

Senegal: Modernization of Customs Authority Project

The challenge:

The Senegalese custom clearance system used to operate in a very fragmented way. Nearly half of the 95 Customs offices operated on a manual clearance system, while the remaining half worked on different levels of automation. Some of the Customs offices located at the Port and the Airport operated the very first and basic version of a partially automated custom clearance system developed in 1990, while other Custom offices (Post Offices, Railway Station, Fishing Customs Office, and the Industrial Free Zone Office)



operated a 2001 enhanced version of the same custom clearance system. This fragmented situation led to long delays in customs clearance. In addition, the benefits of the efficient paperless pre-clearance process, which was operated by GAINDE, were quickly lost once traders faced the cumbersome and fragmented processes at the customs clearance stage.

The solution:

ICF worked with the Senegalese Customs Authority to modernise the Customs Authority in order to reduce the time and cost for custom declaration and release of goods. Specifically, the project streamlined, automated and digitized the customs clearance processes, and integrated the customs clearance system into a common electronic trade data platform. It also introduced a new regulatory and administrative framework for the automated and digitalized custom clearance procedures. The total project cost was US\$ 4.9m. Of this, ICF provided US\$ 3.8m and the Government of Senegal provided US\$ 1.1m.

Impact:

The project achieved the following:

- Registration for customs declaration was reduced from 2 days to 15 minutes. The processing of customs clearance was reduced from 18 days to 1 day. Processing of goods removal was reduced from 3 days to 2 days.
- Customs agreement for the removal of goods can be issued the same day of registration of the declaration provided there is no dispute.
- All the main Customs offices are now using GAINDE's common electronic trade data platform. These are: Dakar Port Nord, Dakar Port Sud, Dakar Petrole, Dakar Airport and five secondary Customs Offices. All together, they process more than 90% of customs declarations in Senegal. 100% of the customs declarations are registered within the system.

Project duration: November 2009 – June 2012

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