

# Scaling up impacts from the grassroots in Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique and Senegal

ActionAid Kenya, ADECRU, Enda Pronat, Fórum Mulher, GROOTS Kenya, Oxfam in Malawi and LANDac



*‘A paradigm shift needs to occur – development policies should view grassroots groups not as projects but as agents of change and partners in development.’*

*Minou Ramaroson of the Huairou Commission for Women, Homes and Community at the Agents of Grassroots Transformation learning event in Nairobi, 23 April 2018*

## Introduction

In October 2016, women farmers from 22 countries across Africa climbed the peak of Mount Kilimanjaro to claim women’s rights for access to and control over land and natural resources. This Women2Kilimanjaro initiative<sup>1</sup> coincided with the launch of a campaign of the African Land Policy Centre (ALPC), formerly called the Land Policy Initiative (LPI). This campaign aims to reach the target of 30 per cent of all registered land to be in the name of women by 2025. It also seeks to embed women’s land rights into the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This international attention on women’s land rights comes at a time when most African countries have progressive policies and legal frameworks in place to allow for securing women’s land rights and for women’s participation in decision-making processes. But in practice, implementation is lagging behind. Rights which are guaranteed in policies and law are in constant clash with discriminatory socio-cultural norms and practices.

<sup>1</sup> The Kilimanjaro Initiative was conceived in 2012 during a meeting of rural women and civil society organisations, held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. This initiative aimed to create space for rural women to participate in decision-making processes about land and natural resources. See <http://bit.ly/2DAJlcn>.

Often, local authorities resist implementation on the ground. Grassroots women – as well as men – are not well informed or aware of their rights. And the lack of gender-sensitive data on land ownership and control undermines attempts to track progress on women's land rights.

To build on the momentum of the Kilimanjaro Initiative, in 2017 the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs started to develop strategies and outcomes to address a crucial issue: how to successfully improve and scale up women's land tenure security and land rights. It did this with the support of practitioners, scholars, policymakers and representatives of grassroots movements from Africa, Latin America and Asia at an expert meeting in Apeldoorn.<sup>2</sup> The objectives of the meeting were:

- To identify the most promising experiences, ideas and strategies to scale up women's land rights.
- To develop roadmaps which reflect the participants' vision and proposed actions on the best ways to scale women's land rights, and which include which actors to target or call upon.
- To identify and validate what works where.<sup>3</sup>

As a follow up, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs decided to support grassroots women's organisations in their goal of securing women's land rights in Africa and to help scale up approaches that work. The Women's Land Rights in Africa (WLRA) programme coordinated by LANDac<sup>4</sup> aimed to move the women's land rights agenda forward and to scale up successful grassroots initiatives in claiming access to and control over land and other natural resources.

After an open call for partners to work with them on this programme, a consortium of six organisations were selected. They were chosen for their successful cooperation with women's grassroots initiatives. Each organisation had a different approach and offered different ways to scale up (see Table 1). Enda Pronat in Senegal, GROOTS Kenya and ActionAid Kenya in Kenya, ADECRU and Fórum Mulher in Mozambique, and Oxfam in Malawi received logistical, financial and technical support for their activities. They also contributed to action research facilitated by LANDac as well as to a series of international activities. This further strengthened the

consortium and gave international attention to the women's land rights agenda.

In this synthesis report, we describe the programme approach and methodology and give a summary of the main conclusions of the programme:

- Access to and control over gender-sensitive data is key to securing women's land rights in Africa. Collecting data for and by grassroots women is important for making women's land rights more visible and raising awareness of the issues, for negotiating better rights and for daily monitoring of the reality on the ground.
- Local champions play a crucial role as engines for collective action and strengthening grassroots movements. Enabling communication between grassroots organisations and local authorities will help to secure women's land rights at the local level.
- Grassroots movements must participate in policy debates and multistakeholder dialogues. It is crucial for coalition building and scaling up successful initiatives from local to national and international levels. Scaling up successful practices and policies requires exchanging experiences between grassroots organisations (both within and between countries) and creating synergies between different stakeholders.

### **'Start at the grassroots': programme activities and methodology**

The six partner organisations of the WLRA programme have a long history of working with grassroots organisations and movements to strengthen women's land rights in Senegal, Malawi, Kenya and Mozambique (see map). The programme provided financial, logistical and technical support to activities that already had been successful in improving women's land rights on the ground and with the potential to be replicated and scaled up.

#### **Activities in Senegal**

In Senegal, Enda Pronat replicated ongoing initiatives and approaches in three municipalities (Keur Socé, Chérif Lô and Darou Khoudoss). The aim was to improve local governance of natural resources and scale up the impacts. Their main activities focused on:

- Awareness-raising workshops for grassroots women and men and radio broadcasts on women's land rights to reach as many people as possible.
- Strengthening the political and technical capacity of land animators<sup>5</sup> to build knowledge and share information about land rights on the ground. Land animators also help local people to legally register their lands.
- Supporting women during a national advocacy campaign

<sup>5</sup> Land animators is the term used for local champions by the partners in Senegal.

<sup>2</sup> The Women's Land Rights expert meeting, which was held on 27th–29th November in Apeldoorn, the Netherlands. The event was organised by The Gender Resource Facility, Kadaster, LANDac, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oxfam Novib and the Centre for Development Innovation at Wageningen University.

<sup>3</sup> For a full report of the programme see: <http://bit.ly/2Aa4CMd>.

<sup>4</sup> The Women's Land Rights in Africa programme (WLRA) was coordinated by Griet Steel and Michelle Nuijen on behalf of the Netherlands Land Academy (LANDac).

**Table 1.** Overview of partner organisations working with and from the grassroots

Partner	Approach
Enda Pronat in Senegal	Enda Pronat is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) member of the international network Enda Third World (Enda Tiers Monde), which works for the promotion of sustainable development goals in Senegal. Enda Pronat works closely with peasant associations, women's groups and youth groups at the local level in three areas of action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participatory and inclusive governance of natural resources</li> <li>• Action research training in agroecology</li> <li>• Promoting the use of local agricultural products for commercial purposes.</li> </ul>
Fórum Mulher and ADECRU in Mozambique	Academic Action for the Development of Rural Communities (ADECRU) is a civil society organisation (CSO) which has teamed up with Fórum Mulher, a network of 35 NGOs that works for the rights of Mozambican women across the country. Both organisations have been working together for years with rural communities on development, human rights and gender equality. In the framework of the WLRA programme they focused on strengthening women's land rights in the Nacala and Beira corridors. Their joint activities focused on women's poor access to and control over land and other natural resources due to uneven power relations between men and women and other social dynamics affected by patriarchal practices.
ActionAid Kenya and GROOTS Kenya	ActionAid Kenya is a development organisation that has worked for more than 40 years on women's land rights in Kenya. It has a grassroots presence in 14 counties and gives legitimacy to grassroots women's leadership, helping to mobilise women to participate and take the lead in the women's land agenda in Kenya. GROOTS Kenya is a national movement of grassroots women with a membership of 3,500 women-led, community-based organisations and self-help groups. Its mission is to facilitate grassroots women and their communities to effectively and directly participate in development processes through movement building, leadership development and community-led advocacy.
Oxfam in Malawi	Oxfam in Malawi has several programmes and projects which aim to promote and enhance women's land rights. It has participated in locally mobilising and organising women's voices and movements to advocate for women's land rights including the Women2Kilimanjaro Initiative. For the WLRA programme, Oxfam worked with two key grassroots movements, the Rural Women's Assembly (RWA) and the Coalition of Women Farmers (COWFA). They were responsible for mobilising and organising women's land rights forums in the three districts of Mzimba, Kasungu and Phalombe in the three regions of the country.



Research locations

to better address their concerns in national policies and strengthening the capacity of elected women to defend women's rights in local decision-making bodies.

### Activities in Malawi

In Malawi, Oxfam conducted a baseline study on gendered land ownership and women's land rights. The study aimed to provide a better picture of women's land ownership in the country and how ongoing initiatives could be strengthened from the grassroots upwards.<sup>6</sup> Oxfam Malawi worked with the Rural Women's Assembly (RWA) and the Coalition of Women Farmers (COWFA) to:

- Mobilise and organise women's land rights forums in Mzimba, Kasungu and Phalombe to support more women to assume leadership roles, acquire land titles and enhance their land rights.
- Accompany the trained women forum members when they returned to their communities and support them in raising awareness among their fellow women and the wider community of women's rights, land rights, women's empowerment and on the provisions of the new land laws (particularly the Customary Land Act of 2016).
- Prepare a video documentary on women's land rights and radio broadcasts.

### Activities in Mozambique

In Mozambique, ADECRU and Fórum Mulher teamed up to strengthen women's land rights in the Nacala and Beira corridors. Activities included:

- Carrying out community-based workshops in the Nacala and Beira corridors for women in rural communities, to discuss women's concrete demands and priorities in relation to land, water and other natural resources.
- Organising a national rural women's conference in Quelimane, Zambezia Province to analyse current policies and development programmes, to discuss rural women's livelihoods and priorities, and to demand actions to secure women's land rights and provide alternative pathways for development in rural communities.
- Documenting the main outcomes of their activities through a video documentary and articles to raise awareness at national and international levels and to influence development policies and programmes in Mozambique.

### Activities in Kenya

In Kenya, ActionAid and GROOTS Kenya have both worked on a number of activities to move the women's land rights



Community led mapping in Kenya . Photo by GROOTS Kenya

agenda forward and to empower women in claiming access to and control over land and other natural resources. Activities included:

- Community-led mapping of women's land access, ownership and control in Kakamega and Laikipia.
- Social action study on perceptions of women on their access to and participation in the governance of natural resources.
- Using community-generated data to strengthen the capacity of existing local grassroots movements in advocacy work and to influence policy.
- Organising a multistakeholder platform involving grassroots women, government institutions and CSOs to develop a campaign framework and design tools to track the implementation of the rural women's charter.
- Developing a framework for implementing the Rural Women's Land Rights Charter.

### Other WRLA programme activities

The country partners' activities were systematically combined with six weeks of extra action research in the four countries (and more particularly in the focus areas of the partners). The action research was facilitated by the two LANDac researchers, Ine Cottyn and Vivian Hartlief. The researchers participated in the programme activities to collect grassroots stories and testimonies and by analysing the impacts of the partners' activities. The grassroots women took the lead in this action research. They set the agenda for the interviews and focus group discussions, framing their own stories as they wanted to and guiding the researchers in transect walks to show the reality of the current land tenure situation faced by women in the community. The women also interviewed other women about their land tenure situation using photos and videos, and, with support from the researchers, documented their stories and visions of how to scale up and strengthen women's land rights.

<sup>6</sup> Other women's land rights-related projects include two projects funded by the European Union (EU) (Strengthening Land Governance System for Smallholder Farmers in Malawi project and the Women's Land Rights for Inclusive Development and Growth in Africa project) and Oxfam's Behind the Brands Campaign on private-sector influence on responsible and inclusive large-scale land-based investments (LSLBIs).

### Box 1. Generating evidence by and for grassroots women

In Kakamega county, Kenya, where land is held under private tenure systems, GROOTS Kenya used a community-led mapping tool to lead grassroots women to map land ownership. A team of 18 grassroots women surveyed 2,500 households. Analysis showed that where private land is registered:

- Less than five per cent of land parcels is registered exclusively in women's names
- Seven per cent is owned by both women and men, and
- The remaining 88 per cent is owned by men.

In Laikipia County, where land is held by communities, grassroots women used the community-led mapping tool to conduct research on gender representation in community land-governance systems. In the nine group ranches participating in the research, women accounted for less than 9 per cent of the registered members – which is far below the constitutional threshold of not more than two-thirds gender representation.

The findings of the surveys were shared and discussed during in-depth interviews and focus group discussions in the different communities. Apart from opening discussions about land governance between women and men, the findings also resulted in a memorandum for the Digitisation Task Force in Kenya. In August 2018, the Ministry of Lands and Physical Planning established plans to digitalise the land registry in the country. In the memorandum, GROOTS Kenya has asked the ministry to integrate gender- and age-disaggregated data on land in the planned National Land Information Management System. In the group ranches in Laikipia, the research findings also resulted in negotiations with the Ministry of Lands and Physical Planning to open a local (and therefore easily accessible) land registration office instead of in the current government administrative centre. Women often have limited mobility, and this approach would bring land registration services closer to them.



*Land animators register women's land claims in Senegal*

*Photo by El Hadji Faye*

In addition, the WLRA programme organised a series of meetings and workshops. These brought together the consortium of partner organisations, their grassroots representatives and the researchers together and provided an opportunity for them to learn from each other. Two steering committee meetings were organised to reflect on the activities that each partner had conducted and to formulate a future agenda. These meetings coincided with the participation of the partners and their grassroots representatives at international events such as the annual international LANDac conference in Utrecht where the consortium organised a panel in 2017 and 2018 to discuss lessons learnt from the grassroots initiatives. In March 2018, the partners also organised a master class at the World Bank's Land and Poverty Conference focusing on how to ensure that the priorities of local women and men are put first in decision-making processes and implementation strategies around land governance.<sup>7</sup>

On 22 and 23 April 2018 the consortium organised a final learning event in Nairobi: Agents of Grassroots Transformation: Spurring Conversations Between Women's Land Rights Champions and (Traditional) Leaders from Senegal, Kenya, Mozambique and Malawi. For this event, partner organisations brought together grassroots women and local authorities to discuss how to scale up the women's land rights agenda in Africa from local to national and international levels. Discussions on the first day involved a dialogue between

<sup>7</sup> For the full report see: <http://bit.ly/2QebFvg>

women's land rights champions and traditional leaders from Senegal, Kenya, Mozambique and Malawi in Nairobi. On the second day, this dialogue and the grassroots women's key messages were communicated to a broader audience of representatives from regional and global institutions.

Through these activities, grassroots communities, programme partners and researchers have been able to continuously share their knowledge and experiences through the WLRA programme. They have complemented each other and co-created a locally embedded agenda on women's land rights. In the remainder of this synthesis report we will discuss what conclusions have been reached by the WLRA programme and the main recommendations in terms of scaling up activities.

### Women's access to and control of data and the role of knowledge

*[ I thought research [on women's access to land] was always done by scientists and other academics, but with this group [of grassroots women] we did the surveys, analysed the data and made the renditions in the villages, communes and institutions. Based on the outcomes of this action research, we felt that the favoured approach should be working at the grassroots level. ]*

Thérèse Mbaye, grassroots woman representing Senegal's National Network of Rural Women

The WLRA programme has demonstrated the dire need for local knowledge on women's land rights and the crucial role grassroots women can play in collecting and analysing their own data. The different activities have shown that collecting data for and by grassroots women is important for making women's land rights more visible and raising awareness of the issues, for negotiating better rights and for daily monitoring of the reality on the ground.

In Kenya, ActionAid and GROOTS grassroots women collected data on women's situations in relation to land tenure, access to natural resources and women's representation in land governance (see Box 1) (ActionAid Kenya, GROOTS Kenya and LANDac, 2018). In Senegal, Enda Pronat trained 'land animators', women and men from local associations, to build knowledge and share information about land rights on the ground. Apart from collecting information on the current 'state of the art' in terms of women's tenure security, these land animators also assisted individual community members (both of women and men) to register their land in their own name (Enda Pronat and LANDac 2018). In Malawi and Mozambique, grassroots women were encouraged to contribute to knowledge generation on women's land rights by making documentaries using their own narratives and testimonies (Box 2).

### Box 2. Women's opinions matter

In Mozambique, grassroots women's stories were being recorded on film. The women were enthusiastic about the opportunity to document their narratives. 'It gives us the feeling of being heard, of being capable of sharing ideas and thoughts and really making a statement.' Several women explained that they often felt unheard, as if their opinion did not matter. Letting them speak in front of a camera clearly gave them a sense of belonging and relevance and enhanced their engagement in the community workshops.



By listening to other women voicing their stories, the women were encouraged to speak out in favour of their rights. The documentary serves as a kind of mirror and will be shown to policymakers and practitioners to promote the further implementation of policies that favour grassroots women's access to land and other natural resources.

Photo: Flex Services

In all of the four countries, these types of locally generated and owned data were vital to securing women's land rights. Firstly, women's participation in data collection improved their ability to articulate the issues that they face and to make a stronger



Training session for local champions in Phalombe, Malawi  
Photo by Andrew Mkandawire Phalombe

case for change. Rhoda Barkenya is one of 22 rural women trained as part of the community-based research team for ActionAid Kenya's social action study on women and natural resources. During an interview for the WRLA programme in May 2018, she told us 'The training empowered me. No one can challenge me on what relates to my rights.' Using skills gained from this training, she was able to claim back her land by pursuing a court process. She now possesses the title deed. The experiences of other women have also shown that data collection that involves women's narratives enables them to share, talk about and address issues they commonly face.

Secondly, by involving local communities in data collection, capacity is built and awareness is raised within the community. For example, grassroots groups were supported to partner with mainstream media to broadcast women's land narratives. In Malawi and Mozambique, women's narratives and testimonies were documented in videos on women's land rights (see Box 2). This was a clear opportunity to create and scale up awareness (ADECRU, Fórum Mulher and LANDac 2018; Oxfam Malawi and LANDac, 2018).<sup>8</sup>

Thirdly, locally generated and owned information is vital in supporting collective action for change. It enables women to track progress in realising their rights, to partake in the monitoring process and to contest data that they believe is inaccurate. As a result, locally generated and owned data formed the basis for evidence-based advocacy at local, national and international levels.

### Local champions and grassroots-led movements

*[ We understand that when people come together, they become an engine for change. One of the things we say is that we need to walk together, the togetherness will lead us to victory. Leave no one behind. ]*

Clemente, ADECRU Mozambique, 18 March 2018  
steering committee meeting

The WRLA programme built on the grassroots-led movement that was mobilised during the Women2Kilimanjaro initiative. It showed that problems should not be considered as belonging to the individual, but as shared challenges for which joint and coordinated solutions can be explored. During an interview in January 2018, Alice, chairwoman of the Rural Women's Assembly in Malawi, explained the importance of women speaking with one voice, and the influence these women can have by doing so: 'Women in one voice appear to be more listened to, and more convincing.'

<sup>8</sup> For the Malawi documentary see: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=DRfrEGg6Evc&t=668s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DRfrEGg6Evc&t=668s). For the Mozambique documentary see [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vnNtUi0sMzl&index=1&list=PLMGaQDUSwc6m\\_v0zeMOblaDQ4vtVE5Khw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vnNtUi0sMzl&index=1&list=PLMGaQDUSwc6m_v0zeMOblaDQ4vtVE5Khw)



Local champion at the rural women's national conference in Mozambique. Photo by Clemente Ntauzi

In all of the four countries, we found that local champions drive collective action and strengthen grassroots movements (movements which had already begun following the Women2Kilimanjaro initiative). Although the definition of the term 'local champion' varied among the partners, local champions were generally considered as women who have successfully secured their rights and subsequently strongly advocate for the rights of others. They had a key function in acting as a role model and mobilising the community to advocate for women's land rights. The authenticity of local champions as 'one of our own' makes it very easy for these women to play the role of ambassador for their communities and to act as a localised source of accessible knowledge.

Examples from Malawi show how female local champions became knowledge brokers. Through training, they ensured that awareness-raising activities about women's land rights and land governance took place at the grassroots level (see Box 3) (Oxfam in Malawi and LANDac 2018). Local champions also succeeded in mobilising and organising more women to take up leadership positions and to become women's land

#### Box 3. Women leaders: the domino effect

*From today, I think of a way to start my campaign. Since we have been sitting in this session [the Women's Land Rights Forum training session in Kasungu] today. That's why I begged for the notes, so that I can be studying and share with my friends, villagers in my community. We need to start lobbying for our rights. I have made some friends here today. Whenever I meet people in a group, I can have a short time discussing as we are chatting, as you and me, we can be sharing our stories. This is what I will be doing in my community as well. People become interested, and they will learn it.*

In-depth interview, Malawi, 6 February 2018

#### Box 4. Learning event: Agents of Grassroots Transformation

On 22 and 23 April 2018, the final learning event was launched with a tree-planting ceremony in Karura Forest to express the importance of women's access to and control over land and natural resources. Afterwards, grassroots women sat together with traditional leaders – mostly men – to learn from each other and to further define and scale up the women's land rights agenda.

Grassroots women emphasised the importance of raising awareness in communities as well as mobilising local chiefs to support women's land rights. The women showed that local leaders can set a good example by giving their own wives and daughters land to register in their own names. As such, men advocating for women's land rights was opted as a concrete strategy to advance the rights of women. Men (especially in their role as local leaders) can be crucial gatekeepers between law and tradition.

The role of community-driven data production, and the training of para-surveyors, was emphasised as an important strategy to put women at the centre of understanding and holding local as well as national governments accountable. It also became clear that a women's land rights agenda could be further enhanced by community-to-community exchanges and the participation of local champions in national and international debates.

Local champions also take their experiences from an international environment back to their own communities. Rebecca Mabui is a local champion in Mozambique working with Fórum Mulher who took home with her key messages and mutual learnings following the learning event in Nairobi. After reflecting on her own participation there, she said 'Listening to other women's experiences – and by representing the concrete demands of women in Mozambique – inspired me to bring the message back home and to encourage women in my community to stand up for their rights.'



For more information about the Agents of Grassroots Transformation learning event, including the report and video see: <http://bit.ly/2zhtXTI>.

rights activists within and across their communities. Local champions are also of great importance in strengthening linkages between the community and CSOs and in stimulating movement building.



Focus group discussion Kakamega, Kenya

In terms of opportunities to scale up activities for securing women's land rights, we found that it was important to further build the capacity of these local champions and to engage them in a dialogue with local authorities such as elders, chiefs and religious leaders. These local authorities, as gatekeepers of customary laws and practices, have been shown to be strategic partners for scaling up the women's land rights agenda and forging the necessary linkages between local, national and global laws and principles. This became especially clear during the Agents of Grassroots Transformation learning event in Nairobi. Discussions between women champions and male traditional leaders resulted in some concrete suggestions on how to strengthen women's land rights in Africa (see Box 4).

To further support these types of initiatives and scale up the success of movement building and the involvement of local champions, grassroots movements should be connected to each other. We have learnt that regional and country exchanges between grassroots organisations is of major value. One of the key messages of the Agents of Grassroots Transformation learning event was the need to further support networks throughout Africa and to support community exchange visits. In combination with the creation of local platforms where

women's land rights can be discussed from a grassroots (women's) perspective, this offers great opportunities for scaling up the women's land rights agenda.<sup>9</sup>

### Grassroots participation in policy debates and multistakeholder coalitions

[ *The low awareness on women's land rights calls for concerted efforts among civil society organisations and other stakeholders in order to leverage on advocacy and coordinate efforts.* ]

Andrew Mkandawire, Oxfam in Malawi

The WLRA programme has clearly shown the need to align grassroots initiatives with policymakers at the national level and to create multilevel and multistakeholder coalitions. Although women's land rights are high on national and international agendas, the connection between grassroots initiatives and movements and policy-level discourses are often lacking. Grassroots women organise themselves and create their spaces to converse and support each other. But their voices, concerns and experiences are rarely included in policymaking or in concrete action to improve women's land rights at the national level.

The connection between grassroots initiatives and policy debates at the national and international level needs to be strengthened. To do this, many of the WRLA programme's activities involved actors with complementary competences, such as grassroots movements, policymakers, CSOs, researchers and land administration professionals. ActionAid Kenya focused on further strengthening the Women2Kilimanjaro movement by working on the Rural Women's Land Rights Charter of Kenya (see Box 5) (ActionAid Kenya, GROOTS Kenya and LANDac, 2018). In Mozambique, Senegal and Malawi, WLRA partners developed national alliances to reinforce synergies between the different stakeholders working to promote women's land rights across each country. In Senegal, this national alliance has reinforced advocacy work, by holding regular meetings with the National Union of Associations (an association of local elected representatives of Senegal) to advocate for women's access to land (see Box 6). In Mozambique, the rural women's declaration opened a political dialogue with the president and government authorities in order to advocate for women's rights and for gender equity.

Grassroots women were systematically involved in international meetings and public events, such as the international land conference of LANDac and the World Bank's international conference on land rights. The Agents of Grassroots Trans-

#### Box 5. Rural Women's Land Rights Charter of Kenya

The Rural Women's Land Rights Charter of Kenya outlines a plan of action for realising five broad goals:

- Accessible administrative and justice systems for women
- Women's concerns, voices and interests are reflected in decisions
- Enhanced access to information on the status of women's land rights
- Eradication of discrimination and inequalities for women in access and control over land
- Well-coordinated multistakeholder platforms advancing women's land rights.

To achieve the broad goals of the charter, the WLRA programme has developed a comprehensive, holistic and inclusive implementation framework with multiple stakeholders, ranging from rural women's initiatives, grassroots movements and CSOs (including ActionAid Kenya and GROOTS Kenya) to Kenyan government ministries.

formation learning event (Box 4) has also strengthened the dialogue between grassroots women and policymakers, as well as between women's land rights activists and a wide range of stakeholders including CSOs, community leaders, elected and representative officials, and policymakers.

Collaboration between different stakeholders and existing organisations and the structural involvement of grassroots organisations in these initiatives has meant that the outcomes of the WLRA programme have been shared among a wider network. It has also led to the coordination of women's land rights initiatives in coherent country programmes. Scaling up successful practices and policies will require creating synergies between the different stakeholders and organising more exchange visits to share experiences between grassroots organisations, both within and between countries.

### Conclusion

Working from the grassroots upwards, the WLRA programme has combined action research with the direct support of successful initiatives and strategies that women themselves have used to secure their equal access to land. It has shown how the women's land rights agenda can be strengthened in Africa. The programme has supported:

- Women's access to and control over data and data collection
- Local champions and grassroots-led movements
- Grassroots participation in policy debates and multi-stakeholder dialogues

<sup>9</sup> See for example <http://bit.ly/2SsZFXf>.



Community workshop in Senegal

In terms of activities, the programme has clearly shown the power of grassroots initiatives. It has provided support for awareness-raising activities, community workshops, training programmes for local champions and women leaders, community-led mapping, radio broadcasts, documentary making, national women's alliances and multistakeholder platforms. And it has shown how this type of direct support has resulted in a wide programme outreach while rooting the women's land rights agenda locally.

In combination with the action research, the programme has focused attention on and documented common approaches and good practice. It has brought to the fore women's voices and their visions of how to move the women's land rights agenda forward. We learnt that bringing together different types of women's land rights experts (from women champions to local leaders, academic researchers and development practitioners) is vital to strengthening and scaling up impact. The combination of efforts has been crucial for exchanging knowledge at the local level within and between communities, empowering grassroots women. The broad outreach of the programme has also meant that local programme activities have taken place at different places across the four countries simultaneously. The joint efforts have aligned grassroots initiatives across the continent and offered opportunities for scaling up by ensuring that good policies fully support the work of grassroots movements and incorporate local demands into national policies. The continuous collaboration – between grassroots organisations, project partners and the researchers – has also been successful in strengthening the movements and enlarging the number of champions advocating for women's land rights in their communities.

One year of collaboration in the WLRA programme has resulted in a strong partnership. The consortium is ready to continue its work on scaling up women's land rights in Africa. To follow in these footsteps, action is required to further strengthen the grassroots movements by integrating locally generated data and knowledge into national plans and e-learning courses for land experts at the local and national level. In addition, it is key

to further strengthen the existing movement while supporting emerging grassroots movements. This requires connecting new movements to more established and consolidated ones, and providing the financial and technical means to connect them (for instance through exchange visits and learning events between countries). The WLRA programme has also shown the importance of teaming up with local authorities and traditional leaders (as gatekeepers of customary laws and practices) and aligning grassroots organisations with other stakeholders to enhance women's voices in land use and resource management.

#### **Box 6. Developing a national alliance for women's access to land in Senegal**

Senegal initiated a national alliance for women's access to land by organising a National Women's Forum in January 2018. The event brought together 350 rural women from the 14 regions of Senegal to engage in a dialogue with national decisionmakers on how to develop a national strategy to improve women's access to and control over land as well as to other resources (agricultural assets, seeds, water, etc.) for more inclusive local development.

This forum allowed rural women to lodge their complaints with the Ministry of Women, Ministry of Agriculture and deputies and members of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council, who have made commitments to improve the situation of rural women.

In addition, the meeting was highly publicised. Together with other mobilisations, it allowed for a real debate on the situation of rural women and pushed the president of the Republic to take a stand on the issues during the International Women's day celebrations held later in March 2018 (Enda Pronat and LANDac 2018).



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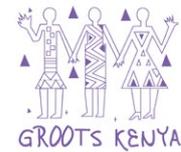


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### Citation

ActionAid Kenya, ADECRU, Enda Pronat, Fórum Mulher, GROOTS Kenya, Oxfam in Malawi and LANDac (2018) Women's Land Rights in Africa (WLRA): scaling up impacts from the grassroots in Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique and Senegal. Synthesis report: Securing Women's Land Rights in Africa. LANDac, Utrecht.

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Photos: Jeffery Mageria, Ine Cottyn and Vivian Hartlief (unless otherwise indicated)

Design: Michelle McLinden-Nuijen (LANDac) and Margot Stoete (Utrecht University)

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