



World Bank: Contribution of land agencies to reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

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Kadri Laud
ELRA Board of Directors





Background

Increasing demand for strengthening tenure security for all has created the need for a core set of land indicators that have national application and global comparability, and culminated in SDG 1.4.2 in 2015.

Indicator 1.4.2 is part of Goal 1 (end poverty) and is defined as follows: *“Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, with (1) legally recognized documentation and (2) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and by type of tenure”*.

Indicator 1.4.2 thus measures gender disaggregated progress in tenure security. Regular reporting on indicator 1.4.2 will provide an impetus to expand the availability of data from surveys as well as routine reporting on land administration service delivery by registries and other agencies, departments or even municipalities holding land information data.

The SDGs provide an entry point for building monitoring capacity in land agencies and expand land data collection in household surveys and census.





Definitions

Secure tenure rights: comprised of two sub-components: (i) legally recognized documentation and (ii) perception of the security of tenure.

Legally recognized documentation: refers to the recording and publication of information on the nature and location of land, rights and right holders in a form that is recognized by government, and is therefore official. For purposes of computing SDG Indicator 1.4.2, the country specific metadata will define what documentation on land rights will be “counted” as legally recognized.

Perceived security of tenure: refers to an individual’s perception of the likelihood of involuntary loss of land, such as disagreement of the ownership rights over land or ability to use it, and can be more optimistic or pessimistic. Although those without land rights’ documentation tend to be viewed to be under threat, and those with documentation as protected, there may be situations where documented land rights alone are insufficient to guarantee tenure security.





Actionability of SDG

One motivation that makes the indicator actionable is that, in several countries, the gap between data on the availability of documentation and on perception of tenure security can be large:

- tenure may be perceived as secure, even though rights are not formally documented, as in the case of customary systems and trusted local land governance arrangements;
- or, the opposite, tenure may be perceived as insecure even when there is a high level of formal documentation of rights.

Reporting on perceived security will provide important information on people's satisfaction with the institutional quality of service, transparency, appropriateness, accessibility and affordability of land administration services and justice systems.

This indicator will thus inform policy and allow for the assessment of specific outcomes and practical priorities for further improvements of tenure security at the country level.



Thank you!



<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/>