

Indicator name
Number of changes in legislation or new laws or amendments adopted in partner country to enshrine the equal access to property, including land, credit and inheritance rights of women and girls.
Thematic area of engagement
Addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and the digital transformation - Climate Change and Environment
Aggregable indicator
Yes
Indicator type (quantitative/qualitative)
Quantitative
Related objective in the Gender Action Plan III
Overall thematic objective: Women in all their diversity influence decision-making processes on environmental conservation and climate change policies and actions. Specific thematic objective 3: Women, men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, addressing climate change in their daily lives and preserving the natural environment are supported.
Technical Definition
This indicator is intended to measure the number of legislative changes that governments should undertake to remove barriers to equal access to property (including land, credit and inheritance rights). These changes may include, but are not limited to, the following:¹ - abolish the concept of “head of household” in legal designations and entitlements where its application would result in discrimination against women (e.g., provision or allocation of land and other productive resources in favour of male “heads of household”); - provide that single female heads of households are able to enjoy special measures which enable them to access land rights on an equal footing with men; - repeal laws identifying the husband as the head of household and limiting the capacity of women to administer family property; - provide for equality between women and men, in all their diversity, in all matters related to inheritance as a key issue in the struggle to affirm and protect women’s rights to land, housing and property, and also addressing the harmful practice of property grabbing or “disinheritance” of widows; - provide that the surviving spouse(s), regardless of gender or whether the surviving spouse(s) has (have) children, has (have) at a minimum continued occupancy and use rights with respect to the marital home as well as to movable and immovable property, including land, without precondition; - discourage the practice of inheritance renunciation and educate women and men about the negative impact of this practice; - provide that women’s rights, needs and perspectives are taken into account in land and agricultural law and policy; - articulate the principle of equality between men and women with respect to land allocation and ensure that women receive plots of equal size and value to those allocated to men in comparable situations within the context of land reform and/or land distribution programmes;

¹ Adapted from [Realizing women’s rights to land and other productive resources](#) (UNHCR and UNWOMEN, 2013)

- provide the default joint titling/joint registration of land, housing and property as well as productive resources, and ensure that married women and unmarried women alike are able to benefit equally from titling and registration programmes;
- provide women's equal access to loans and credits, and ensure temporary special measures when required, in order to enable women to gain access to credit and other productive resources regardless of their marital status.

Rationale

Legal barriers for women to access, own and administer assets persist worldwide. In many countries, customary and statutory laws favour gender inequality in property and inheritance hindering, de facto, women's economic autonomy and empowerment. Gender differences in asset ownership also influence women's ability to access credit - banks are reluctant to lend to customers who lack traditional collateral such as land.²

In the field of climate change and environmental protection, the equal access to/ use and management of land, natural resources, energy, and credit, as well as the capacity of women and men, girls and boys to make informed choices and be active agents in participating in adaptation, mitigation and response strategies, are key. Countries are responsible for making women's and girls' participation, voice, and empowerment as viable and possible as that of men and boys by enacting legal reforms to remove gender inequality in legislation.

Data source and calculation

Reporting covers cooperation and development initiatives, humanitarian (if applicable) and investment frameworks funded by the EC (INTPA, NEAR, FPI, ECHO) and EEAS.

EUMS may provide information related to their interventions through their contributions to GAP III reports or through the EUDs, e.g., in cases of joint dialogue (i.e., as part of joint programming or TEI).

Data sources:

The intervention's monitoring and reporting systems, e.g., inception, interim and final reports from implementing organisations (including governments, international organisations, national and international civil society organisations, etc.), ROM reviews and evaluations.

Surveys/ interviews conducted and budgeted by the intervention can also be relevant data sources.

Baseline and endline studies conducted and budgeted within the EU intervention using the same data collection methodology. The baseline and endline studies can be conducted as part of the gender country profile and/ or gender sector analysis or be based on existing official reports and published data.

Calculation:

Every change in legislation (e.g., the number of new laws promulgated or the number of amendments to existing laws) that remove gender inequality in property rights is counted once.

In particular, to avoid double counting, where support is provided continuously a peak year result should be taken, i.e., by reporting the highest number of legislative changes which occurred on a yearly basis. Results on a multi-year basis will be calculated by adding the number of new legislative changes which occurred in years 2, 3, etc. to the total reached in year 1.

Worked example

In country A, in the framework of EU Budget Support to the agricultural sector, the EU

² [World Bank Group \(2019\): Women, business and the law. A decade of reform.](#)

intervention supports the national government to revise its land policy, including through the organisation of public consultations with CSOs, including CSOs working on gender equality and women's empowerment. Through policy dialogue, the EU advocates for women's rights, needs and perspectives to be taken into account in the new policy and for land rights to be granted to women. As a result, the Government amended the national agricultural law, incorporating the principle of equality between men and women with respect to labour and land allocation. Furthermore, the Government adopted a land distribution policy that foresees that women receive plots of equal size and value to those allocated to men in comparable situations within the context of land distribution programmes.
Baseline
Data from official counterparts (line ministries and departments in charge of justice and human rights, property, finance and credit, statistical offices, gender equality observatories, women's national machineries, among others). Data from CSO and international organisations as well as from other independent non-state actors. If baseline data are lacking, a mapping can be done at the start of the intervention using surveys/ interviews. The baseline can be 0 when the indicator is achieved with the EU funded intervention.
Disaggregation
N/A
Availability and Timeliness
Information should become available annually, depending on the duration of the intervention.
Related DAC Code / CRS
311 – Agriculture / 3110 - Agricultural land resources / 31110 – Agricultural policy and administrative management; 31193 - Agricultural financial services 240 - Banking & Financial Services / 24030 - Formal sector financial intermediaries / 24040 - Informal/semi-formal financial intermediaries 250 - Business & Other Services / 25010 - Business policy and administration
Associated SDGs
SDG 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere Target 1.4: Indicator 1.4.2 (See Metadata) SDG 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls Target 5.a: Indicators 5.a.1 (See Metadata), 5.a.2: (See Metadata) SDG 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss Target 15.2, Indicator 15.2.1 (See Metadata) Target 15.3, Indicator 15.3.1 (See Metadata) Target 15.6, Indicator 15.6.1 (See Metadata)
Other issues
Even when property laws are gender-equal, other laws, such as those relating to marriage, inheritance, or divorce, may still contain discriminatory provisions against women's rights (including to land and credit) that directly contradict the concept of equal property rights.

Hence, it is essential to take into account the norms reflected and/or enshrined in these different frameworks when reforming property regimes, in particular land and family codes³. Also, it is important to take into consideration social norms affecting gender equality in regulatory reforms in order to create an enabling environment for legislative reform for gender equality.

The gender country profile and / or gender sector analysis can be relevant sources of information for establishing baselines.

If there is no gender analysis available at the EUD, it is recommended to look at the analysis undertaken by EU Member States or other trusted partners (UN, World Bank, human rights national and regional mechanisms, etc.) as well as the [national-level reviews](#) carried out in 2019 by UN Women and the partner countries to assess progress made and challenges encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Special attention should be paid to following up on partner country institutions reached with EU support.

³ [Women's land rights matter](#) (European Commission, 2019)