



M. SHKODRA FOR USAID PRP

QUARTERLY REPORT NO. 14

Property Rights Program (PRP)
FY 2017
(July 1 – September 30, 2017)

OCTOBER 2017

DISCLAIMER

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

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Cover Photo: PRP staff along with USAID/Kosovo Program and Policy Director Paul Vaca, present on PRP's findings from its Mid-Term National Survey on Property Rights at the National Library of Kosovo.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AGE	Agency for Gender Equality
AI	Administrative Instruction
ATRC	Advocacy Training & Resource Center
BIRN	Balkan Investigative Reporting Network
BKS	Kosovo Insurance Bureau
CDCS	Country Development Cooperation Strategy
CFM	Caseflow Management
CLARD	Center for Legal Aid and Regional Development
CLE	Contract Law Enforcement Project
CoM	Court of Merit
CMO	Case Management Office
CSD	Communication for Social Development
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CTG	Core Technical Group
DO	Development Objective
ECHR	European Court of Human Rights
EPC	Energetic Performance Certificate
E4E	Engagement for Equity
EU	European Union
FAGJ	Active Women of Gjakova
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GoK	Government of Kosovo
GPS	Global Positioning System
HPD	Housing and Property Directorate
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
KEK	Kosovo Energy Corporation
KJC	Kosovo Judicial Council
KPCVA	Kosovo Property Comparison and Verification Agency
KW4W	Kosova Women for Women
MAFRD	Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development
MCO	Municipal Cadastral Office

MDP	Municipal Development Plan
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
ONU	Ohio Northern University
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PFD	Partnerships for Development
POLIS	Public Organization for Local Initiatives and Supports
PRP	Property Rights Program
PSA	Public Service Announcement
PTK	Kosovo Telecom
SAA	Stabilization Association Agreement
SPO	Strategic Planning Office
SSPL	Strengthening Spatial Planning and Land Reform in Kosovo Project
STTA	Short-Term Technical Assistance
STARR	Strengthening Tenure and Resource Rights
UN	United Nations
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNMIK	United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The absence of an effective property rights framework in Kosovo weakens democratic governance, impacts human rights, disempowers women and impedes sustainable economic growth. The USAID/Kosovo Property Rights Program assists the Government of Kosovo to develop and implement its National Strategy on Property Rights (the National Strategy) and strengthen property rights legislation; supports the development of improved court procedures to efficiently adjudicate property claims and disputes; 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 National Strategy 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 is 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 and will also help courts remove constraints in practice that women face in inheriting property. PRP assistance to improve court performance also informs the development of more consistent judicial practice in adjudicating property claims. Results produced by PRP in these areas contribute to achieving USAID/Kosovo's Country Development Cooperation Strategy Development (CDCS) Objective 1 "Improved Rule of Law and Governance that Meets Citizens' Needs." Improved legislation and court procedures also support creation of an Improved Economic Governance and Business Environment under the CDCS Development Objective 2 "Increased Investment and Private Sector Employment."

PRP is continuing its national media campaign and grassroots public outreach activities in Kosovo communities to prompt changes in social attitudes and behaviors inhibiting women from inheriting and owning property. PRP also provides technical assistance to 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 1, implementing legislation for the National Strategy on Property Rights was developed at a steady pace under the caretaker government; and the new government, which came to power on September 9, 2017, has affirmed its commitment to support property rights reform. Under Objective 2, the piloting of the improved case management reforms proceeded apace in the three Courts of Merit, producing real improvements in the courts' performance, which PRP is documenting. Under Objective 3, PRP continued its public outreach on women's equal property rights with a range of activities, most notably showing its PSAs in conjunction with the month-long municipal election debates conducted 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 ranging from hardware assets to technical assistance.

OBJECTIVE 1: BETTER COORDINATION AND POLICY PRIORITIES

NEW GOK SUPPORTS IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL STRATEGY ON PROPERTY RIGHTS

The new government, which assumed office on September 9, 2017, has indicated that property rights reform is a high priority. This is reflected in the Government's Program; in its legislative agenda for 2017, which contains six pieces of property rights legislation; and by statements made by new ministers and officials at introductory meetings with USAID.

IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL STRATEGY ON PROPERTY RIGHTS MOVES AHEAD, WITH 32 LEGAL ACTS CURRENTLY APPROVED OR IN PROCESS

With a political government absent during most of this Quarter, owing to early Parliamentary elections, the work to develop the legislation to implement the National Strategy advanced nonetheless. To date, six (6) Concept Documents, five (5) Draft-Laws, ten (10) Administrative Instructions, and three (3) Regulations stemming from, or guided by, the NSPR have been finalized; and PRP is supporting work on an additional 3 Concept Documents, 3 Laws, and 2 Administrative Instructions.

GOK APPROVES "INHERITANCE PACKAGE OF LEGISLATION" FOR SUBMISSION TO PARLIAMENT

The "inheritance package" consists of amendment to the laws on Inheritance and Uncontested Procedure and a newly drafted law on Notaries and introduces safeguards to protect women's property rights and provides 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.

PUBLIC OUTREACH ON PROPERTY RIGHTS ISSUES

PRP is extending its *For Our Common Good* campaign to include general property rights issues, in addition to those of equal property rights, and during this Quarter PRP undertook a range of activities to inform the public about the National Strategy and the challenges to be addressed: (1)

PRP all-but-completed an animated PSA for social media, which is designed to focus the public's attention on problems posed by informal property rights; (2) PRP held a workshop with Municipal Gender Officers on the National Strategy; and (3) PRP continued to distribute to the public its informational brochure on the National Strategy.

MAKING EU VALUATION STANDARDS AVAILABLE IN KOSOVO IN ALBANIAN

As reported previously, PRP responded to a request from the Kosovo Valuers Association (for property valuation) to support the translation into Albanian of European valuation standards. Introducing European valuation standards in Kosovo is consistent with the National Strategy, which cites problems with current valuation practice in Kosovo, and also supports Kosovo's approximation to the EU. During this Quarter PRP commissioned an initial translation of the 300-page document and has now submitted the translation to experts for a technical review. The technical review is expected to be completed in early October 2017.

OBJECTIVE 2: IMPROVED COURT PROCEDURES RELATED TO PROPERTY CLAIMS

CASEFLOW MANAGEMENT REFORMS FULLY INTEGRATED INTO THE WORK OF THE COURTS

During this Quarter, the modern caseload management practices, which PRP has developed to address the problems identified through its extensive empirical research and analysis of the caseload management of property cases in the CoMs, have been fully integrated into the work of the Civil Divisions of the courts.

EMPIRICAL RESULTS DEMONSTRATE POSITIVE IMPACT OF THE CFM REFORMS

As the courts apply the new practices, PRP has been gathering data to determine the impact of the improved caseload management reforms on court performance. Preliminary results from this analysis are very encouraging, showing that the practices are enabling courts to reduce delays significantly. It is expected that in October 2017 PRP will complete this research and make a formal presentation to the Kosovo Judicial Council, to secure the KJC's recommendation that these practices be adopted in all Kosovo courts.

UNIFYING JUDICIAL PRACTICE

The work of PRP's Legal Associates in the courts has brought to light a number of significant inconsistencies in the individual judges' respective practice, especially for property cases. – e.g., with respect to the screening process; the use of hearings and scheduling events; the collection of evidences; communicating with and notifying the parties, especially Displaced Persons; and in disposing a case. PRP has organized roundtables to raise these findings for discussion, which have produced consensus among judges on the practices to be applied going forward, which will be memorialized in formal Protocols that PRP is developing.

DEVELOPMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE PRACTICAL GUIDE PROGRESSING ON SCHEDULE

During this Quarter PRP made significant progress in developing the "Practical Guide for Improving Caseload Management of Property Rights Cases and Other Civil Cases," which will serve as a guide for adopting and applying the caseload management reforms that have been successfully piloted in the CoMs. The complete draft will be completed by December 2017 and will be developed in close

collaboration with the CoMs. The final version of the Practical Guide will serve as the basis for training for judges and court staff and will support the extension of these reforms to other courts.

COMPLETION NEARS FOR INITIATIVE TO PRODUCE CASE SUMMARIES IN ALBANIAN OF DECISIONS OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS RELATED TO PROPERTY RIGHTS

During this Quarter the interns and instructors completed intermediate drafts of 140 case summaries in Albanian; and the instructors have finalized 100 of those. The finalized case summaries are now being translated into Serbian, while the instructors preparing final versions of the remaining 40 case summaries in Albanian. To support consistency in translation, the instructors have also produced a Glossary showing the Albanian translations of key terms in English. The Glossary will be supplemented with the Serbian translations of those terms. When the Albanian and Serbian versions are finalized, PRP will organize a visibility event to unveil this publication.

COORDINATION WITH THE USAID JUSTICE SECTOR STRENGTHENING PROGRAM AND THE USAID CONTRACT LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

During this Quarter PRP was in regular contact with USAID JSSP – principally with the JSSP Court Administration Advisor, whom it kept informed of PRP’s caseload management activities in the CoMs and PRP’s recruitment of additional Legal Associates. PRP shared with JSSP the information produced for public areas in the courts instructing citizens on the requirements to be followed in filing civil claims. With USAID CLE, PRP has been collaborating with USAID CLE to encourage judges to refer civil cases to mediation. As PRP’s Legal Associates identify suitable cases, they are referred for mediation with the support of USAID CLE.

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

WIDE MEDIA COVERAGE OF RESULTS OF SECOND NATIONAL SURVEY ON PROPERTY RIGHTS

PRP organized a visibility event to announce the results of the latest Survey. The event was held in the National Library of Kosovo; was well attended; and featured presentations on the National Survey and PRP’s media campaign. PRP also unveiled an animated video on the Survey results that PRP produced for social media. Extensive printed materials were available in three languages. The event was broadcasted live by *Kallxo.com*. PRP also prepared an article on the survey results, which appeared in five online portals on the day of the event and was published in hard-copy and electronic versions of the magazine *Flatra*, along with other information provided by PRP.

Survey findings indicate that PRP’s media campaign on women’s property rights has reached large segments of Kosovo’s population and generated discussions and debates.

PSAs ON WOMEN’S PROPERTY RIGHTS RECEIVE EXTENSIVE PUBLIC EXPOSURE

PRP arranged with *Kallxo.com* (part of BIRN, a local CSO that engages in investigative reporting) to have its digital banner posted on the main page of the website as a clickable button directing users to PRP’s PSAs on YouTube with the slogan: “Equal Love = Equal Rights, for property rights.” The number of page views for *Kallxo.com* for the period August 1 – September 21, 2017 amounted to 1,451,024.

In addition, PRP arranged to have PRP’s PSAs aired during the municipal electoral debates, to be featured on BIRN’s program, *Jeta në Komune*, over the period September 21 – October 20, and

leading up to the municipal elections to be held October 22. This presents a tremendous opportunity to reach audiences throughout Kosovo. PRP has also secured BIRN's agreement to raise property rights issues to political candidates during the debates.

REACHING OUT TO THE ROMA COMMUNITY

PRP has arranged for one of its radio PSAs with a voiceover to be translated into the Romani language, for airing on the Roma radio station in Prizren, Romani Avazo. PRP will also examine the feasibility of translating some of its printed products into Romani, for distribution among the Roma community in Prizren.

NUMEROUS INTERVIEWS ON PROPERTY RIGHTS ISSUES

During this Quarter PRP provided interviews on property rights issues: (1) for a documentary being produced by UNMIK to investigate the link between women, domestic violence, property rights, and justice; (2) for an article on women's inheritance rights for the project. "Girls be Heard;" (3) for an interview on gender equality-stereotypes and gender roles in Kosovo, for a joint project of UNFPA and the OSCE; and (4) for a university student planning her Master's thesis on women's property rights.

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.

SUPPORTING PREPARATIONS FOR US AMBASSADOR'S FACT-FINDING TRIP

PRP organized and facilitated a session of meetings for the US Ambassador during an official visit to Istog/k municipality. The meeting concerned equal property rights and the local situation. 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

During this Quarter, PRP is completing the equipment installation intended to improve the storage facility where physical archived cadastral documents for Viti/na municipality are stored. Fireproof wall panels and flooring have been installed. Remaining items to be installed are the lighting system, dehumidifier, temperature regulator, as well as the metal bookcases, flat file drawers, and a reading table. Meanwhile, PRP has also made a bulk procurement of new standardized binders so that officials can start re-filing and classifying the files in a more structured and organized manner than in their current state. The location of the MCO archive facility where these improvements are taking place is on the premises of the municipality's new municipal building annex in Viti/na (funded by the European Union). This is a much more modern and secure structure than their current office.

DISSEMINATION OF POPULAR PUBLIC INFORMATION BROCHURES ON PROPERTY REGISTRATION CONTINUES IN DRAGASH/DRAGAŠ MUNICIPALITY

In July, PRP held an outdoor informational event in Dragash/Dragaš municipality during one of their summer “market days.” A tent was set up outside the municipal building in the center of town. The location observed high foot traffic, and many local residents and diaspora stopped by to ask questions and seek advice from PRP’s and the MCO’s technical experts present on their property related issues. Many questions and clarifications revolved around a trending theme of citizens not realizing that, as a putative property owner, he or she is not the legal owner until it has been registered with the MCO and the citizen possessing a property decision certificate. And therefore, he or she have no legal right to sell, subdivide, transfer to an heir, receive any subsidy, or use it to obtain a mortgage. Feedback generally was that this event was quite informative and successful and should be repeated in the future so as to supplement the media campaign with more face-to-face presence with citizens.

PROCUREMENT OF AN E-KIOSK IN VITI/NA MUNICIPALITY

During the month of September, PRP completed a competitive procurement process for local technical services to configure and install an e-kiosk in Viti/na municipality. It is intended to build off the success of other e-kiosk installations in Kosovo (some of which have been funded by other USAID programs) to issue simple civil status documents, such as birth and marriage certificates. PRP intends that the Viti/na installation will go one step further by also having the functionality of providing property ownership certificates. The time and resource savings for both the citizen and the civil status office staff can now also be extended to municipal cadastral office staff, whose time can be freed up to review and process incoming registrations more efficiently than ever before. Also, making these documents available through the e-kiosk after working hours (e-kiosks in Kosovo operate 24/7) have the intended purpose of encouraging greater citizen interest and awareness of their own standing vis-à-vis having ownership proof of their property.

PRP INITIATES RESEARCH ON PROPERTY REGISTRATION STATISTICS

Given the number of activities underway supporting municipal cadastral offices and citizens’ knowledge and ability to engage those offices and exercise their property rights, PRP felt it important to obtain baseline data in PRP’s three partner municipalities (Viti/na, Štrpce/Shtërpçë, and Dragash/Dragaš) on: 1.) the number of joint registrations; and 2.) the number of days to conduct property transactions. Working in coordination with Objective 3 staff, the purpose of this research into the number of joint registrations is to demonstrate the efficacy of PRP’s behavior change campaign and to assist in the reporting as required in the Administrative Instruction on Special Measures for the Registration of Joint Immovable Property on Behalf of Both Spouses (No.03/2016). And, the purpose of the research into the time period it realistically takes to register property is to demonstrate the efficacy of PRP’s ongoing support in support of the MCOs. Cooperation from the MCOs has been good so far as they too value the importance of these metrics.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

OBJECTIVE I: BETTER COORDINATION AND POLICY PRIORITIES

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

[Note that the Government of Kosovo adopted the National Strategy on Property Rights on January 18, 2017, the culmination of an intensive and comprehensive 19-month process generating over 150 pages of legal research and analysis and including over 23 working sessions in which over 48 stakeholders took part.

EU experts praised the inclusiveness and systematic approach of the process to develop the National Strategy and cited it as a model to be applied in future EU projects in Kosovo and in the region.

The National Strategy as adopted includes an Action Plan that calls for the development of over 30 legislative initiatives, encompassing laws and sub-legal acts, to implement the National Strategy, as well as additional measures to improve the effectiveness of the property rights regime.

PRP's activities to support the development of implementing legislation for the National Strategy are described below in the section, "Activity I.2: Support Development of a Legal Framework that Affords Citizens with Clear, Equitable and Enforceable Property Rights."

ACTIVITY I.2: SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF A LEGAL FRAMEWORK THAT AFFORDS CITIZENS WITH CLEAR, EQUITABLE AND ENFORCEABLE PROPERTY RIGHTS

DEVELOPING IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION FOR THE NATIONAL STRATEGY

During this Quarter, PRP actively supported the drafting of legislation to implement the National Strategy, to ensure all laws governing or affecting property are harmonized and form an integrated whole. Because the legislation is so extensive and inter-related, it is essential to achieve cross-Ministerial collaboration in preparing packages of several pieces of legislation simultaneously. PRP believes it can play this important, catalytic role in fostering and achieving this collaborative approach among GoK stakeholders.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

To date six (6) Concept Documents, five (5) Draft-Laws, ten (10) Administrative Instructions, and three (3) Regulations stemming from, or guided by, the NSPR have been finalized. PRP is currently supporting the GoK in finalizing three (3) Concept Documents, three (3) Laws, and two (2) Administrative Instructions. In total, PRP has to date contributed to the preparation of 32 acts, 15 of which have been adopted. By May 2018, PRP plans to continue to support the 12 acts currently in process and extend its support to 11 additional acts.

Of all the NSPR acts – Concept Documents, Laws, Administrative Instructions, and Regulations – for which PRP currently projects that it will be able to provide drafting support by May 2018, 56% have already been finalized, while an additional 24% of identified acts are currently being supported. In other words, PRP has already contributed to the completion of over 70% of NSPR-related acts that were prioritized to receive PRP support by May 2018.

GoK institutions that have benefited from PRP assistance to date in implementing NSPR measures include the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Ministry of Local Government Administration, and the Ministry of Finance.

NATIONAL STRATEGY LEGISLATION INCLUDED IN NEW GOVERNMENT'S LEGISLATIVE PLAN FOR 2017

The new Government has approved a four-year program, focusing on the rule of law, economic growth and development, and European integration. The legislative program for 2017 foresees the finalization and approval of six laws and one concept document for which PRP has been providing support, as indicated below. It should be noted that amending the Law on Property and Other Real Rights is central to creating a modern legal framework. The key positions and principles to be embodied in the revised Law on Property and Other Real Rights have already been identified, and all the other legislative initiatives noted here will be consistent with those positions and principles.

Moj:

- Concept Document for amending the Law on Property and Other Real Rights
- The Inheritance Package (Law on Inheritance, Law on Notaries, Law on Uncontested Procedure)
- Law on Construction Land
- Law on Public Property

MLGA:

- Law on Allocation for Use and Exchange of Immovable Municipal Property

MESP:

- Law on Treatment of Constructions Without Permit
- Law on Cadastre

(PRP has also identified additional legislative acts in this year's program on which PRP could potentially provide support in the future):

MESP:

- Law on the Establishment of a National Spatial Data Infrastructure

MAFRD:

- Law on Forests
- Law on Agriculture and Rural Development

PRP ASSISTS SPO AND MOJ IN PREPARING LEGISLATIVE PLAN

PRP assisted the Strategic Planning Office and the Ministry of Justice in responding to the Prime Minister's call for the legislative plan, with PRP assisting in drafting the narrative to the plan, to support the high priority that the Government is according to property rights. The Government's

stated objective remains strengthening the rule of law and economic development. PRP noted in its narrative that property rights reform serves both objectives simultaneously.

FINALIZING THE CONCEPT DOCUMENT ON LAW ON PROPERTY AND OTHER REAL RIGHTS

Following the initial phase of public consultations on the Concept Document, PRP is assisting the MoJ in reviewing and evaluating the comments received. The Concept Document will be presented for a final round of public consultation in October 2017.

PRP has supported the MoJ in drafting this Concept Document, which is based on recommendations in the National Strategy as informed by the Concept Notes. The Concept Document addresses the following issues: converting 99-year-long user rights to outright private ownership; eliminating the Yugoslav legacy, “construction land”; and creating the legislative basis for foreigners to own real property in Kosovo.

The Working Group consists of representatives of the line ministries and Agencies for whom this legislation is most relevant, i.e., the Ministry of Agriculture, the Privatization Agency, and the Ministry for Local Government Administration, as well as the MoJ and PRP.

Earlier in the Quarter, PRP participated in a meeting of the Executive Commissions for European Integration organized by the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Trade and Industry, which focused on a statistical report issued by the implementation of the Stabilization Association Agreement (SAA) and monitoring the implementation of conclusions deriving from the SAA. It was noted that the SAA calls for revising Kosovo law to allow national treatment for EU nationals acquiring real estate in Kosovo. The Ministry of Justice informed the group that the Concept Document for amending the Law on Property and Other Real Rights contemplates creating the legislative basis for this.

GOK APPROVES “INHERITANCE PACKAGE” OF DRAFT LEGISLATION

The Government of Kosovo approved the amendment to the laws on inheritance and uncontested procedure and a newly drafted law on notaries. PRP worked directly with the MoJ in preparing the inheritance package. 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.

GOK EXPERTS MEET TO TAKE STOCK OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY

As noted above, inter-ministerial cooperation is essential for the creation of a unified body of law governing property rights. PRP requested this meeting during the hiatus between political governments, to maintain momentum in supporting the implementation of the National Strategy. The meeting was attended by all National Strategy Implementers—formerly, CTG members: Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Local Government Administration, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Finance, Kosovo Cadastral Agency, Kosovo Privatization Agency, Kosovo Property Comparison and



Government implementers' meeting of the National Strategy on Property Rights taking stock and prioritizing the legislative acts for drafting. September 2017.

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Verification Agency, and Kosovo Judicial Council – and was chaired by the Head of the Strategic Planning Office.

The first part of the working session was used to take stock of current implementation of the National Strategy, prioritize legislative acts for drafting, and identify legislative acts for which institutions need further technical assistance from PRP. All institutions present expressed the need for direct assistance in legislative drafting, as well as for facilitating the legislative drafting processes by aligning stakeholders through workshops and working sessions.

The second part of the working session focused on a discussion on large-scale informality as one of the biggest obstacles for securing rights to private property. PRP presented the scope and scale of the problem and, guided by the National Strategy, a wide array of possible options to address this problem. The participants agreed on the gravity of the problem, especially regarding the discrepancy between cadastral records and the reality on the ground, and demonstrated interest in working together towards finding effective remedies to address this major challenge.

PRP DESIGNS INTERACTIVE, MULTIPURPOSE TABLE TO TRACK THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL STRATEGY LEGAL ACTS

With the purpose of generating information in real time, the table allows cross-tabulating and filtering information based on the type of act, type of PRP support being provided, current implementation status, and sponsor institution. The implementation status of each act is also color coded, for easier use. The interactive Table is also equipped with a key that explains and justifies table categories. The Table has been designed as part of PRP's effort to conduct diagnostics on the implementation of the NSPR to date, as well as to serve as a guide for GoK partner institutions and legislative experts to help ensure that the draft legislation is consistent with priorities and timelines foreseen in the National Strategy.

PRP IDENTIFIES SEVERAL ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE NSPR FOR THE UPCOMING MONTHS

These activities include conducting diagnostics on the implementation of the NSPR to date; preparing guidelines for the GoK partner institutions and legislative experts to help ensure that the draft legislation is consistent with the major policy positions and principles of the National Strategy; and working with the Ministry of Local Government Administration (MLGA) to provide training and information on the National Strategy to municipal officials.

KPCVA COMPENSATION SCHEME

The KPCVA has notified PRP that the KPCVA will start designing a compensation scheme in order to implement Housing and Property Directorate (HPD) decisions on “A” and “C” claimants. (Note: the HPD was a predecessor organization of the KPCVA and was administered by UN Habitat during the period 1999-2001.) Only recently has the KPCVA been able to secure €300,000 funding from the GoK to pay a portion of compensation and address the claims of both the Kosovo Albanians and Kosovo Serbs who have unresolved property rights claims. The KPCVA is expected to develop an

Administrative Instruction on the compensation scheme criteria in order to begin implementation of the HPD decisions. PRP will explore the possibility of supporting the agency on this NSPR-related measure.

CONCEPT DOCUMENT FOR AMENDING THE LAW ON ALLOCATION FOR USE AND EXCHANGE OF IMMOVABLE MUNICIPAL PROPERTY IS APPROVED BY GOK.

PRP provided comments on this Concept Document, which is guided by the policy direction set in the National Strategy on Property Rights. The approval of this Concept Document also prepares the way for organizing an event with the Ministry for Local Government Administration to discuss with Mayors property rights challenges at the local level. PRP will now support the process of drafting the new law.

MLGA REQUESTS PRP SUPPORT IN DRAFTING THE LAW ON ALLOCATION FOR USE AND EXCHANGE OF IMMOVABLE MUNICIPAL PROPERTY

PRP, in close cooperation with MLGA, has organized a two-day workshop to revise and finalize the Draft Law on the Allocation for the Use and Exchange of Immovable Municipal Property. The workshop is scheduled for October 12-13, 2017.

Discussions with the MLGA Legal Office have focused on issues surrounding the content of the Law, such as the definition of public interest, options to exchange the property of the municipality, the transfer of socially owned property to a municipality, etc. It has been agreed that PRP will take an active role to support this draft Law by participating in the Working Group established by MLGA and providing other professional and technical support.

INITIAL DRAFT COMPLETED OF CONCEPT DOCUMENT TO AMEND THE LAW ON CONTESTED PROCEDURE

PRP prepared a first draft of the Concept Document of the Law on Contested Procedure, which reflects findings from PRP's STTA expert, who conducted a comparative analysis of Kosovo law and practice with international best practice. This work also draws heavily on PRP's findings from its empirical research and analysis of caseload management in its pilot Courts of Merit.

DRAFTING THE LAW ON CONSTRUCTION LAND

Work on this draft law is in progress. At PRP's suggestion, MESP organized a working session with municipal officials from Prishtinë/Priština and Mitrovica and other stakeholders.

PRP has drafted a memorandum with recommendations for the contents of a new Law on Construction Land. This memo addresses transforming a right of use of urban construction land into full property ownership and merging the ownership of buildings with the underlying land parcel. The memo also makes recommendations for other land management issues that may be appropriate to include in this law, including a framework for regulatory takings, business improvement districts and the transformation of development rights.

PRP has conducted research and analysis to inform policies on regulatory takings. For example, PRP is recommending the development of a framework for determining when compensation is owed as a result of planning regulations that infringe on a property owner's constitutional rights. This Concept Document explores the basis of compensation under Kosovo law and the European Court of Human Rights and provides comparisons with treatment of the issue in other jurisdictions.

MESP HOLDS WORKSHOP TO INFORM PREPARATION OF THE CONCEPT DOCUMENT FOR AMENDING THE LAW ON CONDOMINIUMS

PRP supported and participated in the two-day workshop, “Establishing Condominiums – Challenges and Problems,” which was organized by MESP with the aim of engaging a broad range of stakeholders to finalize the Concept Document for amending the Law on Condominium. In addition to helping organize the workshop, PRP also made a presentation and took an active part in the discussions. Discussions focused on the legal gaps and inefficient practices in the current regulation of condominiums. After the working group meeting, PRP met with the Head of the MESP Housing Division, Mr. Ramë Hamzaj, to discuss further support that PRP can provide to the process of drafting the Concept Document.

DRAFT LAW ON CADASTRE

PRP met with the Acting Director of the MESP Legal Department, Ms. Sabrie Rama, to ascertain the status of the Draft Law on Cadastre and the incorporation of PRP comments. Ms. Rama noted that MESP received many comments during the public consultation process and that MESP was planning to hold a working group meeting to review and discuss the comments.

PRP SUPPORTING MESP FOR LEGISLATION ON CONSTRUCTION PERMITTING

PRP is assisting MESP in incorporating comments on the Draft Law on the Chambers of Architects and Engineers that pertain to construction issues. MESP received comments from a number of stakeholders (the OPM, the Association of Architects, the Association of Engineers, and others).

PRP has also been working with MESP’s Working Group to develop the draft of Administrative Instruction No. 16/2014 on Procedures for the Submission and Review of Applications for terms of Constructions Permits for Category III Projects.

PRP SUPPORTING MESP FOR LEGISLATION ON SPATIAL PLANNING

PRP provided comments on the draft Administrative Instruction on the Regulation of Supervision, Sanctions and Measures, which is to be issued under the Law on Spatial Planning (Article 25).

REVISING AI ON CONSTRUCTION PERMIT FEES UNDER LAW ON CONSTRUCTION

PRP worked with the MESP Division of Construction to revise the AI on Construction Permit Fees to reflect changes recently made in related AIs, reducing fees for Category I constructions and providing additional instruction related to Development Agreements for infrastructure for constructions.

SUPPORTING THE LEGAL OFFICE OF OPM IN CONNECTION WITH THE LAW ON THE KOSOVO PROPERTY COMPARISON AND VERIFICATION AGENCY

On July 17, 2017 the GoK approved five sub-legal acts for implementing the Law on the Kosovo Property Comparison and Verification Agency. PRP had an active role on drafting these sub-legal acts:

- Regulation on the work of the Supervisory Board of the Kosovo Property Comparison and Verification Agency.

- Regulation on duties, responsibilities and procedures of the Commissions of the Kosovo Property Comparison and Verification Agency.
- Regulation on duties and responsibilities of the Executive Secretariat of the executive Secretariat of the Kosovo Property Comparison and Verification Agency.
- Administrative Instruction on exemption of property exemption of property or use right holders from utilities arrears for occupied properties under the administration of the Kosovo Property Comparison and Verification Agency.
- Administrative Instruction on procedures, conditions and criteria for the end of the Administration of properties under Administration and those included in the rental scheme of the Kosovo Property Comparison and Verification Agency.

PRP DELIVERS FINAL COMMENTS TO THE MOJ ON THE REGULATION ON ENERGY PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATION OF BUILDINGS

This Regulation has been drafted by MESP and sent for comments to MoJ because it impacts property rights.

This Regulation requires that the Energetic Performance Certificate be part of the set of documents to be filed to the Kosovo Cadastral Agency for any changes in the buildings to be registered in the cadastral records. Considering that the EPC is a requirement for application for construction permit and a precondition for issuance of the occupancy certificate, PRP suggested that its inclusion in the list of documents for registration of property rights in the cadastre is unnecessary, burdensome and discourages registration of property rights legally recognized, thus creating administrative barriers to formalizing rights in the cadastre.

HARMONIZING SPATIAL PLANNING

At the request of the Director of the Department of Spatial Planning, Housing and Construction, PRP, in close cooperation with the Spatial Planning Division, reviewed the Consent issued by MESP on August 31 to approve the Municipal Development Plan (MDP) of the Municipality of Ferizaj/Uroševac, issued by MESP on August 31, 2017. The review was requested owing to appeals filed by citizens regarding a change of destination of land.

MAKING EU VALUATION STANDARDS AVAILABLE IN ALBANIAN

As reported previously, PRP responded to a request from the Kosovo Valuers Association (for property valuation) to support the translation into Albanian of European valuation standards. Introducing European valuation standards in Kosovo is consistent with the National Strategy, which cites problems with current valuation practice in Kosovo, and also supports Kosovo's approximation to the EU. During this Quarter PRP commissioned and received an initial translation of the 300-page document and submitted the translation to experts for a technical review. The technical review is expected to be completed in early October, 2017. PRP will also explore with the Association the feasibility of acquiring the right to use in Kosovo the Serbian translation of the standards, which is available in Serbia.

DRAFT CONCEPT DOCUMENT ON AMENDING THE LAW ON THE SPECIAL CHAMBER OF THE SUPREME COURT

The MoJ has requested PRP's assistance in drafting the Concept Document for revisions to the Law on the Special Chamber. PRP prepared an analysis legislation related to the Special Chamber of the Supreme Court, to inform the development of the Concept Document. PRP has helped identify policy issues that can be addressed in the Concept Document (without taking a position as to the policy choices to be made in each case), e.g., the use of three-judge panels; parties with standing; and procedural time limits.

(Note: the Special Chamber has exclusive jurisdiction over disputes arising out of privatization, and many of its decisions touch on the rights of Displaced Persons.)

PRP ASSISTS MOJ WITH REPORT FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON THE STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECONOMIC REFORM PROGRAMME

Kosovo, as an EU enlargement country, is required to adopt and implement a medium-term Economic Reform Programme. The programme consists of 20 "priorities of priorities." With PRP's active engagement, Kosovo has indicated that included among the top 20 national priorities is addressing large scale informality in the immovable property sector.

The European Commission requires regular updates to take stock of the current implementation of the programme. PRP assisted MoJ in reporting on activities pertinent to informality: the MoJ's "Inheritance Package"; MESP's Law on Cadastre and Law on Immovable Property Rights Registry; and the Law on Treatment of Constructions without Permit. The report also takes note of the National Strategy at-large, stressing that one of its key objectives is to resolve widespread informality by developing more efficient administrative processes to provide informal rights holders with formal, legal recognition of their rights so they may then be registered in Kosovo's cadastre.

WORKSHOP ON AI'S THAT MINISTER OF MESP HAS APPROVED

PRP participated in the workshop organized by MESP with the support of USAID PFD, to present and discuss the following three Administrative Instructions:

- Administrative Instruction 04/2017 on the categorization of construction works;
- Administrative Instruction 04/2017 on setting procedures for submission and review of Application for terms of constructions, construction permits and demolition permits for category I and II of constructions; and
- Administrative Instruction 04/2017 for inspection supervision and procedures for issuing the occupancy certificate.

CONDUCTING PUBLIC OUTREACH ON THE NATIONAL STRATEGY AND PROMOTING MEDIA COVERAGE

IMPLEMENTING THE NATIONAL STRATEGY: PRP PRODUCING ANIMATED PSA ON INFORMALITY. PRP and its sub-contractor, PI Communications, are finalizing the new PSA, which is designed to focus the public's attention on problems posed by informal property rights. PRP will send its final version to USAID for review.

In the following months, PRP plans to extend its *For Our Common Good* campaign to general property rights issues, in addition to those of equal property rights.

PRESENTATIONS ON THE NATIONAL STRATEGY. PRP organized the workshop in order to inform Municipal Gender Officers on Kosovo's property rights challenges and with policy and recommendations in the National Strategy on Property Rights with focus on the property rights of women.

PRP continued to distributed copies of the National Strategy and a brochure for the public on the National Strategy, in Albanian, Serbian and English.

PRP PLANNING CONFERENCE ON NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR MUNICIPAL STAKEHOLDERS WITH THE MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION. PRP initiated preliminary discussions with the MLGA to begin concrete planning for this event, which would focus discussion on the issues addressed in the National Strategy that are of direct relevance to municipalities. Owing to the dissolution of Parliament and the calling of national elections, plans for this conference have been postponed until autumn.

COOPERATION AND COORDINATION WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

MOJ WORKSHOP FOR DRAFTING THE CIVIL CODE OF KOSOVO

This workshop focused on defining conceptual matters for drafting the Civil Code of Kosovo. The items of the agenda included defining conceptual matters related to, respectively, drafting standards; obligations; property rights; commercial law; and family and inheritance. PRP presented the recommendations guided by the National Strategy on Property Rights to be included in the Civil Code and also informed the members of the working group about the current PRP support to the line ministries on legislative drafting activities with focus on the Concept Document for the amendment of the Law on Property and Other Real Rights.

MEETING WITH NEW GIZ PROJECT ON LAND CONSOLIDATION AND SPATIAL PLANNING

PRP met with the team leader and experts of a new GIZ project “Strengthening Spatial Planning and Land Reform in Kosovo” (SSPL) with the aim of fostering coordination and cooperation between the two projects. The focus of the new project is supporting municipalities in the preparation of zoning maps) and improving the law governing land consolidation.

PRP described its efforts underway to develop expedited approaches to enable citizens to formalize their property rights (informal land rights constituting a major impediment to land consolidation).

PRP also emphasized that it welcomes the GIZ project’s active participation in the work to implement the National Strategy.

DISCUSSION OF NATIONAL STRATEGY WITH UNHCR

PRP met with Ms. Nazan Zymber, Protection Associate in the Office of the UNHCR Mission in Kosovo and Ms. Gloriosa Hisari, Reintegration Coordinator of the Civil Rights Program Kosovo, to discuss issues and recommendations in the National Strategy on Property Rights related to the property rights of displaced persons and non-majority communities and avenues of cooperation on the implementation of these recommendations.

PRP BRIEFS EU PROJECT ON KPCVA AND RELATED MATTERS

At the request of the EU-funded “Promotion & Protection of Property Rights of IDPs, Refugees & Returnees upon Readmission Agreements - Legal Aid Project,” which is based in Belgrade, Serbia, PRP met with the Team Leader and Experts during their visit to Kosovo and provided detailed responses to questions surrounding the Law on the KPCVA, the AIs and related matters.

PRP HOSTS SUMMER EXTERN FROM OHIO NORTHERN UNIVERSITY

Ms. Samantha Valent completed her internship with PRP in July 2017. PRP is continuing its cooperation with the JD/LLM program of ONU, and in that connection agreed to host Ms. Valent as an extern over the months of June and July. Ms. Valent provided research and other assistance to support PRP reform initiatives.

OBJECTIVE 2: IMPROVED COURT PROCESS RELATED TO PROPERTY CLAIMS

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

GATHERING EMPIRICAL DATA TO DETERMINE THE IMPACT OF PILOTED CFM REFORMS IN THE COM'S

During this Quarter, in parallel with PRP's work with the CoMs to pilot improved caseload management practices, PRP also monitored and tracked the work as it progressed, in order to generate empirical data that demonstrate the impact that the improved practices are having on court performance. (See below.)

PRP plans to present these results to the Kosovo Judicial Council in October, to secure its recommendation to have these practices introduced throughout Kosovo's judicial system.

Here is a representative sample of comparative data illustrating the positive impact of PRP's caseload management reforms in reducing delays in the adjudication of property cases and other civil cases.

Please Note that the reported lengths of time for cases processed with PRP interventions remain unduly long, because they reflect the long delays that had already occurred before PRP's Legal Associates dealt with them. Cases filed after the CFM practices were put in place are moving through the court much more quickly, and PRP will include those data in its final analysis of the impact.

NON-PROPERTY CASES			
PRE-INTERVENTION (1,120 PENDING NON-PROPERTY CASES)		WITH PRP INTERVENTION (3,020 PENDING NON-PROPERTY CASES)	
Average age	1171	Average age	690
Number of days at screening stage	944	Number of days at screening stage	361
Number of days at preparatory hearing stage	1556	Number of days at preparatory hearing stage	534

Number of days at main hearing stage	1244	Number of days at main hearing stage	825
Number of cases ready for disposition	93	Number of cases ready for disposition	650

PROPERTY CASES			
PRE-INTERVENTION (851 PENDING PROPERTY CASES)		WITH PRP INTERVENTION (2,470 PENDING PROPERTY CASES)	
Average age	1220	Average age	844
Number of days at screening stage	1058	Number of days at screening stage	361
Number of days at preparatory hearing stage	1790	Number of days at preparatory hearing stage	542
Number of days at main hearing stage	1453	Number of days at main hearing stage	908
Number of cases ready for disposition	28	Number of cases ready for disposition	236

WORKING WITH COM JUDGES TO UNIFY THEIR PRACTICE

PRP’s intensive work with the Civil Divisions of the CoMs, using a total of nine Legal Associates to support the judges’ work, has brought to light significant inconsistencies in the individual judges’ respective practice, especially for property cases. – e.g., with respect to the screening process; the use of hearings and scheduling events; the collection of evidences; communicating with and notifying the parties, especially Displaced Persons; and in disposing a case.

During this Quarter PRP conducted three workshops with the judges – one in each CoM – to raise these matters for discussion and to create consensus among them concerning these practices. The positions agreed to will inform the Protocols that PRP is developing to memorialize the improved CFM.

A total of 47 persons attended the three workshops, including civil judges, the courts’ professional associates and PRP’s professional associates. Discussions focused on improving and unifying the judge’s practices in adjudication, with an emphasis on property rights matters. The comprehensive debate and discussions among the participants enabled them to reach consensus on various practices that will be reflected in the CFM protocols, which PRP will develop in close collaboration with the CoMs as a Practical Guide (as further described below).

DEVELOPING “A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR IMPROVING CASEFLOW MANAGEMENT OF PROPERTY RIGHTS CASES AND OTHER CIVIL CASES”

During this Quarter PRP commenced the development of the complete text of the Practical Guide, which will enable judges and court staff to understand and apply the improved caseflow management practices that PRP has been piloting in the CoMs. The Practical Guide will contain a full description of each Protocol described above presented in a quick-reference format with step-by-step instructions on the improved procedures; 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 procedures. The Practical Guide will also 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 procedures.

PRP will share its outline of the Practical Guide with the Kosovo Judicial Council when PRP presents the empirical results that have been achieved in the CoMs performance owing to the piloted reforms. In the event that the KJC approves the Practical Guide in principle, PRP will develop a complete draft by December 2017, for review and distribution. It is expected that the presentation to the KJC will take place during the last week of October 2017.

LAW ON CONTESTED PROCEDURE AND LAW ON THE SPECIAL CHAMBER OF THE SUPREME COURT

The work to draft these two laws, as described under Objective 1 above, will be informed by PRP's findings and recommendations emerging from its work in the courts. As concerns the Law on Contested Procedure, PRP's empirical research in its CoMs' has enabled PRP to develop specific recommendations for revisions to that Law to address many of the problems identified. As also noted above, PRP engaged STTA to assist in the development of the Concept Document for the draft Law on Contested Procedure.

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

In the previous Quarter, PRP secured the endorsement of the KJC for PRP to introduce improved caseload management practices in PRP's three pilot courts (the Basic Courts of Pejë/Peć, Ferizaj/Uroševac and Gjiilan/Gnjilane): the Courts of Merit (CoMs). PRP has developed these practices on the basis of empirical findings from PRP's comprehensive research and analysis of caseload management in the CoMs.

During this Quarter, PRP continued to apply new caseload management practices in the three CoMs and to monitor the results.

PRP Expedites Caseload

- 4,422 decisions in 9.5 months.
- 10 decisions per day on average.
- Newly hired PRP Legal Associates embedded in courts create a 1:2 ratio of Legal Associates to Judges.

APPLYING MODERN CASEFLOW MANAGEMENT METHODS IN THE COURTS OF MERIT

SHIFTING THE ADMINISTRATIVE WORK FROM JUDGES TO JUDICIAL ASSOCIATES HAS INCREASED JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE MARKEDLY

During this Quarter, and as further described below, PRP integrated all nine Legal Associates (LAs), along with 5 interns, into the Civil Divisions of the CoMs, with a ratio of one Legal Associate for every two civil judges, to make it possible to engage all of those judges in the improved caseload management practices.

By the end of this Quarter these innovations have made it possible for the CoM Civil Divisions to issue a total of **4,422 decisions since mid-December 2016**. These include 625 decisions to dispose the case, and 3,797 procedural actions related to the first and second stage of a case (answering the claim, correcting the claim, exempting from court fees, etc.). On average the LAs have drafted 10 decisions per day, including 2 dispositions per day (taking in account the holidays and annual vacation days).

INTEGRATION OF THE LEGAL ASSOCIATE TEAMS INTO THE WORK OF THE JUDGES' CHAMBERS

As indicated above, PRP's approach of introducing measures to shift administrative work and certain matters from judges to LAs has significantly reduced delays and improved the courts' efficiency in moving cases toward final resolution.

The nine Legal Associates were introduced and assigned to 17 civil judges' chambers, initially focusing on the case screening process. The LAs began by inventorying the judges' pending caseload and taking all necessary procedural actions to complete the screening process. The 17 judges had approximately 6,000 pending civil cases, of which over 3,000 were at the filing stage without any action having been taken other than registration in the court's registry and assignment to a judge.

PRP LAs were directed to regularly screen all claims and take all necessary steps to detect and mitigate any defects. The work has proceeded as follows:

1. The LAs supervised the Case Management Office clerks and helped them to draft and send out notices on the failure to pay the court fee; and inform parties of the attachments required for submission and to provide guidance on how to meet these requirements. The LAs also helped the CMOs to develop and post notices in the public area of the court that provides information on how to prepare and file a claim.
2. In Gjilan/Gnjilane Basic Court, the LAs prepared and sent out, on behalf of the Court President, notices to three large companies that submit many claims to the court that thereafter the courts would no longer accept incomplete claims. (It came to light that many large companies fail to include the required number of photocopies with their claims, and heretofore the courts have accepted the duty of making the necessary copies.)
3. The LAs have assisted judges in taking procedural actions, such as correcting claim defects, drafting court fee orders, drafting notices for summoning parties, drafting and sending out notifications to defendants to answer the claim.
4. The LAs have assisted judges by keeping track of the cases, noting the dates of next events, updating the preparatory hearing calendars and tracking the main hearing schedules.
5. LAs have also assisted in drafting disposition decisions and decisions on the merits.
6. The LAs have also managed to set and test interim case processing standards related to the review of a claim, the correction of claim, issuing decisions requiring the defendant's answer. (All of these proved achievable within 30 days.)
7. In the course of the work, LAs have identified more than 32 cases for referral to Mediation.

ENGAGING THE COURTS' CASE MANAGEMENT OFFICES IN CASEFLOW MANAGEMENT

PRP has continued working closely with the CoMs' Case Management Office staff to increase their engagement in caseflow management. As previously reported PRP has found that many cases are carried on court dockets for considerable periods of time before ultimately being dismissed on procedural grounds. PRP's LAs are assisting the courts in applying the administrative guidelines for case filing that PRP has developed with judges and CMO staff during the previous Quarter.

(The case filing guidelines enable CMO staff to identify at the time of filing any defects in the filed claim (e.g., missing information, missing documents, etc.) and return the claim for correction to the filing party. This will prevent defective claims from being accepted and placed on court dockets, only to be dismissed months or years later.)

DISSEMINATION OF DECISIONS OF COURT OF APPEALS

During this Quarter PRP continued to disseminate each week four or five decisions of the Court of Appeals to civil judges of the CoMs. This practice is giving the civil judges a better understanding of the judicial practice of the Court of Appeals.

PRP has initiated this practice in order to support the unification of judicial practice. Judges have responded very positively to this initiative.

SUPPORTING THE REFERRAL OF CASES FOR MEDIATION WITH USAID CLE

As noted above, during this quarter as result of interventions to improve caseflow management, the LAs in Gjilan/Gnjilane Basic Court, successfully managed, in coordination with USAID CLE, to transfer 32 cases to mediation. These 32 cases were identified after the claims were completed and the defects were eliminated, and after the court received the defendant's answer to the claim.

COORDINATION WITH JSSP

PRP has continued the collaboration with JSSP – principally with the JSSP Court Administration Advisor John Ferry, whom it kept informed of PRP's caseflow management activities specifically with the case screening practices. In addition to briefing meetings with JSSP, PRP has shared its filing claim guide developed with the Ferizaj/Uroševac Basic Court and also the Notice that was developed with the Gjilan/Gnjilane Basic Court civil judges, which instructs the largest claimants (KEK, PTK, and BKS) to complete claims before submitting to the court.

US AMBASSADOR AND USAID MISSION DIRECTOR VISIT ŠTRPCE/SHTËRPCË BRANCH COURT

The visit took place as part of an official visit to the Municipality. The Court has two judges, the Supervisory Judge, who deals with criminal matters, and a second judge who handles civil matters, with whom PRP has placed two Serb interns. This is enabling the interns are improve their professional skills while helping the civil judge to adopt improved caseflow management methods.

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

BACKGROUND: The Kosovo Constitution provides in Article 22 that, among other things, the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and Its Protocols (the Convention) are directly applicable in Kosovo and shall have priority over laws and acts of Kosovo institutions. In connection with property rights, it should be noted that the Protocol of the Convention guarantees protection of private property rights (Article I, Protection of Property). Furthermore, Article 53 of the Kosovo Constitution provides that human rights and fundamental freedoms are to be interpreted in a manner that is consistent with the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR).

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*

Thus, decisions of the ECHR are binding on Kosovo courts and lawmakers and Kosovo courts are bound to adjudicate cases, including cases involving property rights, in accordance with the ECHR. At the same time, most ECHR decisions are not available in Albanian. (Only decisions involving Albania or its citizens are available in the Albanian language.) As a consequence, a body of law that is of central importance and directly applicable in Kosovo that concerns human rights, including property rights, is effectively unavailable to most judges and policymakers in Kosovo.

As reported previously, PRP has developed an initiative to produce 140 summaries in Albanian 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.

PRP has requested the instructors to identify relevant case decisions in the following areas:

- 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

During this Quarter, working drafts have been prepared for all 140 cases, and 100 case summaries have been finalized in Albanian. Those 100 case summaries are currently being translated into Serbian.

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

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

GOK APPROVES “INHERITANCE PACKAGE” DRAFT LEGISLATION

As reported under Objective 1, the new Government of Kosovo has approved for submission to Parliament the draft amendments to the Law on Inheritance, Law on Non-Contested Procedure and the 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.

OBTAINING EMPIRICAL DATA ON JOINT REGISTRATIONS 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/Shtërpçë 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 will work closely with relevant stakeholders to improve the means of recording and reporting this information.

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

ANNOUNCING THE RESULTS OF PRP'S SECOND NATIONAL SURVEY ON PROPERTY RIGHTS

VISIBILITY EVENT HELD ON THE RESULTS OF THE SECOND NATIONAL SURVEY



PRP staff along with USAID/Kosovo Program and Policy Director Paul Vaca, present on PRP's findings from its Mid-Term National Survey on Property Rights at the National Library of Kosovo.

M. SHKODRA FOR USAID PRP

persons attended.

Survey findings indicate that PRP's media campaign on women's property rights has reached large segments of Kosovo's population and generated discussions and debates.

The event was held on July 13, at the National Library of Kosovo. Printed materials were made available on site included handouts of the presentation that was given at the event; a new brochure on the results of the survey; and the complete survey Report. All materials were available in three languages.

The event was followed by a reception, and an exhibit of photographs of PRP's billboards (featuring 1-3 billboards from each month); and PRP's most recent printed products. The event also featured an animated video on the results, which will be posted on social media. Fifty-nine

The National Survey visibility event was livestreamed by *Kallxo.com*:

https://www.facebook.com/kallxo/?hc_ref=ARQwFdwD2c647ELI9GRHiht2jjUrLZsu3sBR9UVIRxT8OFpkxuECXYR6mxzmBfKr_Nc

PRP DEVELOPS ANIMATED VIDEO FOR SOCIAL MEDIA ON THE RESULTS OF THE SECOND NATIONAL SURVEY ON PROPERTY RIGHTS

The animated video presents the key results of the Survey. It was shown at the visibility event and also posted on social media on the *Për të Mirën Tonë (For Our Common Good)* Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/PerTeMirenTone/>.

PRP PUBLISHES ARTICLE ON THE SURVEY RESULTS

PRP prepared an article on the survey results, which appeared in five online portals on the day of the event. The article also features a link to the animated video. In addition, the magazine *Flatra*

published the article in hard-copy and electronic versions (in its July-August issue), along with other information provided by PRP.

The list of publications where PRP's article on the National Survey appeared can be found at the end of this report in the Publications section.

MEDIA AND AD CAMPAIGN ON WOMEN'S EQUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

PRP USES SOCIAL MEDIA BANNER TO GENERATE EXTENSIVE EXPOSURE FOR PSA'S

PRP arranged with *Kallxo.com* (part of BIRN, a local CSO that engages in investigative reporting) to have its digital banner posted on the main page of the website as a clickable button directing users to PRP's PSAs on YouTube with the slogan: "Equal Love = Equal Rights, for property rights." The number of page views for *Kallxo.com* for the period August 1 – September 21, 2017 amounted to 1,451,024.

MAKING PRP'S MESSAGE AVAILABLE IN THE ROMANI LANGUAGE

PRP has arranged for one of its radio PSAs with a voiceover to be translated into the Romani language, for airing on the Roma radio station in Prizren, Romani Avazo. The PSA will be aired 10 times/day, for a period of one month initially (25 September – 25 October). PRP will also examine the feasibility of translating some of its printed products into Romani, for distribution among the Roma community in Prizren. PRP has identified is a Romani language teacher who is willing to translate this material.

USING MUNICIPAL ELECTION DEBATES TO RAISE AWARENESS OF WOMEN'S PROPERTY RIGHTS

In addition, PRP arranged to have PRP's PSAs aired during the municipal electoral debates, to be featured on BIRN's program, *Jeta në Komune*, over the period September 21 – October 20, and leading up to the municipal elections to be held October 22. This presents a tremendous opportunity to reach audiences throughout Kosovo. PRP has also secured BIRN's agreement to raise property rights issues to political candidates during the debates.

NEW BILLBOARD CAMPAIGNS

During this Quarter PRP conducted new billboard campaigns municipalities around Kosovo.

PRP DEVELOPING A NEW MEDIA PRODUCT ON THE TOPIC OF INFORMALITY

As reported under Objective 1, as a way to start introducing the topic of informality as part of PRP's social behavior change campaign, PRP has been developing a short and simple animated video on the importance of registering one's property. This product is intended for social media, but may be adapted for television, too. PRP plans to develop additional products addressing informality and, as National Strategy laws are adopted, on citizens' rights and obligations under the new laws.

LINKS TO LATEST PRP PSA'S

Spring 2017 PSAs

"Parents" (Albanian)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5fyCMBrtQtA&t=4s>

"Parents" (Serbian)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t7uxlXiV5vA>

"Daughters" (Albanian)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N5Zu2jr4UW0>

"Daughters" (Serbian)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=srIVe5X0iLA>

"Sons & Brothers" (Albanian)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8Kd7gIFgfg>

"Sons & Brothers" (Serbian)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lys6SPkyVmA>

LINKS TO PRP PSA'S AND NEWS FEATURES

Winter '16-'17 PSAs & News Feature Stories

"Women" Target Audience (Albanian) (85 sec.)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rwJeHjPG8Hg>

"Women" Target Audience (Albanian) (25 sec.)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SZQIAd9r15c>

"Women" Target Audience (Albanian) (17 sec.)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=87lnB337z4w>

"Women" News Feature Story (Albanian)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0nYw-4EJJE>

"Men" Target Audience (Albanian) (85 sec.)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e5Emkau4i_U

"Men" Target Audience (Albanian) (25 sec.)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rZbmUg4qHO8>

"Men" Target Audience (Albanian) (17 sec.)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qX3ETApIHCo>

"Men" News Feature Story (Albanian)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ccgNWxIHQ0>

PRP PROVIDES INTERVIEWS ON PROPERTY RIGHTS ISSUES

During this Quarter PRP provided a number of interviews on property rights issues:

1. For a Documentary being produced by UNMIK to investigate the link between women, domestic violence, property rights, and justice. Among those Interviewed will be victims/survivors, officials in the justice sector, CSOs, international agencies and the government institutions. PRP spoke about the issues surrounding the inequality that women experience in exercising their property rights; property rights issues generally; the work that USAID is carrying out through PRP, and why property rights issues are important for Kosovo.
2. For an article on women's inheritance rights for the project. "Girls be Heard." The interview focused the progress made on women's property rights as shown in PRP's latest Midterm Survey and the successful collaboration with Viti/na municipality in this regard.
3. An interview for UBO Consulting on gender equality-stereotypes and gender roles in Kosovo, as part of a joint project of UNFPA and the OSCE.
4. A University student planning to develop her Master's thesis on a topic of women's property rights requested a meeting with PRP to discuss and collect data regarding women's property rights. The student promised to share her thesis with PRP once it is finalized.

PUBLIC OUTREACH ACTIVITIES ON EQUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

PRP RECEIVES TESTIMONIAL FROM PARTICIPANT IN NATIONAL STRATEGY WORKSHOP FOR LAW STUDENTS

PRP received the following unsolicited message (which PRP has redacted somewhat):

“I am writing to thank you for the lecture that I attended at the one-day workshop on the National Strategy on Property Rights, entitled, “Empowering Citizen Rights: Addressing Property Rights Challenges” [which focused on issues related to women’s property rights]. That lecture has made me more committed to engage in raising the awareness of the women and girls in my family about their property rights. In particular I want to tell you that it touches women when I tell them what you said, i.e., that if they renounce their property rights, that will have a discriminatory impact on their children (as compared with their brothers’ children). This is the only argument where I see approval in their eyes and an expression that shows that they will indeed ask for or take the property inheritance that belongs to them. I thank you, because I am passing onto women the message from your lecture. I am persuading the women that they are equal with their brothers and that the future of their children will depend on their (the women’s) decision. I wish you good health in your family and the best of success at work.”

TWO ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS WITH WOMEN OF RURAL AREAS OF VITI/NA MUNICIPALITY

PRP, in close cooperation with the Viti/na Municipal Cadastral Office and Municipal Gender Officer, organized round tables with women from the villages of Pozhoran and Slatina and environs. The purpose of these round tables was to inform women about their legal rights to property and the



benefits for women and society when women exercise their property rights. PRP also showed its latest campaign PSAs at these events.

EVENT HELD IN VITI/NA FOR DIASPORA

PRP and the Municipal Cadastral Office of Viti/na Municipality hosted an event to inform citizens, particularly members of the diaspora who were visiting, about the problems of informality and how this affects women’s property and inheritance rights, and on the importance and procedures of property registration. This was part of a series of activities organized by the municipality as part of its events for “Diaspora Days.” The event featured remarks from the Deputy Mayor, Mr. Hasan Aliu, and from Ms. Marina Dimitrijevic, Project Management Specialist, Democracy and Governance, USAID. The event was held outdoors in a tent outside the Municipal House of Culture among the other booths set up for “Diaspora Days.” The tent included tables and chairs where interested citizens could pick up PRP’s various information pamphlets and could ask the technical staff on hand about property rights issues.



Viti/na Deputy Mayor, Mr. Hasan Aliu and Ms. Marina Dimitrijevic, Democracy and Governance Project Management Specialist, USAID giving remarks on the importance of knowing the rights afforded to citizens, both men and women, under the law as it concerns property ownership and inheritance outside the Viti/na municipality house of culture. [Second photo] Citizens and diaspora look on.

DON CUIZON FOR USAID PRP

WORKSHOP FOR MGO'S ON THE NATIONAL PROPERTY RIGHTS STRATEGY

As reported under Objective 1, PRP and the MoJ organized a workshop to provide Municipal Gender Officers with instruction on the real-life, practical legal and policy challenges facing Kosovo in the property sector, in particular regarding women's rights to property, and the measures and reforms proposed in the National Strategy on Property Rights to address them. The event was well attended and featured interactive presentations and lively discussion.

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

REGULAR QUARTERLY MEETING OF GENDER COORDINATION GROUP

PRP organized the regular meeting to coordinate and exchange among members the ongoing activities in support to women's property rights. During this meeting, PRP also presented the PRP's Citizen's Guides on registering property. Members of the group requested copies of the Guides so they can share them with their stakeholders during their activities.

WORKING WITH ATRC TO SUPPORT E4E SUB-GRANTEES

E4E Sub-Grantees with Activities in Support of Women's Property Rights

- BIRN
- KCBS
- CLARD
- KW4W
- POLIS
- CSD
- FAGJ
- JETA

During this Quarter PRP supported on an ongoing basis ATRC and ATRC's work with its Engagement for Equity (E4E) sub-grantees. PRP's support included the following activities:

PRP and ATRC met with the sub grantee CLARD to discuss their activities in providing legal aid on property rights and inheritance. Although CLARD has completed its grant project, CLARD is part of Kosova Women 4 Women (KW4W)'s project, to provide legal aid to the citizens of Kaçanik/Kaçanik, with the cooperation and support of the Kaçanik/Kaçanik municipal administration.

PRP met with the sub-grantees KW4W and KCBS to discuss their work in Viti/na municipality. The two sub-grantees' work is mutually complementary. KCBS is tasked with tacking the *ex officio* duties of the municipality in connection with inheritance cases, and KW4W, in cooperation with the sub-grantee CLARD, are providing legal advice to the citizens on property and inheritance cases. KW4W is also providing legal advice in Dragash/Dragaš and Kamenicë/Kosovska Kamenica. Since PRP had also some activities in Dragash/Dragaš, PRP and KW4W kept in touch on these activities. And most recently, KW4W has provided an all-day legal aid event in Kaçanik/Kaçanik supported by CLARD

KCBS continued its work in Gjilan/Gnjilane, Kamenicë/Kosovska Kamenica, and Novobërdë/Novo Brdo (in addition to Viti), distributing its posters promoting equal property rights in these four municipalities. In addition, KCBS is promoting its sub-grant activities on social media and networks.

POLIS finalized its report on the Administrative Instruction for joint registration of the property. PRP provided feedback to the report as well as other promotional materials that POLIS will present as part of the project. The report shows the results from this AI as well as difficulties and specific recommendations.

Communication for Social Development (CSD) has completed its TV documentary on equal rights to property. PRP appears on the TV documentary expressing its work on promoting equal property rights and its activities on awareness raising to Kosovo citizens.

PRP and ATRC visited the Active Women of Gjakova (FAGJ). Their door-to-door campaign work has shown successes in increasing number of women who register property either in their name or as a joint contribution of two spouses. They have also started its court monitoring activity, monitoring property inheritance cases in courts in Gjakova/Đakovica, Junik and Dragash/Dragaš. PRP and ATRC recommended FAGJ to cooperate with BIRN in connection with BIRN's regular reporting of property and inheritance cases in court.

When FAGJ completed its grant activity, ATRC and PRP met with FAGJ to review the project implementation results and discuss next steps. They were advised on the process of submitting the report to ATRC and USAID, emphasizing the need to show the results achieved after the project concluded. As part of capacity-building for sub grantees, they were provided guidance on the filing system and reporting steps, focusing on indicators.

For its part, BIRN has written two articles (in the previous quarter, but was not reported until this quarter): a follow-up on the Shyhrete Berisha case; and an article reporting on BIRN's monitoring of candidates running for political office for their commitment to empowering women and advocating for their equal rights to property. The links are the following:

BIRN's most recent TV episode related to women's inheritance covered the ongoing effort to amend legislation (<http://kallxo.com/dnk/e-drejta-e-gruas-ne-prone-dhe-ndryshimi-ligjeve/>), which was a follow-up an earlier debate organized by ATRC (with PRP support).

As part of the "role model" activities, KW4W organized an event presenting successful stories and challenges of families where women have enjoyed their property rights. Four speakers shared their personal stories, which addressed dividing property between brothers and sisters and surviving spouses' struggle to attain their property.

The sub-grantee JETA from Deçan/Deçani began organizing lectures in schools about women's property rights. The lecture was held in Junik municipality ("Edmond Hoxha" High School). JETA also plans to expand awareness on the subject through local media, specifically Radio "Top Iliria". PRP and ATRC will meet with JETA to coordinate future activities that are in line with PRP's Objective 3. PRP and ATRC also worked together in helping JETA to finalize their research report on findings and recommendations on the status of women's property rights in Junik municipality. The report has been made public and can be found at <http://www.advocacy-center.org/.../Raport-Hulumtues-p%C3%ABr-> .

In addition, PRP and ATRC helped JETA to prepare billboards and brochures.

PRP ASSISTED WITH PREPARATIONS 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 on September 14. The meeting concerned equal property rights and the situation in Istog/k.

S. Berisha case:

<http://kallxo.com/u-dha-fjala-perfundimtare-ne-rastin-e-shyhrete-berishes/>

Political candidate monitoring of equal property rights behavior

<http://kallxo.com/ramiz-kelmendi-nuk-i-permend-mbesat-si-trashegimtare-te-pasurise/>

PRP invited the following persons to the session: the head of the Cadastral Office in Istog/k, who spoke about the secondary legislation on registering joint property, its implementation and related challenges; the head of the NGO “Syri I Visionit,” who informed the Ambassador about the NGO’s grassroots activities and campaigns and the continued need for awareness-raising on women’s right to inherit and own property; and a member of the Istog/k Municipal assembly, who spoke about the women’s caucus and their collaboration with “Syri I Visionit” on awareness raising campaigns and meetings with the citizens. She also shared her personal story as a women who owns property and runs a business, and is therefore using her story as a model for other women in Istog/k municipality.

The ambassador made questions and remarks on the importance of having women own property which helps Kosovo’s economic growth. He stressed the US government’s commitment to support such projects and activities.

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

PRP under the Objective 4, PRP supported a number of activities designed to enable municipal governments to improve their services to citizens and distribute the useful legal information available that will enable citizens to exercise their property rights more easily and effectively. These initiatives include (1) distribution of legal information for citizens on how to register property rights; (2) providing 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 by means of electronic payments (5) undertaking of a research on property registrations to establish averages of the number of days required to register property.

SAFEGUARDING MCO ARCHIVES IN VITI/NA MUNICIPALITY

During this Quarter, PRP is completing the equipment installation intended to improve the storage facility where physical archived cadastral documents for Viti/na municipality are stored. Fireproof wall panels and flooring have been installed. Remaining items to be installed are the lighting system, dehumidifier, temperature regulator, as well as the metal bookcases, flat file drawers, and a reading table. Meanwhile, PRP has also made a bulk procurement of new standardized binders so that officials can start re-filing and classifying the files in a more structured and organized manner than in their current state. The location of the MCO archive facility where these improvements are taking place is on the premises of the municipality’s new municipal building annex in Viti/na (funded by the European Union). This is a much more modern and secure structure than their current office.

ONGOING DISSEMINATION OF PUBLIC INFORMATION BROCHURES ON PROPERTY REGISTRATION IN DRAGASH/DRAGAŠ MUNICIPALITY

In July, PRP held an outdoor informational event in Dragash/Dragaš municipality during one of their summer “market days.” A tent was set up outside the municipal building in the center of town. The location observed high foot traffic, and many local residents and diaspora stopped by to ask questions and seek advice from PRP’s and the MCO’s technical experts present on their property related issues. Many questions and clarifications revolved around a trending theme of citizens not realizing that, as a putative property owner, he or she is not the legal owner until it has been registered with the MCO and the citizen possessing a property decision certificate. And therefore, he or she have no legal right to sell, subdivide, transfer to an heir, receive any subsidy, or use it to obtain a mortgage. Feedback generally was that this event was quite informative and successful and

should be repeated in the future so as to supplement the media campaign with more face-to-face presence with citizens.

PROCUREMENT OF AN E-KIOSK IN VITI/NA MUNICIPALITY

During the month of September, PRP completed a competitive procurement process for local technical services to configure and install an e-kiosk in Viti/na municipality. It is intended to build off the success of other e-kiosk installations in Kosovo (some of which have been funded by other USAID programs) to issue simple civil status documents, such as birth and marriage certificates. PRP intends that the Viti/na installation will go one step further by also having the functionality of providing property ownership certificates. The time and resource savings for both the citizen and the civil status office staff can now also be extended to municipal cadastral office staff, whose time can be freed up to review and process incoming registrations more efficiently than ever before. Also, making these documents available through the e-kiosk after working hours (e-kiosks in Kosovo operate 24/7) have the intended purpose of encouraging greater citizen interest and awareness of their own standing vis-à-vis having ownership proof of their property.

The KCA agrees in principle to allow a connection from PRP's envisioned e-kiosk to its land registry database, KCLIS. Should the functionality of generating property ownership certificates be successful in the Viti/na e-kiosk installation (it would be the first of its kind in Kosovo), PRP will explore opportunities to expand this functionality to other already-installed e-kiosks throughout the country.

PRP INITIATES RESEARCH ON PROPERTY REGISTRATION STATISTICS

Given the number of activities underway supporting municipal cadastral offices and citizens' knowledge and ability to engage those offices and exercise their property rights, PRP felt it important to obtain baseline data in PRP's three partner municipalities (Viti/na, Štrpce/Shtërpçë, and Dragash/Dragaš) on: 1.) the number of joint registrations; and 2.) the number of days to conduct property transactions. Working in coordination with Objective 3 staff, the purpose of this research into the number of joint registrations is to demonstrate the efficacy of PRP's behavior change campaign and to assist in the reporting as required in the Administrative Instruction on Special Measures for the Registration of Joint Immovable Property on Behalf of Both Spouses (No.03/2016). And, the purpose of the research into the time period it realistically takes to register property is to demonstrate the efficacy of PRP's ongoing support in support of the MCOs. Cooperation from the MCOs has been good so far as they too value the importance of these metrics.

EXPLORING THE FEASIBILITY OF ARRANGING FOR ELECTRONIC PAYMENT OF MUNICIPAL FEES

During this Quarter, PRP met with the Director of the Treasury Department and another department official responsible for executing public payments to discuss further the possibility of e-payment of municipal fees. The Treasury Department does not oppose introducing new payment methods as long as the banks can find a way to execute the payments and timely reconcile the revenues in the correct budget code.

PRP, in efforts to advance further the idea of e-payment for municipal fees, is planning to meet with the Payment Office of Kosovo Customs to observe the performance of the e-payment system in use there. PRP has already contacted Kosovo Customs and they expressed their readiness to share with PRP their experience in using e-payment (the feature has been in place since 2007). Kosovo Customs has also proposed a visit to a payment office situated at one of the border points so that

PRP can make a first-hand observation and to reflect on Customs' experience and decide how to proceed with provision of this service for citizens visiting municipal government offices.

PRP is considering to also meet with the Kosovo Central Bank (KCB) to ensure that there is no legal obstacle, assuming the banks can find a technical solution for execution of electronic point-of-sale payments that can be coded correctly and reconciled efficiently.

ADDRESSING THE BACKLOG OF CADASTRAL REGISTRATION IN ŠTRPCE/SHTËRPCË MUNICIPALITY

PRP, as previously reported, is aware that Štrpce/Shtërpcë municipality is facing a significant backlog of cadastral files (approximately 5,000) which require registration into the KCLIS. The MCO in Štrpce/Shtërpcë lacks the human resources necessary to file the backlogged documents, since the MCO is fully engaged in coping with ongoing requests. The entering of data from backlogged cadastral files in the KCLIS is crucial for the municipality and this has also been a recommendation of the National Audit Office in its annual auditing performance report of this municipality. The issue has been discussed with the Mayor, and the MCO has the full support of his office to work on resolving this issue. The municipality is eager to start this work as soon as possible.

During this quarter, the municipality and PRP made efforts to develop a solution with KCA concerning the terms and conditions for allowing a part-time consultant to have access to the KCLIS. PRP has identified a qualified expert to perform this work and subject to USAID approval, it is expected that the work will begin in mid-October. Meanwhile, PRP will continue searching for other good candidates to complete the registration team.

PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO THE DRAGASH/DRAGAŠ MCO TO INCREASE ITS PERFORMANCE AND IMPROVE SERVICES TO CITIZENS

PRP has received report that Dragash/Dragaš MCO encounters difficulties in doing the field surveys for the municipal and citizens' needs. In this regard, the municipal officials have requested PRP to procure a professional GPS system "Trimble" for accurate cadastral surveying which is the same type of the device used by KCA and other MCOs. PRP is contacting KCA to get additional information on the precise specifications of the device to be procured before announcing tender. Currently Dragash/Dragaš MCO has no proper surveying equipment for accurate measurement. They are performing land surveys manually with a tape measure. The lack of proper equipment has caused some recent boundary surveys to come under dispute by one or more private parties. This is currently being mitigated by the MCO by outsourcing their surveying needs to private surveying firms, and the MCO is losing out on potential revenue that could have been collected if the MCO was able to perform its own surveys. Land surveying is a known service offering by MCOs.

IDENTIFICATION OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY LEADERS IN VITI/NA MUNICIPALITY.

PRP is consulting USAID on a proposal to meet with local religious leaders, to enlist their support in disseminating information on property rights issues, such as the need to formalize and register one's rights; hold report deaths and hold inheritance proceedings on a timely basis; and recognize women's equal rights. PRP has compiled a list of local religious leaders for Viti/na Municipality who are contacted for recording deaths in the municipality. PRP has been told that Kosovo Agency for Civil Status has provided the necessary equipment to the local religious branches to forward information on deaths immediately after they are reported by the family members.

PROJECT SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Performance Indicator	DO & IR that the project supports	Baseline	Target Yr. 3 [Y1+Y2+Y3]	Actual Yr. 3 [Y1+Y2+Y3]	Target LoP [Y1+Y2+Y3+Y4]	Actual LoP [Y1+Y2+Y3]	Quarter 14 Reported Results
OBJECTIVE I: IMPROVE COORDINATION AND POLICY PRIORITIES							
I.1} Number of strategies drafted and approved by the government	DO: Improved Rule of Law and Governance that meet Citizen's Needs IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector; Civil Society Strengthened to Increasingly Engage Constructively with Government	0	1 [Y1=0] [Y2=1] [Y3=N/A]	0 [Y1=0] [Y2=1] [Y3=N/A]	1 [Y1=0] [Y2=1] [Y3=0] [Y4=0]	1 [Y1=0] [Y2=1] [Y3=0]	N/A
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	4 [Y1=0] [Y2=2] [Y3=2]	7/D [Y1=0] [Y2=1] [Y3=6]	6 [Y1=0] [Y2=2] [Y3=2] [Y4=2]	7/D [Y1=0] [Y2=1] [Y3=6]	Drafting the Law on construction Land Draft Law on the Chambers of Architects and Engineers in the field of Construction
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	10 [Y1=1] [Y2=6] [Y3=3]	21 [Y1=6] [Y2=2] [Y3=13]	14 [Y1=1] [Y2=6] [Y3=3] [Y4=4]	21 (2A+19D) [Y1=6] [Y2=2] [Y3=13]	Draft Concept Document on amending the Law on the Special Chamber of the Supreme Court Drafting the Concept Document for amending the Law on Condominiums Draft Administrative Instruction on Regulation of Supervision, Sanctions and Measures; Draft Administrative Instruction on Construction Permit Fees;

Performance Indicator	DO & IR that the project supports	Baseline	Target Yr. 3 [Y1+Y2+Y3]	Actual Yr. 3 [Y1+Y2+Y3]	Target LoP [Y1+Y2+Y3+Y4]	Actual LoP [Y1+Y2+Y3]	Quarter 14 Reported Results
							Draft Administrative Instruction No. 16/2014 on Procedures for Submission and Review of Applications for terms of Constructions Permits for Category III Project and Draft Regulation on Energy Performance Certification of Buildings
OBJECTIVE 2: IMPROVED COURT PROCEDURES 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	8 [Y1=1] [Y2=3] [Y3=4]	1 [Y1=0] [Y2=0] [Y3=1]	12 [Y1=1] [Y2=3] [Y3=4] [Y4=4]	1 [Y1=0] [Y2=0] [Y3=1]	N/A
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 (Days Average)	1061 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=1186] [Y3=1061]	KJC Database/ Court Records-TBD [Y1=N/A] [Y2=?] [Y3=?]	936 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=1186] [Y3=1061] [Y4=936]	KJC Database/ Court Records-TBD [Y1=N/A] [Y2=?] [Y3=?]	N/A
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%	52% [Y1=N/A] [Y2=37%] [Y3=52%]	KJC Database/ Court Records-TBD [Y1=N/A] [Y2=?] [Y3=?]	72% [Y1=N/A] [Y2=37%] [Y3=52%] [Y4=72%]	KJC Database/ Court Records-TBD [Y1=N/A] [Y2=?] [Y3=?]	N/A

Performance Indicator	DO & IR that the project supports	Baseline	Target Yr. 3 [Y1+Y2+Y3]	Actual Yr. 3 [Y1+Y2+Y3]	Target LoP [Y1+Y2+Y3+Y4]	Actual LoP [Y1+Y2+Y3]	Quarter 14 Reported Results
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%	42% [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A] [Y3=42%]	28% [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A] [Y3=28%]	52% [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A] [Y3=42%] [Y4=52%]	28% [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A] [Y3=28%]	N/A
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	150 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=50] [Y3=100]	102 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=0] [Y3=102]	450 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=50] [Y3=100] [Y4=300]	102 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=0] [Y3=102]	Workshop with Civil Division Judges in Gjilan/Gnjilane, Peja/Pec, Ferizaj/Urosevac. Case flow Management protocols for unification of judges practices in civil matters.
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	8 [Y1=4] [Y2=N/A] [Y3=4]	0 [Y1=0] [Y2=0] [Y3=?]	9 [Y1=4] [Y2=N/A] [Y3=4] [Y4=1]	4 ¹ [Y1=0] [Y2=4*] [Y3=?]	n/a

¹ PRP is in process of assisting 4 Courts (Gjilan, Peja, Ferizaj and Branch Court Strpce) with improved case management related to resolution of property claims and disputes

Performance Indicator	DO & IR that the project supports	Baseline	Target Yr. 3 [Y1+Y2+Y3]	Actual Yr. 3 [Y1+Y2+Y3]	Target LoP [Y1+Y2+Y3+Y4]	Actual LoP [Y1+Y2+Y3]	Quarter 14 Reported Results
2.7} Number of legal courses or curricula developed/upgraded with USG assistance	DO: Improved Rule of Law and Governance that meet Citizen's Needs IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector	0	8 [Y1=1] [Y2=3] [Y3=4]	0 [Y1=0] [Y2=0] [Y3=0]	12 [Y1=1] [Y2=3] [Y3=4] [Y4=4]	0 [Y1=0] [Y2=0] [Y3=0]	Development of the Judicial Guidelines and Practical Guide for utilization of the CFM
OBJECTIVE 3: ENHANCED WOMEN'S RIGHTS TO USE PROPERTY IN PRACTICE							
3.1} Number of people from civil society and "E4E CSO-s" staff trained to implement program activities in support of USAID/ Kosovo program objectives	DO: Improved Rule of Law and Governance that meet Citizen's Needs IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector; Civil Society Strengthened to Increasingly Engage Constructively with Government	0	80 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=40] [Y3=40]	22 [Y1=4] [Y2=18] [Y3=?]	80 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=40] [Y3=40] [Y4=N/A]	45 [Y1=4] [Y2=41] [Y3=?]	N/A
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	60 [Y1=10] [Y2=25] [Y3=25]	97 [Y1=5] [Y2=47] [Y3=45]	70 [Y1=10] [Y2=25] [Y3=25] [Y4=10]	97 [Y1=5] [Y2=47] [Y3=45]	(1) PRP's Campaign Radio PSA translated in Romani Language (4) New Billboards designed (6) Four different products prepared aiming to distribute findings of National Survey to public (article, Flatra magazine, Brochure, Handouts, animated video, live broadcast available on YouTube) E4E: (2) Product on equal property rights prepared by NGO Jeta
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	0	1 [Y1=0] [Y2=1] [Y3=0]	1 [Y1=0] [Y2=1] [Y3=0]	1 [Y1=0] [Y2=1] [Y3=N/A] [Y4=N/A]	1 [Y1=0] [Y2=1] [Y3=N/A]	N/A

Performance Indicator	DO & IR that the project supports	Baseline	Target Yr. 3 [Y1+Y2+Y3]	Actual Yr. 3 [Y1+Y2+Y3]	Target LoP [Y1+Y2+Y3+Y4]	Actual LoP [Y1+Y2+Y3]	Quarter 14 Reported Results
	<i>IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector; Civil Society Strengthened to Increasingly Engage Constructively with Government</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	<i>DO: Improved Rule of Law and Governance that meet Citizen’s Needs IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector; Civil Society Strengthened to Increasingly Engage Constructively with Government</i>	0	107 [Y1=7] [Y2=50] [Y3=50]	81 [Y1=7] [Y2=28] [Y3=46]	114 [Y1=7] [Y2=50] [Y3=50] [Y4=7]	81 [Y1=7] [Y2=28] [Y3=46]	(1) Visibility Event Held on the Results of the National Survey. The event was held, as on July 13, 2017 at the National Library of Kosovo (2) Know your Rights-Informing women about their property rights, Viti/Vitina (1) Event to inform the diaspora on property rights issues in Kosovo in Viti/Vitina (1) Presentation of Kosovo Property Rights Strategy to Municipal Gender Officers E4E (KW4W): (8) information sessions with men in different communities E4E (KW4W): (1) Women4Women, organized an event presenting successful stories and challenges of families where women have enjoyed their property rights E4E (KW4W): (1) W4W has provided an all-day legal aid event in Kocanik supported by CLARD
3.5} Percentage of citizens who have been reached by PRP and E4E lead social behavior campaign and recognize the PRP and E4E CSO campaign/brand/identity/logo/ messages/ content	<i>DO: Improved Rule of Law and Governance that meet Citizen’s Needs IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector; Civil Society Strengthened to</i>	0	40% [Y1=N/A] [Y2=20%] [Y3=40%]	76% [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A] [Y3=76%]	40% [Y1=N/A] [Y2=20%] [Y3=20%] [Y4=N/A]	76% [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A] [Y3=76%]	N/A

Performance Indicator	DO & IR that the project supports	Baseline	Target Yr. 3 [Y1+Y2+Y3]	Actual Yr. 3 [Y1+Y2+Y3]	Target LoP [Y1+Y2+Y3+Y4]	Actual LoP [Y1+Y2+Y3]	Quarter 14 Reported Results
	<i>Increasingly Engage Constructively with Government</i>						
3.6} Percentage of citizens [with negative attitude] who report changing their attitude/behavior about women's rights to inherit property and engage in economic activities after exposure to PRP and/or E4E CSO communication and outreach products, activities and events	<i>DO: Improved Rule of Law and Governance that meet Citizen's Needs IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector; Civil Society Strengthened to Increasingly Engage Constructively with Government</i>	36% (Negative attitude)	16% [Y1=N/A] [Y2=26%] [Y3=16%]	27% [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A] [Y3=27%]	16% [Y1=N/A] [Y2=26%] [Y3=16%] [Y4=16%]	27% [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A] [Y3=27%]	N/A
3.7} Number [percentage] of women who file inheritance claims in the court	<i>DO: Improved Rule of Law and Governance that meet Citizen's Needs IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector; Civil Society Strengthened to Increasingly Engage Constructively with Government</i>	0.3%	10% [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A] [Y3=10%]	3% [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A] [Y3=3%]	30% [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A] [Y3=10%] [Y4=30%]	3% [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A] [Y3=3%]	N/A
3.8} Number [percentage] of women inheriting property	<i>DO: Improved Rule of Law and Governance that meet Citizen's Needs IR: More Efficient, Transparent, Independent & Accountable Justice Sector; Civil Society Strengthened to Increasingly Engage Constructively with Government</i>	3.8%	8.8% [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A] [Y3=8.8%]	7.5% [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A] [Y3=7.5%]	33.8% [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A] [Y3=8.8%] [Y4=33.8%]	7.5% [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A] [Y3=7.5%]	N/A

Performance Indicator	DO & IR that the project supports	Baseline	Target Yr. 3 [Y1+Y2+Y3]	Actual Yr. 3 [Y1+Y2+Y3]	Target LoP [Y1+Y2+Y3+Y4]	Actual LoP [Y1+Y2+Y3]	Quarter 14 Reported Results
OBJECTIVE 4: IMPROVED COMMUNICATION, ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND UNDERSTANDING OF PROPERTY RIGHTS							
4.1} [Number of] Land administration offices established or upgraded: The number of land administration and service offices or other related facilities that the project physically establishes or upgrades.	<i>DO: Increase Investment and Private Sector Employment IR: Improved Economic Governance & Business Environment</i>	0	4 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=2] [Y3=2]	3 ² [Y1=N/A] [Y2=0] [Y3=3]	4 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=2] [Y3=2] [Y4=N/A]	3 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=0] [Y3=3]	N/A
4.2} Number of days to conduct property transactions reduced due to improved information systems [in participating municipalities]	<i>DO: Increase Investment and Private Sector Employment IR: Improved Economic Governance & Business Environment</i>	28 (Days)	26 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A] [Y3=26]	N/A [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A] [Y3=26]	24 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A] [Y3=26] [Y4=24]	N/A [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A] [Y3=?]	N/A
4.3} Number of parcels corrected or incorporated into land system [in participating municipalities]	<i>DO: Increase Investment and Private Sector Employment IR: Improved Economic Governance & Business Environment</i>	0	240 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=80] [Y3=160]	0 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=0] [Y3=0]	440 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=80] [Y3=160] [Y4=200]	0 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=0] [Y3=0]	N/A
4.4} Land rights formalized [in participating municipalities]	<i>DO: Increase Investment and Private Sector Employment</i>	0	240 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=80] [Y3=160]	0 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=0] [Y3=0]	440 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=80] [Y3=160]	0 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=0] [Y3=0]	N/A

² PRP is in process of upgrading activities in MCOs of Viti/na, Dragash, and Strpc.

Performance Indicator	DO & IR that the project supports	Baseline	Target Yr. 3 [Y1+Y2+Y3]	Actual Yr. 3 [Y1+Y2+Y3]	Target LoP [Y1+Y2+Y3+Y4]	Actual LoP [Y1+Y2+Y3]	Quarter 14 Reported Results
	<i>IR: Improved Economic Governance & Business Environment</i>				[Y4=200]		
4.5} Percent of citizens with increased knowledge of their property rights	<i>DO: Increase Investment and Private Sector Employment IR: Improved Economic Governance & Business Environment</i>	27%	42% [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A] [Y3=42%]	51% [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A] [Y3=51%]	52% [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A] [Y3=42%] [Y4=52%]	51% [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A] [Y3=51%]	N/A
4.6} Number of municipal officials in participating municipalities trained in property related issues.	<i>DO: Increase Investment and Private Sector Employment IR: Improved Economic Governance & Business Environment</i>	0	20 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A] [Y3=20]	0 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A] [Y3=0]	40 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A] [Y3=20] [Y4=20]	0 [Y1=N/A] [Y2=N/A] [Y3=0]	N/A

SUCCESS STORY

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



SNAPSHOT

KOSOVO PROPERTY RIGHTS PROGRAM (PRP)

Kosovo's general population has a long-standing and deeply rooted tradition of patriarchal relations. As a consequence, relatively few women in Kosovo have property of their own. Women are often excluded from inheritance proceedings, or, if present at them, often renounce their inheritance in favor their brothers, on the understanding that the male heirs are the rightful inheritors of the parents' property, and if a women accepts a share she is taking what is properly his.

This situation poses a number of serious consequences. Women are often dependent and vulnerable. They are unable to pursue their own dreams or provide for their children. Society suffers as well, from the sharply reduced number of potential entrepreneurs and business persons who could create jobs and generate economic growth and prosperity.

PRP has supported legal reforms that provide safeguards for women's inheritance rights, developing legislation that requires that all heirs be informed of the legal consequences of renunciation; and calling for robust notification methods to ensure that everyone receives information that an inheritance proceeding is going to take place. The new Government recently approved his legislation for submission to Parliament.

This situation, however, is primarily the result of social attitudes and behavior, and not of law. Kosovo's Constitution and relevant laws accord women the same rights as men. In practice, however, government institutions often reinforce traditional social expectations and encourage women to remain without property and are not vigilant to prevent or punish efforts to coerce women to renounce their inheritance.

Ultimately, for this situation to change and for women to assume an equal place in society, women will have to assert their rights and society will need to recognize that women have the same rights as men and support women’s exercising those rights.

Over the past 18 months PRP has been conducting a dynamic public outreach campaign to raise public awareness of the challenges women face in seeking to exercise their property rights, and to prompt positive change in social attitudes and behavior on this issue. This included a robust media campaign of Public Service Announcements on the equal rights of women and daughters to share in inheritance; community-level round-tables and discussion sessions on women’s rights; workshops and events for high school and university students; and a puppet show for elementary school students on the equal property rights of girls and boys.

In early 2017 PRP conducted a second National Survey on Property Rights. The survey revealed that PRP’s media campaign had been effective at reaching citizens: seventy-six percent (76%) of the respondents recognized PRP’s PSA’s. Moreover, the results of the second survey, when compared against the results PRP’s Baseline Survey, which was conducted in early 2015, demonstrates that PRP’s activities are having a marked, positive effect:

PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS ENHANCING WOMEN’S EQUITABLE ACCESS TO PROPERTY RIGHTS		
	BASELINE SURVEY (DEC. 2014)	SECOND SURVEY (DEC. 2016)
Number of people with affirmative attitude toward equal property rights	64%	73%
People with basic knowledge of their rights to property	27%	51%
Women filing inheritance claims	0.3%	3.0%
Women inheriting property	3.8%	7.5%
Women with property registered in their name	18%	20%

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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 1: Better Coordination and Policy Priorities

Objective 2: Improved Court Procedures Related to Property Claims

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

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

OUR WORK

This Quarter saw PRP advance its initiatives significantly under all four Objectives. Under Objective 1, implementing legislation for the National Strategy on Property Rights was developed at a steady pace under the caretaker government; and the new government, which came to power on September 9, 2017, has affirmed its commitment to support property rights reform. Under Objective 2, the piloting of the improved case management reforms proceeded apace in the three Courts of Merit, producing real improvements in the courts' performance, which PRP is documenting. Under Objective 3, PRP continued its public outreach on women's equal property rights with a range of activities, most notably showing its PSA's in conjunction with the month-long municipal election debates conducted 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 ranging from hardware assets to technical assistance

With a political government absent during most of this Quarter, owing to early Parliamentary elections, the work to develop the legislation to implement the National Strategy advanced nonetheless. To date 6 Concept Documents, 5 Draft-Laws, 10 Administrative Instructions, and 3 Regulations stemming from, or guided by, the NSPR have been finalized; and PRP is supporting work on an additional 3 Concept Documents, 3 Laws, and 2 Administrative Instructions.

The new government has approved the "inheritance package" of draft legislation for submission to Parliament. The "inheritance package" consists of amendment to the laws on Inheritance and Uncontested Procedure and a newly drafted law on Notaries and introduces safeguards to protect women's property rights and provides 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 is extending its For Our Common Good campaign to include general property rights issues, in addition to those of equal property rights, and during this Quarter PRP undertook a range of activities to inform the public about the National Strategy and the challenges to be addressed: (1) PRP is producing an all-but-completed an animated PSA for social media, which is designed to focus the public's attention on problems posed by informal property rights; (2) PRP held a workshop with Municipal Gender Officers on the National Strategy; and (3) PRP continued to distribute to the public its publication on the National Strategy.

In addition, as reported previously, PRP responded to a request from the Kosovo Valuers Association (for property valuation) to support the translation into Albanian of European valuation standards. Introducing European valuation standards in Kosovo is consistent with the National Strategy, which cites problems with current valuation practice in Kosovo, and also supports Kosovo's approximation to the EU. During this Quarter PRP commissioned an initial translation of the 300-page document and has now submitted the translation to experts for a technical review. The technical review is expected to be completed in October, 2017.

Under Objective 2, during this Quarter, the modern caseflow management practices, which PRP has developed to address the problems identified through its extensive empirical research and analysis of the caseflow management of property cases in the CoM's, were fully integrated into the work of the Civil Divisions of the courts.

As the courts apply the new practices, PRP has also been gathering data to determine the impact of the improved caseload management reforms on court performance. Preliminary results from this analysis are very encouraging, showing that the practices are enabling courts to reduce delays significantly. It is expected that in early November 2017 PRP will complete this research and make a formal presentation to the Kosovo Judicial Council, to secure the KJC's recommendation that these practices be adopted in all Kosovo courts.

The work of PRP's Legal Associates in the courts has brought to light a number of significant inconsistencies in the individual judges' respective practice, especially for property cases. – e.g., with respect to the screening process; the use of hearings and scheduling events; the collection of evidences; communicating with and notifying the parties, especially Displaced Persons; and in disposing a case. PRP organized roundtables to raise these findings for discussion, which have produced consensus among judges on the practices to be applied going forward, which will be memorialized in formal Protocols that PRP is developing.

PRP also made significant progress in developing the “Practical Guide for Improving Caseload Management of Property Rights Cases and Other Civil Cases,” which will serve as a guide for adopting and applying the caseload management reforms that have been successfully piloted in the CoM's. The complete draft will be completed by December 2017 and will be developed in close collaboration with the CoM's. The final version of the Practical Guide will serve as the basis for training for judges and court staff and will support the extension of these reforms to other courts.

In addition, as concerns PRP's initiative to create summaries in the Albanian and Serbian languages of 140 decisions of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) that address property rights issues, this Quarter saw the completion of drafts of all 140 case summaries in Albanian and the finalization of 100. These are currently being translated in Serbian. (The Kosovo Constitution provides that the European Convention on Human Rights and the decisions of the ECHR have dominant legal force in Kosovo, yet since most ECHR decisions are not available in Albanian or Serbian, most Kosovo judges and policy makers do not have ready access to this important case law.)

For its Objective 3, during this Quarter PRP created wide media coverage of the results of second National Survey on Property Rights. Survey findings indicate that PRP's media campaign on women's property rights has reached large segments of Kosovo's population and generated discussions and debates.

PRP organized a visibility event to announce the results of the latest Survey. The event was held in the National Library of Kosovo; was well attended; and featured presentations on the National Survey and PRP's media campaign. PRP also unveiled an animated video on the Survey results that PRP produced for social media. Extensive printed materials were available in three languages. The event was broadcasted live by *Kallxo.com*. PRP also prepared an article on the survey results, which appeared in five online portals on the day of the event and was published in hard-copy and electronic versions of the magazine *Flatra*, along with other information provided by PRP.

In addition, PRP also achieved extensive coverage of women's property rights issues. PRP arranged with *Kallxo.com* (part of BIRN (a local CSO that engages in investigative reporting)) to have its banner posted on the main page of the website, with a link to PRP's PSA's on YouTube. with the slogan “Equal Love = Equal Rights, for property rights.” numbers. The number of page views for *Kallxo.com* for the period from August 1 up to September 21, 2017 amounted to 1,451,024.

In addition, PRP arranged to have PRP's PSA's aired during the municipal electoral debates, to be featured on BIRN's program, *Jeta në Komunë* over the period of September 21 – October 20, and leading up to the municipal elections to be held October 22. This presents a tremendous opportunity to reach audiences throughout Kosovo. PRP has also secured BIRN's agreement to raise property rights issues during the debates.

PRP has also arranged for one of its radio PSA's with a voiceover to be translated into the Romani language, for airing on the Roma radio station in Prizren, Romani Avazo. PRP will also examine the feasibility of translating some of its printed products into Romani, for distribution among the Roma community in Prizren.

PRP provided interviews on property rights issues (1) for a Documentary being produced by UNMIK to investigate the link between women, domestic violence, property rights, and justice; (2) For an article on women's inheritance rights for the project. "Girls be Heard": (3) for an interview on gender equality-stereotypes and gender roles in Kosovo, for a joint project of UNFPA and the OSCE; and (4) for a university student planning Master's thesis on women's property rights. In addition, 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; and supported preparations for the US Ambassador's fact-finding trip to Istog/Istok.

PRP under the Objective 4, PRP supported a number of activities designed to enable municipal governments to improve their services to citizens and distribute the useful legal information available that will enable citizens to exercise their property rights more easily and effectively. These initiatives include (1) distribution of legal information for citizens on how to register property rights; (2) providing 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 by means of electronic payments (5) undertaking of a research on property registrations 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.

Indeksonline

'Kosovo Society is Changing its Attitudes and Behavior Concerning Women's Property Rights'
<http://indeksonline.net/ekonomia/shoqeria-kosovare-po-nderron-qendrimet-dhe-praktikat-rreth-te-drejtes-se-grave-ne-prone-108513/>
July 13, 2017

Telegrafi

'Kosovo Society is Changing its Attitudes and Behavior Concerning Women's Property Rights'
<http://telegrafi.com/shoqeria-kosovare-po-nderron-qendrimet-dhe-praktikat-rreth-te-drejtes-se-grave-ne-prone/>
July 13, 2017

Zeri

'Kosovo Society is Changing its Attitudes and Behavior Concerning Women's Property Rights'
<http://zeri.info/aktuale/152747/shoqeria-kosovare-po-nderron-qendrimet-dhe-praktikat-rreth-te-drejtes-se-grave-ne-prone/>
July 13, 2017

Koha net

'Kosovo Society is Changing its Attitudes and Behavior Concerning Women's Property Rights'
<http://www.koha.net/arberi/31445/shoqeria-kosovare-po-nderron-qendrimet-dhe-praktikat-rreth-te-drejtes-se-grave-ne-prone/>
July 13, 2017

Flatra

'Kosovo Society is Changing its Attitudes and Behavior Concerning Women's Property Rights'
<http://revistaflatra.com/2017/07/18/shoqeria-kosovare-po-nderron-qendrimet-dhe-praktikat-rreth-te-drejtes-se-grave-ne-prone/>
July 13, 2017

Kultplus

'Kosovo Society is Changing its Attitudes and Behavior Concerning Women's Property Rights'
<http://www.kultplus.com/?id=7&l=22937>
July 13, 2017

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