

HOW CAN RESISTANCE AGAINST FEMALE LAND OWNERSHIP BE OVERCOME?

LESSONS FROM THE WCP IMPACT RESEARCH
IN UGANDA IN 2014



Our conflicts over what and when I should use the land were growing day by day and society was not helping because whenever I would try to speak out I would be shut down that I am a woman and had nothing to say concerning land.

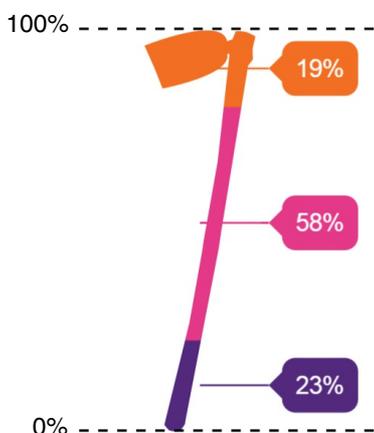
Grace Lacer (46)
Farmer
Living together without being married
6 Children in household



TO WHAT EXTENT CAN WOMEN OBTAIN OWNERSHIP OF LAND IN YOUR COMMUNITY?



FINDINGS OF WCP SURVEY



- 19% - not possible at all
- 58% - possible, but it meets a lot of resistance
- 23% - possible and little or no resistance

Source: WCP Uganda 2014, N = 4311

The WCP study wanted to look at the possibility for women to own land in Uganda. Survey respondents were thus asked to what extent women can obtain ownership of land in the respondent's community.

The general picture that emerges from the survey results is not entirely rosy: while a large majority of respondents reports that it is possible for women to obtain land ownership in their community, the largest share of this group of respondents adds that women trying to obtain land ownership are met with a lot of resistance. Social norms prevent women from obtaining land.



Photo: Peterik Wiggers

HOW CAN INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES CHANGE SOCIAL NORMS THAT INHIBIT LAND OWNERSHIP FOR WOMEN?

FINDINGS FROM THE STORIES OF CHANGE ON FEMALE LAND OWNERSHIP:



For individuals to be able to challenge social norms regarding land ownership three aspects are important:

- they need to acquire knowledge and skills to inform and convince peers
- they need to have sufficient self-confidence to be able to stand out from the crowd
- they need to have or gain status within the community to ensure that their opinion is being heard and taken into account

Community groups can support change in individual beliefs and practices through:

- peer pressure
- peer advice
- providing incentives to the individual to sustain the change

Taking these drivers for change into account in interventions that want to change social norms might increase their effectiveness.

CHANGE IN SOCIAL NORMS: FROM THE INDIVIDUAL TO THE COMMUNITY



It was after attending a land rights training early this year that I realized I could be a better responsible citizen. I finally picked interest in land issues and even had the capacity and knowledge on how to protect women's rights on land. This is how I ended up involved in an old woman's land issue that

– although it had already attracted the attention of FIDA lawyers – I managed to convince them to settle it out of court. [...] The old woman has been left on the land and she is even in good terms with her sons.

This has earned me respect and admiration from the whole community and am now regarded as a "star". The LC1 chairman always calls me to help him settle land disputes because of my skills.



Alfred Oruma (53), Farmer, Married, 6 Children in household

CHANGE IN SOCIAL NORMS: FROM THE COMMUNITY TO THE INDIVIDUAL



I feel proud that I am a person that my community counts on in times of need. I am happy that I managed to win my land back, and I feel strong when women and some men

value me because I voice their issues and that most of them are now speaking on their own after getting the information from me.



Ms Adong Frances (41), Peasant Farmer and Change agent with CEWIT, Widow, 4 Children in household

KEY LESSON: CHANGING INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES TO PROMOTE FEMALE LAND OWNERSHIP



Individuals can influence changes in their community, if they have the knowledge and skills, are confident enough to speak out and possess the appropriate social status. Then, the community around the individual is important in creating a lasting change. Hence, interventions promoting female land ownership should not only work with individuals to change their beliefs, but should also encourage individuals to share lessons with their community and to obtain support from the community as well in order to change the social norms on female land ownership.

The objective of this impact study was to measure and understand the changes in people's lives caused by the programmes of Oxfam and partners in Uganda. For this, Oxfam Novib's World Citizens Panel research methodology was used, which combines quantitative (the survey) and qualitative research (the Stories of Change).

IMPACT SURVEY



170 interviewers
4.953 interviews

Data collection:
June - September 2014

STORIES OF CHANGE



8 organisations
52 stories

Data collection:
October - December 2014

In 2014 in Uganda, an impact study was carried out by Oxfam and 17 partners, each partner in their own area of intervention. All partners interviewed project beneficiaries (target group) and people who had not participated to their projects but who have identical characteristics (control group). Based on the outcomes of the impact survey, Oxfam and partners identified the domains "land rights for women" and "gender-based violence" for more in-depth investigation through the collection of Stories of Change. A reflection workshop was organized in January 2015, in which Oxfam and partner organisations together analyzed a selected number of stories and discussed the findings.

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