



Global Programme: Responsible Land Policy

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES?

For large parts of the rural population, food security depends directly on **ACCESS TO** and use of **LAND**. If access is denied or is unsustainable, hunger and poverty frequently result. However, land as a resource has become both an agricultural good as well as a lucrative investment opportunity. The result is competition and conflicts over land. Groups that only have **INFORMAL LAND RIGHTS** suffer particularly from this. As part of the **SPECIAL INITIATIVE ONE WORLD – NO HUNGER**, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is promoting the **RECOGNITION OF TRADITIONAL LAND RIGHTS** and improved **LAND RIGHTS FOR MARGINALIZED GROUPS**, such as women and indigenous communities.

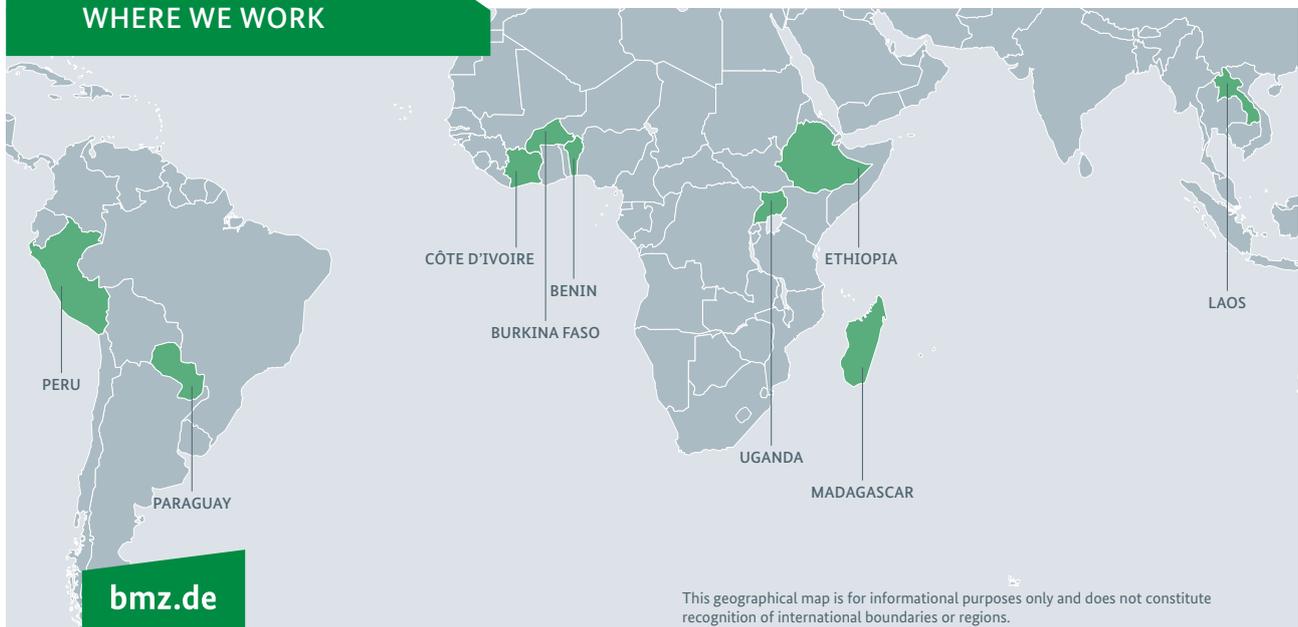
Insecure land rights – what are the causes and what are the consequences?

- ➔ Insecure land rights arise when traditional (land) rights and formal rights clash. It is often marginalised groups that are affected most by a lack of security.
- ➔ Wars and conflicts force many people to leave their home and seek refuge in other regions or countries. Often legal claims are lost and land use conflicts arise in host communities.
- ➔ The consequences of insecure land rights are the displacement of the weakest, conflicts between user groups and lower land productivity.
- ➔ Insecure land rights contribute to poverty, hunger and overexploitation of resources.

The programme will contribute to achieving these sustainable development goals.



WHERE WE WORK



→ HOW DOES THE PROGRAMME WORK?

In order to make access to land safer and fairer for the rural population, the project is focusing on three areas. The first is to improve the institutional framework and procedures for securing and formalising land rights. This is the prerequisite for the official recognition of land use and land ownership rights. Equally important is the active participation of civil society. Land conflicts should be disclosed and resolved jointly with all parties involved. This is done, for example, through dialogue forums in which political partners, representatives of civil society and the private sector participate. Last but not least, private agricultural investors are sensitised to responsible land investments in accordance with international guidelines and national legislation and investments are monitored.

Objective

In selected countries, safe and fair land use and ownership rights create the conditions for sustainable development. By 2025, around 800,000 people will benefit from the project.

→ LAND RIGHTS: AT A GLANCE



Target group: The project improves the land ownership and land use rights of about 800,000 people in the partner countries. At least 20% of them are women. Particular attention is paid to the rights of marginalised groups such as indigenous peoples.



Duration: 2015 to 2025



Budget: EUR 83.2 million



Countries: The project is active in Ethiopia, Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Laos, Madagascar, Peru, Uganda, Paraguay (finished in 2018).



Land rights: The project supports people in improving their livelihoods through secure and fair access to land and in developing long-term economic prospects in rural areas.

→ LAND POLICY – A SPECIFIC EXAMPLE: LAND TITLES AS THE BASIS FOR INVESTMENT

Those who travel by motorbike or moped in the rural areas of Laos will sooner or later also pass through villages whose streets are lined with small convenience stores. These shops are often located on the ground floor of the houses. Mrs. Chanpeang from Viengthong in Northeast Laos is the owner of such a shop, where she offers all kinds of things for daily use.

She received the starting capital of 11,400 euros for the establishment of the shop through a loan from the “Lao Development Bank”. She used her land title as collateral for the loan. She had received it as part of a project implemented by GIZ on behalf of BMZ. A second loan enabled her to invest in her fishery. The shopkeeper from Viengthong has high hopes for additional income and expects to be able to repay the loans quickly.

Safe and fair access to land in the form of land titles is an important prerequisite for investment. Mrs. Chanpeang says, “This kind of investment has helped me a lot to improve my life. I have money for my children’s education, I was able to build a house and buy a truck to transport the products.”

