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ICRW

International Center
for Research on Women
where insight and action connect



Viện Nghiên Cứu Phát Triển Xã Hội
Institute for social Development Studies

Promoting women land rights in Vietnam





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ICRW's mission is to empower women, advance gender equality, and fight poverty

ICRW is helping to build the evidence base through its research on the most pressing issues facing women and girls today.



ICRW has worked with local, national and international partners to conduct original research, build capacity and advocate for evidence-based solutions.



ICRW works with advocates, policymakers and thought leaders to ensure sustainable solutions are backed by solid evidence.



Methods

Quantitative assessment of outcomes of the LAW project after 1.5 years of implementation based on baseline and endline survey data from 847 households

Monitoring data



External qualitative
evaluation

Objective: to assess the state of LAW program participants

- Awareness of existing land rights under current legislation (farmers, civil society, women, men, community leaders)
- Barriers to female and male farmers' ability to access land rights
- Gendered dimensions of the current law
- Attitudes toward women's land rights at the community level

Where are we coming from

Land rights that improve women's access to resources are as important as creating a context that promotes the implementation of the law.

The case of Vietnam is important in terms of the studies of barriers for women's access to land because there are still gaps between men and women in terms of their access to land despite the progressive chapters in the land laws.

What the law says

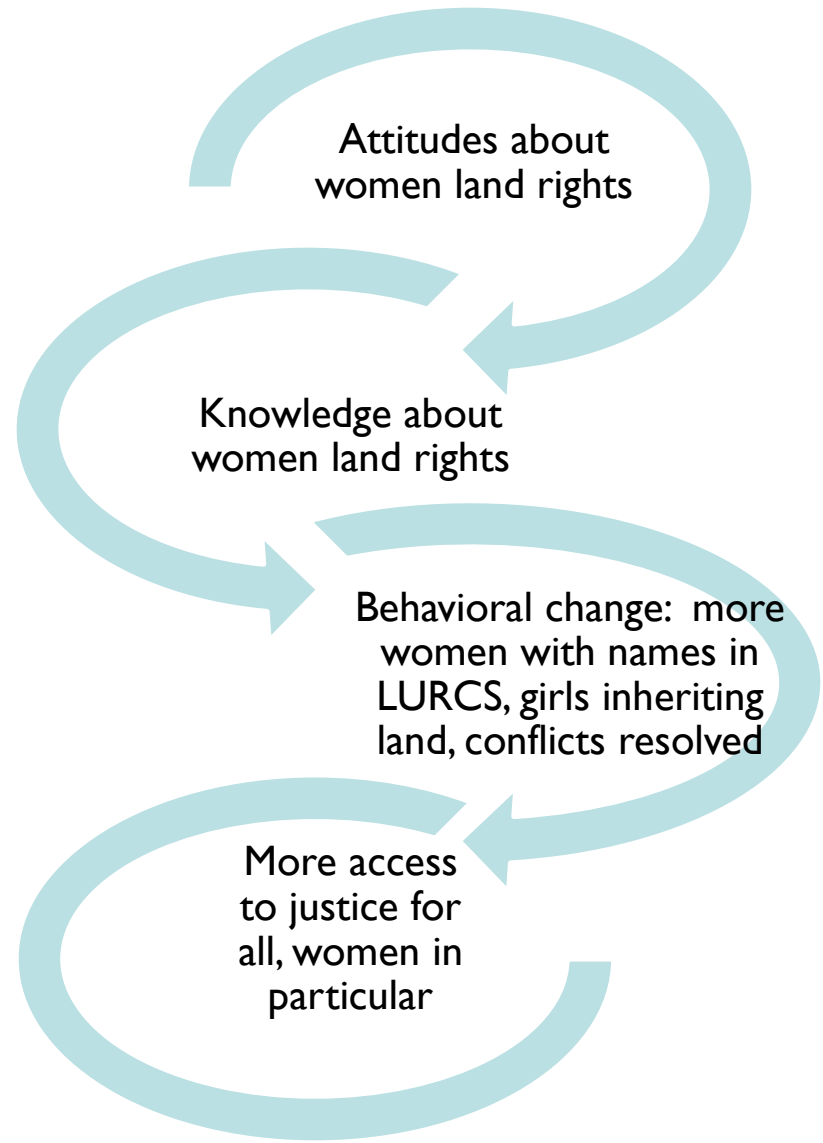
Citizens are equally entitled to the same rights and obligations without discrimination based on gender, religion, or wealth.

- Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (2013)
- Law on Gender Equality (2006)
- The Land Law (2013)
- Law on Domestic Violence Prevention (2007)
- Civil Code (2005)



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The intervention



The intervention: main actors



OBJECTIVE 1: Increase farmers' awareness of existing land rights under current legislation, especially women.

Knowledge

At endline, men's average
9% higher than the
baseline; women 16%
higher than the baseline.

$P > .001$

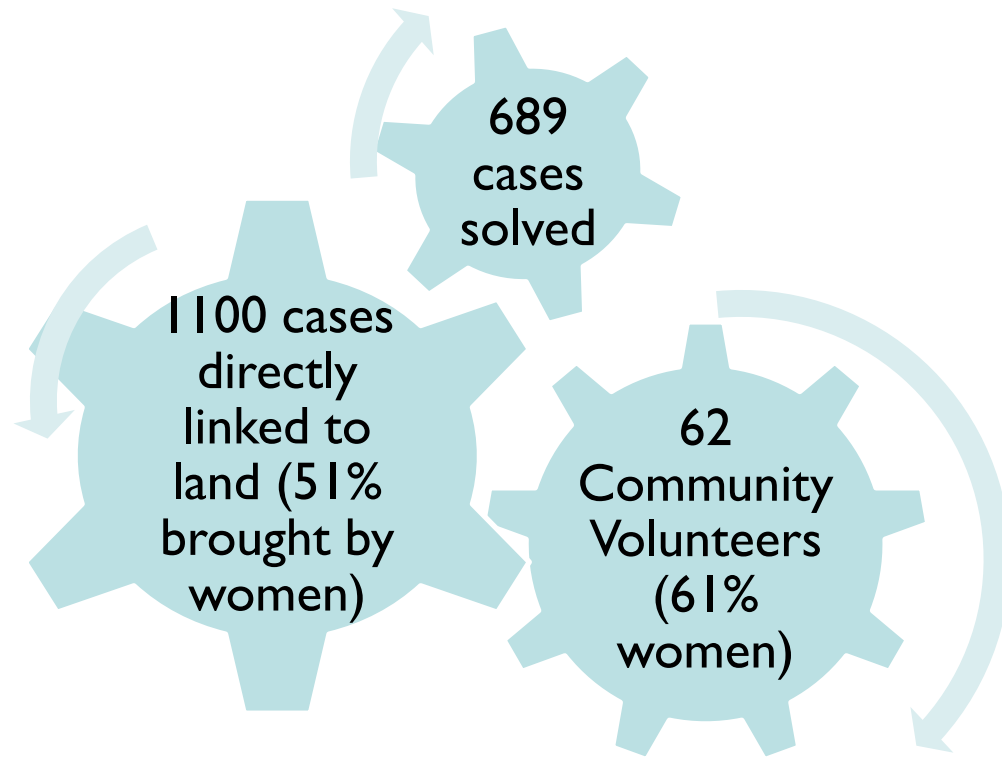
Attitude: similar change.

“After attending one of the workshops, it came to me, if all that is different between a man and a woman is that she has a vagina and we have a penis, then why can't a woman have her name in a Land Use Certificate”



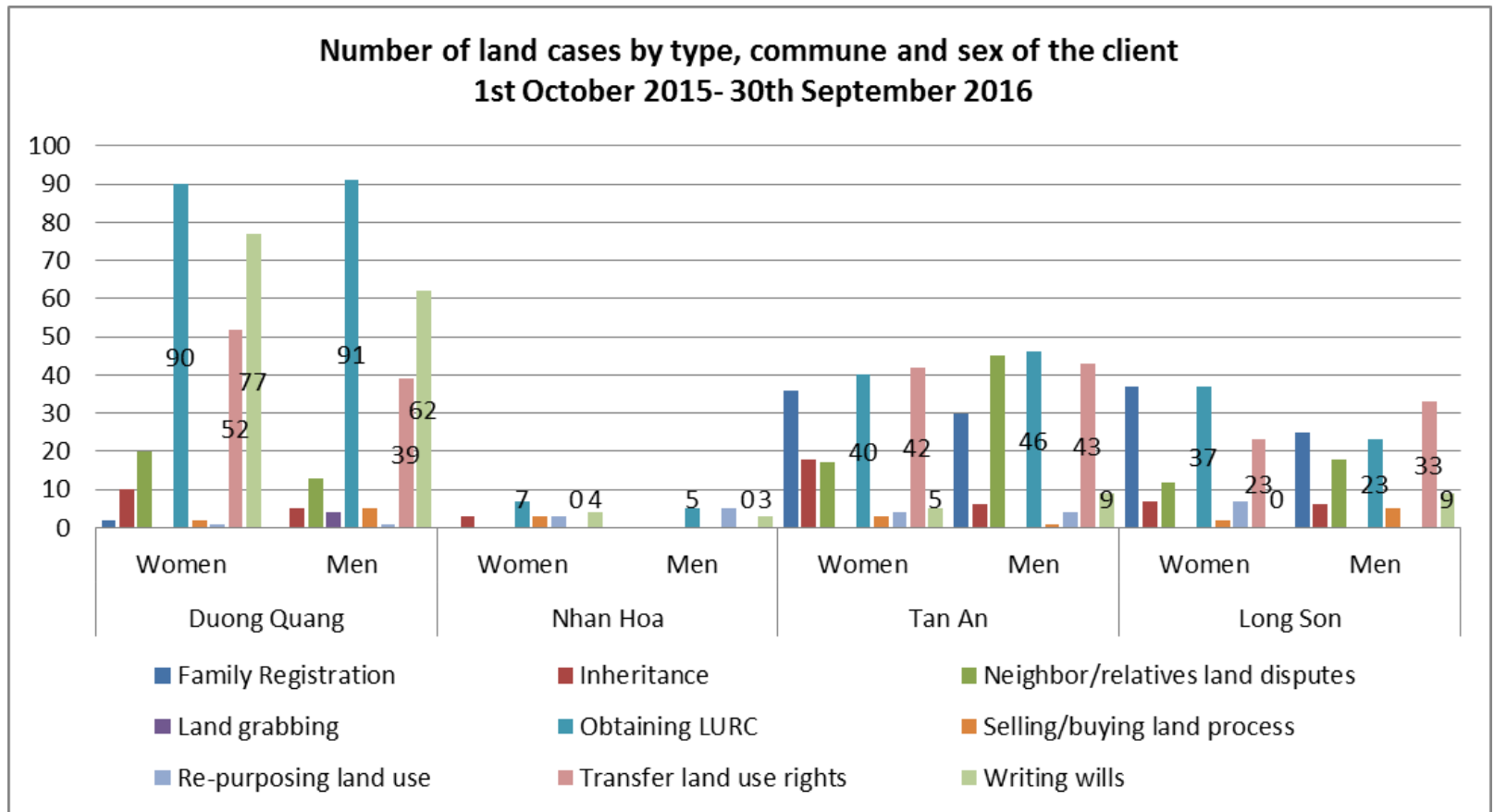
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OBJECTIVE 2: Facilitate female farmers' ability to access their land rights





Types of Cases October 2015-September 2016



Large problem with son preference and inheritance

“A daughter is the member of other’s family (Con gai la con nguoita)” is a proverb that means once the daughter gets married, she is no longer considered a member of her birth family. “My daughter has had a hard life. She is unfortunate. Her husband did not treat her well so she could not live with him anymore. Now she raises her daughter on her own. He [the ex-husband] does not offer any help. I wanted to divide the land and give my daughter her own Red book, but my husband and son did not agree. They wanted my son to be the only one who inherits our land,” Han recalled.

OBJECTIVE 3: Generate evidence about gender specific barriers to realizing land rights in rural areas.

Data collected

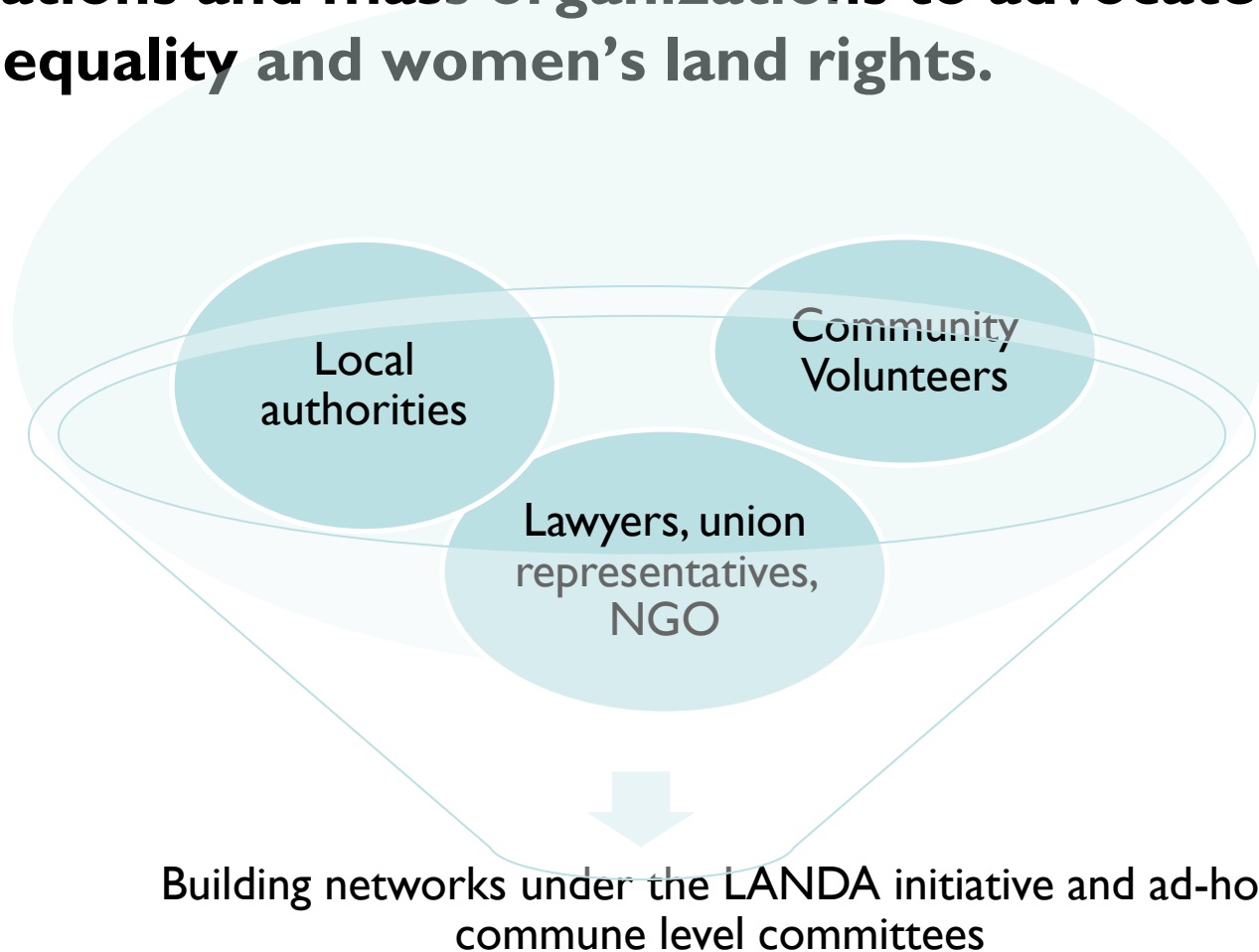
Monitoring data systematically collected by Community Volunteers

Coordinators will have laptops this year

Coordinators will be able to conduct basic analysis to produce the evidence that will lead the advocacy discussions

Until last year, analysis was conducted by ICRW and ISDS

OBJECTIVE 4: Increase the capacity of civil society organizations and mass organizations to advocate for gender equality and women's land rights.



Conclusions

Recognize local networks of volunteers: This is a key success factor for our program: no duplication but strengthening the capacity of participants in Unions of the Fatherland front to do what they love doing: helping their fellow citizens to get justice.

The socialist framework helps move processes for service provision, once the government approves. However, advocacy is challenging



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Conclusions: Food for Thought

Some of the problems that affect women are not gender-specific. They affect both men and women, although the number of women affected by these problems may be higher than the number of men because of women's lower status in the communes.

Having men and women, of different generations as community volunteers is key for a broad outreach



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Thank you

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