



Call for Proposals and Terms of Reference

Community-based activities promoting the legal empowerment of rural women

ILC members' discussion on women's access to land during the recent AoM in Nepal has reconfirmed a need for ILC to address the gender disparity in access to and control over land and other natural resources.

ILC members have been actively engaging in three interlinked spheres of action related to legal empowerment: by (i) participating in the formulation of land policies and laws; (ii) monitoring the implementation of such laws (including international conventions); and (iii) addressing land conflicts, protecting human rights and providing legal assistance. It has clearly emerged that legal empowerment of the poor requires both an enabling legal and policy framework and an enhanced capacity by poor women and men to access and use that framework. It is also clear that creating legal opportunities to gain land rights needs to be accompanied by a wider empowerment process to enable poor men and women to overcome processes of exclusion and use the law to their advantage, as well as systematic efforts to reduce the direct and indirect costs of legal remedies and their enforcement.

With the support of NORAD (Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation), ILC is launching a call for proposals for community-based activities promoting the legal empowerment of rural women. The legal empowerment of rural women is defined as an ability of women to use legal and administrative processes and structures to gain or maintain land rights and to benefit from related opportunities.

A small number of grants for pilot activities will be awarded with a focus on innovation, good practices, sustainable impacts on the land rights of women, and lessons learnt to be widely shared. Activities could include:

- Raising legal awareness, through grass-roots level social mobilisation, various media channels or popular culture);
- Organizing community-based training, sensitization and consultations on land rights and mechanisms for their adjudication and enforcement;
- Identifying and estimating direct and indirect costs of legal remedies for enforcement of land rights of rural women;
- Providing paralegal services and legal aid, particularly for the resolution of disputes over inheritance and demarcation;
- Strengthening low-cost and equitable alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms and codification/standardization of customary laws;
- Bridging the gap(s) between formal and informal/alternative dispute resolution mechanisms to promote fairness and equity in enforcement of land rights;
- Assessing impacts and scaling up of successful previous activities on the topic.

All proposals should emphasise lessons learnt, including from previous activities carried out by the same organisation or in the community in question.

Conditions for participating in this call for proposals

Presentation of a project profile

Projects must relate to the topic defined in this call. In order to participate, submissions of a project profile with the following characteristics will be required:

1. Present a clear idea of the problem, according to these terms of reference, explaining the relevance of the project related to the subject., as well as expected outputs and outcomes
2. Submit an appropriate methodology for the proposed project
3. Propose a budget and plan of activities with a maximum duration of six months (see annex).

Participants

ILC members and partners are encouraged to apply, but applications are open to all organisations with adequate capacity to carry out projects.

Duration of the projects

Projects should be implemented between October 2009 and April 2010. The final report of each winning project must be delivered no later than April 15th 2010.

Grant amount

Project grants between 5,000 and 20,000 U.S. dollars each will be awarded as a subsidy. The amount will be disbursed in two parts: 80% following the signature of the implementation agreement, the other 20% upon delivery of the final product.

Evaluation and selection of proposals

In order to evaluate the proposals and select the winners, ILC will set up a selection panel, which will evaluate the proposals and rank them according to their content and expected impacts. The funds will be allocated to best-rated proposals, according to the order decided by the panel, whose decisions will be final.

The jury will use three primary criteria to evaluate proposals:

1. Quality of the proposal (clarity of objectives, adequacy and appropriateness of the methodology).
2. Feasibility of the proposal based on the terms and deadlines established in the call and the implementation capacity of the applying organisation.
3. Relevance and appropriateness of the proposed project, possible impact on women's land rights and potential for contributing favourably to policies and practices.

When and how to apply

The deadline for submissions is **September 18, 2009**. The selection of the winning projects will be announced no later than September 25, 2009.

Each proposal must include:

- Outline of the project (see contents and suggested outlines in the annex)
- Introductory letter written by the Director of the institution / organization, explaining how this project fits in with and contributes to the institutional strategy of the organisation.

Proposals must be sent by email to: Annalisa Mauro: l.mauro@landcoalition.org and Sabine Pallas: s.pallas@landcoalition.org

Annex: Suggested Format for the submission of project profiles

Proposals must not exceed 7 pages and should include the following components:

- 1) **Title** (should summarize the content or core subject of the proposal)
- 2) **Objectives and justification of the project.** This section should indicate the general purpose and specific objectives of the project, stating clearly the problem to be discussed and inputs provided by the project. Goals should be precise, clear and achievable within the time limits and amounts specified in this call and must respond to the topic (max. 2 pages).
- 3) **Theoretical framework.** This section should define the framework that will guide the project with clarity, accuracy and feasibility (max.1 page).
- 4) **Methodology:** this section should show how the problem will be addressed, describe the community-based approach and target audiences as well as possible partnerships with other institutions involved (max. 2 pages).
- 5) **Timetable and budget.** A schedule of the activities should outline timing, results, personnel involved and a budget (max. 10% administrative cost).
- 6) **Bibliography** (optional)