Open Land Data in the Fight against Corruption

Week 1: Monday September 9th - Sunday September 15th 2019

STATEMENT OF THE WEEK:

> ## THE LAND SECTOR IS NOT THERE YET
> Before we can talk about <u>open</u> data, we need to have <u>good</u> data.

In the last few decades, a lot of time and money has been invested to digitize land information and to develop land information systems. Though these efforts have been significant, it is still an often-repeated rhetoric that there is a lack of land data. Land ownership data is a topic of sovereignty of (national) governments. Of the 94 countries whose land ownership data were studied in the Global Open Data Index, only 17 scored more than 0% open.[1] Assuming this is a representative sample, this means that less than one in five countries in the world has *some* (*<u>not even all</u>*) information about land ownership publicly available. For land administration experts, this will hardly come as a surprise. There are valid privacy and security issues that play a role in publishing land data, as well as the enormous challenge that lies before land registries to digitize the available land ownership records, while keeping up with a rapidly changing and ever-moving (informal) land market.

Does this mean that we should give up the mission to make land data available as open data? Should we first prioritize availability of land data before we talk about accessibility and usability?

Questions:

1. Which types of land data can play a role in the fight against corruption? Does a solid baseline of available open land data exist? Are there examples on how this data was used in the fight against corruption?

2. Is government the only source of land data, or should we also be looking at other sources of data in the fight against corruption? Are there examples of how this data was used in the fight against corruption?

3. What have been the main concerns for policy makers and funders not to prioritize openness of data and information in their programs and priorities? What would it take to increase policy maker and funder interest in open land data?

---

[1] https://index.okfn.org/dataset/land/