

Pan-African: Capacity Building Project

The challenge:

Capacity building is a major priority area for ICF and is an essential element in most ICF projects. The beneficiaries of capacity building activities in ICF projects are typically technical staff in organizations undergoing modernization and IT personnel who need training in the deployment and support of new IT systems.

However financial management and reporting staff have traditionally been left out of capacity building activities. And as different organizations have different financial management skill levels, ICF felt there was a need to have dedicated capacity building activities that would benefit financial management staff and bring them all up to par.



The solution:

ICF implemented a capacity building project to bolster ICF capacity building, knowledge sharing and mentoring. This included knowledge sharing workshops where ICF Project Directors and Accountants across the continent shared their expertise, experiences and best practice. ICF also provided ad-hoc financial monitoring and training to projects via its project accounting staff and internal auditors. The project cost a total of US\$ 500,036, all of which was provided by ICF.

Results:

- Two Accountant Knowledge Sharing Workshops conducted in Dakar and Nairobi to cater for Francophone and Anglophone countries respectively.
- Two Project Directors and Accountants Knowledge Sharing Workshops conducted in Abidjan and Johannesburg, again to cater for Francophone and Anglophone countries.
- A Commercial Justice Workshop conducted in Zambia, attended by 56 participants, including Chief Justices and Heads of Judicial reform programs from 15 African countries, and representatives from the EAC and OHADA.
- A Business and Asset Registration Workshop conducted in Mauritius, attended by 40 participants from across Africa, including Registrar Generals.
- Improved financial reporting, financial controls, and reduced audit finding with respect to Financial Management in ICF projects.
- Enabled an environment where ideas and experiences could be regularly exchanged and where honest and unbiased feedback was obtained from Project Management Teams.
- Led ICF to fine-tuning its procedures guidelines to provide greater clarity in the areas of financial management and reporting as well as procurement.

Project duration: July 2010 – March 2014

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