



USAID | **KOSOVO**
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

PROPERTY RIGHTS PROGRAM (PRP)

FY2016

QUARTERLY REPORT NO. 7

(OCTOBER 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2015)



JANUARY 2016

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Cover Photo: On December 10, 2015, International Human Rights Day, Kosovo President Atifete Jahjaga, joined by the U.S. Ambassador to Pristina, and the Kosovo Minister of Justice, delivered remarks at the launch of the national campaign to support women's rights to property. The campaign aims to increase public understanding of property rights in general and women's right to inherit property in particular. This campaign is part of USAID's Property Rights Program which aims to address challenges to exercising property rights in Kosovo by assisting Kosovo institutions in developing a plan for the stabilization of the property rights regime.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACDC	Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture
ASJK	Association of Serb Jurists of Kosovo
ATRC	Advocacy Training & Resource Center
BIRN	Balkan Investigative Reporting Network
CCPR	European Commission Liaison Office Support to Civil Code and Property Rights Project
CDCS	Country Development Cooperation Strategy
CLE	Contract Law Enforcement Project
CMIS	Case Management Information System
CoM	Courts of Merit
COP	Chief of Party
CRP/K	Civil Rights Program in Kosovo
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CTG	Core Technical Group
DO	Development Objective
E4E	Engagement for Equity
EROL	Effective Rule of Law Project
EU	European Union
G2G	Government to Government
GCG	Gender Coordination Group
GOK	Government of Kosovo
IQC	Indefinite Quantity Contract
IR	Intermediate Result
JAC	Judicial Advisory Council
JSSP	Justice System Strengthening Program
KBA	Kosovo Banking Association
KCA	Kosovo Cadastral Agency
KCBS	Kosovo Center for Business Support
KJC	Kosovo Judicial Council
MCO	Municipal Cadastral Office

MESP	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning
MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PAK	Privatization Agency of Kosovo
PFD	Partnerships for Development Project
PRP	Property Rights Program
PSA	Public Service Announcement
RAE	Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian
RECAP	World Bank Real Estate Cadastre and Registration Project
RTK	Radio Television of Kosovo
SBCC	Social Behavior Change Communications
STJK	Support to Transitional Justice in Kosovo
STTA	Short-Term Technical Assistance
STARR	Strengthening Tenure and Resource Rights
S&D	Strategy & Development Consulting
TAG	Technical Advisory Group
TWG	Thematic Working Group
UCR	Unpermitted Constructions Registry
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WB	The World Bank

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The absence of an effective property rights framework in Kosovo weakens democratic governance, impacts human rights, disempowers women and impedes sustainable economic growth. The USAID/Kosovo Property Rights Program promotes effective donor and government stakeholder coordination to develop a National Strategy for Property Rights and strengthen property rights legislation; supports the development of improved court procedures to efficiently adjudicate property claims and disputes; works closely with Civil Society Organizations to support activities to prompt changes in social attitudes and behavior concerning the ability of women to exercise their property rights; and improves general public awareness of and access to property rights information and improved service delivery in municipalities.

More specifically, PRP is working closely with the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) to support its development and direction of the property reform process. PRP is coordinating and facilitating technical input from the European Union-funded Civil Code and Property Rights (CCPR) project to inform and support the MoJ's development of property reform legislation, as well as inputs from other donor funded projects and government line ministries and agencies to help the MoJ to rationalize reform efforts and maximize development impacts. PRP is working closely with the Kosovo Judicial Council and four Courts of Merit to develop and pilot improved court procedures related to property claims, and will also help courts remove constraints in practice to women inheriting property. PRP assistance to improve court performance also informs development of implementation-oriented property legislation. Results produced by PRP in these areas contribute to achieving USAID/Kosovo's Country Development Cooperation Strategy Development (CDCS) Objective 1 "Improved Rule of Law and Governance that Meets Citizens' Needs." Improved legislation and court procedures also support creation of an Improved Economic Governance and Business Environment under the CDCS Development Objective 2 "Increased Investment and Private Sector Employment."

PRP is also supporting USAID Forward implementation and Local Solutions by building sustainable organizational and technical capacity of Kosovo Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and municipal governments to manage and administer USAID direct awards through grants and Government to Government (G2G) agreements. PRP provides technical assistance to CSOs to develop and implement public information and advocacy campaigns to inform women and men about women's rights to property and to prompt change in social attitudes and behaviors surrounding women's right to inherit property. Capacity building assistance delivered to municipalities will help improve the delivery of property-related services to citizens to enable them to more efficiently transact their rights to property.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SUMMARY OF RESULTS FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD AND KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

This quarter marked the transition from assessment and preparation to implementation for major project initiatives under all four PRP objectives.

OBJECTIVE 1: BETTER COORDINATION AND POLICY PRIORITIES

This quarter saw the steady development of the five Concept Notes for the National Strategy on Property Rights, which was accompanied by the full and active engagement of the Thematic Working Groups. (TWGs). During the quarter each TWG held two working sessions with the experts leading the development of the Concept Notes, and participation was lively and constructive. At the most recent TWG working sessions held in December 2015, the TWGs reviewed the draft Rationales for each of the Concept Notes and provided substantive comments and suggestions. The final versions of the Concept Notes will be provided for final review by the TWGs in February 2016.

PRP provided extensive guidance to the experts drafting the Concept to help them develop a unified and comprehensive approach to their research and to prioritize issues. PRP also played the central role in coordinating among the MoJ, the TWGs and PRP's experts drafting the Concept Notes.

PRP continued to cooperate closely and constructively with the EU-funded Civil Code and Property Rights Project (CCPR), facilitating discussion with judges of issues in judicial practice relevant to the Civil Code; and collaborating with CCPR to complete and submit to the MoJ the analysis of international practice related to the renunciation of inheritance.

During this reporting period, PRP also provided support to the MoJ by way of organizing and participating in a three-day workshop in order to finalize consultation and drafting of the Draft Law on Notary. PRP also supported the MoJ on drafting the Concept Document for the Law on Inheritance with focus on renunciation and provided Comments on the Draft Concept Document for the Law on Public Property which was approved by the Government of Kosovo on December 30, 2015.

OBJECTIVE 2: IMPROVED COURT PROCEDURES RELATED TO PROPERTY CLAIMS

PRP completed and submitted to USAID its Final Report on Differentiated Caseflow Management, an assessment of caseflow practices in the four Courts of Merit (CoM) in the adjudication of property cases. The assessment is based on an analysis of over 1,800 disposed property cases, as well as site visits to the courts and discussions with judges. The principal finding in the Report is that the adjudication of all property cases, regardless of the specific subject matter, entails very significant delays that far exceed international best practice.

The Report includes an Action Plan of immediate actions to improve caseflow management and court performance, and PRP has gained the approval of the judges for the Action Plan. Implementation will commence in early 2016 in the four CoM.

During this quarter, PRP facilitated a workshop with the KJC, court presidents and heads of Civil Divisions of all Basic Courts along with PRP's Judicial Advisory Council to present the preliminary findings of the Report and to review and discuss the proposed Action Plan. The workshop produced

consensus among the judges on the need for reform and ultimately led to the final approval of the Action Plan.

OBJECTIVE 3: ENHANCE WOMEN'S RIGHTS TO USE PROPERTY IN PRACTICE

PRP provided the MoJ with its analysis of international practices on the renunciation of inheritance and presented its findings and recommendations to the MoJ Working Group on Renunciation. This was followed by a three-day workshop to draft the Concept Document on the Renunciation of Inheritance.

PRP produced its first media product for its national campaign on women's property rights, "For Our Common Good." The Public Service Announcement (PSA) features H.E. President Atifete Jahjaga, Minister of Justice Hajredin Kuçi, Aferdita Saraqini-Kelmendi (the Director RTV21), and the World Judo Champion (junior category) Distria Krasniqi. PRP officially launched the PSA and its nationwide campaign on December 10, 2015 (on International Human Rights Day). President Jahjaga and Minister Kuçi were joined by US Ambassador Greg Delawie in delivering remarks at the event in support to the campaign. The PSA is currently being aired on the Radio Television of Kosovo (RTK) television network in Albanian and Serbian languages.

In this quarter, PRP also commenced the production of a series of additional media products for its campaign, holding a successful tender and awarding the contract to a local production company. Filming and production are well underway according to schedule for final approval and airing this upcoming quarter.

PRP continued its leading role in coordinating stakeholders' efforts related to gender equality and women's property rights in Kosovo through the Gender Coordination Group on Women's Property Rights. PRP also continued to provide technical assistance to the USAID E4E implementing partner and sub-grantees, which are conducting activities to support further awareness raising of the issue of women's ability to exercise their property rights.

PRP also cosponsored together with E4E subgrantee, KCBS, a Conference on Women in Business, which was attended by over 170 business women from Drenas/Glogovac, Kamenicë/Kamenica, and Rahovec/Orahovac.

OBJECTIVE 4: IMPROVED COMMUNICATION, ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND UNDERSTANDING OF PROPERTY RIGHTS

During this quarter, PRP provided additional information to USAID in support of its proposal for G2G funding for municipalities. The initiative is designed, among other things, to make additional information on land holdings easily available by helping municipalities to scan and index the archived hard copy documents of their Municipal Cadastral Offices (MCOs). In addition to making more information available on the ownership history of land parcels in the municipality, the initiative is designed to improve information-sharing among Kosovo institutions; facilitate the adoption of streamlined registration procedures at the MCOs; improve local citizens' knowledge and understanding of administrative requirements and procedures; and support more effective municipal planning and use of municipal land.

At the end of 2015 USAID informed PRP that it had selected Viti/Vitina municipality for a pre-award assessment for this initiative.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

OBJECTIVE 1: BETTER COORDINATION AND POLICY PRIORITIES

ACTIVITY 1.1: SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL PROPERTY RIGHTS STRATEGY

Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) Formed and Actively Engaged in Developing the National Strategy

The previous quarter saw the finalization of the “Issues Document” that grouped and presented five core clusters of technical and legal issues to be addressed in the National Strategy on Property Rights (National Strategy) and the companion document, “National Property Rights Strategy: The Way Forward.” PRP worked closely with the MoJ and the Core Technical Group (CTG), which is the oversight body managing the development of the National Strategy, to organize and establish a schedule for the Thematic Working Groups (TWGs). The TWGs represent a comprehensive array of government institutions and civil society, and are organized around the five technical cluster areas developed for the National Strategy and consist of qualified local technical experts. The TWGs are charged with providing technical input to inform the development of the Concept Notes for National Strategy. They are organized around the following subject categories:

1. Developing a Clear Legal Framework on Land Rights
2. Promoting Vibrant Land Market to Fuel Economic Growth
3. Strengthening the Role of Courts to Recognize, Determine and Enforce Property Rights
4. Issues Related to the Stabilization and Association Agreement and Property-Related Human Rights of Members of Non-Majority Communities
5. Guaranteeing and Enforcing the Property Rights of Women

(It should be noted that the content of the Concept Notes being developed for each Pillar have been evolving and shifting somewhat in response to additional analysis and ongoing discussions with stakeholders and the desire to prioritize issues for a focused National Strategy.)

During this quarter, two working sessions were held with each TWG: first, introductory sessions in October where the MoJ briefed the TWG members on the overall initiative to develop the National Strategy, the goals, schedule and approach to the work; and PRP experts provided an overview of the issues to be addressed in their Concept Documents and solicited initial comments and recommendations. These were followed by sessions in December, where PRP experts presented the Rationale of their respective Concept Notes, which includes three sections: a situation assessment, current policies, and problem definition. Participation was high and discussion lively and constructive at all of these sessions.

Throughout the process, PRP has provided its own review and guidance to the experts to ensure consistency in approach and format; facilitated a clear identification of the issues that impede economic growth; ensured that comments received from the Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) are incorporated and that the drafts are in line with Kosovo's National Economic Reform Program, the Stabilization and Association Agreement, and the National Development Strategy. PRP has also worked closely with Mr. Lulzim Beqiri, who represents the MoJ and serves as the Chairman of the CTG, consulting with him and engaging him in every stage of the process.

In addition, prior to the first TWG meetings PRP met with proposed TWG members to explain the initiative and confirm their readiness to participate. The responses the project received were positive. Participation in the TWGs include officials from the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry for European Integration, the Ministry for Local Government Administration, the Association of Kosovo Municipalities, the Office of Prime Minister and the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, among others.

Approach Agreed for Engaging Courts in National Strategy Process

In connection with the TWG for Pillar 3, (Strengthen the Role of Courts to Recognize, Determine and Enforce Property Rights), the MoJ accepted PRP's proposal that the Kosovo Judicial Council (KJC) designate judges to participate in TWG 3. PRP will request the KJC designate judges selected from within the Judicial Advisory Council. PRP held meetings with the judges to acquaint them with the National Strategy. Further input from the judges will be received in January 2016.

Issue of De-Nationalization of Nationalized Properties

As an adjunct to PRP's support of the development of the National Strategy, PRP has arranged through its sub-contractor S&D for STTA to prepare for Kosovo policymakers an analysis of other countries' comparative practice and experience in conducting programs of restitution (i.e., programs to provide restitution to citizens for property nationalized under previous regimes), in response to Minister Kuçi's expressed support for Kosovo to undertake such restitution. PRP has commissioned an expert in such programs, Mr. Csongor Kuti, and has tasked him with developing this comparative analysis, with the aim of providing Kosovo policymakers with relevant information to inform their decision. During this period Mr. Kuti arrived in Pristina and met with a number of local experts to gain some first-hand information on Kosovo, including representatives of the MoJ; the Privatization Agency of Kosovo (PAK); Law Faculty and the Kosovo Cadastral Agency (KCA).

Coordination of activities with Subcontractor Selected to Support Work on the National Strategy

To support the experts' work, PRP has provided them with the results of its research on inheritance and renunciation; the exercise by minorities of property rights; delayed inheritance (problems posed by outdated land records) and other analyses and materials produced by PRP.

Fostering and Maintaining Close Coordination with Stakeholders in Property Rights Reform

PRP has actively led coordination of property rights reform initiatives among both Kosovo and international stakeholders to avoid duplication, ensure consistency in action and maximize results. PRP met with Minister of Justice Kuçi on October 02, 2015, where he reiterated his strong commitment to reforming the civil law sector in general and Kosovo's property rights regime in particular.

PRP continued to maintain close contact with the various departments and officials within the MoJ, including the Head of the Legal Office, Mr. Mentor Borovci; other experts within the MoJ Legal Office; the Director of the Department for Policy Coordination and EU Integration, Mr. Lulzim Beqiri. As noted above, in this quarter PRP actively supported the MoJ in selecting appropriate experts for the TWGs, and in integrating PRP's subcontractor, Strategy and Development Consulting (S&D) into the process, by facilitating contacts and arranging meetings between S&D management and Mr. Beqiri.

Agreement and Coordination Reached between the MoJ and MESP for the National Strategy and Work on "Construction Land"

PRP facilitated the meeting between MESP General Secretary Mr. Arben Çitaku with Mr. Eset Rama, General Secretary of the MoJ, where it was agreed that the MoJ would take the lead in addressing the outdated land use designation of "construction land," which is a Yugoslavian legacy. Mr. Çitaku also

agreed to support the work on the National Strategy and identified prospective participants from MESP for the TWGs.

ACTIVITY 1.2: SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF A LEGAL FRAMEWORK THAT AFFORDS CITIZENS WITH CLEAR, EQUITABLE AND ENFORCEABLE PROPERTY RIGHTS

Consultation with and Support to USAID PFD on Doing Business Recommendations

These discussions with Partnerships for Development (PFD) took place in connection with plans for PFD to make a presentation of recommendations for World Bank Doing Business reforms at the next meeting of the National Council for Economic Development. PRP provided input on the findings and recommendations to be advanced related to the Doing Business indicator, “Registering Property,” and strategized with PFD on common issues and challenges related to legalization, inheritance and the registration of legalized constructions in the cadastral register.

PRP also identified in its own research and analysis factors that can have a bearing on the success of the GOK’s program for legalizing constructions built without a permit, and shared these findings with PFD, which is providing assistance to MESP in connection with the legalization program.

Reaching out to MIA on Inheritance

PRP began discussions with the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) to direct their attention to conflicts and inconsistent intersecting terminology in the Law on Civil Registry, the Law on Inheritance, and the Law on Non-Contested Procedure.

Inter-ministerial Group on Land Issues Raises Concerns about Outdated Land Records Cooperation with World Bank RECAP Team

At the KCA’s semi-annual meeting, which is sponsored by the World Bank, PRP described its own research into the issues and challenges posed by the significant number of land registrations records that are out of date and promised to distribute its findings to the meeting attendees and work toward a coordinated solution.

PRP met with Ms. Katherine Kelm and Mr. David Egiashvili of the World Bank, where they described their progress to date and plans for further activity in carrying out the reconstruction of cadastral records in selected areas; the problems posed by the inability to conduct inheritance proceedings in cases involving missing persons (e.g., in Krusha e Madhe); challenges posed by outdated land records; and the state of development of a unified law on Cadastre, Immoveable Property and Mortgage. PRP and the World Bank will continue to coordinate closely.

Discussion of Next Steps to Resolve Problem Raised by Banking Association

PRP and the Contract Law Enforcement (CLE) project met with Mr. Petrit Balija, Executive Director of the Kosovo Banking Association (KBA), to discuss a problem arising in connection with the interpretation by the KCA that third-party transfers of use rights accorded by the PAK constitute sub-leases. As a consequence of the KCA’s interpretation, such use rights cannot be collateralized. The KBA, PRP and CLE all agree that the KCA’s interpretation fails to reflect the intention underlying the applicable regulation. All agreed that the next step is to discuss the matter with policymakers and legal experts within the GOK. PRP will arrange a meeting with the Legal Office of the OPM to seek a legal opinion on this issue, which may be followed by a joint meeting with the KCA and PAK. While this issue has already been included among those to be addressed in the National Strategy on Property Rights, it is hoped that an earlier resolution can be reached.

Cooperation with the EU-funded Civil Code and Property Rights Support Project (CCPR)

PRP continued its close cooperation with the EU-funded Civil Code and Property Rights Support Project (CCPR), with whom PRP has agreed to a clear allocation of work between the two projects, through a series of informal meetings of PRP with CCPR experts, regular MoJ Coordination Meetings with PRP and CCPR and PRP's participation in the meetings of the Steering Committee of CCPR.

PRP informed CCPR of the scheduled TWG meetings and urged CCPR to have its experts attend to the extent possible. PRP has pledged to keep CCPR fully apprised of progress of the development of the National Strategy. PRP has also requested that CCPR share its action plan with PRP when it is finalized, to ensure coordination and consistency in the projects' respective efforts.

Making the Lessons of Judicial Practice Available to CCPR to Inform its Work on the Civil Code

PRP described the Judicial Advisory Council (JAC), which is being formed with PRP support to provide judicial perspective and guidance on issues affecting the courts and on larger reform initiatives. PRP proposed that CCPR consult with the JAC to gather information on issues arising in judicial practice in the areas to be addressed by the Civil Code. PRP facilitated a meeting between the JAC and CCPR experts to discuss issues in judicial practice of relevance to the development of the Civil Code. Discussions were based on a questionnaire prepared by CCPR and distributed by PRP to judges in advance of the meeting.

Draft Law on Notary

As requested by the MoJ, PRP funded and participated in a three-day working session to advance and all-but-finalize the draft Law on Notary. Participants included representatives from the MoJ, KJC, Kosovo Chamber of Advocates, Kosovo Chamber of Notaries, and the Swiss Coordination Office Twinning project, "Improving Approximation of Laws and Coherence of the Legal Framework." As with previous sessions, views were sharply divergent on the appropriate role and functions of notaries, with the Chamber arguing for greatly expanded powers and functions, and the two USAID projects sharing an opposing view. It has been decided that the Minister will make the final decision and alternative versions of the relevant articles will be prepared. The MoJ has moved the draft Law on Notary to the legislative calendar for 2016 and has committed to finalize the draft by June 2016.



Participants discuss the Draft Law on Notary during a three-day workshop cosponsored by PRP and the MoJ in October 2015.

PRP has commissioned STTA to analyze and compare the practice of selected EU member states with respect to the scope of notaries' power. PRP will make the findings of that research available to the MoJ when it is completed in January 2016. PRP will also actively advocate for the harmonization of the draft Law on Notary with the policy positions of the National Strategy.

Concept Document for Law on Inheritance with Focus on Renunciation

PRP supported the MoJ in drafting the Concept Document for the Law on Inheritance, which focuses on the issue of renunciation, by sponsoring and participating in a three-day workshop in November. PRP had provided the MoJ previously with its analysis and recommendations related to women's renunciation of inheritance; and at the working session PRP presented its preliminary findings on inter-generational inheritance issues.

Administrative Instruction on Joint Registration of Property

On December 16, 2015 the GOK approved the Administrative Instruction on Special Measures provides for property to be registered jointly in the names of both spouses. PRP supported the Agency for Gender Equality (AGE) in drafting this AI.

Comments on Draft Concept Document for Law on Public Property

On December 30, 2015 the GOK approved the Concept Document for the Law on Public Property. PRP provided its comments to the MoJ within its deadline, as requested. The proposed law is intended to clarify the legal designation of public property. PRP will support the MoJ on drafting this Law through the participation of PRP experts in the working group. PRP is actively urging the MoJ to ensure that the development of the draft law is coordinated with the development of the National Strategy.

OBJECTIVE 2: IMPROVED COURT PROCESSES RELATED TO PROPERTY CLAIMS

ACTIVITY 2.1: ASSIST KJC AND STAKEHOLDERS TO IDENTIFY GAPS IN LAW, PROCEDURE AND COURT PRACTICES THAT CONSTRAIN EFFICIENT RESOLUTION OF PROPERTY CLAIMS AND DISPUTES AND PROTECTION OF THE PROPERTY RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND MEMBERS OF NON-MAJORITY COMMUNITIES

Completion and Submission to USAID of Report on Differentiated Case Management

During this quarter PRP completed its review of case management in its four Courts of Merit (CoM) (these are the Basic Courts of Pejë/Peć, Gjiilan/Gnjilane and Ferizaj/Uroševac and the Branch Court in Shtërpçë/Štrpce) and submitted its Final Report on Differentiated Case Management to USAID. The Report presents the findings and recommendations gleaned from a review of 1,829 property rights cases that were disposed within a 30-month period (2013-2015) in the CoM. Principal findings include: (1) with respect to civil cases the courts do not employ effective case management methods; (2) property cases take on average 2.5 years to resolve, irrespective of the characteristics of the case. This period of time is far in excess of international standards; (3) courts refer few cases to mediation, but those referred have a very high rate of successful disposition; and (4) the judicial performance guidelines are not effective in helping courts manage their caseloads efficiently and do not prevent the development of backlogs.

The Report's findings and recommendations are based on the analysis of the cases, as well as site visits to the CoM and discussions with judges.

Presentation to Judges of Preliminary Findings on Case Management for Property Cases

With the support of the Chairman of the KJC, on October 22 PRP held a round-table for all court presidents of Basic Courts, the heads of the Civil Divisions, the KJC and PRP's Judicial Advisory Council to present PRP's preliminary findings and discuss recommendations for actions to address the problems identified. The assembled judges accepted the findings of the report and a readiness to address the situation. As the next step, PRP worked with the Courts to finalize the Action Plan flowing from the Report's findings and recommendations (Action Plan), as described below.

Facilitating Judges' Input on the Civil Code

Following PRP's suggestion to CCPR, PRP arranged for CCPR experts to attend the JAC session to gather information on judicial practice in the areas of pledge, mortgage and property law relevant for developing the Civil Code. The CCPR experts said that they found the interaction very useful. PRP will facilitate further sessions for CCPR and judges as needed.

Engaging Judges in the National Strategy Process

PRP met with members of the JAC to obtain their agreement to provide comments and review drafts prepared for the National Strategy.

Event in North Mitrovicë/Mitrovica on Justice Sector

PRP attended this event, which featured a presentation on the current situation in the justice sector in Northern Kosovo, the Brussels Agreement on courts in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, current challenges and the future organization of the justice sector in Northern Kosovo as contemplated by the Brussels Agreement. The event was sponsored by the OSCE.

ACTIVITY 2.2: IMPROVE COURT PROCEDURES, GUIDELINES AND LAWS AND IMPLEMENT REFORMS IN THE COURTS OF MERIT TO MORE EFFICIENTLY RESOLVE PROPERTY CLAIMS AND DISPUTES

Action Plan to Improve Case Management of Property Cases Agreed with Judges and Finalized

PRP met with the JAC and CoM judges on an individual basis to discuss the Action Plan. Following the receipt of comments and suggestions from individual judges, PRP presented a revised Action Plan to the JAC for group discussion. The Action Plan will address three main areas of collaboration: the introduction of case management methods in the Courts of Merit, as contemplated by PRP's Report on Differentiated Case Management; the review by the JAC of drafts for Concept Notes for the National Strategy; and the development of a series of roundtables designed to enable judges to exchange experience and discuss issues related to the adjudication of property cases, as a first step in establishing judicial practice in this area. This group session was held on December 14, 2015.

The Action Plan will be presented to the KJC for approval. It is contemplated that the Action Plan will be carried out in the CoM, on a pilot basis, beginning in early 2016.

Support to Courts of Merit in Implementing Case Flow Management Methods Contemplated by Action Plan

PRP has received the agreement of the Presidents and Civil Heads of the CoM to allow PRP to assign experts to assist the courts in adopting and using the case management methods prescribed by the Action Plan. PRP will recruit three Case Processing Specialists in early 2016 for this purpose. Among other things, the Specialists will collect information on all pending civil cases to inform further analysis.

Analyzing the EROL Case Registration Database for Compatibility with Case Management Methodology

The Action Plan contemplates the introduction of case tracking and case management methodologies in the CoM, which will provide the empirical data needed to determine what further interventions may be introduced to improve case management in the courts. While these methods could be carried out manually, it would be preferable to apply them in an automated system. With USAID's agreement PRP has begun analyzing the Case Registration Database that was developed by the USAID Effective Rule of Law (EROL) project to determine whether and how the database can be modified to accommodate the caseload management methods that PRP is introducing in its Courts of Merit.

During this quarter, PRP gathered preliminary information on the EROL Database, and will hire local STTA to conduct a complete technical review for purposes of PRP's case management initiative. The STTA expert will complete and present his findings by the end of January 2016. PRP will share its findings with the USAID Justice System Strengthening Program (JSSP) and will coordinate with that project on future activities in the courts.

KJC Chairman Mr. Enver Peci has also agreed to allow PRP to assess the functionality and data specification of the Norwegian CMIS that is planned to be developed, to ensure that any data gathered through PRP's initiative could be migrated easily to that system when it becomes operational.

ACTIVITY 2.3: ASSIST THE KJC TO EXPAND THE COURT-REFERRED MEDIATION PROCESS FOR PROPERTY CLAIMS

Coordination with USAID CLE on Mediation Referrals

Following up on its findings that mediated cases have a very high success rate, PRP is exploring with USAID CLE the possibility of using mediation centers in the Gjilan/Gnjilane Basic Court and Pejë/Peć Basic Court for piloting efforts to encourage those courts to refer property cases for

mediation when appropriate. PRP met with the Heads of the Mediation Centers of Gjilan/Gnjilane and Pejë/Peć, at a meeting facilitated by USAID CLE. PRP is gathering such information to inform its development of guidelines for judges on property cases to be referred to mediation, which it will develop in close coordination with USAID CLE.

ACTIVITY 2.4: ASSIST THE KOSOVO JUDICIAL INSTITUTE TO DEVELOP A PROPERTY RIGHTS TRAINING PROGRAM

Judges have told PRP that they have very limited information on how their fellow judges in other courts are deciding civil cases, including property cases, and expressed great interest in being able to meet and discuss challenges they face in practice with their judicial colleagues.

It is not possible to conduct training for judges on substantive law when there is little information on how courts are deciding cases. For that reason, the Action Plan contemplates holding round-table sessions where judges can discuss the challenges they face in deciding property cases. This will encourage judges to adopt a more uniform and consistent practice, help create a basis for judicial training programs and identify issues that need to be addressed through legislative initiatives.

OBJECTIVE 3: ENHANCE WOMEN'S RIGHTS TO USE PROPERTY IN PRACTICE

ACTIVITY 3.1: ASSIST DEVELOPMENT OF SUBSTANTIVE AND PROCEDURAL LAW TO BOLSTER AND SAFEGUARD THE ABILITY OF WOMEN TO EXERCISE THEIR PROPERTY RIGHTS FREELY AND EQUITABLY

Renunciation Analysis Finalized and Submitted to the MoJ and USAID

PRP's analysis of international practice related to the renunciation of inheritance in Kosovo was completed and submitted to the MoJ. The provided recommendations indicate policy and legal reforms to provide safeguards so that the right to renunciation of inheritance is not misused to unfairly deprive women of their inheritance and to ensure that persons who decide to renounce their inheritance do so with full information on their legal rights and obligations.

Support to MoJ in drafting of the Concept Document on the Renunciation of Inheritance

As reported above, during this quarter, PRP supported the MoJ to organize and conduct a three-day workshop on the draft Concept Document on the renunciation of inheritance. In addition to the recommendations arising from PRP's comparative analysis noted above, PRP also presented its preliminary findings on the issues arising from outdated land records ("delayed inheritance"). PRP's recommendations were incorporated in the Concept Document.

USAID
NGA POPULLI AMERIKAN
OD AMERICANS NARODNA

**KOSOVO CITIZENS FOR
EQUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS**

REPUBLICA E KOSOVES – ZYRA E PRESIDENTIT
REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO – OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
REPUBLIKA KOSOVA – UREDI PRESIDENTIA

Retain your and your family's inheritance. It's your right!

We support women's property rights because it's right for our families.

We support our daughter's right to inherit just as our son. How about you?

**PER TË MIRËN TONË
ZA NASE DOBRO
FOR OUR COMMON GOOD**

#PropertyRightsProgram

"The Republic of Kosovo Constitution guarantees that everyone has equal rights, without any difference. Use this right!"

"According to law, men and women in Kosovo have equal rights in inheritance"

"Having equal rights to property empowers women economically"

"Nobody can deny my right to inherit. We are all equal!"

Event palm cards distributed during the Public Service Announcement launch event. Featured on the card are the notable public figures who appeared in the PSA.

ACTIVITY 3.2: CHANGE SOCIAL ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIORS CONCERNING WOMEN'S PROPERTY RIGHTS

Social Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) Campaign on Women's Property Rights

During this quarter PRP finalized the first Public Service Announcement (PSA) in support to women's property rights in Kosovo under the "For Our Common Good" (Për Të Mirën Tonë) rubric. The two-minute PSA features H.E. President Jahjaga, Minister Kuçi, Ms. Aferdita Saraçini-Kelmendi (Director RTV21), World Judo Champion (junior category) Ms. Distria Krasniqi and another Judo player Mr. Akil Gjakova providing key messages in support of

women's property and inheritance rights. The PSA can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7TxKUMUK5uI>.

Official Launch of the Nationwide Media Campaign “For Our Common Good” in Support of Women’s Property Rights

PRP held the Launch Event for its Nationwide Media Campaign on Women’s Property Rights, where PRP unveiled its first PSA. The event featured remarks by H.E. President Jahjaga, US Ambassador Delawie and Minister of Justice Kuçi. Over 130 persons attended the event, representing Kosovo governmental institutions, municipal bodies, civil society, donors and the public at large. In her remarks, President Jahjaga made reference to the National Strategy on Property Rights and Minister Kuçi reaffirmed his commitment to introducing safeguards to prevent the misuse of the right to renounce one’s inheritance.

The Event took place in Pristina on December 10, International Human Rights Day, and has received very extensive media coverage, including by Kosovo TV stations and news agencies; the Office of the President, the MoJ, and the US Embassy; and in the social media.

Airing of the Public Service Announcement

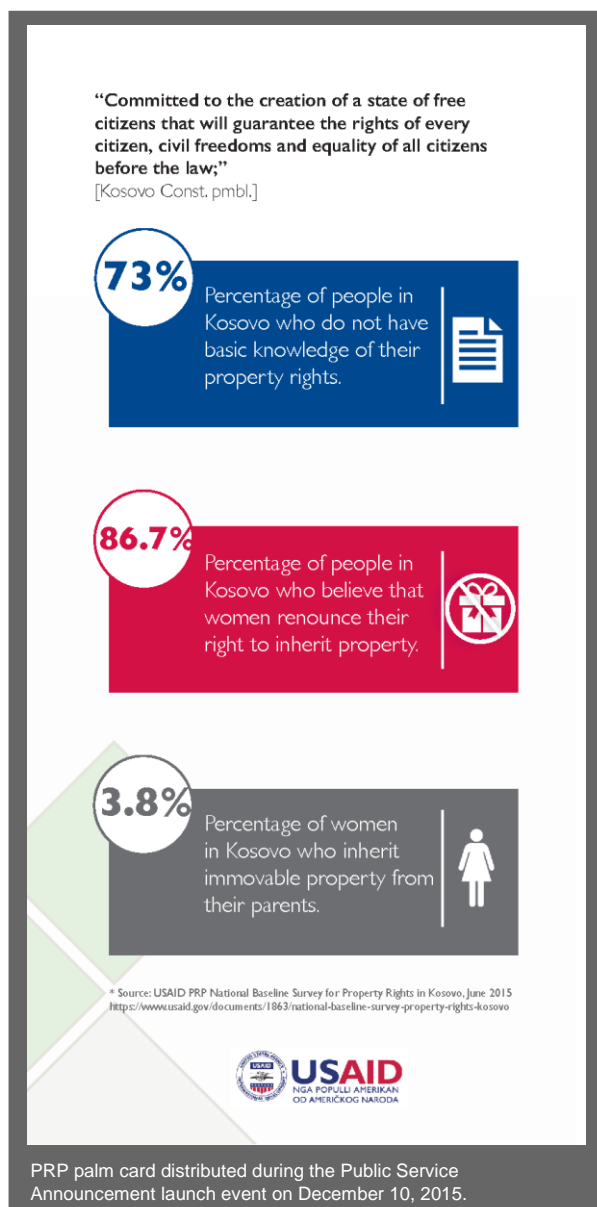
The first PSA was first shown on Radio Television of Kosovo (RTK) network on December 11, 2015, following an interview with USAID Kosovo Mission Director Mr. James Hope on RTK’s morning program. This constituted the official launch of the “For Our Common Good” media campaign.

As of the end of December 2015, the PSA was being broadcast with Serbian subtitles on the RTK 2 network. The first airing of the PSA on RTK 2 was in conjunction with an interview with Ms. Sara Buchanan, USAID Kosovo’s Democracy and Governance Office Director, who discussed the relevance of these issues for the Serbian community.

The PSA (in Albanian and Serbian versions) is being broadcast through February 2015 on RTK 1, RTK 2 and RTK 3, in accordance with PRP’s media plan. The PSA will be followed with the airing of additional campaign TV spots in the upcoming months (see below), and opportunities to broadcast on other local TV stations are being considered.

Preparation of New Media Products for the SBCC Campaign

During this quarter, PRP held an open and competitive tender for a local media company to design new products for the SBCC national media campaign, “For Our Common Good.” The new products will include three TV spots aimed at the three target audiences identified for the campaign (women of ages 18-45; men of ages 18-45; and parents of adult children ages 45-65); and short news features showing success stories about women exercising their property and inheritance rights. These products will feature real life people from different communities in Kosovo.



The sub award was made to Pi Communications, and production of these new products was well underway by the end of this quarter.

ACTIVITY 3.3: BUILD CAPACITY OF ATRC AND CSO'S TO ENABLE THEM TO CARRY OUT ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF WOMEN'S PROPERTY RIGHTS

Technical Support to Engagement for Equity Implementing Partner, ATRC

In October, PRP conducted a capacity assessment jointly with ATRC staff of the E4E sub-grantees. PRP and ATRC presented the results of the assessment to the sub-grantees and helped them develop a capacity-building plan.

PRP participated in a series of orientation sessions for the second round of Requests for Applications, which ATRC organized to provide information to CSOs throughout Kosovo on how to apply for E4E grants. PRP used this opportunity to inform the CSOs about its work in the area of property rights, and in particular about its work to address inequities surrounding women's ability to exercise their property rights. The sessions were held in nine regions of Kosovo: Gjilan/Gnjilane, Graçanicë/Gračanica, Shtërpçë/Štrpce, Prizren/Prizren, Pejë/Peć, Gjakovë/Đakovica, Mitrovicë Jugore/Južna Mitrovica and Prishtinë/Priština. Many NGOs attended these sessions and showed a high level of interest.

PRP international STTA helped ATRC integrate lessons learned and other USAID recommendations from the first round of RFAs to improve the solicitation process for the upcoming second round. Assistance was provided in developing the RFA solicitation; conducting the initial screening process; orienting members of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG), and preparing and organizing the necessary documentation. PRP participated in the meeting of the TAG, where the evaluation results of the 51 grant applications were discussed; and assisted ATRC in moving forward with final TAG decisions on those grant proposals that will be advanced for funding consideration.

PRP also provided assistance to ATRC in a number of other areas during this quarter. PRP STTA assisted ATRC with developing a draft E4E Activity Grants Management Closeout Plan that provides step-by-step procedures for closing out individual grant projects in full compliance with USAID rules and regulations. PRP also drafted the E4E Program Management Procedures Manual, as recommended by USAID which provides ATRC with specific guidelines, tools, and processes that will help them manage their assistance awards more efficiently.

PRP hired a local consultant to work directly with ATRC to develop its Organizational Policy Manual. The consultant reviewed ATRC's current policy manual, systems, procedures and practices, along with USAID's recommendations to ATRC to incorporate the most modern administrative and financial systems consistent with Kosovo law. The Policy Manual is consistent with the Grant Management Manual that PRP has earlier helped ATRC to develop.

Support to E4E Sub-Grantees

In October, PRP organized training sessions for ATRC and E4E sub-grantees on women's property rights issues and on how social and behavior change can positively affect women's greater ability to exercise their rights to property. The sessions featured training from PRP's international expert on social and behavior change (SBCC) on SBCC fundamentals and the topic of strategic communication. Facilitation of these trainings were assisted by PRP's subcontractor, Republika. The training included practical guidance, and participants shared their own professional experience.

PRP met regularly with E4E sub-grantees BIRN, CECD-Friends, ACDC and occasionally CREATE to take stock of their performance of their grants. PRP also advised the sub grantee CECD-Friends on activities for the "16 days of activism" (CREATE is reaching out to Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian (RAE) women to inform them of their property rights). PRP also facilitated contacts between ACDC and the Ombudsman's Office in connection with public events held in the North.

With the cooperation of ATRC, PRP also provided guidance to BIRN regarding court monitoring. PRP met with ATRC and BIRN to provide input on their planned activities. Owing to difficulties reported by BIRN in identifying property and inheritance cases and in the long delays in getting cases adjudicated, PRP suggested that BIRN also track divorce and alimony cases and determine how the courts treat the division of property in such cases. PRP also suggested that BIRN include women's shelters in its inquiries, since some women may be forced to stay in such shelters owing to a vulnerability and dependency arising from their lack of property. Finally, PRP recommended that BIRN contact other civil society organizations that have undertaken court monitoring activities and reporting in the past, such as Polis and the Kosovo Centre for Gender Studies, to reassess their court monitoring strategy. In addition, PRP agreed with ATRC and BIRN to plan the first TV program approximately during January where BIRN will report on its findings to date from its court monitoring efforts. PRP will coordinate with ATRC and BIRN to hold a production meeting to plan this program.

Support to the Gender Coordination Group on Women's Property Rights (GCG)

PRP, in close coordination with the Agency for Gender Equality, holds regular meetings of the Gender Coordination Group on Women's Property Rights. The December GCG meeting featured presentations by PRP and E4E Sub-Grantees. PRP presented its analysis and recommendations surrounding women's renunciation of inheritance; and the E4E sub-grantees informed the GCG members of their activities under the USAID grants received from ATRC. The sub-grantees presented their work related to women's property rights, women and economic development, and RAE women's issues. Discussions also addressed the activities planned for the 16 days of activism to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

PRP Co-funds Conference in support of Women in Business with E4E Sub-Grantee (KCBS)

Participants included 170 businesswomen from municipalities of Drenas/Glogovac, Kamenicë/Kamenica, and Rahovec/Orahovac who are beneficiaries of Kosovo Centre for Business Support (KCBS) grant activity. The participants received information from PRP on how property rights lead to economic empowerment; on gaining access to finance; on the role of renunciation in depriving women of property inheritance; and on the need for equal treatment under the law. Other organizations were invited to make presentations such as TEB Bank, who provided information on opportunities for women businesses and startups to receive loans with lower interest rates. Kosovo Women's Economic Chamber - G7 - gave a presentation on the advantages afforded by joining the "Women in Business" network. The Women's Caucus of the Kosovo National Assembly also provided support for this event.

Information Provided to UNDP Project

PRP provided a briefing on its activities related to development of the National Strategy on Property Rights to the UNDP Support to Transitional Justice in Kosovo (STJK) program. STJK supports the Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Dealing with the Past and Reconciliation. In its briefing to STJK, PRP advised that additional attention be made to the issues surrounding displaced persons and highlighted the need to provide a more effective remedy than is currently provided or contemplated under Kosovo law.

Report on Issues Affecting the Ability of Members of Minority Communities to Exercise Their Property Rights

During this quarter PRP hired two members of the Association of Serb Jurists in Kosovo (ASJK) to review and provide additional commentary and analysis for the draft report developed by the Civil Rights Project/Kosovo. PRP has incorporated the ASJK comments into the draft and is finalizing the Report. Completion is expected in early 2016.

OBJECTIVE 4: IMPROVED COMMUNICATION, ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND UNDERSTANDING OF PROPERTY RIGHTS

ACTIVITY 4.1: CONDUCT CAPACITY AND BUSINESS PROCESSES ASSESSMENTS IN THE SELECTED MUNICIPALITIES

Additional Information Provided to USAID on G2G Proposal

PRP has proposed an initiative to scan the archives of the Municipal Cadastral Offices in selected municipalities, in order to make information on land parcels and their ownership history readily accessible to both citizens and institutions.

During this quarter PRP provided additional information requested by USAID in connection with PRP's proposal for G2G assistance. The information concerned the municipalities that had passed PRP's selection process and that are potential participants in the initiative.

World Bank Confirms Complementary of PRP's G2G Proposal

PRP met with World Bank (WB) representative Ms. Katherine Kelm and discussed PRP's proposal, and Ms. Kelm expressed support for the initiative, noting that it would complement the World Bank's own activities. This was followed by a meeting with Messrs. Muzafer Caka and Xhevdet Shala of the World Bank project in support of Cadastre reform to discuss the two projects' respective plans and activities. The WB project experts confirmed that the WB had conducted some scanning of archived records of the Municipal Cadastral Offices in 14 municipalities, but noted that the scanning covered only records from the period 1999 – 2002. They affirmed that they welcomed PRP's proposal, which is to digitize MCO archived records going back to the 1970's, noting that, among other things, this would help address the problems posed by delayed inheritance cases. The two WB experts expressed enthusiasm for PRP's proposal.

Monitoring and Advising on Relevant Municipal Practices

In response to information received about the low numbers of applications that municipalities are entering into the Unpermitted Constructions Registry (UCR), PRP conducted informal discussions with municipal officials in numerous municipalities to ascertain if, and why, this is the case. Based on information received to date, it appears that municipal personnel require instruction on how to enter applications into the UCR; and also that citizens lack information on the need to submit an application and on the documents required for an application. At PRP's informal suggestion, the Mayor of Viti/Vitina held an open session for citizens to provide them with information on the Legalization Program. PRP is continuing to explore this issue informally. PRP attended the event as observers. PRP then met with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Head of the Department of Urbanism; and Head of the Municipal Cadastral Office to discuss property issues and challenges.

During its work with municipalities, PRP identified considerable variation in their practices and procedures for registering property, e.g., in connection with inheritance, mortgages, purchase and sale transactions, etc., and provided guidance on how the municipalities could improve their procedures and bring them into compliance with applicable law. PRP is exploring the feasibility of conducting a round-table for municipal officials to present PRP's findings and the improved practices that some municipalities have adopted in response, to encourage other municipalities to take similar action.

ACTIVITY 4.2: ASSIST SELECTED MUNICIPALITIES ISSUE TENDERS AND MONITOR THE PROCESS

USAID Approves Initiation of the Pre-Award Survey for Viti/Vitina Municipality for G2G Initiative

USAID has informed PRP that it wishes to proceed the G2G initiative in Viti/Vitina, subject to that Viti/Vitina's meeting USAID requirements related to financial management and procurement. PRP informed the Viti/Vitina Administration of this and arranged a meeting with USAID and the Viti/Vitina administration for early January 2016.

ACTIVITY 4.3: FINALIZE AND IMPLEMENT CAPACITY BUILDING PLAN

This activity will be commenced as soon as a municipality has been finally approved for participation in this G2G initiative. PRP has conceived a number of additional activities to be carried out in the selected municipalities that reflect findings and initiatives conducted under the other three PRP Objectives, in order to clarify issues in practice and pilot the development of solutions. These activities are aimed at increasing the municipal institutions' capacities; streamlining procedures for citizens; increasing the sharing of information within municipal departments and the court; providing citizen with clear and effective legal information on the requirements for registering property (or when seeking other municipal services); informing citizens about reform initiatives; etc. PRP will use these ideas to develop action plans with the partner municipalities when the final selections have been made.

PROJECT SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Performance Indicator	DO & IR that the project supports	Baseline Value	Target Yr. 2	Actual Yr. 2	Target LOP	Actual LOP	Quarter 7 Reported Results
OBJECTIVE 1: IMPROVE COORDINATION AND POLICY PRIORITIES							
1.1} Number of strategies drafted and approved	DO: Improved Rule of Law and Governance that meet Citizen's Needs IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector; Civil Society Strengthened to Increasingly Engage Constructively with Government	0	1	0	2	0	N/A
1.2} Number of laws drafted and approved	DO: Improved Rule of Law and Governance that meet Citizen's Needs IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector; Civil Society Strengthened to Increasingly Engage Constructively with Government	0	2	1 Drafted	6	1 Drafted	Drafted: "Draft Law on Notary"
1.3} Number of secondary legislation drafted and approved	DO: Improved Rule of Law and Governance that meet Citizen's Needs IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice	0	6	6 drafted 1 approved	19	7 (1A+6D)	(1) Drafted: Concept Document on Inheritance Note: Administrative Instruction (GRK) No X/2015 on special

Performance Indicator	DO & IR that the project supports	Baseline Value	Target Yr. 2	Actual Yr. 2	Target LOP	Actual LOP	Quarter 7 Reported Results
	<i>Sector; Civil Society Strengthened to Increasingly Engage Constructively with Government</i>						<i>measures for the registration of property in names of both spouses-was approved</i>
OBJECTIVE 2: IMPROVED COURT PROCESSES RELATED TO PROPERTY CLAIMS							
2.1} Number of court procedures and secondary legislation related to court function and/ or improved court performance adopted and approved	<i>DO: Improved Rule of Law and Governance that meet Citizen's Needs IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector</i>	0	4	0	12	0	N/A
2.2} Number of days it takes for courts to resolve a property case reduced	<i>DO: Improved Rule of Law and Governance that meet Citizen's Needs IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector</i>	1249 (Days Average)	1186	1249 EROL	936	1249	N/A
2.3} Percent of property disputes cases resolved in courts	<i>DO: Improved Rule of Law and Governance that meet Citizen's Needs IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector</i>	32%	37%	32% EROL	72%	32%	N/A
2.4}Percent of court users satisfied with court services on resolving property disputes	<i>DO: Improved Rule of Law and Governance that meet Citizen's Needs IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector</i>	22%	22%	22% KAP	62%	22%	N/A
2.5} Number of judges, lawyers and court staff trained with USG assistance	<i>DO: Improved Rule of Law and Governance that meet Citizen's Needs IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector</i>	0	50	0	450	0	N/A
2.6 Number of USG-assisted courts with improved case management related to	<i>DO: Improved Rule of Law and Governance that meet Citizen's Needs</i>	0	4	0	9	0	N/A

Performance Indicator	DO & IR that the project supports	Baseline Value	Target Yr. 2	Actual Yr. 2	Target LOP	Actual LOP	Quarter 7 Reported Results
resolution of property claims and disputes	<i>IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector</i>						
2.7 Number of legal courses or curricula developed/upgraded with USG assistance	<i>DO: Improved Rule of Law and Governance that meet Citizen's Needs IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector</i>	0	4	0	12	0	N/A
OBJECTIVE 3: ENHANCED ABILITY FOR WOMEN TO ACCESS THEIR PROPERTY RIGHTS IN PRACTICE							
3.1 } Number of "E4E CSO-s" staff trained to implement program activities in support of USAID/ Kosovo program objectives	<i>DO: Improved Rule of Law and Governance that meet Citizen's Needs IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector; Civil Society Strengthened to Increasingly Engage Constructively with Government</i>	0	40	22	80	22	Training on SBCC with: ACDC (2 Staff) KCBS (2 Staff) CEL (4 staff) FOL (5 staff) BIRN (1 staff) CREATE (4 staff)
3.2} Number of communication outreach products, developed and disseminated by PRP and "E4E CSO-s"	<i>DO: Improved Rule of Law and Governance that meet Citizen's Needs IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector; Civil Society Strengthened to Increasingly Engage Constructively with Government</i>	0	35	14	70	14 (10PRP + 4 E4E)	"For Our Common Good" PSA (TV spot) For Our Common Good One page information on SBCC 2 printed products used at "For Our Common Good" launch event. 4 products designed by E4E CSO "CECD-Friends"
3.3} Number of communication outreach campaigns, activities and events developed and implemented by PRP and "E4E	<i>DO: Improved Rule of Law and Governance that meet Citizen's Needs IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector; Civil Society Strengthened to</i>	0	57	11	114	11	Launch event "Kosovo Citizens for Equal property Rights"

Performance Indicator	DO & IR that the project supports	Baseline Value	Target Yr. 2	Actual Yr. 2	Target LOP	Actual LOP	Quarter 7 Reported Results
CSO-s to change cultural attitudes and behaviors about women's property rights	<i>Increasingly Engage Constructively with Government</i>						Change Kosovo by Empowering Women-KCBS (E4E CSO)
3.4} Number of citizens reached by communication outreach campaigns, activities and events implemented by PRP and "E4E CSO-s	<i>DO: Improved Rule of Law and Governance that meet Citizen's Needs IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector; Civil Society Strengthened to Increasingly Engage Constructively with Government</i>	0	50,200	9,509	100,500	9,509	108 participants-Launch event "Kosovo Citizens for Equal property Rights" 117 Participants-Change Kosovo by Empowering Women-KCBS (E4E CSO)
3.5} Percentage of citizens who recognize the PRP and E4E CSO campaign/ brand/ identity/logo/messages/content	<i>DO: Improved Rule of Law and Governance that meet Citizen's Needs IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector; Civil Society Strengthened to Increasingly Engage Constructively with Government</i>	0	20%	KAP	40%	0	N/A
3.6} Percentage of citizens who report changing their attitude/behavior about women's rights to inherit property and engage in economic activities after exposure to PRP and/or E4E CSO communication and outreach products, activities and events	<i>DO: Improved Rule of Law and Governance that meet Citizen's Needs IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector; Civil Society Strengthened to Increasingly Engage Constructively with Government</i>	36% (Percentage of citizens with negative attitude)	26% (Percentage of citizens with negative attitude)	36% KAP	16% Percentage of citizens with negative attitude)	36%	N/A

Performance Indicator	DO & IR that the project supports	Baseline Value	Target Yr. 2	Actual Yr. 2	Target LOP	Actual LOP	Quarter 7 Reported Results
3.7} Number of women who file inheritance claims in the court	DO: Improved Rule of Law and Governance that meet Citizen's Needs IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector; Civil Society Strengthened to Increasingly Engage Constructively with Government	0.3% (Percent)	0.3% (Percent)	0.3% KAP	30%	0.3%	N/A
3.8} Number of women inheriting property	DO: Improved Rule of Law and Governance that meet Citizen's Needs IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector; Civil Society Strengthened to Increasingly Engage Constructively with Government	3.8% (Percent)	3.8%	3.8% (KAP)	33.8%	3.8%	N/A
3.9} Percentage of commercial bank loan collateral-based portfolio comprised of women	DO: Improved Rule of Law and Governance that meet Citizen's Needs IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector; Civil Society Strengthened to Increasingly Engage Constructively with Government	2%	5%	2% (KAP)	17%	2%	N/A
OBJECTIVE 4: IMPROVED ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND UNDERSTANDING OF PROPERTY RIGHTS							
4.1} Number of days to conduct property transactions reduced due to improved information systems	DO: Increase Investment and Private Sector Employment IR: Improved Economic Governance & Business Environment	28 (Days)	28	28	24	28	N/A

Performance Indicator	DO & IR that the project supports	Baseline Value	Target Yr. 2	Actual Yr. 2	Target LOP	Actual LOP	Quarter 7 Reported Results
4.2} Percent of citizens with increased knowledge of their property rights	DO: Increase Investment and Private Sector Employment IR: Improved Economic Governance & Business Environment	27% (Percent)	27%	27%	52%	27%	N/A
4.3} Number of parcels corrected or incorporated into land system	DO: Increase Investment and Private Sector Employment IR: Improved Economic Governance & Business Environment	0	80	0	440	0	N/A
4.4} Land rights formalized	DO: Increase Investment and Private Sector Employment IR: Improved Economic Governance & Business Environment	0	80	0	440	0	N/A
4.5} Land administration offices established or upgraded: The number of land administration and service offices or other related facilities that the project physically establishes or upgrades	DO: Increase Investment and Private Sector Employment IR: Improved Economic Governance & Business Environment	0	2	0	4	0	N/A

SUCCESS STORY

The PRP project success story is provided on the next page.



USAID | **KOSOVO**
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

SNAPSHOT

PSA Launch Event Features President and U.S. Ambassador



Efforts to change social attitudes and behavior often encounter deeply held beliefs and entrenched habits. Identifying highly respected or charismatic individuals with such campaigns can help mitigate this challenge. The USAID Property Rights Program (PRP) has taken its communications strategy further with the successful launch of its inaugural public service announcement (PSA) addressing the difficulties that women in Kosovo face in exercising their property rights – particularly in claiming their inheritance. The launch event featured remarks by Kosovo President Atifete Jahjaga, U.S. Ambassador Greg Delawie, and Kosovo Minister of Justice Hajredin Kuçi. Over 130 persons attended the event, representing Kosovo governmental institutions, municipal bodies, civil society, donors and the public at large.

In her remarks, President Jahjaga made reference to another PRP-led effort, the development of a National Strategy on Property Rights, which is being developed in coordination with the Ministry of Justice. Minister Kuçi reaffirmed his commitment to introducing safeguards to prevent the misuse of the right to renounce property inheritance.

This PSA featured a multi-generational story told from the perspective of a young girl describing the increasingly progressive treatment of property inheritance in Kosovo society. This story was followed by a series of appearances from notable public figures in Kosovo society expressing their strong support for basic fairness and a recognition of the equal rights of men and women to own property.

In the upcoming months, PRP will continue this campaign, “Për Të Mirën Tonë” (“For Our Common Good”) to influence social attitudes and behavior related to the ability of women to exercise their property rights and to encourage women themselves to become more willing to exercise those rights on their own behalf. The campaign will employ a variety of media and approaches to disseminate these ideas, including TV and radio, newspapers, social media, interactive theatrical performances and other avenues for public outreach.

PROJECT BRIEF UPDATE

The PRP project brief update is provided on the next page.

PROJECT BRIEF

KOSOVO PROPERTY RIGHTS PROGRAM

The rule of law in Kosovo is constrained by poorly defined and enforced property rights, especially the property rights of women and members of minority communities. The absence of an effective property rights regime weakens democratic governance, impacts human rights, disempowers women and impedes sustainable economic growth.

The overall goal of the program is to improve the property rights regime in Kosovo, strengthen the rule of law, and increase economic growth and investment. The Property Rights Program (PRP) is implemented under four objectives:

Objective 1: Better Coordination and Policy Priorities

Objective 2: Improved Court Procedures Related to Property Claims

Objective 3: Enhance Women's Rights to Use Property in Practice

Objective 4: Improved Communication, Access to Information and Understanding of Property Rights



Kosovo Minister of Justice Hajredin Kuçi delivering remarks at the PSA Launch Event for the Për Të Mirën Tonë campaign, which is an initiative supported by the Office of the President and implemented by the USAID Property Rights Program.

National Strategy on Property Rights and Legislative Reforms.

PRP is proceeding as scheduled with the development of five Concept Notes addressing a core set of issues in support of the development of the National Strategy on Property Rights. PRP is leading the efforts to develop the strategy, providing technical expertise and organizing and supporting Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) that are organized around the five issue areas. This quarter, each TWG held two working sessions with PRP experts and advanced significantly the development of the Concept Notes. PRP provided extensive guidance to the experts drafting the Concept Notes to help them develop a unified and comprehensive approach to their research and to prioritize issues. The final versions of the Concept Notes will be provided for final review by the TWGs in February 2016.

PRP is also engaged in ground-breaking empirical analysis of issues impeding the ability of people in Kosovo to acquire, register, use and transfer land easily. PRP is producing comprehensive study of the problems arising from the fact that many land records in Kosovo are registered in the names of persons long deceased and is proposing solutions to address this situation and enable those properties to become part of an active and open land market.

PRP is also concluding a study of the impediments affecting the ability of members of minority communities to exercise their property rights, with recommendations to address these problems.

The findings and recommendations from this work are informing the development of the National Strategy and related legislative initiatives

PRP has also continued its close cooperation with the EU-funded Civil Code and Property Rights Project (CCPR), facilitating discussion with judges of issues in judicial practice relevant to the Civil Code; and collaborating with CCPR to complete and submit to the MoJ the analysis of international practice related to the renunciation of inheritance. PRP has also sponsored workshops to support the MoJ in finalizing the Draft Law on Notary and the Concept Document for the Law on Inheritance (with a focus on renunciation).

Improving Caseflow Management for Property Cases. PRP completed and submitted to USAID its Final Report on Differentiated Caseflow Management, an assessment of caseflow practices in the four Courts of



Merit (CoM) in the adjudication of property cases. The assessment is based on an analysis of over 1,800 disposed property cases, as well as site visits to the courts and discussions with judges. The principal finding in the Report is that the adjudication of all property cases, regardless of the specific subject matter, is attended by very significant delays that far exceed international best practice. An outcome of the report is an Action Plan of immediate actions to improve caseload management and court performance. Support for the Action Plan has been secured among PRP's partners in the judiciary, including the Kosovo Judicial Council (KJC), court presidents and heads of Civil Divisions of all Basic Courts, along with PRP's Judicial Advisory Council.

PRP is also working with judges to discuss problematic issues in judicial practice in property law, in order to assist them in developing uniform approaches and to identify areas that should be addressed through legislative initiatives.

Promoting Women's Property Rights and Gender Equality. In Objective 3, PRP provided the MoJ with its analysis of international practice on the renunciation of inheritance and presented its findings and recommendations to the MoJ Working Group on Renunciation. This was followed by a three-day workshop to draft the Concept Document on the Renunciation of Inheritance.

PRP produced its first media product for its national campaign on women's property rights, "For Our Common Good." The Public Service Announcement (PSA) features Kosovo President Atifete Jahjaga, Kosovo Minister of Justice Hajredin Kuçi, Aferdita Saraqini-Kelmendi (the Director of RTV21), and the World Judo Champion (junior category) Distria Krasniqi. PRP officially launched the PSA and its national campaign on December 10, 2015 (on International Human Rights Day). Distinguished personalities such as President Jahjaga, U.S. Ambassador Greg Delawie, and Minister Kuçi spoke at the event in support of the campaign. The PSA is currently being aired on the Radio Television of Kosovo (RTK) network in Albanian and Serbian languages, as well as being shared on USAID Kosovo's Facebook page. To date there are over 6,000 internet views of the PSA.

Continuing its leading role in coordinating grassroots activities in support of gender equality and women's empowerment through grants, PRP and the Engagement for Equity (E4E) program have been successful in identifying reputable civil society organizations to implement activities to support efforts to empower women and help change social attitudes and behavior concerning the ability of women to exercise their property rights.



MEDIA

During this quarter, use of social media was emphasized to share regular updates about PRP, particularly activities under Objective 3. The table below presents PRP activities and social media trigger messages published by USAID/Kosovo's Facebook page. These messages were designed to reach target audiences discussed above in order to further raise awareness about the property rights regime in Kosovo.

SOCIAL MEDIA TRIGGER MESSAGES



Can one influence change in the existing societal norms??

Our #PropertyRights program aims to influence the change of the existing societal norms, and raise awareness of women's property rights through a social behavior change communication campaign. These past few days our #propertyrights and #engagement4equity teams organized workshops to share best practices and coordinate efforts under the campaign. Për Të Mirën Tonë!

<https://www.facebook.com/usaiddkosovo>
Published on October 09, 2015



Last week our #PropertyRightsProgram, in partnership with the Ministria e Drejtësisë [Ministry of Justice], worked on the finalization of the draft Law on Notary. The rules governing a notary's role and scope of authority have direct implications for property rights and inheritance matters, and it is important that the law is drafted so as to support the National Strategy on Property Rights that the MOJ is developing. Për Të Mirën Tonë.

<https://www.facebook.com/usaiddkosovo>
Published on October 20, 2015



Supporting equal inheritance rights for daughters and sons in Kosovo is crucial. In honor of October 11, International Girl Child Day, our #PropertyRightsProgram will be speaking on women's inheritance rights at the #Fem ART Festival. Don't forget, tomorrow, Sunday, October 11 at 13:00. Come and join our discussion at OdaTheater. Për Të Mirën Tonë!

<https://www.facebook.com/usaiddkosovo>
Published on October 10, 2015



Do you know the exact percentage of women in Kosovo that inherit immovable property? Or the percentage of people in Kosovo who believe that women renounce their right to inherit property?

<https://www.facebook.com/usaiddkosovo>
Published on December 10, 2015



The correct answers are:

Only 3.8% of women in Kosovo inherit immovable property from their parents. Meanwhile, 86.7% of Kosovo citizens believe that women renounce their right to inherit property.

<https://www.facebook.com/usaiddkosovo>
Published on December 10, 2015



Do you know your property rights?

According to a survey conducted in April 2015, 73% of Kosovo citizens do not have basic knowledge of their property rights.

<https://www.facebook.com/usaiddkosovo>
Published on December 10, 2015



Launch of a national campaign to support women's rights to property. Great event. Thanks to our #Property Rights Program. In partnership with Atifete Jahjaga, Ministria e Drejtësisë. Për Të Mirën Tonë!

<https://www.facebook.com/usaiddkosovo>
Published on December 10, 2015

PUBLICATIONS

The following print and digital publications covered PRP's high profile public service announcement (PSA) launch event:

Kosovalive

'Jahjaga: The Rights of Women to Property is Undeniable'

<http://www.kosovalive360.com/jahjaga-e-drejta-e-grave-ne-prone-e-pamohueshme.html>

KosovaPress

'Jahjaga Supports Property Rights to Women'

<http://www.kosovapress.com/sq/nacionale/jahjaga-mbeshtet-te-drejtat-pronesore-te-grave-58791/>

Telegrafi

'Kuçi: Property rights, pillar of rule of law'

<http://www.telegrafi.com/lajme/kuci-e-drejta-pronesore-shtylle-e-sundimit-te-ligjit-2-76691.html>

Bota Sot

'Jahjaga and Delawie support women's right to property'

<http://botasot.info/kosova/489383/jahjaga-e-delawie-mbeshtesin-te-drejtat-e-grave-mbi-pronen-foto/>

Zeri

'Required respect of women property rights'

<http://www.zeri.info/aktuale/66611/kerkohet-respektimi-i-se-drejt-es-pronesore-per-grate/>

Klan Kosova

'Kuçi: Property rights, pillar of rule of law'

<http://klankosova.tv/kuci-e-drejta-pronesore-shtylle-e-sundimit-te-ligjit/>

Rrokum TV

'The right that is denied for women is a right denied to all society'

<http://rrokum.tv/3/cka-i-mohohet-grues-i-mohohet-krejt-shoqnise-24436>

Ekonomia Online

'Launch of campaign to support women's property rights'

<http://www.ekonomiaonline.com/video/30299/nis-fushata-per-te-perkrahur-te-drejtat-pronesore-te-grave/>

Fax-Al

'Kosovo, call for equality rights of women in property'

<http://fax.al/read/news/2058012/10690013/kosove-thirrje-per-barazi-te-grave-mbi-pronen>

Gazeta Rilindja

'Launch of campaign to support women's property rights'

<http://gazetarilindja.com/?p=80930>

Vec Lajme

‘Kuçi: Property rights, pillar of rule of law’

<http://veclajme.com/kuci-e-drejta-pronesore-shtylle-e-sundimit-te-ligjit/>

Gazeta Express

‘US Ambassador and Jahjaga support women’s right to property’

<http://www.gazetaexpress.com/lajme/ambasadori-amerikan-dhe-jahjaga-mbeshtesin-te-drejtat-egrave-mbi-pronen-151051/>

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Departures	1.	Mr. Justin T. Holl, Jr.	Chief of Party			Left the Program on April 9, 2015
	2.	Ms. Odeta Hyseni	Gender and Property Rights Specialist			Left the Program on Dec. 31, 2014
	3.	Mr. Jeton A. Rexha	Communications and Public Outreach Manager			Left the Program on Dec 21, 2015

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