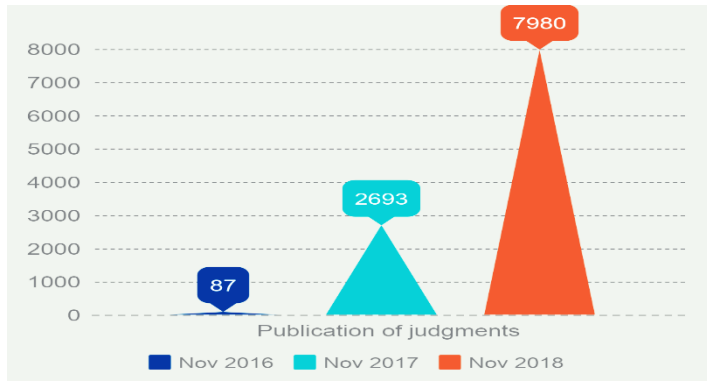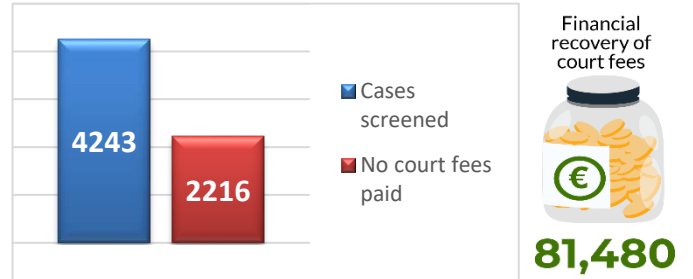**USAID'S JUSTICE SYSTEM STRENGTHENING PROGRAM** is promoting the rule of law in Kosovo by improving the judiciary's efficiency, accountability, and professionalism. This is a four-year program (November 2015 - 2019) and focuses on promoting a judicial system that adheres to high standards of independence, impartiality, integrity, accountability, and transparency, and on supporting the functioning and integration of judicial structures in the north.

Publication of Final Judgments

Publication of Final Judgments is supported by USAID's push for greater transparency. The commitment by courts to increase the number of decisions made public has resulted in almost 8,000 decisions being posted on-line.

Publication of judgments
- Nov 2016: 87
- Nov 2017: 2693
- Nov 2018: 7980

MCLE Enforcement

Efforts to increase accountability and integrity has resulted in mandatory continued legal education for all judges of Kosovo.

- Total eligible (344) — 100%
- Completed (301) — 88%
- Not completed (43) — 12%
- Women (100)
- Men (201)

A total of **301** judges (**88%** of all Kosovo judges) attended 2018 MCLE on judicial ethics. **263** were Kosovar Albanian, **34** Kosovar Serbian and **4** from other non-majority communities.

Backlog reduction teams

Backlog reduction teams have helped Kosovo's Basic Courts decrease backlogged cases (those over 2 years old). The set of **39,458** civil and criminal cases backlogged as of Dec. 31, 2015 has been reduced to **11,553 cases**, resolving more than **70%**.

By the end of year 3, 27,905 cases (or 70.72%) were resolved with USAID-supported backlog reduction interventions

27,905 cases resolved

- Baseline: 39458
- Year 1: 24859 (63%)
- Year 2: 17070 (43.7%)
- Year 3: 11553 (29.3%)
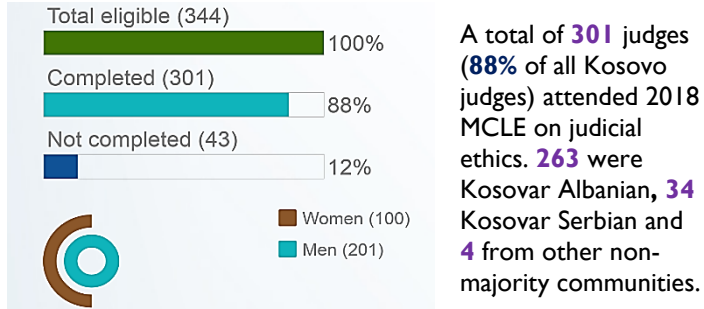- Remaining backlog

Civil case screening

Civil case screening inspects the completeness of case filings, including payment of fees, before referring these to judges for adjudication, so that their time is not wasted. JSSP is implementing this mechanism in Pristina and Gjakova Basic Courts, and at branches in Podujeva, Rahovec and Malisheva.
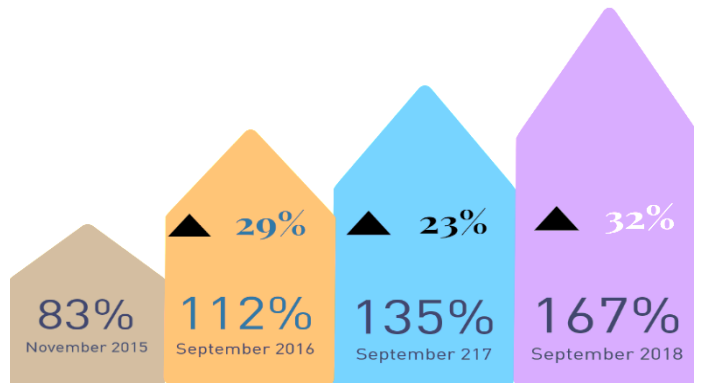

- Cases screened: 4243
- No court fees paid: 2216
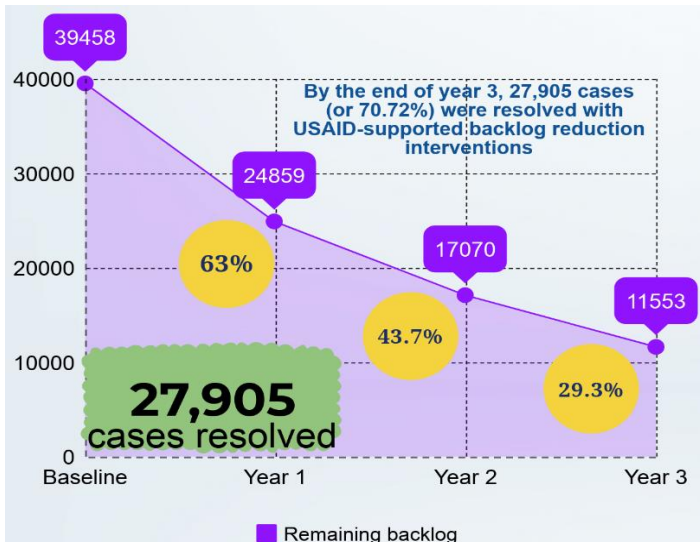
Financial recovery of court fees
€ **81,480**

Case Clearance Rate

The clearance rate reflects the ratio between the number of cases filed, and the number disposed of in a given period. A rate over 100% means courts are "catching up" on older cases, as well as managing their current load. Between Jan. 1 and Sept. 30, 2018, the average clearance rate for all case types, including Minor Offences, across all Basic Courts reached **166.79%.**

- 83% November 2015
- 112% September 2016 ▲ 29%
- 135% September 217 ▲ 23%
- 167% September 2018 ▲ 32%

Training of Judicial and non-judicial staff

A total of 947 judicial and non-judicial staff **have** participated in training activities for judicial and non-judicial staff from all ethnic backgrounds in Kosovo.

- 815 Kosovar Albanian
- 424 female
- 523 male
- 947 participants
- 1 RAE
- 8 Kosovar Bosnian
- 123 Kosovar Serbian

Update: November 2018