



## Tanzania: Modernization of the Judiciary Project

### The challenge:

In Tanzania, access to judicial services is expensive as courts fail to act speedily and ethically, denying justice to thousands of people. Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) faced with bureaucracy, high costs and a sense that justice is not always delivered, leads them to attempt to solve their disputes informally. Large multinationals are losing revenues in pending cases. In Tanzania, there is a



backlog of banking sector cases involving more than US\$1bn stuck in courts. There are bottlenecks hindering the justice system including: out-dated ways of recording proceedings by hand, manual systems for case management and the Judiciary's staff lack of IT skills.

### The solution:

The Tanzania Modernization of the Judiciary Project aimed to modernise and strengthen the Judiciary's capacity to deliver justice promptly, efficiently and transparently through training and the use of modern technology in the court rooms. The project provided information and communication technology equipment and related software to the Court of Appeal, the High Court, and the three subdivisions of the High Court – the Commercial Division, the Land Division and the Labour Division. The project also trained judges, magistrates, registrars, and court registry staff on IT administration. The project cost a total of US\$ 1,451,000; of which ICF contributed US\$ 1,306,000 and the Government of Tanzania contributed US\$ 145,000.

### Project achievements by June 2010:

- The High Court and its three sub-divisions (Commercial, Land and Labour courts) were fully equipped with modern audio recording systems. The Court of Appeal's system was upgraded to the same standards as the other four courts. As a result, all five courts were recording court sessions and court proceedings were available within 24 hours.
- Judges, Registrars and support staff were given laptop and desktop computers. The typing pool room at the High Court was refurbished with desktop computers and old judgements and hand written proceedings were typed and saved on the server. Court documentation is now electronically produced and is no longer handwritten or produced on typewriters
- Old case judgements since the start of the Court of Appeal in 1979 to present were scanned and made available through the Judiciary's internal database.
- 40 Judges, 35 Registrars and 35 clerks were trained on computer skills; 20 Court Reporters were trained on the use of the recording equipment; and 12 IT personnel were recruited and trained.
- To reduce queues at the registry offices, flat-screen monitors were put up in all five courts to display case information.

**Project duration:** February 2008 – June 2010

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