



# YOUTH AND LAND RESPONSIVENESS CRITERIA

Promoting Youth Responsive Land Policies and Programmes



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## YOUTH

### WHY IS IT NEEDED?

There are over 1.2 billion young people aged between 15 and 24 in the world today. They are increasingly demonstrating their presence and are making contributions across a variety of development sectors, particularly in response to political developments, climate change and natural disasters, and they are having a huge impact. To date, however, this has not been visible in the land sector.

The needs of today's youth with regard to land are different from those of previous generations and are influenced by changes around the world, including globalization, urbanization, migration, climate change, and technology advancement amongst other issues. These changes have an impact on the choices and opportunities available for youth, no less so when it comes to land.

Today, 87 per cent of youth live in developing countries. While the net number of youth globally will decrease in years to come, in many developing countries, youth, as a percentage of their populations, will increase. In these countries, land policies are frequently not sufficiently comprehensive and are sometimes contradictory. Therefore, development agendas and changes to national land policies need to take into account the needs and perspectives of the growing youth population in order to not only support this demographic, but also to derive the greatest possible benefit from its potential. In terms of land issues, young women are doubly affected and effective land policies must also understand and address their needs.



## THE TOOL

The *Youth and Land Responsiveness Criteria* (YLRC) is about people. It is about getting youth and other stakeholders in the land sector to discuss with each other. The purpose of the tool is to assess land programmes and policies objectively to ensure that youth and land issues are equitably addressed in order to achieve tenure security for all. These issues include defining youth in the land sector, land literacy, participation in land governance and access to land as related to youth needs. The tool can be used to evaluate existing land tools in terms of their responsiveness to youth and to identify where and how they can be more responsive to youth's needs and concerns for land. It also provides strong opportunities to involve youth actively in the process and to get first-hand knowledge on the experiences of youth in relation to land issues. The YLRC tool has been designed to be flexible. It is simple enough to be used with limited facilitation or training skills, and is adaptable to a variety of contexts.

### YOUTH, LAND & HUMAN RIGHTS

#### ECONOMIC RIGHTS

Land for livelihoods, work place, economic assets, income generation, accessing services, and skills training;

#### SOCIAL RIGHTS

Land for shelter and family life, education, recreation, open spaces, parks, health;

#### CULTURAL RIGHTS

Land and public space for community events, religious practices, entertainment, and cultural/art events;

#### CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

Land allocated for youth projects, information, media and expression.

## What is it used for?

- Collect and analyse youth and land data at local, regional and national levels;
- Collect baseline data for specific youth and land-related projects;
- As a planning and implementation tool for projects and programmes;
- At the problem identification stage of planning, before an intervention is designed;
- To assess the impacts that a land-related project/programme may have on youth; and,
- To make recommendations to a policy-maker on improving the youth responsiveness of the land sector.

## What does it tell you?

- Different needs for land by different youth categories (who needs what, when, why);
- Youth differences in both access to and control over land resources and benefits (what resources are available, to do what);
- Factors that influence different needs of youth in terms of access to and control over land resources and benefits (external constraints and opportunities);
- Different possible ways to address youth and land issues at different levels.

## Key elements

- Five main categories of questions related to specific land-related themes;
- Analysis of influencing/non-inducing factors;
- Allows for data collection in a community/sample;
- Flexible and can be used in combination with other types of analysis.



## PARTNERS INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOOL

### UN-Habitat youth partners

Young Voices Network (Zimbabwe), Team for Nature and Wildlife (Nepal), Youth Without Borders Organisation for Development (Yemen), Sisi Ni Amani (Kenya), ISPIS - Instituto Sincronicidade para Interação Social (Brazil), Urbego (International).

### GLTN partners

Action Aid, Habitat for Humanity International (HfH), University of West Indies (UWI), Habitat International Coalition (HIC), UN-Habitat, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), University of Twente (ITC), International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Norwegian University of Life Sciences (UMB), and the University of East London (UEL).

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