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KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

SNAPSHOT

In Osh, USAID supported 39 families to receive market value compensation from the local government for their demolished homes, land, or businesses.



Photo: USAID/OTI

Interbilim lawyer provides legal consultation to resident in Osh city to help her obtain fair compensation for property.

“The Department of Municipal Property claimed more land than what was indicated in the initial agreement. I was in a panic and didn’t know what to do. But lawyers assisted me, so I could receive an additional 284,000 soms... Now I feel calm. Thank you to all who helped me to solve this problem.”

*– Khatica Razikova,
Resident of Ak-Burinskaya
Street in Osh*

Telling Our Story

U.S. Agency for International Development
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Legal Aid for Resettled Families

October 2013 – “After the events of 2010, many residents of Osh lost confidence in local authorities and did not want to get into quarrels with the Mayor’s office,” claims a resident of Osh’s Monuev Street. These feelings were heightened when the city entered into eminent domain negotiations with local residents of streets set to be demolished during urban development efforts.

In late April 2012, the Mayor of Osh issued a resolution (#133) to extend Monuev Street – with 22 houses – by 480 meters. On May 22, Osh’s chief architect announced the plan to local media and informed them of the ongoing community meetings and housing appraisals to compensate those to be affected by the city development efforts. When initial compensation from the city amounted to only 20-30 percent the market value and empty land lots 14 kilometers away from the city center, distraught residents sent letters to the Osh City Council, the President, and Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic expressing concern over unfair compensation. Starting in August 2012 and until March 2013, USAID’s Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) responded by supporting the NGO Interbilim to provide free legal advice to the affected residents or business owners on Monuev and other streets in Osh.

The lawyers consulted more than 100 residents on issues related to land plot compensation rates and calculations, property rights, and appeal procedures to local government entities. “At first it was hard because people did not fully trust us. [They] did not know what to do and who to turn to,” said Ulan Seyitbekov, a legal consultant with Interbilim. “The city officials, too, were suspicious and negative. . . . They asked us why we were here and . . . how the population would benefit from our job,” he continued. “Despite the difficulties [we] won the trust of residents day by day.”

Acknowledging Interbilim’s role in the project, the Osh Mayor’s Office tasked its lawyer to jointly coordinate demolition and resettlement decisions. In addition, the municipality requested Interbilim’s assistance in drafting *Regulations on Confiscation of Land for State and Municipal Needs*.

“This regulation did not exist before,” said Nusratillo Ahmedov, legal consultant with Interbilim. “We have drafted it and submitted for consideration and approval.”

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