



# Project Information Document/ Identification/Concept Stage (PID)

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Concept Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 01-Mar-2023 | Report No: PIDC268843

**BASIC INFORMATION****A. Basic Project Data**

Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)	Environmental and Social Risk Classification	Project Name
P179554		Low	Public Information and Awareness Services for Vulnerable Communities in Kosovo
Region	Country	Date PID Prepared	Estimated Date of Approval
EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA	Kosovo	01-Mar-2023	
Financing Instrument	Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency	
Investment Project Financing	Advocacy Training & Resource Center	Advocacy Training & Resource Center	

**PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)****SUMMARY**

Total Project Cost	3.20
Total Financing	3.20
Financing Gap	0.00

**DETAILS****Non-World Bank Group Financing**

Trust Funds	3.20
State and Peace Building Fund	3.20

**B. Introduction and Context****Country Context**

Kosovo is the youngest country in Europe—both based on its new statehood and the average size of its population—with all the accompanying opportunities and challenges. In terms of opportunities, Kosovo is a potential candidate for membership in the European Union. In terms of challenges, post-conflict fragility, including lack of full international recognition, continue to hamper Kosovo's growth and development to its full potential. To address challenges related to post-conflict fragility, the Government of Kosovo (GoK) is



actively pursuing initiatives related to inclusive institution building and has made significant progress over the years. As part of this process, the GoK is working to strengthen the country's public administration performance, particularly for Kosovo's land and real estate sector, in order to generate private sector and job growth. Numerous public services have been developed for property registration, sales and transactions, the provision of mortgages, etc. However, many Kosovar citizens are often unaware that these services exist or why they are beneficial, particularly amongst the country's ethnic minority communities (Sers, Bosnians, Turks, Gorani, Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians), women and youth. Consequently, rates of informal occupancy and property ownership remain high, as well as unequal access to services for socio-economic development and mitigating high rates of unemployment. Within the present context of increasing fragility in Eastern Europe, the GoK is well aware of its need to foster inclusion and access to services, especially amongst its underserved communities, in order to address both short- and long-term fragility risks.

Access to land and property is often cited as a key means of addressing drivers of conflict within fragile settings. However, a key challenge faced by many land agencies worldwide is that they often do not have institutional mandates or technical capacities for public outreach to promote the benefits and existence of public services for land registration. Government agency capacities for promoting inclusion of vulnerable and underserved communities need to be strengthened to ensure that the latter fully benefit from public services as a means of helping to avoid future social tensions and grievances. In the context of Kosovo, the country's key land agency, the Kosovo Cadastral Agency (KCA), is keenly aware of its limited capacities for public awareness campaigns. As a means of mitigation, KCA seeks to partner with civil society organizations (CSOs) that have the necessary skills for large-scale information awareness campaigns to increase visibility of property registration services and identify gaps that unintentionally dis-incentivize certain groups from accessing these services.

In this context, a Recipient-Executed small grant from the State and Peacebuilding Fund is being prepared to provide CSO networks in Kosovo with funds to foster partnerships for the benefit of the country's land sector and to emphasize the benefits of land and property registration for inclusive, socio-economic development. The grant activities and objectives will help to build better methods of public outreach and awareness in partnership between KCA and CSOs. It will also help to facilitate dialogue to help beneficiaries voice their needs and build their understanding of the benefits of land and property registration.

#### Sectoral and Institutional Context

Securing property rights remains critical for improving Kosovo's growth and development, as well-defined rights are the cornerstone of a vibrant market economy. Without a complete and up-to-date cadastre and clearly defined legal rights for women and men, there is significant risk for the private sector and citizens to invest. This risk, in turn, depresses investment, raises interest rates, and fuels the informal economy. Securing property rights also improves public land management, which can help the GoK take stock of its assets and release unused or underutilized assets to the private sector. This increases domestic and foreign investors' access to land—and important factor of production—and enhances the allocative efficiency of the economy. Moreover, secure property rights are not only crucial for economic prosperity but also social



stability. In a post-conflict country like Kosovo, clear legal rights help stabilize the social situation and facilitate a return to normalcy.

Since 2011, with the support of the World Bank and other development partners, the land and property sector in Kosovo has undergone a substantial transformation. Under the Real Estate Cadastre and Registration Project (RECAP; P101214), KCA made considerable progress in introducing a modernized land administration system, securing property rights, and improving the business environment. While achieving these results has taken some time due to the need to build legal and technical procedures for registration and IT system development, RECAP's progress means that future investments in land administration and property rights will progress much more expeditiously, now that more solid legal, technical and capacity foundations are in place. The most notable achievements include: (i) systematic updating of cadastral and registration records (called reconstruction of cadastral information (RCI)) has taken place in 15 percent of Kosovo's territory; (ii) increased land market efficiency, with the time to register a transaction dropping by 65 percent from 30 days before RECAP to under 10 days; (iii) the development of a centralized IT system, the Kosovo Cadastre Land Information System (KCLIS); and (iv) the IT system now collects and monitors the data for gender-disaggregated property ownership, and important statistic in understanding and analyzing the current situation for women's property ownership in the country.

RECAP laid the foundation for the next phase of investments and reforms that are now being implemented under the ongoing Real Estate and Geospatial Infrastructure Project (REGIP; P164555). These investments focus on improving public service delivery and strengthening private sector competitiveness through (i) further RCI activities to improve the availability and accuracy of correct, up-to-date cadastral information and, thus, enhance the security of tenure; (ii) investments to advance ICT and geospatial infrastructure that improve availability, affordability, and transparency of public services in order to better serve citizens and businesses; (iii) policy, legal and institutional support; and (iv) capacity building initiatives to improve decision-making. The proposed small grant will complement REGIP by helping to disseminate the importance of the various property registration services offered by KCA, as well as identifying key gaps in service provision, understanding the key needs of vulnerable communities in Kosovo, and building partnerships with CSOs to help fill the public awareness gap at KCA.

#### Relationship to CPF

This small grant aligns with the Kosovo Country Partnership Framework Focus Areas 1 (Enhancing conditions for accelerated private sector growth and employment) and 2 (Strengthening public service delivery and macro-fiscal management). It is also directly linked to Guiding Principle 3 of the World Bank FCV Strategy (Helping countries transition out of fragility) and helps to fulfill its objectives to understand fragility and implement context-specific strategies and foster trust, shift incentives and lay the foundations for growth, and support post-conflict reconstruction, recovery and resilience. The grant activities are also a direct response to public outreach gaps identified in customer satisfaction surveys and assessments financed by both RECAP and REGIP. Additionally, the grant activities coincide with the World Bank's Gender Strategy for FY16-FY23, which seeks to close gaps between women and men in ownership and control over land, among



other things. The grant activities also build on findings, assessments and promotion materials produced by other development partners for improving women's land rights. Moreover, the grant activities will help achieve government objectives for the inclusion of women and ethnic minorities in Kosovar society.

The grant activities also have the approval of the World Bank's Kosovo Country Management Unit which, in line with the latest Risk and Resilience Assessment, seeks creative ways for outreach to ethnic minorities including Serb communities in Kosovo's Northern Municipalities, where local government actors have, thus far, participated in very few World Bank projects. Public outreach via CSOs is one of the CMU's proposed methods of engagement. Additionally, the grant activities have the support of KCA, which has partnered with CSO actors in the past to promote the registration of land and property in Kosovo's war widow communities. The team maintains good contacts with key CSO stakeholders such as Active Women of Gjakova and has identified CSO organizations that seek to build communication between the country's different ethnic communities. Many Kosovar CSOs fully understand the importance of secure land tenure as a means of promoting state and peacebuilding in the country and are keen to optimize outreach to all of Kosovo's citizens.

### **C. Project Development Objective(s)**

#### **Proposed Development Objective(s)**

The development objective is to improve access to information and counseling services for women, youth, and vulnerable persons in Kosovo in order to increase access to land and property registration and strengthen tenure security.

#### **Key Results**

Key results anticipated under the small grant activities include the following and will be further defined during appraisal:

- Inclusion and participation of vulnerable groups in project design and implementation;
- Guidance notes, best practice notes, or lessons learned notes produced;
- Beneficiaries are informed of, and assisted with, dispute resolution mechanisms for addressing property disputes;
- Land records documents are completed through targeted counseling services; and
- Government officials and other key stakeholders participate in knowledge sharing events and capacity building programs concerning minority inclusion initiatives in the land sector.

The results are expected to contribute to the two key outcomes of this small grant: (i) Improved institutional capacity and legitimacy in Kosovo for managing stresses and supporting prevention and recovery from conflict and fragility; and (ii) Reduction and management of internal and external stresses that increase Kosovo's vulnerability to conflict and fragility.



## **D. Preliminary Description**

### *Activities/Components*

This small grant will be implemented at the grassroots level by partnering with CSOs in Kosovo that advocate for the protection of the rights of ethnic minorities, women and youth. The implementation arrangements are considered innovative within the context of Kosovo, as most GoK agencies do not have institutional responsibilities or technical capacities for public outreach and advocacy to promote the importance and benefits of secure land and property rights for citizens. As such, partnership with CSOs fills an important messaging gap and provides for flexibility in engagement that cannot be offered via top-down approaches conducted by most GoK land sector agencies. The proposed components and activities of this small grant are as follows:

*Component A: Public Outreach and Awareness* – (i) Public Awareness Campaigns targeting all of Kosovo’s ethnic minorities; (ii) Development of targeted messaging for the promotion of women’s land rights; and (iii) Outreach campaigns to primary and secondary schools for building youth understanding about the importance of registering land and property. The grant will target around 250 primary and secondary schools in Kosovo (out of 1,050). Among other things, selection criteria will be based on number of students, areas where significant ethnic minority populations live (Serbs, Roma, Ashkali, Egyptians, Turks, Bosnians, Gorani), and schools located in Kosovo’s “priority cadastral zones” where large portions of Kosovo’s national population live and where economic activity and output is most prominent.

*Component B: Targeted Analysis for Inclusion* – (i) Analysis of gaps that have restricted access to land and property registration services for Kosovo’s ethnic minorities; and (ii) identification of key challenges that restrict women’s land rights, previous attempts to address the challenges, and recommendations for new approaches.

*Component C: Capacity Building and Project Management* – (i) Capacity building programs for key local government stakeholders and civil society actors for providing land and property registration services; and (ii) Project Management support including Monitoring & Evaluation, Procurement, Financial Management, Safeguards, etc. The component will also cover the development of all relevant assessments and audits required by the Environment and Social Framework (ESF) and World Bank procurement and financial management rules, as well as all relevant M&E reports required by SPF.

Knowledge dissemination of the outcomes and findings of the grant activities through various forms of media will also be delivered under this component. Every effort will be made by both the Implementing CSO and the task team to acknowledge the SPF contribution in publications, presentations, press releases, training materials, event banners, or other written materials, though name and logo, in accordance with the SPF visibility guidelines.



**Component D: Bank-Executed Grant Implementation Support** – (i) World Bank advisory support to the grant’s implementing partners to ensure alignment with World Bank policies, procedures and REGIP’s activities; (ii) Support to dialogue and engagement between KCA, CSOs and other relevant government entities.

The grant activities will directly contribute to the State and Peacebuilding Fund’s objectives by engaging local government authorities in Kosovo to determine mechanisms and gaps that restrict the ability of minority groups such as Roma communities from registering and/or legalizing their land and properties and determining more effective mechanisms for service delivery in the land sector (state building). The activities will also help to foster the socio-economic conditions for peaceful, stable and sustainable development (peacebuilding) by helping to provide vulnerable communities with the necessary and legally backed documentation for strengthening land tenure security and provide a pathway for their participation in the broader economy (e.g. using land titles as collateral for bank loans for starting businesses, development of real estate markets, etc.). Moreover, the grant activities will help to foster government and non-government stakeholder cohesion (i.e. KCA and CSOs) for scaling up targeted messaging and tailored service provision for increasing land and property registration among Kosovo’s diverse ethnic minority communities.

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## Environmental and Social Standards Relevance

### E. Relevant Standards

ESS Standards		Relevance
ESS 1	Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts	Relevant
ESS 10	Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure	Relevant
ESS 2	Labor and Working Conditions	Relevant
ESS 3	Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management	Not Currently Relevant
ESS 4	Community Health and Safety	Relevant
ESS 5	Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement	Not Currently Relevant
ESS 6	Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources	Not Currently Relevant
ESS 7	Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities	Not Currently Relevant
ESS 8	Cultural Heritage	Not Currently Relevant
ESS 9	Financial Intermediaries	Not Currently Relevant

## Legal Operational Policies

Safeguard Policies	Triggered	Explanation (Optional)
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Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50	No	The small grant activities will not be implemented in international waterways.
Projects in Disputed Areas OP 7.60	No	The small grant activities will not be implemented in disputed areas.

#### Summary of Screening of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

The project will facilitate vulnerable persons to navigate the land registration processes, including those beneficiaries of REGIP and those who benefit from the regular services of KCA. It will provide access to information and raised public awareness about the importance of registering land and property among all citizens with emphasis on ethnic minorities (Serbs, Roma, Ashkali, Egyptians, Turks, Bosnians, Gorani), promote women's land rights and build youth understanding about the importance of registering land and property. Both the environmental and social risks are assessed as being Low. No direct and indirect adverse environmental and social impacts are foreseeable from project activities. The project will have no environmental/physical footprint, and will not entail direct or induced risks to private property. The project will identify and, to the extent possible, address barriers that unintentionally dis-incentivize certain groups from accessing these services. These activities are anticipated to have a positive impact on tenure security and vulnerable individuals' ability to participate in the economy. The project activities are being implemented in partnership with CSOs that have experience and capacity to work with vulnerable groups.

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## **The World Bank**

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