Annual Report 2018

The Geography of Land Rights
For the one billion people around the world who live without secure rights to the land they depend on, there is no one-size-fits-all solution. The keys to stronger land rights are as varied as the geographies themselves.

No one knows this better than Landesa. We work with governments and civil society to change laws and policies, and to overcome persistent social barriers to strengthen land rights. From the rubber farms in Liberia to the paddy fields in Myanmar and China, Landesa’s programs are securing futures for families who depend on land to survive.

Every context requires a localized approach, and Landesa has established offices around the globe with local staff and partners rooted in their communities, buoyed by Landesa’s fifty years of experience, research, and knowledge.

This year alone, across three continents, we have strengthened the land rights for 76 million people.

We realize that partnering with local groups and governments is not enough. We are also advocating at the UN and working with companies to include land rights in their agendas. And importantly, Landesa is helping to launch a global campaign to close the gap between policy and practice – a gap that prevents women around the world from realizing their legal rights to own land.

This is only possible because we have dedicated partners, donors, staff, volunteers, and friends who believe when people have rights to the land they depend on to survive, powerful things happen: families benefit, communities thrive, and individuals have the opportunity to invest in their futures.

Thank you for your partnership in this important work.

Chris Jochnick
President & CEO
Our Global Reach

Scroll through the map to learn more about a few of the places where we've worked in the past year.

Landesa offices

Countries Landesa currently works in
In Liberia, the government passed a historic land reform bill, which for the first time will recognize, protect, and guarantee the land rights of rural Liberians. Landesa has supported Liberia’s land reform process with technical inputs on the government’s Land Rights Policy and subsequent Land Rights Act, which members of Liberian civil society have hailed as one of the “most progressive” land reform laws on the African Continent.

After her father died, Kou Berpa was driven off of her land and her rubber trees were burned. Overcoming these obstacles, Kou now rents a small parcel of land to grow maize and uses the income to help pay her grandchildren’s school fees.
Zimbabwe

Propelled by a new administration, Zimbabwe is embracing progressive land reform to support all Zimbabweans. Addressing land rights is critical to building inclusive prosperity in Zimbabwe, particularly given that two-thirds of its citizens reside in rural areas – including the vast majority of the poorest people. At the invitation of the government, Landesa is advising land officials on best practices to deliver pro-poor, democratic land reform.
Our Global Reach

Tanzania

Landesa begins a new chapter in our history with the opening of a new program office in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The office serves as a hub for Landesa’s Africa Program and gives us a local presence to support the work of the Tanzanian government in strengthening women’s land rights.

In Kisarawe district, Zuhura depends on her plot of land for to feed herself and her three grandchildren.
The journey for new landholders doesn’t end once a household has secure rights to land. In India, Landesa has piloted land livelihoods programs in multiple states that connect rural women and men with tools and resources to improve their use of land. These resources can include access to seeds or fertilizer, microloans or credit for investment, and poultry and livestock to encourage animal husbandry.

In Odisha, Indira leveraged a modest loan into a flourishing goat herding venture to boost her family’s income.
In China, urbanization is transforming the landscape of rural villages and propelling many to move to cities, and strong legal protections for rural land rights are critical to sustainably manage such shifts. In the past year, Landesa land tenure experts provided recommendations to the Chinese central government for draft legislation that would strengthen the land tenure rights of China's rural farmers.
Myanmar

Myanmar’s civilian government, with guidance from Landesa, is distributing land to rural families. Many have never before had land of their own. Since the government program began, approximately 22,000 families have received secure land rights through allocations supported by Landesa.

In Ta Myar village, nearly all families were landless laborers. These 140 new smallholders are holding up cards indicating which 1-acre plot belongs to them.
In Brazil, Landesa’s Research, Evaluation and Learning team reviewed a grassroots effort to strengthen women’s land rights within the UN Sustainable Development Goals framework. Created by Espaço Feminista, the innovative model engages communities, local government, and civil society to identify and address gender-based inequalities experienced by women living in northeastern Brazil. Our findings suggest the model is an effective tool for organizations working to empower women and influence sustainable public policy, with potential to be replicated around the world.

DoCarmo, Elvira and Talyta are surveyors from local social movements conducting interviews for Espaço Feminista’s quantitative survey. Photo courtesy of Espaço Feminista.
Focus on Gender

Through our decades of work in more than 50 countries, Landesa has learned that men and women often use land differently, and experience different barriers and benefits when it comes to secure land rights. Research shows that strengthening women’s rights to land and productive assets has powerful continued ripple effects, including:

- Better nutrition and food security for families
- Educational gains for children
- Improved access to markets and public spaces
- Improved family health
- Stronger voice and decision-making opportunities within households
The **Audacity** of **Opportunity**

especially women.

Watch the video online at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=udILpLgvmIM
By the **Numbers**

67,477 **women and men**

received documented land rights through government programs supported by Landesa in the past year

When women and men have documented land rights, they feel more secure and have the confidence to make investments that boost productivity and improve their lives.
By the **Numbers**

In the past year, Landesa contributed to land-related training and legal literacy programs that reached **489,900** women.

Around the world, rural women encounter gender-based discrimination and related barriers that undermine their rights to land. Legal literacy and agriculture training programs equip rural women with the skills, resources, and know-how to exercise their rights and maximize the benefits from their most important asset: the land beneath their feet.
In the past year, Landesa contributed to policy changes in India and Myanmar that could strengthen land rights for an estimated 76,000,000 men and women.

Landesa works alongside national and state governments to advocate for law and policy reforms that can benefit millions of rural women and men.
**Financials**

**Total Revenue**

Revenue Sources (As a Percentage)

- Grants: 78.1%
- Individuals: 7%
- Bilateral/Multilateral Agreements & Corporate Partners: 11.9%
- Corporate Philanthropy: 1.5%
- Other (Gifts in Kind, Interest, etc.): 1.5%

Total Revenue $13,202,766*

**Total Expenses**

Function Allocation of Expenses (As a Percentage)

- Program Services: 78%
- Management / General: 14%
- Fundraising: 8%

Total Expenses $14,130,026*

By Program Area (As a Percentage)

- India: 29.5%
- China: 15.5%
- Africa: 10.9%
- Myanmar: 7%
- Global Projects: 15.5%
- Global Advocacy, Communications, & Learning: 20.9%
- Landesa Center for Women’s Land Rights: 7%

*Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States require Landesa to recognize the full amount of unconditional multi-year grants in the year in which they are awarded. Expenses, however, are recorded in the year they are incurred. In FY 2018, expenses exceeded new grant awards, resulting in the deficit reported here.
After working together for over a decade, I am more convinced of the need for an organization like Landesa. It’s rare for an organization to work at the issue of property rights from both the top down and the bottom up, and that’s exactly what Landesa does, partnering with governments, foreign aid agencies, and local legal resources to directly help marginalized populations in developing countries to help secure their property rights. The more than $20 million USD Omidyar Network has granted to Landesa continues to be a rewarding investment in helping the world’s rural poor achieve greater security, stability, and wealth through property rights.

Peter Rabley, Landesa board member and Venture Partner at Omidyar Network
Thank you to all of the individual donors, foundations, corporations, and partners who made contributions in Fiscal Year 2018 (July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018). Your support makes our work possible.

### Over $1 Million

- Ford Foundation
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Google Foundation
- IKEA Foundation
- King Philanthropies
- NoVo Foundation
- Omidyar Network
- River Star Foundation

### $100,000 – $999,999

- David and Araceli Barclay
- Chandler Foundation
- Lucille Foundation
- Saroj and Sreedhar Menon Family Foundation
- Moccasin Lake Foundation
- Open Society Foundations
- The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
- The Rockefeller Foundation
- Ronald B. Rankin
- Stewardship Foundation
- Swedish Postcode Foundation
- David Weekley Family Foundation
- Wellspring Philanthropic Fund

* Denotes Gardeners for Growth monthly donor
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- The Capital Group Companies Charitable Foundation
- Matt and Ann Nimetz
- Doug and Emilie Ogden/The North Ridge Foundation
- PACCAR Inc
- Propel Capital
- Jill and Bill Ruckelshaus
- Darshana Shanbhag and Dilip Wagle

### $10,000 – $24,999

- Anonymous (2)
- Catherine Bertini Trust Fund for Girls' Education
- Brad Fresia
- Laura Lee Grace
- Lenore Hanauer Foundation
- Kiran and Vikesh Mahendroo
- *George and Beverly Martin
- Sally and Bill Neukom
- Lawrence Wilkinson

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It has been my privilege to work for FORTY years to help spread the democratic land tenure laws formulated by Dr. Roy Prosterman to developing countries.

From its inception as The Rural Development Institute (RDI), up to its brilliant present-day incarnation as Landesa, Roy’s ideas, leadership and tireless hard work have resulted in the NGO which today is ranked ninth in the world in its effectiveness.

It is very rare to find a cause so completely worthy and exciting as Landesa has been for me and for others.

Laura Lee Grace, former board member and Landesa donor for four decades
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- Jim Cardillo and Patricia Kern-Cardillo
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- Sara and Andrew Litt
- Rosemarie Havranek and Nathan Myhrvold
- Margaret Niles and Stephen Garratt
- Kathleen Pierce (in memory of Douglas P. Beighle)
- Jennifer Potter and John Winton
- Deepak and Neera Raj
- Suri and Mala Raman
- Ann P. Wyckoff

### $2,500 – $4,999

- Mike and Lisa Anderson
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### $500 – $999

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I support Landesa because they're making real sustainable change! I like to give monthly because I know that my consistency will help Landesa focus on their mission.”

Jordan Masao, Gardeners for Growth monthly donor
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