

# IMPACT UPDATE NEWSLETTER



JUNE 2024



## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

**The Land for Life (LfL) initiative aims to contribute to the formulation and implementation of policies for land governance through the multi-actor partnership (MAP) approach.**

Each of the LfL MAPs has demonstrated success in changing attitudes and perspectives about the value of dialogue and partnership through MAP processes. Country-level programs have shown substantive high-level and grassroots engagement resulting in tangible impacts such as the passing and enactment of new and inclusive laws. LfL MAPs continue to grow their influence and reputation as platforms for participatory land governance dialogue.

Looking ahead to our third implementation phase, the focus shifts towards ensuring the consolidation of MAPs as long-term initiatives. Lasting relevance, co-ownership, co-leadership, and resource diversification are critical considerations for the sustainability of the MAPs.

In this newsletter, we celebrate the achievements of each country-level program and detail how we plan to continue increasing the sustainable impact of MAP engagements for people-centered land governance.

- BURKINA FASO
- ETHIOPIA
- LIBERIA
- SIERRA LEONE

*"Together for people-centered land governance"*



Dialogues



Land laws



ADVOCACY

Supported by



# Burkina Faso

The PMAF-BF is a group of actors from public and private administrations, associations, civil society, local authorities, farmers' organizations and all other actors involved in the land sector.

Set up in 2019, its vision is "A Burkina-Faso where sound land administration and management is guaranteed and where citizens enjoy their land rights without discrimination"; and its objective is "To contribute to the improvement of land and natural resource governance through the promotion and effective implementation of policies, laws and practices that ensure equitable, sustainable and food-secure land management in Burkina Faso".



## IMPACT

### PHASE 1 & PHASE 2

- 1** The PMAF provides a space that fosters inclusive dialogue and consultation on land governance issues. Additionally, it strengthens the capacities of members and CSOs, enabling them to fully play their role in raising awareness and denouncing violations of land laws.
- 2** The actions of the PMAF have contributed to the realization of the political will to adopt a new law to protect rural lands from the ravages of real estate developers. Following communication and advocacy actions on the subject, the new law 008-2023/ALT of June 20, 2023, on real estate promotion was adopted, demonstrating the dynamism and influencing capacity of the platform.
- 3** Women's access to secure land is limited due to socio-cultural constraints. The PMAF has succeeded in bringing customary authorities, partners, and women together to discuss the issue. Today, the PMAF can rely on traditional leaders who have become "champions" in defending women's land rights and supporting its advocacy actions.



*Alone we go faster,  
together we go further.*

## OUTLOOK PHASE 3



*Make the PMAF a national reference in land governance and food security.*



*Foster greater membership and participation of actors in the platform and the support of various technical and financial partners.*



*Strengthen communication to increase the visibility of the platform's activities and impacts.*







# Ethiopia

Land for Life Ethiopia is a non-governmental, non-profit institution that is engaged in promoting and facilitating multi-actor dialogue and collaboration on land governance and responsible agricultural investments.

We promote people-centered land governance and aim to provide space for all, in particular community representatives, to contribute to the inclusive and transparent policy development and implementation of policies.



## IMPACT

### PHASE 1 & PHASE 2

- 1 The overall approach Multi-Actor Partnership (MAP) and dialogic change model, being relatively new in Ethiopia in the sector, encouraged actors to engage in policy processes on land-related issues and to work together regardless of their different interests.
- 2 The Land for Life is established as a legal organization dedicated to facilitating policy dialogue and influencing policies related to land governance and responsible agricultural investments. It collaborates with various stakeholders, including civil society, government, private sector, academia, traditional leaders, and social organizations.
- 3 The Multi-Actor Partnership (MAP) has been decentralized to allow stakeholders to actively engage in land reform processes by participating in dialogues and sharing their perspectives. The decentralized Community Investor Local Government Forum (CILGF) has been instrumental in providing an inclusive platform where all voices can be heard, ensuring equitable participation of diverse stakeholders with different levels of power and resources at the grassroots level.



*One of the tragic paradoxes of life in rural Ethiopia is that people who are responsible for growing the crops that feed the country are the ones who are the prime victims of hunger and malnutrition is widespread in the countryside. Each generation that comes of age is landlessness and demands land as a right extended to it by law. Accommodating its demands will mean increasing land fragmentation and the progressive leveling down of holding.*

Dessalegn Rahmeto

## OUTLOOK PHASE 3



*Establish a National Multi-Actor Partnership that promotes inclusive and participatory decision-making processes to ensure equity, transparency, and accountability.*



*Organize national policy dialogue conferences to promote the development of a national land policy and the establishment of an institution mandated to administer land.*



*Enhance the institutional capacity of Land for Life Ethiopia with the aim of expanding the funding sources to ensure the sustained operation of existing frameworks post-project completion.*



# Liberia

Launched in February 2018, the MAP Liberia Platform, an initiative owned by Liberia, unites the Liberia Land Authority (LLA) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). It fosters collaboration among Government, CSOs, CBOs, Academia, Private Sector, and International Development Partners (IDPs) to enhance land governance and food security, particularly for women, youths, and vulnerable groups.

In 2019, the ILC members in Liberia initiated a NES process to further advance the shared objective of promoting land governance and responsible agricultural investment for food security in Liberia.



## IMPACT

### PHASE 1 & PHASE 2

- 1** The technical and financial support by the platform through the LfL support to policy advocacy and dialogue initiatives contributed to the successful passage of Liberia's first progressive Land Rights Law in 2018.
- 2** A strengthened CSOs Working Group on Land Reform in the post land rights law passage was achieved through a full technical and funding support from the LfL that resulted to defining a clear three-year advocacy strategy to push for implementation of the land rights law of 2018.
- 3** The LRA regulations were successfully passed and officially published through national policy dialogue efforts led by the MAP Platform. The gazetting of these regulations paved the way for early gains by indigenous communities and vulnerable groups. For instance, approximately 20 communities have obtained titled deeds as an early achievement.

## OUTLOOK PHASE 3



*Advance people-centered land governance through sustainable multi-actor processes for dialogue and coordination.*



*Use people's data to hold governments and corporations accountable.*



*Contribute to change processes at target group level; customary land rights and rural Liberian are promoted and protected.*



*The Land Rights Act and the Local Government Act were both signed by the president on the same day. So, in one day the government took two major decisions that should change the governance architecture of Liberia: that communities who have never owned land will now own land as of that passage. Also, this centralized administration that many of us grew up into will begin to be decentralized.*

*James Yarsiah, National Facilitator, MAP Liberia Land Platform.*



MAP LIBERIA LAND PLATFORM



# Sierra Leone

The Land for Life Initiative in Sierra Leone is a platform of civil society organizations, organized to promote inclusive, people-centred land governance in Sierra Leone.

We desire to make sure that land laws and policies are in consistent with international standards to support responsible investment in agriculture towards achieving food security.

 /LfLSierraLeone  [landforlife.org.sl](http://landforlife.org.sl)

## IMPACT

### PHASE 1 & PHASE 2

- 1** Information flow and media engagement have improved significantly. To drive the flow of information, Land for Life Sierra Leone established a “Land Governance Media Alliance Group” with key newspapers, TV and radio stations in Sierra Leone.
- 2** Though the power dynamics around land allocation remain daunting, the Multi Actor Platform (MAP) has helped navigate conflicts and support community rights. Through Land for Life’s support of the MAP structures, hundreds of women are being trained on their land rights and conflict among communities are being solved.
- 3** Through the power of collaboration with CSOs and government entities, the Customary Land Rights and the National Land Commission Acts were enacted into law by the Parliament of Sierra Leone. The two new laws seek to address the issues of discrimination, promote gender equality and women’s access to and the use of land.

In addition, significant investment has been made in team capacity to reach large audiences and achieve outcomes, leading to a “maturing” of the MAP initiative. Staff and members of the Multi-Actor Platform are being trained on various advocacy skills and the content of the newly enacted customary land laws of Sierra Leone.

## OUTLOOK PHASE 3



*The MAPs serve as collective and sustainable platforms for policy dialogue and standard-setting for responsible land policies and agricultural investments.*



*Educate communities and vulnerable people especially women on their land rights.*



*Strengthen inclusive, accountable and effective land policy and governance through sustainable, multi-stakeholder processes.*



*The fight against hunger, poverty, and environmental degradation hinges on equitable land access for people and communities.*