



Zambia: Modernization of the Judiciary Project, Phase I & II

The challenge:

In Zambia, access to justice was marred by delays in resolving disputes, limited access to legal services, unethical conduct of various officials and outdated systems. These issues often led to loss of case files and delayed court proceedings which ultimately resulted in low confidence in the justice system.

A bureaucratic and cumbersome justice system also has a negative impact on the business environment as investors lack confidence in the legal and regulatory environment in which they operate.



The solution:

ICF has worked with the Government of Zambia to modernise its Judiciary. The aim was to introduce modern information management systems to reduce the time it takes to resolve a case, improve security and access to case files, increase transparency, and reduce the backlog of pending cases. Phase I of ICF support focused on modernising three main courts in Lusaka – the Supreme Court, the High Court and the Magistrate Court. The project cost a total of US\$ 730,000; of which ICF contributed US\$ 479,000 and the Government of Zambia contributed US\$ 251,000.

Phase II of ICF support rolled out the same modernisation to the rest of the courtrooms in Lusaka and the copper belt towns of Kitwe and Ndola. The project cost a total of US\$ 4,900,000; of which ICF contributed US\$ 2,100,000 and the Government of Zambia contributed US\$ 2,800,000.

Impact:

The project achieved the following:

- Computerised 10 courtrooms (6 in Lusaka, 2 each in Kitwe and Ndola) with real time digital transcription and audio backup, enabling court proceedings to be capture and transmitted on screens in the courtroom as the proceedings take place. Transcripts of proceedings can then be made available soon after the court session.
- Modernised 13 Registries (5 in Lusaka, 4 each in Kitwe and Ndola) with electronic case and record management systems that have enabled the digitisation of over 10,000 court records, eliminating instances of record misplacements.
- Trained Judges, Registry clerks, court reporters, lawyers and support staff on the court case management system. Equipped Judges with laptops.

Project duration: Phase I: Aug 2008 – Mar 2010. Phase II: Jul 2010 – Dec 2013.

ICF 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 and its work please visit www.icfafrica.org