



Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development

GDWGL Telco Minutes

28 July 2020

Participants:

1. Javier Molina Cruz – FAO (Chair)
2. Amy Regas – PlaceFund/Omidyar Network
3. Emily Weeks - USAID
4. Jennifer Lisher – MCC
5. Claire McConnell – DFID
6. Thea Hilhorst– World Bank
7. Graefen Christian – GIZ
8. Dominik Wellmann – GIZ
9. Espinoza Santander Jorge - GIZ
10. Annette Schramm – GIZ
11. Betsema Gemma – RVO NL
12. Robert Lewis Lettington– UN Habitat
13. Everlyne Nairesiae – UN-Habitat/GLII

14. Liversage, Harold – IFAD
15. Barbanente Giulia – IFAD
16. Romano Francesca – FAO
17. Evtimor Vladimir – FAO

Guests

1. Neil Sorensen – Land Portal
2. Laura Meggiolaro – Land Portal
3. Romy Sato – Land Portal

Secretariat:

1. Sylvia Otieno

Main decisions:

Main Decisions

- **Global Land Governance Report** – Members requested to read the draft framework for development of the GLGR and share their feedback. Chair and Secretariat to discuss how best GDWGL members can give their feedback and report back to the group.
- **Mechanisms for community of practice for information** – Members requested to read the shared proposal and discuss it further in subsequent meetings.
- In this regard, it was suggested to convene a meeting to discuss these proposals with more time and once members are prepared to discuss them in detail.

1. Welcome and Agenda for the Call

The Chair opened the meeting by thanking everyone and going over the agenda. The agenda was adopted on a no objection basis.

2. Member update roundtables

Placefund/Omidyar Network: Firstly, a lot of time has been spent on trying to handle the ramifications of COVID-19 in many organizations that they are working with. Secondly, Prindex has launched its data set collected from 140 countries.

Chair: Noted that given the current COVID-19 context, community of practice will create a space for GDWGL members to share information and also develop common standards that will ensure that the information shared is comparable and updated in a format that can be used right on spot as needed.

UN-Habitat: Currently starting new activities around City Land Management to look at processes by which land is allocated for different uses. The underlying objective for these activities is to analyse how land is allocated for low income housing and economic activities. UN-Habitat is also exploring possible collaboration and coordination with other actors particularly ILC and GLTN to strengthen work around relocation and forced eviction. This initiative is a consequence of feedback received from partners on concerns of tenure security especially in the context of COVID-19 pandemic. UN-Habitat is also investigating the connection between land

law and policy with a working hypothesis that land policy is quite advanced in a lot of countries while land law is somehow behind the curve. One outcome will be an evaluation of the degree to which this difference may or may not be producing challenges in delivering land policy.

GIZ: There has been a reorganization of several programmes and projects in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. GIZ is also working closely with the African Development Bank to create more reliable and responsible safeguards for their operations. GIZ has also started a longer-term cooperation with the Rights and Resources Institute from Washington to foster and emphasize on communal and indigenous land registration worldwide. Lastly, together with the European Union, GIZ is starting an operation in three countries (Ethiopia, Laos, and Uganda) to look more closely into responsible land investment.

USAID: Released a new research agenda which has already been shared with GDWGL members. Secondly, the US government has scheduled the report on 1.42 this year. It has also recently launched a new Indigenous People Policy (Pro-IP), which is being implemented across USAID and other missions. With regards to COVID-19, USAID programmes are responding on a case-by-case basis depending on the government and mission guidance. Lastly, USAID is planning for a few more activities soon and GDWGL will be informed once they are definite.

IFAD: Currently working on Women's land rights project which seeks to support and integrate women's land rights into policy development in 5 focus countries, and later to an additional 15 more countries. As part of a wider programme on Youth employment and Entrepreneurship in sub-Saharan Africa which is co-funded by BMZ and the Visa foundation, IFAD is also working on promoting youth access to land. Additionally, IFAD's work on impact evaluation of tenure security is ongoing. In collaboration with MCC and GLTN, the set of guidelines have been developed. Further, IFAD is working with ILC and other actors to develop joint programmes that will seek to support country level policy engagement and collaboration among the actors. Finally, IFAD is collaborating with various CGIAR centres on some of their work on land tenure.

RVO-NL: The implementation of the Land-at scale project has been delayed, and they are looking forward to embarking on it later this year. The land at scale committee has selected promising feedback from 6 embassies: South Africa, Malaysia, Brazil, DRC, Iraq and Sri Lanka

DFID: Prindex who DFID is funding through the Legend programme launched a new comparative report documenting how people perceive land and property security in 140 countries. Secondly, DFID will be merging with the Foreign and Commonwealth office at the start of September to create a brand new department -The Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office - with the idea to try and bring together Britain's international efforts particularly in the context of the upcoming UK presidency for both G7 and Cop 26. Concrete repercussions of the merger will be clear in the autumn, but there is a general expectation that the work on land will continue. Finally, DFID is working together with other UK departments to feed in some of the work that they have been doing on land tenure into the UK nature campaign ahead of next year's Cop 26. The campaign has just started to take shape and a part of this work is going to focus on relationship between sustainable land use and commodity trade.

3. Global Land Governance Report

Recapped on the process leading to this initiative. GLTN highlighted key aspects of the draft framework for the Development of the GLGR: Introduction to land and Global Frameworks, Objectives of the GLGR, Audience of the report, Value proposition, Institutional mechanisms for the development of the report including the proposed composition of the Secretariat, Advisory and Technical group; Organisational and institutional set-ups for the GLGR, Content of the report including data and information sources, and partners contribution; Report cycle; Time schedule for the Development of the report; Communication and strategy for knowledge management; Sustainability factors, risks elements and assumptions and; Budget projections, deficit and Partners contribution. The intervention of GDWGL is requested particularly on the institutional mechanisms through the advisory group. It is envisioned that the Advisory group will consist of 7 members -2 from GDWGL and the other 5 other members drawn from civil society, private sector, research and academia and any other parties.

Discussion

IFAD inquired about the composition of the advisory group and how selection will be made across the different representatives.

GLTN: Clarified that the advisory group will have 7 members, 2 from GDWGL and the remaining 5 from civil society, private sector, research, and academia. GDWGL will have to decide internally on how to nominate the two representatives. The GLGR Secretariat is currently developing a criterion for the selecting the remaining 5 representatives.

Chair: Noted that since this is a rather substantive conversation, members need more time to read through the draft framework to provide meaningful feedback. Given time constraints, the Chair and Secretariat will discuss how best GDWGL members can give their feedback and report back to the group. He further urged GDWGL members to participate and be involved in the development of the GLGR to promote collective ownership of the report.

4. Mechanisms for community of practice for information

Land Portal: Recapped on the processes leading to the development of the shared proposal. This proposal not only builds on the momentum around and challenges currently being experienced in the COVID-19 crisis but also on other initiatives such as the GLGR. The development of Community of Practice will take place in two phase: Phase 1 will focus on assessing and documenting the impact of COVID-19 on land and natural resources rights and security, and nutrition so as to inform donors' decision; and Phase 2 will aggregate data about the impact of land initiatives to build compelling stories of why land continues to matter and help scale up the land agenda. The idea is not only to gather this information and possibly analyse it depending on availability of resources, but also build a communication strategy around it. In complementing the GLGR, the Community of Practice will help build a case externally to ensue further funding for land initiatives. Land portal in close collaboration with GDWGL and other ongoing initiatives will be the steering unit of this initiative. GDWGL will play a key role not only in pointing to the data sources but also deciding on what type of data is relevant and the standards necessary.

Discussion

UN Habitat stated that in principal UN-Habitat would be happy to support, encourage and participate in this initiative but pointed out the need of connecting this initiative to government processes as well.

Chair noted that GDWGL members will have time to discuss this further in detail whether this is a good idea and how individual organizations can contribute to this initiative and organize it in such a way that it is useful to everybody. In this connection it was suggested to convene a meeting to discuss this proposal with more time.

5. Platform/ GDWGL Transition Update

The secretariat transition has been completed. All communications, social media handles, website and other instruments are now under IFAD. IFAD will continue to provide the services previously provided by GIZ secretariat to GDWGL. The Platform Coordinator position (at the P-4) Has been advertised and the recruitment process is expected to be finalized by September. The remaining two positions (Communications and Program Assistant) will be advertised soon, depending on availability of financial resources. The board elected two new Co-chairs Paul van de Logt (MFA Netherlands) and Conrad Rein (European Commission). Since there has not been an opportunity for overlap, David Hegwood will continue serving as a Co-chair for as long as the board deem necessary. This will allow for a smoother secretariat transition. A consultant has also been hired to work on the new strategic plan (2021-2025).

6. AOB

No AOB