Invisible and Excluded – Risk to Informal Wives and Partners from Land Tenure Formalization and Titling Campaigns

Live Webinar
Wednesday, March 16, 2022

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Overview

- Why this issue matters
- Risks and potential magnitude
- 6 dimensions
- Panel discussion
Who may be getting left out?

Women in Informal Unions

Women in Parallel Households
What rights?

- “Private”
- Permanent
- Transferable
- Valuable

Source: GLA Colombia
What is at stake for women? For shared development goals?

Source: UN Sustainable Development Goals
Slipping through the GAPS of land project campaigns in Latin America
RISE of informal marriage in Latin America

Table 1: Percentage cohabitants among women aged 30-34 who are in unions/marriages with men

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Percentage informal spouses</th>
<th>Trend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>37%↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>47%↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>18*</td>
<td>4%↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>57*</td>
<td>38%↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>25%↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>15%↑†</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>33*</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td>50*</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamaica</td>
<td>52*</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>14%↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicaragua</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>13%↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>34%↑</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 2000 Census
^ since 1970
† since 1980
Source: Esteve et al., 2016
Potential higher risk in POST CONFLICT settings
Concentric circles of RISK for women

All women

Women in marriage or union with men

Informal wives or partners

Second wives or partners
INVISIBILITY in project metrics

Who are the women in these households?

Titles with men’s names ONLY

Joint titles

Titles with women’s names

Titles with women’s names only
6 Dimensions

- Legal and Regulatory Frameworks
- Design & Implementation
- Awareness
- Social Norms
- Access to Justice
- Data and Research
Legal and Regulatory Frameworks

- Include informal spouses
- Ease burden of proof

Land Transactions

Joint titling

Domestic labor
(Economía del cuidado)
Project design & Implementation

- Unknown extent pre-project
- **Pressure for TIME** & resources
Awareness

- Beyond gender inequality
- Vulnerability of informal spouses

Campaigns

Cultural appropriateness

Legal literacy
Access to justice

- Challenge of righting a wrong
- Modes of support

Alternative dispute resolution
Accessible claims & info
Safe channels
Social Norms

- Cultural practices around informal spouses
- Social position of parallel households

Local partnerships

Gender Champions

Cultural change

Dialogue with ♂ & ♀
Data and Research

- Data on marriage informality
- Who is excluded?

Future research
Methodologies
Linking databases
Data on marriage informality
If you take one thing…

What can we do to ensure informal wives are included in land formalization campaigns
Thank you!