Conference by Africa Land Policy Centre in November 2019. Interested participants in the upcoming training and learning sessions can get in touch with us for more information.

- **Going Beyond Data to Developing a Global Land Governance Report.** Presentation and discussion by GLII in various conference sessions and independent consultation meetings on the need to develop a global land governance report has seen growing interest from its partners. Consultation involving key stakeholders in the land community including the data agencies and practitioners, CSOs including NGOs and grassroots organisations has been sustained to gather more views, understand the need and develop partnership in making this report a reality. As consultations continue, the question is what would be your/organisations contribution in the development of such a global report; considering data produced for SDGs, the VGGT, AU F&G, UNCCD, NUA, and other frameworks; stories of change and impact linked to land tenure and governance interventions in various constituencies of communities in rural and urban areas among others. As consultations continue, thoughts, comments or questions are welcome. This is still work in progress and more updates will be provided in due course.
- **Task Force on The International Federation of Surveyors (FIG)¹ and Sustainable Development Goals.** The FIG 42nd General Assembly held on 22 and 26 April 2019 at the National Convention Centre, NCC, Hanoi, Vietnam established a Taskforce on FIG and Sustainable Development Goals. The aim of the task force is:

¹ FIG is the premier international organization representing the interests of surveyors worldwide. It is a federation of the national member associations and covers the whole range of professional fields within the global surveying, geomatics, geodesy and geo-information community. It provides an international forum for discussion and development aiming to promote professional practice and standards. FIG was founded on 18 July 1878 in Paris by delegates from seven national associations - Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Spain and Switzerland - and was known as the Fédération Internationale des Géomètres. This has become anglicized to the International Federation of Surveyors. It is a UN-recognized non-government organization (NGO), representing more than 120 countries throughout the world, and its aim is to ensure that the disciplines of surveying and all who practise them meet the needs of the markets and communities that they serve. Read more: http://www.fig.net/news/news_2019/07_ga-minutes.asp

- Identification of relevant SDGs for FIG and its Commissions
- Assessment of needs, requirements and opportunities for FIG
- Exploration of solutions, approaches, curricula and tools to boost the achievement of the SDGs
- Alignment with other FIG and global initiatives (GLII, WB, UNGGIM)

During the FIG Working Week, GLTN presented on the progress made on the monitoring of land indicators under the auspices of GLII. The Task Force on FIG and the SDGs under the chair of Ms. Paula Dijkstra from the Netherlands is set to make its contribution to the Assembly including developing a workplan 2022 – 2030 to ensure effective and sustainable contribution of the FIG members and delegates. More information can be accessed here: http://www.fig.net/organisation/general_assembly/agendas_and_minutes/2019/42nd_FIG_GA_Minutes-2019.pdf.

- **Global Land Outlook (GLO) Thematic Regional Reports by UNCCD.** *“The aim of the GLO is to communicate and raise awareness of evidence-based, policy-relevant information and trends to a variety of stakeholders, including national governments formulating their responses to commitments to better manage and restore land resources, including the SDGs and associated targets, such as Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN). The evidence presented in the Global Land Outlook thematic regional reports demonstrates that informed and responsible decision-making can if more widely adopted help to reverse the current worrying trends in the state of our land resources (UNCCD,2019)”*. Read more about GLO regional report for Northeast Asia, East Africa, West Africa, Latin America and Caribbean here: <https://knowledge.unccd.int/glo/global-land-outlook-regional-reports>. The four reports will be formally launched at a side event at the [UNCCD COP 14](#) in September 6th,2019.

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