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PROPERTY RIGHTS PROGRAM (PRP)

FY2016

Quarterly Report No. 10

(July 1 – September 30, 2016)



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OCTOBER 2016

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Cover Photo: In June 2016, 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. All of the children's drawings were framed and put on exhibition the following month in the municipal House of Culture in time for the launch event of the program's grassroots activities

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DISCLAIMER

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AI	Administrative Instruction
ACDC	Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture
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
CLARD	Center for Legal Aid and Regional Development
CLE	Contract Law Enforcement Project
CoMs	Courts of Merit
CRMs	Case Record Management Specialists
CSD	Communication for Social Development
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CTG	Core Technical Group
DO	Development Objective
DPM	Deputy Prime Minister
E4E	Engagement for Equity
EU	European Union
EULEX	European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo
G2G	Government to Government
GIS	Geographic Information System
GoK	Government of Kosovo
IPRR	Immovable Property Rights Registry
IQC	Indefinite Quantity Contract
INL	Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (U.S. Dept. of State)
IR	Intermediate Result
JSSP	Justice System Strengthening Program
KBA	Kosovo Bar Association
KCA	Kosovo Cadastral Agency
KCBS	Kosovo Center for Business Support
KJC	Kosovo Judicial Council

KPCVA	Kosovo Property Comparison and Verification Agency
MCO	Municipal Cadastral Office
MGO	Municipal Gender Officer
Moj	Ministry of Justice
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister
PRP	Property Rights Program
PSA	Public Service Announcement
RECAP	World Bank Real Estate Cadastre and Registration Project
RTC	Regional Technology Center
SAA	Stabilization and Association Agreement
SBCC	Social Behavior Change Communications
SPO	Strategic Planning Office
STTA	Short-Term Technical Assistance
STARR	Strengthening Tenure and Resource Rights
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.) (The draft National Strategy has now been finalized for public notice and comment.)

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; the national media campaign and local grassroots activities on women’s property rights; and preparation for activities in Viti/Vitina municipality designed to help municipal administrations in Viti/Vitina and elsewhere improve their practices and procedures related to property rights and enable their citizens to exercise their property rights more easily and efficiently.

OBJECTIVE 1: BETTER COORDINATION AND POLICY PRIORITIES

NATIONAL STRATEGY ON PROPERTY RIGHTS DRAFTED ON SCHEDULE. During this Quarter, PRP developed a polished complete draft National Strategy with Implementation Plan in English and Albanian and submitted it to the MoJ. When the Serbian translation is completed in early October, the MoJ will post the National Strategy on its web site for public notice and comment. At that point, following a final review and incorporation of remaining comments by the Core Technical Group, the MoJ will submit the National Strategy to the Government for adoption. PRP has also worked closely with the Strategic Planning Office of the Office of Prime Minister to gain its full support for the National Strategy.

SUPPORT TO MOJ ON LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES ON INHERITANCE AND CONSTRUCTION LAND. During this Quarter PRP has been in close consultation with the MoJ to plan next steps on getting revisions related to notary powers and to inheritance adopted into law. PRP has incorporated into its original set of proposed revisions some additional revisions and policy positions to facilitate the resolution of delayed inheritance cases. Thus the package of revisions is designed to provide added protections for women’s property rights and to facilitate the resolution of delayed inheritance cases, i.e., cases where the decedent died several years previously. PRP has provided consultation to the MoJ on a conference on inheritance that the MoJ wants to conduct in late October, with PRP support. PRP expects that PRP’s findings and recommendations will inform the agenda for the conference.

During this Quarter, PRP also worked closely with the MoJ to draft a Concept Document for the revisions to the Law on Construction Land.

All of these initiatives are contemplated by the National Strategy and fully consistent with it.

OBJECTIVE 2: IMPROVED COURT PROCEDURES RELATED TO PROPERTY CLAIMS

PRP PRODUCES PRELIMINARY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON CASEFLOW MANAGEMENT OF PROPERTY CASES. As reported previously, PRP has determined that it is necessary to inventory and track pending property cases in order to fully identify the points where unnecessary delays occur. Using the Excel spreadsheet tailored for this purpose, during this Quarter PRP’s three Records Management Specialists brought the number of pending property cases inventoried for research and analysis to 2,100 pending cases. This represented the complete pending caseloads of three judges (one judge each from the Basic Courts of Pejë/Peć, Ferizaj/Uroševac and Gjilan/Gnjilane), and partial caseloads that are currently being reviewed of three additional judges from those courts. The RMS’s also continued to track recent actions taken by judges based on their hearing schedule.

The collected data provides sufficient basis for preliminary findings and recommendations to improve the caseload management of property cases and eliminate unnecessary delays.

During this Quarter, PRP has begun preparing preliminary findings and recommendations. These will be completed in October and presented to the KJC and CoMs in a series of roundtables in November led by STTA expert, Judge Joseph Traficanti.

MAKING JUDICIAL PRACTICE IN PROPERTY LAW MORE CONSISTENT, UNIFORM AND PREDICTABLE. During this quarter PRP continued its analysis of judicial practice in property law, i.e., the quality and consistency of the courts' decisions in adjudicating property cases. As noted previously, as much as 70% of property rights cases are disposed on procedural grounds (i.e., without a decision on the claim itself) and also with significant delays. PRP has also now determined that a large number of property case decisions are reversed by the Court of Appeals, and PRP has identified the principal grounds for these reversals. PRP will continue to develop findings on judicial practice in the area of property rights, which will serve as the basis for initiatives with the courts to address problematic issues and achieve more uniformity and consistency in their adjudication of property cases.

COLLABORATION WITH USAID CLE ON MEDIATION INITIATIVES. During this Quarter PRP met on several occasions with CLE to discuss issues related to mediation and the courts; took part, jointly with CLE, in the working group for the draft Law on Mediation; and together with CLE has begun planning trainings for judges on mediation.

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH FOR THE REPORT ON MINORITIES' PROPERTY RIGHTS. During this Quarter PRP commissioned research on the two additional subjects to be addressed in PRP's Report, *Issues Affecting the Ability of Members of Minority Communities in Kosovo to Exercise Their Property Rights*, i.e., the challenges facing minorities in connection with actions taken by the Kosovo Privatization Agency and in taking part in judicial proceedings. PRP has received the first draft of this research and provided comments for further elaboration.

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

NATIONAL GRASSROOTS CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED IN VITI/VITINA. PRP successfully launched its grassroots campaign on women's property rights with a highly publicized event in Viti/Vitina. The launch event featured remarks by the US Ambassador, the First Deputy Prime Minister, and the Mayor of Viti/Vitina, along with testimonials from two local women who recounted their success at dealing with property issues. The event also featured an exhibition of children's drawings from PRP's art activity for children held in Viti in June; a video clip made from that art activity; and a demonstration of forum theater, with a short performance on the topic of inheritance. The event was extremely well attended and received extensive national coverage on TV.

SIXTEEN BILLBOARDS DISPLAYED IN KOSOVO WITH ADS AND MESSAGES FOR PRP CAMPAIGN, FOR OUR COMMON GOOD. As of September 1st, sixteen billboards as part of *For Our Common Good* Campaign were displayed in 9 municipalities in Kosovo such as Prishtinë/Pristina, Prizren, Pejë/Peć, Mitrovica, Gjiilan/Gnjilane, Viti/Vitina, Graçanicë/Gračanica, Shtërpçë/Štrpce, and Gjakova/Djakovica. The billboards featured photos related to PRP's Public Service Announcements and have the slogan, *Equality Knows No Gender*. PRP plans to continue the campaign with new billboards in the upcoming months.

PRP PHOTO SELECTED FOR USAID INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY SOCIAL MEDIA TOOL KIT. A photo from PRP's outreach activity in Viti/Vitina on the topic "Home and Family" with the children of Viti/Vitina municipality, held on June 2016, was among the photos selected from USAID Programs around the world for inclusion in the Social Media Tool Kit, which USAID developed to observe the International Youth Day.

USAID/WASHINGTON PR INITIATIVE FOR COVERAGE OF PRP'S WORK IN KOSOVO. During this Quarter, Cloudburst, a contractor in public relations for USAID/Washington's Land Tenure and Resource Management Office, informed PRP of their plans to carry out a number of activities to publicize PRP's work. These include a webinar featuring Kosovo's Land Tenure Profile; an Op-Ed piece by DPM Kuçi for the highly-regarded Reuters journal, *Place*

(<http://place.trust.org>); and an accompanying background article on the National Strategy initiative, to be prepared by some Reuters journalists.

During this Quarter, PRP contacted the two Reuters journalists who will be preparing a background article to accompany the Op-Ed piece. They have also expressed an interest in visiting Kosovo, perhaps with a photographer, to gather information for the article and perhaps other features. Thus far, no date has been set for the visit.

PREPARATIONS FOR EVENTS AROUND INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD (OCTOBER 11). Toward the end of this Quarter PRP began conceiving and making preparations for a number of activities and events related to International Day of the Girl Child. These include (1) a puppet show for elementary school children that emphasizes the equality of girls and boys; (2) a commissioned article on women's property rights issues that will be posted in local web portals; (3) a publicity event to focus attention on the importance of treating daughters and sons equally in inheritance, which PRP has proposed to and organized for the US Embassy; and (4) a show for the television program, *My Family* that will discuss women and inheritance and will feature a representative from PRP and two from the CSOs that work in this field.

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

CLOSE INTERACTION WITH USAID TO FACILITATE DIGITIZATION INITIATIVE.

During this Quarter PRP worked closely with USAID in a number of areas related to PRP's proposed initiative to digitize the cadastral records of selected municipalities and link those digital files to a Geographic Information System application that PRP would produce. PRP provided guidance on the selection of municipalities to participate in this initiative; prepared an illustrative budget, possible milestones and other information to inform USAID's consideration of reallocating G2G funds to PRP; submitted a request for a Sole-Source Waiver in connection with hiring the subcontractor to develop the software and supervise the digitization; and worked with USAID's ADS-548 Team in Washington and received an positive evaluation of the specifications of the proposed software.

PRP COMPLETES LEGAL ANALYSIS AND COMMENCES FIELD RESEARCH IN VITI/VITINA. During this Quarter PRP completed its research of the law governing property registration in connection with inheritance, court judgments, private transactions and privatization, and developed a lengthy questionnaire for oral interviews with municipal officials on these topics. PRP will use the interviews to ascertain the practice "on the ground" in implementing the law, with the aim of identifying ways to improve the registration process and make it easier for citizens to register their property. PRP also commenced interviewing MCO officials in Viti/Vitina.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

OBJECTIVE I: BETTER COORDINATION AND POLICY PRIORITIES

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

National Strategy on Property Rights Developed on Schedule

During this Quarter PRP held regular meetings with the MoJ to monitor progress in developing the National Strategy; and by the end of this Quarter PRP had finalized the English version of the draft National Strategy for Property Rights and was reviewing the Albanian translation. The National Strategy Document is on track to be submitted to the MoJ in early October 2016. The National Strategy Document also includes an Implementation Plan, which indicates for each strategic objective of the National Strategy the concrete measures, activities and sub-activities, indicators, implementing institutions, and the expected costs required for implementation.

The National Strategy Document to be submitted to the GoK will also include as Annexes the five Concept Notes that present the research, analysis and recommendations that serve as the basis for the National Strategy.

Core Technical Group Reviews Initial Full Draft of the National Strategy. The Core Technical Group (CTG) is the body responsible for overseeing the development of the National Strategy and consists of representatives of relevant GoK ministries and agencies. It is chaired by the MoJ. During this Quarter the CTG reviewed and provided comments on the first full draft of the National Strategy. Oral and written comments were solicited and received and incorporated into the National Strategy Document that has been finalized for public notice and comment.

Sub-Contract Awarded to Develop Implementation Plan. During this Quarter PRP contacted an open tender procurement to award a subcontract to develop the Implementation Plan for the National Strategy.

MoJ and PRP Develop Joint Plan for Next Steps

PRP worked closely with the MoJ to discuss the timetable and steps to be taken to move the National Strategy through the adoption process. For the MoJ this work was led by Mr. Lulzim Beqiri, who is the Director of the MoJ's Department for Policy Coordination and European Integration and who also serves as the Chairman of Core Technical Group that is overseeing the development of the National Strategy.

The MoJ and PRP have agreed to the following plan of action to move the National Strategy forward in compliance with GoK requirements:

1. The finalized draft National Strategy and Action Plan will be posted for public notice and comment on the Ministry of Justice Website and distributed to key property rights stakeholders. The potential respondents are given 15 days to provide comments to the National Strategy and Action Plan. Potential respondents also include all ministries that might be affected by the National Strategy, including the Legal Department of the Office of the Prime Minister. (It was agreed that the MoJ would post the National Strategy Document for public notice and comment and then submit the National Strategy to the GoK in a form that reflects that consultation. It was thought that this would be more efficient and effective than having the GoK solicit public comment.)
2. Once comments are received, an Explanatory Memorandum will be prepared, listing all relevant comments received. Subsequently, a final Core Technical Group (CTG) workshop will be

organized, to review comments received through the public consultation process and provide final input.

3. Following conclusions of the CTG workshop, the Explanatory Memorandum, along with the comments received, will be updated to include justifications for accepting or rejecting comments received.
4. The draft National Strategy and Action Plan will undergo final revision and will be submitted to the MoJ.
5. The General Secretary of the MoJ will submit the draft National Strategy together with all accompanying documents to the Office of Strategic Planning of the Office of the Prime Minister, in order for the SPO to provide its assessment on whether the document can be submitted for approval in the Government Meeting. Within 15 days of receiving the draft, the Strategic Planning Office will provide its written opinion on the matter.
6. The General Secretary of the MoJ will also submit the draft National Strategy together with all accompanying documents to the Ministry of Finance. Within 15 days of receiving the draft, the Ministry of Finance shall provide its written opinion on the fiscal impact of the National Strategy.
7. When positive opinions have been received from the SPO and Ministry of Finance the draft National Strategy will be submitted for approval in the Government Meeting. (Note that all materials submitted to the government meeting must be submitted to the OPM 15 days in advance of the meeting at which the item will be discussed.)
8. Once the National Strategy has been formally adopted, PRP will support the MoJ in holding a highly visible launch event.

Close Coordination with Strategic Planning Office to Support Timely Adoption of the National Strategy

PRP facilitated coordination between the MoJ and the Strategic Planning Office (SPO) of the Office of the Prime Minister to discuss in detail procedural steps required for approval of the National Strategy on Property Rights. The SPO is responsible for ensuring that strategic and planning documents are drafted in accordance with the standards and procedures defined by the Government. The SPO has been continuously involved in the Strategy drafting process and they will be closely involved in finalizing the Strategy Action Plan once the National Strategy has been adopted.

EU Attention on the National Strategy

It is reported that the European Union Office in Kosovo intends to report on the progress of the National Strategy in the European Commission's annual country report on Kosovo (formerly known as the Progress Report).

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

Proposed Revisions to Package of Laws to Address Issues in Inheritance

PRP has incorporated into its original set of proposed revisions some additional revisions and policy positions to facilitate the resolution of delayed inheritance cases. Thus the package of revisions is designed to address two important areas of concern: (1) to provide safeguards for women to enable them to receive timely notice of inheritance proceedings and to provide them with the opportunity

to make decisions on renunciation with deliberation and an understanding of the consequences of renunciation; and (2) to adopt constructive notice principles that will simplify and facilitate the resolution of delayed inheritance cases, i.e., cases where the decedent died several years previously, to encourage citizens to bring their property records up to date and acquire clear legal title to their property.

The package contains draft revisions to the Law on Inheritance; the Law on Notary; the Law on Non-Contested Procedure; and the Law on Civil Status.

Supporting an MoJ Conference on Inheritance Issues

PRP has provided counsel to the MoJ in connection with its announced intention to sponsor a conference on inheritance issues, which is tentatively planned for the last week of October. PRP will help the MoJ develop a program and materials for the conference once the Minister of Justice has formally approved this initiative. PRP would like to use the conference to focus on the problems surrounding women's inheritance and delayed inheritance and to secure support for proposed solutions. The policy positions will inform the implementation of the National Strategy.

Supporting Development of Draft Concept Document for draft Law on Construction Land

During this Quarter PRP worked closely with the MoJ on this Concept Document and produced the first draft that is consistent with the policy positions in the National Strategy. PRP has agreed to support a 2-day working session in early October for the MoJ working group of relevant stakeholders to finalize the Concept Document.

The Law on Construction Land will eliminate a Yugoslav legal legacy and allow for rights in urban land to be transformed from use rights to ownership rights, as contemplated by the National Strategy.

COOPERATION AND COORDINATION WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

Participation in Quarterly Meeting of the Executive Committee on Implementation of Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA)

The meeting was chaired by the MoJ and featured brief presentations by representatives of various ministries and agencies to discuss the state of compliance in meeting commitments under the Stabilization and Association Agreement. The Executive Committee is comprised of civil servants and is tasked with tracking progress in implementing the National Plan for the Implementation of the SAA. The National Property Rights Strategy has been included in the National Plan.

Discussing the Kosovo Property Comparison and Verification Agency (KPCVA with the Kosovo Property Agency (KPA)

At a meeting with the Head of the KPA, the latter demonstrated interest in PRP assistance in implementing the law that transforms the KPA into the Kosovo Property Comparison and Verification Agency. The law has been approved by the Parliament but has not yet been presented to the President for signing, owing to an appeal against the law lodged with the Constitutional Court.

It should be noted that the GIS platform that PRP plans to develop for use with digitized municipal archives would also prove very useful for the KPCVA and help ensure that its review and comparison of existing KCA records against the returned cadastral records is conducted in an efficient and secure manner.

Consulting the US Embassy on the KPCVA Law

Mr. Dustin DeGrande, a Political and Economic Officer of the US Embassy, requested a meeting with PRP to discuss issues surrounding the KPCVA, with particular interest in the challenges encountered in providing displaced persons with effective notice.

Meeting with World Bank RECAP Expert Advising on Draft Law on Cadastre

PRP maintained regular contact with Mr. Peter Laarakker, a Dutch expert hired under the World Bank's RECAP program for the Kosovo Cadastral Agency, who is developing the policy outlines for a draft law that will combine the Law on Cadastre with the Law on the Immovable Property Rights Registry (IPRR). PRP has reiterated the importance for Kosovo of making the information in the Cadastre and IPRR fully and easily accessible to the public, in the interest of increasing transparency and reducing opportunities for corruption.

ENCOURAGING AND PROMOTING MEDIA COVERAGE OF PROPERTY RIGHTS ISSUES

In making plans for the next round of public outreach activities and media campaign, PRP has identified two legal issues that PRP plans to focus attention on, in addition to gender issues: the importance of using written contracts when buying and selling real property; and the desirability of using written wills for bequeathing property to one's descendants. These practices would clarify and help formalize legal relations and facilitate the acquisition of clear ownership rights to property.

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 Gathering Data from Pending Property Cases to Inform Recommendations for Improving Caseflow Management

As noted previously, PRP's analysis of 1,800 disposed property cases provided valuable empirical data on the caseflow of property disputes in Kosovo courts and enabled PRP to make some initial findings and recommendations. PRP's findings and recommendations from this activity are presented in PRP's report, *Caseflow Management for Property Rights Cases in the Basic Courts* (the Caseflow Management Report). The court records for those cases, however, did not contain sufficient information to make it possible to identify the specific stages in the processing of cases that caused the excessive delays in the courts' adjudication of property cases. For that reason, PRP determined that it would be necessary to inventory and track pending property cases to gain that information. PRP developed an Excel spreadsheet tailored for this purpose and began collecting data.

During this Quarter PRP's three Records Management Specialists (RMS's) continued to inventory and analyze pending property and civil cases in their respective Courts of Merit. To date, they have reviewed a total of 2,100 pending cases. This represented the complete pending caseloads of three judges (one judge each from the Basic Courts of Pejë/Peć, Ferizaj/Uroševac and Gjilan/Gnjilane), and partial caseloads that are currently being reviewed of three additional judges from those courts. The RMS's also continued to track recent actions taken by judges based on their hearing schedule.

The RMS's have encountered serious difficulties in conducting this analysis: case files are not well organized and often fail to contain documents such as summons, motions and other documents related to decisions that judges have taken to direct the process of the cases. Moreover, there is no tracking system that enables judges to identify the status of pending cases, neither by case type or age of case. In addition, the RMS's have found that the Pejë/Peć and Gjilan/Gnjilane Basic Courts are not tracking cases referred to mediation or to external experts.

Preliminary Findings and Recommendations to be Presented in October/November 2016

While PRP intends to gather data from the pending property cases of all of the civil judges of the CoMs, PRP will develop preliminary findings and recommendation in October from the cases analyzed to date. PRP will present them to the KJC and CoMs at a series of roundtables to be held in November to be led by our STTA expert, Judge Joseph Traficanti (further noted below).

From 40-50% of the inventoried pending cases are property rights cases.

In Ferizaj/Uroševac Basic Court:

- Of 243 pending property cases, 199 cases (81.2%) are older than 24 months.
- The average length of the pending cases is 1,391 days, or 3.8 years, and the oldest case is 8,670 days, or 23.8 years old.

In Pejë/Peć Basic Court:

- 24% of the pending property cases (i.e., 26 cases) are older than 24 months.
- The oldest property case is 4,142 days, or 11.3 years old.

In Gjilan/Gnjilane Basic Court:

- 60% of the pending property cases (i.e., 75 cases) are older than 24 months.
- The oldest property case is 7,942 days, or 21.8 years old.

Figure 1: Some Preliminary Findings from PRP's Analysis of Pending Cases. NOTE: These preliminary findings are based on the pending caseload of three judges from the Courts of Merit.

Analyzing Judicial Practice in the Area of Property Rights

During this quarter PRP commenced its analysis of judicial practice in property law, i.e., the quality and consistency of the courts' decisions in adjudicating property cases. PRP's initial empirical research and analysis, presented in the Caseload Management Report, revealed that as much as 70% of property rights cases are disposed on procedural grounds (i.e., without a decision on the claim itself) and also with significant delays. From the findings presented in PRP's Report, PRP tasked its RMS's within the CoM to gather relevant data on this issue as they inventory pending cases. Data gathered to date show that a significant number of property case decisions are reversed by the Appeal Court and Supreme Court.

PRP met with some judges of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, and the RMS's collected 150 Appeals Court decisions, of which 50 apply to property rights cases. PRP has made the following initial findings from its analysis of judicial practice:

1. Basic Courts judges face real challenges, because they do not have access to the decisions of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, nor even to the decisions of their fellow judges in their own court, and no commentaries or guidelines are available to the lower court judges to help them apply the law in an appropriate and consistent manner. In addition, there are many newly appointed judges who lack experience and preparation. As a result, judicial practice can be inconsistent and unpredictable.
2. There is a general lack of uniformity and consistency within the practice of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals. The Courts took concrete organizational steps to introduce uniformity in judicial practice, but without tangible results. The upper courts also lack an accepted methodology, guidelines and protocols to follow in reviewing lower court decisions.
3. The Court of Appeals is the primary arbiter of judicial practice, but it suffers from a very large backlog: the court is currently reviewing cases filed in 2013/2014. The average current caseload of a judge of the Court of Appeals is 9,100 cases, while the judges are required to dispose of 22 cases per month. Thus it appears that the Court of Appeals, which has 12 judges, needs additional judges, in addition to additional support staff, as well as improvements in caseload management, if it is to cope with its caseload.
4. Property cases are often the most complex and time-consuming cases, and to meet their monthly norm judges take up simpler cases.
5. The most common grounds for reversals by the Court of Appeals are:
 - Misinterpretation of the Law on Contested Procedure
 - Misapplication of facts and evidence used as the basis for the decision
 - A lack of proper legal reasoning
 - Procedural costs
 - Failure to notify a party (a judgment taken in the absence of the Plaintiff/Defendant)

US Judge to Provide STTA to Assist in Court Reform Efforts

Former New York State Judge, Joseph Traficanti, has agreed to provide extensive short-term technical assistance in the coming months to support PRP's work with the courts to improve their caseload management and judicial practice in the property rights area. Judge Traficanti has extensive experience working with judges and courts in other countries (e.g., Macedonia) and will work closely with Kosovo judges' to gain their recognition of the need to improve their courts' performance and to embrace the reforms that PRP will be proposing to address the problems identified.

Working with USAID CLE to Increase the Role of Mediation to Improve Court Efficiency

In this Quarter PRP developed and submitted to CLE recommendations on the new draft law for mediation that is being led by CLE and the Moj. PRP also joined CLE in taking part in a working session organized by the Moj on the new law. The new law contemplates requiring mediation for certain kinds of disputes. PRP assisted in helping the working group identify the kinds of property disputes for which mandatory mediation would be appropriate.

Consultation on US State Department Pilot Project in Mediation

PRP was recommended by the Head of the KJC Court Administration Committee to advise on a proposed Pilot Project in Mediation that is supported by the US Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics & Law Enforcement and is being led by Judge Makifete Saliuka, Head of the KJC Court Administration Committee, and Supervisory Judge Milena Djeric of the Graçanicë/Gračanica Branch Court. The pilot project will be carried out in the Prishtinë/Pristina Basic Court. The mediation project proposal is intended to develop and test court-annexed mediation, which will make use of existing mediators but take place within court facilities rather than in mediation centers.

PRP expressed its readiness to provide necessary technical expertise on matters related to property rights and to share any information that will contribute to the improvement of the court procedures related to property rights. PRP understands that CLE is fully supportive of this pilot initiative, and any given assistance provided by PRP will be closely coordinated with CLE.

Planning Property Rights Training for Lawyers with the Kosovo Bar Association

In order to increase lawyers' abilities to deal with property rights matters, PRP met with KBA Executive Director, Mr. Yll Zekaj, to explore avenues for collaboration. PRP has agreed to support and assist the KBA in conducting the Regional Bench Bar meetings between judges and lawyers that focus on property right cases. The Regional Bench Bar meetings will enable PRP to ascertain lawyers' experiences with and perspective on delays in the adjudication of civil cases and discuss some of PRP's preliminary findings with them, as well as help PRP to identify issues in property law and practice that pose challenges and need to be addressed.

Developing Concepts for Initiative to Circulate Judicial Opinions and Promote Collective Action for the Publication of Judicial Opinions

At present, most judicial opinions are not published and much of the courts' decisions and activities are unknown to policymakers and to society at large. This is a major impediment to the rule of law in Kosovo.

While PRP is continuing coordination efforts in this area with USAID JSSP and USAID CLE, in this Quarter PRP began designing its own initiative to promote the circulation of opinions within the CoMs. Once the initiative has been fully conceptualized, PRP will present it to the Chairman of the KJC; the members of the Judicial Advisory Committee; and the Chairmen of the CoMs to gain their support. It is hoped that this initiative will help acculturate judges to more openness and transparency within the courts and among judges, so as to help gain the courts' eventual support for broader dissemination.

PRP Participates in World Bank Workshop with Women of Krusha e Madhe

In this Quarter the World Bank, which is supporting cadastral reconstruction in certain selected regions of Kosovo, held an event for the citizens of Krusha e Madhe and invited PRP to take part. The event was intended to provide guidance and information on how to conduct inheritance proceedings. Many such cases in Krusha e Madhe are cases of delayed inheritance, where it is

reported that some number of surviving widows have not yet undertaken to have their missing husbands' property transferred to them.

The World Bank consultant provided a basic overview of issues and procedures related to inheritance; members of the reconstruction commission described the process; and PRP provided information and guidance from its research of the law governing inheritance and non-contested procedure.

The event reinforced two strong impressions for PRP: (1) women in Krusha e Madhe are very restricted in exercising property rights; and (2) the general level of understanding basic property rights issues among the attendees is very low, and this may be representative of large segments of Kosovo's society.

Additional Research Undertaken for Report on Minorities and Property Rights

In connection with PRP's Report, *Issues Affecting the Ability of Members of Minority Communities in Kosovo to Exercise their Property Rights*, which PRP submitted to USAID in May 2016, USAID accepted the report but requested that the Report be expanded to include two additional topics: (1) challenges facing minorities in connection with actions taken by the Kosovo Privatization Agency; and (2) in taking part in judicial proceedings.

During this Quarter PRP hired local STTA from the Association of Serb Jurists in Kosovo to conduct research on the additional two topics. The researchers provided an initial draft, on which PRP provided comments and requested additional research and findings. It is expected that the researchers will resubmit their work by the end of October.

Orientation Session with Visiting Rule of Law Officer from USAID E&E Office

PRP participated in an orientation session arranged by USAID for Ms. Margot Ellis, along with USAID CLE and USAID JSSP.

Consultation Provided to Representative of US Department of State/INL Project

PRP provided consultation on communications, logistical and policy matters to the newly started "Demand for Justice" program. PRP will continue to seek opportunities for collaboration with the program.

Judiciary Participates in PRP's Launch Event in Viti/Vitina

A total of nine judges attended the event, representing courts in the general region, and including the Chairman of the Kosovo Judicial Council. The event presented an opportunity for the judicial leaders to hear of the importance of supporting women's ability to exercise their property rights freely and to witness the significance that other institutions attach to this issue. PRP is also seeking to improve cooperation between courts and municipal bodies so as to make it easier for citizens to exercise their property rights, and the event was followed by a discussion with a judge from the Shtërpçë/Štrpce Branch Court and a municipal cadastral official on ways to improve judges' access to cadastral information and cooperation between the two institutions.

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 Assists in Developing Secondary Legislation for the Courts

During this quarter PRP continued to work closely with KJC Secretariat Legal Department and Statistic Department. PRP referred them to the recommendations from PRP's Caseflow Management Report for drafting or amending the policies governing case flow management in courts, such as the Regulation on Case Weights, the Regulation on Case Disposition Norms, the Regulation on Internal Organization of Courts (with respect to case assignment and the role of the Case Management Office) and the Regulation on Publication of Court Judgments. Because some of these policy matters fall within JSSP's scope of work, PRP has sought to exchange information and coordinate efforts with JSSP.

PRP also participated in the working session on case-weighting methodologies, which was led by the KJC Statistics Department with JSSP support, and provided recommendations related to categories for property rights cases.

Collaboration with the KJC Legal Office

PRP met with KJC Legal Office Head, Mr. Astrit Hoti, to exchange information about the timeline for a committee review of secondary legislation currently underway. KJC shared with PRP a current draft list of priority regulations that either have been drafted or are in the process of being drafted. PRP identified a number of regulations that would have an impact on court operations related to adjudication. These regulations would be greatly informed by PRP's ongoing research and analysis of pending cases in the courts. PRP will continue to work closely with the KJC to facilitate this work.

Further Coordination with JSSP

In addition to the activities described above, in connection with a meeting organized by JSSP with court presidents on the design of case cover sheets, PRP presented to JSSP for use at the meeting the case processing sheet that PRP developed and presented in its Caseflow Management Report. PRP has provided the Caseflow Management Report to JSSP in December 2015 and June 2016.

In addition, PRP met with JSSP to receive an update on matters of interest to both projects, most particularly, issues surrounding the work of the Kosovo Judicial Council to develop up to 17 regulations setting court administrative and other policies. JSSP reported that of the 17 regulations identified by the KJC Normative Committee for drafting – a list which was developed jointly with the EU/EULEX – to date six have been developed and adopted by the KJC. PRP has forwarded to JSSP a list of the seven regulations that directly impact PRP's objectives and work, to facilitate future collaboration.

During this Quarter PRP continued to exchange information related to the case flow management matters with JSSP Court Administration Advisor, Mr. John Ferry.

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

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

As noted in the section of this Report on Objective 1, PRP has revised and is finalizing its draft revisions to a package of laws to provide safeguards for women to enable them to receive timely notice of inheritance proceedings and to provide them with the opportunity to make decisions on renunciation with deliberation and an understanding of the consequences of renunciation. The package contains draft revisions to the Law on Inheritance; the Law on Notary; the Law on Non-Contested Procedure; and the Law on Civil Status. PRP will provide the draft to the MoJ in early October, and it is expected that they will be presented and discussed at the conference that the MoJ is planning for the end of October. (See below.)

Supporting an MoJ Conference on Inheritance Issues

As noted in the section of this Report on Objective 1, PRP has provided counsel to the MoJ in connection with its announced intention to sponsor a conference on inheritance issues, which is tentatively planned for the last week of October. PRP will help the MoJ develop a program and materials for the conference once the Minister of Justice has formally approved this initiative. PRP would like to use the conference to focus on the problems surrounding women's inheritance and delayed inheritance and to secure support for proposed solutions. The policy positions will inform the implementation of the National Strategy.

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

PRP Holds Launch Event for National Grassroots Campaign in Viti/Vitina

On July 19, PRP held its launch event in Viti/Vitina municipality. Considerable logistical efforts went into the planning of this hallmark event for PRP, which required high level diplomatic protocol and envisioned a wide array of invitees that included government institutions and civil society, but mainly targeted the citizens of Viti/Vitina, and more specifically the children (and their parents) who participated in PRP's art activity in the previous quarter, and high-school students who constituted the audience for the demonstration of Forum Theater at the event.

PRP also worked closely with its production company, Pi Communications, to have the video clip from the children's art activity ready for showing; and with municipal officials to identify local women to speak at the event, describing their own experience related to property rights.

While a total of 291 persons signed the sign-in sheets, the actual attendance was even higher, since the theater was virtually full. Among those present were members of the central and local government, Viti/Vitina municipality officials, local and international organizations, members of civil society, and local citizens.



A "full house" at the Viti/Vitina House of Culture which was the venue for PRP's Grassroots Activity Launch Event on July 19, 2016.

PI COMMUNICATION / USAID PRP



The registration table at PRP's Grassroots Activity Launch Event which filled the theater to capacity plus an overflow of standing-room participants.

Around 350 leaflets and palm cards on Women's Property Rights were distributed on the day of the launch event. These are the new products that PRP has developed as part of its grassroots advocacy effort. PRP also distributed 300 pins with the *Për të Mirën Tonë* logo.

The US Ambassador, the First DPM, and the Mayor of Viti/Vitina spoke about the importance of equality in property rights and of enabling women in Kosovo to exercise their property rights freely. The speakers noted the importance of changing social attitudes and behaviors in this area and also noted USAID PRP's work to raise awareness

of this issue in Kosovo society.

The launch event also featured a showing of the aforementioned video clip of the children's art activity held in Viti/Vitina the month before. The Municipal Director of Culture, Youth, and Sports announced the opening of the exhibition of the children's framed drawings from this event, and guests visited the exhibition after the launch event concluded. The exhibition remained open for 10 days following the launch event, and the framed drawings were then donated to the children's school. PRP has used some of these drawings products for its grassroots campaign.

A demonstration of Forum Theater was the central feature of this event (as a way to illustrate how art and other non-conventional media can be employed to advocate behavior change) and was presented by Qendra Multimedia. Local high school students were part of the interaction that followed the play. The event was followed by a reception, accompanied by the music performance of Octet Plus, local musicians on keyboard, guitar, and cello.

PRP was widely congratulated on the event.



Forum Theater performance at PRP's Grassroots Activity Launch Event.

The Former Minister of Justice, now Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) Makes Remarks at the PRP Launch Event in Viti/Vitina

The DPM reiterated his leading role in pushing the property rights reform forward, and presented a brief overview of policy measures envisioned to strengthen women's property rights (which are detailed in Concept Note 5 of the National Strategy and in the first full draft of the National Strategy). These include improved inheritance procedures and safeguards, measures to protect the rights of minor children during inheritance procedures, and the legal rights of surviving spouses.

PRP Commences Billboard Campaign throughout Kosovo on Women's Property Rights

Beginning on September 1, billboards were installed throughout Kosovo which featured photos reinforcing PRP's Public Service Announcements and contained the slogan, *Equality Knows No Gender*. The billboards are located throughout Kosovo (8 in Prishtinë/Priština, and 1 each in Prizren, Pejë/Peć, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Gjiilan/Gnjilane, Viti/Vitina, Graçanicë/Gračanica, Shtërpçë/Štrpce, and Gjakova/Djakovica). The billboards are in the dominant language in each municipality; and one

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=5ccgNWx1HQ0>

billboard in central Prishtinë/Priština is in English. PRP will continue its billboard campaign, using drawings from children's art activity in Viti/Vitina and other images, to be developed.

Developments in PR Initiative of USAID/Washington on PRP's Activities in Kosovo

As reported previously, the USAID Contractor "Cloudburst," which has been hired by USAID/Washington's Land Tenure and Resource Management Office for public relations on activities carried out under the STARR IQC, has selected the USAID Property Rights Program in Kosovo – particularly its work to support women's property rights – as a subject for some extensive coverage. In June 2016, PRP hosted Cloudburst Communications & Knowledge Management Specialist, Ms. Sandra Coburn, and arranged a four-day itinerary of fact-finding interviews for her with approximately 30 officials, judges, CSOs and citizens (including a meeting with First Deputy Prime

Minister Hajredin Kuçi). This visit enabled Ms. Coburn to gather information for future Cloudburst activities on publications on PRP's work.

During this Quarter, Cloudburst and USAID/Washington have informed PRP of their plans to carry out the following activities to publicize PRP's work:

Prepare an Updated Kosovo Land Tenure Profile. After clearance from USAID, the profile will be posted on USAID's new land portal (www.land-links.org).

Hold a Land Tenure Webinar. Tentatively scheduled for October, this 30-minute webinar will be led by the author of the Kosovo Land Tenure Profile, discussing developments since 2010 (when the previous Profile was developed). The webinar will be streamed on Google Hangouts and will target USAID/Kosovo and other donors and stakeholders in Kosovo. Since this is also being marketed for anyone interested in USAID land tenure work globally, there will likely also be viewers from DC, and perhaps other places.

Op-Ed Piece by Deputy Prime Minister Kuçi. Cloudburst would like to have an Op-Ed piece authored by DPM Kuçi for the Reuters journal, *Place* (<http://place.trust.org>), which Cloudburst calls "the premier outlet for land-related news." The appearance of the Op-Ed piece would be timed with the submission of the National Strategy on Property Rights to the GoK.

Background Article by Reuters Journalists. The Op-Ed piece would be accompanied by a scene-setting background article on the National Strategy initiative, to be prepared by some Reuters journalists. DPM Kuçi has agreed, and PRP is following up with the Reuters journalists to assist them and receive guidance on their parameters for the Op-Ed piece. This may involve a visit to Kosovo, perhaps with a photographer, to gather information for the article and perhaps other features. Thus far, no date has been set for the visit. PRP has forwarded background material to the journalists for their reference.

New Promotional Materials Developed on Women's Property Rights

As part of the PRP's outreach efforts to inform public on women's property rights, PRP has developed promotional materials such as leaflets on inheritance and campaign palm cards. The leaflet informs women in particular, and the public in general, on women's inheritance rights, including information on relevant current Kosovo law, with guidance on the institutions responsible for dealing with inheritance and for ensuring that these rights are protected. As such, these materials

PSA on Registration of Immovable Property on Behalf of Both Spouses

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVs2CoOCX9Y>

complement PRP's ongoing SBCC campaign, which is designed to change social attitudes and behaviors on women's property rights. PRP is disseminating these materials at all PRP events and through partners such as E4E sub-grantees and other CSOs.

PRP Photo Selected for USAID International Youth Day Social Media Tool Kit

During this Quarter, A photo from PRP's outreach activity with the children of Viti/Vitina municipality, held on June 2016, was among the photos selected from USAID Programs around the world for inclusion in the Social Media Tool Kit, which USAID developed to observe International Youth Day. The photo selected shows Viti/Vitina second-graders drawing pictures on the topic of "Home and Family."

Procurement Process Begun for New KAP Survey

During this Quarter PRP published a Request for Applications to receive a sub-contract to conduct the next annual national survey on property rights in Kosovo. The deadline for submission was September 30, and PRP received a total of five applications. PRP expects to conclude this procurement in October 2016.

(Last year PRP conducted its first national survey on property rights that established baseline data on the public's knowledge of issues related to property rights, including but not limited to women's property rights. PRP published the results of that first survey in June 2015 in its report, *National Baseline Survey for Property Rights in Kosovo*. PRP intends to conduct a follow-up survey each year to identify changes in the public's knowledge, attitudes and behavior related to property rights.)

Preparations for Events for International Day of the Girl Child (October 11)

In addition to PRP's ongoing public outreach activities, toward the end of this Quarter PRP was making preparations for a number of activities and events related to International Day of the Girl Child. These include (1) a puppet show for elementary school children that emphasizes the equality of girls and boys; (2) a commissioned article on women's property rights issues that will be posted in local web portals; (3) a publicity event to focus attention on the importance of treating daughters and sons equally in inheritance, which PRP has proposed to and organized for the US Embassy; and (4) a show for the television program, *My Family* that will discuss women and inheritance and will feature a representative from PRP and two from the CSOs that work in this field. Additional information on these activities will be provided in future reports.

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

PRP Holds Activity with Youth in Graçanicë/Gračanica

PRP held a youth colloquium in Graçanicë/Gračanica on social and legal issues surrounding gender equality in property rights. The participants were the local youth council, local youth organizations, and students. Also present were representatives from the Office of the Ombudsperson and judges from Graçanicë/Gračanica Basic Court and the Court of Appeals. PRP co-organized this event with the Engagement for Equity (E4E) sub-grantee, CSD (Communication for Social Development). The experts shared their experience in this area and answered questions from the participants, who numbered 40 participants. PRP showed some PSA's from the *For Our Common Good* campaign and distributed leaflets and palm cards.

PRP Advises ArtPolis on its Forum Theater Performances on Women's Property Rights

PRP worked with ArtPolis to help plan their future forum theater performances under their E4E sub-grant. The discussions focused on which women's property rights issues should be covered and how they should be addressed, along with other matters.

ArtPolis will present performances in 20 municipalities (one performance per municipality) beginning in mid-September through the end of November. Public promotion of these performances is being supported by PRP. Steps have been taken to ensure that ArtPolis' promotional materials align nicely with PRP's campaign, *For Our Common Good*.

PRP Provides Technical Comments on ArtPolis' First Forum Theater Performance on Women's Property Rights

PRP attended the first of the series of productions of the forum theater play, *A Matter of Custom*, in the Oda theatre in Prishtinë/Priština and provided some technical suggestions on the script. The play is effective at bringing out the issue of the clash between traditional attitudes and the equal division of property among siblings. The audience of high school students were very engaged and asked many questions of the characters

Mentorship Program for the Municipal Gender Officers Launched

During this Quarter, following on the heels of the management training sessions that PRP provided to municipal gender officers (MGOs) with its subcontractor, RTC, in the previous quarter, PRP launched a mentorship program for ten MGOs who were selected from among the management training participants. The selections were made using objective criteria and proposals and expressions of interest from the MGOs. The mentoring program is designed to provide technical support to the MGOs to help them apply improved planning and management skills and play a larger role in municipal policy making.

The mentoring process is guided and supported by a network of professional mentors who are conducting one-on-one mentoring sessions with the MGOs. During this quarter the mentors and the MGOs developed their mentoring plans. The mentoring will be carried out over the next five months.

PRP Makes Presentation at Orientation Workshops on E4E Grant Application Process

PRP supported ATRC in conducting Orientation Workshops throughout Kosovo to provide information and guidance to civil society on how to apply for E4E grants. At these workshops PRP provided information its work to support women's property rights through public outreach and legislative initiatives. The workshops were held in North Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Prishtinë/Pristina, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Graçanicë/Gračanica, Shtërpçë/Štrpce, Prizren, Gjakova/Djakovica, and Pejë/Peć.

Support for E4E Sub-Grantee's Forum

PRP participated in the Forum, *Women in the Economy*, hosted by Riinvest Institute, an E4E sub-grantee. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss and decide on the status of the Forum and its relationship with its founders and other partners. PRP restated its readiness to support this initiative and to further the economic empowerment of women by supporting their right to own and use property. Participants at this meeting were: the Riinvest Institute, the Women's Chamber for Economy (G7), She-Era, the Kosovo Women's Network, the Kosovo Center for Business Support, the Kosovo Center for Gender Studies, USAID/Kosovo, ATRC, USAID EMPOWER, and a Swiss-funded project.

Support for E4E Sub-grantee's Training Initiative

The E4E sub-grantee CLARD (Center for Legal Aid and Regional Development) (which provides free legal aid) announced plans to recruit a number of students from Iliria College in September and train them to provide legal aid to citizens on cases involving property rights and inheritance. PRP provided CLARD a broad range of information to equip their legal aid providers when dealing with women's cases concerning property rights.

Assistance to ACDC in North Mitrovicë/Mitrovica

PRP assisted the E4E sub-grantee ACDC (Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture) in organizing a roundtable discussion in North Mitrovicë/Mitrovica for Kosovo institutions and civil society on women's property rights. PRP worked with the Agency for Gender Equality to facilitate its attendance at the forum. This roundtable was a concluding event for ACDC under its current one-year grant.

Women's Property Rights Roundtable Discussion Organized by E4E Sub-Grantees in North Mitrovicë/Mitrovica

PRP attended a roundtable discussion held in North Mitrovicë/Mitrovica and co-organized by E4E sub-grantees BIRN and ACDC. BIRN presented its report on women and inheritance to representatives from the judicial system and civil society organizations. The report summarizes their research and findings that have already been publicized via their TV programming. (The report is not a scholarly or technical work, but it is informative.) At this roundtable PRP presented a concise update on its own work in this area and also briefed the participants on the development of the National Strategy on Property Rights and the new legal initiatives to ensure better access for women to their property rights, particularly in inheritance.

PRP Co-hosts Workshop with Women in Business in Kamenicë/Kamenica

PRP and USAID EMPOWER Credit Support jointly organized a workshop in Kamenicë/Kamenica for women in business. The workshop featured a presentation by PRP on the importance of securing property rights for business development, and was followed by a presentation from USAID EMPOWER on women's access to finance and the USAID Kosovo Credit Guarantee Fund. The workshop was opened by a one-hour motivational speech from a successful women in business, Ms. Liriana Nimani, who owns beauty centers in Prishtinë/Priština and Pejë/Peć. Ms. Nimani informed the audience of good practices for starting and developing a successful business in Kosovo.

Two additional Workshops with Women in Business Planned are planned on October 4 and 18 in Drenas/Glogovac and Rahovec/Orahovac, respectively.

PRP Supports E4E Sub-grantee Assisting Municipalities in Drafting Strategies that Address Women's Property Rights

PRP assisted the E4E sub grantee, Kosovo Center for Business Support (KCBS) in organizing a workshop for municipal officials from Rahovec/Orahovac and Drenas/Glogovac to help them develop strategies to strengthen women's participation in government and business and secure municipalities' commitment and support for women's property rights and women in business.

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

In 2015, PRP completed its municipal selection process and presented its findings and recommendations to USAID, based on the relative rankings of municipalities in the selection process. In January 2016, USAID began a pre-award assessment in Viti/Vitina. With respect to other municipalities for this activity, PRP has been in close consultation with USAID. PRP has recommended that USAID consider Shtërpçë/Štrpce as the next municipality for this initiative, which USAID has taken under advisement. A recent meeting of USAID and PRP with the Mayor of Shtërpçë/Štrpce confirmed the latter's full support for PRP's proposed activities.

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

In this Quarter PRP requested USAID/Washington to carry out an ADS-548 technical review of the software that USAID proposes to be developed for the Geographical Information Systems application to be used for the initiative to digitize municipal cadastral archives. The ADS-548 Review Team gave the software a positive evaluation.

During this Quarter PRP also submitted to USAID a request for consent to subcontract with the firm NIRAS to develop the software and supervise the scanning and indexing of the municipal cadastral archive documents. In addition, USAID began to review the possibility of reallocating to PRP G2G funds earmarked to support PRP's Objective 4 activities, so that PRP could procure the scanning services directly from the service providers. PRP provided USAID with an illustrative budget and implementation milestones for the digitization initiative.

PRP also met Viti/Vitina MCO officials; visited the facilities used methods they to store the municipal cadastral archives; and discussed filing and maintenance employed for the archives. PRP confirmed that the conditions in which the documents are stored do not meet the standards required for long-term physical storage.

PRP will proceed with the initiative of scanning the municipal cadastral archives in selected municipalities when the questions described above have been resolved.

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

Recap of Planned Program of Activities

As reported in the previous Quarterly Report, PRP has 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.

PRP has drafted a detailed action plan of these activities, which was shared with and welcomed by the Mayor of Viti.

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

Completion of Legal Research to Inform Field Research

During the Quarter PRP completed its analysis of the law governing property registration, with a focus on the four scenarios described above, along with other laws relevant to property rights. PRP was assisted in this work by a summer intern from the JD/LLM program of Ohio Northern University.) PRP has hired STTA to work with PRP staff to conduct field research on the practice of the MCO and other relevant institutions in Viti/Vitina pertaining to property registration and inheritance issues.

Relevant laws include the Law on Cadaster 04/L-1; the Law on the Immovable Property Register 2002/5 (and amendments 2003/13, 04/L-009); the Law on Property and Other Real Rights 03/L-154; the Administrative Instruction No. 02-2013 on Implementing the Law on Cadaster; the AI No. 02/2012 on fees and charges of cadastral services and products rendered by Municipal Cadastral Offices and licensed surveying companies; and the AI on Licensing of Surveying Companies and Surveyors 01-2013.

The purpose of this analysis is to identify and address inconsistencies and contradictions within the governing law in order to simplify and streamline the property registration process and encourage citizens to formalize their property rights and relations. PRP has also correlated these findings with the current draft of the National Strategy to ensure consistency. The findings from the legal research will serve as a starting point for analyzing practice "on the ground."

By the end of this Quarter, PRP had developed a detailed questionnaire for interviews to ascertain the practice at the municipal level related to property registration. The Questionnaire devotes particular attention to apparent conflicts or gaps in the law governing property registration. It is also designed to elicit the officials' views on their own challenges; the challenges citizens face in registering property; what the officials believed should be improved, etc.

Planning Public Outreach Activities in Viti/Vitina

PRP has also begun discussions with Viti/Vitina officials on public outreach activities to be carried out in Viti/Vitina during the next Quarter. These will begin with activities focusing on women's property rights.

Commencement of Field Research in Viti/Vitina

Field research in Viti/Vitina of the practices and procedures of the MCO and other institutions related to property registration and property rights will begin in the first week of October.

Preparing Door-to-Door Survey on Property Registration

During this Quarter PRP began drafting a Request for Proposal for applications for a sub-contract to carry out activities that complement and build upon PRP's work at the municipal level. Among these activities is a door-to-door survey to be conducted within Viti/Vitina that focuses on issues related to delayed inheritance. The survey will be designed to measure local citizens' knowledge of, attitudes toward, and familiarity with property registration; the status of their own property in that regard; their experience in registering property; the reasons why the registration has not been updated, etc. The survey will provide findings that inform other local and national initiatives, and will also be used to disseminate information to citizens.

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 10 Reported Results
OBJECTIVE 1: IMPROVE COORDINATION AND POLICY PRIORITIES							
1.1} Number of strategies drafted and approved by the government.	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]	I/D [Y1=0] [Y2=1/D]	1 [Y1=0] [Y2=1] [Y3=0] [Y4=0]	I/D [Y1=0] [Y2=1/D]	"National Strategy on Property Rights" -drafted
1.2} Number of laws drafted and approved /Accepted by line ministry/government as a result of 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	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.	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	7 [Y1=1] [Y2=6]	8 [Y1=6] [Y2=2]	14 [Y1=1] [Y2=6] [Y3=3] [Y4=4]	8 (1A+7D) [Y1=6] [Y2=2]	Concept Document for Construction Land-drafted

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 10 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 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 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 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 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 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 10 Reported Results
2.6} Number of USG-assisted courts with improved case management related to resolution of property claims and disputes.	DO: Improved Rule of Law and Governance that meet Citizen's Needs IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector	0	4 [Y1=4] [Y2=N/A]	4* [Y1=0] [Y2=4*]	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 Pejal Peć, Ferizaj/ Uroševac and Branch Court Shtërpçë/Shtërpce) 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.	DO: Improved Rule of Law and Governance that meet Citizen's Needs IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector	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.	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	40 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=40]	45 [Y1=4] [Y2=41]	80 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=40] [Y3=40] [Y4=N/A]	45 [Y1=4] [Y2=41]	N/A
3.2} Number of communication outreach products, developed and disseminated by PRP and "E4E CSOs."	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	35 [Y1=10] [Y2=25]	52 [Y1=5] [Y2=47]	70 [Y1=10] [Y2=25] [Y3=25] [Y4=10]	52 [Y1=5] [Y2=47]	*Sixteen Billboards in Kosovo Displaying Ads and Messages for PRP's Campaign, For Our Common Good *Women and Property leaflet used at Launch Event for National Grassroots Campaign in Viti/Vitina. *Kosovo Citizens for Equal property Rights leaflet used at Launch Event for National Grassroots Campaign in Viti/Vitina. *NewsFeature Story_Parents *TV Ad Parents *Radio NewsFeature Story_Parents *Radio Ad Parents

* PRP is in process of assisting 4 Courts (Gjilan/Gnjilane, Pejë/Peć, Ferizaj/ Uroševac and Branch Court Shtërpçë/Shtërpce) with improved case management related to resolution of property claims and disputes

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 10 Reported Results
							"Per te miren tone" Facebook page ATRC-PRP web page N/A
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]	
3.4} Number of communication outreach activities and events developed and implemented by PRP and "E4E CSOs" 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]	34 [Y1=7] [Y2=27]	114 [Y1=7] [Y2=50] [Y3=50] [Y4=7]	34 [Y1=7] [Y2=27]	ArtPolis (E4E Sub-grantee), Conducted six Theater Performances on Women's Property Rights "Matter of Custom," in 6 municipalities. ACDC (E4E sub-grantee) organized a roundtable discussion in North Mitrovica for the civil society and Kosovo institutions on women's property rights Workshop with Women in Business- Kamenica Launch Event for National Grassroots Campaign in Viti/Vitina. N/A
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	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	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=?]	

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 10 Reported Results
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.	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	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
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 10 Reported Results
4.2} Number of days to conduct property transactions reduced due to improved information systems in participating municipalities.	DO: Increase Investment and Private Sector Employment IR: Improved Economic Governance & Business Environment	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.	DO: Increase Investment and Private Sector Employment IR: Improved Economic Governance & Business Environment	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.	DO: Increase Investment and Private Sector Employment IR: Improved Economic Governance & Business Environment	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.	DO: Increase Investment and Private Sector Employment IR: Improved Economic Governance & Business Environment	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
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 and social attitudes, using legal reforms and public advocacy. Here is one example of these efforts: to complement its ongoing national media campaign on TV, radio and social media to support women's property rights (under the rubric, *For Our Common Good*, with 24 media products to date), PRP is conducting grassroots, community-level activities to bring this message to Kosovo citizens directly – with a particular focus on youth. PRP launched this national initiative with a visibility event in the

municipality of Viti/Vitina, where PRP is carrying out a number of local initiatives to assist the local authorities to make it easier for their citizens to register their property.

The event brought together a number of PRP initiatives and marshalled important national and local support. The US Ambassador, the First Deputy Prime Minister, and the Mayor of Viti/Vitina made remarks in support of women's property rights. The launch event also featured an exhibition of local second-graders' drawings on the topic, "Home and Family," from a children's art activity that PRP had organized in Viti/Vitina the previous month; and a video clip from that activity was presented at the launch event. (PRP is using these drawings in other aspects of its grassroots campaign.)

In addition, the launch event featured testimonials from two women from the community about their own positive experience in exercising their property rights and helping other women to do so.

The central feature of the launch event was a demonstration of Forum Theater, to show how art and other non-conventional media can be employed to raise social issues and advocate behavior change. The production addressed daughters' inheritance, and following the dramatic presentation, local high school students made comments and posed questions to the characters in the play.

The event was very well attended and generated extensive national and local publicity.

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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 public advocacy on women's property rights, with a highly publicized launch event for grassroots activities on women's property rights.. In addition, in this Quarter PRP commenced field

research 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 finalized the draft National Strategy on Property Rights and submitted the document, with an Implementation plan, to the Ministry of Justice for public notice and comment. Following that consultation, the draft National Strategy: will receive final revisions and review by the Core Technical Group and will be submitted to the Government.

PRP has also developed revisions to a package of laws to address two important areas of concern: (1) to provide safeguards for women to enable them to receive timely notice of inheritance proceedings and to provide them with the opportunity to make decisions on renunciation with deliberation and an understanding of the consequences of renunciation; and (2) to adopt constructive notice principles that will simplify and facilitate the resolution of delayed inheritance cases, i.e., cases where the decedent died several years previously, to encourage citizens to bring their property records up to date and acquire clear legal title to their property.

It is expected that PRP's proposals will be presented at a Conference on Inheritance that the MoJ will organize, with PRP support, during the last week of October.

Regarding **Objective 2**, By the end of this Quarter PRP's Record Management Specialists had inventoried a total of 2,100 pending property cases (representing the complete pending caseloads of three judges (one judge each from the Basic Courts of Pejë/Peć, Ferizaj/Uroševac and Gjilan/Gnjilane), and partial caseloads of three additional judges from those courts. On the basis of that data PRP has begun making preliminary findings and recommendations to improve the caseload management of property cases and eliminate unnecessary delays. These will be completed in October and presented to the KJC and CoM in a series of roundtables in November.

During this quarter PRP also continued its analysis of judicial practice in property law, i.e., the quality and consistency of the courts' decisions in adjudicating property cases, and identified the principal grounds for the high reversal rate of property cases by the Court of Appeals (around 70%). These and other findings will be presented to the courts for the joint development of initiatives to help the courts address problematic issues in property rights adjudication and achieve more uniformity, consistency, and predictability in their judicial practice.

PRP also worked closely with USAID CLE in taking part in the working group for the draft Law on Mediation; and together with CLE has begun planning trainings for judges on referring mediation for property cases.

Objective 3. This Quarter saw a continuation of PRP's expanded media campaign on women's property rights on national and local TV and radio and on the social media. PRP complemented the media campaign with a billboard campaign using photos from the PSA's. Anecdotal accounts indicate that the campaign is generating discussion within Kosovo society and influencing opinion.

In addition, PRP successfully launched its grassroots campaign on women's property rights with a highly publicized event in Viti/Vitina. The launch event featured remarks by the US Ambassador, the First Deputy Prime Minister, and the Mayor of Viti/Vitina, along with testimonials from two local women who recounted their success at dealing with property issues. The event also featured an exhibition of children's drawings on the topic, "Home and Family," from PRP's art activity for children held in Viti in June; a video clip made from that art activity; and a demonstration of forum theater that was followed by questions posed by high school students in the audience. The event was extremely well attended and received extensive national coverage on TV.

PRP also continued to work with USAID Washington and their contractor for communications, Cloudburst, to support their interest in providing coverage of PRP's work in Kosovo.

Under **Objective 4**, PRP concluded its legal research of the law governing property registration and began field research in Viti/Vitina to determine practice "on the ground." PRP will use findings from

this research to identify measures to improve the registration process and make it easier for citizens to register their property. PRP also commenced interviewing MCO officials in Viti/Vitina.



PRP's Grassroots Activity Launch Event in Viti/Vitina municipality garnered a "full house" to witness a full program of speeches, videos, and a theatrical performance to demonstrate the importance of women's access to property rights to contribute to the advancement of Kosovo's society and economy.

PI COMMUNICATIONS / USAID PRP



Billboards were launched in September throughout Kosovo as an additional component of PRP's social behavior change communication campaign. This billboard conveys the message, "Equality knows no gender!"

PI COMMUNICATIONS / USAID PRP



US Ambassador Greg Delawie delivering his remarks at PRP's Grassroots Activity Launch Event in Viti/Vitina municipality expressing that the right and ability to own and use property is an individual's fundamental right, and an essential element of a democratic society ruled by law. It creates the basis for civil society, and is essential for a market economy to function.

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



Equality knows no gender. This is the slogan you will see in the billboards throughout Kosovo as of today.

Look out For Our Common Good billboards around Prishtinë/Pristina, #Peja/Pec, #Gjilan/Gnjilane, #Prizren, #Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, #Viti/Vitina, #Gracanica, #Sterpce/Shtërpce, and #Gjakova/Djakovica. Our #PropertyRightsProgram in partnership with Për Të Mirën Tonë

<https://www.facebook.com/usaidkosovo>
Published on September 1, 2016



Today, Ambassador Delawie visited Letnica, Draganac, and Viti to see important local sites and to speak about the right to own and inherit property, regardless of gender. USAID's Property Rights Promotion campaign has launched a national public advocacy campaign to raise awareness on this important issue and to increase women's property ownership across Kosovo.

Check out some of the photos from the visit!

<https://www.facebook.com/usaidkosovo>
Published on July 19, 2016

PUBLICATIONS

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

PRP ACTIVITY IN VITI/VITINA

Klan Kosova

'Launch of National Campaign for Property Rights'

<http://klankosova.tv/lansohet-fushata-nacionale-per-te-drejta-pronesore/>

July 19, 2016

Koha net

'Campaign for Women Property Rights launched, in Viti'

<http://koha.net/?id=27&l=124483>

July 19, 2016

Telegrafi

'Delawie, speaks at Viti on Property Rights'

<http://www.telegrafi.com/delawie-flet-ne-viti-per-te-drejtat-pronesore/>

July 19, 2016

Bota Sot

'Delawie, speaks at Viti on Property Rights'

<http://www.botasot.info/kosova/556564/delawie-flet-ne-viti-per-te-drejtat-pronesore/>

July 19, 2016

Kosova Sot

'Campaign for Women Property Rights launched, in Viti'

<http://www.kosova-sot.info/lajme/117695/nis-ne-viti-fushata-per-te-drejten-pronesore-te-grave/>

July 19, 2016

Indeksonline

'Campaign for Women Property Rights launched, in Viti'

<http://indiksonline.net/lajmet/nis-fushata-per-te-drejtat-pronesore-te-grave-ne-viti-2302/>

July 19, 2016

Zeri info

'Campaign for Women Property Rights launched, in Viti'

<http://zeri.info/aktuale/99773/fushata-per-te-drejten-pronesore-te-grave-nis-ne-viti/>

July 19, 2016

Lajmi Net

'Delawie, speaks at Viti on Property Rights'

<http://lajmi.net/delawie-flet-ne-viti-per-te-drejtat-pronesore/>

July 19, 2016

Kallxo.com

'USAID- Property Rights Program, launches a national campaign at local level, in Viti'

<http://kallxo.com/shembulli-shefkides-gruaja-nga-fshati-pronare-e-tokes/>

July 19, 2016

ARTPOLIS (E4E SUBGRATEE) "MATTER OF CUSTOM" FORUM THEATER

Municipality of Prishtinë/Pristina official web page

'Matter of Custom-Forum Theater'

<http://kk.rks-gov.net/prishtina/Municipality/Departments/Kultures,Rinise,Sportit/Kalendari-i-Ngjarjeve-Kulturore/Shtator/Ceshtje-zakoni---Teater-Forum.aspx>

September 15, 2016

Kultplus

'Matter of Custom, performance which treats a matter of family inheritance'

<http://www.kultplus.com/?id=2&l=16517>

September 15, 2016

PROJECT STAFF

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