



## SESSION 14 - Guiding note **The role-play**



The purpose of this activity is to allow participants to experience first-hand how potential actors related to tenure issues can behave in a real situation<sup>14</sup>.

A role-play centres on creating a learning opportunity using drama with dialogue and action through a specific situation which contains two or more different viewpoints or perspectives.

Each person will have a particular objective or objectives they want to fulfil which may be in conflict with those of one or more of their fellow role-players. It is how each role-player handles the situation that forms the basis of skills practice.

The situation has to be realistic and relevant to the role-players. A successful role-play will be focused on developing a particular skill or skills set. In this case, we want the participants to experience how CSO actors can play a role in the VGGT implementation process. This means that the selected case needs to represent a relevant situation for the participants and present a critical issue to be solved. By assigning the participants a role that is different from what they usually play in their daily life, they will be forced to put themselves in the shoes of another actor and to better understand their perspective, priorities, relations, and communication style.

You will need to design cases that are representative for your country.

### Sample Scenario

This is the story of Maria and Fernanda, her 15-year-old daughter. Fernanda lived with her parents in a house her father owned and was going to the local school. They had 20 acres of land on which they grew a variety of crops and kept 53 head of cattle.

When Fernanda was 12, her father fell sick with HIV/AIDS. After three years, he died in the local hospital. During his illness, Maria and Fernanda took care of him. Maria told her in-laws several times about Pedro's illness, but they only came after he had died. They accused her of having infected Pedro, her husband, and thus having caused his death. Fernanda's uncles and other relatives from her paternal family collected a death certificate which indicated that Maria was widowed, and evicted her from the land, also taking away farm equipment, livestock, cooking pans, bank records, blankets and clothes.

The practice in Fernanda's community allows male relatives to take away land, animals and other belongings from widows and orphans, especially when there are no male descendants in the household.

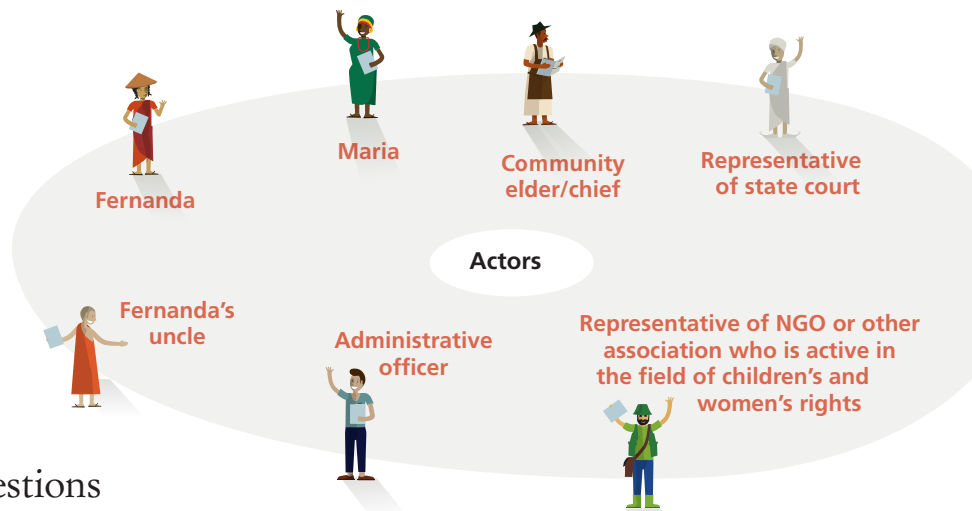
Desperate, with no money to buy food, clothes or other necessities, Maria and Fernanda went to Fernanda's maternal grandparents for assistance.

<sup>14</sup> Adapted from *ARC Facilitator's Toolkit – Reach Out Refugee Protection Training Project*, 2005.

Maria told them that her husband wanted her and Fernanda to keep the land, animals and other belongings for their food and survival, but the rest of the community had not respected his wishes.

For each role you should provide a brief that:

1. Defines the character
2. Defines his/her goal
3. Defines his/her position/ role/responsibility
4. Defines how he/she is likely to react or behave



## Sample facilitation questions

The following are some sample questions to facilitate the discussion after this role-play. Prepare 3–5 questions in advance, adapted to the particular role-play scenario.

### General Questions

- What did you learn from the scenario?
- How are the perspectives on governance of tenure different among the actors?
- What did you think about how the issues were/were not resolved?
- How could the VGGT be used to address this situation?
- How could you apply what you learned in this role-play to your own work?

### Scenario Specific Questions

- What is the case about?
- What do you think about the treatment of Maria and Fernanda by their relatives?
- Do you agree with the custom that allows male relatives to take away land, livestock and other belongings from widows and orphans? Why or why not?
- How did this custom develop?
- Do extended families still take care of orphans and widows like they used to in the past?
- What could be the future for Maria and Fernanda?
- What chance do Maria and Fernanda have to get their land and other property back?
- What are the main differences between statutory law and customary rules?
- Would the situation be different if Maria's husband had left a written will in which he indicated that his wife and daughter should inherit his land and other assets? How?
- What do you think about the principle of equality between men and women? Do you think that this principle was violated?
- What could Maria and Fernanda do to resolve their situation and ensure their livelihoods?