

# Supporting ICT Sector and Broadband Connectivity in Somalia using PPPs

## DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

Somalia's ICT sector is performing relatively well. However, inadequate broadband infrastructure and insufficient regulatory structure hinders further growth in the ICT sector. While lack of regulation supported the initial birth of the industry, to attract investment and support development, it requires proper regulation and licensing. As part of the effort to overcome this challenge, the World Bank and the Ministry of the Posts, Telecom and Technology (MPTT) of the Federal Government of Somalia launched the ICT Support Program.



## DELIVERY CHALLENGES AND HOW PRACTITIONERS RESPONDED

Practitioners experienced delays and challenges related to conflict and instability, difficulties with stakeholder engagement, and issues with organizational capacity. To resolve the challenges, they sought to be more flexible, adjusting their timeline to respond to changes and planning various activities in parallel to cope with the

delays. They also conducted in-country consultations in order to engage actors with different perspectives and understandings of the importance on the regulation, fill knowledge gaps, and build trusts among stakeholders in the public and private sectors. This was especially important with the private sector, as private mobile operators in Somalia have significant influence.

## LESSONS FROM THE CASE STUDY

Practitioners gained valuable lessons for the next phases of the project. In order to successfully implement the project, involved parties had to be flexible, and be prepared to understand stakeholders' needs and align their interests. For instance, the private sector is typically driven by profit whereas the public sector is driven to maximize its budget. Given these different perspectives, it is crucial to assess their values and provide incentives to engage them in the project.

## HOW THE CASE STUDY WAS USED

This project could be a useful reference for countries, especially post-conflict states, that seek to build a baseline for large-scale infrastructure in a volatile environment with multiple stakeholders and potentially divergent interests.