

# Women Access to Land Services in Ghana: Insights from the Wa Municipality

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**Key words:** Access to land; Land management; Security of tenure; Women; Land; Services; Ghana; Wa

## SUMMARY

Across many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa including Ghana, the land tenure systems are patriarchally controlled. Thus, women access to land and effective control including access to structures to secure land rights have faced serious constraints. This study thus assessed women access to land services towards securing land rights in the Wa Municipality of Ghana. The research adopted a pragmatist approach and employed a case study design. A total of 92 female respondents were selected through purposive sampling. In addition, key informant interviews with selected women, traditional leaders and officials of the Lands Commission were carried out. The results show that, women predominantly access land through market medium – purchase mode. This necessitates the need to secure their rights through registration. As a result, land registration was identified as the most (27.2%) land services women utilized. However, land registration data reveals a dominance of men over women reflecting deep-seated structural challenges impeding women land ownership and ability to participate in land related services to enhance tenure security. The study underscores the need to design a pro-poor approach and gender sensitive policy for women to enable them to overcome financial barrier which appears severe for them. Further, reducing costs, streamlining bureaucratic processes, and actively combating gender discrimination are essential steps towards empowering women and ensuring their secure access to land.

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