



Land Rights at the Root of Change

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



Landesa[™]
Rural Development Institute

VIDEO



Watch our new video “Secure Ground to Walk On” at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=REcXBJA_jZg

LETTER FROM THE CEO

Around the world, land is the foundation of rural life. Perhaps no other asset can equal the transformative power of land to create economic opportunity, boost productivity and food security, and fulfill the promise of fundamental human rights and a life of basic dignity and access to justice.

But for at least 1 billion people who live in rural areas, this tantalizing potential is still out of reach, because they lack the secure rights to access, use, and leverage land. Without this security, their labor is like a plough without a blade, unable to extract the full value from their most important resource.

For this reason, land rights are at the root of change in the developing world.

Equipped with secure rights to land, rural women and men have the confidence and the opportunity to make investments in their land that improve their harvests and their lives, build resilience to a changing climate, and dismantle barriers to gender equality.

That's why Landesa's sole focus is on strengthening land rights for rural women, men, their families, and communities.

Momentum is on our side.

With new legal reforms strengthening the land rights of more than half a billion people worldwide in just the past year alone, increasing global awareness of land as fundamental to greater dignity and economic opportunity for rural families, and an innovative ~~new~~ campaign to put land policy into practice for hundreds of millions of women, this is an exciting time to be part of this important work.

But we can't do it alone. Our 2019 Annual Report is dedicated to our partners, donors, staff, volunteers, and friends who believe that a world with equal land rights is a better world for us all.

Thank you for your continued support.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Jochnick'.

Chris Jochnick,
President & CEO



IN FOCUS



In addition to more food, I like owning land because I have **freedom**. I can decide what crops to plant and what to cook. No one bothers me or questions my decisions. ”

- Zainabu R. Chambuso,
farmer in Tanzania

500 MILLION STRONG

Strengthening land rights in rural China

Despite the rapid transformation underway in China, as millions migrate to cities, more than 500 million Chinese still live in rural areas. Today, thanks to the most significant reforms to Chinese land laws in two decades, these 500 million now enjoy stronger rights to land than ever before.

For the first time, women's names now appear on rural land certificates, guaranteeing them equal rights to family land.

China also repealed an earlier law that required farmers to give up their land rights if they migrated to the city. Under the new law, China's urbanized farmers are able to preserve their land rights no matter where they live – a significant improvement for more than 200 million Chinese farmers now living in cities, and any who are considering a move to an urban area.

Landesa's team of legal experts offered policy recommendations throughout China's legislative review process. With more than 500 million people now equipped with stronger rights to land, we count these amendments among the greatest policy victories in our history.



A NEW LEASE ON LAND

New leasing law transforms land rights for millions in India's most populous state

Agriculture is vital to the economy of Uttar Pradesh. India's most populous state is home to more than 200 million people, and three-quarters live in rural areas. Many make their living as farmers.

For the millions of farmers who don't own land, leasing a share of land from a local landowner has become a common way to access land. But leasing in Uttar Pradesh has historically been heavily restricted, pushing many tenant farmers to seek land through informal arrangements that heighten their land insecurity.

A new state law could help formalize lease agreements on farmland. The change allows leasing of farmland for up to 15 years, giving tenant farmers the long-term security necessary to encourage investment in their land, and landowners the confidence that they can lease out their land without losing legal control over it.

The result? **More than 23 million tenant farmers can now access legal, secure land rights through formal lease agreements – a policy achievement supported by Landesa.**



LAND FM

In Liberia, Landesa takes to the airwaves to spread the word about land rights

Half of Liberia's population lives in rural areas, far removed from the capital city of Monrovia. Last year, when the country adopted a new land rights bill, Landesa recognized the importance of growing local awareness of the new laws to support implementation efforts, particularly among rural communities that stood to benefit from stronger land rights.

"Land is Life" is a weekly radio program designed to spread the word about the 2018 Liberia Land Rights Act. Hosted by Landesa's Liberia Country Representative Emmanuel Urey, the radio program invites guests from government, members of civil society, and NGOs to discuss land rights issues, including women's land rights, inheritance, customary law, and land concessions.



TREES OF LIFE

Forest rights in Myanmar are essential to securing rural livelihoods and mitigating climate change

Myanmar's Tanintharyi Region is home to more than a million acres of tropical forest, a verdant jewel that serves as a biodiversity hotspot, a vast carbon sink helping to mitigate climate change, and a source of livelihood for hundreds of forest-dwelling communities. Illegal logging, mining and other extractive activities have threatened the health of these vital forests and compromised the forest rights of thousands of Myanmar's rural women and men.

Landesa is working to preserve this ecological treasure for the people who need it most. Through our Myanmar program, Landesa is working alongside the Myanmar Forest Department to certify the forest rights for Tanintharyi's forest-dwelling communities – like the people of Tawn Shey village, whose Community Forest is the sole source of water for 5,000 people living in neighboring villages. **With secure forest rights, the people of Tawn Shey are now positioned as stewards of this important watershed.**

Landesa is also working alongside thousands of families in Yangon Region to reforest thousands of acres of degraded mangrove forests. Mangroves act as a buffer to protect coastal farmland from soil erosion, and sequester four times as much carbon as rainforests.



A farmer plants mangrove seedlings as part of a Community Forest.

YOUTH AND LAND

A growing number of Africa's young men and young women will require greater access to land to secure the continent's future



Africa is the youngest continent on earth, with 60% of its population under 25, according to the United Nations. This so-called “youth bulge” will lead to increasing demand for work opportunities as the region’s youngest generation matures into working age.

One sector that remains largely closed to Africa’s working young men and young women is agriculture. Despite the rising demand to feed a growing population, few youth see farming as a viable career path, in large part because of obstacles to youth land rights. With most youth lacking the resources to access productive farming land and disadvantages in customary land systems, aspiring young farmers are often forced to await inheritance as a pathway to land rights.

In Kenya, Liberia, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe, Landesa is working with local partners on a series of initiatives focused on deepening understanding and awareness of youth land rights, including youth land tenure assessments, capacity building, educational campaigns, law and policy reviews, and gender analysis. **These efforts help ensure that African youth have the power and the opportunity to shape the continent’s future.**

STAND FOR HER LAND

Helping women everywhere realize
land rights in their daily lives

Around the world, land is the foundation for security, shelter, income, and livelihoods. But rights to land are not equitably distributed to all. Women in particular face an uphill battle in accessing their equal rights to land, undermining both their economic standing and their fundamental human rights.

That's why Landesa, the Global Land Tool Network, Habitat for Humanity, the Huairou Commission and representatives from the World Bank, came together in 2019 to launch the multi-year Stand For Her Land campaign. **Stand For Her Land is a bold and ambitious effort to close the gap between laws and practice so that millions of women can exercise their equal rights to land not just on paper, but also in their daily lives –**

no matter where they call home. It aims to do this through collective, collaborative advocacy, amplifying and synchronizing the voices of women's land rights champions in countries and on the global stage to effect large-scale systemic change.

Early progress includes the founding of Stand For Her Land Tanzania, which also launched this year. Recent campaign kick-off meetings were also held in Kenya and Uganda with dozens of new campaign partners. Ultimately, the Stand For Her Land Campaign Secretariat – led by Landesa – hopes to roll out and support Stand For Her Land country campaigns in multiple countries and regions around the world for maximum impact.

Stand For Her Land is one of many ways that Landesa works at the global level to elevate land rights within national policy agendas and in international treaties, agreements, and dialogues. These efforts include advocating for land rights in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and applying a land rights lens to global convenings on climate change, women's empowerment, and human rights. By catalyzing a land rights movement at the highest levels, Landesa's advocacy work aims to build the awareness, political will, and resources to promote stronger land rights for all.



BY THE NUMBERS

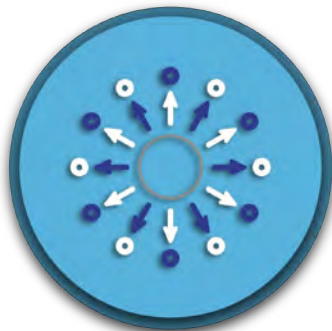


LEGAL AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING

Landesa designs training curricula and land legal literacy programs that help rural women and men to better leverage their land. Last year, we helped

483,783 people

make the most out of their land.



BUILDING CAPACITY OF LOCAL OFFICIALS

Landesa provides resources and training to help government officials, service providers, and customary leaders better understand and promote land rights activities. Last year, these training activities helped strengthen the land rights of

3,802,998 rural women and men

in the places where we work.



POLICY CHANGE AT SCALE

Landesa's legal experts work directly with governments to help shape national land rights laws and policy, allowing us to deliver change on an unprecedented scale. Last year,

555,525,453 people

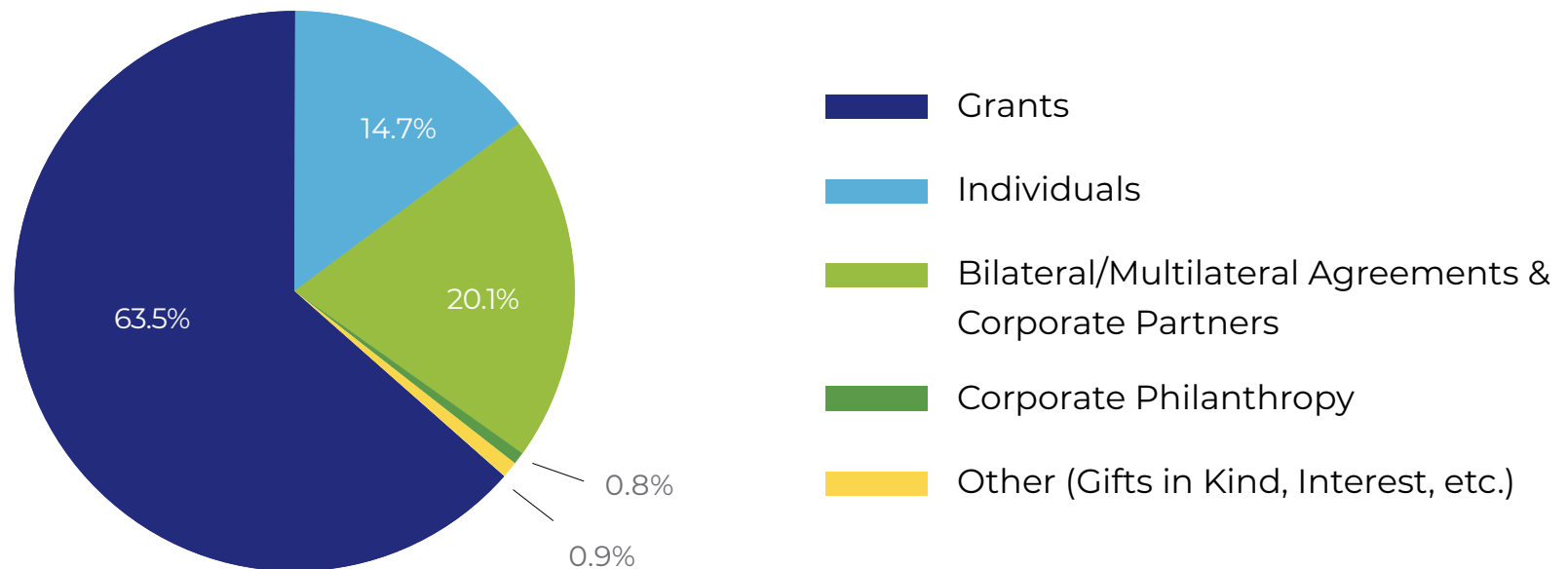
enjoyed stronger land rights as a result of these legal changes.

FINANCIALS

Total Revenue

\$12,661,666

Revenue Sources
(as a percentage)

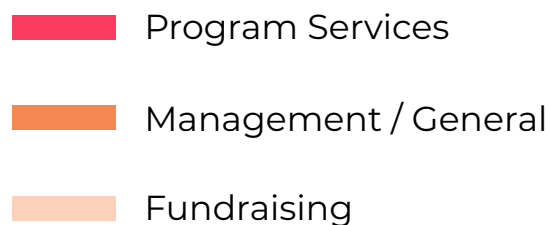
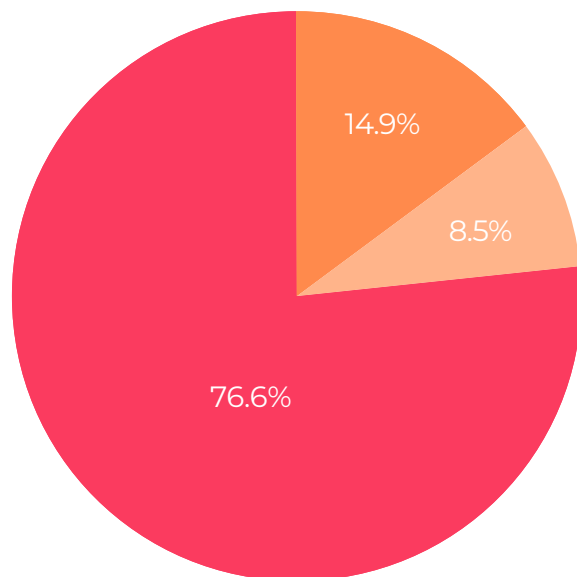


*Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States require Landesa to recognize the full amount of unconditional multi-year grants in the year in which they are awarded. Expenses, however, are recorded in the year they are incurred. In FY 2019, expenses exceeded new grant awards, resulting in the deficit reported here.

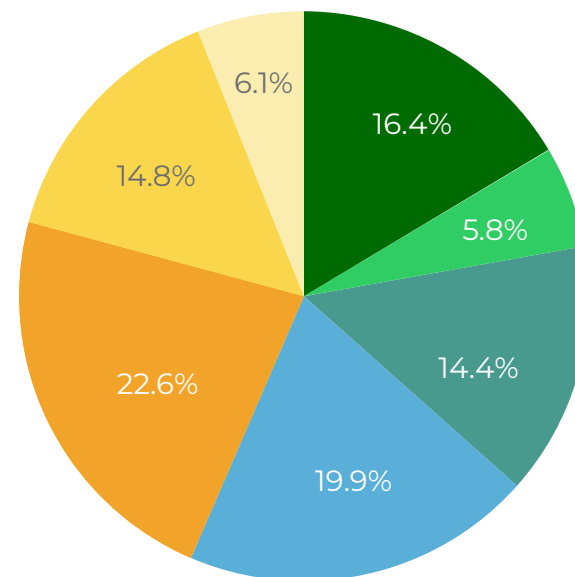
Total Expenses

\$13,316,481

Functional Allocation of Expenses
(as a percentage)



By Program Area
(as a percentage)



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OUR SUPPORTERS



Having supported several Landesa programs, including its China Program and Center for Women's Land Rights, for over a decade, we have seen Landesa put our support most efficiently into increasing access to land rights for the rural poor, and creating awareness and recognition of this important issue at the international level. It has been a privilege for us to be involved in Landesa's life-changing work.

”

ANNIE CHEN
FOUNDER AND CHAIR, RIVER STAR FOUNDATION

OUR SUPPORTERS

Over \$1 Million



Anonymous (1)
Ford Foundation
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\$100,000 - \$999,999



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OUR SUPPORTERS

\$25,000 - \$99,999

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OUR SUPPORTERS

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Ann Wyckoff

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Karen Petty and Denise Gagnier
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\$1,000 - \$2,499

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Denotes Gardener for Growth monthly donor. We are grateful to this group for providing sustaining donations year-round.

\$500 - \$999

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Mateo Bonilla

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Pledgling Foundation

Llewelyn Pritchard

Nathan Rosenbaum and Sabrina Seward

Jami Rutherford

Salesforce.org

Rangita de Silva de Alwis

Eric Zimmerman



I have admired Dr. Roy Prosterman's work since attending law school and now am privileged to support that work through Landesa. Delivering land rights for women lifts standards of living for the people who need it most. This measurable success puts Landesa at the top of our giving list and we are proud to support this work.

BRAD FRESIA

\$250 - \$499

Anonymous (3)

Susan Albert and Bruce Maximov

Scott and Nicole Andersen

Artisan Dental, LLC



Shamaprasad Bangalore

Mario Barnes

Bhawna Bhatia and Himanshu Nagpal

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Amber Harrison

Kristinn Jackson

David Keogh

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Dewey Potter

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Elizabeth Utter

Mark and Zuzana West

Steven and Tracy Wick

Jennifer Wyatt



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\$100 - \$249

Anonymous (2)



Bobbie Adams in honor
of Bob Utter

Mito Alfieri and Norman
Cheuk

William and Mary Ann
Andersen

Phoebe Andrew

Yasser Asmi



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Tam Banua

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Yeatman

Sharie Kumaishi

Naomi Lamoureux

Markus Lang

Ben and Brooke Linkow

Jen Lenga Long and Eric Long

Cedar Louis and Jim Farrell

Ellen Marson and Chris
McCall

Andy May



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What Landesa, with others, achieved in China by having women's names on land deeds will give benefit for centuries to come. And that's the thing about Landesa – it's not flashy, but the structural changes they facilitate will echo for generations.

”


JEREMY DWYER

GARDENER FOR GROWTH MONTHLY DONOR 

\$100 - \$249 (cont.)

David Mayer	Gregory Nielsen	Nancy Robinson	Briana Swift
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Ronna Nemer	Ry P. Ravenholt	Dipa Suri	Stephen Williams



Up to \$99

Anonymous (5)	Namrata Bhardwaj	Uchendu Chigbu	Amulya Das
Duke Collier and Maren Anderson	Clementine Briand	James Cissell	Saskia De Jonge
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Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Baker	Jordan Carrell	Megan Curran	Amy Dodd



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Up to \$99 (cont.)

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Carol Sue and Francis Janes	Manjula Nam	Daniel and Joanne Shively	Vicky Wenzlau
 James Janning and Megan Hall	Leslie Nitabach	Carl and Deborah Silverberg	Peter and Leslie Whitney
Frank Johnson	Ulrike Ochs	Adriana Simonelli and Alexander Seyb	Megan Whitney
Kathleen Johnson Hart in honor of Maureen Curran	Doix Perrine	Nicole Simonelli	Karina Kloos Yeatman
	Melissa Pound	Brent Slattengren	Mariam Zameer



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This land title is very **valuable to us.** It means we can continue to earn a livelihood by farming this land, which perpetuates to the next generation. We never thought we'd get this (land title). We're very happy with this. ”

- Majesh and Triveni, Odisha

Triveni (right) and her mother collect cashew nuts from their titled forest land to sell at a local market.



THANK YOU FOR
HELPING SPREAD
THE ROOTS OF
CHANGE



View this report online at
landesa.org/annual-report-2019