

New Assessment Tool for Identifying Appropriate Technology Investments in Land Administration Records and Transaction Systems

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SUMMARY

Ensuring that new land records and transaction system technologies are widely used and sustained after initial roll-out remains a central challenge within the land administration systems of many countries. Weak alignment of system scope, technological complexity, and maintenance and support costs with agency priorities, staff experience, internet and power infrastructure, financial resources, and data and records quality and quantity can result in limited sustainability of digital land administration systems investments.

Land Equity International (LEI) and MCC have developed a new toolkit to aid decision-making on land records and transaction system (LRTS) design and investing. The toolkit is loosely aligned with the MCC process for compact development but is able to be used by a variety of stakeholders including other donors and financial partners, governments, and service providers. The toolkit enables assessment and identification of records and transaction system options for a wide variety of contexts, ranging from high transaction volume national registry and cadastre systems to rural institutions operating in a limited-infrastructure environment with a low volume of records and where land transactions may be infrequent.

The toolkit addresses a central question that underpins any thinking on strengthening land records and transaction systems – what level of technological complexity is appropriate for land records and transaction management needs, institutional environment, and resources that exist? The toolkit provides a template for assessing in-country challenges relating to LRTS, guides the design and selection of options and components for LRTS investment, supports in-country analysis, and helps ensure systematic consideration of operability, sustainability, political and institutional risks and benefits. The toolkit includes sections on Legal and Institutional dimensions, Technology and Systems dimensions, and Finance and Financial Sustainability dimensions to determine the optimal

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LRTS investment given country, location and objectives. The toolkit has a series of accompanying worksheets in Excel format to aid information capture and presentation.

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