

Working to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals Through Enhancing Women's Access to Land in Post Conflict Context: the Case of Wau State in South Sudan

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SUMMARY

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Objective

Land governance in South Sudan is not only central to nation building, but also a major contributor to conflicts, poverty and underdevelopment in the post conflict context. To reinforce the crucial role of land rights and the importance of gender equality in access of the rights, the Sustainable Development Goals indicators 1.4.2; 5.a.1 and 5.a.2 monitors the progress of security of land and property rights for both men and women and countries legal framework ability to guarantee women's equal rights to land ownership. The crisis in South Sudan has led to an increase in land-related disputes, extensive secondary occupation and land grabbing. Women's housing, land and property rights are the most affected which significantly increases their vulnerability" (ICLA, NRC 2017). Supporting displaced women to change their lives through land governance is significant in securing economic independence toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The paper highlights efforts undertaken to enhance women's access to land to consolidate peace in South Sudan through improving institutional capacities from the local to national levels with a gender perspective. The paper explores innovative approaches in fit-for-purpose land administration to enhance women's access to land and entrench gender equality in the development of the land policy. With the implementation of the peace agreement, it is recognized that upholding and securing women's land rights is crucial in facilitating resettlement, reducing

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recurrence of conflict and contributing to sustainable peace and stability.

Results

The research findings point towards interventions that can address capacity needs of the institutions on gender responsive land management to facilitate work and enhance efficiency. The paper brings forth the experiences in the implementation of this project including key outcomes related to women's land rights, land documentation and overall governance. The use of innovative fit-for-purpose Geo-spatial solutions in land administration that are gender sensitive and affordable is underscored. There is need to re-structure mandates of various institutions that deal with land to eliminate overlaps and enhance coordination and integrated service delivery. The findings recommend integrated approaches to finding solutions due to the varied needs of internally displaced persons for a holistic existence.

Significance for policy and conclusion

The paper also demonstrates the use of gender responsive fit-for-purpose Geo-spatial approaches that are affordable to enhance gender sensitive land management in a post conflict context that can be up-scaled to other countries experiencing similar challenges and sustainably improve livelihoods. South Sudan National Development Strategy focuses on creating enabling conditions for voluntary return and integration of displaced persons and development of appropriate laws. The paper contributes to the above strategies through engaging institutional stakeholders in land management, assessment of institutional capacity and mapping and review of existing systems on their gender responsiveness to provide evidence-based policy recommendations and entrench gender responsiveness in the policy.

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