



2015 Fellowships in Legal Empowerment

In a world where billions of people live outside the protection of the law, Namati is dedicated to putting the law in people's hands. We're building a global movement of grassroots legal advocates who work with communities to advance justice. These advocates are fighting on the front lines to ensure that people can protect their land, access essential services, and take part in the decisions that govern their lives.

We draw on that grassroots experience to seek large-scale structural changes— we have already achieved policy changes that affect millions of people in multiple countries. And our ambitions don't end at the national level - our global campaign for internationally agreed justice targets has been endorsed by 200 organizations and four former Heads of State.

As we move into our next phase of development we're growing a global team of passionate, results-oriented, and big-hearted advocates. We are united by a common mission and a strong culture. And we have some hefty supporters, including an advisory board with leaders like Amartya Sen, Mo Ibrahim, Fazole Abed, and Madeline Albright.

We're just beginning. Please join us.

About the fellowships

The 2015 Fellowships in Legal Empowerment provide a range of opportunities to support Namati's diverse global portfolio of legal empowerment projects. The Research Fellowship in Community Land Protection requires applicants to develop and submit a proposed areas of research. Specifics of each opportunity are listed below.

Fellowships are open to current law students and recent law graduates. For the Research Fellowship in Community Land Protection, graduates of programs in geography, urban planning, anthropology, political science and/or other similar disciplines will also be considered.

About you

You are a mature, organized, proactive professional with a demonstrated track record of excellence in research and writing. You have built a reputation for consistently delivering high-quality work products, while also being a gracious and collaborative team player. Your resumes evidence a commitment to social justice, human rights and/or development.

You understand the flexibility, adaptability, and humility required to make a contribution in a context where you are an outsider – ideally through your previous international work experience. While particularly important for fellows seeking to work in our country offices, this is relevant for all our fellows given the global audiences of our work.

Most importantly, you have taken the time to understand both Namati's [mission](#) and our [cultural principles](#). You are excited by the prospect of joining our team and are prepared to roll up your sleeves and get to work.

How to apply

We are accepting applications year round. Applicants may apply for up to two positions. Your application should include a CV; cover letter identifying the positions for which you are applying, your desired start date, and the duration of your availability; and a writing sample. For the Research Fellowship in Community Land Protection, your application should also include your proposed areas of research.

All applications should be sent to interns@namati.org. No phone calls please.

Fellowship	About the Program	Fellowship Scope
<p>Research Fellowship in Community Land Protection</p> <p>Location: Oakland, California</p>	<p>Namati’s Community Land Protection Program supports communities to follow national land documentation laws to protect their customary and indigenous land claims. The Community Land Protection Program’s goal is to proactively strengthen communities’ abilities to protect, enforce, and defend their land rights. The Program promotes an integrated community land documentation model that both supports communities to protect their lands and natural resources as well as to leverage community land documentation processes to foster positive intra-community change. For more information about the Program, please visit our website.</p>	<p>The Community Land Protection Program is seeking independent, driven researchers to complete special reports and other research projects. <u>Interested applicants are asked to propose research topics that they feel would support Namati’s community land protection efforts.</u> Proposed topics should be specific, should address real-world, practical challenges, and should be solution-oriented. The research should be designed for the following audiences: fieldwork practitioners, advocates, and national and global policy-makers. Namati’s staff will work with you to further develop project proposal ideas to ensure usability and applicability to our fieldwork and advocacy efforts.</p> <p>Note: CLPP is looking for a creative, motivated, independent law student or recent graduate in the area of geography, urban planning, anthropology, political science and/or other similar disciplines with a demonstrated interest and passion for social justice, rule of law, human rights and/or development. You should have a demonstrably strong global perspective, cultural competency, and expertise in your given area of study. You have very strong research and writing skills and you are mature, organized, proactive, self-motivated and able to be a productive and collaborative member of a diverse team. You pride yourself on your ability to develop thorough and well-developed research projects and you are motivated by the prospect of producing an exceptionally rigorous and high-quality final product.</p> <p>Your application should demonstrate a strong interest in land tenure security and community legal empowerment/ legal literacy. Your extensive field experience working or volunteering in foreign nations is very important to us.</p>

<p>Global Legal Empowerment Fellowship</p> <p>Location: Washington DC</p>	<p>The Global Legal Empowerment Network convened by Namati comprises 2,000+ lawyers, community paralegals, human rights activists and grassroots organizers, researchers, journalists, and public servants. Together we are building a movement, working to make justice a reality for the 4 billion global citizens who live outside the law. With a mission to develop and share ways to advance justice, we are dedicated to learning across regions, across cultures, and across disciplines. The network enables us to meet other experts and practitioners from around the world; access practical tools, the latest research, and pro bono services; and join global workshops and learning exchanges. Learn more at: www.namati.org/network.</p>	<p>As the legal fellow for the Global Legal Empowerment Network, you'll play a key role in curating the world's largest collection of tools, research, and impact evidence on legal empowerment. You'll participate in designing resource guides and tutorials relating to key challenges facing our members – for example, dealing with cases of gender-based violence, evaluating the impact of legal empowerment programs, or exploring sustainable revenue streams. Research tasks will involve investigating the status and implementation of national legal aid frameworks, models for scaling up community paralegal services, laws relating to land ownership, natural resource management, statelessness/citizenship rights, and more. You'll also interview network members and write in-depth case studies to document their experiences, results which may help advocate with governments, major development institutions, donors, and civil society actors.</p>
<p>Land Rights Fellowship</p> <p>Location: Yangon, Myanmar</p>	<p>Myanmar is undergoing a major transition, opening space for significant change for the first time in decades. In this climate, legal empowerment programs can pursue two aims simultaneously: (1) working directly with people to help them exercise their rights and (2) collecting and analyzing data on those grassroots efforts – mapping the character of grievances, revealing where the system is failing, and identifying achievable reforms – to build an information base for policy advocacy.</p> <p>In Myanmar, Namati partners with civil society groups and law firms to implement community-based paralegal programs and push for change related to land, natural resource rights, and environmental justice. With a local partner, we are supporting grassroots legal advocates in five divisions/states to empower farmers to register land, resolve land disputes, and secure the return of grabbed land under a new legal framework. We are testing new methods, data collection tools, and technologies to continually improve the reach and effectiveness of our paralegals' work. We use data from this effort to recommend specific improvements to land policy and practice.</p>	<p>As the Land Rights Fellow for our Myanmar program, you will assist in researching and writing articles, issuing briefs, reports, internal memoranda, op-eds, blog posts, and other written and electronic content on land issues. You'll also help to conduct legal analyses of legislation, regulations, and other policy instruments that relate to land. In so doing, you'll help Namati to inform paralegal strategies and advocacy recommendations. On the data side, you'll assist in analyzing raw data from paralegal cases and use this analysis to help develop training modules to build paralegals' legal knowledge and skills necessary to effectively resolve land rights cases in the field. You will also provide event coordination support and participate in program-sponsored events, including trainings and workshops.</p>

<p>Environmental Justice Fellowship</p> <p>Location: New Delhi, India</p>	<p>In India, a country with robust environmental laws that are poorly enforced, widespread non-compliance to environmental regulation has profound impacts on the lives and livelihoods of communities living in proximity to industrial development. In coastal areas of Gujarat and Karnataka, Namati’s Environmental Justice Program aims to close the gap between environment regulation and environmental enforcement. The heart of our program is the work of enviro-legal coordinators (ELCs), frontline workers who investigate community members’ complaints about negative impacts by industry on their water sources, vegetation, health, and private property. Where they identify violations of environmental laws and regulations, ELCs use a variety of tools – from mediation to community organizing to access to local authorities – to garner greater compliance. ELCs also play a critical role in supporting local communities and district level government to promote participatory land use planning and conservation.</p>	<p>As the Environmental Justice Fellow for our India program, you’ll research projects for the Environmental Justice team on topics such as orders and judgments passed by Indian courts, laws relevant to non-compliance, and implementation status of pertinent clauses of important environmental laws in India. These examples are illustrative; the work you’ll be asked to do will vary with the current cases under consideration by the team. Over the course of your stay in India you will likely have some combination of field work and desk work, and possibly the opportunity to conduct one-on-one interviews. We strongly encourage fellows to be creative and develop additional topics.</p> <p>Note: Knowledge of Hindi, Gujarati, or Kannada, while not required, would be beneficial for this position.</p>
<p>Land and Environmental Justice Fellowship</p> <p>Location: Flexible, providing remote support to the Sierra Leone program</p>	<p>In Sierra Leone, our army of grassroots legal advocates is fighting on the frontline – reaching over 40% of the country – to increase access to justice. In the context of a rampant land grab across Africa that greatly impacts Sierra Leone, our advocates work tirelessly to protect, enforce and defend customary land rights in communities affected by agriculture and mining project deals. Their work has helped increased communities’ awareness of rights and entitlements in relation to land deals; provided communities with access to representation and consultations during large scale land deals; and even worked with communities to suspend or renegotiate inequitable lease agreements.</p>	<p>As the Land and Environmental Justice Fellow for our Sierra Leone program, you’ll assist our team remotely in representing land owners and communities to develop agreements with investors. You’ll take part in renegotiating increased equitable terms for existing lease agreements on agricultural land, such as protection for farming, residential, common lands and revised rents. You’ll assist in litigation, especially in the early stages, to address violations of Sierra Leonean law as they are brought to Namati. You’ll also engage directly with policy, advocating for increased focus on fair rules to govern land, environment, and investment. You’ll play a key role in helping educate communities on tracking and documenting violations of environmental regulations by industry players and making sure that the enforcement mechanisms for corporate social responsibility provisions of corporations in Sierra Leone are clear.</p>