



SYFF

Securing Your Family's Future

TRANSFORMING SOCIAL NORMS ON WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS



UGANDA COMMUNITY BASED ASSOCIATION
FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S WELFARE

STAND FOR HER LAND

HER RIGHTS HER LAND A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL

**WOMEN'S
LAND RIGHTS
PAVE WAY
FOR
WOMEN'S
ECONOMIC
AUTONOMY**



GENDER AND WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS

CENTRALITY OF WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS

Land is a critical asset for promoting agricultural production and economic enhancement. Secure land tenure is strongly associated with higher levels of investment and productivity in agriculture and therefore higher incomes and greater economic wellbeing. Globally, women form the biggest percentage of land users, making women's land rights a strong determinant for attaining women's empowerment, gender equality, poverty eradication and sustainable economic growth. Secure land rights for women are often correlated with better outcomes for both women and their families, resulting into improved social status, dignity, confidence, security and agency, as well as the improved

welfare of their households, encompassing enhanced health, education, nutrition, housing, and more, key benefits associated with women's land rights. Additionally, there is growing evidence linking women's land rights to improved food security and effective climate change action.

Women's land rights encompass the ability for women to enjoy a bundle of rights, including the right to use, own, control, and make decisions on land, including disposal, transfer etc

THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL AND GENDER NORMS ON WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS

Despite numerous statutory frameworks, laws and policies at international, regional and national level promoting women's land rights, the reality in which women live often denies them this right. In practice, customary laws take precedence over statutory law, creating a significant gap between law and practice concerning women's land rights.

Whereas many statutory laws may be progressive, customary laws, often rooted in a deeply patriarchal system, tend to reinforce male dominance and discriminate against women and girls. For instance, land as a resource is traditionally passed on through the male lineage, granting men primary,

stronger and permanent rights to land, while women are allocated secondary, weaker, and temporary rights. In this context, land rights for women are limited to access and usage rights dependent on their relationship

***Social norms** are shared beliefs about the rules and expectations for people's behaviors.*

***Gender norms** (a subset of social norms) refer to shared beliefs about the rules and expectations for boys/men and girls/women's behaviors.*

with a man. In many cases, women do not have ownership of land or the authority to make decisions regarding it, leaving them vulnerable to various land rights violations, including disinheritance, land grabbing, evictions, and gender-based violence.

Social and gender norms within a society significantly shape the roles that men and women have, their relationship with land, and the rights they possess concerning land. Therefore, addressing the deeply entrenched discriminatory customary norms, perceptions, and practices that hinder equitable access, use, and control of land that is crucial for advancing women's land rights.

Inequitable and Equitable Norms promoted by the SYFF curriculum

SYFF Goal: Increase women's access, use, ownership and decision making on Land		
Inequitable norm/ Practice	Equitable norm/practice	Desired practice/actions/ behaviour
1. Men/boys are superior to women/girls	Men/boys and women/girls have equal rights	Know your land rights Respect and promote equitable land rights
2. Fathers do not bequeath or allocate land to daughters / girls do not inherit land	Both boy and girl children have equal land rights. Fathers bequeath or allocate land to their daughters/girls inherit land from their fathers	Equitable will writing
3. Women are not entitled to own land Women's tenure security is dependent on her relationship with a male	Women are entitled to own land Both men and women can own land individually or jointly with others. Husbands/men/male relatives can co-register land with their wives/women/female relatives Women can inherit land from their husbands or fathers	Joint land registration Equitable will writing Training of land administrators in gender responsive land administration Male engagement /male champions Legal literacy to empower women and men with the required knowledge and skills on acquiring and registering land.
4. Women do not make decisions on land	Men and women make joint decisions on land Women participate meaningfully in land governance processes at all levels	Empowering women with required knowledge and skills to strengthen voice, agency, self efficacy to effectively participate in land governance processes

ABOUT THE SYFF TOOL

TRANSFORMING SOCIAL AND GENDER NORMS ON WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS

The Securing Your Family's Future (SYFF) tool is a gender transformative tool developed to challenge negative and underlying barriers that sustain inequitable land rights. It aims to ensure that change in communities is deep, lasting and transformative with a goal of increasing women's access to, use of, ownership of and decision making on land.

The tool is designed to engage communities in ways that enable them to interrogate existing inequitable and harmful social and gender norms, and empower them to transform them into equitable norms that advance women's land rights and spur development.

DEVELOPMENT PROCESS OF THE TOOL

The SYFF tool was developed through a collaborative process involving expert Non-Governmental Organizations from East African countries, including Uganda CommunityBasedAssociationforWomenand Children's Welfare (UCOBAC) from Uganda, Pastoral Women's Council (PWC) from Tanzania and Kenya Legal and Ethical Issues Network (KELIN) from Kenya came together, they explored how inequitable social and gender norms undermining women's land rights can be transformed. Drawing on their extensive experience, knowledge, and lessons learned from implementing programs to promote women's land rights, this partnership identified key social norms discouraging women's land rights and developed a theory-of-change logic model to guide the development of multiple social norm transformation interventions.

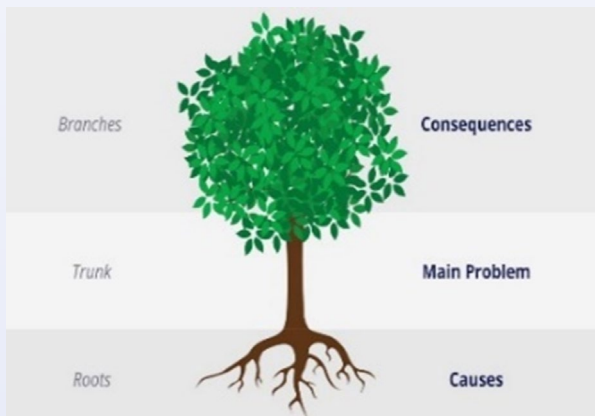
UCOBAC'S GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION (GESI) APPROACH ON LAND

UCOBAC'S GESI approach seeks to catalyse transformative change within an eco-system of human social interaction in ways that ensure that all persons enjoy their human rights and fundamental freedoms related to land and natural resources without any form of discrimination based on sex, age, race, ethnicity, disability, political opinion, religion etc Promoting gender equality and social inclusion fosters positive power relationships within households, institutions and communities and enhances the ability and opportunity of marginalised groups to equitably access resources and services as well as to meaningfully participate and benefit from decision making processes and in the development of their communities.

THE SYFF TOOL GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACHES

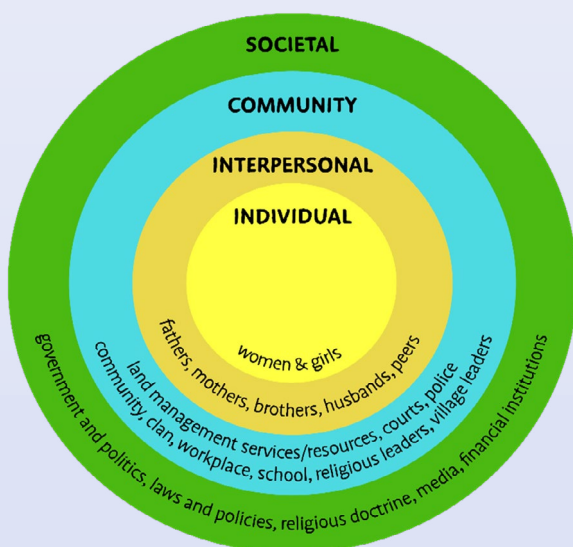
The development of the SYFF tool was guided by different theories, models and approaches that informed the conceptualization of the various SYFF interventions.

Problem tree Analysis



The SYFF curriculum is anchored on an approach that establishes a realistic understanding of the problem, identifies its fundamental root causes and its significant effects to the most vulnerable.

Ecological model



The SYFF curriculum also acknowledges the significance of human-environment interactions in shaping human behavior.

Guided by the ecological model, the approach recognizes that behavior and practice of an individual is shaped by their social interactions in different layers of the environment in an eco-system

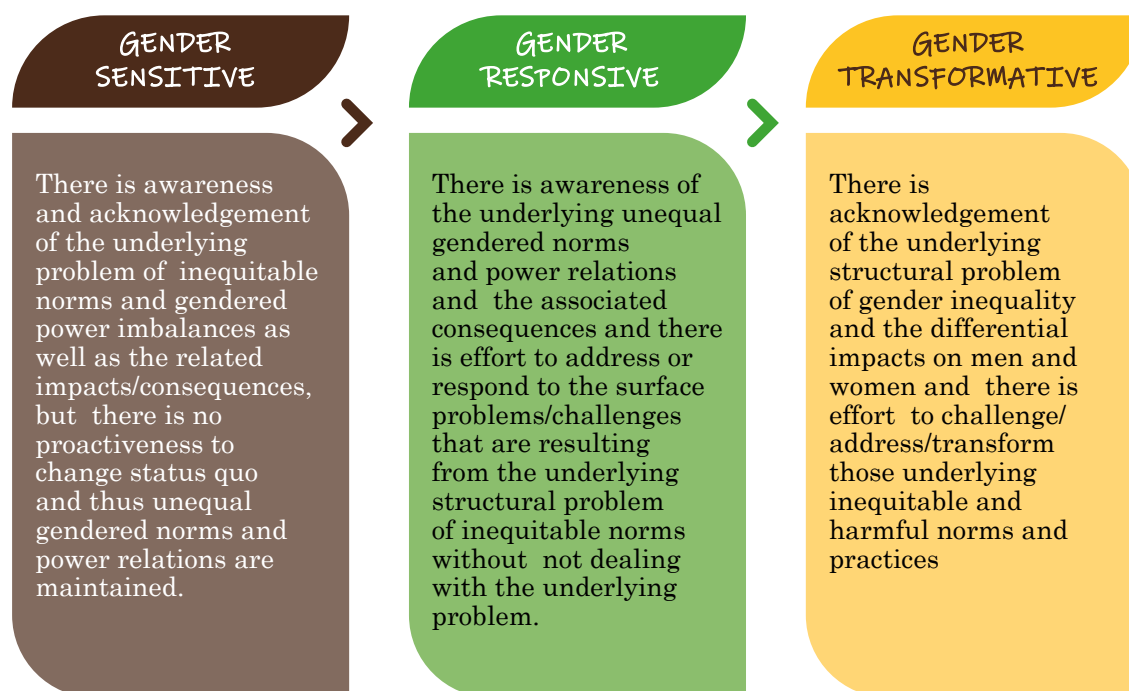
It models a holistic change process which recognizes that a transformative approach must integrate interventions that improve **self-belief/agency** (Individual), **power dynamics and relationships** (Interpersonal), **institutional practices** (Community/structures) well as **law and policy** (society/systems).

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SYFF TOOL

This SYFF tool is designed to guide **men, women and community leaders** to undertake key actions/behaviors determined to be paramount for the realization of equitable land rights.

Household level transformation	Community and societal level transformation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SYFF tool aims at transforming norms, attitudes and practices at household level in ways that influence promote equitable land rights. • The SYFF tool influences actions of; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Individuals (boys/men/sons/husbands and girls/women/daughters/wives) - The Interpersonal relations (fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, peers). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SYFF tool aims at transforming norms, attitudes, practices at community level in ways that promote equitable land rights • The SYFF tool influences action of; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community leadership (land management leaders, local, religious, traditional leaders) - Society laws, policies, practices (through informing advocacy and media engagement interventions).

Gender Transformation Pathway



A SNIPPET INTO THE SYFF TOOL MODULES

Each module is unique, offering various sessions featuring interactive methods and activities such as; stories, role-plays, group discussions, games, illustrative pictures, reflective proverbs, and metaphors. These activities are designed to facilitate active interrogation, unlearning, and learning of norms, perceptions, and behaviors related to women's land rights.

SYFF tool modules

Module 1: Introduction to Women's Land Rights

Module 2: Gender and Social Norms

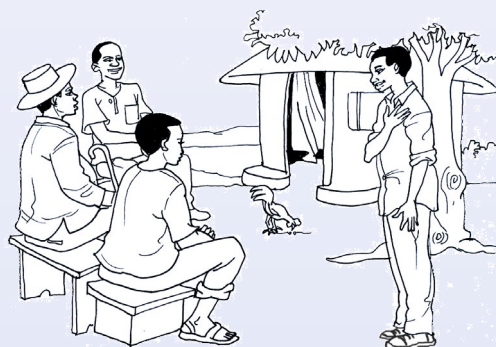
Module 3: Power and Empowerment

Module 4: Taking Action for Equitable Land rights

Module 5: Gender Transformative land governance

Module 1: Introduction to Women's land rights

In this module, participants are introduced to the concept of women's land rights and key national and local laws that promote equitable land rights and the various land administration structures in the country. Through the different session

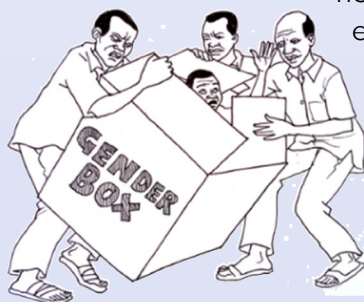


activities, participants are able to know the legal provisions advancing women's land rights, the benefits of women's land rights to women, men, families, communities and the country at large, the existing land management institutions and the roles they play to advance women's land rights.



Module 2: Social and Gender norms

This module introduces participants to the impacts of social and gender norms to women's land rights. The different sessions enable the participants to understand social and gender norms, identify norms in their community, interrogate the existing norms and identify the harmful norms in regards to women's land rights, reflect on cost/consequences of adhering to rigid and inequitable norms, reflect on benefits of equitable norms and approaches to transform inequitable social and gender norms to promote women's land rights.



Module 3: Power and Empowerment

This module introduces participants to the concepts of power and empowerment, exploring how power can be used to either control or help women in realizing their land rights.

During this session, women are encouraged to reflect on and identify strategies on how to gain power and use to assert their land rights, thereby transforming their actions and relationships at the household, community, and societal levels to advance their own land rights and those of other women.

Additionally, the session facilitates men in reflecting on and identifying ways they can support women and girls in their homes and communities to gain power and become empowered. This aims to promote the role of men as active challengers of existing discriminatory social and gender norms and practices, in order to advance women's land rights as male champions, role models, and change agents.



Module 4: Taking actions to promote equitable land rights

In this module, participants identify concrete actions men, women and their families can take to support equitable land and the fundamental steps.

a) Joint decision making



This session helps participants to reflect on what healthy relationships between men and women look like. During this session, participants reflect on how power imbalances created by harmful norms affect families. Participants are supported to reflect on the benefits associated with couples/families making major family decisions together in an inclusive manner that includes women/girls rather than independently or that involve men/boys only. Participants interrogate the harmful norms that hinder couples/families from making healthy decisions for their families. Participants are introduced to strategies for joint decision making and guided to apply the joint decision-making strategies at family level.

Desired actions/behavior

- Joint decision making
- Effective communication
- Will writing
- Joint land rights registration
- Registration of marriages
- Women participate in land management structures.
- Goal setting

b) Effective Communication

For women to be able to take the necessary actions to secure their land rights, they need to be able to have the skills to confidently and effectively communicate their needs, aspirations and goals. In this session, women learn about effective communication styles and practices to advocate for their land rights. As a result, women learn how to break the inequitable and harmful social and gender norms that confine them in the gender box and find their voices to discuss, assert or claim their land rights both in their households, communities and society level.



c) Will writing

A will is a legal document that expresses what a person's wishes are after his or her death. A will clearly indicates who should inherit what from the deceased person's property. A husband/wife who makes a will can protect the future of his/her wife/husband and children (both sons and daughters). In this session participants are introduced to Intestate and Testate succession guided by the succession amendment Act. Participants further engage on will validity and the importance of will writing for the family. Participants engage on existing discriminative and harmful norms that impede people from writing wills and how this affects the family. The goal under this session is to promote valid wills that are equitable and fair to all beneficiaries irrespective of sex/gender.



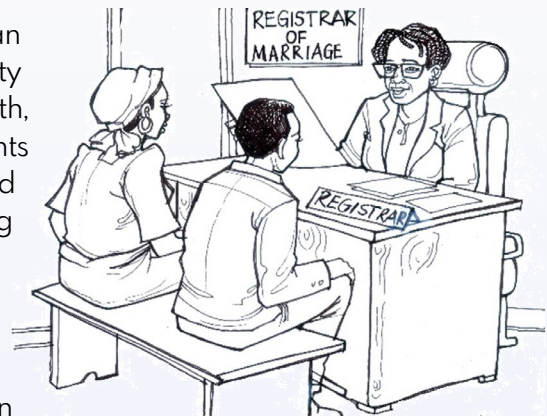
d) Joint registration of land

Land registration is a powerful tool to promote security of tenure for both men/boys and women/girls. In this session, men and women are introduced to the different land tenures in the country. The participants are then supported to appreciate the specific land tenure they own as a family or community and how they can secure their land rights under their respective land tenure arrangement. Participants also engage on how existing social norms limit joint land registration and the implications this has on the family. They further engage on steps they can take to register/co-register their land with their spouses and children/family members – including both boys and girls. Furthermore, participants discuss the existing relevant land administration structures that are mandated to support land registration in their community.



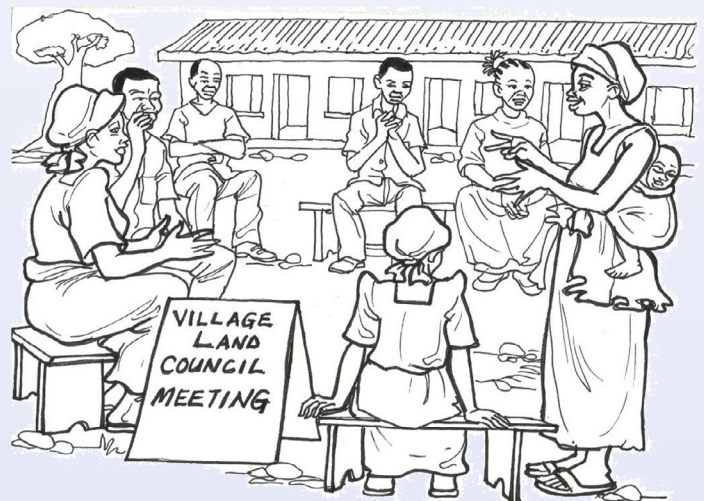
e) Registration of marriages

From a legal perspective, a registered marriage can make it easier for a spouse to protect family property or make a claim in an estate in the event of death, divorce, or inheritance. During this session, participants are introduced to Marriage Laws and equipped with knowledge of the legal framework surrounding marriage. They engage in discussions on how the registration of their marriages can safeguard their land rights and explore the steps couples can take to register their marriages. Additionally, participants further discuss how the land rights of men and women in unions not recognized by law, such as cohabitation, can be protected.



f) Women's participation in land governance processes

Women have limited participation in land and natural resource governance/decision making processes. Affirmative action position quotas have not translated into significant social or political capital to champion the cause of women's land rights. This status quo can be attributed to existing social norms that discriminate against women resulting in either a lack of opportunity for women to participate in land governance processes or a lack of confidence to occupy and engage in available spaces. Additionally, women often lack the necessary capacities, knowledge, and skills to effectively and meaningfully engage in land management processes.



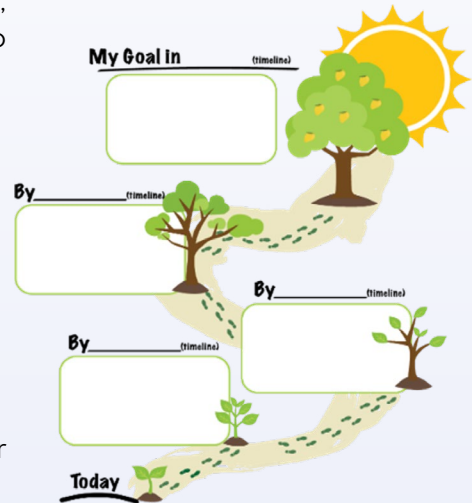
This session aims to empower women to assume leadership roles and meaningfully participate in land decision-making processes within their communities. Participants are introduced to the different land management structures, how women can actively participate and engage in these land management institutions and the importance of their participation in land governance. Participants also engage on the existing challenges and opportunities for women's participation in land management processes. They identify how existing social norms limit women's participation and identify practical ways to transform or change these social norms in ways to promote women's participation in land governance.

g) Goal setting



This is a practical visionary reflection activity through which participants (*individually, as a couple, as a family or community*) are supported to plan for their families/community using a guided imaginary image called a “goal map” Using this map, participants reflect on their priority goals for their families/community, identify possible roadblocks to achieving these goals, identify the steps and resources they need to overcome the stumbling blocks to realising their goals. This process helps participants to set realistic goals related to promoting equitable land rights in their homes or communities

and identifying those harmful social norms that limit them from achieving the goals. They also identify the required actions needed to transform those social norms that limit their ability to achieve their goal.



Module 5: Gender transformative land governance

The module aims at promoting gender transformative land management and administration by addressing root causes of gender inequalities and structural barriers within formal and informal land administration systems such that women/girls can equally participate and benefit from the processes. The module stimulates change through engaging both formal and informal land management and administration structures in a transformation exercise so as to dismantle gender biases and norms as well as change attitudes and perceptions towards men and women. Participants including land administrators, local and traditional leaders are taken on a journey to reflect on how they can use their mandate to promote equitable land rights in their communities.

ASSESSMENT OF SOCIAL NORM CHANGE



Social Norms change takes time – It does not happen overnight. Assessing and measuring change in norms requires identification of an appropriate and effective approach applicable to the ecological layer of engagement. There are a number of approaches that can be applied to evaluate social norm change at different levels - *household, community, institution, society* level using either qualitative or quantitative methodologies. UCOBAC employs the following social norm evaluation approaches.

Gender analysis matrix – Knowledge, Attitude, Practice Survey (KAPS) on Land

A gender analysis is a systematic analytical tool/process that uses participatory methodologies to facilitate the definition and analysis of how people of different genders experience an issue or situation. It is used to identify and describe gender differences and the relevance of gender roles and power dynamics in a specific community. The gender analysis matrix therefore offers an opportunity to understand the root causes of these inequalities and therefore guide interventions through exploring community Knowledge, Attitudes/perceptions and Practices of men/boys and women/girls against the bundle of land rights (*access, ownership and control*). This approach can be used for household assessments, its also very applicable for community level assessments.

2 Pre and post Intervention Evaluations

This approach is applied to participants who are assessed before and after the SYFF intervention. The approach enables assessment of changes in knowledge, attitude and practice in regard to women's land rights at individual and household level. The approach can adopt either qualitative or quantitative tools or both.

3 Documentation of most significant stories

This approach is used at the end of a social norms transformation intervention. The approach documents lived experiences of selected participants after the intervention. Changes in attitude towards women's land rights, practices around land allocation, land utilization, gender roles among others are documented to assess the impact of the intervention. This approach is very applicable for household assessments as it allows information verification, observation and appreciation of reported change.

4 Gender Evaluation criteria

The GEC developed by the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) examines the gender responsiveness of a given land policy, law, tool or programme. The GEC can be applied to evaluate the effectiveness of the SYFF tool in promoting gender equality on land. GEC is buttressed by 6 core areas which include:

1. Equal participation by women and men and gender-responsive governance
2. Capacity development, organization and empowerment of women and men to use, access and benefit from the tool
3. Legal and institutional considerations in regard to women and men's access to land
4. Social and cultural considerations in regard to women and men's access to land
5. Economic considerations in regard to women and men's access to land
6. Scale, coordination, and sustainability to reach more women and men

STAND FOR HER LAND

HER RIGHTS HER LAND A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL



**I SUPPORT
EQUITABLE
LAND
RIGHTS IN
MY HOME.
WHAT
ABOUT
YOU?**



STAND FOR HER LAND

HER RIGHTS. HER LAND. A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL.

A GLOBAL CAMPAIGN TO STRENGTHEN WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS

Uganda Community Based Association for Women
and Children Welfare (UCOBAC)

Plot 17 Robert Mugabe Road, Mbuya Zone 1

P. O Box 75198, Kampala, Uganda

Email: info@ucobac.org

Facebook: [UcobacUganda](https://www.facebook.com/UcobacUganda)

Twitter: [@Ucobac_](https://twitter.com/Ucobac_)