

Arab Region Program on good land governance in support to inclusive development, peace and stability

AoC 3: Women, Land and Socio-Economic development

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### **Concept Note**

#### **Expert Group Meeting on evidence-based linkages between access to land and socio-economic development and empowerment, especially for women**

**1-2 Feb/2021, 10:00 AM – 3.00 PM EET**

#### **Zoom online meetings**

- The event will be held in Arabic. Simultaneous translation in English and Arabic will be provided.

### **Background**

This Expert Group Meeting (EGM) is part of an Agreement of Cooperation (AOC3: Land, women empowerment and socio-economic development) signed between UN-Habitat/ Global Land Tool Network (GLTN), and the Palestine-based Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC) as part of a broader programme on land governance in the Arab region, funded by the German BMZ.

The area of work implemented by UAWC focuses on women and land rights, and delves into the identification of the impact of land tenure security on the socio-economic status of women in the Arab region, through adopting three integrated activities, A) an empirical study that examines this impact on the ground, B) a regional EGM, to exchange and expand knowledge about women's land tenure security and women's rights to land and its impact on their socio-economic development, and C) capacity building trainings for women and other land actors in society on the importance of land tenure for women, women's rights to land, and how to attain them.

Equal access to land and enhanced tenure security are crucial for poverty reduction, e.g. by providing access to financial and economic resources, by increasing food security, by enabling people in both rural and urban areas to invest in improved homes and livelihoods, by providing access to loans, which can be reinvested in business etc. Thus, access to and control over land by both women and men can trigger broader social and economic development. Land ownership, increased knowledge about the economic value of land as well as a secure access to land administration and land related services (surveying, planning, registering, etc.) are key factors for empowering people in both rural and urban settings. Access to land,

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especially by the most vulnerable, can rebalance power relationships within the family, the community and the society. Access to and control over productive resources, including land, and independent income strengthens the land holder's autonomy and brings about long-term benefits for society. Land owners become managers of economic assets, control financial resources and undertake their own economic activities. This economic empowerment is particularly important in conflict- and post-conflict settings, by reducing the risk of displacement and eviction. Furthermore, land owners with land documents and access to land administration get more easily involved in local decision-making processes, which are – especially in rural areas – often related to the use of and the control over land. Previous interventions and studies have shown that secure access to land rights and ownership lead to increased civic engagement and public participation. The capacities and willingness to negotiate are increased.

**Objectives of the meeting**

The aim of this EGM is to bring together experts with different professional backgrounds (academic, civil society, government, etc.) and also grassroots women, in order to share knowledge and experience and to discuss and compare the state of women's access to and control over land in different countries of the Arab region, to identify challenges and to reflect on existing practices and approaches to enhance land tenure security for socio-economic development. To what extent does land tenure security correlate with different aspects of socio-economic and political empowerment, especially of women, especially in conflict- and post-conflict situations? What priority action should be undertaken by different land actors to improve women's situation with regard to housing, land and property rights?

The EGM will also be an opportunity to: (1) identify key land governance / management and tenure security challenges, especially for women in the region / countries; (2) identify the most relevant approaches and tools for improving access to land, especially for women, in the Arab states; (3) learn from existing experiences and identify areas of convergence and possible collaboration among stakeholders; and (4) consolidate priorities for the way forward.

Lastly, the results of this event will also feed into a broader study conducted by UAWC as part of the partnership with UN-Habitat and GLTN on the evidence-based linkages between access to land and socio-economic development and empowerment, especially for women.

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After the identification of the challenges and obstacles that women in the Arab region face in this regard, it is imperative to come up with recommendations that set the priorities for actions by the various land actors to enhance women's access to, control over and use of land and land rights in general.

The participation of women in this event is crucial for their empowerment, as it cannot be achieved without taking into account the definition and understanding of the concepts and issues concerning them. Thus, alongside the experts, rural women will participate, to share their experiences and express their perceptions on land issues.

**Methodology**

1. The event includes panel discussions, during which key related topics will be presented and discussed by selected panelists who will carry on the discussion.
2. Different discussion groups will be formed each day, through which the key topics will be discussed more in detail.
3. Outcomes and recommendations of the discussion groups will be shared at the end session on each day.

The overall facilitation will be handled by UAWC staff, while other pre-assigned participant will be asked to facilitate the discussions groups

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### Key topics

1. Defining land tenure and women's socio-economic empowerment in the Arab region
2. Overview of women tenure rights in the Arab region: what do we know?
3. The nexus between socio-economic development and access to, control over and use of land for women.
4. Women land rights: sources and barriers.
5. Role of governments in enhancing women's land rights in the Arab region
6. Role of civil society organizations, academia, and individuals in enhancing women's land rights in the Arab region

### Overall expected outputs of the EGM:

- Improved awareness of the activities being done by different stakeholders in the Arab region on land tenure security and its linkages with socio-economic development, especially of the most vulnerable and women:
- Practices and approaches to improve the nexus between land tenure security and the different aspects of socio-economic development (education, political participation, food security, social status, gender equality, etc.) are shared;
- Improved network between the experts and participants dealing with the topic;
- A database containing the presentations and the report of the outcomes of the discussions are shared (e.g. through a Google Drive file)

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Expert Group Meeting on evidence-based linkages between access to land and socio-economic development and empowerment, especially for women		
Day 1 Monday 1st Feb 2021 10:00 AM – 3.00 PM - Jerusalem Time Zoom online meetings		
Opening session		
Time	Activity/Description	Facilitator/speakers
10.00 am – 10.25 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcoming of participants</li> <li>Opening remarks</li> <li>UN-Habitat/GLTN opening remarks</li> <li>Introduction into the event and the overall Programme</li> </ul>	Do'a Zayed (UAWC) Fuad Abu Seif (UAWC) Ombretta Tempra (UN-Habitat/GLTN) Hiba Al-Jibeihi (AL-Quds Uni.)
10.25 am – 10.35 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roundtable and short presentation of each presenter/presenting institution</li> </ul>	Facilitator: Sawsan Sarsour
Grassroots Women Voice		
10.35 am – 10.40 am	Women accessing land and its impact on their socio-economic development.	Short video
Session 1: Introductory session		
Time	Topic	Presenters
10.40 am – 11.10 am	<b>Topic 1: Definitions of land tenure security and women's socio-economic aspects in the Arab region.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation (10 min)</li> <li>- Discussion (20 min)</li> </ul>	Facilitator: Sawsan Sarsour (UAWC) Speaker: Rafic Khouri (AUS) Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sina Schlimmer (UN-Habitat/GLTN)</li> <li>- Samah Jaber (UAWC)</li> <li>- Rafeef Abdel Razek (WB)</li> <li>- Hadeel Al Barghouthi (PLA)</li> </ul>

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11.10 am – 11.40 am	<b>Topic 2: Overview of women tenure rights in the Arab region: what do we know?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation (10 min)</li> <li>- Discussion (20 min)</li> </ul>	Facilitator: Sawsan Sarsour (UAWC)  Presenter: Sina Schlimmer (UN-Habitat/GLTN)  Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rafic Khouri (AUS)</li> <li>- Samah Jaber (UAWC)</li> <li>- Rafeef Abdel Razek (WB)</li> <li>- Hadeel Al Barghouthi (PLA)</li> </ul>
11.40 am – 12.10 am	<b>Topic 3: The nexus between socio-economic development and land rights for women in the Arab region</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation (10 min)</li> <li>- Discussion (20 min)</li> </ul>	Facilitator: Sawsan Sarsour (UAWC)  Presenter: Samah Jaber (UAWC)  Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rafic Khouri (AUS)</li> <li>- Sina Schlimmer (UN-Habitat/GLTN)</li> <li>- Rafeef Abdel Razek (WB)</li> <li>- Hadeel Al Barghouthi (PLA)</li> </ul>
12.10 pm – 12.30 pm	<b>- Questions and remarks on the presentations</b>	Facilitator: Sawsan Sarsour (UAWC)
<b>Organizing the discussion groups (10 min)</b>		
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Discussion Group</b> <b>Defining Land Rights and Socio Economic Development of Women in the Arab region</b>		
<b>Time</b>	<b>Guiding questions</b>	
12.40 pm – 1.25 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After defining the terms, is access to land sufficient? What is the basic requirement that guarantees the right (access, control, or use)?</li> <li>• What is the theoretical and practical difference between access to, control over and use of land?</li> </ul>	Facilitator: Rafic Khouri (AUS)

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are these terms used differently between Arab countries? If yes, what are the differences particularly in countries under conflict?</li> <li>What is women's socio-economic empowerment? And why is it important for women in the Arab region?</li> </ul>	
1.25 pm – 1.40 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conclusions and recommendations</li> </ul>	All participants
<b>2nd Discussion Group</b> <b>Overview of women tenure rights in the Arab region</b>		
12.40 pm – 1.25 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Why should women tenure rights be given more attention and care in the Arab region?</li> <li>How secure are women's land rights in the Arab region, compared to other regions of the world?</li> <li>Women's tenure rights in light of occupation and conflict.</li> <li>What are the factors that increase women's vulnerability regarding land rights violation and expropriation, especially in conflict-affected areas?</li> </ul>	Facilitator: Sina Sclimmer (UN-Habitat/GLTN)
1.25 pm – 1.40 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conclusions and recommendations</li> </ul>	All participants
<b>3rd discussion Group</b> <b>The nexus between socio-economic development and access to, control over and use of land for women</b>		
12.40 pm – 1.25 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does women's land tenure enable them economically? Is there a linkage between secure access to and control over land by women and their economic activities (local markets, investment, etc.)</li> <li>How does access to knowledge and awareness about the economic assets and rights empower women?</li> <li>Through accessing land and natural resources and the acquired awareness, women could be encouraged to</li> </ul>	Facilitator: Samah Jaber (UAWC)

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	<p>participate in local decision-making (in different areas). Has that been observed in the Arab region?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How is food security and socio-economic empowerment of women correlates?</li> </ul>	
1.25 pm – 1.40 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conclusions and recommendations</li> </ul>	All participants
<b>Closing session</b>		
1.40 pm – 2.30 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sharing of the conclusions and recommendation of the discussion groups</li> <li>Final remarks and takeaways</li> <li>Preview of Day 2</li> </ul>	<p>Group facilitators (Rafic Khouri, Sina Schlimmer, Samah Jaber)</p> <p>Sina Schlimmer (GLTN)</p> <p>Sawsan Sarsour (UAWC)</p>
<b>End of Day 1</b>		



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Expert Group Meeting on evidence-based linkages between access to land and socio-economic development and empowerment, especially for women		
<b>Day 2</b> <b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2021</b> <b>10:00 AM – 3.10 PM - Jerusalem Time</b> <b>Zoom online meetings</b>		
Opening		
Time	Activity/Description	Facilitator/speakers
10.00 am – 10.20 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcoming of participants</li> <li>• Recap of Day 1</li> <li>• Day 2 Agenda</li> </ul>	Facilitator: Do'a Zayed (UAWC)
Session 1: Introductory session		
Time	Topic	Presenters
10.20 am – 10.50 am	<b>Topic 4: Women Land rights: Sources and barriers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation (10 min)</li> <li>- Discussion (20 min)</li> </ul>	Facilitator: Do'a Zayed (UAWC)  Speaker: Shahd Mustafa (GLA)  Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dina Naguib (HBRC)</li> <li>- Ala Manour (IYCY)</li> <li>- Salah Abu Kashawa (ISTIDAMA)</li> <li>- Mariam Ismael (WATC)</li> </ul>
10.50 am – 11.20 am	<b>Topic 5: Role of Governments in enhancing women land rights in the Arab region</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation (10 min)</li> <li>- Discussion (20 min)</li> </ul>	Facilitator: Do'a Zayed (UAWC)  Speaker: Dina Naguib (HBRC)  Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shahd Mustafa (GLA)</li> <li>- Ala Mansour (IYCY)</li> <li>- Salah Abu Kashawa (ISTIDAMA)</li> <li>- Mariam Ismael (WATC)</li> </ul>

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11.20 am – 11.50 am	<b>Topic 6: Role of civil society organizations, academia, and individuals in enhancing women land rights in the Arab region</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation (10 min)</li> <li>- Discussion (20 min)</li> </ul>	Facilitator: Do'a Zayed (UAWC)  Speaker: Ala Mansour (IYCY)  Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dina Naguib (HBRC)</li> <li>- Shahd Mustafa (GLA)</li> <li>- Salah Abu Kashawa (ISTIDAMA)</li> <li>- Mariam Ismael (WATC)</li> </ul>
11.50 pm – 12.20 pm	- Questions and remarks on the presentations	Facilitator: Do'a Zayed (UAWC)
<b>Organizing the Discussion Groups (10 min)</b>		
<b>4th Discussion Group</b> <b>Women Land rights: Sources and barriers</b>		
12.30 pm – 1.15 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do women access, control and use lands? What are the social factors that enhance their access, control and use?</li> <li>• Gender-based bias in land rights: Are the legal and administrative processes for women to access land different of those for men?</li> <li>• What are the main obstacles to women's land tenure security? (with focus on the legal and administrative barriers, illiteracy and lack of knowledge, patriarchal and societal traditions and customary laws).</li> <li>• How do Arab countries differ in terms of these obstacles?</li> </ul>	Facilitator: Shahd Mustafa (GLA)
1.15 pm – 1.30 pm	• Conclusions and recommendations	All participants

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<b>5th Discussion Group</b> <b>Role of Governments in enhancing women land rights in the Arab region</b>		
12.30 pm – 1.15 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What are the main actions taken by the different governments in the region to enhance women's land rights and their socio-economic empowerment (land reform and legislation, fostering civil society engagement in women empowerment, etc.)?</li> <li>Examples of governments reforms in terms of women land rights from the Arab region</li> </ul>	Facilitator: Dina Naguib (HBRC)
1.15 pm – 1.30 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conclusions and recommendations</li> </ul>	All participants
<b>6th Discussion Group</b> <b>Role of civil society organizations, academia, and individuals in enhancing women land rights in the Arab region</b>		
12.30 pm – 1.15 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What are the activities undertaken by civil society organizations, including NGOs, associations, grassroots movements, also media and academia in promoting secure access to and control over land by women (through awareness raising, research, campaigning and lobbying, etc.)?</li> <li>What is the role of women themselves in obtaining their tenure rights?</li> <li>What are the work priorities to enhance women land rights for each of these actors?</li> </ul>	Facilitator: Ala Mansour (IYCY)
1.15 pm – 1.30 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conclusions and recommendations</li> </ul>	All participants
<b>Closing session</b>		
1.30 pm – 2.45 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sharing of the conclusions and recommendation of the discussion groups</li> </ul>	UAWC + Group facilitators

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow up strategies and the way forward</li> <li>Final remarks and takeaways</li> </ul>	
2.45 – 3.00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Closing remarks</li> <li>Closing remarks</li> </ul>	Moayyad Bsharat (UAWC) Sina Schlimmer (UN-Habitat/GLTN)
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>End of Day 2</b></p>		