

Rwanda: Alternative Dispute Resolution Project

The challenge:

Rwanda has made considerable improvements in its judicial sector. Under the Rwanda Investment Climate Project (RICP) supported by ICF, Rwanda established specialized commercial courts in 2008 to speed up contract enforcement and dispute resolution. The commercial courts have helped to reduce the time taken to process cases and as a result more than 80% of backlogged cases have been cleared, increasing private sector satisfaction with the judiciary. Despite significant success, there are still some key challenges. The commercial dispute backlog still remains. Court processes remain long and costs of litigation are high. There are no alternative mechanisms for dispute resolution in Rwanda to complement services by the Judiciary.



The solution:

ICF is working with the Government of Rwanda to improve contract enforcement in the country through arbitration and mediation. The project will help the newly established Kigali International Arbitration Centre (KIAC) to become operational. It will establish a pool of professionals in mediation and arbitration. It will promote the use of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and KIAC as a seat of arbitration and mediation in Rwanda and Africa. It will also create synergies between KIAC and the Rwanda Judiciary. The project will cost a total of US\$ 2,900,000. Of this, ICF is providing US\$ 1,450,000, the Government of Rwanda is providing US\$ 1,000,000, and KIAC is providing US\$ 450,000.

Results:

- Trained 300 arbitrators, making Rwanda the 3rd country in Africa to have the highest number of accredited arbitrators. All 260 arbitrators are accredited Associate Members of the UK Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. Also trained 40 mediators, 31 of whom are accredited with the UK Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution.
- Trained 53 adjudicators in conjunction with the Kuala Lumpur Regional Centre for Arbitration (KLIRCA), 27 of which are eligible to apply and join the KLIRCA adjudication panel in Malaysia.
- Established a set of arbitration rules, in line with international best practices, which are being used for arbitral proceedings in Rwanda.
- Drafted instructions that define the process and timeframe for enforcing an arbitral award which have been passed by the Supreme Court.
- In 2014 a Ministerial Instruction established a set of model dispute resolution clauses that public institutions in Rwanda have to use, which will help these institutions negotiate their contracts better.

Project duration: October 2012 – July 2015

The Investment Climate Facility for Africa is a grant providing organisation that works with African Governments to improve the environment in which businesses operate. ICF engages closely with implementing Government bodies throughout the life of the project. For more information about ICF please visit www.icfafrica.org