



QUARTERLY REPORT NO. 15

Property Rights Program (PRP) FY 2017 (October 1 – December 31, 2017)

JANUARY 2018

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Cover Photo: Municipal mayoral candidates in a live, televised debate. In October and November separate televised debates were held for each of Kosovo's 38 municipalities, and Kosovo citizens followed them very closely. PRP arranged for its latest PSA's to be featured in each broadcast, and for each candidate to be asked the following questions: "Do you have property registered jointly with your spouse?" and "What will you do as mayor to support women's equal property rights?"

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AAK	Alliance for the Future of Kosovo			
AGE	Agency for Gender Equality			
AI	Administrative Instruction			
ATRC	Advocacy Training & Resource Center			
BIRN	Balkan Investigative Reporting Network			
CCP2	EU Civil Code Project, Phase II			
CDCS	Country Development Cooperation Strategy			
CFM	Caseflow Management			
CLE	Contract Law Enforcement Project			
CoM	Court of Merit			
CSO	Civil Society Organization			
DO	Development Objective			
ECHR	European Court of Human Rights			
E4E	Engagement for Equity			
EU	European Union			
EUSR	European Union Special Representative (in Kosovo)			
FSK	Kosovo Security Forces			
GCG	Gender Coordination Group			
GoK	Government of Kosovo			
IPA	Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance			
IQC	Indefinite Quantity Contract			
IR	Intermediate Result			
JSSP	Justice System Strengthening Program			
KCA	Kosovo Cadastral Agency			
KCBS	Kosovo Center for Business Support			
KCLIS	Kosovo Cadastre and Land Information System			
KJA	Kosovo Academy of Justice			
KJC	Kosovo Judicial Council			
KPCVA	Kosovo Property Comparison and Verification Agency			
KW4W	Kosova Women for Women			
MCO	Municipal Cadastral Office			
MESP	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning			
MGO	Municipal Gender Officer			
MLGA	Ministry of Local Government Administration			
MoJ	Ministry of Justice			
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization			

NSPR	National Strategy on Property Rights
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister
POLIS	Public Organization for Local Initiatives and Supports
PRP	Property Rights Program
PSA	Public Service Announcement
SPO	Strategic Planning Office
STTA	Short-Term Technical Assistance
STARR	Strengthening Tenure and Resource Rights
UBT	University for Business and Technology
UN	United Nations
UNMIK	United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
YIHR	Youth Initiative for Human Rights

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 (PRP) assists the Government of Kosovo (GoK) to develop and implement its National Strategy on Property Rights (NSPR) and strengthen property rights legislation; supports the development of improved court procedures to efficiently adjudicate property claims and disputes; conducts public outreach campaigns to prompt changes in social attitudes and behavior concerning the ability of women to exercise their property rights and works closely with civil society organizations to support related activities; 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.

With the GoK adopting the NSPR in January 2017, PRP is now working closely with all relevant GoK bodies to support the development of the legislation to help the GoK to strengthen the property rights legal framework by ensuring it is harmonized and well-integrated.

PRP has been working closely with the Kosovo Judicial Council (KJC) and four Courts of Merit (CoMs) to develop and pilot improved court procedures related to property claims; the piloting initiative has produced significant and demonstrable improvements in the CoM's efficiency and effectiveness in adjudicating property rights cases and offers a roadmap for institutionalizing these reforms throughout the judicial system. 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's most recent National Survey on Property Rights demonstrates that PRP's media campaign has sparked debate and discussion in Kosovo concerning women's property rights (which was reportedly a taboo subject previously) and is producing positive changes in social attitudes and behaviors. PRP is continuing its national media campaign and grassroots public outreach activities on women's property rights to reinforce these trends. PRP also provides technical assistance to USAID's E4E partner and E4E sub-grantees (Civil Society Organizations (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; provide useful legal information to their citizens to enable them to more efficiently transact their rights to property; and engage more effectively with their communities on property rights issues.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SUMMARY OF RESULTS FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD AND KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

This Quarter saw PRP advance its initiatives significantly under all four Objectives. Under Objective I, PRP secured the new Government's commitment to implement the NSPR, and assisted it to develop legislation to implement the NSPR's reform recommendations at a steady pace. Under Objective 2, the piloting of improved case management reforms has produced demonstrable improvements in the courts' efficiency and effectiveness in adjudicating property rights cases; and has prompted judges to call for the institutionalization of such practices throughout Kosovo's judicial system. Under Objective 3, PRP continued its public outreach on women's equal property rights with a range of activities, most notably airing PSAs it developed during municipal election debates organized by the E4E sub-grantee BIRN, and securing the inclusion of questions related to property rights during those debates. Under Objective 4, PRP has moved forward a number of initiatives in partner municipalities that are designed to improve municipal governments' services to their citizens including delivery of technical assistance and installation of hardware assets.

OBJECTIVE I: BETTER COORDINATION AND POLICY PRIORITIES

GOOD PROGRESS CONTINUES IN DEVELOPING IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION FOR THE NSPR DESPITE DELAYS IN FORMATION OF NEW GOVERNMENT

Despite delays in the formation of a new government, changes in political leadership, and the absence of the Steering Committee to oversee implementation of the NRPR, PRP's legislative experts assisted the GoK to produce six Concept Documents, five Draft Laws, 10 Administrative Instructions, and three Regulations to implement reform recommendations contained in the NSPR. An additional four Concept Documents, three Laws, and two Administrative Instructions are in various stages of development.

PRP HELPS SUSTAIN MOMENTUM IN NSPR IMPLEMENTATION, DESPITE LACK OF OVERSIGHT BODY

PRP partnered with the Steering Committee's Secretariat, the Strategic Planning Office of the Office of the Prime Minister (SPO), and the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) to organize a working session with institutions responsible to implement the NSPR to take stock of the current status of implementation. The institutions provided the SPO with written status reports that were analyzed with PRP assistance to prioritize legislative acts for drafting, and identify legislative acts for which institutions need further technical assistance from PRP. PRP will continue to play a proactive role to help coordinate and advance implementation of the NSPR in the absence of a Steering Committee.

PRP SUPPORTS DATA COLLECTION ON STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

PRP conducted a preliminary analysis on the current state of implementation and the results are promising. Just one year into a three-year long process, the MoJ and Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning are implementing on schedule 35 out of 65 NSPR reform measures with PRP assistance.

NEW GOVERNMENT AFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO SUSTAIN MOMENTUM FOR NSPR INITIATIVE

PRP met with the Minister of Justice and Deputy Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning. Both officials confirmed their commitment to the NSPR initiative and acknowledged PRP's leading role in

supporting property rights reforms. PRP has collaborated closely with the MoJ Minister's Cabinet and staff, and with relevant MESP departments PRP also worked with the OPM to incorporate NSPR measures in Kosovo's revised Economic Reform Programme, which the EU requires of accession countries and which highlights 20 national priorities.

PREPARATIONS BEGUN TO ESTABLISH STEERING COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE IMPLEMENTATION OF NSPR

PRP has helped create a workable means to move the process forward in the absence of an oversight body, by assisting the MoJ to amend the Government Decision on NSPR Steering Committee. The revisions concern the chairmanship of the Steering Committee and strengthen the authority of senior policymakers tasked to implement the NSPR. PRP and MoJ agreed on a joint draft and the MoJ is expected to submit the draft-decision to the Government for adoption. Following Government's approval, PRP will support Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and MoJ to organize the inaugural session of the Steering Committee.

DEVELOPMENT OF IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION CONTINUES

PRP continued to support development of legislation required to implement the NSPR. PRP has worked with Assembly MPs to support the second reading of the "Inheritance Package"; and has assisted the MoJ in finalizing a draft Concept Document on the Law on Property and Other Real Rights, in preparing a first draft of a Concept Document on the Law on Contested Procedure, and in revising MoJ's Draft Law on Public Property. PRP has assisted MESP in finalizing a Concept Document for amending the Law on Expropriation of Immovable Property, a Concept Document for amending the Law on Condominiums, and two administrative instructions on the proper implementation of the Law on Spatial Planning. Finally, PRP assisted the MLGA in drafting the Law on Allocation for Use and Exchange of Immovable Property of Municipalities.

PREPARATIONS FOR INITIATIVE TO ADDRESS INFORMALITY

PRP initiated a series of meetings with the OPM, calling for the need to draft a Concept Document that provide for simplified procedure for formalizing informal property rights arising from informal transactions (verbal contracts). PRP has advocated for the establishment of an inclusive, interinstitutional working group. To ensure that the actions contemplated by the NSPR to address large-scale informality survive Kosovo's relatively short electoral cycles, PRP also successfully incorporated this policy as a priority in Kosovo's Economic Reform Programme. As noted below, PRP will conduct research to guide the development of the simplified procedures and the selection of the institution(s) that will conduct formalization proceedings.

COORDINATION WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

In addition to coordinating implementation of the NSPR with GoK partners, PRP proactively collaborated with the donor community. PRP reestablished collaboration with the Civil Code Project, Phase II (CCP2), along the lines of its productive relationship during the first phase of this EU-funded project. PRP established protocols for coordination and conducted two meetings with CCP2 representatives to help align views on specific property rights legislation.

ANIMATED VIDEO ON INFORMALITY

PRP kicked off its expansion of its public outreach activities with a new animated PSA on informality. The PSA outlines the advantages of formalizing one's property rights and is intended for the social media.

PRODUCTION OF ALBANIAN TRANSLATION OF EUROPEAN VALUATION STANDARDS

PRP completed translation of European Valuation Standards into the Albanian language, and begun preparations to publish the standards to support the GoK's expressed commitment to apply these standards in Kosovo. Modern valuation standards are required, for example, for property tax assessments and to determine the value of estates under inheritance proceedings. The introduction of European valuation standards in Kosovo is consistent with the NSPR.

OBJECTIVE 2: IMPROVED COURT PROCEDURES RELATED TO PROPERTY CLAIMS

PILOTED CASEFLOW MANAGEMENT PRACTICES SHARPLY INCREASE NUMBER OF DECISIONS ISSUED

PRP compiled results from its 6 months of piloting improved case flow management (CFM) practices in the CoM's, based on recommendations from its analysis of nearly 5,000 closed and pending civil and property rights cases.

The improved CFM practices produced a sharp increase in the number of decisions the courts issued: by the end of this Quarter a total of 6,675 decisions had been issued with the assistance of PRP's Legal Associates since mid-December 2016. These include 912 decisions to dispose the case, and 5,763 procedural actions related to the first and second stage of a case (answering the claim, correcting the claim, exempting from court fees, etc.).

PILOTED CASEFFLOW MANAGEMENT PRACTICES REDUCE DELAYS AT ALL STAGES OF ADJUDICATION

The improved CFM practices also significantly reduced delays in adjudication. By way of illustration, in just 6 months the CFM practices reduced the average age of property rights cases by 33%, from 1,220 days to 815 days, and reduced the average age of non-property civil cases by 51%, from 1,171 days to 566 days. (It should be borne in mind that the resulting periods of 566 days and 815 days include the period of time that the cases had been on the courts' dockets prior to the application of the new CFM practices.) Complete details on these results are provided in the main section of this Report.

PRESENTATION TO KJC AND COURTS OF RESULTS FROM PILOTED CASEFLOW MANAGEMENT REFORMS

PRP made a formal presentation of the results of the piloted CFM practices to the KJC, Also present were the CoM Presidents and Heads of Civil Division and representatives of USAID, USAID's Justice System Strengthening Program (JSSP) and Contract Law Enforcement (CLE) projects. Judges in the KJC acknowledged the very tangible positive results achieved through the CFM reforms and urged that they be institutionalized throughout the judicial system.

DEVELOPMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE PRACTICAL GUIDE PROGRESSING ON SCHEDULE

PRP continued to develop its "Practical Guide for Courts on the Adjudication of Property Rights Claims in Kosovo," sharing drafts with CoM judges for their comments and providing a detailed Outline to JSSP and USAID.

The Practical Guide is designed as a comprehensive handbook for judges and court staff to enable them to adopt and apply the improved CFM practices; and will provide guidance on the CFM and procedural issues specific to each type of property rights case encountered by Kosovo courts. When PRP has prepared a complete polished draft, PRP will share the draft with USAID and JSSP to ensure that the two projects are taking consistent positions on CFM.

INITIATIVE COMMENCED TO DEVELOP EXPEDITED PROCEDURES FOR FORMALIZING PROPERTY RIGHTS

Among PRP's many findings from its CFM research is the determination that nearly 70% of the civil/property rights cases in the CoM's are actions brought to formalize informal property rights that are ostensibly not in dispute.

During this Quarter PRP identified and engaged an STTA to research fully and determine the Kosovo courts' current practice in dealing with claims to formalize informal rights. Through this initiative PRP aims to identify options for developing simplified rules and procedures to be applied in such cases; and develop recommendations on the specific changes to current applicable legislation that would be required to establish such rules and procedures. PRP will also review applicable international practice.

UNIFYING JUDICIAL PRACTICE IN PROPERTY RIGHTS

PRP's research in the CoM's has brought to light a number of issues where judicial practice in inconsistent or faces legal and practical challenges. During this Quarter PRP organized a workshop to facilitate discussion and help judges develop consensus on how to develop more unified and consistent practices.

The workshop featured a presentation by Gazmend Citaku, the Head of the MoJ's Department for International Cooperation on Civil and Criminal Matters, which is the office responsible for, among other things, providing notifications to persons in foreign jurisdictions concerning court proceedings in Kosovo.

PREPARATIONS BEGIN FOR PUBLISHING CASE SUMMARIES IN ALBANIAN AND SERBIAN OF DECISIONS OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS RELATED TO PROPERTY RIGHTS

PRP completed translation of case summaries into the Albanian language and translated 144 case summaries into the Serbian language and begun preparations to publish the case summaries.

COORDINATION WITH USAID JSSP AND USAID CLE

PRP continued to meet regularly with JSSP and shared with it a detailed outline of PRP's Practical Guide for further discussion. In addition PRP invited JSSP and CLE to its presentations to the KJC and CoM's; and PRP staff attended JSSP's workshop for Basic Courts on case screening, where they were invited to share PRP's experience in case screening from its work in the CoM's.

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

PRP SECURES WIDE MEDIA COVERAGE FOR PSA'S ON WOMEN'S PROPERTY RIGHTS

Data from PRP's most recent National Survey on Property Rights indicates that PRP's media campaign has sparked debate and discussion in Kosovo society concerning women's property rights. To keep the issue within the public's attention, PRP used the run-up to the nationwide municipal elections as an opportunity gain national exposure for its latest PSAs on women's property rights.

The Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN), a USAID Engagement for Equity (E4E) subgrantee, hosted a series of debates on the TV program "Jeta ne Komune" during the period September 21through October 20, 2017, and again during November 13 through 17, 2017 for the run-offs. The PSA's produced by PRP were aired during the debates on prime time television and were very closely followed by local citizens, as well as by persons in the diaspora.

PRP WORKS WITH CSO TO INCLUDE ISSUE OF WOMEN'S PROPERTY RIGHTS INTO MUNICIPAL ELECTORAL DEBATES

In connection with the municipal electoral debates described above, PRP worked closely with BIRN to have the moderator question each mayoral candidate about this/her stance on women's property rights. (The overwhelming majority of mayoral candidates were men.) Each candidate was asked

- 1. Whether he/she has property registered jointly with their spouse; and
- 2. What he/she will do as mayor to support women's equal property rights.

BIRN plans to do a follow-up on those candidates who made commitments to support women's equal property rights.

Over 1,200,000

Number of Facebook and YouTube views of the livestream of municipal electoral debates where women's property rights questions were prominently featured.*

* This does not include the number of people who watched the debates on television. (Note that television ratings figures are not readily available in Kosovo.)

BIRN published an accompanying article on the property rights questions raised during the electoral debate: (<u>http://kallxo.com/gink/42-kandidate-nuk-e-kane-regjistruar-pronen-bashke-grate/)</u>.

SUPPORT TO PARLIAMENTARIANS REVIEWING THE "INHERITANCE PACKAGE"

PRP worked closely with two Parliamentarians and provided them with briefing materials and reports, to help them prepare for reviewing the draft legislation. During the first reading in Parliament, the Parliamentarians spoke of the importance of ensuring gender equality in inheritance and made direct reference to safeguards for women's property inheritance that are proposed in this legislation. They also recognized publicly the research and public information campaigns conducted by USAID through the Property Rights Program to support women's equal property rights.

RESEARCH REVEALS PROBLEMS IN RECORDING AND REPORTING JOINT REGISTRATIONS OF MARITAL PROPERTY

PRP's research and analysis of the practices in the municipal cadastral offices (MCOs) located in PRP's partner municipalities – Viti/na, Štrpce/Shtërpcë and Dragash/Dragaš to register joint marital property revealed that the MCO's did not have effective methods of recording such information. As

a result the information was not consistent, could not be easily retrieved and was not being reported as required by law. PRP will work with the Agency for Gender Equality (AGE) and MCO's to identify best practices and improve the recording and reporting of this information.

BRINGING PROPERTY RIGHTS ISSUES TO HIGH SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

At "Kadri Zeka" University in Gjilan/Gnjilane PRP supported and help present to students of Law and Social Sciences lectures on the topic, "Human Rights: Guaranteeing Equal Property Rights in Kosovo". In Dragash/Dragaš, PRP supported a panel presentation on women's property rights to high school students.

In addition, at an event organized by the University for Business and Technology in Pristina organized a series of panel discussions for students and professors. PRP participated in a panel discussions addressing property rights in general, and equal rights to property in particular, and used the opportunity to inform the audience about USAID's work through PRP, including the efforts to modernize Kosovo's property rights law, improve the courts' handling of property cases and support women's equal property rights. At all of these events the students were very interested in the issues presented and engaged actively engaged in discussion.

ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

PRP worked with the Advocacy Training and Resource Center (ATRC), USAID's implementing partner for its Engagement for Equity (E4E) grant making program, and E4E sub-grantees to help them identify and carry out a range of activities to support and to commemorate the International Day for Eliminating Violence against Women within the 16 Days of Activism. PRP also directly participated in an event in Dragash/Dragaš to focus on the incidence of domestic violence and its relation to women's vulnerability from owning no property of their own.

CAPACITY-BUILDING SUPPORT FOR ATRC

PRP provided ATRC with technical assistance to conduct an overall evaluation of the current status of the E4E Program's grants management systems, procedures, and capabilities in order to help ATRC prepare to implement the next generation of USAID sub-awards. The evaluation was also aimed at assisting ATRC to prepare itself for conducting its own self-assessments going forward.

SUPPORT FOR E4E SUB-GRANTEES

PRP provided technical assistance to a number of E4E sub-grantees operating in various locations in Kosovo, to help them increase further the effectiveness of their activities.

SUPPORT FOR US AMBASSADOR'S FACT-FINDING TRIP TO ISTOG/K

PRP organized and facilitated a session of meetings for the US Ambassador during an official visit to Istog/k municipality. The meeting addressed equal property rights and the local state of affairs. Participants included representatives of civil society and a municipal official. The ambassador asked questions and made remarks on the importance of women owning property, and stressed the US government's commitment to support this cause.

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

SAFEGUARDING MCO ARCHIVES IN VITI/NA MUNICIPALITY

PRP completed installation of equipment to improve the storage facility in Viti/na municipality where hard-copy cadastral documents are archived and stored. These improvements included fireproof wall panels and flooring, dehumidifier, temperature regulator, and LED lighting. PRP has also procured new binders to enable the MCO to standardize the filing of its archived records in a more structured and organized manner and adopt a new labeling system for easier use.

The MCO archive facility is located on the premises of the municipality's new municipal building annex that was recently constructed with funding from the European Union to provide the municipality with a more modern and secure structure.

The municipality is arranging for electrical services to be connected to the annex. As soon as power has been established, PRP's subcontractor will test all installed equipment before finally furnishing the room with metal bookcases, flat file drawers, and a reading table. The work will be completed during the next quarter.

PROCUREMENT OF AN E-KIOSK IN VITI/NA MUNICIPALITY

PRP continues to upgrade existing e-kiosks funded by USAID to dispense property ownership and property tax certificates (in addition to civil status documents) and provide around-the-clock service delivery to citizens. The additional certificates are required for citizens who are interested to register a property transaction with their municipal cadastral office. These additional certificates are under the domain of the Kosovo Cadastral Agency (KCA) and the Department of Property Tax of the Ministry of Finance – both of which have been cooperative and collaborative with PRP on this endeavor, particular in the matter of revising the standard property ownership certificate template for e-kiosk delivery and by establishing the requisite web-services to their databases. PRP expects to complete its work to pilot the upgrading of Viti/na's e-kiosk during the next quarter.

PRP has subcontracted with local IT firm, DataProgNet, the contractor responsible for other e-kiosk installations under the USAID Advancing Kosovo Together program. Should the pilot be successful, it is envisioned that DataProgNet's other e-kiosks could be modified with a software upgrade to add these property services.

PRP MAKES AVAILABLE FINDINGS FROM ITS RESEARCH ON NUMBER OF DAYS REQUIRED TO REGISTER PROPERTY

PRP obtained baseline data from its three partner municipalities (Viti/na, Štrpce/Shtërpcë, and Dragash/Dragaš) on the average number of days it takes to conduct property transactions so that any progress resulting from impacts made by various PRP discrete municipal-level interventions can be monitored, and the efficacy of those interventions can be proven. The period of time which this baseline covers is from January 2016 – June 2017. Property transactions were categorized for analysis as either: purchase, inheritance, gift, or court-adjudicated.

Staff from these three MCOs were all cooperative and interested to learn about the results of the research, and understood the merits of this kind of performance analysis. PRP held one-to-one review sessions with each of the three MCO Directors and their staff. By and large, cadastral staff were disappointed at the initial findings, as they uncovered a number of inefficiencies in their

business processes, or actions that are quite contrary to best practices for proper handling of government records. The main finding is that these MCOs were exceeding (or were at risk of exceeding) the maximum time permitted by law (30 days) to complete a property registration from the time of initial filing. The next round of data collection will take place in January 2018, covering the period of July – December 2017.

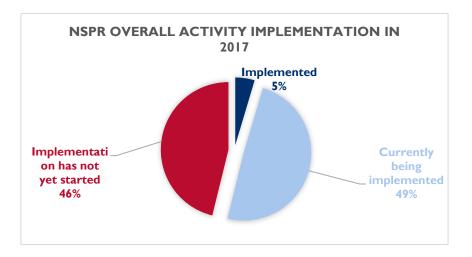
PROJECT ACTIVITIES

OBJECTIVE I: BETTER COORDINATION AND POLICY PRIORITIES

ACTIVITY 1.1: SUPPORT ESTABLISHMENT OF STRUCTURES TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY

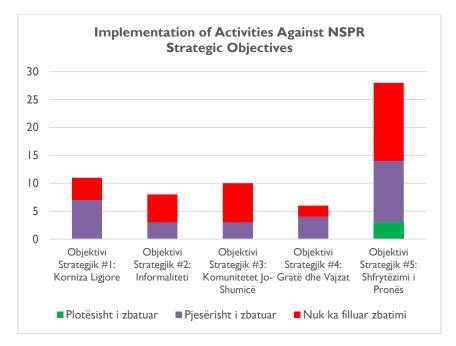
SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IN FULFILLING NSPR MEASURES

PRP worked closely with the SPO to assess the current status of NSPR implementation across all five of its objectives. Results were measured against the milestones included in the NSPR three years Action Plan (AP). The assessment revealed that over half of the reform measures listed in the AP are currently in process.



NSPR reform measures include development of legislation to clarify and strengthen rights to property and broader initiatives such as addressing large-scale informality. PRP provided technical assistance to the MoJ and MESP to develop concept notes that frame the requirements for each piece of reform legislation, draft legislation, and administrative instructions (Als) to guide the legislation's implementation. PRP also provided financial and logistical support for public consultations to inform development of legislation. Once laws are adopted, PRP will further assist NSPR implementation by supporting trainings for judges and municipal officers to effectively carry out reforms.

The MoJ and the Ministry of Environment and Social Planning (MESP) are responsible for implementing 30 and 9 measures respectively out of the total 65 reform measures listed in the AP. With PRP support, both ministries are currently implementing all reform measures for which they are responsible, and MESP as completed implementation of three.



Priority reform legislation developed with PRP assistance under each of the five NSPR reform objectives includes:

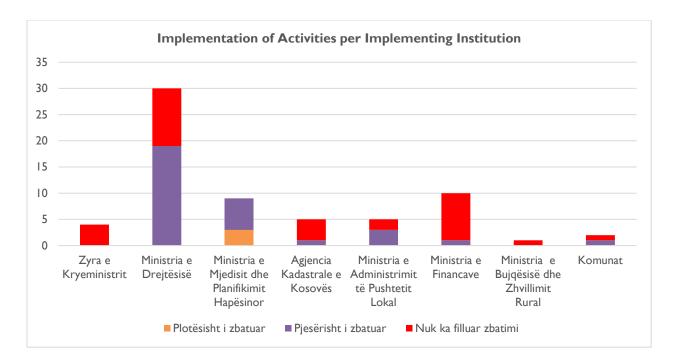
To achieve NSPR Objective I, securing property rights by strengthening the legal framework, PRP supported MoJ legislative activities to eliminate Socially Owned Property (SOP) as a legal category of ownership (AP Measure 1.1) and to clarify legal ambiguities between various existing categories of state, public, and municipal property (AP Measure 1.2).

To achieve NSPR Objective 2, securing property rights by addressing large scale informality, PRP supported MoJ legislative activities to address large-scale informality by streamlining inheritance procedures to incentivize citizens to formalize their rights to property (AP Measure 2.1).

To achieve NSPR Objective 3, guaranteeing and enforcing the property rights of Displaced Persons, PRP supported MoJ legislative activities to improve effective access to justice for Displaced Persons (AP Measure 3.3).

To achieve NSPR Objective 4, guaranteeing and enforcing the property rights of women, PRP supported MoJ legislative activities to ensure consistent recognition of 'factual' marriages (AP Measure 4.1), to develop safeguards in cases of renunciation and concealment (AP Measure 4.2), and to protect the inheritance rights of minor children (AP Measure 4,3).

To achieve NSPR Objective 5, promoting productive use of land to fuel economic growth, PRP supported MESP legislative activities that promote a consolidated land development process (AP Measure 5.1), and to establish an adequate and comprehensive legalization process and properly clarify the legal status of illegally constructed buildings and the affected land (AP Measure 5.2.).



MOVING THE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS FORWARD IN THE ABSENCE OF A STEERING COMMITTEE

In response to delays in the establishment of the NSPR Steering Committee, PRP partnered with the SPO and the MoJ and organized a working session with institutions responsible to implement the NSPR to take stock of the current status of implementation. The institutions provided the SPO with written status reports that were analyzed with PRP assistance to prioritize legislative acts for drafting, and identify legislative acts for which institutions need further technical assistance from PRP. PRP will continue to play a proactive role to help coordinate and advance implementation of the NSPR in the absence of a Steering Committee. The data collected during the stock taking exercise is reflected in the graphs above.

SUPPORTING THE PRIME MINISTER'S STRATEGIC PLANNING OFFICE IN GATHERING INFORMATION ON STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF NSPR

As noted above, following SPO's request to implementing institutions to report on the status of implementation, all implementing institutions responded, and the SPO, with PRP's support, is now updating the implementation plan. In order to ensure effective communication with senior policymakers and the public, PRP will also use graphs and visual tools to effectively communicate to its partners the status of implementation to date.

PRP assisted the SPO to prepare an effective practice for institutions to report on the state of implementation of all NSPR activities, including non-legislative measures. PRP prepared a master table with all NSPR activities and specified the current state of implementation and next steps to be undertaken for each activity.

To ensure reliable and prompt reporting from implementing institutions, PRP prepared an accompanying form to be completed by institutions. They are expected to use the form only if the information in the master table does not reflect the current state of implementation of their respective activities. The underlying principle for introducing this reporting practice is to ensure high response rate from implementing institutions and to foster local ownership and responsibility for the NSPR implementation. Updating the master table was instructive for PRP to assist the SPO in

compiling analytical data on the current state of implementation of the NSPR, highlighting milestones and challenges for each implementing institution. The findings can be used to demonstrate to the Steering Committee that the NSPR is already producing results. It can also be used to highlight any potential bottlenecks that require the attention and support of Steering Committee members to proceed further with implementation.

To ensure smooth implementation of NSPR activities in 2018, the SPO also requested implementing institutions to include all NSPR activities planned for next year in their 2018 work plans and legislative agendas.

PRP ASSISTS MOJ IN AMENDING THE GOK DECISION ON THE NSPR STEERING COMMITTEE

The GoK decision approving the NSPR required establishment of a Steering Committee to guide its implementation. The GoK has not yet established the Steering Committee. PRP assisted the MoJ to amend the decision's provisions related to chairmanship of the Steering Committee that will help strengthen the authority of senior policymakers tasked to implement the NSPR. These measures will help ensure effective GoK oversight of NSPR implementation and effective coordination to achieve major policy initiatives such as addressing large-scale informality. The Government adopted the amended decision on January 12.

PRP BEGINS POLICY DISCUSSIONS ON INFORMALITY WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S STRATEGIC PLANNING OFFICE AND LEGAL OFFICE

PRP met with the Prime Minister's Office to discuss beginning preparations of a Concept Document that would detail the procedure for resolving informal property rights arising from informal purchases (verbal contracts). GoK approval of the Concept Document would pave the way to drafting legislation for the procedure. PRP has advocated for the establishment of an inclusive working group that would include the Kosovo Property Comparison and Verification Agency, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Kosovo Judicial Council and Kosovo Cadastral Agency. To ensure that the actions contemplated by the NSPR to address large-scale informality survive Kosovo's relatively short electoral cycles, PRP also successfully advocated for incorporating this policy as a priority in Kosovo's Economic Reform Programme, which the EU requires of countries that want to join the EU. PRP will be the Government's primary supporter in pushing the policy on large-scale informality forward.

ACTIVITY 1.2: SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NSPR

COORDINATING IMPLEMENTATION WITH GOK PARTNERS

PRP continued to support the MoJ and GoK institutions in developing implementing legislation for the NSPR, while also responding to additional requests from individual institutions for developing legislation beyond the scope of the NSPR. PRP collaborated with the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, and the Office of the Prime Minister. PRP also continued to nurture its partnership with other implementing institutions, such as the KPCVA, through direct meetings.

Minister of Justice Affirms Support for the NSPR. Minister of Justice Abelard Tahiri requested the meeting with PRP for a briefing on the work that PRP and the MoJ have carried out to date, and to discuss priorities under the current Minister's mandate. The Minister praised the policymaking process employed in developing the NSPR and thanked PRP for its support in pushing MoJ's

legislative agenda forward. Also discussed was the work ahead to implement the NSPR and fulfill the Ministry's annual legislative agenda. The Minister confirmed PRP's leading role in supporting MoJ's property rights reforms forward. The Minister noted that four British Embassy Legal Drafting Experts, who are expected to be embedded in the Ministry, will be dedicated entirely to the Justice Sector Review and will not focus on property rights legislation, and that additional PRP assistance would be very welcome. The Minister expressed readiness to convene the NSPR Steering Committee before the end of 2017 and his willingness to invite the Prime Minister in the inaugural, high-visibility meeting.

PRP Enhances Communication Channels with the New Justice Minister's Cabinet and MOJ. PRP continued its collaboration with the MoJ through regular meetings with the Minister's Cabinet. PRP maintained close contact with the Chief of Cabinet, Mr. Altin Ademi, who demonstrated interest in collaborating to push the Minister's property rights reform agenda forward. As a result of this collaboration, PRP prepared speeches, talking points, and public statements for the Minister, thereby taking the lead in helping to develop a coherent narrative on property rights reforms led by the Ministry of Justice.

PRP has also developed a close collaboration with the Minister's Advisor, Mr. Faton Fetahu, as a conduit of communication between the Minister's Cabinet and the Ministry's departments. Together with the Minister's Cabinet, Legal Office Director, Mr. Ardian Bajraktari, and EU Integration Director, Lulzim Beqiri, PRP helped the Ministry prioritize activities. With PRP's support, the Ministry initiated public consultations on the Concept Document on the Law on Property and Other Real Rights, which PRP helped draft, and established a working group to take ownership of the Draft-Law on Public Property. The MoJ also asked from the PRP to facilitate coordination between the MoJ and MESP to jointly produce a draft-law on urban construction land.

PRP agreed with the ministry a list of Concept Documents PRP will assist to develop in the coming year. Included in the list were the Concept Document for the Law on Ownership and other Property Rights, the Concept Document for replacing UNMIK Regulation 2013/13 on the transformation of use rights over socially owned property and the Concept Document of the Law on Contested Procedure.

Deputy Minister of Environment Assures PRP of Continued and Sustained Partnership. Following PRP's request to meet with MESP's senior political leadership, PRP met with MESP's Deputy Minister, Mr. Besim Demi, from AAK (the Prime Minister's political party), General Secretary Arben Çitaku, and a Political Advisor to the Minister. PRP briefed MESP on the work that PRP and the MESP have carried out to date, and discussed priorities under the current leadership's mandate. The Deputy Minister confirmed MESP's commitment to developing the legislation necessary to implement the NSPR and PRP's leading role in supporting MESP's efforts to that end. PRP expressed its readiness in supporting actions to streamline property registration procedures, and advocated for making the cadastre fully publicly accessible. PRP will continue to directly collaborate with relevant MESP departments through PRP's embedded legislative expert.

Regular Meetings with the SPO and Legal Office of the OPM. The meetings focused on tracking implementation of the NSPR, identify and disentangle bottlenecks, and discuss specific policy topics pertinent to the OPM, including addressing large-scale informality and matters concerning the KPCVA. PRP also utilized the relationship with the OPM to incorporate property rights measures in Kosovo's Economic Reform Programme, which the EU requires of countries applying for EU membership. The programme consists of 20 "priorities of priorities." With PRP's active engagement, one of Kosovo's 20 national priorities includes addressing large scale informality in the

immovable property sector. PRP also collaborated directly with the EU to finalize the measure on addressing large-scale informality, which is currently undergoing public consultations.

SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION

The "Inheritance Package" Passes First Reading in the Assembly. The "Inheritance Package" includes amendments to the Law on Inheritance and the Law on Uncontested Procedure, and a new Draft-Law on Notary. The Inheritance Package had been approved and submitted to the Assembly by the previous Government. The new Government re-approved the laws and submitted the laws to the Assembly of Kosovo.

The Parliamentary session featured some constructive debate, and the draft legislation also received support from the opposition. PRP will now work with new MPs to inform them of the issues addressed by the three pieces of legislation and their inter-relation. The Legislative Committee has established working groups to review the "Inheritance Package" that PRP will support.

The amendments introduce safeguards to protect women's property rights and provide a mechanism for addressing delayed inheritance, which has caused widespread informality in the property sector. The legislation also resolves inconsistencies between the legal acts, resolves confusion over notaries' authority to process undisputed inheritance, and provides guidelines to ensure that notary fees are reasonable for Kosovo citizens. PRP worked directly with the MOJ in preparing the inheritance package, and this undertaking marked the first occasion where the MoJ developed amendments to multiple, inter-related laws at the same time.

Draft Law on Treatment of Constructions without a Permit. The GoK Cabinet of Ministers approved the draft law on Friday, November 10. The Government has submitted the draft law to the Kosovo Assembly.

Draft Law on Public Property. PRP provided technical assistance for amending the draft Law on Public Property, ensuring that the version submitted to the Government for approval is consistent with the NSPR. This draft law is yet to be finalized.

Draft Law on Allocation for Use and Exchange of Municipal Immovable Property. This Draft Law, sponsored by the Ministry of Local Government Administration, is undergoing the final stage of public consultations. PRP experts supported developing this Draft Law, and PRP organized a two-day working session for the Inter-Ministerial Working Group to finalize the draft law. Following MLGA's request, PRP also organized a one-day workshop for public discussion of this draft law, presenting amendments to a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including municipal and civil society representatives.

Draft Law on the Chambers of Architects and Chamber of Engineers in the Field of Construction, Sponsored by MESP. Although development of this law is not foreseen by the NSPR, PRP provided comments upon the request of MESP. Comments concerned the competencies and responsibilities of chamber bodies, Chamber Assemblies and Management Boards. PRP comments were incorporated in the Draft Law.

Proposal for Amendment on Criminal Code of the Republic of Kosovo. The Criminal Code is currently undergoing amendment. PRP proposed to include recommendations from the NSPR (Activity 5.1.5 of Action plan), which requires inclusion of an additional provision to the Criminal Code regarding illegal construction. Penalties foreseen by the Criminal Code are expected to serve as an effective deterrent and prevent unpermitted construction. The proposed amendment

also reflects research of comparative state practice in different legal systems that have imposed criminal penalties for illegal construction, such as Albania, Serbia, Macedonia and Bulgaria.

Concept Documents

Draft Concept Document on the Law on Property (Ownership) and Other Real Rights. With PRP's support, the MoJ launched the public consultation phase on the draft concept document (http://konsultimet.rks-gov.net/viewConsult.php?ConsultationID=40224). PRP also prepared supporting documents necessary for submitting the Concept Document to the Government for approval.

Draft Concept Document for the Expropriation of Immovable Property. PRP prepared comments on the first draft of the Concept Document, which was developed by MESP. The Concept Document is available on the following link: <u>http://konsultimet.rks-gov.net/viewConsult.php/ConsultationID=40261</u>. During the public consultation phase, MESP received positive comments from the EU Office in Kosovo, and comments from the Government Coordination Secretariat. PRP supported the Expropriation Department to incorporate comments received and a follow-up report after the conclusion of the public consultation phase.

Draft Concept Document on Amending the Law on Condominiums. PRP organized a twoday workshop on the Concept Document, which was an opportunity to receive recommendations from relevant stakeholders. PRP scrutinized comments and incorporated them in the final version of the draft Concept Document, which is under public consultations since December 06 (http://konsultimet.rks-gov.net/viewConsult.php/ConsultationID=40276).

Draft Concept Document on the Law on Contested Procedure. The Working Group conducted an initial review of the first draft and discussed next steps. PRP prepared the first version of this draft Concept Document.

Draft Concept Document on a New Law on Transformation of Socially Owned Immovable Property. PRP participated in an MoJ internal meeting for setting up activities for drafting a Concept Document on a new law that would succeed the UNMIK Regulation 2003/13, as foreseen in the NSPR. The meeting was attended by Faton Fetahu (Advisor of the Minister), Lulzim Beqiri (Director of Department for Policy Development and EU Integration), Selvije Elezi (MoJ); Shefik Kurteshi and Arben Limani (Kosovo Privatization Agency). With PRP's support, the MoJ will include drafting this document in the 2018 legislative plan, establish a working group, and prepare a first draft of the Concept Document.

Administrative Instructions

Draft Administrative Instruction on Supervision, Sanctions and Measures. PRP supported MESP in drafting the Draft Administrative Instruction on Supervision, Sanctions and Measures as contemplated by the Law on Spatial Planning (article 25). This Draft AI contributes to more effective implementation of the Law on Spatial Planning. The draft AI has been posted for public notice and comment (http://konsultimet.rks.gov.net/viewConsult.php/ConsultationID=40278).

Draft Administrative Instruction Related to Spatial Planning. PRP supported MESP in incorporating the comments of the Legal Department of the OPM into the Draft Administrative Instruction on the classification, duties, responsibilities and content of the elements and basic requirements for drafting, implementing and monitoring spatial plans for special zones. The AI is

foreseen to be adopted very soon by the GoK as required by the Law on Spatial Planning (Article 14, paragraph 7).

ASSISTING THE GOK IN MEETING EUROPEAN REQUIREMENTS ON PROPERTY RIGHTS

PRP has taken an active role in helping reform the property rights sector in a manner consistent with Kosovo's EU agenda. PRP assisted institutions with fulfilling policy and reporting requirements set by the EU. PRP also undertook actions ensure its interventions are sustainable. Given Kosovo's relatively short electoral cycles, PRP advocated for incorporating property rights policy measures in EU-required reform programs for Kosovo, which are implemented continuously regardless of who sits in the Government.

Assisting the MoJ in Setting Priorities Related to Property Rights Reform for the Economic Reform Programme (2018-2020). Kosovo, as an EU enlargement country, is obligated to develop and implement its Economic Reform Programme. The programme consists of 20 "priorities of priorities." With PRP's active advocacy and engagement, one of Kosovo's 20 national priorities includes addressing large scale informality in the immovable property sector.

Assisting the MoJ in Meeting EU Requirements Related to Property Rights. PRP provided assistance to the MoJ to identify concrete activities in relation to Kosovo's National Development Strategy (2016-2021), concerning the enforcement of property rights in Kosovo, and to link these activities with the MoJ activities included in the annual work plan for 2018. Property Rights measures were incorporated in the National Development Strategy following PRP's active engagement with the Office of the Prime Minister. The MoJ discussed their work plan in a meeting with the SPR were agreed upon.

At the request of the MoJ, PRP also provided assistance in identifying the European Union Directives that must be reflected in the amended version of the Law on Property and Other Real Rights. PRP researched the matter and provided the MoJ with its findings.

Making European Valuation Standards Available in Albanian. PRP responded to a request from the Kosovo Appraisers Association (for property valuation) to translate European valuation standards into the Albanian language. The Board of the Association, which includes representatives from the Ministry of Finance and MESP, endorsed this request and pledged to support the implementation of the standards in Kosovo. PRP also secured formal permission from the European Valuation Association to publish the valuation standards in Albanian.

Introducing European valuation standards in Kosovo is consistent with the NSPR, which cites problems with current valuation practice in Kosovo. PRP finalized the translation and began preparations for publication. The Albanian translation of the valuation standards will be presented to the public in the next quarter. PRP will publish up to 1,000 hard copies and will also support the distribution and posting of the standards in electronic format.

COOPERATION AND COORDINATION WITH OTHER DONORS AND STAKEHOLDERS

In addition to coordinating implementation of the NSPR with GoK partners, PRP proactively collaborated with the donor community. PRP reestablished collaboration with the Civil Code Project, Phase II (CCP2), along the lines of its productive relationship during the first phase of this

EU-funded project. PRP established protocols for coordination and conducted two meetings with CCP2 representatives to help align views on specific property rights legislation.

The meetings allowed the parties to discuss ways for collaborating and communicating on matters related to property rights. It was agreed that meetings should be held on a monthly basis, as it was previously the case during the first phase of the Civil Code Project. PRP expressed the desire that Civil Code Phase 2 take part in PRP activities. It was also agreed to:

- renew the MoU to support a mutually accountable partnership between PRP and the Civil Code Project Phase 2 (CCP2), as it was previously the case during the first phase of the Civil Code Project.
- share with CCP2 its experience on the NSPR drafting and approval process in order to ensure that the Civil Code drafting process is conducted in an inclusive way with an effective approval process.
- take part in the working group(s) formed to develop the Civil Code.
- have CCP2 represented on all working groups developing legislation for the NSPR.
- engage the EU project in working groups and Parliamentary hearings related to the Inheritance Package and property rights legislation.

The parties also discussed the introduction of necessary legal provisions to the Law on Ownership and Other Real Rights and a new law to replace UNMIK Regulation 2003/13, converting socially owned rights over urban land for construction and 99-year leases into a right of ownership in fee simple.

New MoJ General Secretary Convenes Get-Acquainted Meeting for Donor and Project Stakeholders. With the new Government in place, the MoJ has witnessed a rise in donor technical assistance. In addition to EU IPA in-house expertise, the MoJ has also housed four legislative experts from the British Embassy and an embedded USAID JSSP Advisor. In all meetings with the Ministry of Justice, including in the introductory meeting of the new General Secretary with donor and project representatives, it was stated that property rights matters are at the responsibility of PRP and the EU Civil Code Project.

ACTIVITY 1.3: COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT

PRP Presents on a Roundtable Sponsored by the Office of Ombudsperson on Gender Equality. PRP made a presentation titled, "Property Policy and Legislation, Guaranteeing and Enforcing Gender Equality." The presentation discussed links between informality in the land sector and gender equality, noting that informal property rights can exacerbate the inability of women to exercise their property rights fully and freely.

PRP Produces Animated PSA on Informality. In the following months, PRP plans to extend its *For Our Common Good* campaign to general property rights issues that go beyond equal property rights. PRP will kick-off this expansion of its public outreach activities with an animated PSA on informality, outlining the benefits that come with initiating inheritance proceedings or formalizing contracts and registering one's property rights. This product is for use in social media.

OBJECTIVE 2: IMPROVED COURT PROCESS RELATED TO PROPERTY CLAIMS

This Quarter saw PRP continue to support the institutionalization of CFM reforms in the three CoM's and gather and present to the KJC empirical data demonstrating the improvements in court efficiency that the reforms are generating. PRP also advanced its preparation of the "Practical Guide for Courts on Adjudicating Property Rights Claims in Kosovo," to support the institutionalization of CFM reforms in other courts. In addition, PRP launched its initiative to develop expedited procedures for formalizing informal property rights and conducted a workshop with judges on substantive practice issues in property rights where judicial practice is not uniform.

ACTIVITY 2.1: COMPILE FINDINGS ON IMPACT OF CFM REFORMS AND SECURE AGREEMENT OF KJC TO EXTEND THE REFORMS TO ADDITIONAL COURTS

PILOTED CASEFLOW MANAGEMENT PRACTICES SHARPLY INCREASE NUMBER OF DECISIONS ISSUED

PRP's nine Legal Associates (LA's) in all three Courts of Merit (Ferizaj/Urosevac, Gjilan/Gnjilane and Peja/Pec Basic Courts) continued assisting civil judges with various procedural actions to expedite case flow and adjudication. By the end of this Quarter a total of 6,675 decisions had been issued with the assistance of PRP's LA's since mid-December 2016. These include 912 decisions to dispose the case, and 5,763 procedural actions related to the first and second stage of a case (answering the claim, correcting the claim, exempting from court fees, etc.).

PILOTED CASEFFLOW MANAGEMENT PRACTICES REDUCE DELAYS AT ALL STAGES OF ADJUDICATION

PRP's interventions during this quarter continued to produce increased reductions in the ages of cases in process in the courts, as illustrated in the tables on the following page:

NON-PROPERTY CASES					
PRE-INTERVENTION (1,120 PENDING NON-PROPERTY CASES)		WITH PRP INTERVENTION AS OF DECEMBER 2017 (3,120 PENDING NON- PROPERTY CASES)			
Average age	7	Average age	566		
Number of days at screening stage	944	Number of days at screening stage	Average days 263 Max. days 4,928 Min. days I		
Number of days at preparatory hearing stage	1556	Number of days at preparatory hearing stage	654		
Number of days at main hearing stage	1244	Number of days at main hearing stage	716		
Number of cases ready for disposition	93	Number of cases ready for disposition	444		
		Number of days to disposition (Average)	619		

PROPERTY CASES						
PRE-INTERVENTION (851 PENDING PROPERTY CASES)		WITH PRP INTERVENTION AS OF DECEMBER 2017 (2,397 PENDING PROPERTY CASES)				
Average age	1220	Average age	815			
Number of days at screening stage	1058	Number of days at screening stage	Average days 372 Maximum days 3,957 Minimum days I			
Number of days at preparatory hearing stage	1790	Number of days at preparatory hearing stage	590			
Number of days at main hearing stage	1453	Number of days at main hearing stage	893			
Number of cases ready for disposition	28	Number of cases ready for disposition	402			
		Number of days to disposition	853			

(Average)

PRESENTATION TO KJC AND COURTS OF RESULTS FROM PILOTED CASEFLOW MANAGEMENT REFORMS

The presentation to the KJC took place in October and was attended by members of the KJC, the CoM Presidents and Heads of Civil Division and representatives of USAID, USAID JSSP and USAID CLE. The presentation consisted of information collected by PRP's Legal Associates in 17 judges' chambers on a total of 5,655 pending cases, and an additional 2,250 cases disposed over the period January -- October 2017. Judges in the KJC acknowledged the very tangible positive results achieved through the CFM reforms and urged that they be institutionalized throughout the judicial system.

Following the presentation to the KJC, PRP presented the results of the piloted CFM reforms to CoM and other judges at a two-day workshop held in December, 2017.

The results of the CFM reforms have prompted judges to call for their institutionalization throughout the Kosovo judicial system.

COORDINATION WITH USAID JSSP

During this quarter PRP continued the coordination meetings with the JSSP in regards to the CFM activities in the CoM At the request of USAID, PRP shared with JSSP a detailed outline of PRP's Practical Guide for further discussion. In addition PRP invited JSSP to its presentations to the KJC and CoM's; and PRP staff attended JSSP's workshop for Basic Courts on case screening. PRP staff were invited to share PRP's experience in case screening from its work in the CoM's.

ACTIVITY 2.2: SUPPORT THE KJC TO DEVELOP AND INSTITUTE IMPROVED PROCEDURES TO RESOLVE PROPERTY CLAIMS

DEVELOPING "A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR IMPROVING CASEFLOW MANAGEMENT OF PROPERTY RIGHTS CASES IN KOSOVO COURTS"

The Practical Guide will contain a full description of each CFM practice in a quick-reference format with step-by-step instructions for implementing the practice; along with broader guidelines for judges based on international best practice that explain the modern principles and approaches that serve as the basis for the improved practices. The Practical Guide will describe the respective duties and responsibilities of the court president, rank-and-file judges, court administrators, Case Management Office personnel and Legal Associates under the new CFM practices. The Practical Guide will also provide special guidance on the CFM and procedural issues specific to each type of property rights case encountered by Kosovo courts.

During this Quarter PRP continued to develop the Practical Guide and shared drafts with CoM judges for their comments. PRP used the December workshop described above to gather significant information on current judicial practice with respect to issues arising in the different types of property rights cases.

When PRP has prepared a complete polished draft, PRP will share the draft with USAID and JSSP to ensure that the two projects are taking consistent positions on CFM.

INITIATIVE COMMENCED TO DEVELOP EXPEDITED PROCEDURES FOR FORMALIZING PROPERTY RIGHTS

As a part of its initiative to improve Kosovo courts' processing of property rights cases, PRP has reviewed over 7,000 closed and pending civil cases, including property rights cases) in the three CoM's. Among PRP's many findings from that research is the determination that nearly 70% of the civil/property rights cases in the CoM's are actions brought to formalize informal property rights that are ostensibly not disputed.

PRP identified and engaged an STTA to research fully and determine the Kosovo courts' current practice in dealing with claims to formalize informal rights. Through this initiative PRP aims determine options for developing simplified rules and procedures to be applied in such cases; and develop specific recommendations on the specific changes to current applicable legislation that would be required to establish such rules and procedures. PRP will also review applicable international practice.

In parallel, PRP will conduct research to determine the institution(s) best positioned to conduct formalization proceedings using the expedited procedures.

ACTIVITY 2.3: IMPROVING SUBSTANTIVE JUDICIAL PRACTICE IN ADJUDICATING PROPERTY RIGHTS CLAIMS

Subject to further consultation with USAID, PRP expects to bring its CFM reform initiative to a close, while working closely with JSSP to provide training to judges and court staff on the improved CFM practices. PRP will be able to turn its attention to helping establish consistent and unified court practices to interpret and apply substantive property rights laws in the adjudication of property disputes.

TWO-DAY WORKSHOP WITH COM CIVIL JUDGES ON PROPERTY RIGHTS ADJUDICATION PRACTICE

PRP formally commenced its initiative to analyze and help courts improve their substantive judicial practice in the area of property rights.

In the course of its CFM research in the CoM's, PRP has identified number of issues where judicial practice in inconsistent or faces legal and practical challenges. PRP organized this workshop in order to enable judges to discuss these issues and generate consensus on how to address them. Supreme Court judges provided commentary and guidance throughout the discussion. A total of 31 judges took part, representing the Basic Courts of Pejë/Peć, Ferizaj/Uroševac and Gjilan/Gnjilane, along with their Branch Courts, and including the two Prizren Basic Court Judges, the Chairman and two judges of the Supreme Court and the Chairman of the KJC. (Note that the Serb Judge who was recently appointed to the Štrpce/Shtërpcë Branch Court as part of the process to integrate Serb judges into the Kosovo judicial system was among the participants.) PRP's Legal Associates also attended.

The workshop also featured a presentation by Gazmend Citaku, the Head of the MoJ's Department for International Cooperation on Civil and Criminal Matters, which is the office responsible for sending and receiving communications and requests to foreign jurisdictions concerning court proceedings in Kosovo.

The workshop focused on a number of practice issues, identified by PRP in the course of its work with the courts, including judicial practice in affirming ownership rights arising from informal transactions; applying the doctrine of prescription; affirming ownership rights on the basis of possession or inheritance; issues related to co-ownership and obstruction of possession. All discussed were court practices in dealing with deficient claims.

INITIATIVE TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO KOSOVO COURTS AND POLICYMAKERS THE JUDICIAL PRACTICE OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PROPERTY RIGHTS SPHERE NEARING COMPLETION

As reported previously, Kosovo's courts are bound to follow European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) standards to adjudicate property rights cases. PRP has developed an initiative to produce 144 summaries in the Albanian and Serbian languages that address property rights issues, in order to make the practice of the ECHR in this area available to judges and others in Kosovo and enable them to apply that practice in their own adjudication of property rights cases. These cases include the "landmark cases," i.e., the early decisions issued by the ECHR that laid the basis for future decisions, to which the court refers in developing further its jurisprudence on property rights.

The work has been overseen by three local STTA experts who worked with 16 law student interns to produce the case summaries.

- Decisions related to Acquisitions of rights in property (inheritance , positive prescription or adverse position, and informal contracts
- Decisions on permanent right of use or possession
- Contribution for marital property
- Expropriation
- Illegal occupation, restitution and compensation

PRP Tools in Process to Assist Judges

- A Practical Guide for Improving Caseflow Management of Property Rights Cases and Other Civil Cases
- Collection of ECHR Case Summaries on Property Rights Issues

During this Quarter, all 144 case summaries have been completed in both Albanian and Serbian languages and PRP commenced preparations for publishing them. It is expected that the case summaries will be made available in digital form by posting them on relevant websites (such as of the KJC and KJA). In addition, PRP plans to produce some number of hard copies for distribution to relevant institutions.

PRP expects to unveil this body of work to Kosovo officials and citizens in the next Quarter.

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

In this Quarter PRP conducted several activities at the national and municipal levels to keep women's property rights issues in the public's eye. These included using the nationally televised municipal electoral debates as a vehicle to give very effective nation-wide exposure to the issue; and supporting Kosovo CSO's that are working in local communities to support women's equal property rights .

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

"INHERITANCE PACKAGE" LEGISLATON PASSES FIRST READING IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

As noted above under Objective I, the "Inheritance Package" includes amendments to the Law on Inheritance and the Law on Uncontested Procedure, and a new Draft-Law on Notary which the MoJ developed as a package, with PRP support. Among other things, the draft legislation provides additional protections for women in inheritance proceedings.

PRP worked closely with two Parliamentarians and provided them with briefing materials and reports, to help them prepare for reviewing the draft legislation. During the first reading in Parliament, the Parliamentarians spoke of the importance of ensuring gender equality in inheritance and made direct reference to safeguards for women's property inheritance that are proposed in this legislation. They also recognized publicly the research and public information campaigns conducted by USAID through the Property Rights Program to support women's equal property rights.

Parliamentarian Lirije Kajtazi was a member of PRP's Gender Coordination Group and took part in a Thematic Working Group for developing the NSPR; and Drita Millaku was one of PRP's "Citizen Advocates."

ISSUES IDENTIFIED RELATED TO DATA ON JOINT REGISTRATION OF MARITAL PROPERTY

In 2015, PRP supported the Agency for Gender Equality (AGE) in drafting the AI on Joint Immovable Property Registration among spouses in Kosovo. The AI came into force in March 2016. PRP has also supported public outreach on joint registration. To date, though, the AGE has not produced any data on the number of joint registrations that have taken place.

PRP has been seeking to gather this information in its partner municipalities – Viti/na, Štrpce/Shtërpcë and Dragash/Dragaš – in collaboration with the Municipal Cadastral Offices (MCOs) and Municipal Gender Officers (MGOs). It has come to light, however, that the MCOs are not recording joint registrations so that that information can be easily retrieved.

PRP's research has yielded the following findings:

- The total number of joint registrations for which data are available for 2016 and 201 are: Viti/na
 6, Dragash/Dragaš 4, Štrpce/Shtërpcë 50.
- Viti/na and Štrpce/Shtërpcë report a small smaller number of joint registrations.
- The Štrpce/Shtërpcë MCO received its data from polls conducted by an NGO.
- MCOs are not recording registrations of joint marital property in a manner that makes it easy to retrieve that information.
- Statistics provided by the MCOs and Kosovo Cadastral Agency (KCA) on joint marital property registrations don't match. KCA reports no joint registrations in Viti and Štrpce/Shtërpcë and only one case in Dragash/Dragaš.
- A Notary in Viti/na reported higher number of contracts for joint purchases than the number of joint registrations reported by the MCO. Notary reports 3 cases in 2016 and 7 cases in 2017.

- MGO's and the AGE lack effective reporting mechanism on joint registrations of marital property.

PRP has discussed these findings with the Gender Coordination Group (GCG) members and has shared the findings with the AGE to inform them on challenges they will face in obtaining such data from the MCO. (The AGE is required to report in March 2018 on the impact and results achieved under the AI.) PRP will also work with MCO's to identify and share best practices, and will help the MCO's to develop a better methodology for recording and reporting such information.

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

PSA'S GIVEN VERY BROAD EXPOSURE THROUGH NATIONWIDE MUNICIPAL ELECTION DEBATES

Data from PRP's most recent National Survey on Property Rights indicates that PRP's media campaign has sparked debate and discussion in Kosovo society concerning women's property rights. To keep the issue within the public's attention, PRP used the run-up to the national municipal elections as an opportunity gain national exposure for its latest PSAs on women's property rights.

The Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN), a USAID engagement for equity (E4E) subgrantee, hosted a series of debates on the TV program "Jeta ne Komune" during the period September 21 through October 20, 2017, and again during November 13-17, 2017 for the run-offs. The PSA's produced by PRP were aired during the debates on prime time television and were very closely followed by local citizens, as well as by persons in the diaspora.

PRP WORKS WITH CSO TO INCLUDE ISSUE OF WOMEN'S PROPERTY RIGHTS INTO MUNICIPAL ELECTORAL DEBATES

In addition, PRP worked closely with BIRN to have the moderator question each mayoral candidate about this/her stance on women's property rights. (The overwhelming majority of mayoral candidates were men.) Each candidate was asked

- 1. Whether he/she has property registered jointly with their spouse; and
- 2. What he/she will do as mayor to support women's equal property rights.

BIRN plans to do a follow-up on those candidates who made commitments to support women's equal property rights.

Here are some statistics on the outreach achieved through the electoral debates:

- There was a studio audience of 100 + for each debate; thus the number of people that were reached directly by the PSAs as well as the discussion surrounding property rights was at a minimum 3,000.
- 98 candidates were asked the questions on property rights; and 100 women were interviewed (women candidates and wives of the candidates) and asked the questions on property rights.

Over 1,200,000

Number of Facebook and YouTube views of the livestream of municipal electoral debates where women's property rights questions were prominently featured.*

* This does not include the number of people who watched the debates on television. (Note that television ratings figures are not readily available in Kosovo.) - 1,000 PRP products (handouts with statistics from the Mid-Term survey) were distributed to the studio audiences.

But the outreach went far beyond the studio audience. (See the information box.)

BIRN also published an accompanying article on the property rights questions raised during the electoral debate: (<u>http://kallxo.com/gink/42-kandidate-nuk-e-kane-regijstruar-pronen-bashke-grate/</u>).

PRP CREATES VERSION OF PSA WITH TURKISH SUBTITLES

This PSA was shown during the municipal electoral debates for Mamusha municipality, PRP is exploring other opportunities to use their PSA on local TV in areas populated by a Turkish-speaking community.

PRP SUPPORTS EVENT IN DRAGASH/DRAGAŠ MUNICIPALITY TO COMMEMORATE THE CONCLUSION OF 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

This event was led by the Dragash/Dragaš Municipal Gender Officer (MGO) of Dragash/Dragaš and the Local Mechanism against gender based violence The event featured (i) a presentation of activities that took place in Dragash/Dragaš during the 16 days of activism against gender based violence; (ii) presentation by PRP on women's empowerment through property rights and (iii) a discussion session on the current situation in Dragash/Dragaš regarding domestic violence against women and



M. SHKODRA FOR USAID PRI

girls, It is expected that findings and recommendations emerging from the event will inform the Action Plan of the Local Mechanism for 2018.

The following observations and information were presented at the event, among others:

 The representative of the member of the local mechanism from the police reported 9 cases of domestic violence in Dragash/Dragaš in 2017, and noted that this is fewer than the number of incidents reported in 2015 and 2016.



m. Shkodra for usaid prf

- There is reluctance among citizens to report such cases owing to a lack of trust in the local authorities and to difficulties in finding shelter for victims of domestic violence.
- The lack of housing hampers the reintegration of the victims.
- Domestic violence is closely related to property (with specific cases cited) and it is recommended to include the support for women's equal property rights among priorities for 2018.

LECTURES TO STUDENTS AT KADRI ZEKA UNIVERSITY IN GJILAN/GNJILANE



The lectures addressed the topic, "Human Rights: Guaranteeing Equal Property Rights in Kosovo," which was organized with students of Law and Social Sciences at the University "Kadri Zeka" in Gjilan/Gnjilane. The lectures were highly interactive with students asking various questions related to property rights legislation and women's property rights. More than 40 students attended the lecture. The University Vice-Dean for International Relations expressed deep appreciation to USAID

and PRP for supporting the lectures and suggested holding for a one-day workshop with students who want to acquire a deeper understanding of property rights issues in Kosovo and to learn how these issues are being addressed. PRP supports this proposal and will pursue the matter further.

LECTURE AND DISCUSSION SESSION WITH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN DRAGASH/DRAGAŠ ON WOMEN'S EQUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS



ZEQIRI FOR USAID PRP

PRP and the Dragash/Dragaš MGO organized a lecture and discussion session with high school students in Dragash/Dragaš. PRP informed the students about Kosovo law with respect to women's equal property rights, and on the importance of changing current social attitudes and behaviors related to women's property and inheritance rights. The Head of the Basic Court of Prizren, Dragash/Dragaš Branch, Mrs. Sebahate Kurteshi, also took part in the discussion and made a presentation on property rights from the court's

perspective. She invited students to plan a visit to the court in Dragash/Dragaš and observe a court session on property inheritance. (Virtually all of the students had never been inside a court.)

Students' comments included the following:

- A girl said that she finds it difficult to discuss with her family her expectations to receive her property inheritance. She believes that her family will not be supportive and that her relations with family members will suffer.
- A boy said that he believes that property inheritance should be divided equally between boys and girls. However, he is concerned that "his sisters" might not be able to use such property because of strong local norms and the prevailing social attitudes.



(top) Stage performance of *Jam Burr'* (*I am a Man*) at the National Theater of Kosovo. (bottom) Post-show panel discussion on perceived Balkan gender norms depicted in the performance. MAJLINDA HOXHA FOR USAID PRP AND QENDRA MULTIMEDIA

PRP SUPPORTS THEATER PERFORMANCE ON WOMEN'S EQUAL RIGHTS, JAM BURR' (I AM A MAN) TO SUPPORT 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

The premier of the performance was held at the National Theater in Pristina on November 27, 2017. Approximately 450 persons attended. The performance was followed by a discussion session with the audience. PRP's information products were made available in the theater entrance hall, where a reception was held afterwards. The entrance hall also featured displays of PRP's billboards.

The choreographer included property rights as a means of illustrating how Balkan attitudes about masculinity leave women vulnerable.

The artists are working under the umbrella of Qendra Multimedia, on a project sponsored by the Goethe Institute. They were referred to PRP by the Kosovo Center for Gender Studies.

PRESENTATION AT UBT EVENT

The University for Business and Technology (UBT) in Pristina organized a series of panel discussions for students and professors. PRP was invited to participate in the panel discussions addressing the importance of property rights in general, and equal rights to property in particular, and how they lead to economic empowerment of families and the society in Kosovo. PRP used the opportunity to further inform the students and professors about USAID's work through PRP, including the efforts to modernize Kosovo's property rights law, improve the courts' handling of property cases and support women's equal property rights.

PRP's presentation was followed by a successful women entrepreneur (Linda Shala), who spoke about her experience as a woman in business and explained to students the importance for Kosovo that women be able to be economic actors. Mirlinda Kusari from civil society spoke about civil society's engagement in promoting women entrepreneurship in Kosovo, citing examples of their support for successful start-ups. The UBT President addressed students about UBT's opportunities and related how UBT received donations for inventing the digital white cane for blind people.

Around 50 students and professors showed interest on the topic and were active in discussions asking questions and receiving feedback on the possibilities for women to become an entrepreneur.

ACTIVITY 3.3: WORKING WITH CSO'S IN SUPPORT OF WOMEN'S PROPERTY RIGHTS

REGULAR QUARTERLY MEETING OF GENDER COORDINATION GROUP

In October PRP organized the regular quarterly meeting to coordinate and share information on ongoing activities related to women's property rights. The members also discussed their plans to mark the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence during the month of November. PRP presented its findings of the research in three municipalities (Štrpce/Shtërpcë, Viti/na and Dragash/Dragaš) on the total number of joint marital property registrations, the issues with their registration at the MCOs and reporting to AGE.

ADDITIONAL CAPACITY-BUILDING ASSISTANCE TO ATRC

PRP provided STTA to conduct an overall evaluation of the current status of the E4E Program's grants management systems, procedures, and capabilities in order to help ATRC prepare to implement the next generation of USAID sub-awards. The evaluation also focused on grantee achievements that contribute to performance indicators that measure the impact of E4E Programs. In addition, the evaluation targeted ATRC's capacity-building program, included a review of ATRC's current systems and tools and their effectiveness in providing an assessment of individualized capacity-building, making findings and developing recommendations for improvements with the aim of assisting ATRC to prepare itself for conducting its own self-assessments going forward.

TECHNICAL AND CAPACITY-BUILDING ASSISTANCE TO E4E SUB-GRANTEES

Close Collaboration with BIRN in Municipal Elections. PRP has described above its work with BIRN in to reinforce public messaging on and encourage public discussion of women's equal property rights, using the recent municipal electoral debates.

Additionally, BIRN, on its own initiative, conducted a survey among Kosovo judges and prosecutes on whether their marital property is registered in both spouses name. BIRN published an article showing the results of the survey (<u>http://kallxo.com/gink/burrat-e-ligiit-ende-nuk-e-ndaine-pasurinegrate-e-tyre/</u>). A large number of the judges did not want to answer this questions, including none of the judges of the Court of Appeals. Of those who did answer, only three judges reported that their property is registered to both spouses. Of all prosecutors in Kosovo, only three of them answered the question and none reported jointly registered property.

Support for Public Outreach Activities at the Community Level. PRP conducted a number of public outreach events and continued to work extensively to support ATRC and E4E sub-grantees carrying out activities throughout Kosovo in support of women's property rights. PRP helped the sub grantee POLIS, KW4W and Jeta in finalizing for dissemination in various municipalities of Kosovo billboard materials and leaflets that emphasize that the law guarantees that men and women have equal property rights.

Helping CSO's Organize Activities around 16 Days of Activism. ATRC and PRP have established the practice of holding regular thematic meetings with the civil society organizations that are working on women's empowerment and equal rights to property. During this Quarter, ATRC and PRP met to discuss engaging Sub-grantees in jointly developing an Initiative to commemorate the International Day for Eliminating Violence against Women within the 16 Days of Activism. As a result of such discussions, ATRC produced a calendar a calendar of activities which was included in

the agendas of all Kosovo institutions and organizations for distribution Kosovo-wide as an invitation for the interested parties. These activities included

- The show, "Drejtesia ne Kosove" (Justice in Kosovo), covered 1) the issue of equity in property and the violation of women's rights during the process of property registration; and 2) the consequences of women not owning property, i.e., they are made vulnerable to violence and discrimination and to ending up without any place to live.
- BIRN re-sent a letter with recommendations for the package of law amendments (law on inheritance, law on notary and low on non-contested procedure) to the Parliamentary Commission for Legislation. BIRN and its legal experts will participate in the Commission's sessions.
- KW4W training/info sessions to discuss the rights of women to property and inheritance and how domestic violence and gender-based violence are linked closely to the women's renunciation of their property and inheritance rights.
- YIHR issued a report "Discriminatory language in school textbooks" and Screened the documentary "The System of (miss) Education"

Technical Support to the CSO Operating in North Kosovo. PRP participated in the concluding conference of the sub grantee Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture (ACDC). PRP was part of the panel to talk about PRP's work, with a focus on the NSPR and PRP's outreach campaign as they concern women's property rights. ACDC produced a final research report and presented the findings on women's property rights from four municipalities in North Kosovo. The panelists, including PRP, civil society and journalists discussed with partners and citizens gender-based issues, focusing on women's property rights. The report confirmed that women face similar challenges in all ethnic communities in Kosovo. Many journalists were in the audience.

PRP and ATRC Assist POLIS to Finalize a Documentary on Equal Rights to Property. The documentary focused primarily on the issue of women's equal property rights and on the work that POLIS has carried out to increase citizens' awareness and provide policy recommendations on how to increase the number of women who own property. This documentary is the final product of this project, which concluded in November.

PRP and ATRC Meet with KCBS to Discuss Project Development and Advice on Future Steps. This meeting focused on the overall of activities of KCBS. In addition, since the KCBS project was about to conclude, PRP and ATRC provided guidance on the reporting process for the closing of the project, last steps, etc.

PRP and ATRC Meet With Sub-grantees "Jeta" in Decan to Discuss Progress. PRP also used this meeting to inform "Jeta" about PRP's initiatives. Jeta's project covers Junik municipality and 25 villages for awareness-raising activities on equal property rights. The project targets youth, students from primary and secondary schools, municipal officials, community leaders, etc. PRP and ATRC advised Jet" on project management and on project reporting, aiming to focus on results at the end of the project (which is in November).

Supporting the Work of "Women for Women" (KW4W). During the monitoring meeting it was agreed that, since KW4W has adopted a unique approach in its work by organizing awareness sessions for village men, KW4W would provide PRP and ATRC with a written report summarizing its experience from such sessions, marking the challenges and the progress (if any).

PRP SUPPORTS VISIBILITY EVENT FOR THE HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITY, "UNE/TY DASHURI NE PAKETE"

For the second year in a row, the Mute Foundation, in cooperation with the Municipality of Pristina and Kosovo Security Force (FSK), organized a gathering of gift boxes for the children at SOS Children's Villages. (These are children with Down syndrome, autism, and special needs.) These gift boxes were also distributed to the children in the villages of Pristina municipality. Last year, over 7,000 boxes were given to children.

During this Quarter the Mute Foundation organized a closing holiday event to mark this initiative, and to celebrate with some of the most active donors. Invited to this event were relevant institutions (Municipality of Pristina, FSK, etc.), various embassies in Kosovo, CSOs, and school representatives, along with some of the children from those schools. This festive event featured remarks from the Mute Foundation and the Municipality of Pristina, songs from children's choir "Okarina," and popular music performed by local musicians.

PRP supported the design and printing of the agendas for this event, and the printing of some of the pictures from last years' activity, which were exhibited at the event. The agendas were branded with PRP's campaign and USAID logo, among other supporters' logos. The exhibition also featured three boards with PRP's visibility products, among other things.

FACILITATION OF US AMBASSADOR'S FACT-FINDING TRIP TO ISTOG/ISTOK MUNICIPALITY

PRP organized and facilitated a session of meetings for the US Ambassador during an official visit to Istog/k municipality. The meeting addressed equal property rights and the local state of affairs. Participants included representatives of civil society and a municipal official. The ambassador asked questions and made remarks on the importance of women owning property, and stressed the US government's commitment to support this cause.

PRP ISSUES REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR OUTRACH TO KOSOVO VILLAGES ON WOMEN'S EQUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

PRP has published a Request for Proposals for companies and civil society organizations for subcontracts to design and implement outreach activities in Kosovo villages on women's property rights.

A total of eight (8) proposals were received. PRP's panel to review and evaluate the proposals included PRP and two experts from ATRC, who provided their expertise and experience; and ensured that the work carried out under subcontracts issued under this Request for Proposal will not duplicate or infringe upon the work of ATRC or its sub-grantees. Both technical and financial proposals were assessed by the panel. PRP will determine whether to proceed with this initiative after close consultation with USAID.

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

PRP supports a number of activities designed to enable municipal governments to improve their services to citizens and increase the performance of Municipal Cadastral Offices within its partner municipalities. These initiatives include: (1) providing human resources to address a significant backlog of un-registered cadastral files; (2) providing technical assistance to MCOs to enable them to secure their cadastral archives and protect them against damage and loss; (3) introducing e-kiosks to enable citizens to obtain municipal records easily; and (4) exploring the feasibility of enabling citizens to pay municipal fees by means of electronic payment; and (5) undertaking field research on property registrations – within PRP's partner municipalities – to establish averages of the number of days required to register property.

ACTIVITY 4.1: IMPROVING COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH TO CITIZENS ON PROPERTY REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

PRP MAKES AVAILABLE FINDINGS FROM ITS RESEARCH ON NUMBER OF DAYS REQUIRED TO REGISTER PROPERTY

PRP obtained baseline data from its three partner municipalities (Viti/na, Štrpce/Shtërpcë, and Dragash/Dragaš) on the average number of days it takes to conduct property transactions so that any progress resulting from impacts made by various PRP discrete municipal-level interventions can be monitored, and the efficacy of those interventions can be proven. The period of time which this baseline covers is from January 2016 – June 2017. Property transactions were categorized for analysis as either: purchase, inheritance, gift, or court-adjudicated.

Staff from these three MCOs were all cooperative and interested about the results of the research, and understood the merits of this kind of performance analysis. PRP held one-to-one review sessions with each of the three MCO Directors and their staff. By and large, cadastral staff were disappointed at the initial findings, as they uncovered a number of inefficiencies in their business processes, or actions that are quite contrary to best practices for proper handling of government records. The main finding is that these MCOs were exceeding (or were at risk of exceeding) the maximum time permitted by law (30 days) to complete a property registration from the time of initial filing. Not only did the Directors commit their teams to improve their performance, this exercise has given an opportunity for them to develop more thoughtful and targeted requests for PRP assistance beyond the sort of predictable requests for new office equipment. In summary, some of the major findings were:

- Network connection issues with the Kosovo Cadastral Land Information System (KCLIS);
- Lack of complete contact information from registration applicants;
- Mistakes applicants have made about their personal information on the registration form;
- Open and unresolved property disputes filed with the Kosovo Property Comparison and Verification Agency (KPCVA);

The next round of data collection will take place in January 2018, covering the period of July – December 2017.

EXPLORING THE FEASIBILITY OF INTRODUCING ELECTRONIC PAYMENT OF MUNICIPAL FEES

During this Quarter, PRP met with the Directors of Information Technology, Payment Systems, and Operations of the Kosovo Central Bank to try advancing further the idea of electronic payment for municipal services and ensure that there are no legal obstacles. The Bank supports PRP's idea to pilot the e-payment method in one of its partner municipalities as long as PRP can secure the agreement of one or more commercial banks operating in Kosovo for the technical solution to implement electronic point-of sale payments that can be coded correctly and reconciled efficiently, the transaction fees to be applied, who will be in charge of paying the fees, etc. PRP previously met with the Treasury Department, which does not have any issue introducing new payment methods as long as the banks can find a way to execute the payments and efficiently reconcile the revenues to the correct budget code.

Additionally, PRP visited the Kosovo Customs payment office to make a first-hand observation of the e-payment system in use there since 2007. Kosovo Customs shared their experiences in great detail with PRP and expressed its opinion that the solution could be easily deployed at the municipal level.

PRP met once again with the ProCredit Bank, which is willing to collaborate with PRP on replicating their solution at Kosovo Customs to PRP's partner municipality, Viti/na. Activity planning discussions with ProCredit will take place beginning in January 2018.

PROCUREMENT OF AN E-KIOSK IN VITI/NA MUNICIPALITY

PRP continues to upgrade existing e-kiosks funded by USAID to dispense property ownership and property tax certificates in addition to civil status documents to provide around-the-clock service delivery to citizens. The additional certificates are required for citizens who are interested to register a property transaction with their municipal cadastral office. These additional certificates are under the domain of the Kosovo Cadastral Agency (KCA) and the Department of Property Tax of the Ministry of Finance – both of which have been cooperative and collaborative with PRP on this endeavor, particular in the matter of revising the standard property ownership certificate template for e-kiosk delivery and by establishing the requisite web-services to their databases. PRP expects to complete its work to pilot the upgrading of Viti/na's e-kiosk during the next quarter.

PRP has subcontracted with local IT firm, DataProgNet, the contractor responsible for other e-kiosk installations under the USAID Advancing Kosovo Together program. Should the pilot be successful, it is envisioned that DataProgNet's other e-kiosks could be modified with a software upgrade to add these property services.

ACTIVITY 4.2: IMPROVEMENTS TO MUNICIPAL CADASTRAL FACILITIES

SAFEGUARDING MCO ARCHIVES IN VITI/NA MUNICIPALITY

PRP completed installation of equipment to improve the storage facility in Viti/na municipality where hard-copy cadastral documents are archived and stored. These improvements included fireproof wall panels and flooring, dehumidifier, temperature regulator, and LED lighting. PRP has also procured new binders to enable the MCO to standardize the filing of its archived records in a more structured and organized manner and adopt a new labeling system for easier use.

The MCO archive facility is located on the premises of the municipality's new municipal building annex that was recently constructed with funding from the European Union to provide the municipality with a more modern and secure structure.

The municipality is arranging for electrical services to be connected to the annex. As soon as power has been established, PRP's subcontractor will test all installed equipment before finally furnishing the room with metal bookcases, flat file drawers, and a reading table. The work will be completed during the next quarter.

ACTIVITY 4.3: REDUCING PROPERTY REGISTRATION BACKLOG

ADDRESSING THE BACKLOG OF CADASTRAL REGISTRATION IN ŠTRPCE/SHTËRPCË MUNICIPALITY

PRP created a plan and deployed human technical resources to Štrpce/Shtërpcë municipality where there is a significant (approximately 5,000) backlog of un-registered property transactions – meaning they have not been entered into the KCLIS. This means that, according to the KCLIS, many parcels in this municipality do not reflect the ownership realities on the ground, whereby any future potential transaction will make the data gap worse until the backlog is resolved.

In coordination with the Štrpce/Shtërpcë MCO and the KCA, an experienced cadastral record data entry specialist was hired by PRP on a part-time basis to enter the backlog registrations into the KCLIS. His duties are being supported by a second junior support staffer who is locating, scanning, and refiling the backlog hard-copy documents as they are being registered by the specialist.

PRP will continue to explore other measures to expedite the backlog reduction task, since it is estimated that, realistically, it may take as much as one year for the current PRP team to fully register all backlogged property transactions at this work site. For instance, a small intranet was created at this work site so that scanned records could be stored locally on a networked hard drive so as to free up hard drive and memory resources on the computer being used for final record entry into the KCLIS. According to PRP's weekly performance monitoring of this activity, this improvement to the workflow has modestly improved weekly performance overall.

ACTIVITY 4.4: PROMOTING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ON PROPERTY RIGHTS ISSUES

Please see Objective 3 activities reported above.

PROJECT SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Performance Indicator	DO & IR	Baseline	Target LoP	Actual LoP
OBJECTIVE I: IMPROVE CO	ORDINATION AND POLICY PRIORITIES			
I.I} 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	I	I
 I.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	6	8 (Drafted)
I.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	14	25 (2A+23D)
	OURT 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	DO: Improved Rule of Law and Governance that meet Citizen's Needs IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector	0	12	Ι

Performance Indicator	DO & IR	Baseline	Target LoP	Actual LoP
2.2} Number [average] of days it takes for courts to resolve a property case reduced.	DO: Improved Rule of Law and Governance that meet Citizen's Needs IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector	1249	936	920*
2.3} Percent of property disputes cases resolved in courts [within 2 years]	DO: Improved Rule of Law and Governance that meet Citizen's Needs IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector	32%	72%	TBD
2.4} Percent of court users satisfied with court services on resolving property disputes	DO: Improved Rule of Law and Governance that meet Citizen's Needs IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector	22%	52%	28%
2.5} Number of judges, lawyers and court staff trained with USG assistance	DO: Improved Rule of Law and Governance that meet Citizen's Needs IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector	0	450	102
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	9	4 **
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 ABILITY FOR WOMEN TO ACCESS THEIR PROPERTY	0	12	0

Performance Indicator	DO & IR	Baseline	Target LoP	Actual LoP
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	80	74
3.2} Number of communication outreach products, developed and disseminated by PRP and "E4E CSO-s"	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	70	111
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	I	I
3.4} Number of communication outreach activities and events developed and implemented by PRP and "E4E CSO-s to change cultural attitudes and behaviors about women's property rights	DO: Improved Rule of Law and Governance that meet Citizen's Needs IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector; Civil Society Strengthened to Increasingly Engage Constructively with Government	0	114	84

Performance Indicator	DO & IR	Baseline	Target LoP	Actual LoP
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/messa ges/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	40%	76%
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%	16%	27%
3.7} Number [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%	30%	3%
3.8} Number [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%	33.8%	7.5%

Performance Indicator	DO & IR	Baseline	Target LoP	Actual LoP
OBJECTIVE 4: IMPROVED A	CCESS TO INFORMATION AND UNDERSTANDING C	OF PROPERTY F	RIGHTS	
4.1} [Number of] Land administration offices established or	DO: Increase Investment and Private Sector Employment IR: Improved Economic Governance & Business Environment			
upgraded: The number of land administration and service offices or other related facilities that the project physically establishes or upgrades.		0	4	3 ∗∗∗≀
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	33	24	26
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	440	723
4.4} Land rights formalized [in participating municipalities]	DO: Increase Investment and Private Sector Employment IR: Improved Economic Governance & Business Environment	0	440	723

***PRP is in process of upgrading MCO in Viti/Vitina, Dragash/ Dragas, Shtërpcë/ Štrpce

Performance Indicator	DO & IR	Baseline	Target LoP	Actual LoP
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%	52%	51%
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	40	0

SUCCESS STORY

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





SNAPSHOT Kosovo property rights Program (PRP)

The USAID/Kosovo Property Rights Program (PRP) supports the Kosovo Judicial Council (KJC) and selected Courts of Merit (CoM) to more efficiently and accurately adjudicate property claims and disputes. Property rights cases constitute a significant portion of case backlog in Kosovo. Improving case flow management (CFM), the process through which cases progress from initial filing to final disposition, is essential to more efficiently adjudicating property claims.

PRP assisted the KJC and the CoM to implement a three-phase process to help improve CFM. Under the first phase, 1,829 closed property case files were analyzed and baseline data produced to measure current court performance. The study revealed that property rights cases took, on average, more than three years to resolve, far exceeding international standards. The study also identified practices contributing to inefficiency such as judges performing administrative tasks that could be performed by legal associates (LAs). The second phase analyzed data from 1,971 pending cases to inform recommendations to define roles judges and LAs could perform and implement procedures and practices to remove bottlenecks at each point in the CFM process. In consultation with the KJC, PRP helped the CoM to pilot implementation of the recommendations under the third phase completed in October 2017.

As of December 2017, the procedures and practices piloted in the CoM with PRP assistance helped to reduce the average number of days required to adjudicate a property claim from 1220 to 815 days. Empirical data demonstrating increased efficiency has helped create demand from Kosovo's judges to expand the reform initiative.

PRP is now working with the KJC to develop a roadmap to introduce and institutionalize the reforms in all Kosovo's courts.

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PROJECT BRIEF UPDATE

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





PROJECT BRIEF UPDATE KOSOVO PROPERTY RIGHTS PROGRAM (PRP)

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 I: 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 saw PRP advance its initiatives significantly under all four Objectives.

Objective I: The development of legislation to implement the National Strategy on Property Rights (NSPR) continued according to schedule despite delays in the formation of a new government and establishing a Steering Committee to oversee implementation of the NSPR. To date, 6 Concept Documents, 5 Draft Laws, 10 Administrative Instructions, and 3 Regulations have been developed with PRP support. Additionally, in September 2017 the new government approved and sent to the National Assembly the "Inheritance Package" of legislation, which is designed to bolster women's inheritance rights and provide a formula for addressing delayed inheritance.

PRP has also assisted the government of Kosovo (GoK) and Ministry of Justice (MoJ) to make preparations for the establishment of the Steering Committee to oversee the implementation of the NSPR across GoK bodies. In the meantime, PRP partnered with the Strategic Planning Office of the Office of the Prime Minister (SPO) and the MoJ to take stock of current implementation of the NSPR, set priorities and identify legislative acts for which institutions need further technical assistance from PRP.

Objective 2: PRP completed its three-phase initiative of empirical research, analysis and piloting of procedures to improve case flow management (CFM) in three Courts of Merit (CoM). This initiative has produced significant and demonstrable improvements in the CoM's efficiency and effectiveness in adjudicating property rights cases and civil cases generally; and offers a roadmap for institutionalizing these reforms throughout the judicial system. In addition, the results of this initiative have generated support among the judiciary for adoption of these practices in all Kosovo courts. PRP also made significant progress in developing the "Practical Guide for Improving Caseflow Management of Property Rights Cases and Other Civil Cases," which will serve as a guide for adopting and applying in other courts the CFM reforms that have been successfully piloted in the CoM.

In addition, PRP's research in the CoM has brought to light a number of issues where judicial practice is inconsistent or faces legal and practical challenges. During this Quarter PRP organized a workshop with over 30 judges to discuss these issues and generate consensus on how to address them.

Objective 3: Data from PRP's most recent National Survey on Property Rights indicates PRP's media campaign has sparked debate and discussion in Kosovo concerning women's property rights. To keep the issue within the public's attention, PRP used the run-up to the nation-wide municipal elections to gain national exposure for its latest PSAs on women's property rights and included in mayoral debates questions about the candidate's commitment to support equal property rights of women. In addition, PRP worked with Municipal Cadastral Offices to identify and address problems surrounding their recording and reporting of registrations of joint marital property.

Objective 4: PRP supports a number of activities designed to enable municipal governments to improve their services to citizens and increase the performance of Municipal Cadastral Offices within its partner municipalities. These initiatives include: (1) providing human resources to address a significant backlog of un-registered cadastral files; (2) providing technical assistance to MCOs to enable them to secure their cadastral archives and protect them against damage and loss; (3) introducing e-kiosks to enable citizens to obtain municipal records easily; and (4) exploring the feasibility of enabling citizens to pay municipal fees by means of electronic payment; and (5)

undertaking field research on property registrations – within PRP's partner municipalities – to establish averages of the number of days required to register property.

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MEDIA

PUBLICATIONS

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

Gazeta Bujku

'Property rights make place of work and growth of women's affirmation in kosovo' <u>http://www.gazetabujku.com/te-drejtat-pronesore-sjellin-vende-te-punes-dhe-rritje-te-afarizmit-per-grate-ne-kosove</u> Dec 25, 2017

Koha net

'The real man'!? -Tomorrow's premiere of "Jam Burr'!?' <u>http://www.koha.net/kulture/59780/neser-jepet-premiera-e-jam-burr/</u> Nov 26, 2017

Kultplus

'The real man'!? – tonight at TKK' <u>http://www.koha.net/kulture/59780/neser-jepet-premiera-e-jam-burr/</u> Nov 27, 2017

Gazeta Express

'The real man'!? – tonight at Kosovo National Theatre' <u>http://www.gazetaexpress.com/arte/sonte-ne-teatrin-kombetar-te-kosovespremiera-e-jam-burr-466972/</u> Nov 27, 2017

RTK Live

'Todays premiere of "Jam Burr'!!' http://www.rtklive.com/sq/news-single.php?ID=223282 Nov 27, 2017

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