



PROPERTY RIGHTS PROGRAM (PRP)

FY2016

Quarterly Report No. 9

(April 1 – June 30, 2016)



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Cover Photo: A drawing created by Bafti Haxhiu Elementary School second-grader Elsa Metallari on the theme, “Home and Family.” Kosovo PRP sponsored a children’s drawing event in Viti/Vitina municipality to focus attention on the importance of fairness and equity within the family concerning the ownership of property.

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DISCLAIMER

The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AGE	Agency for Gender Equality
AI	Administrative Instruction
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	Court of Merit
CRMs	Case Record Management Specialists
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CTG	Core Technical Group
DCM	Differentiated Case Management
DO	Development Objective
E4E	Engagement for Equity
EROL	Effective Rule of Law Project
EU	European Union
EUSR	European Union Special Representative in Kosovo
G2G	Government to Government
GCG	Gender Coordination Group
GoK	Government of Kosovo
IQC	Indefinite Quantity Contract
IR	Intermediate Result
JSSP	Justice System Strengthening Program
KCA	Kosovo Cadastral Agency
KIESA	Kosovo Investment and Enterprise Support Agency
KJC	Kosovo Judicial Council
KPCVA	Kosovo Property Comparison and Verification Agency
MCO	Municipal Cadaster Office
MGO	Municipal Gender Officer

MoF	Ministry of Finance
Moj	Ministry of Justice
MTI	Ministry of Trade and Industry
NDI	National Democratic Institute
PRP	Property Rights Program
PSA	Public Service Announcement
RECAP	World Bank Real Estate Cadastre and Registration Project
RTC	Regional Technology Center
RTK	Radio Television of Kosovo
SBCC	Social Behavior Change Communications
SPO	Strategic Planning Office
STTA	Short-Term Technical Assistance
STARR	Strengthening Tenure and Resource Rights
TWG	Thematic Working Group
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

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 on Property Rights (the National Strategy) 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 service delivery in municipalities to increase the general public's understanding of property rights and make it easier for citizens to exercise their property rights.

More specifically, PRP is working closely with the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) to support its development and direction of the property reform process, which includes close support to the MoJ in its development of the National Strategy and in other relevant legislative initiatives. PRP has helped the MoJ to adopt and apply a very inclusive approach to developing the National Strategy, using five separate theme-based working groups representing a wide range of government institutions, donor organizations and projects and civil society groups. (These included the European Union-funded Civil Code and Property Rights (CCPR) project, which ended its operations in June 2016.)

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 that women face in inheriting property. PRP assistance to improve court performance also informs the development of more consistent judicial practice in adjudicating property claims. 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 conducting a national media campaign and a campaign of grassroots public outreach activities in Kosovo communities to prompt changes in social attitudes and behaviors inhibiting women from inheriting and owning property. PRP also provides technical assistance to CSOs to develop and implement activities aimed at supporting women's property rights and to complement PRP's public outreach activities.

At the municipal level, PRP is working with local administrations to improve their own practices and procedures related to property rights and to provide effective legal information to their citizens to enable them to more efficiently transact their rights to property. 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.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SUMMARY OF RESULTS FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD AND KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

This Quarter was very productive for PRP: it saw important developments in major initiatives in progress – the National Strategy on Property Rights; caseload management reform in Kosovo courts; and the media campaign on women’s property rights. In addition, in this Quarter PRP commenced grassroots activities on women’s property rights to complement its media campaign and launched a pilot program of activities in Viti/Vitina municipality designed to help municipal administrations improve their practices and procedures related to property rights and enable their citizens to exercise their property rights more easily and efficiently.

OBJECTIVE I: BETTER COORDINATION AND POLICY PRIORITIES

WORK ON NATIONAL STRATEGY ON PROPERTY RIGHTS ADVANCING ON SCHEDULE. During this Quarter, PRP continued to move forward on schedule the development of the National Strategy on Property Rights: the Thematic Working Groups completed their work and the five Concept Notes, which will constitute the substantive basis of the National Strategy, were given final review by the Core Technical Group. PRP has finalized them. In addition, PRP prepared a first draft of the narrative core of the National Strategy – the "Zero" Draft – which provides strategic direction to the National Strategy and lays out its policy priorities. By the end of this Quarter, PRP had begun work to develop a first full draft of the National Strategy.

PRAISE FOR PRP’S EMPHASIS ON INCLUSION AND COORDINATION. PRP continued to cooperate closely and constructively with the EU-funded Civil Code and Property Rights Project (CCPR). The two projects met together each month this Quarter with the MoJ to exchange current information. PRP provided the draft Concept Notes to CCPR for comment, and CCPR has provided its Progress Reports to PRP to ensure that the positions and approaches taken in the National Strategy will be in harmony with CCPR’s vision of the Civil Code. In addition, PRP attended all meetings of CCPR’s Steering Committee.

The team of independent evaluators to assess CCPR praised the level of coordination and cooperation between the two projects as a model to be emulated by other EU projects, and also gave high praise to the inclusive approach taken in developing the National Strategy and urged that the follow-on EU project to develop the Civil Code take a similar approach. Furthermore, at the visibility event held in connection with the close-out of CCPR in June, First Deputy Prime Minister/Minister of Justice Kuçi praised USAID and PRP for its constructive cooperation with the MoJ and CCPR.

SUPPORT TO MOJ ON LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE ON INHERITANCE. During this Quarter, PRP continued to work closely with the MoJ on significant legislative initiatives. Drawing on PRP’s comprehensive analysis of notary powers and practices in selected EU member states, which PRP provided to the MoJ in the previous quarter to inform the MoJ’s policy decisions as it finalizes the draft Law on Notary, at the MoJ’s request PRP has drafted revisions to a package of laws to create procedural safeguards to help address challenges women often face in connection with inheritance – being omitted as heirs on the Act of Death; and being expected, and sometimes forced, to renounce their inheritance in favor of male heirs. The revisions are also designed to clarify the legal authority of the courts and notaries, respectively, with respect to non-contested inheritance proceedings. This package of revisions will be translated into Albanian and provided to the MoJ in the first weeks of the next quarter. PRP is also supporting the MoJ on drafting the Concept Document for the Law on Construction Land.

OBJECTIVE 2: IMPROVED COURT PROCEDURES RELATED TO PROPERTY CLAIMS

INSTRUMENT DEVELOPED FOR GATHERING CASEFLOW DATA. During this Quarter, PRP worked closely with the IT Department of the KJC to review together the Kosovo Judicial Council (KJC) Case Registration System (the Database) and identify the specific modifications that would be needed in order for PRP to use the Database in PRP's initiative to analyze the caseload management of property and other civil cases in the four Courts of Merit (CoMs). (The analysis of the caseload of pending civil cases was identified as the next necessary step for identifying and developing interventions in the courts' caseload management of property cases. See PRP's Report, "Caseload Management for Property Rights Cases in the Basic Courts," which was submitted to USAID and the KJC in December 2015 and which describes the objectives of this work and the methodology for carrying it out.)

Although PRP's initial review of the Database, which was conducted by local STTA, suggested that it would be feasible to modify the Database for this purpose (which initial conclusions were presented in PRP's report, "A Review of the Feasibility of Modifying the KJC Case Registration System to Support Proposed Reforms in Caseload Management;" PRP's subsequent hands-on review indicated that it would not be practicable to undertake modification of the Database, because it would require an indeterminate, but likely considerable, expenditure of time and money to do so. Those findings, coupled with reports that the Case Management Information System, which was being developed for the Kosovo courts with Norwegian donor funding, would be introduced in an introductory trial form in September 2016, led both PRP and the KJC IT Department to decide not to proceed with the modification.

In view of this development, PRP thereupon designed and developed an Excel spreadsheet that has been tailored to support data-gathering on caseload management in the four courts. In reaching this decision, PRP consulted with USAID CLE on its experience in using an Excel spreadsheet for tracking the enforcement of judgments, as was suggested by USAID.

It should be noted that, in view of its final determination not to modify the Database for its own purposes, PRP did not finalize its preliminary report on the Database to reflect USAID's comments, since that report was premised on the view that PRP would modify and use the Database for PRP's caseload management initiative.

DATA-GATHERING IN COM'S COMMENCED BY PRP CASEFLOW MANAGEMENT STAFF. In this Quarter, PRP completed hiring procedures for three Court Record Management Specialists (CRMs) to work in the Basic Courts of Gjiilan/Gnjilane, Ferizaj/Uroševac and Pejë/Peć to gather caseload management data. The CRMs have been introduced to the judges of their respective courts and have been successfully integrated into those courts. PRP provided training to the CRMs on the Excel spreadsheet and the CRMs have commenced gathering data on pending civil cases.

MAKING JUDICIAL PRACTICE IN PROPERTY LAW MORE CONSISTENT, UNIFORM AND PREDICTABLE. During this Quarter PRP began compiling and analyzing decisions of the Court of Appeals involving property and civil law claims, to identify problematic legal issues facing the lower courts in adjudicating such matters and identify inconsistencies in their application of the law. Results of this analysis will be used to develop recommendations to help courts improve the adjudication of such claims and to make their practice more consistent and predictable.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE REPORT ON MINORITIES' PROPERTY RIGHTS. In the previous quarter PRP submitted to USAID drafts of two additional and comprehensive analytical reports – "Informality in the Land Sector: The Issue of Delayed Inheritance in Kosovo" and "Issues Affecting the Ability of Members of Minority Communities in Kosovo to Exercise Their Property Rights." The first of the two reports presents PRP's analysis of and proposed solutions for the challenges posed by the fact that many land records are registered in the name of deceased persons. The second of the two reports presents findings and

recommendations related to issues faced by displaced persons and members of minority communities in connection with their property rights.

After receiving comments from USAID on both reports, in this Quarter PRP revised them accordingly and submitted revised versions to USAID. USAID has approved the report on delayed inheritance. As for the report on minorities' property rights, USAID has accepted the report but has requested that the report be expanded to include two additional topics – the challenges facing minorities in connection with actions taken by the Kosovo Privatization Agency and in taking part in judicial proceedings. PRP will complete this additional research and finalize the report during the next quarter.

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

MEDIA CAMPAIGN EXPANDED. This Quarter saw an expansion of PRP's media campaign on women's property rights. Additional public service announcements were released for dissemination through TV, radio and social media; and the media coverage given to the campaign was extended to include local TV and radio stations in both Albanian and Serb communities. Anecdotal accounts indicate that the campaign is generating discussion within Kosovo society.

NATIONAL GRASS-ROOTS CAMPAIGN COMMENCED. PRP has begun a number of activities designed to bring the campaign on women's property rights to local communities using a variety of means and approaches. In this connection, PRP has also made preparations for a launch event for its national grassroots campaign, which will be held in Viti/Vitina on July 19 with the US Ambassador scheduled to attend.

SUPPORT FOR ABILITY OF SPOUSES TO REGISTER PROPERTY JOINTLY. PRP has provided a range of support for the development of the Administrative Instruction (AI) to allow spouses to register property jointly. Following on PRP's previous support to the Agency for Gender Equality (AGE) in drafting the AI and consulting with other relevant government bodies, such as the Kosovo Cadastral Agency and the Ministry of Finance, during this Quarter PRP produced an animated video public service announcement, with Albanian and Serbian versions, that is being broadcast on Kosovo TV to inform the public that spouses can now register property jointly. The animated video was unveiled at the round-table on the AI that was sponsored by the AGE and chaired by the Prime Minister, with remarks by USAID Mission Director James Hope.

PRP'S OUTREACH TO JOURNALISTS PRODUCES MORE WELL-INFORMED COVERAGE OF PROPERTY RIGHTS ISSUES. PRP and the MoJ conducted a roundtable for journalists to give them a better understanding of the property rights issues confronting Kosovo today and of the measures being taken to address them in the National Strategy. The roundtable gave the journalists a heightened interest and deeper comprehension of the subject and of how these problems are creating difficulties for citizens in their daily lives. This was evidenced by an increase in coverage of property rights issues in the national media.

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

RESEARCH AND FIELD WORK COMMENCED IN MUNICIPALITY. During this Quarter PRP began to implement in Viti/Vitina PRP's action plan of activities to promote reforms at the municipal level. These activities entail desk research and on-site interviews with officials and citizens to identify ways to improve the delivery to citizens of municipal services related to property rights. PRP developed the action plan in close cooperation with the Viti/Vitina municipal administration.

To bolster the close ties developed with Viti/Vitina and to draw the attention of the local community to PRP's public outreach on women's property rights, PRP also conducted a children's art activity in Viti/Vitina that was followed by a press conference featuring the Viti/Vitina Mayor and USAID, as is planning to hold the launch event for its national grassroots campaign in Viti/Vitina in July 2016.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

OBJECTIVE I: BETTER COORDINATION AND POLICY PRIORITIES

ACTIVITY I.1: SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL STRATEGY ON PROPERTY RIGHTS

This Quarter saw timely and steady progress in the development of the National Strategy on Property Rights (the National Strategy). The work proceeded on schedule for the National Strategy to be presented to the Government of Kosovo for adoption in the fall of 2016, with PRP and the MoJ working closely and coordinating every step. The work on the National Strategy this Quarter encompassed the final work of the Thematic Working Groups, the finalization of the five Concept Notes after review by the Core Technical Group; the development of the narrative of the National Strategy; and the commencement of the work to create a complete draft of the National Strategy.

The Thematic Working Groups Complete Their Work

The National Strategy was developed through research and analysis grouped around five “pillars” or overarching themes, with the findings and recommendations set out in five Concept Notes. The five Concept Notes are to serve as the basis for the National Strategy.

In this Quarter, the final round of consultations on the last of the five Concept Notes to be finalized, Concept Note # 3, which concerns improving the role and performance of state institutions (e.g., the Kosovo Cadastral Agency and courts) in the area of property rights. This marked the end of the work with the five Thematic Working Groups (TWG’s), which brought area-specific expertise to the review of the Concept Notes and represented many institutions, local organizations and donors, totaling over 70 members in all. (Over 15 TWG meetings were held to help identify issues to be addressed by the National Strategy, propose solutions and review the Concept Notes at various stages of their development.) The TWG meetings have proven effective in acquiring professional input and seeking buy-in from stakeholders who are also future implementing partners for the Strategy’s policy measures, and, as further noted below, this inclusive approach has received high praise from third parties.

The Core Technical Group Reviews and Provides Final Comments on the Concept Notes

The Core Technical Group (CTG) oversees the development of the National Strategy. The CTG is chaired by the Ministry of Justice and consists of 14 members drawn from relevant government institutions and stakeholders. During this Quarter, PRP organized and supported a two-day working session of the CTG in April that provided final review of and comments on the five Concept Notes. At the session, the respective experts responsible for each Concept Note made a brief presentation and answered questions and comments. Approximately 30 representatives from various governmental ministries and bodies, along with PRP and CCPR, took part. PRP oversaw the preparation and publication of the latest drafts of the Concept Notes, which comprised over 120 pages and circulated the Concept Notes to the members of the CTG a week in advance of the working session.

All Five Concept Notes for National Strategy Finalized in Both Albanian and English

PRP finalized the five Concept Notes, incorporating the comments received from the CTG meeting in April. The Concept Notes will be attached as Annexes to the National Strategy when it is submitted to the GoK for approval.

“Zero” Draft of National Strategy Completed

With the completion of the five Concept Notes, PRP and the MoJ prepared the “Zero” Draft of the National Strategy. The Zero Draft consists of a conceptual outline with narrative content that provides strategic direction to the National Strategy and identifies key policy approaches.

Work on First Full Draft of National Strategy Commenced

Following completion of the strategic core narrative for the National Strategy (the Zero Draft), PRP and the MoJ began drafting the full draft of the National Strategy, which will contain the additional information and analysis required by the GoK protocols governing strategy development as found in “Administrative Instruction 02/2012 on the Procedures, Criteria and Methodology for the Preparation and Approval of Strategy Documents and Plans for Their Implementation.” Among other things, this entails the inclusion of a section on the budgetary impact assessment of the National Strategy and an action plan for implementing the Strategy (Implementation Plan).

PRP expects to complete the full draft during the next quarter and to present it to the CTG for review.

PRP Works with MoJ and SPO to Incorporate the National Strategy into the National Development Strategy

PRP has also supported the MoJ in coordinating efforts with the Strategic Planning Office (SPO) of the Office of the Prime Minister to ensure that the technical requirements are met for incorporating the National Strategy into the National Development Strategy. These include developing indicators for monitoring implementation and conducting budgetary impact assessment.

The SPO agreed with PRP’s/Moj’s proposal to provide its information to the SPO by September 2016, which is consistent with the current timetable for developing the National Strategy. The SPO suggested that this close collaboration could serve as a model for other institutions who must prepare technical information for the National Development Strategy.

PRP Announces Tender for Local STTA to Development Implementation Plan and Monitoring Indicators

PRP announced a tender for awarding a local subcontract to assist in the development of the Implementation Plan for the National Strategy. PRP has published the Request for Proposals, and proposals are due on July 5, 2016. PRP provided the Concept Notes to potential bidders for the subcontract to assist them in preparing their proposals.

PRP Stresses Importance of Due Consideration of Pinheiro Principles in National Strategy

PRP expressed its view to the MoJ that the National Strategy should demonstrate the readiness of Kosovo to comply with the requirements of international human rights standards in determining the remedies to be afforded to displaced persons (which are stated in the “Pinheiro Principles”).

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

SUPPORTING LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES OF THE MOJ

Development of Package of Legislative Amendments to Support Women's Rights in Inheritance

During this Quarter, and at the request of the MoJ, PRP drafted revisions to a package of laws (the Law on Inheritance; the Law on Notary; the Law on Non-Contested Procedure; and the Law on Civil Registry) to improve the legal framework governing inheritance, with an aim of creating procedural safeguards to ensure that women – and all heirs – are notified that an inheritance proceeding is underway; are not omitted from the Act of Death issued by the Civil Status Office; are informed of the consequences of renouncing one's inheritance; and are given a period of reflection to enable them to make decisions on their inheritance with due deliberation. The revisions also reinforce the requirement to invoke criminal penalties against those who seek to hide heirs or to coerce heirs to renounce their inheritance.

PRP will provide these revisions to the MoJ in the early weeks of the next quarter, when they have been translated into Albanian.

Supporting the MoJ in the Development of the Concept Document on Construction Land

PRP is providing support to the MoJ in drafting the initial draft of the Concept Document for Construction Land; upon completion of this first draft, PRP will present it to the Working Group for review. Work on the Concept Document is guided by PRP's research under Concept Note 1 of the National Strategy, CCPR's Property Rights Reform Plan, and information acquired during individual meetings with relevant experts and practitioners, including representatives from the municipality of Prishtinë/Priština. PRP will continue working on this draft next quarter, with the pace of the work dependent on the MoJ's scheduling of sessions of the working group.

Als Developed by PRP Will Support the Implementation of the Law on Kosovo Property Comparison and Verification Agency (KPCVA) Approved by Kosovo Assembly

In June 2016 the Kosovo Assembly approved the Law on the KPCVA. This Law ensures the implementation of the technical agreement on cadastre reached between Kosovo and Serbia in 2011 facilitated by the European Union. The Kosovo Property Agency (KPA) will be transformed into the KPCVA, which is mandated to compare and verify the cadastral records returned by Serbia.

To facilitate this process, PRP supported the KPA in 2015 in drafting five Administrative Instructions (AIs) as secondary legislation in compliance with the KPCVA Law and the Kosovo-Serbia Technical Agreement. Now that the Law is approved, and the AIs are ready to be sent to the government for approval, the KPCVA has the legal basis to begin its mandate.

Close Cooperation with CCPR

During this Quarter, PRP continued to cooperate and coordinate closely with CCPR. PRP and CCPR met together on a monthly basis with the MoJ to discuss the progress in the work of the two projects. Among the specific topics discussed at these meetings were developments in the Family Law section of the draft Civil Code and possible timetables for developing procedural laws that complement the Civil Code.

PRP also attended the meetings of the CCPR Steering Committee and also CCPR's Close-out Event when its mandate ended in June 2016. Work on the Civil Code will be resumed following a tender by the EU for the second phase of the work, currently contemplated to be for three years.

The Draft Final Evaluation Report for the CCPR Project Cites the Inclusive Approach Taken for the National Strategy as Exemplary and Praises CCPR-PRP Coordination

The EU's Assessment Team for the CCPR met with PRP to solicit comments related to the performance of the CCPR and on the EU's approach in organizing the project. PRP also attended working sessions convened by the CCPR Assessment Team, which presented the Team's mandate; and its initial findings to stakeholders for discussion.

The Assessment Team's draft evaluation report notes that the inclusive, participatory approach taken by the MoJ-PRP initiative to draft the National Strategy would be a viable model for drafting the Civil Code, too. According to the draft report, this approach should be taken as regional best practice. It suggested that using similar approaches in the future could have a positive impact in fostering cooperation across development initiatives. (Please note: PRP has not yet received a copy of the final Evaluation Report.)

The draft Evaluation Report also praised the close cooperation between PRP and CCPR:

"There is no doubt that the level of coordination reached [between PRP and CCPR], in this case through an MoU and several (monthly) meetings, has been a success that opened the field for future similar experiences in any field of work between these organizations as main donors in the region, and its future continuation will have indeed a very positive impact in development cooperation policies. This cooperation has not only been reflected in the sharing of experiences and division of tasks, with PRP assuming the lead in the National Property Rights Strategy, but has its most relevant expression in the production of joint papers, such as the one referred to as *Joint Paper on Strengthening Women's Right to Property* already referred to above."

"As a result of this cooperation, regular meetings between the CCPR, PRP project and MoJ were taking place on a monthly basis (first Wednesday of the month). In general terms the coordination with the PRP project has been very successful and has avoided not only overlapping but also [*sic*] a joint coordination of activities."

First Deputy PM Kuçi Praises USAID PRP at CCPR Close-Out Event

DPM/Moj Kuçi was among the speakers at the close-out Visibility Event for the EU-funded Civil Code and Property Rights Project, and he praised the close cooperation between PRP and CCPR, citing the findings in the report issued by the independent evaluators of CCPR.

COOPERATION AND COORDINATION WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

PRP and World Bank RECAP Coordinate Next Steps on the National Strategy and the Law on Cadastre

PRP met with Mr. David Egiashvili, expert for World Bank RECAP, which is providing support to the Kosovo Cadastral Agency, who brought PRP up to date on developments and requested PRP's participation in reviewing the new draft Law on Cadastre when it is ready.

PRP noted to Mr. Egiashvili three key points that it would like to see reflected in the draft Law on Cadastre.

- The Cadastre should be publicly available and accessible for free, including information about the owner of a property.
- Cadastral fees should be based on a cost-recovery basis.
- It would be desirable to have the local Municipal Cadastral Offices brought under the authority of the KCA, rather than remaining under the authority of the municipalities (which is the

position set forth in the Concept Document for the draft Law, and which the World Bank supports).

PRP also met with Mr. Peter Laaraker, the expert hired by the World Bank, to draft the new Law on Cadastre.

PRP Attends the Quarterly Meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Land Administration

PRP updated the committee meeting on the progress of work on the National Strategy.

PRP Provides MoF with Comments on Draft Law on Property Tax and Other Matters

PRP met with the adviser of the Ministry of Finance (MoF) to argue against a provision proposed by the MoF for the draft Law on Property Tax that would empower a Municipal Property Tax Office to have the right to submit a request for issuance of the certificate (decision) of inheritance to the competent public authority if the private parties fail to take action. PRP believes the proposal is inappropriate and unworkable.

At the same time, PRP welcomes the MoF's recognition of the problems arising from outdated and inaccurate land records. PRP urged the MoF to take an active interest in the development of the National Strategy, which is directed at problems posed by informality.

PRP has scheduled a meeting with the Director of the Property Tax Department at MoF to discuss the Draft Law on the Prevention of Money Laundering and Combating Terrorist Financing, with focus on bank transactions for immovable property transactions before 2004.

PRP Attends Seminar "Property Issues in Kosovo, Legislation and Law Implementation Challenges"

The Seminar was organized by the University of Pristina Law School and featured presentations by five faculty members. PRP used the discussion period to describe the salient aspects of the National Strategy.

PRP Consulted by Team for new IDI Project Requests PRP Input

The EU-funded project, led by International Development Ireland, will provide technical support to KIESA (the investment promotion agency that is within MTI).

Meeting with the European Commission Country Report 2016 (formerly known as Progress Report)

PRP held an extensive meeting with the EUSR Political Advisor that focused on dialogue implementation and property rights. The EUSR Political Advisor is in charge of providing input for the Country Report's property rights section. PRP briefed him on the National Property Rights Strategy and MoJ's efforts to advance it.

US Ambassador Cites Statistics from PRP's Survey on Property Rights

At the Launch Event of the Credit Guarantee Fund, which was supported by the USAID EMPOWER Credit Support Program, the US Ambassador spoke and cited statistics related to the low number of women-owned businesses and the challenges women face in exercising their property rights.

ENCOURAGING AND PROMOTING MEDIA COVERAGE OF PROPERTY RIGHTS ISSUES

Tasking Production Company to Develop Ideas for Media Campaign on Legal Reform Issues

In this Quarter, PRP briefed its production company, Pi Communications, which is PRP's subcontractor for the current media campaign on women's property rights, on the work being done by PRP and the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) to reform the property rights regime in Kosovo through a National Strategy on Property Rights, in order to commence the development of ideas for a campaign on the issues to be addressed by the National Strategy in addition to those concerning the equal rights of women.

The timing of the campaign is of major importance, since it is agreed that the campaign should be launched only when specific reform initiatives have been identified, i.e., not before the National Strategy has been adopted.

Roundtable to Educate Journalists on Property Rights Issues Generates Heightened Interest and More Well-Informed Media Coverage

PRP organized a roundtable with the MoJ to provide journalists with a better understanding of the issues and challenges that the National Strategy is being designed to address. Following this event, PRP was approached by the journalists present with requests for specific information about the work being done in the area of property rights in Kosovo. This was followed by the appearance of some articles and news features, including some described below.

PRP and MoJ Appear on National TV (RTK) on the Topic of the National Strategy

Following the roundtable with local journalists, PRP Objective I Lead Xhevat Azemi and MoJ Director of the Department for European Integration Lulzim Beqiri appeared on the morning show at RTK to discuss the National Strategy. The link to the program can be found below: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4lgC3N5-O5o>

Article in Koha Ditore on PRP's and MoJ's work on the National Strategy

An article on the National Strategy and PRP's contribution on this process was published by Koha Ditore on April 30, with the title: "[trans.] Property Problems Aimed to be Resolved with Strategy." The link to the article can be found below; the full article was published in the print version of the newspaper that same day (orig. title "Me Strategji synohet që të zgjidhen problemet me pronën"). <http://koha.net/?id=27&l=110910>

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

PRP IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN ITS DCM REPORT

PRP Completes Review of the KJC Database

As reported previously, the Action Plan developed by PRP and approved by the KJC for activities to address the findings in PRP's Report, "Caseflow Management for Property Rights Cases in the Basic Courts," (the DCM Report) (which was submitted to USAID and the KJC in final form in December 2015) contemplated that data on pending cases would be gathered to make it possible to identify specific problems and obstacles in the courts' caseflow management of property and civil cases.

The DCM Report also called for a review of the KJC Database (the Database) to determine if it could be used for this purpose. Local STTA hired by PRP conducted a review of the Database and determined that it would be feasible to modify the Database for this purpose. In this Quarter, PRP presented these initial conclusions to USAID in its report, "A Review of the Feasibility of Modifying the KJC Case Registration System to Support Proposed Reforms in Caseflow Management."

However, when PRP began to perform a "hands-on" review of the Database, together with the KJC IT Department and USAID JSSP, it was determined that it would not be practicable to undertake the modification of the Database, because it would likely require a considerable amount of time and money. Among the challenges presented was the fact that the IT Department had no documentation on the technical specifications of the Database, nor a user's manual for it. In addition, it was unclear whether the Vendor would be required to make changes to the Database and whether such work would be covered by the Warranty.

In addition, it was reported that the Case Management Information System (CMIS), which was being developed for the Kosovo courts with Norwegian donor funding, would be introduced in an introductory trial form in September 2016, and it was unclear whether data entered into the Database could be migrated to the CMIS. (USAID had rightly insisted that any data entered be able to be migrated to the CMIS when it comes on line.) PRP and the KJC IT Department therefore agreed that it made sense not to proceed with modifying the Database.

(It should be noted that, in view of its final determination not to modify the Database for its own purposes, PRP did not finalize its preliminary report on the Database to reflect USAID's comments, since that report was premised on the view that PRP would modify and use the Database for PRP's caseflow management initiative.)

PRP Develops Own Data-Gathering Instrument Based on Excel

In view of this development PRP designed and developed an Excel spreadsheet (the Spreadsheet) that has been tailored to meet PRP's needs for gathering data from pending cases in the CoMs. In reaching this decision, PRP consulted with USAID CLE on its experience in using an Excel spreadsheet for tracking the enforcement of judgments, as was suggested by USAID. The Spreadsheet was developed through intensive collaboration by PRP's STTA expert in the US, Mr. Ron Stout, who authored the DCM Report, and PRP here in Kosovo, to ensure that the Spreadsheet conforms to the legal procedures and categories currently in use in Kosovo courts.

PRP Caseflow Management Staff Hired, Trained and Embedded in their Courts

In this Quarter, PRP completed hiring procedures for three Court Records Management Specialists (CRMs) to work in the Basic Courts of Gjilan/Gnjilane, Ferizaj/Uroševac and Pejë/Peć to gather caseflow management data. The CRMs have been introduced to the judges of their respective courts and have been successfully integrated into those courts. PRP provided intensive training to the CRMs on the Spreadsheet and the CRMs have commenced gathering data on pending civil cases. The CRMs are also providing useful suggestions on minor adjustments to the Spreadsheet to reflect the realities “on the ground” that they are encountering in their work.

The CRMs have begun this work by inventorying the pending caseloads of one judge in each CoM and are conducting this work in close collaboration with the judges and court secretaries. The CRMs have discovered that case files are often poorly organized and missing procedural documents; that cases are often reassigned among judges; and that many cases are sitting idle with no action taken. A preliminary report with findings and recommendations is being developed.

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

PRP Elicits Input on National Strategy from Judicial Advisory Committee

PRP continued its collaboration with the Judicial Advisory Committee to elicit comments and suggestions on Concept Note #3 of the National Strategy. A representative of the Judicial Advisory Committee also took part in the final working session of the CTG and provided recommendations to address issues affecting the adjudication of property rights disputes.

Helping Courts Unify their Practice in Adjudicating Property Disputes

A major impediment to a robust rule of law in Kosovo is the fact that most judicial opinions are not published. This has many negative consequences: the courts’ have limited accountability; legal experts and citizens cannot know how courts are likely to deal with any given case; policymakers cannot learn what problems courts encounter in applying the law; and judges themselves cannot benefit from their fellows’ experience and practice.

In this Quarter, PRP has used its cooperation with the CoMs to collect a significant number of decisions of court appeals and has begun analyzing these decisions. This will enable PRP to identify inconsistencies and problematic issues in judicial practice, which PRP will use to develop recommendations to enable the courts to address these issues and to unify their practice in applying the law.

CoM judges have informed PRP that they do not have access to decisions of the Court of Appeals, and this creates difficulties for them in their own application of the law. (This is evidenced by the significant numbers of cases that are overturned by the Court of Appeals.) Judges have also indicated a need for training in property law. This applies in particular to judges that have been appointed recently.

PRP will use the results of its analysis of substantive case law to develop modules for training and discussions that will draw on law and practice, to help the courts improve their adjudication of property cases.

PRP and JSSP to Collaborate on Helping Improve Judicial Performance Standards

PRP’s analysis of courts’ caseflow management of civil cases will provide useful findings for improving the legal framework that governs judicial performance. PRP has already determined through its analysis that significant delays are occasioned by current case assignment practices and by disposition

norms. PRP has found, for example, that cases are often not assigned before 30 days after filing; and that the current blanket requirement that each judge dispose of a minimum of 30 cases per month is having counter-productive effects by encouraging judges to give priority to easy and quick cases and to postpone dealing with the more complex ones (such as property cases).

PRP and JSSP have agreed to share their findings in this area to collaborate closely in developing recommendations for judicial performance standards and requirements that will reduce delays and prevent backlogs.

Additional Topics to be Included in Report on Minorities' Property Rights

In the previous quarter, PRP submitted to USAID drafts of two additional and comprehensive analytical reports that concern issues surrounding access to justice and effective adjudication: "Informality in the Land Sector: The Issue of Delayed Inheritance in Kosovo" and "Issues Affecting the Ability of Members of Minority Communities in Kosovo to Exercise Their Property Rights." The first of the two reports presents PRP's analysis of and proposed solutions for the challenges posed by the fact that many land records are registered in the name of deceased persons. The second of the two reports presents findings and recommendations related to issues faced by displaced persons and minority communities in connection with illegally occupied property; receiving timely notice of matters concerning their property; access to justice; and religious and cultural property.

After receiving comments from USAID on both reports, in this Quarter PRP revised them accordingly and submitted revised versions to USAID. USAID has approved the report on delayed inheritance. As for the report on minorities' property rights, USAID has accepted the report but has requested that the report be expanded to include two additional topics – the challenges facing minorities in connection with actions taken by the Kosovo Privatization Agency and in taking part in judicial proceedings. PRP will complete this additional research and finalize the report during the next quarter.

OBJECTIVE 3: ENHANCED 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

Development of Package of Legislative Amendments to Support Women's Rights in Inheritance

As noted above in the section on Objective 1, during this Quarter, and at the request of the MoJ, PRP drafted revisions to a package of laws (the Law on Inheritance; the Law on Notary; the Law on Non-Contested Procedure; and the Law on Civil Registry) to improve the legal framework governing inheritance, with an aim of creating procedural safeguards to ensure that women – and all heirs – are notified that an inheritance proceeding is underway; are not omitted from the Act of Death issued by the Civil Status Office; are informed of the consequences of renouncing one's inheritance; and are given a period of reflection to enable them to make decisions on their inheritance with due deliberation. The revisions also reinforce the requirement to invoke criminal penalties against those who seek to hide heirs or to coerce heirs to renounce their inheritance.

PRP will provide these revisions to the MoJ in the early weeks of the next quarter, when they have been translated into Albanian.

Facilitating Implementation of the Administrative Instruction for the Joint Registration of Property by Spouses

At the request of the AGE, PRP supported the AGE's efforts to inform officials and the public of the Administrative Instruction (AI) that permits spouses to register immovable property jointly. In this connection, PRP produced an animated video public service announcement to inform the public about the AI and the requirements and procedures for registering property jointly. The PSA was presented in a high-profile launch event of the AI on June 15, 2016, which was chaired by Prime Minister Isa Mustafa and featured remarks by USAID Mission Director James Hope.

The PSA is being aired in Radio Television of Kosovo (RTK) and is promoted through the Për Të Mirën Tonë Facebook page and the USAID Kosovo YouTube page. PRP and the AGE will carry out additional activities to inform other relevant national and local government bodies of the AI and secure their support for its implementation. The English version of the PSA can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ms2fzgHQD0>

PRP also assisted in drafting the AI, which was adopted by the GoK in February 2016. It can be found in the Official Gazette at the following link: <http://gzk.rks.gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=12418>.

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

NATIONAL SOCIAL BEHAVIOR CHANGE COMMUNICATION (SBCC) MEDIA CAMPAIGN

Additional Media Products Included in SBCC Campaign

In this Quarter PRP continued and expanded its media campaign in support to women's property rights "For Our Common Good," with the continuing development of media products that include

Public Service Announcements (PSAs), News Feature Stories and Radio Ads. The PSA's, News Feature Stories and Radio Ads targeting women and men have been aired in the main national TV stations (RTK, KTV, RTV21, Klan TV), and in two radio stations (Radio Dukagjini and Radio Kosova), and that coverage will continue.

The PSA, News Feature Story and Radio Ads targeting parents have been developed and started being aired as of April 2016.

In addition, similar products have been developed with and for the Serbian Community and have been aired as of April 2016 on the TV and radio Stations of the Kosovo Serbian Community, including TV Herc, RTV Plus, TV Kim and Radio Kim.

For all campaign products, PRP has developed versions with English subtitles for USAID's Facebook page, YouTube and other venues frequented by foreigners.

PSA for the Women Target Audience

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rwjeHjPG8Hg> (85 sec.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SZQIAd9rI5c> (25 sec.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=87InB337z4w> (17 sec.)

News Feature Story for the Women Target Audience

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0nVw-4EJJE>

PSA for the Men Target Audience

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e5Emkau4i_U (85 sec.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rZbmUg4qHO8> (25 sec.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qX3ETApIHCo> (17 sec.)

News Feature Story for the Men Target Audience

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ccgNWxIHQ0>

Media Coverage of SBBC Campaign Expanded

PRP has requested its production company, Pi Communications, to develop a media plan and budget to extend the SBCC media campaign and expand it to the community level by running the media products on local television and radio stations. This expanded coverage began in April 2016.

NATIONAL SBCC GRASSROOTS CAMPAIGN

To complement the national media campaign on women's property rights, PRP is conducting and planning a range of public outreach activities at the community level using a variety of approaches and methods.

Written Materials Developed for Community Advocacy on Women's Property Rights

PRP has developed written materials in support to advocacy efforts on women's property rights for distribution at various community events. The materials include a leaflet that explains the property inheritance rights of women, and a Për Të Mirën Tonë (For Our Common Good) campaign palm card to increase the campaign's name recognition.

PRP will also enlist partner organizations and cooperating stakeholders in the dissemination of this material.

Arts Activity for Viti/Vitina Second-Graders

In close cooperation with Viti/Vitina municipal officials, including the Viti/Vitina Department of Education, PRP assembled about 70 second-graders in the Art Gallery of the Viti/Vitina House of Culture and asked each of them to draw a picture on the topic of "Home and Family." The children were accompanied by their teachers and the Director of the school. PRP provided the children with drawing kits (which the children took home with them afterwards) and gave them a brief

introduction on the goals of PRP's work, emphasizing the importance of equality and sharing. The drawing session was interactive, with a well-known actor and PRP staff engaging with the children.

At the end of the session, the children received bags of treats and PRP gathered the drawings, each with the child author's name on it. PRP may include some of the drawings in its public outreach campaign. In addition, the drawings will be exhibited in the gallery of the House of Culture on the day of the Launch Event for the national grassroots campaign, which will also be held in Viti/Vitina and is described below.



PI COMMUNICATION / USAID PRP

School children, teachers, municipal staff, USAID Mission representatives and PRP staff pose for a photo at the end of a drawing activity in Viti/Vitina municipality to promote the theme of "Home and Family."

Thank-You Cards Sent to the Children's Parents

PRP sent home with the children thank-you cards, both to express appreciation to the parents for their children's participation in the art activity; and also to make parents aware of USAID's and PRP's activities to strengthen property rights.

Press Conference Held in Viti/Vitina Following the Children's Art Activity

The press conference featured the Mayor of Viti/Vitina, the Director of the Office of Democracy and Governance at USAID Kosovo, and the PRP COP.

The press conference was used to provide the following information:

- PRP (USAID) is carrying out grassroots activities for public advocacy on women's property rights, in addition to the media campaign in progress.
- PRP (USAID) has selected Viti/Vitina as the site for the Launch Event for the national grassroots campaign on women's property rights.
- PRP (USAID) and the Viti/Vitina municipal administration have adopted a plan of activities to be carried out with the municipal administration and in the Viti/Vitina community to improve the ability of all Viti/Vitina citizens (not only women) to exercise their property rights.

Local and central media were present at the event. The event was featured on the evening news of local TV stations and in an article in the national press. (See the links below).

<https://www.facebook.com/plustelevizion/videos/vb.181419081857/10154042688401858/?type=2&theater>

<http://plus-televizion.tv/ne-viti-ka-nisur-fushata-sensibilizuese-per-perkrahje-te-te-drejtave-te-grave-ne-prone/>

<http://koha.net/?id=9&l=117414>

Video Clip from Children's Art Activity Prepared for Media Campaign

PRP's production company, Pi Communications, has produced a video clip using interviews with the 8-year-olds that took part in the Viti/Vitina art activity. The video clip will be featured at the grassroots campaign launch event in Viti/Vitina, and may be used in the national media campaign, too.

Planning for Public Launch Event for Grassroots Campaign

During this Quarter, PRP conceived and began planning a launch event in Viti/Vitina on July 19, 2016 to secure public attention for the campaign of grassroots public outreach activities that PRP is carrying out on women's property rights. The US Ambassador is scheduled to make remarks, along with the mayor of Viti/Vitina, and the launch event will feature a demonstration of forum theater as a means of raising public awareness of social issues.

Advocacy with "Citizen Advocates"

PRP has agreed to support a group of seven women from the NDI Academy who have chosen property rights as the area which they would like to engage in public advocacy, on a volunteer basis, as an extension of their training at the NDI Academy. The seven volunteers are from different municipalities and will engage in advocacy activities in nine (9) municipalities.

In this Quarter, PRP provided training to these seven women volunteers on advocacy skills and outreach techniques to help them advocate effectively on women's property rights; and also provided instruction on the current law and practice surrounding women's property rights; salient issues being addressed in the National Strategy; and the challenges women face in connection with inheritance. The Citizen Advocates will also receive PRP materials for distribution at their events.



Panel discussion meeting in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica hosted by PRP and volunteer Citizen Advocates on the importance of women's property rights.

In addition, during this quarter, PRP sponsored several discussion sessions with Citizen Advocates in a number of communities, including Prugovc/Prugovac Village, Prishtinë/Priština; Gračanica/Graçanicë municipality; Mitrovicë/Mitrovica municipality; Shale e Bajgores Village in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica; and Skënderaj/Srbica municipality. Approximately 200 local community women and youngsters participated in these discussion sessions aiming at changing social behaviors and attitudes on women's property rights in Kosovo.

These discussion meetings also featured panel discussions with various people from different institutions. In addition to PRP's gender expert, who also gave presentations on issues related to women's ability to exercise their property rights, these panels included a national Parliamentary MP, a Judge from the Gračanica/Graçanicë Basic Court, municipal gender officers from Prishtinë/Priština and Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, and a representative from Women for Women International in Prishtinë/Priština.

Activities with the Forum of Women Judges and Prosecutors to Reach Out to Youth

During this Quarter, PRP and the Forum of Women Judges and Prosecutors (the Forum), represented by Ms. Sevdije Morina, the head of the Forum, began planning and carrying out joint public outreach activities on formalizing one's property rights; and on women's property rights issues, including inheritance and renunciation. These outreach activities are aimed primarily at high school students. Under their agreement, PRP will provide financial support for these activities as reasonably necessary and to make presentations on property rights issues. (The Forum will soon register as a non-profit organization, and PRP has encouraged them to apply for grants from the E4E Program.)

During this Quarter, PRP and the Forum held an event for high school students from Podujevë/Podujevo municipality that featured lectures and discussion to raise awareness on domestic

violence and the Law on Inheritance. The judge, Drita Rexha, who deals with civil cases, including property and inheritance cases, spoke about the inheritance procedure; the prosecutor Fikrije Fejzullahu spoke about domestic violence; and PRP made a presentation on the traditional mentality, attitudes and behavior of Kosovo citizens with respect to property rights and women's inheritance. The discussion underscored the correlation between women's property rights and domestic violence.

This was followed by a joint PRP/Forum information session and discussion held at the Basic Court in Gjilan/Gnjilane. Invited to this event were young lawyers, judges, and citizens from all 12 municipalities of the Gjilan/Gnjilane region. PRP spoke about the program overall, with a focus on the legal issues related to women and property rights. PRP also spoke about the ongoing campaign to prompt changes in social attitudes and behavior related to women's property rights. The presentations were followed by a presentation of PRP's PSAs and a documentary film provided by the Forum. A third such event was later held in Drenas/Glogovac.

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

Collaboration with the Agency for Gender Equality in the Gender Coordination Group

In this Quarter, PRP and the Agency for Gender Equality (AGE) organized a regular meeting of the Gender Coordination Group on Women's Property Rights. The meeting featured a regular exchange of information by GCG members and a presentation of project activities by the recently awarded E4E sub-grantees under the ATRC objective to support women's property rights.

Support to ATRC and Sub-Grantees

In this Quarter, PRP met with ATRC and ATRC E4E sub-grantee ArtPolis to discuss constraints that women face in exercising their property rights in Kosovo and their treatment in the National Strategy; possible interventions and recommendations for overcoming these obstacles; and the ongoing media campaign in support of women's property rights. ArtPolis will use this information to identify the issues to be addressed in its forum theater productions on women's property rights, which it will carry out under its E4E grant starting in September, in support of PRP's grassroots campaign.

PRP continued to hold regular joint meetings with ATRC and the sub-grantees to provide technical support on the topic of women and property rights. PRP and ATRC met with BIRN to discuss potential new story angles for BIRN to pursue for print and TV. During this

Quarter, over four articles were posted on BIRN's website and two TV shows were produced and broadcast on subjects related to women's property rights.



BIRN story showing independent research on the percentage of women who have property registered in their name across the region.



BIRN story featuring Shukrie Berisha who, after 11 years of court battles, received a final ruling in 2016 that the home she and her late husband occupied legally belongs to her, extinguishing ownership claims made by her late husband's relatives.

PRP also participated in the ATRC/E4E program Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to review and identify the projects from the third round of call for applications to be proposed for grants, subject to USAID approval. A total of 84 proposals were reviewed, of which 23 were sent to USAID for final approval. Of those, 8 grants were awarded, two of which address women and property rights.

In addition, PRP attended the Women in Economic Growth Coordination Meeting organized by the USAID EMPOWER Project, where EMPOWER informed the participants that responsibility for these coordination meetings will be handed over to the ATRC sub-grantee Riinvest, which is carrying out a project on women and economic development. PRP used this opportunity to inform Riinvest about its work and encouraged them to include property rights as part of their implementation program. PRP and Riinvest agreed to seek further opportunities for cooperation.

PRP Planned Training of MGOs with the Advisory Committee of Municipal Gender Officers

PRP has formed an Advisory Committee of MGOs to better coordinate the support to MGOs in Kosovo. During this quarter, the committee met to plan the training on management skills for MGOs. The Advisory Committee proposed to have a two day training for two groups of MGOs that were into two regional hubs. Also, the dates of the training were set jointly.

Management Training for Municipal Gender Officers

In this quarter, PRP and its subcontractor, RTC, provided training in management skills to Municipal Gender Officers. The MGOs were divided in two groups for geographical convenience to avoid long travel distances. Each group received two days of intensive, interactive training, in Prizren and Pejë/Peć. A total of 19 MGOs took part, and they gave very positive feedback about their experience.

It is contemplated that 10 of the MGOs will receive mentoring through the Women in Business program led by RTC. The 10 MGOs were selected on the basis of their expression of interest and the subject on which they proposed to receive mentoring. This mentorship program is envisaged to be carried out during the next quarter and to be completed by October 2016.



Municipal Gender Officers discuss lessons about the importance of having management skills to aid their work so that they may be better capable to support crucial efforts to change behaviors regarding women's property rights. This training was held in Pejë/Peć.

H. LIMANI / USAID PRP

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

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

This Activity has been completed. PRP has presented to USAID a list of the municipalities recommended for possible G2G assistance, subject to the final selection by USAID.

ACTIVITY 4.2: ASSIST SELECTED MUNICIPALITIES TO ISSUE AND MANAGING PROCUREMENT TENDERS

This Activity can be undertaken when USAID has selected and cleared a municipality for G2G assistance.

ACTIVITY 4.3: FINALIZE AND IMPLEMENT CAPACITY BUILDING PLAN

CONDUCTING A PROGRAM OF REFORM ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE THE PROPERTY RIGHTS REGIME AT THE MUNICIPAL LEVEL

Conceptualization and Design of Program of Activities

During this Quarter, PRP conceived and designed a program of activities to improve municipal services related to property registration and property rights at the local level. The activities are aimed at identifying ways to improve the practices of municipal institutions, increase their cooperation and streamline their operations and procedures; to make information available to citizens on their legal rights and obligations related to property and on how they can exercise their property rights; and to assist the municipality in supporting women's property rights.

Action Plan Developed and Approved by Viti/Vitina Municipal Administration

PRP drafted a detailed action plan of these activities and shared them with the municipal administration of Viti/Vitina municipality. Meetings were held with the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, the Head of the Legal Office, and the Acting Director of the MCO to receive comments and feedback on the proposed Action Plan.

The mayor of Viti/Vitina and his team welcomed the proposal and agreed to support the activities it contemplates.

The Action Plan consists of the following objectives:

- Simplifying property registration with a focus on property rights arising out of (a) inheritance; (b) a court adjudication; (c) a private purchase and sale; and (d) legalization
- Improving information-sharing and cooperation among relevant local institutions (e.g., the municipal cadastral office; the civil status office; the courts; the notaries; and municipal departments)
- Working with local institutions to support women's property rights
- Developing handbooks and supporting training for the MCO and other staff on improved policies, procedures and operations
- Producing useful and clear legal information for the public
- Conducting a survey within the community to determine if people have registered their property, and if not, why not

- Supporting public outreach by the municipal administration to local citizens on women's property rights

The Facebook link to the meeting where PRP discussed this initiative with Mayor Haliti of Viti/Vitina can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/Komuna-e-Vitis%C3%AB-681477651898299/>

Commencement of Legal Research and Field Research in Viti/Vitina

Following the approval for the Action Plan by Viti/Vitina municipal officials, PRP began analyzing relevant national and local law relevant to property registration and began conducting interviews with local officials, beginning with the head of the legal office and officials in the MCO and the civil status office. PRP will compare its findings from the field research against the requirements of national law and develop recommendations for improving procedures and making it easier for citizens to register their property.

PRP also met with officials from the Department of Youth, Culture and Sports to discuss PRP's proposed outreach activities that PRP is planning to undertake in Viti/Vitina as part of this initiative. Those officials underscored their readiness to assist in these activities. PRP also visited the local TV station, Plus TV, which appears to have wide coverage in Viti/Vitina and surrounding municipalities, and within the diaspora. PRP met with the general director of the TV and presented him with an overview of PRP's program and activities. PRP believes this TV station will be very useful for disseminating information engaging in public outreach to support PRP's activities.

PRP plans to complete this research and analysis and develop recommendations by the end of the next quarter.

Attending Inauguration Event of the MCO Office in Gjilan/Gnjilane Municipality

During this Quarter, PRP attended the inauguration event of the MCO in Gjilan/Gnjilane, following infrastructural refurbishments to the office funded by the World Bank RECAP project. PRP attended this event to keep abreast of assistance that MCOs are receiving, to inform PRP's own planning.

PROJECT SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Performance Indicator	DO & IR that the Project Supports	Baseline Value	Target Yr. 2 [Y1+Y2]	Actual Yr. 2 [Y1+Y2]	Target LoP [Y1+Y2+Y3+Y4]	Actual LoP [Y1+Y2]	Quarter 8 Reported Results
OBJECTIVE I: IMPROVE COORDINATION AND POLICY PRIORITIES							
1.1} Number of strategies drafted and approved by the government.	<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	1 [Y1=0] [Y2=1]	0 [Y1=0] [Y2=0]	1 [Y1=0] [Y2=1] [Y3=0] [Y4=0]	0 [Y1=0] [Y2=0]	First draft of "National Strategy on Property Rights" to be produced within next Quarter.
1.2} Number of laws drafted and approved /Accepted by line ministry/government as a result of USG assistance.	<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	2 [Y1=0] [Y2=2]	I/D [Y1=0] [Y2=1]	6 [Y1=0] [Y2=2] [Y3=2] [Y4=2]	I/D [Y1=0] [Y2=1]	N/A
1.3} Number of secondary legislation drafted and approved.	<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	7 [Y1=1] [Y2=6]	7 [Y1=6] [Y2=1]	14 [Y1=1] [Y2=6] [Y3=3] [Y4=4]	7 (1A+6D) [Y1=6] [Y2=1]	N/A

Performance Indicator	DO & IR that the Project Supports	Baseline Value	Target Yr. 2 [Y1+Y2]	Actual Yr. 2 [Y1+Y2]	Target LoP [Y1+Y2+Y3+Y4]	Actual LoP [Y1+Y2]	Quarter 8 Reported Results
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</i> <i>IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector</i>	0	4 [Y1=1] [Y2=3]	0 [Y1=0] [Y2=0]	12 [Y1=1] [Y2=3] [Y3=4] [Y4=4]	0 [Y1=0] [Y2=0]	N/A
2.2} Average 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</i> <i>IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector</i>	1249 (Days Average)	1186 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=1186]	KJC Database/ Court Records- TBD [Y1=N/A] [Y2=?]	936 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=1186] [Y3=1061] [Y4=936]	KJC Database / Court Records- TBD [Y1=N/A] [Y2=?]	N/A
2.3} Percent of property disputes cases resolved in courts within 2 years.	<i>DO: Improved Rule of Law and Governance that meet Citizen's Needs</i> <i>IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector</i>	32%	37% [Y1=N/A] [Y2=37%]	KJC Database/ Court Records- TBD [Y1=N/A] [Y2=?]	72% [Y1=N/A] [Y2=37%] [Y3=52%] [Y4=72%]	KJC Database / Court Records- TBD [Y1=N/A] [Y2=?]	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</i> <i>IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector</i>	22%	N/A [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A]	N/A [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A]	52% [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A] [Y3=42%] [Y4=52%]	N/A [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A]	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</i> <i>IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector</i>	0	50 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=50]	0 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=0]	450 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=50] [Y3=100] [Y4=300]	0 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=0]	N/A

Performance Indicator	DO & IR that the Project Supports	Baseline Value	Target Yr. 2 [Y1+Y2]	Actual Yr. 2 [Y1+Y2]	Target LoP [Y1+Y2+Y3+Y4]	Actual LoP [Y1+Y2]	Quarter 8 Reported Results
2.6} Number of USG-assisted courts with improved case management related to resolution of property claims and disputes.	<i>DO: Improved Rule of Law and Governance that meet Citizen's Needs</i> <i>IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector</i>	0	4 [Y1=4] [Y2=N/A]	0 [Y1=0] [Y2=0]	9 [Y1=4] [Y2=N/A] [Y3=4] [Y4=1]	4* [Y1=0] [Y2=4*]	* PRP is in process of assisting 4 Courts (Gjilan/Gnjilane Peja/Peć, Ferizaj/ Uroševac and Branch Court Shtërpçë/Štrpçe) with improved case management related to resolution of property claims and disputes.
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</i> <i>IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector</i>	0	4 [Y1=1] [Y2=3]	0 [Y1=0] [Y2=0]	12 [Y1=1] [Y2=3] [Y3=4] [Y4=4]	0 [Y1=0] [Y2=0]	N/A
OBJECTIVE 3: ENHANCED ABILITY FOR WOMEN TO ACCESS THEIR PROPERTY RIGHTS IN PRACTICE							
3.1} Number of people from civil society and "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</i> <i>IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector; Civil Society Strengthened to Increasingly Engage Constructively with Government</i>	0	40 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=40]	22 [Y1=4] [Y2=18]	80 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=40] [Y3=40] [Y4=N/A]	45 [Y1=4] [Y2=41]	4 persons -Citizen Advocates Training on Advocacy and Public Outreach 8 persons - Training on Management Skills for Municipal Gender Officers (Peja/Peć)

Performance Indicator	DO & IR that the Project Supports	Baseline Value	Target Yr. 2 [Y1+Y2]	Actual Yr. 2 [Y1+Y2]	Target LoP [Y1+Y2+Y3+Y4]	Actual LoP [Y1+Y2]	Quarter 8 Reported Results
							<p>1 person- Citizen Advocates Training on Advocacy and Public Outreach + Training on Management Skills for Municipal Gender Officers (Pejal/Peć)</p> <p>10 persons- Training on Management Skills for Municipal Gender Officers (Prizren)</p>
3.2} Number of communication outreach products, developed and disseminated by PRP and “E4E CSO-s.”	<p>DO: Improved Rule of Law and Governance that meet Citizen’s Needs</p> <p>IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector; Civil Society Strengthened to Increasingly Engage Constructively with Government</p>	0	<p>35 [Y1=10] [Y2=25]</p>	<p>25 [Y1=5] [Y2=20]</p>	<p>70 [Y1=10] [Y2=25] [Y3=25] [Y4=10]</p>	<p>28 (22 PRP + 6 E4E) [Y1=5] [Y2=20]</p>	<p>(1) Animated video to promote the Administrative Instruction (AI) on Special Measures for Registration of Joint Immovable Property on Behalf of Both Spouses</p> <p>(1) Thank-You Card for the Children for the June, 2016- Event in Viti/Vitina.</p> <p>(1) Fact Sheet for the Children for the</p>

Performance Indicator	DO & IR that the Project Supports	Baseline Value	Target Yr. 2 [Y1+Y2]	Actual Yr. 2 [Y1+Y2]	Target LoP [Y1+Y2+Y3+Y4]	Actual LoP [Y1+Y2]	Quarter 8 Reported Results
							June 8, 2016- Event in Viti/Vitina.
3.3} Number of communication and outreach campaigns, developed/supported by USG assistance.	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 [Y1=0] [Y2=1]	1 [Y1=0] [Y2=1]	1 [Y1=0] [Y2=1] [Y3=N/A] [Y4=N/A]	1 [Y1=0] [Y2=1]	N/A
3.4} Number of communication outreach activities and events developed and implemented by PRP and "E4E CSO-s to change cultural attitudes and behaviors about women's property rights.	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	57 [Y1=7] [Y2=50]	12 [Y1=7] [Y2=5]	114 [Y1=7] [Y2=50] [Y3=50] [Y4=7]	23 [Y1=7] [Y2=16]	(1) KTV Interviews PRP (Xhevat Azemi) and Moj on the National Strategy on Property Rights: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=41gC3N5-O5o (1) RTV 21- afternoon program "Bon Bon Interviews Merita Limani (PRP) to discuss on women's property rights. (1) PRP Roundtable with Journalists (1) Children's Art Activity in Viti/Vitina (1) PRP and Forum for Women Judges and Prosecutors

Performance Indicator	DO & IR that the Project Supports	Baseline Value	Target Yr. 2 [Y1+Y2]	Actual Yr. 2 [Y1+Y2]	Target LoP [Y1+Y2+Y3+Y4]	Actual LoP [Y1+Y2]	Quarter 8 Reported Results
							<p>Hold a Joint Information Session and Discussion on Women Rights to Property at the Basic Court in Gjilan/Gnjilane (1) BIRN [E4E] Tv show on "Renunciation" Gratë Heqin Dorë nga Trashëgimia Shkaku i Traditës ..." http://kallxo.com/grate-heqin-dore-nga-trashegimia-shkaku-tradites/ (1) Citizen Advocate – Community Discussion Session in Prugovce (1) Citizen Advocate – Community Discussion Session in Bajgore (1) Citizen Advocate – Community Discussion Session in</p>

Performance Indicator	DO & IR that the Project Supports	Baseline Value	Target Yr. 2 [Y1+Y2]	Actual Yr. 2 [Y1+Y2]	Target LoP [Y1+Y2+Y3+Y4]	Actual LoP [Y1+Y2]	Quarter 8 Reported Results
							Gracanice/Gračanica (1) Citizen Advocate – Community Discussion Session in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica (1) Citizen Advocate – Community Discussion Session in Skënderaj/Srbica
3.5} Percentage of citizens who have been reached by PRP and E4E lead social behavior campaign and 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</i> <i>IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector; Civil Society Strengthened to Increasingly Engage Constructively with Government</i>	0	20% [Y1=N/A] [Y2=20%]	National Survey (TBD Dec, 2016) [Y1=1] [Y2=6]	40% [Y1=N/A] [Y2=20%] [Y3=20%] [Y4=N/A]	National Survey (TBD Dec, 2016) [Y1=N/A] [Y2=?]	N/A
3.6} Percentage of citizens with negative attitude 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</i> <i>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% [Y1=N/A] [Y2=10%]	National Survey (TBD Dec, 2016) [Y1=N/A] [Y2=10%]	16% [Y1=N/A] [Y2=10%] [Y3=10%] [Y4=N/A]	National Survey (TBD Dec, 2016) [Y1=N/A] [Y2=?]	N/A

Performance Indicator	DO & IR that the Project Supports	Baseline Value	Target Yr. 2 [Y1+Y2]	Actual Yr. 2 [Y1+Y2]	Target LoP [Y1+Y2+Y3+Y4]	Actual LoP [Y1+Y2]	Quarter 8 Reported Results
3.7} Percentage 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)	N/A [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A]	National Survey (TBD Dec, 2016) [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A]	30% [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A] [Y3=10%] [Y4=20%]	National Survey (TBD Dec, 2016) [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A]	N/A
3.8} Percentage 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)	N/A [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A]	National Survey (TBD Dec, 2016) [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A]	33.8% [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A] [Y3=5%] [Y4=25%]	National Survey (TBD Dec, 2016) [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A]	N/A
OBJECTIVE 4: IMPROVED ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND UNDERSTANDING OF PROPERTY RIGHTS							
4.1} Number of 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 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=2]	0 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=0]	4 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=2] [Y3=2] [Y4=N/A]	0 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=0]	PRP is in process of assisting municipality of Viti/Vitina in improving services related to property transaction.

Performance Indicator	DO & IR that the Project Supports	Baseline Value	Target Yr. 2 [Y1+Y2]	Actual Yr. 2 [Y1+Y2]	Target LoP [Y1+Y2+Y3+Y4]	Actual LoP [Y1+Y2]	Quarter 8 Reported Results
4.2} Number of days to conduct property transactions reduced due to improved information systems in participating municipalities.	<i>DO: Increase Investment and Private Sector Employment IR: Improved Economic Governance & Business Environment</i>	28 (Days)	N/A [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A]	N/A [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A]	24 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A] [Y3=2] [Y4=2]	N/A [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A]	N/A
4.3} Number of parcels corrected or incorporated into land system in participating municipalities.	<i>DO: Increase Investment and Private Sector Employment IR: Improved Economic Governance & Business Environment</i>	0	80 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=80]	0 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=0]	440 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=80] [Y3=160] [Y4=200]	0 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=0]	N/A
4.4} Land rights formalized in participating municipalities.	<i>DO: Increase Investment and Private Sector Employment IR: Improved Economic Governance & Business Environment</i>	0	80 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=80]	0 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=0]	440 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=80] [Y3=160] [Y4=200]	0 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=0]	N/A
4.5} Percent of citizens with increased knowledge of their property rights.	<i>DO: Increase Investment and Private Sector Employment IR: Improved Economic Governance & Business Environment</i>	27% (Percent)	N/A [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A]	National Survey (TBD Dec, 2016) [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A]	52% [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A] [Y3=15%] [Y4=10]	National Survey (TBD Dec, 2016) [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A]	N/A

Performance Indicator	DO & IR that the Project Supports	Baseline Value	Target Yr. 2 [Y1+Y2]	Actual Yr. 2 [Y1+Y2]	Target LoP [Y1+Y2+Y3+Y4]	Actual LoP [Y1+Y2]	Quarter 8 Reported Results
4.6} Number of municipal officials in participating municipalities trained in property related issues.	DO: Increase Investment and Private Sector Employment IR: Improved Economic Governance & Business Environment	0	0 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A]	0 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A]	40 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A] [Y3=20] [Y4=20]	0 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A]	N/A

SUCCESS STORY

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



KOSOVO PROPERTY RIGHTS PROGRAM (PRP) SNAPSHOT

Women in Kosovo own a disproportionately small share of property. The USAID Property Rights Program (PRP) conducted a national survey in 2015, which among other things, revealed that only 16% of women in Kosovo own real property. Other research has corroborated these general findings. This situation poses a number of potentially negative consequences for women in particular and for Kosovo society in general. For the women, this can mean complete economic dependency on others; lost opportunities to pursue personal dreams and ambitions; and a reduced ability to help others in their families and in society. For the society, this means that women lack the opportunity to become entrepreneurs and create new businesses, to help the economy grow and to generate employment for others.

The reason why women own little property can be traced to patriarchal custom and traditions. Property has traditionally been passed on to male heirs only; and a daughter has traditionally been viewed as passing to their husband's family. As a result of these practices, women in Kosovo typically do not inherit property from their parents, or they renounce their inheritance in favor of their brothers and sons. According to the same survey, only around 4% of women inherit real property from their parents. The most common reasons cited in the survey for this are adherence to traditional patriarchal values and accepted views on the appropriate roles for women (68% of women surveyed affirm this); a lack of knowledge of one's legal rights; a reluctance to assert one's rights; and a reluctance to deal with formal institutions.

To help address this, PRP is undertaking a number of activities designed to change common practices using legal reforms and public advocacy. Here is one example of these efforts: PRP worked closely with the Agency for Gender Equality to draft an administrative instruction under the Law on Gender Equality that makes it possible for spouses to register their property jointly. PRP also facilitated discussion and coordination between the AGE and other relevant government bodies, such as the Kosovo Cadastral Agency and the Ministry of Finance. In addition, PRP produced an animated video

(in Albanian and Serbian versions) for Kosovo television to inform the public about the administrative instruction and provide guidance on how they can register property jointly.

The animated video was unveiled at a round-table on the administrative instruction that was sponsored by the AGE and chaired by the Prime Minister, with remarks by USAID Mission Director James Hope.

This work, and the production of the animated video, complement PRP's media campaign underway, for which PRP has developed a total of 24 media products for television, radio, and social media, under the rubric, *For Our Common Good*, under the auspices of the Office of the President of the Republic of Kosovo and in close cooperation with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kosovo.

To complement this national media campaign PRP is developing a variety of other kinds of public outreach activities to help reshape the attitudes about women's property rights, including local grassroots advocacy, connecting small business women with local role models and mentors, and other forms of outreach designed to gain the attention and interest of local communities.

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PROJECT BRIEF UPDATE

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



KOSOVO PROPERTY RIGHTS PROGRAM (PRP)

PROJECT BRIEF UPDATE

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

OUR WORK

This Quarter was very productive for PRP: it saw important developments in major initiatives in progress – the National Strategy on Property Rights; caseload management reform in Kosovo courts; and the media campaign on women’s property rights. In addition, in this Quarter PRP commenced grassroots activities on women’s property rights to complement its media campaign and

launched a pilot program of activities in Viti/Vitina municipality designed to help municipal administrations improve their practices and procedures related to property rights and enable their citizens to exercise their property rights more easily and efficiently.

Under **Objective 1**, PRP continued to move forward on schedule the development of the National Strategy on Property Rights: the Thematic Working Groups completed their work and the five Concept Notes, which will constitute the substantive basis of the National Strategy, were given final review by the Core Technical Group. PRP has finalized them. In addition, PRP prepared a first draft of the narrative core of the National Strategy – the "Zero" Draft – which provides strategic direction to the National Strategy and lays out its policy priorities. By the end of this Quarter, PRP had begun work to develop a first full draft of the National Strategy.

PRP continued to cooperate closely and constructively with the EU-funded Civil Code and Property Rights Project (CCPR), which ended its mandate in June 2016. A team of independent evaluators of CCPR praised the level of coordination and cooperation between the two projects as a model to be emulated by other EU projects, and also gave high praise to the inclusive approach taken in developing the National Strategy and urged that the follow-on EU project to develop the Civil Code take a similar approach. PRP also continued to work closely with the MoJ on significant legislative initiatives, most notably, a package of laws to create procedural safeguards to help address challenges women often face in connection with inheritance and to clarify the legal authority of the courts and notaries, respectively, with respect to non-contested inheritance proceedings.

Regarding **Objective 2**, PRP designed and developed an Excel spreadsheet tailored to support data-gathering on caseload management in the four courts. PRP also completed hiring procedures for three Court Record Management Specialists (CRMs) and installed them in PRP's three pilot courts, where they have commenced gathering data on pending civil cases. The data gathered will enable PRP to identify sources of delay and other problems in the caseload of property and civil cases and to develop recommendations to address the problems identified.

PRP also began compiling and analyzing decisions of the Court of Appeals involving property and civil law claims, to identify problematic legal issues facing the lower courts in adjudicating such matters and identify inconsistencies in their application of the law. Results of this analysis will be used to develop recommendations to help courts improve the adjudication of such claims and to make their practice more consistent and predictable.

Objective 3. This Quarter saw an expansion of PRP's media campaign on women's property rights, with additional public service announcements released for dissemination through TV, radio and social media; and the media coverage was extended to include local TV and radio stations in both Albanian and Serb communities. Anecdotal accounts indicate that the campaign is generating discussion within Kosovo society.

PRP has also begun its national grassroots campaign on women's property rights to complement its media campaign: various activities designed to bring the campaign on women's property rights to local communities using a variety of means and approaches. In this connection, will hold a launch event for campaign in Viti/Vitina on July 19 with the US Ambassador scheduled to attend.

PRP has also provided a range of support for the development of the Administrative Instruction (AI) to allow spouses to register property jointly. In addition to its previous support to the Agency for Gender Equality (AGE) in drafting the AI, during this Quarter PRP produced an animated video public service announcement, in Albanian and Serbian versions, which is being broadcast on Kosovo TV to inform the public that spouses can now register property jointly. The animated video was unveiled at the round-table on the AI that was sponsored by the AGE and chaired by the Prime Minister, with remarks by USAID Mission Director James Hope.

PRP and the MoJ also conducted a roundtable for journalists to give them a better understanding of the property rights issues confronting Kosovo today and of the measures being taken to address them in the National Strategy. The roundtable gave the journalists a heightened interest and deeper

comprehension of the subject and of how these problems are creating difficulties for citizens in their daily lives. This was evidenced by an increase in well-informed coverage of property rights issues in the national media.

Under **Objective 4**, PRP began to implement in Viti/Vitina its action plan of activities to promote reforms at the municipal level. These activities entail desk research and on-site interviews with officials and citizens to identify ways to improve the delivery to citizens of municipal services related to property rights. PRP developed the action plan in close cooperation with the Viti/Vitina municipal administration.

To bolster the close ties developed with Viti/Vitina and to draw the attention of the local community to PRP's public outreach on women's property rights, PRP also conducted a children's art activity in Viti/Vitina that was followed by a press conference featuring the Viti/Vitina Mayor and USAID, as a prelude to the launch event for its national grassroots campaign to be held in Viti/Vitina in July 2016.



PRP jointly with the Kosovo Agency for Gender Equality developed an animated public service announcement announcing a newly enacted Administrative Instruction to allow for spouses to jointly register property.

PI COMMUNICATION / USAID PRP



A group of second grade school children from Viti/Vitina municipality participated in a PRP-organized drawing event to focus attention on the importance of fairness and equity within the family concerning the ownership of property.

PI COMMUNICATION / USAID PRP



One of many drawings produced by schoolchildren on the theme of "Home and Family."

PI COMMUNICATIONS / USAID PRP

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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



Today our Mission Director #JamesHope and Prime Minister of Kosovo #IsaMustafa spoke in support of joint spouse registration of immovable property. The public service announcement developed by our #PropertyRights team supports the Administrative Instruction on registration of joint immovable property. Për Të Mirën Tonë

<https://www.facebook.com/usaidkosovo>
Published on June 15, 2016



Today in Viti, our team kicked off activities promoting efforts to ensure equitable enforcement of property law in Kosovo. #SaraBuchanan, Democracy Officer, and Sokol Haliti, Mayor of #Viti /Vitina, rolled out activities of our #PropertyRightsProgram in this municipality. Për Të Mirën Tonë

<https://www.facebook.com/usaidkosovo>
Published on June 8, 2016



Citizen Advocates continue to advocate about women's property rights. Today they targeted villages of Pristina. Violeta Berisha, from the #MinistryofInternalAffairs, with support from Xhevrije Peci, human rights activist and a Citizen Advocate from the area presented. Our #PropertyRightsProgram continues its activities with the Citizen Advocates throughout the summer. @PërTëMirënTonë

<https://www.facebook.com/usaidkosovo>
Published on June 6, 2016
Shared from @PërTëMirënTonë



Discussion session with the Citizen Advocates on the topic of women property rights continues. Yesterday our #PropertyRights team was in Mitrovicë to discuss current legislation that guarantees gender equality on property rights, and the necessity to change the social behaviors and attitudes towards women's property rights. The discussions were led by the Citizen Advocate, Besa Veseli, who is also Mitrovica's Municipal Gender Officer; with assistance from the Citizen Advocate, Shpresa Veliqi, member of Municipal Assembly of Skenderaj. Për Të Mirën Tonë

<https://www.facebook.com/usaidkosovo>
Published on June 3, 2016
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The second group of Municipal Gender Officers enrolls Management Skills training with our #PropertyRightsProgram. It's the officers from #Deçan/ Deçani, #Peja /ç, #Istog /k, #Vushtrri /Vuçitrn, #Podujeva/o, Mitrovicë, #Skenderaj/ Srbica, #Klinë /Klina, and #Gjakova /Đakovica.

Our #PropertyRights Program continuously supports the MGOs on their work related to women and property. #PërtëMirënTonë #propertyrights#equalrights

<https://www.facebook.com/usaidkosovo>
Published on May 31, 2016
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Have you heard about Citizen Advocates? It's a group of women volunteers that are committed to advocate for women's property rights as part of their volunteer activities at local level.

Our #PropertyRightsProgram is conducting a three day training to strengthen their advocacy and public communication techniques when advocating about Women's Property Rights. #PërtëMirënTonë; #PropertyRights

<https://www.facebook.com/usaidkosovo>
Published on April 27, 2016
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Check out the KTV - Kohavision reportage on #PropertyRights issues in Kosovo, and how our team is addressing it. Për Të Mirën Tonë

<https://www.facebook.com/usaidkosovo>
Published on May 16, 2016
Shared from @PërtëMirënTonë



Last week our #PropertyRightsProgram and Ministria e Drejtësisë, held a round-table discussion with journalists on property rights issues in #Kosovo. The discussion gathered journalists from different outlets eager to learn more about the National Strategy on Property Rights. Për Të Mirën Tonë.

<https://www.facebook.com/usaidkosovo>
Published on May 11, 2016
Shared from @PërtëMirënTonë



No loans and subsidies for women who own no property. Check out the article about the problems women are faced with if they want to start a business. #propertyrights #engagementforequity

Për Të Mirën Tonë and Advocacy Training and Resource Center - ATRC

<https://www.facebook.com/usaidkosovo>
Published on April 21, 2016
Shared from @PërtëMirënTonë

PUBLICATIONS

The following print and digital publications covered PRP Activities this quarter.

PRP ACTIVITY IN VITI/VITINA

Koha net

'In Viti, was launched the USAID campaign on Property Rights'

<http://koha.net/?id=9&l=117414>

June 8, 2016

Plus Televizion

'In Viti, has been launched awareness campaigns to support women's rights to property'

<http://plus-televizion.tv/ne-viti-ka-nisur-fushata-sensibilizuese-per-perkrahje-te-te-drejtave-te-grave-ne-prone/>

June 8, 2016

'Municipality of Vitia and USAID PRP will realize numerous activities in the field of property rights'

<http://plus-televizion.tv/komuna-e-vitise-dhe-usaid-prp-do-te-realizojne-aktivitete-te-shumta-ne-fushen-e-te-drejtave-pronesore/>

April 27, 2016

Kosova Post

'USAID launches a series of activities on property rights in Viti'

<http://kosovapost.net/2016/06/08/usaid-nis-nje-sere-aktivitetesh-per-te-drejtat-pronesore-ne-viti/>

June 8, 2016

News Agency EKONOMIA

'USAID launches a series of activities on property rights in Viti'

<http://www.ekonomia-ks.com/?page=1,5,389505>

June 8, 2016

PRP AND THE AGENCY FOR GENDER EQUALITY

The Republic of Kosovo-The Office of Prime Minister

'Prime Minister Mustafa: Strengthening the role of women and girls a priority of the Government'

<http://www.kryeministri-ks.net/?page=2,9,5939>

June 15, 2016

Koha net

'Prime Minister Mustafa: Strengthening the role of women, the Government's priority'

<http://koha.net/?id=27&l=118614>

June 15, 2016

Express

'All those who want to transfer property to their wife, services are free' <http://www.gazetaexpress.com/lajme/te-gjithe-ata-qe-duan-ta-bartin-pasurine-tek-grate-i-kane-sherbimet-pa-pages-213624/>

June 15, 2016

Kallxo

'Prime Minister Isa Mustafa said that women are putted in difficult position in absence of property and inheritance'

<http://kallxo.com/mustafa-prioritet-fuqizimi-grave/>

June 15, 2016

RTK Live

'Mustafa: Women's empowerment, priority of government'

<http://www.rtklive.com/sq/news-single.php?ID=80571>

June 15, 2016

OTHER

Koha net

'The Strategy aims to resolve property related issues'

<http://koha.net/?id=27&l=110910>

April 30, 2016

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