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What Difference Does a Few Centimeters Make? A Great Deal When it is Your Property Line!

To improve municipal surveys of property lines, USAID recently provided new survey equipment to sixteen municipalities. The real-time kinematic (RTK) equipment uses satellite data to enable municipal surveyors to make precision measurements of local property lines. “Before receiving the new equipment,” said Al Dhulail Municipality's surveyor, Mr. Firas Abdul-Rahim, "we had to remember visual reference points and manually map out plots for new buildings and roads – there was human error and arguments with landowners. Now with our new survey equipment, along with training from USAID, we can now confirm property lines to the centimeter!".

For example, Al Dhulail Municipality recently put their RTK equipment to good use while expanding a four-kilometer road in a commercial area. The head of the Local Development Unit, Ms. Fadia Al-Saify, noted that: "With the old technology, there were disputes with shop owners about where the road crossed their property. Now our measures are precise and final – and we have no more arguments!" Ms. Al-Saify added: "This is also critical when mapping an area adjacent to other municipalities. We couldn't promote effective regional economic cooperation and development without accurate land records."

Supporting improved land records is another way that USAID is partnering with municipalities and the Ministry of Local Administration to help municipalities better serve their communities.