



CHEMONICS INTERNATIONAL INC.



**FIFTH QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT  
OCTOBER 1, 2003-DECEMBER 31, 2003**

**WOMEN'S LEGAL RIGHTS INITIATIVE  
UNDER THE WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT IQC**

**Contract No. GEW-I-00-02-00016-00**

Submitted to:  
Office of Women in Development  
U.S. Agency for International Development  
Washington, DC

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January 31, 2004

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## ACRONYMS

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ANE	Asia and the Near East
CAO	Citizen's Advocacy Office
CEDPA	Centre for Development and Population Activities
DTS	Development and Training Services Inc.
E&E	Europe and Eurasia
ECI	Edelman Communications Inc.
EGAT/WID	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade Bureau, Office of Women in Development
ICITAP	U.S. Department of Justice's International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-governmental organizations
OPDAT	Overseas Prosecutorial Development Assistance and Training
RCSA	Regional Center for Southern Africa
SBCA	Chemonics Small Business Credit and Assistance
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WID	Women in Development
WLR	Women's Legal Rights Initiative



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## Executive Summary

The Women's Legal Rights Initiative, in conjunction with USAID Office of Women in Development (EGAT/WID) and USAID missions worldwide, is designed to strengthen and promote women's legal rights by enhancing opportunities for women to participate meaningfully in their societies' economic, social and political realms. The project focuses on four key areas: 1) improving the legislative framework to better protect women's legal rights; 2) enhancing justice sector capacity to enforce women's legal rights; 3) strengthening the capacity of civil society organizations to advocate for women's legal rights; and 4) increasing public awareness of women's legal rights. In consultation with EGAT/WID and USAID/Washington Regional Bureaus, Guatemala, Albania, the Southern Africa region, Madagascar, Benin, and Rwanda were selected as focus countries for WLR interventions. During the fifth quarterly reporting period, October through December 2003, the WLR team completed and began implementing country action plans for Guatemala and Albania, which included opening project field offices and hiring local staff in both countries. The WLR team also drafted an assessment and analysis report for Southern Africa and conducted an assessment and analysis visit to Madagascar.

**Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).** In the fifth quarterly reporting period, the WLR team in Guatemala entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Public Ministry (*Ministerio Publico*) to strengthen the capacity of the Women's Prosecutors' Office (*Fiscalia de la Mujer*), District Prosecutors' Offices (*Fiscalias Distritales*) and National Office for the Support of Victims (*Oficinas de Atencion a la Victima*) to respond to issues related to women's legal rights, with a particular emphasis on the rights of indigenous women. The WLR team also drafted a MOU with San Carlos University Law Faculty to design and implement a post-graduate diploma program in gender and the law to prepare professionals—advocates for women and indigenous rights, civil society leaders, legal experts and judges—to become better advocates for women's legal rights. The MOU will be finalized and signed in the next quarterly reporting period.

**Europe and Eurasia (E&E).** The WLR team completed and disseminated the first English language translation of the new Albania Family Code during this quarter. The translation is already being used by civil society organizations and justice sector officials to ensure proper enforcement of the Code. The WLR team also began the process of negotiating and drafting Memoranda of Understanding with implementing partners that include the Magistrates School and the civil society organization Citizen's Advocacy Office (CAO). WLR activities with the Magistrates School and CAO in Albania focus on women's legal rights issues related to anti-trafficking, domestic violence, and family law. Articles regarding the WLR project in Albania were published in two leading newspapers.

**Africa.** In the fifth quarterly reporting period, the WLR team further refined the assessment and analysis report for Southern Africa based on input from USAID/Regional Center for Southern Africa (RCSA), USAID/Mozambique, and EGAT/WID. WLR also started drafting an

assessment and analysis report for Madagascar and introduced the WLR project to the gender focal point at USAID/Benin during a meeting in Washington, D.C.

**Asia and the Near East (ANE).** The WLR team continues to provide the ANE Regional Bureau with information about the WLR project and women's legal rights issues in the region. Despite a lack of responsiveness from the Regional Bureau, WLR will continue to share all relevant documents and best practices in women's legal rights that may have an impact in Asia and the Near East.

Program management continued smoothly throughout the quarter, including the design and implementation of a monitoring and evaluation system.

The total amount invoiced by the project through December 31, 2003, was \$846,864.83.

## SECTION I

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### Major Activities Planned and Underway

#### A. Objectives of Women's Legal Rights Initiative

The Women's Legal Rights Initiative (WLR) team, in collaboration with the Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade Bureau, Office of Women in Development (EGAT/WID), and USAID missions worldwide, is working to strengthen and promote women's legal rights by enhancing their opportunities to participate meaningfully in the economic, social, and political aspects of society. To achieve these goals, the project coordinates with donor organizations and stakeholders to:

- identify the obstacles and constraints that block women's exercise of internationally-mandated human rights;
- discern gaps in knowledge and practice in order to rectify inequities;
- and document and widely disseminate best practices in strengthening and promoting women's legal rights.

The WLR project is designed to contribute to EGAT/WID's Strategic Objective 3—Women's Legal Rights Increasingly Protected—and strengthen USAID mission strategic objectives, particularly related to democracy and governance. The intermediate results (IRs) supported by the project are:

- IR 1: Improved Legislation to Protect Women's Legal Rights
- IR 2: Enhanced Justice Sector Capacity to Interpret and Enforce Legislation that Protects Women's Legal Rights
- IR 3: Strengthened Civil Society Organizations Ability to Advocate for Women's Legal Rights
- IR 4: Increased Public Awareness of Women's Legal Rights

During the first year of project implementation, Guatemala, Albania, the Regional Center for Southern Africa (RCSA), Madagascar, Benin, and Rwanda were all selected as initial focus missions with EGAT/WID, USAID/Washington Regional Bureaus, and key staff from prospective missions. Country activity design and implementation is currently underway.

The implementing consortium, led by Chemonics International, includes the Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA), Partners of the Americas, MetaMetrics Inc., Edelman Communications Inc. (ECI), and Development and Training Services Inc. (DTS).

#### B. Program Implementation by Region

In this sub-section B, we provide a summary of WLR activities planned and underway by region, namely, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and Eurasia, Africa, Asia and the Near East.

## **B1. Latin America and the Caribbean: Guatemala**

During this quarter, WLR Legal Specialist Lelia Mooney drafted the country action plan for Guatemala with input and guidance from USAID/Guatemala and EGAT/WID. The country action plan details specific WLR activities related to curriculum development, training development initiatives and advocacy and awareness. After careful review and comment from both USAID/Guatemala and EGAT/WID, the country action plan was finalized in December 2003. The initial country action plan will serve as the basis for WLR activities in Guatemala through September 2004. An illustrative budget for project activities is currently being developed for activities for the next two years and will be finalized in January 2004.

In December 2003, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed with the Public Ministry (*Ministerio Publico*) to train Ministry staff and strengthen the institutional capacity of the Ministry to be more able to respond to issues related to women's legal rights with a specific emphasis on indigenous women's rights and access to justice for women. WLR expects to begin project implementation in earnest during the next quarter, focusing on curriculum development, training development, and advocacy and awareness.

*Curriculum development initiatives.* As a result of a series of consultative meetings with the University of San Carlos Law School and USAID/Guatemala, a draft Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation was drafted in December 2003. The MOU is expected to be signed at the beginning of the next quarter. This will set the foundation for the development of the curriculum on gender and the law for a post-graduate diploma program. Several meetings were conducted with the American University Washington College of Law to set out terms of cooperation for a planned study tour that WLR will tentatively implement in June 2004 for representatives from Guatemalan justice sector institutions, the University of San Carlos Law School, and key civil society organizations. The study tour will consist of a series of specialized training courses at American University that will focus on the three major components of the gender and the law diploma program, namely, legal analysis from a gender perspective, modern pedagogical techniques in teaching gender and the law, and advocacy and awareness for women's legal rights.

*Training development initiatives.* As mentioned above, WLR successfully finalized an MOU with the Public Ministry that sets out the parameters for technical assistance and training to be provided to the Women's Prosecutor's Office (*Fiscalia de la Mujer*) and the National Office for the Support of Victims (*Oficinas de Atención a la Victima*). The MOU was signed by the Attorney General Carlos David de Leon Argueta and witnessed by Todd Amani of USAID/Guatemala. Technical assistance activities with the Public Ministry are scheduled to begin in the next quarter.

*Advocacy and awareness initiatives.* The strategy for recruiting participants for gender and the law diploma program at San Carlos University Law School was completed in December 2003. The approach to implementation will include consultations with justice sector institutions and civil society organizations that will designate representatives to attend the diploma program. Upon completion of coursework, participants will design and implement their own advocacy and awareness activities.

*Program management.* In October 2003, WLR hired Edna Rodriguez as Women's Legal Rights Advisor and Local Coordinator in Guatemala. WLR also engaged a local administrative assistant, who together with Ms. Rodriguez make up the WLR Guatemala project field office. In December 2003, the local administrative assistant resigned from her position. The WLR team immediately recruited an equally qualified replacement, who will begin working for the project in January 2004. Throughout this quarterly reporting period, management of Guatemala country activities continued in an effective manner through daily email exchanges and weekly-scheduled telephone conference calls with the field office that cover both programmatic and administrative issues. Action items and proactive steps are identified in the daily e-mail following these telephone conference calls. Additional emails and phone calls are also used as needed to achieve the project goals and maintain proper management. Regular visits by the Legal Specialist Lelia Mooney will also be scheduled on a quarterly basis.

## **B2. Europe and Eurasia: Albania**

A number of significant events occurred in Albania during this quarterly reporting period, most notably the opening of the WLR project field office in Tirana. WLR Project Director David Vaughn, Legal Specialist Teresa Cannady and WLR Assistant Project Administrator Irina Sedova visited in early October 2003 to interview a number of qualified candidates for two staff positions. Following a second round of interviews and reference checks, WLR Advisor and Local Coordinator Emira Shkurti and Administrative Assistant Flacelia Celsula were hired and began working at the WLR office on November 1, 2003. The office is located in the center of Tirana and is easily accessible to USAID/Albania and partner institutions and organizations. In November and December, planning meetings were held with USAID and implementing partners, including the Magistrates School and the civil society organization Citizens Advocacy Office (CAO), to develop plans for future cooperation based on a draft country action plan prepared by Legal Specialist Teresa Cannady.

In November 2003, Legal Specialist Teresa Cannady traveled to Tirana and led a two-day training and planning program for WLR team members. This training focused on gender issues, international law and human rights, as well as team building and strategic planning. The Albania team developed a mission statement and a strategic plan for WLR activities in Albania. The mission statement reads: "We work to strengthen and promote women's legal rights in order to change attitudes and improve people's lives in Albania."

After the training, a number of planning meetings were held with donor organizations and partners to introduce the newly-formed team and discuss future cooperation. Discussions were held with the Magistrates School and CAO regarding the development of Memoranda of Understanding. A communication system was developed between the Washington, D.C.-based office and the project field office that includes weekly telephone conferences and daily e-mails to address both programmatic and administrative issues. Additional administrative and financial training was provided to the administrative assistant by the USAID/Chemonics Small Business Credit and Assistance (SBCA) project office manager in Albania. The administrative assistant, who traveled to Washington, D.C. on personal business, was given further specialized training at the Chemonics home office in December 2003.

The draft country action plan was revised with input from USAID/Albania and EGAT/WID. The country action plan details specific activities in three areas: anti-trafficking, domestic violence, and family law. After careful review and comment from both USAID/Albania and EGAT/WID, the country action plan was completed in December 2003 and will serve as the basis for activities through September 2004. Also, a budget for project activities in the next two years is being developed and will be finalized in January 2004.

During this quarter, a set of questionnaires was prepared for civil society organizations, judiciary, and government that will allow the project to track progress in women's legal rights. These questionnaires will be distributed on a quarterly basis to these institutions and organizations. Where available, e-mail will be used and if no response is received the WLR staff will follow-up directly. The questionnaires are short and to the point and should not be a burden on the institutions and organizations solicited for information. The WLR project staff also monitors the daily newspaper in Albania for additional information related to women's legal rights. This will ensure that the project is aware of upcoming legislation, training programs, advocacy and awareness campaigns, and the overall atmosphere surrounding women's legal rights. In December 2003, articles regarding the WLR project in Albania were published in two leading newspapers.

*Anti-trafficking.* As a result of meetings with representatives from the U.S. Department of Justice's International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP) and Overseas Prosecutorial Development Assistance and Training (OPDAT), WLR Legal Advisor Elmira Shkurti became a member of the International Consortium, which meets periodically to comment and assist on drafting of laws and amendments concerning trafficking of human beings. A draft witness protection law is currently being reviewed and, if adopted, will have significant implications regarding the prosecution of trafficking cases and the protection of trafficked women as witnesses. In December 2003, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Magistrates School was drafted as the basis of our cooperation for the training of legal professionals in all three areas of the WLR Albania project. Possible dates for training sessions, as well as trainers were identified and will be finalized in January 2004. In cooperation with Women's Advocacy Centre, Magistrates School, USAID/Albania, OPDAT, ICITAP, and the Women Lawyers Association, a number of legal experts were identified to assist in the preparation of a benchbook for judges on trafficking cases.

*Domestic violence.* In December 2003, a draft MOU was prepared for cooperation between the WLR Initiative and the Citizens Advocacy Office to finalize our cooperation on the drafting of a domestic violence law and public awareness of this issue. The Magistrates School, in cooperation with the WLR staff, identified their training needs and potential trainers for domestic violence issues including an emphasis on relevant domestic and international legal instruments. Dates of training sessions, budgetary issues and participants will be finalized during the first month of the next quarter. Copies of the Macedonian law on domestic violence with corresponding amendments and analysis were provided to the WLR project office for future use in the development of the draft Albanian domestic violence law.

*Family Law.* In late-December 2003, the WLR Albania team finalized an English language translation of the new Family Code. The translation was a very labor intensive exercise due to

the legal and technical issues as well as the length of the document. The WLR team worked extensively to ensure that the meaning and intent of the provisions was not lost in the translation while at the same time using proper English legal terminology. This translation will be essential to international experts who serving as trainers in family law training, for international organizations and foreign missions in Albania, as well as local NGOs. The translation will be distributed in electronic form as well as a printed version. At the request of the Magistrates School, WLR provided a text on family law in the United States. This text explains U.S. family law concepts such as child support, alimony, visitation issues, and property division. The text will be beneficial to the school as they prepare training programs designed to ensure the effective implementation of their new family code.

In cooperation with the Magistrates School and local civil society organizations, the project identified training needs for the recently adopted Family Code. Participants, actual dates and experts will be finalized in January 2004. In cooperation with the Women's Advocacy Centre, Magistrates School, and the Women Lawyers Association, a number of legal specialists were identified as experts to assist in the preparation of the family law benchbooks. The WLR staff will continue to coordinate with these organizations to obtain commentaries or other documents relevant for inclusion in the bankbook. A U.S. expert was identified to develop the benchbook in cooperation with local experts.

#### **WLR Praised for Translation of Family Code**

"I noticed what a careful translation you made of the Code."—Arta Mandro, Albanian Magistrates School, principal drafter of the Family Code

"I have talked to women organizations and searched through lawyers and human rights groups, trying to get hold of an English translation of the new Family Code. After three months of searching, I received your translation via the OSCE."—Mirian Kessler, consultant to Albanian Disabilities Rights Foundation and Tirana Women's Center

*Program management.* During this quarterly reporting period, management of the project is proceeding in an effective manner through the use of telecommunications. E-mails are sent daily in a specific format that addresses both programmatic and administrative issues. A response is sent from the Washington, D.C.-based home office to all issues raised on a daily basis. A weekly telephone conference is held between home office and project field office staff every Tuesday morning to discuss programmatic and administrative issues that may require further attention. After the telephone conference, action items and proactive steps are identified in the daily e-mail. Additional e-mails and phone calls are also used as needed to achieve the project goals and maintain proper management. Regular visits by Legal Specialist Teresa Cannady will also occur on at least a quarterly basis.

### **B3. Africa**

#### **B3a. Regional Center for Southern Africa**

The WLR project team, in coordination with USAID/Regional Center for Southern Africa (RCSA), determined that the focus for Southern Africa will be a regional approach that will allow bilateral missions and USAID non-presence countries in the region to derive benefit from the project. In December 2003, the initial assessment and analysis report completed in the last quarter was revised significantly to reflect this new approach. The country action plan for the Southern African region and the budget was completed. All programmatic areas will be regional,

and country-specific best practices will be used to illustrate regional workshops. The main areas of focus for the RCSA region will be determined in consultation with USAID/RCSA. However, WLR recommends these focus areas:

- violence against women
- the use of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) assessment
- capacity building for civil society
- legal aid and legal literacy
- customary law

In all activities, the coordination will be done by USAID/RCSA located in Botswana, with a local civil society organization selected to house the regional women's legal rights advisor/local coordinator staff person for the WLR.

During the next quarterly reporting period, a partnership with the Georgetown University Law School's International Women's Rights Clinic will be developed and two regional conferences on best practices in strengthening and promoting women's legal rights will be designed and held in Southern Africa in 2004 and 2005, resulting in a best practices publication for the region and electronic network. WLR will also support the participation of local partner NGOs at the Civicus World Assembly in March 2004 in Botswana to provide an opportunity to network with 600 NGOs from around the world on all issues of capacity building.

### **B3b. Madagascar**

The WLR team conducted a two-week assessment and analysis trip to Madagascar in October, including a presentation to and consultations with USAID/Madagascar. The WLR team identified constraints and gaps in women's legal rights in the country as a whole, with a focus on the capital area of Antananarivo, and the city and provincial area surrounding Fianarantsoa. Poverty was clearly identified as the cross-cutting issue affecting the entire country and greatly impacting the status and treatment of women. WLR will carefully identify what the best programs to implement will be; those with the most impact. The assessment and analysis visit was carried out with complete cooperation with USAID/Madagascar. All programmatic initiatives will fit within the next five-year strategic plan for the mission. The main issue identified was violence against women. However, this is compounded by illiteracy, lack of economic empowerment, and lack of public education on legal rights for women. The role that information technology could play in alleviating these issues will be carried out by USAID/Madagascar with collaboration from the WLR at all stages to ensure no duplication. The WLR team completed a draft assessment and analysis report and shared it with EGAT/WID, the Africa Regional Bureau, and the mission. Comments and recommendations will be incorporated into the final report and a country action planning trip is scheduled for April 2004.

### **B3c. Benin and Rwanda**

The final long-term staff member for the WLR, Legal Specialist Lyn Neylon, was hired and will begin her employment in February 2004. She is responsible for WLR activities in Benin and Rwanda. Also, in December 2003 a preliminary meeting took place in Washington, D.C. with

Bernice Noudegbessi, gender focal point at USAID/Benin, which identified women's economic empowerment as a priority issue.

#### **B4. Asia and the Near East**

Despite the best efforts from the WLR team, no progress has been made to establish a country selection strategy with the ANE Regional Bureau. WLR remains committed to providing technical assistance in women's legal rights to the Asia and Near East regions and will make every effort to achieve this goal in cooperation with the staff of the ANE Regional Bureau.

### **C. Program Management**

Chemonics instills strong program management platforms in all of its projects so that implementation can occur effectively and efficiently. The WLR's program management strategy for Year Two will focus on the following three activities:

- Enhance financial and administrative systems to better meet programmatic needs.
- Develop an electronic and print newsletter to keep project partners, USAID missions and EGAT/WID informed of Chemonics' work on gender issues through WLR, the WID IQC and other efforts.
- Implement performance monitoring to capture the results of WLR activities.

#### **C1. Mobilization**

During the fifth quarterly reporting period, offices were opened and are now fully operational in Guatemala and Albania. Home office field accountants will travel to Guatemala and Albania to train the local administrative assistants in Chemonics accounting and administrative procedures in January and February of 2004.

Recruitment for the final legal specialist position on the WLR team continued through the fifth quarter. Interviews were conducted in December 2003 and a candidate was chosen. Lyn Neylon will join the WLR team in February 2004 as the final legal specialist.

#### **C2. Financial and Administrative Systems**

WLR is an ambitious project with a wide variety of technical program activities worldwide, including four components that must work both separately and together to complete the rest. Keeping this in mind, WLR's project management staff helped to ensure the achievement of project goals by maintaining effective financial and administrative systems and procedures that allow the project to operate in a streamlined and efficient manner. Although WLR's administrative and financial systems are in place and functioning well, there is always room for refinement and improvement. During the WLR Year Two work planning workshop, which took place during the fourth quarter of Year One, the project management staff designed strategies for more efficient administration of project files and tracking of project- and country-activity funds to ensure smooth operations around the world and allow the technical team to focus on its goals.

### **C3. Performance Monitoring**

Monitoring project activities and obtaining meaningful and measurable results are key aspects of the WLR initiative. To ensure achievement of objectives for all of its programs worldwide, WLR completed the development of an integrated monitoring and evaluation system in the fourth quarter. With the aid of a Chemonics monitoring and evaluation (M&E) specialist, the WLR team designed a performance monitoring plan and an M&E review system that will help to guide implementation of activities toward attaining the project goals. A draft M&E plan will be submitted to EGAT/WID as part of the Year Two work plan to ensure agreement on practical and meaningful goals and indicators.

## SECTION II

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### Timeline of Actions in Quarter Six

Activities Planned for January-March 2004	Estimated Completion Date
Consultations with cognizant technical officer	Ongoing
Consultations with USAID regional bureaus	Ongoing
Consultations with WLR focus Missions in Eastern Europe, Latin America and Africa	Ongoing
Consultations with key organizations and donors	Ongoing
Country selection consultation with USAID Asia regional bureau	Ongoing
Submit finalized Year Two work plan and project M&E and communications strategies to USAID	January 2004
Submit action plan budgets for all WLR country activities	Early February 2004
Hire final LT legal specialist	February 2004
<b>Albania</b>	
Conduct a judicial training for the Court of Serious Crimes	February 2004
Prepare Family Law benchbook	March 2004
Begin training in anti-trafficking, family code, and domestic violence at the Magistrates School	February-March 2004
<b>Guatemala</b>	
Conduct management and planning trip	January 2004
Finalize agreements with main implementing and diploma participant partners	January-February 2004
Design the curriculum for the diploma program	February-March 2004
Select candidates for the diploma program	January-February 2004
<b>Southern Africa (RCSA)</b>	
Submit action plan	February 2004
Conduct planning trip	March 2004
Participate in the CIVICUS World Assembly in Gaborone	March 2004
<b>Madagascar</b>	
Submit draft action plan to EGAT/WID and USAID/Madagascar	February 2004
Conduct planning trip	March 2004

## **SECTION III**

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### Significant Results to Date

Significant results achieved during the fifth quarter include:

#### **Latin America and the Caribbean: Guatemala**

- √ Project field office opened and local staff hired
- √ Country action plan completed
- √ Memorandum of Understanding with Public Ministry signed

#### **Europe and Eurasia: Albania**

- √ Project office opened and local staff hired
- √ New Family Code translated into English
- √ Country action plan completed

#### **Africa: RCSA, Madagascar, Benin and Rwanda**

- √ RCSA assessment and analysis report completed
- √ Madagascar assessment and analysis visit conducted
- √ Introductory meeting with USAID/Benin held

#### **Program Management**

- √ Monitoring and evaluation system designed and implemented

## SECTION IV

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### Success Stories

Last quarter, WLR reported that it was well on its way to opening and staffing project field offices in Guatemala and Albania and to establishing the administrative and financial systems needed in the home office to ensure sound project management. We anticipated making swift progress toward achieving project benchmarks once all personnel and systems were in place. Now those benchmarks are in place and, likewise, we have achieved the goals intended for quarter five. Not only are WLR project field operational in Guatemala and Albania, the staff are well on their way to implementing the approved country action plans and making significant headway toward achieving results.

The WLR legal advisor/local coordinator in Guatemala, with support and direction from the home office, drafted and negotiated a MOU with the Public Ministry setting out the working relationship between WLR and the Ministry. WLR and the Ministry will work together to strengthen the Women's Prosecutors' Office (*Fiscalia de la Mujer*), District Prosecutors' Offices (*Fiscalias Distritales*), and the National Offices for the Support of Victims (*Oficinas de Atencion a la Victima*) to provide services to women, particularly indigenous women, who are victims of violence. These efforts will result in the enhanced ability of government agencies to provide services to women victims of crime.

Present at the signing ceremony were Edna Rodriguez, the WLR Guatemala coordinator, Todd Amani of the Office of Democracy Initiatives, USAID/Guatemala, and Attorney General Carlos David de Leon Argueta.



*From left to right: Todd Amani of USAID/Guatemala, WLR Guatemala Women's Legal Rights Advisor and Local Coordinator Edna Rodriguez, and Carlos David de Leon Argueta, Attorney General of Guatemala.*

WLR Legal Specialist Teresa Cannady and Albania Women's Legal Rights Advisor and Local Coordinator Emira Shkurti worked tirelessly during the fifth quarter to produce an English translation of the Albanian Family Code. This was an enormous effort and one that will benefit

countless people working in Albania on issues of concern to women and the family. The WLR translation of the Family Code was widely distributed to local and international organizations. The WLR team already received positive feedback on the translation from implementing partners.

The translation of the Family Code will now enable WLR to produce a benchbook to provide judges with a step by step approach to handling cases as well as the necessary references and commentary to interpret the law. WLR may also cooperate to provide training with Western experts who have had a chance to review the law. These translations are essential and facilitate comparisons to other, similar laws, whereby Albanian lawyers and judges can educate themselves on how these similar provisions are interpreted, enforced and implemented. Finally, the translation of the Family Code will be used to prepare public awareness materials and advocacy campaigns, in cooperation with our civil society partners.

## **SECTION V**

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### Problems with Implementation

The WLR team held two meetings and numerous e-mail communications with Vijitha Eyang of the ANE Regional Bureau at USAID. Despite generally constructive dialogue, WLR has been unable to select either a country for implementation or develop a strategy for requesting mission interest. WLR will continue to engage the ANE Regional Bureau and to update them on the successes of the project in other regions.

## **SECTION VI**

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### Adjustments to Plan

There were **no** adjustments to plan to note during this quarterly reporting period.