

Name of project:	Security of Girls through Land a project that builds on the West Bengal Cultivation and Dwelling Plot Allocation (CDPA) project.
Donor:	Nike Foundation (and BMGF for CDPA)
Implementing organization:	Global Center for Women's Land Rights - Rural Development Institute (RDI)
M&E organization:	Global Center for Women's Land Rights - Rural Development Institute (RDI)
Project start date:	28 May 2010
Project end date:	May 2014
Geographic coverage: (countries)	State of West Bengal (India)
Status of impact assessment (when are/were baselines to be conducted, what quantitative or qualitative assessments have been done, etc.)	We are starting to implement a household-level quantitative baseline survey to treatment and control populations. In addition, evaluation plans include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualitative interviews of men, women, girls, and boys in the villages where community conversations are held and where boys and girls groups are organized; • Girls' diaries; • Household-level end line survey at the end of 2013.
To what extent is the project targeted to women?	The project aims to improve the economic and social situation and prospects for adolescent girls. To do so, it will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on RDI's work with state-level land authorities implementing the CDPA program to ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plots allocated to dual-headed households are titled jointly; • female-headed households are given priority; • daughters-only families are given priority; and, • all sons and daughters are listed as co-inheritors in the land title. • Work with the Department of Women and Child Development to create girls and boys groups that incorporate a land rights curriculum. • Educate local stakeholders about adolescent girls inheritance rights and hold community conversations that include men and women, to discuss issues impacting girls' inheritance rights.
Does this project aim to directly build assets, or would increases in assets be a secondary effect (e.g. project aims to increase incomes, but people might then invest in assets)?	It aims to build assets directly: land owned by families. In addition, the skills training programs for girls are expected to indirectly lead to higher incomes and possibly an increase in investment in assets.
What kinds of assets might have observable changes (for men or	(For each type of capital below that you think your project may affect, please mention the kinds of assets that may be

women)?	affected)
Natural capital (e.g. land, water):	Land
Physical capital (e.g. housing, equipment, cell phones):	Housing
Financial capital (savings, credit, remittances):	Savings and credit (indirectly)
Social capital (e.g. group membership, connections, either within communities or with outsiders):	group membership, connections within communities
Human capital (e.g. education, skills, health, nutritional status):	skills, nutritional status
<p>Brief abstract about the project—what is it trying to achieve, what is the strategy being used for integrating gender into project implementation and in M&E/impact evaluation? (max 1 page)</p> <p>RDI's broadest goal is to secure land rights for the rural poor and promote social justice. As part of these efforts, in 2009 it launched its Global Center for Women's Land Rights to help ensure that women, as well as men, have secure rights to land that are both legally and socially recognized. RDI has been working in India for 10 years and realizes that adolescent girls in India are extremely vulnerable to injustices associated with poverty. They are particularly vulnerable to trafficking, child marriage, violence, and other mistreatments.</p> <p>To enhance the opportunities these adolescent girls might have we propose a model based on a three-prong overarching strategy aimed at improving girls' status in their families and their communities. First, we will work with the Land and Land Reforms Department to ensure that in providing secure land rights to homesteadless families they prioritize families who have daughters and no sons. Dowry payments made to a daughter's in-laws can be onerous to poor families, encouraging early marriage of their daughters, thereby increasing their vulnerability to trafficking or domestic violence. Families with only daughters are even more vulnerable because their family must make multiple payments to secure the marriages of their daughters, while not benefiting from incoming dowry that a son's marriage would have brought. Second, we will hold community conversations designed to help gain a better understanding of the interconnected social norms that effectively devalue girls and facilitate the generation of bottom-up actions that will promote dowry free marriages, delay of marriage, and girls inheritance of land. Lastly, we will help organize boys and girls groups that meet regularly and cover a curriculum especially designed to help them understand the relationship between the value of girls, dowry, early marriage, domestic violence, trafficking, and land ownership and economic capabilities.</p> <p>RDI's work on the state-wide CDPA project is funded primarily by BMGF and strives to ensure that 100,000 landless women and their families obtain access and secure rights to homestead land in West Bengal by 2014. In addition to receiving land, these women and families will receive assistance with development of homegardens and other livelihood strategies that make use of the homestead plot to improve the women's status within their families as well as family nutrition, income, wealth, and status within the community.</p> <p>The Security for Girls through Land project builds on the CDPA work with funding from the NIKE Foundation to further strengthen the security of land rights of adolescent girls, as described above. This project focuses on Coochbehar District and one other District of West Bengal and by 2014 expects to have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2,500 daughter-only families who have received CDPA land and patta with an inheritance 	

- clause that mentions all children;
- Community conversations held in 70 villages;
 - 320 boys and girls groups;

The project's expected impact includes improvements such as:

- An increase in daughters' age of marriage;
- A reduction in the proportion of families that pay cash dowry;
- A reduction in the average amount paid as dowry;
- An increase in the proportion of parents who report that if something goes wrong after their daughters marry, their daughters will be able to return to their families' land; and,
- An increase in the proportion of girls who finished 8 years of education.

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