

Strengthening Land Rights in Pader District, Uganda with the Volunteer Community Surveyor Program

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SUMMARY

Strengthening land rights and security of tenure requires innovative tools and approaches. The Volunteer Community Surveyor Program (VCSP) jointly facilitated by the Young Surveyors Network of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) and the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) of the UN-Habitat is an innovation that seeks to match the competence of young surveyors with survey related challenges for social impact and professional development. One of the objectives of the VCSP includes working with partners to strengthen land rights and security of tenure among other things. This paper is a report of how land rights and security of tenure was strengthened in a project executed by the GLTN Partner, Uganda Based Association for Women and Children's welfare (UCOBAC) in Pader district, Uganda with the participation of some Volunteer Community Surveyors (VCSs). The paper highlights the responsibilities of the VCSs during the project. It further illustrates the benefits of the VCSP program to the Pader project, tenure security and the volunteers themselves. The Pader project upholds the fit for purpose land administration approach for managing informal and customary land rights. This paper further recommends a scaling-up of the VCSP to support a socially inclusive system capable of ensuring the security of tenure and protection of land rights for all by providing the technical expertise required to fast-track the documentation of unregistered lands.

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