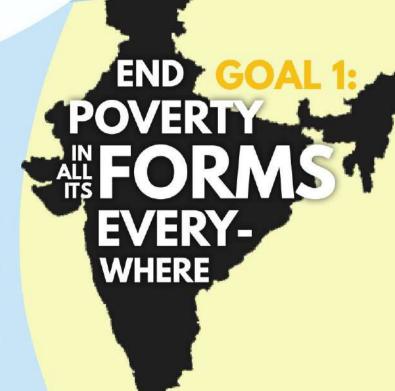# GETTING A CLEARER PICTURE:

Civil Society Reports on Progress Towads SDG Target 1.4 in 7 Asian Countries, 2020

SDG Target 1.4 seeks to ensure that all men and women, particularly the poor and vulnerable, have equal rights to ownership and control over land and other forms of property. Unfortunately, while this target's inclusion under SDG Goal 1 (ending poverty), signifies a new global recognition that secure land tenure should be a central strategy in combating poverty, this land agenda has not been prominent in recent SDG reporting processes of governments.

SGDs in Focus

Target 1.4: By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance

Target 1.4.2: Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation, and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure

END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

GOAL 1:

LAND RIGHTS

OFFICIAL DATA RELATED TO SDG INDICATOR 1.4.2

Availability of land tenure data

Land is a State-level matter. State legislatures make laws on all matters pertaining to land, land records, settlement, and distribution of lands.

Multiple tenure regimes in different States – legal frameworks, unrecorded transactions.

On legally-recognized documentation

92% of the lands have some form of legally recognized documentation. Information on legal documentation is available from the Department of Land Resources (DoLR) and land records of State Revenue Departments.

However, there has been 71% variation in actual and textual records. Corrections on the Record of Rights has been done in the case of 41% of Forest Rights Act individual titles, 0.7% of community titles.

On gender-disaggregation

Current data on women's tenure rights remains inconsistent, depending on the individual states.

12 states issues orders for collecting and maintaining sex-segregated data on landholdings and transactions, 8 states introduced tax incentives for registering land in the name of women.

34% of titles under the Forest Rights Act have names of women recorded.

On perception of tenure security

No official data reported; this information is not collected.

On perception of tenure security

Large un-surveyed areas remain in tribal and forested areas.

GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO PURSUE AND REPORT ON LAND-RELATED SDGS

In India, NITI Aayog has the mandate to oversee the adoption and monitoring of the SDGs. The institution prepares frameworks for reporting various indicators, compiles the data from a number of agencies, and prepares annual and periodic reports on the achievement of various SDGs.

SDG India Index and Dashboard measures progress against various goals via a rating system from 0 to 100, where 100 denotes achievement of the target (see https://sdgindiaindex.niti.gov.in/#/ranking).

India submitted Voluntary National Reviews in 2017 and 2020

SYNTHESIS

Reporting of land governance including land tenure data in India is a major challenge given multiple tenure regimes and the multitude of laws in different states of India. Although land tenure data is available at lower levels of revenue administration (revenue circles, tehsils), the complexity of these data makes it difficult for compilation and reporting at State and national levels.

A large part of these data are dated and not updated regularly. In remote tribal areas, survey and settlement processes are often incomplete, making availability of land records and data difficult. While the Forest Rights Act recognized legitimate possessions of indigenous people, land records are yet to be updated reflecting the new reality.

Gender segregated data is likewise not available for all parameters, except new transactions/sale deeds. Programs of land records modernization initiated by the Central and State governments in the past few years are expected to improve data availability, reliability, and reporting in the future.