



10 WAYS SECURE LAND RIGHTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Demonstrating the Power of a Small Piece of Land: The Girls Project

The Girls Project, a partnership between the government of West Bengal and Landesa, aims to position girls to realize land rights as women, improving their long-term economic and social prospects, and enabling them to reduce vulnerabilities – including child marriage, lack of education, and malnutrition – that they face in the immediate term as adolescents.

More than 40,000 girls are currently participating in the project, learning about their rights to own and inherit land, and receiving training in intensive gardening skills during regular meetings led by the girls themselves with support from government rural health workers.

Girls who participate in the program are more likely to stay in school, marry later, and have an asset in their name.

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- 1. Nutrition:** Children whose mothers have secure land rights are less likely to be severely underweight.
- 2. Education:** Children whose parents have secure land rights are more likely to complete secondary school.
- 3. Conservation:** Women and men with secure land rights spend more time devoted to soil and water conservation.
- 4. Domestic Violence:** Women with secure land rights are less likely to experience long term physical violence.
- 5. Food Security:** Titled land is more productive than untitled land due to greater investment in the land.
- 6. Poverty Alleviation:** Families with secure land rights are more likely to have a greater income.
- 7. Health:** Children whose parents have secure land rights are less likely to experience teenage pregnancy.
- 8. Conflict:** Countries with large populations of landless are more likely to experience conflict.
- 9. Government Services:** Families with secure land rights are more likely to be able to access government services.
- 10. Access to Credit:** Women and men with secure land rights are more likely to have access to institutional credit.

Read more information about the project.

Watch Academy Award winner Megan Mylan's short documentary about the project.

Learn about how secure land rights can help women take better care of their families.