



# Invisible and Excluded – Risk to Informal Wives and Partners from Land Tenure Formalization and Titling Campaigns

Live Webinar  
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# Overview

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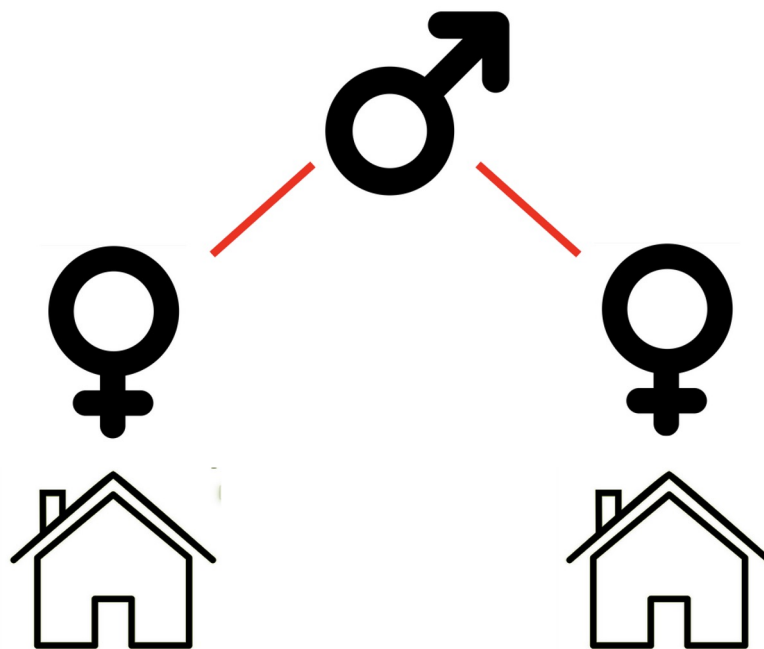
- Why this issue matters
- Risks and potential magnitude
- 6 dimensions
- Panel discussion

# Who may be getting left out?

## Women in Informal Unions



## Women in Parallel Households



# What rights?

- “Private”
- Permanent
- Transferable
- Valuable



Source: GLA Colombia

# What is at stake for women? For shared development goals?



Source: UN Sustainable Development Goals

# Slipping through the GAPS of land project campaigns in Latin America



# RISE of informal marriage in Latin America

**Table 1: Percentage cohabitants among women aged 30-34 who are in unions/marriages with men**

Country	Percentage informal spouses	Trend
Argentina	48	↑ 37%^
Brazil	44	↑ 47%^
Chile	18*	↑ 4%^
Colombia	57*	↑ 38%^
Costa Rica	38	↑ 25%^
Dominican Republic	76	↑ 15%†
Ecuador	50	NA
Guatemala	33*	NA
Honduras	50*	NA
Jamaica	52*	NA
Mexico	28	↑ 14%^
Nicaragua	49	↑ 13%^
Peru	56	↑ 34%^

\* 2000 Census

^ since 1970

† since 1980

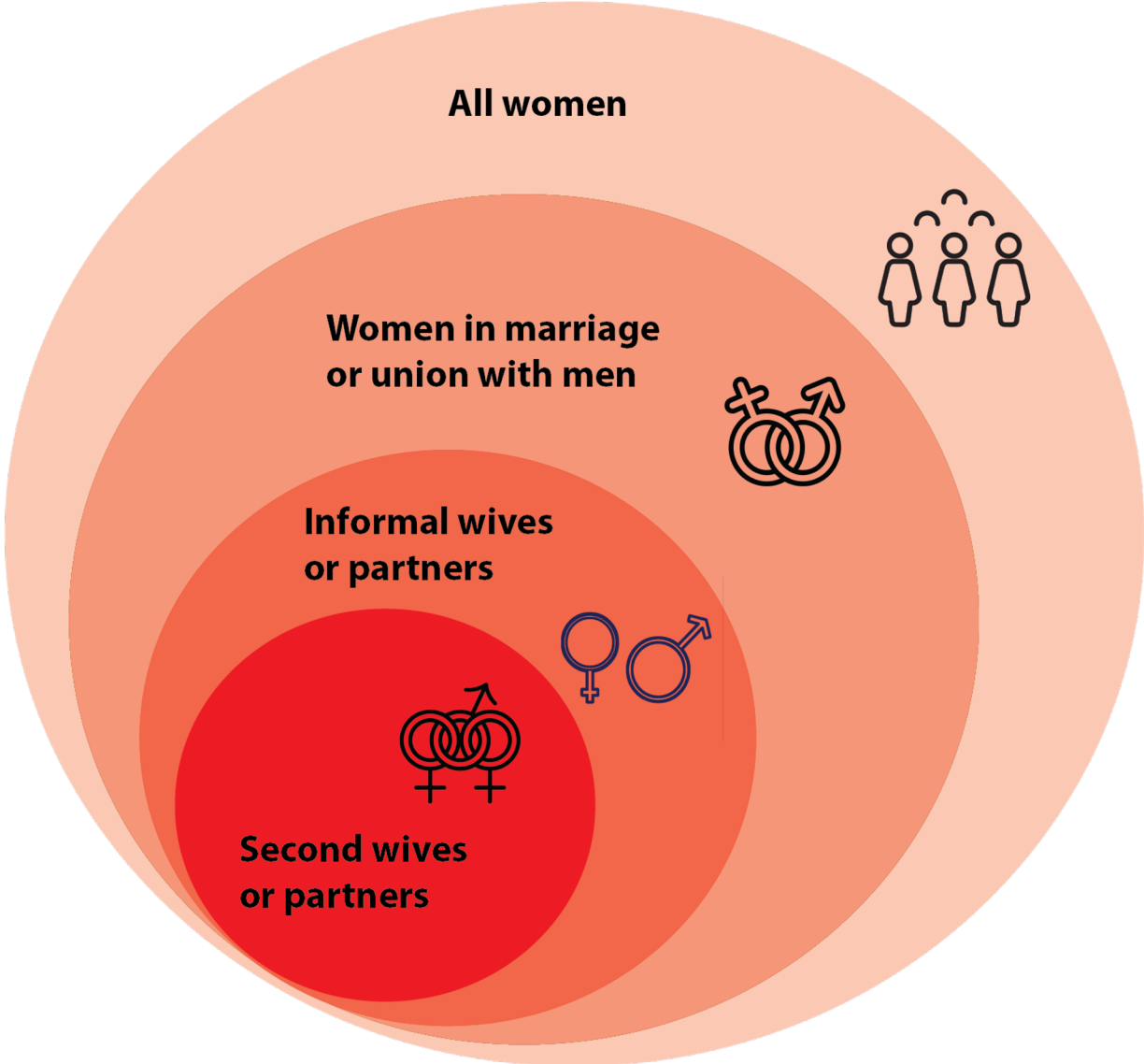
Source: Esteve et al., 2016

# Potential higher risk in POST CONFLICT settings

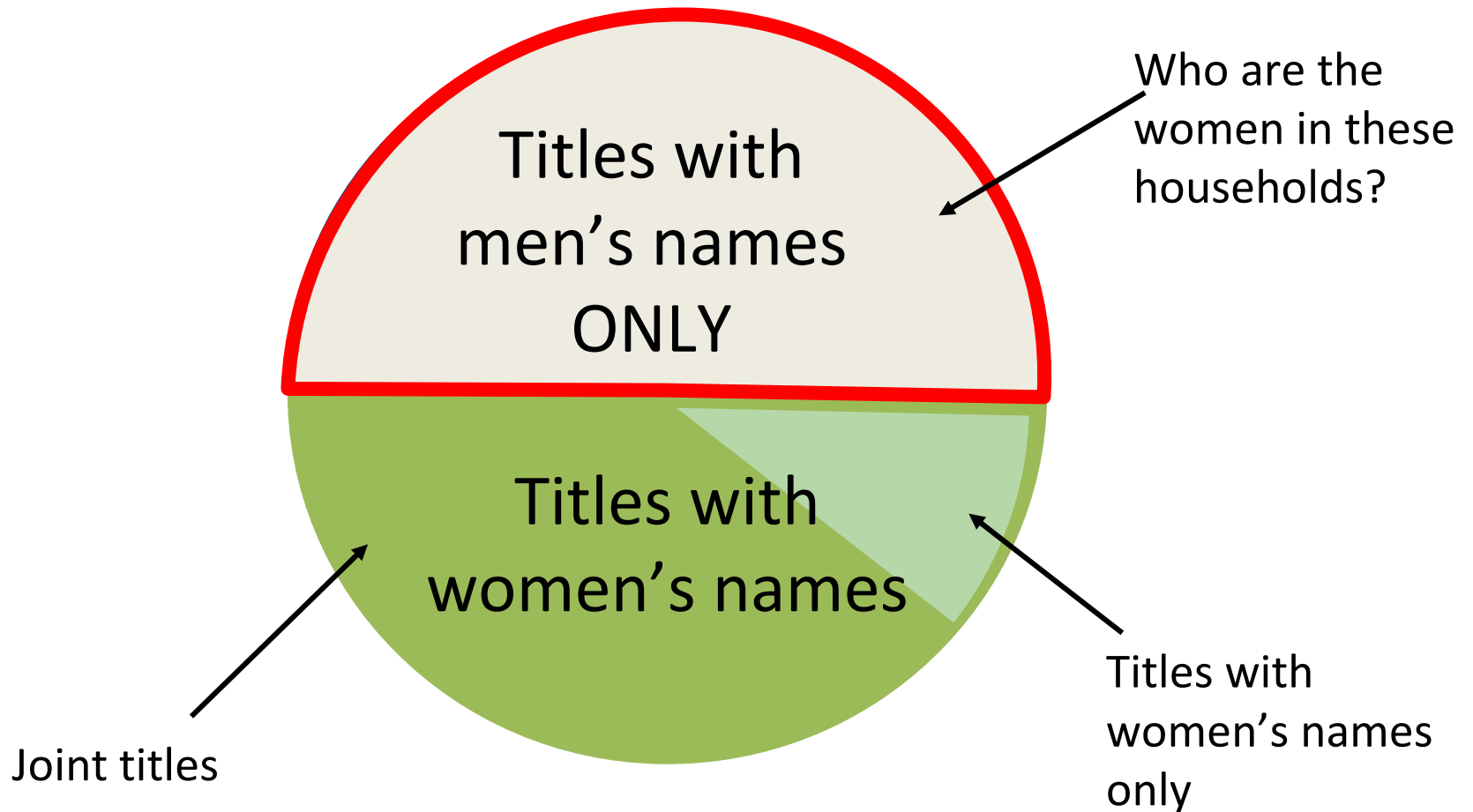




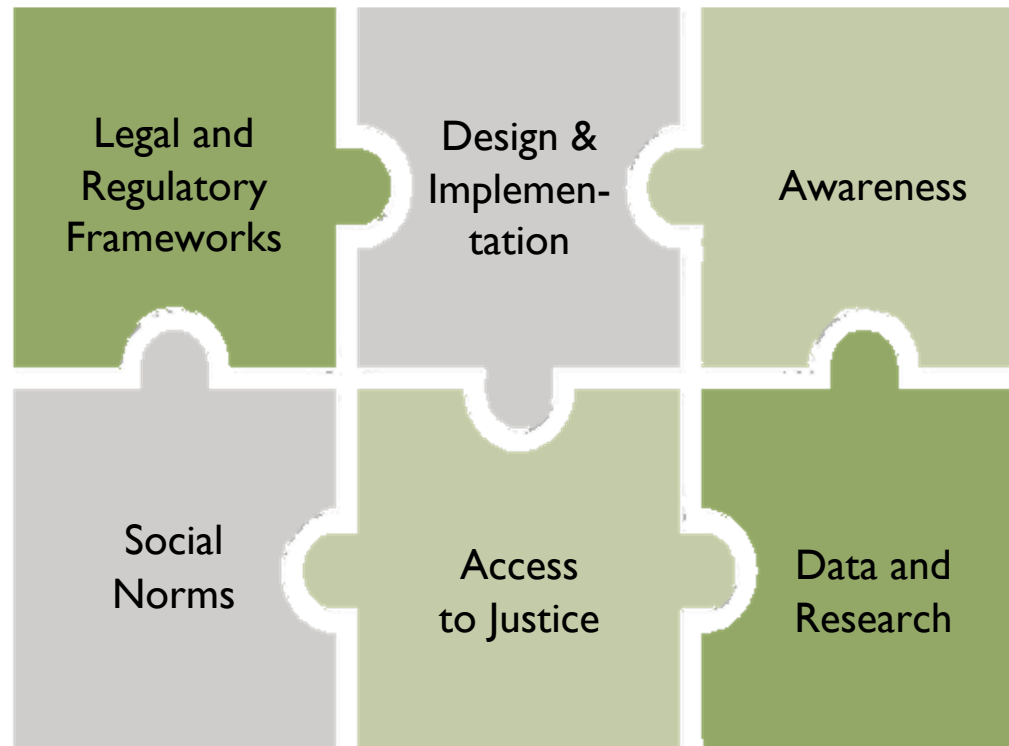
# Concentric circles of RISK for women



# INVISIBILITY in project metrics



# 6 Dimensions



# Legal and Regulatory Frameworks



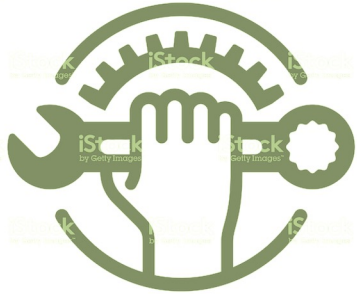
- Include informal spouses
- Ease burden of proof

## Land Transactions

Joint titling

**Domestic labor**  
(Economía del cuidado)

# Project design & Implementation



- Unknown extent pre-project
- **Pressure for TIME** & resources

Diagnostics

Project Design

Gender  
Indicators

Team Capacity

# Awareness



- Beyond gender inequality
- Vulnerability of informal spouses

Campaigns

Cultural  
appropriateness

Legal literacy

# Access to justice



- Challenge of righting a wrong
- Modes of support

Alternative dispute  
resolution  
Accessible claims &  
info  
Safe channels

# Social Norms



- Cultural practices around informal spouses
- Social position of parallel households

Local partnerships  
Gender  
Champions  
Cultural change  
Dialogue with ♂ &  
♀



# Data and Research



- Data on marriage informality
- Who is excluded?

Future research      Methodologies

Linking databases

Data on marriage  
informality

If you take one thing...

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**What can we do**  
to ensure informal wives  
are **included** in  
land formalization campaigns





# Thank you!



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