Second-Level Land Certification (SLLC) System

Between 2011 and 2013, the REILA project piloted second-level land certification (SLLC) at seven locations in five regions on different landscapes. The pilots were based on using aerial photographs for boundary identification, and they resulted in a nationally accepted land registration method. Today, regional governments and other projects apply the method throughout the country. In 2013, the DFID-funded LIFT project started large scale land registration in the four big regions by using the same SLLC method and, since then, REILA has focused SLLC implementation only in the core programme woredas in Amhara and Benishangul-Gumuz (BG).

There are over 50 million parcels in rural Ethiopia. To date, almost 13 million parcels are registered through SLLC by government and projects (mostly LIFT). This means that about three million families (i.e., 15 million people) are already covered by SLLC.

In Reila woredas, the average cost to process SLLC was about €7 per parcel in Amhara and about €17 per parcel in Benishangul-Gumuz (BG) in the period 2011 to 2017. Since 2017, both have further improved the efficiency. The overall cost of the process/parcel is extremely low on a global scale.

It has been possible since 2018 to use a land certificate as a guarantee for a loan.

First Rural Cadastre and Land Registration Vocational School Programme

REILA has developed a formal technical vocational education training (TVET) programme on rural cadaster and land registration, which the government approved in 2016. The TVET course has now been running two years solely with BG regional government funding, and the government has also plans to set up more of such TVET courses in the country. In addition to TVET training, REILA has also developed a Masters degree that civil servants can study over several years without leaving their jobs.
Since 2014, REILA has developed the National Rural Land Information System (NRLAIS), which handles all land registration data and land-related transactions (inheritance, divorce, gift etc.). NRLAIS replaces paper-based systems and, in some areas, interim digital systems. The government has accepted NRLAIS as a national system.

NRLAIS is currently operational in 28 woredas (districts), more than 1.3 million parcels have been migrated to the system and more than 600 people have been trained to use or administer it.

Over the last year, other projects have committed to invest in NRLAIS hardware, end-user training, and operational support. REILA remains responsible for the NRLAIS software and system development and support, in-depth training and country-wide coordination. With these investments, the government has plans to make the system operational in 280 woredas during the next five years (this is equivalent to more than one fourth of all rural woredas in Ethiopia.)

NRLAIS improves transparency, efficiency, and quality of the land transactions as it guides the authorities through the steps of the processes.

The system produces constant up-to-date land use data. For example women's share in inheritance in kebeles (villages) can be automatically monitored and alerts can be set for low shares to enable corrective actions. Also changes in land quality (for example land area used for perennial crops) can be monitored, and it is possible to link this data to climate change data. On the other hand, financing institutions will be able to automatically see the quality of the parcel when considering it for loan guarantee and block it from transactions if it is used as collateral. These are only some examples of the usefulness of the data.

NRLAIS will gradually replace all paper-based systems.