

GETTING A CLEARER PICTURE:

NEPAL



Civil Society Reports on Progress Towards 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

GOAL 1:

END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

OFFICIAL DATA RELATED TO SDG INDICATOR 1.4.2

Availability of land tenure data

A proxy indicator is used to assess Indicator 1.4.2. According to this indicator, 12.05% is the share of the bottom quintile in national consumption, and household assets in the name of women is 33.9%.

On legally-recognized documentation

Total landowners: 11,076,422
Total plots registered: 35,065,092

On gender-disaggregation

A total of 1,887,009 households own less than 0.5 of a hectare. Indigenous peoples constitute 35 percent of the population, yet their lands are not officially registered and therefore not formally recognized.

On perception of tenure security

16 percent of land is under joint land ownership; some 33.9 percent of women have ownership over assets (land and house).

Government does not collect data on perception of tenure security

Proxy indicator used by government for 1.4.2 is: "Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land [as shown by]:"

- Share of bottom quintile in national consumption (percentage)
- Households having properly/tangible assets in women's name (percentage of total)

However, the indicator used and reported scores cannot provide the basis to measure the progress towards the secure tenure rights to land of adults as indicated in Target 1.4.

COUNTRY METHODOLOGY FOR REPORTING ON INDICATOR 1.4.2

GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO PURSUE AND REPORT ON LAND-RELATED SDGS

The government has mainstreamed SDG Targets into its 15th Plan (2019/20 to 2023/24) and addresses land-related SDGs through sectoral strategies such as the Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS 2015 to 2035). Under the 15th Plan and the ADS, the government has made several political commitments on land rights and tenure security, i.e., reducing the proportion of landless farmers to zero in 2030; increasing women's ownership over property/-tangible assets to 40 percent by 2030; and, increasing the percentage of agricultural land owned by women or in joint ownership to 50 percent by 2030.

Nepal submitted Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) in 2017 and 2020.

A critical problem has been the localization of the SDGs at sub-national levels, considering weak institutional structures and problems related to data availability and quality.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MORE TRUTHFUL AND ACCURATE REPORTING ON TENURE SECURITY

Government must gather information on actual land use patterns and how much arable land the country has, before initiating any ad-hoc steps in the name of enhancing production and utilizing fallow land

There are still an estimated 1.4 million people who remain landless – for whom the LIRC has started working to formalize their land titles. Government needs to plan for land restoration, as the land in the mid-hills and Tarai region is being rapidly degraded

Land reform in its real essence has not truly happened in Nepal for the last 70 years

Government should also address the current situation where management and governance responsibility and authorities related to land resources are distributed among different ministries of the government

Download the full report here: <https://tinyurl.com/LWA-SDG-2020>

For more details, contact the Community Self-Reliance Centre at landrights@csrncnepal.org
The printing of these infographics was supported by the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN)

Disclaimer: The views in the Reports on SDG 1.4 do not necessarily reflect the views of ILC and GLTN

