

Global Donor Working Group on Land

11th Physical Meeting, World Bank, Washington-DC

23 March 2018, 9:00 – 15:15h

Minutes

Participants:

Harold Livingsage, Elisa Mandelli and Giulia Barbanente (IFAD, chair), Chris Penrose Buckley (DFID, vice-chair), Peter Sidler (SDC), David Egiashvili (FAO), Jorge Muñoz, Mika Torhonen, Wael Zakout, Linus Pott and Thea Hilhorst (WB), Oumar Sylla and Robert Lewis-Lettington (UN-Habitat), Jennifer Lisher (MCC), Caleb Stevens (USAID), Yuko Morita (JICA), Frits van der Wal (MFA-NL), Christian Graefen (GIZ), Mathieu Boche (AFD-France), Sarah Hayes (MEAE-France), Helge Onsrud and Maria Lodin (Kartverket – Norway), Joachin Knoth (EC).

Platform secretariat:

Romy Sato and Jedi Bukachi

Agenda:

1. [Welcome, framing of the agenda](#)
2. [Supporting the realization of SDG indicator 1.4.2](#)
3. [Responsible large scale land-based investments](#)
4. [Land, conflict, forced displacement and migration](#)
5. [Urban land governance](#)
6. [Country level coordination](#)
7. [Exchange and sharing of land related information](#)
8. [Leveraging experience](#)
9. [Revisiting and adjusting our Work Plan 2018](#)
10. [Wrap-up / Additional business / Discussion of next meeting](#)

Summary of decisions/agreements:

- SDG land indicator: WB to provide the spreadsheet of data gaps; GDWGL members to provide their contacts with NSOs; WB to update and share the work plan to get to Tier I; EC and WB to follow up on how to translate this discussion to the EU delegations
- Responsible land investments: DFID to share DFI study in the coming months and to share study on the cost of delays in land investments when available.
- Land & conflict: Incorporate better understanding of land tenure & stability in the work plan; consider hiring a consultant to prepare 2-pagers on the topic
- Country-level coordination: ensure collaboration and alignment between WB and FAO; regularly inform GDWGL members about Development Partners meetings in Addis (SDC); draft Code of Conduct for in-country donor coordination
- Exchange of land information: Secretariat to follow up with Land Portal to see how many hits Land Map info has in their website (to better understand impact)

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Summary of decisions/agreements (cont.):

- Revisiting the work plan: Secretariat to provide new version with classification of activities according to joint action, multi-member priority and bilateral activity
- AOB: Observers (without a specific role) will not be invited to physical meetings, though continue to hold conference sessions, side events as opportunity to exchange with other actors; invite guest speakers, whenever relevant, to input on discussions in meetings; keep on publishing minutes of meetings and share them more pro-actively (Secretariat)

1. Welcome and framing of agenda

IFAD, the chair, welcomed all participants and presented the agenda, which was approved by all.

2. Supporting the realization of SDG indicator 1.4.2

Klaus Deininger (WB), representing the Custodian agencies of indicator 1.4.2 (World Bank and UN Habitat), gave a presentation on the status of data collection and emphasized a few gaps/limitations. His main points were:

- WB has household survey working group and, thus, can recommend use of this module to national statistical offices and others. The module also includes perception questions, hence, it is important for NSOs to use it
- Data completion for Africa should be reached, but data for Asia and Latin America and Eastern Europe are still missing. One reason being that big countries are not included (e.g. India, Brazil etc.)
- One further limitation is that the population is not evenly distributed across countries
- Needed at country level is customisation of questions and module manual design, as well as data cleaning and dissemination to make the data publicly available
- Resources to continue the data collection (incl. for LSMS) and to build NSO capacity remain a challenge
- Building capacity to implement the module: FAO has mandate to support capacity for statistical offices in each region – training of trainers approach on the land module was included there
- Register vs Cadastre data not matching and so administrative data cannot work in all parts, esp. in Latin America

Comments and suggestions by GDWGL members included:

As part of its operational programmes, the Bank is supporting digitalisation/computerisation of land data in line with SDG indicators. All projects will have a module to follow, enabling the input into the SDG reporting.

UN Habitat is working with national statistical offices at country level to make sure enough data are being collected – the land module has already been incorporated in 11 countries. They are also supporting with capacity development for reporting on the indicator.

USAID and others suggested the use of impact evaluation data to fill gaps from household surveys. They are actively including registry data in their evaluations so that it can easily be pulled to the SDGs. However, the Bank clarified that household surveys will be the main route to reach tier I.

MFA-Netherlands, DFID and MCC requested for a better overview on who is doing what and the relation to the NSOs at country level, as well as more details on data gaps (a spreadsheet) to allow donors to understand where resources are needed. Who has which entry points?

UN Habitat informed they are coordinating with the Bank and so that all modules are the same.

The WB (operational unit) warned that data coverage does not mean data accuracy, as registries are notoriously known for having little accurate data.

Klaus requested GDWGL members' support with personal contacts at the NSOs in countries – to help the WB promote the module.

Action points:

- WB to provide the spreadsheet of data gaps even if half-way ready, so everyone can fill in their inputs
- GDWGL members to provide their contacts with NSOs
- WB to update and share the work plan to get to Tier I
- EC and WB to follow up on how to translate this discussion to the EU delegations for them to also contribute with reaching out to NSOs

3. Responsible large-scale land-based investments

DFID, leader of this priority area, informed about conversations with DFIs (CDC, Proparco etc.) to promote due diligence with regard to land tenure. IIED is currently working on a paper to understand how DFIs deal with land issues in their investment contracts, particularly how investees engage with communities. A meeting organised by DFID will probably take place in Autumn this year with DFIs.

GIZ commissioned a study conducted by the German Institute for Human Rights on VGGTs and how DFIs do due diligence on land. GIZ suggests to work more on the topic of due diligence and DFIs through the Interlaken Group, since they convene many private sector companies (DFIs may react more positively if approached by the Interlaken).

USAID co-convened a call to share the results of an analysis on responsible investment including cases on cocoa (with Hersheys) and with Ilovo Sugar in Mozambique, both which are keen to have sustainable and good quality produce. USAID is open to convene another call if there is interest

DFID is also looking at cost of delays to investment projects as a result of land disputes – to show the cost of not addressing land issues properly. Generally this kind of risk is not quantified, so could be useful to show importance of engaging CSOs.

Action points:

- DFID to share DFI study in the coming months and to share study on the cost of delays in land investments when available.

4. Land, conflict, forced displacement and migration

Members shared several updates with regard to activities in terms of land and conflict, particularly in Arab region, as well as discussed ways to engage with more institutions in this region, to support the land tenure agenda.

GIZ's study on the Syrian (very complex) land situation will be available soon.

UN-Habitat informed that inheritance and conflicts were broadly discussed during the Arab Land Conference. It is important to connect countries in that region, as well as discuss the role of the private sector, to better address land conflicts. GIZ reinforced that there is a dynamic land sector in the region, with many best practices and interest from the countries, so it good to foster dialogue among them, incl. on issues such as women's land rights. The region has become a priority for the German government in this sector.

A few ideas were proposed to support the land tenure agenda in the region:

- Reach out to more institutions in the Arab region (e.g. Islamic Bank etc.) which could engage in the Group or we could coordinate at the country-level
- Raise the issue with managers in donor agencies and ministries to have high-level statements, to feature this issue in their speeches, declarations etc. MFA-NL noted that the topic is important beyond just the Arab world, and that raise awareness is the responsibility of all in this Group
- Pull evidence to support that land can also be framed around stability (DFID's work on land is often framed around economic development, but a new frame might also get support)
- Develop 2-pagers on land and stability to be used at UN level or other conferences to raise awareness to this issue

Action points:

- Incorporate in the work plan: better understanding of land tenure and stability in order to inform high-level policy makers, events etc.
- Consider hiring a consultant to prepare 2-pagers on land & stability (Secretariat to clarify available resources)

5. Urban land governance

UN-Habitat reported on the side event co-organised at the Urban Land Forum with the GDWGL, WB, Cities Alliance, Ministry of Mexico and Ministry of South Africa. The key messages included:

- There is strong need for sound information system for cities, and supporting municipalities to get funding. Management of public land was regarded as crucial for both land valuation and for being able to deliver public services
- The transformation of urbanisation has effects on the value chain and the need for having harmonised reporting for land, but also have indicators catered for the new urban agenda
- Despite interest in the topic, governments are not allocating resources for land info services in cities.

UN-Habitat is now planning a webinar on how land governance impact on rural-urban linkages.

The EC informed about a 4.4 billion initiative of the European Investment Bank where one window is sustainable cities; others are: agribusiness and SMEs, ICT4D etc.

USAID has recently concluded an analysis on rural-urban linkages and has become a member of Cities Alliance.

The WB has no split between urban and rural land focus, even though the tendency is towards rural. More follow up on urban is becoming stronger.

AFD's research department has started a study on collective tenure (reports to be shared)

MCC's impact evaluations are coming up towards the end of the year also related to rural-urban linkages. Preliminary results show land rights are being strengthened, but people are moving to cities, so investments are not necessarily going back into land.

6. Country level coordination

6.1 Discussion on more systematic/strategic engagement with regional initiatives

WB proposed to develop a joint action plan with FAO to track their collaboration and actions at the regional level (particularly in Africa). The need for capacity development is so large that country offices have to do this collectively and we have to support them.

AFD reported on a national donor working group in Cote d'Ivoire. There have been discussions and actions to try to coordinate land actions there; for example, joint review of the national land action plan jointly with the ministry of agriculture and ministry of land. AFD suggested to resume GDWGL work to develop policy briefs to support regional level coordination. Another idea is for FAO to do a portfolio review every 6 months jointly with the WB, given the broad outreach of their programmes worldwide, to try to ensure that actions are aligned.

6.2 Brief update on cooperation with LPI/ALPC

SDC reported on two ongoing streams of exchange:

- **Regular exchange between ALPC, AU-DREA (at least in some instances) and development partners present in Addis** to discuss progress on individual and joint support to the implementation of the AU agenda on land and to the ALPC (not meant to replace the more formal ALPC Development Partners' Meeting, where also partner based outside of Ethiopia participate). The idea is to have these exchanges every 3-4 months
- **Regular exchange among development partners based in Addis** (or willing to join through videoconference) to discuss issues related to alignment and coherent support to the implementation of the AU declaration on land issues and challenges (incl. the F&G). The idea is to hold these meetings also every 3-4 months - first meeting foreseen for beginning of May. Interested parties can contact Peter Sidler, SDC.

AFD supported the creation of development partners group based in Addis (as a sub-group to the GDWGL) to re-engage with ALPC in a more systematic way

The EC reported on a donor coordination group in Uganda, which has TOR, regular meetings etc., very structured – donor coordination at country is important, but unsure about what our role should be. For example, colleagues from Colombia found little value in the coordination initiative there, because it was overlapping with other initiatives, not well aligned with other ongoing processes.

GIZ supported the coordination spirit of the Group and said it has definitely contributed to in-country collaboration. That is surely the case in Ethiopia. Land portfolio will remain large under the new German government.

MFA-NL suggested the development of a Code of Conduct amongst Group members, to support country offices in coordination with local partners. There are good examples at the regional context to build on as an entry point – some related to process, others to capacity building. The Group supported the idea. Volunteers to provide a first Code of Conduct draft: Frits van der Wal (NL), Mathieu Boche (AFD) and Joachim Knoth (EC).

FAO suggested a set of land tools developed by FAO (to map the challenges at the country level) to support such in-country donor coordination (FAO to share these tools with the Group).

Action points:

- Ensure collaboration and alignment of actions between WB and FAO
- Regularly inform GDWGL members about Development Partners meetings in Addis (SDC)
- Draft Code of Conduct for in-country donor coordination (Frits, Mathieu, Joachim)

7. Exchange and sharing of land related information

The Secretariat provided an update on the Land Governance Programme Map. Currently it contains 773 programmes, 270 active, 503 completed, total of USD 2.5 billion for active programmes. The interventions are taking place in 141 partner countries. 19 donor agencies/IFIs are contributing with data to the Map; KfW joined ca. 1,5 years ago (counted under Germany) and Italy joined early in 2018, though have not yet inputted data.

Despite growth in the database, site visits are dropping (e.g. from 600+ visitors in the second quarter of 2016 to less than 300 visitors in the second quarter of 2017). This is partly because of reduced capacity to publicize the Map. The Secretariat continues to publicize it more strongly during large events, such as the WB Conference and CFS, but needs support from members to publicize it too.

The Land Map has recently inspired some donors to develop another map on agricultural programmes, as part of the SDG2 Roadmap initiative. A TOR for their map is still under development. Other kinds of impact are difficult to trace because data is open and being disseminated in other websites with larger outreach, e.g. Land Portal.

To continue improving the Land Map, the following steps are foreseen: conduct a data quality check (TOR under development); and hire web-programmer to create new features (e.g. M&E field - though we need to further explore the added value of such a feature, and create tags/categories of project: land tenure, land administration, land use etc.).

Action points:

- Secretariat to follow up with Land Portal to see how many hits Land Map info has in their website, to better understand impact

8. Leveraging experience

MCC briefed on a few challenges to “govern” the new community of land evaluators (a sub-group of the GDWGL); Land Portal volunteered to supported but not yet sure how. Jennifer Lisher enquired on members’ interest to share designs of project evaluations and where to host this information. As suggested by DFID, Land Portal receives 30.000 hits/month and could be an option to host this info.

In terms of regular face-to-face meetings, it was agreed to convene the community always back-to-back to the WB Land Conference.

9. Revisiting and adjusting our Work Plan 2018

Members are agreed on classifying current activities of the work plan according to: joint action (where all GDWGL members are engaged), multi-member priority (two or more engaged, but not all) and bilateral activity. The classification should help in prioritising activities and reporting along the year. The work plan with the new classification will be provided by the Secretariat.

MFA-NL enquired “can the GDWGL look into additional evidence, pathways, connections to convince others to invest in land issues and position the work done in our Group?” Using the theory of change framework may be helpful to do so.

GIZ has been linking the land work to other major programmes like forests, and it has been producing measurable impact.

10. Wrap-up / Additional business / Discussion of next meeting

Given the influence of more emerging donors and different types of donors in the land sector, the chair proposed to reach out to some of these organisations to join the GDWGL. Members agreed with the proposal and suggested to approach:

- Michael Donevan at IDB (Mathieu to share further contacts in IDB)
- Asian Development Bank (chair and Secretariat to follow up)
- KOICA (idem)
- Omidyar Network (idem)
- BMGF (idem) – which just announced a 170 million dollar strategy on women’s land rights

AFD suggested to identify people in these organisations who can be active contributors in the Group instead of focusing on the institutions.

The chair raised the issue of inviting or not observers to the physical meeting. It was agreed not to invite observers, though we should invite guest speakers, whenever relevant, to input on specific debates of interest to this donor community. Additionally, the practice of holding side events, sessions and other focused meetings should continue as an opportunity to continuously engage with non-donors stakeholders. It was also agreed to keep on publishing the minutes of meetings in the website and share them more pro-actively with other stakeholders.

Action points/agreements:

- Observers (without a specific role) will not be invited to physical meetings, though continue to hold conference sessions, side events as opportunity to exchange with other actors
- Invite guest speakers, whenever relevant, to input on discussions in meetings
- Keep on publishing minutes of meetings and share them more pro-actively (Secretariat)