

Senegal: Construction Permits Project

The challenge:

Obtaining a construction permit in Senegal is a long process which takes 90 days. As a result, more than half of the ongoing constructions are illegal, architects are rarely used in cases where it is mandatory to use one (constructions over 200m²), corruption is rampant, and the permit archives are fragile and at high risk of fire, water damage etc.

The situation is aggravated by the rapid growth of constructions in the region of Dakar. It is estimated that there are currently about 10,000 constructions per year in the region for which about 3,000 permits are issued. In other words 70% of the construction is done without a permit. Senegal ranks 133 (down two places from 2012) out of 185 economies in dealing with construction permits in the World Bank's 2013 Doing Business Report.



The solution:

ICF is working with the Government of Senegal to reducing the time and costs of processing construction permits in the region of Dakar (i.e. city of Dakar, Pikine, Guédiawaye and Ruffisque).

Firstly, the project will operationalize an existing electronic platform for facilitating the process of delivering and approving a construction permit. It will enhance the platform by adding e-Payment, e-Signature, e-Delivery and SMS notification features to turn the system into a complete online platform for obtaining construction permits. Secondly, the project will create an electronic archive of construction permits to ensure all the relevant documents are stored securely. And thirdly, the project will build the capacities of the relevant officials in the departments/cities of the Dakar region to implement the online construction permit system. A successful implementation of the project will pave the way for a national roll-out of the system. The project will cost a total of US\$ 2.42m. Of this, ICF is providing US\$ 1.4m and the Government of Senegal is providing US\$ 1.02m.

Expected impact:

By September 2014, it is expected that 98% of construction permits will be processed and filed electronically, processing time will go down from 90 days to 28 days for simple construction projects, and down to 40 days for complex construction projects. The processing fee is expected to go down from \$28 to \$2 (excluding tax).

Project duration: July 2013 – December 2014

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