

Development of an Open Source Land Records System for Urban Centers in Ethiopia

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SUMMARY

Decades of rapid population growth and urbanization in Ethiopia have put pressure on available land and demand for urban land plots has risen sharply. Responsible land administration is of critical importance to the country, but most urban centers in Ethiopia do not have up-to-date, reliable land information systems. Land records are mostly kept in paper format, and the information is generally unorganized, duplicated and/or outdated. Efforts have been ongoing to digitalize land records, and this has resulted in multiple digital systems that are not harmonized, running on various GIS, CAD and database platforms.

During the recently completed IULHFMS project, an attempt was made to change this situation. This paper describes how a land holding file management system was developed using open source software tools, and how this system could be scaled up to other cities in Ethiopia to form a unified urban land holding records system.