Knowledge Mobilization and Capacity Building for Action towards Co-responsible Land Governance

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Introduction
In LAC region, information flow between practice, knowledge and land policy is poor and slow. Lessons learned and good practices are hardly published online, when properly documented at all, challenging dissemination, re-use and adaptation to reach impact. The magnitude and complexity of land issues require innovative solutions and the collaboration of multiple stakeholder; yet, many governments, CSOs, academia and communities tend to continue undertaking isolated efforts.

On the other hand, open and collaborative hubs have been leveraging the effective mobilization of knowledge and information to guide evidence-based action to improve responsible land governance.

SueloUrbano.org is one of such examples. Launched in 2015, it works as the virtual interface of two initiatives of Habitat for Humanity International in LAC: 1) the “Solid Ground” global advocacy campaign to improve access to land for shelter, and 2) the Urban CSD Land Tools Cluster, part of GLTN / UN-HABITAT. The platform is connected and working together with other initiatives on a global level, such as the LandPortal.info

Materials and methods

KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION AND ADAPTATION
- Conferences, online forums, workshops, webinars;
- Expert visits, professional study tours;
- Multi-stakeholder dialogues, video conferences, competitions of good practices;
- Joint ventures, public / private / social partnerships;
- Peer-to-peer learning and exchanges;
- Applied research, documentation and systematizations;

LINKED OPEN DATA
- Improve access to, exchange and re-use of data and information;
- Increasing the visibility and discoverability of local knowledge on a regional and global level;
- Capture evidences and making them more discoverable and re-usable by others.

TOOLS AND PUBLIC POLICY
- Connect stakeholders, capacities and experiences;
- Promote informed dialogue and alliances;
- Bridge “demand and supply” of land tools;
- Methodologies, assessments, policy indicators;
- Provide institutional technical assistance;
- Communicate and raise awareness

Results
SueloUrbano.org enables multiple stakeholders to connect, share, learn, engage, raise awareness, advocate for system and policy change, both through demand-driven initiatives and crowdsourcing, by:
- Improving information flow between practice, knowledge and public policy;
- Linking local, regional and global initiatives; and leveraging synergies for collaboration and alliances among multiple land stakeholders such as governments, grassroots and civil society organizations;
- Activating opportunities for knowledge exchange, capacity development and for guiding action of practitioners and decisions makers at different levels based on evidences and learning;
- Fostering co-production of knowledge and filling the gap between urban and rural data, information, and knowledge for more sound urban land policies and land governance.

LAND TOOLS MARKETPLACE
Facilitates the systematization of experiences in a regionally comparable format, improving access to local knowledge and data by multiple stakeholders across the region, working with crowdsourcing and GIS tools. In parallel, it bridges “demand and supply of land tools” (local challenges and good practices), activating opportunities for knowledge exchange, transfer and adaptation.

OPEN LIBRARY
Managed according to the principles and technologies of Linked Open Data, it forms an important regional link in the global information ecosystem on land. Together with the Land Portal Foundation and other likeminded organizations, SueloUrbano.org is contributing to make best practices around land governance more discoverable within the vast and fragmented world wide web.

ONLINE DEBATES AND WEBINARS
Knowledge and best practices around land governance are not always captured in publications or datasets. Our online forums promote dialogues and learning, connecting multiple stakeholders around challenges, successful experiences and innovative solutions. The latest example is the discussion on Urban Land Conflicts, organized jointly with the Land Portal. Outcomes include evidences and the mobilization of knowledge that typically remains inaccessible, the connection between people, organizations and existing knowledge; and a LAC Working Group acting and advocating for change at national, regional and global levels.

LEGAL LAND DESK
An open digital environment designed to democratize the access to land information and justice for the most vulnerable sectors of the region, while capturing geo-referenced evidences of key barriers to access land and tenure regularization.

Conclusions
Expected outcomes of such open / collaborative approaches include empowered citizenship, informed and evidence-based decision making, new forms of interaction and social mobilization based on knowledge; influence governments and public entities (and their regional networks) to improve policies and tools for increased transparency, better resource allocation and service delivery.

Literature cited
Habitat for Humanity Solid Ground Campaign