



8th FIG REGIONAL
CONFERENCE 2012



Youth Responsiveness in the Land Sector:
Global Trends and Implications for
Sustainable Development

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Objectives of the presentation

- o Is “land” an adult only issue?
- o Is “youth” an issue for youth alone?
- o Why does the land sector need to be “youth responsiveness”?
- o What are implications for sustainable development in the land sector



GLTN and the Youth Agenda

- Network to develop pro-poor and equitable land tools to bridge the gap between policies and reality on the ground
- GLTN Goal “improved land management and security of tenure for all”
- Age responsiveness was not part of the original agenda? Now a cross cutting issue.
- Continuum of Land Rights – to promote tenure security for a range on tenure models
- Youth mainstreaming - through network, land sector.
- Leadership from Norway on systematic youth engagement



Who are we talking about?

- Youth bulge : 1,2 – 1,8 billion youth
- Multiple definitions:
 - Age, Transition, Special interests
 - For the CRC everybody under the age of 18 are considered children
 - For the African Youth Charter It is 15-35 yrs
 - National frameworks vary a lot
 - UN definition, but not binding 15- 24 yrs
 - UN Habitat 15-32 yrs
 - State of mind
 - Transitional phase
 - Not homogenous group

Context is key



Sustainable Development

- Youth 21 is a global initiative to bring together young people across the world to engage with the United Nations and to nurture youth leadership towards democratic governance and Sustainable Development
 - Youth are the foundation and pillars of more democratic and sustainable development pathways.
- A key assumption is that the “youth bulge” (1,2-1,8 billion) provides a unique window of opportunity in which youth globally can be engaged as positive resources in creating a more sustainable, just and equitable world.
- The UN recognizes the centrality of programmes, policies and legislation that recognize the role and contribution of youth to sustainable development, democratic governance, global peace, environmental sustainability and inclusive economic growth.

Premise:

- **If you want to build for changes that will be sustained, you need the buy-in from youth as drivers of change**



Youth and land issues

- Youth’s relationships to land are not identical to adults’ relationships
 - Likely to be less concerned about private ownership
 - Likely to be more concerned about public spaces
 - Likely to be more creative, and out-of-the-box thinking (promoting new paradigms).
- Youth are a significant majority in most countries
- Access to land and safe urban space is important for the protection, voice and empowerment of urban youth

“We may not be land owner, we might not be voters, but we still want to have a say in what happens to the land in our community”



Youth and land issues

Economic Rights: Land for livelihoods, work place, economic assets, income generation (renting), markets/shopping, accessing services, and skills training

Social Rights: Land for shelter and family life, education recreation, open spaces, parks, health

Cultural Rights: Land and public space for community events, religious practices, entertainment, cultural/art events

Civil and Political Rights: Land allocated for youth projects, one stop centers, information, media



International and Regional Frameworks (ex)

UN World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY 1996, 2007)	Land grants for young people
Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes (LDYPP 1998)	Calls for promoting access of young women and young men to land, credit, technologies and information
Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE 2007-2015)	Calls on governments to provide support to young people in gaining access to land as a means of building their economic and social base
African Youth Charter	Calls for providing grants of land to youth and youth organizations for socioeconomic development purposes
AU: Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa	Commits to ensure the land laws provide for equitable access to land especially the landless, women, youth, displaced persons and other vulnerable groups
Ibero-American Convention on Rights of Youth	No reference to land, but rights to work, housing and healthy environment
World Urban Forum 6 Youth	



Youth and land issues -Examples

- Ethiopia -
- Uganda -
- Landesa India -
- Youth as tenants -

Afternoon session will provide more in-depth on these examples



Why is it seen as an Adult Only issue?

- Land is a limited, precious commodity which youth are often expected to access through adults – youth are unable to compete for land unless their land rights are specifically recognized and promote
- Land process are complex which youth often find difficult to penetrate- awareness of rights and opportunities, capacity development and tools addressing inclusive land management are needed
- Attitudinal and cultural biases frustrate land rights of young men and women- strategies must adopt social lens alongside the political, legal and technical approaches



Three pronged approach

- Working for youth as beneficiary and stakeholder group
- Engaging youth as partners
- Supporting youth as leaders



Age responsive policies

- Policies must recognize the specific nature of youth as a period of identity formation and transition to responsible citizenship
- Youth responsive policies and institutions call for capacity-building among decision makers and those working with young people
- Access to land and safe urban space is important for the protection, voice and empowerment of youth



Youth Led Sustainable Development

Youth 21 have identified Five Principles of Youth Led Development:

1. Youth define their own development goals and objectives;
2. Youth have a social and physical space to participate in development and to be regularly consulted;
3. Adult mentorship and peer-to-peer mentorship are encouraged;
4. Youth act as role models to help other youth engage in development; and
5. Youth are integrated into all local and national development programs and frameworks.

“The goal is to unleash the power of urban youth to effect positive and sustainable change in their communities globally, by developing mechanisms through which youth can directly engage in global governance and decision-making in the UN system”



Challenges

- Limited case studies, tools, best practices.
- Documentation: What does Secure Tenure Mean for Youth?
- How Youth can Partner?
- How can we Mainstream and Build Capacity on Youth?
- How to Address Young Women specifically?
- Definition differences



Recommendations

- Contribute to **document and record** youth perspective on land
- **Age responsive:** As technical experts on land surveyors can contribute to promote age responsive land policies
 - This includes identifying youth as **stakeholders, record and respond** to their needs
- Continue to promote **continuum of land rights**, which emphasises tenure security for a range of tenure forms
- **Youth led development** – Continue to support Young Surveyors, promote engagement with youth to promote innovations and sustainability



Objectives of the session

- Is land and adult only issue?
- Is “youth” an issue for youth alone?
- Why does the land sector need to be “youth responsiveness”?
- What should be done?



Objectives of the session

- Is land and adult only issue? **No**
- Is “youth” an issue for youth alone? **No**
- Why does the land sector need to be “youth responsive”?
 - **To ensure sustainability**
 - **Right’s Based Approach**
- What should be done?
 - **Documentation: Youth’s relationship with land**
 - **Participation: Engage youth as stakeholders**
 - **Collaboration: Work with youth to identify land rights/needs**
 - **Youth responsive programming: Appropriate interventions:**



Thank you for your attention

