

# Glossary

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**Land tenure** – The legal right of ownership of land

**Title of land/land title** – When a person owns land, the ‘Title’ of that land is the collection of legal rights that the person owns. It will usually be supported by a legal document which sets out the details of what the person owns. This document may be a formal deed or an entry on a government land register.

**Land registration** – The system that a government will use to keep track of who owns which land. In some countries such as the UK, there is a requirement to register land when it is sold and so the majority of land is registered. In developing countries this system will tend to be in a much earlier stage (if it is present at all) and so at times it can be difficult to identify exactly who owns what land.

**Lease of land** – An arrangement whereby the outright owner of a piece of land allows another person to own the land for a limited amount of time. There are usually certain formality requirements which must be met in order for a lease to be legally binding. Such requirements might be: written proof or witnesses.

**Peri-urban land** – Land which is around the edges of a city

**Land Bank** – a process whereby an authority identifies land which is suitable for housing and sets that land aside for the purpose of social housing. This means that instead of the land just being sold to generate income for the government, it can be kept in reserve and used for the benefit of people who may not be able to afford other urban land.