

DSW meets project reporting needs with Infor products

Facts at a glance

Product: Infor SunSystems; Infor Query & Analysis

Industry: Non-Governmental Organisation

Country: Germany

“Trust is a key aspect for an international development organisation handling private and public donor funds. It needs transparency to build and keep trust, and thus a thorough accounting and reporting system is key for ensuring sound accounting as well as providing accurate financial reporting for internal and external stakeholders.”

Jens Reißland, Director Finance and Administration at DSW

About the organization

DSW (Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevoelkerung) is an international development and advocacy organisation. Its focus is on achieving universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), which is fundamental to improving health and fighting poverty. With headquarters in Hannover, Germany, DSW maintains four country offices in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, as well as liaison offices in Berlin, Germany, and Brussels, Belgium.

DSW promotes advocacy dialogue and raises awareness of SRHR issues and on the linkages between sustainable development, poverty, global health, environmental management, and demographic trends. Additionally, DSW monitors and influences political decision-making in areas relating to SRHR. DSW is partner of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

To learn more about DSW, visit www.dsw.org

Setting the strategy

As a non-governmental organisation, DSW relies on donations and external project funding, which results in the complete transparency that is needed on the usage of funds.

The challenge was to meet the reporting requirements of external donors in different currencies, satisfying the reporting needs of internal stakeholders such as project managers, the DSW Executive and the DSW Supervisory Board for decision making, as well as harmonizing with five local accounting and auditing laws.

While the old accounting software enabled DSW to provide financial statements, there were challenges with producing real-time financial reports in different currencies. Furthermore, there were difficulties in adding analytical information to the transactions to enable automated, comprehensive and analytical reporting. That was when the search for a robust accounting software, which would produce flexible and automated donor reports, started.

Getting business specific

Over the years, GFA B.I.S has developed a vertical Branch solution for NGOs and Parastatals based on [Infor SunSystems](#). Infor SunSystems is a global financial management and analysis solution proven by 9,000 customers in over 180 countries and used by hundreds of charity and non-profit organizations worldwide.

The software assists internationally active organizations with a highly professional and cost-effective accounting and reporting system to fulfil their specific requirements in an optimized way.

Multidimensional analysis

Infor SunSystems offers up to ten flexible analysis dimensions which can be attached to every single transaction. These dimensions are set up individually to reflect specific organizational structures and activities, such as implementers, donors, projects, budget lines, expense categories, regions or other lines of business needs. The analysis dimensions are created and maintained independently from each other, although linked through transaction processing and validation rules.

Together with up to ten ledgers for budgets and commitments, Infor SunSystems provides full transparency and represents the basis for automated, enhanced reporting.

Direct access to local accounting data

Infor SunSystems supports the automated integration of local project data, regardless of whether the data is Excel-based or has been recorded with a local accounting system. Where needed, personnel in the headquarters can capture financial project details at the transaction level and get information needed directly in Excel, without additional software. They can control the allocation of expenditures to contemporary budget lines and avoid budget overdrawings.

Global essentials

For local Project offices, SunSystems provides special, international features, such as parallel books, chart of accounts and tax management, in order to manage different accounting treatments simultaneously. In combination with Multi-language and Multi-currency functionality, international NGO's can easily be compliant in multiple and changing regulatory environments, and connect local accounting and reporting with regional, business unit and corporate accounting and reporting.

Automated Donor reporting

A unique feature of Infor SunSystems is the integration of Excel for data capturing and reporting. Infor Query & Analysis extracts accounting data for further analysis and processing in Excel, and provides the immediate impact of any financial posting. This means that reports can be designed quickly by the user, and Excel reports always show up-to-date values through a direct interface to the financial database. Data can be analysed in significant detail, down to single transactions, using drill-down functions. Additional user input is not necessary.

This highly user-friendly feature supports automated, donor-specific reporting; Excel reports can be designed in the donor-specific format and updated with the latest financial data by clicking an update button in Excel.

Furthermore, Infor Query & Analysis allows the automated transfer of budget and reference data from Excel to Infor SunSystems.

Fast-Track Implementation

Like all non-governmental organizations, DSW was interested in keeping the administration side of their business to a minimum. In this context, the total cost of ownership over the life of the system is most relevant. Over the past fourteen years, GFA B.I.S. has implemented Infor SunSystems in more than 50 projects in both the Private and NGO sector and donor funded projects worldwide. During that time, proven fast-track implementation standards have been developed, including data migration and training.

Seeing results

With Infor SunSystems and Infor Query & Analysis, DSW is now able to record all transactions in up to four different currencies in one software and to add analysis values such as programme/budget codes, sources of funds, expense categories or contract codes directly to each transaction. With this additional data entry, even complex reporting requirements of all donors can be fulfilled.

A huge advantage is seen in the flexible and user-friendly reporting function, which allows the creation of very specific reports for different stakeholder requirements, be they reports for the

accountant to ensure data consistency during monthly closing, reports for the project coordinator to track the burn rate of a project budget, or reports for the management of the organization for decision-making.

Existing donor formats in Excel can be filled with data from the database and provide insights into budget execution and forecasting figures.

Furthermore, even new requirements from donors can be fulfilled easily by creating new Excel-based reports. As all necessary data is stored in a central database, only a linkage between the new template and the database fields has to be established. This eases day-to-day activities tremendously because reporting requirements change from time to time and with older software, all information had to be prepared manually.

Furthermore, the transition to Infor Sun Systems realized a huge step toward data transparency, since all data from different offices are available in one central database and can be assessed, monitored, and reviewed regularly.

Additionally, DSW is now in a position to fulfil local accounting and auditing laws, which might require reporting in local currency and providing consolidated statements in the Euro currency for the headquarters at the same time.

About INFOR

Infor, author of Infor SunSystems, is a leading provider of beautiful business applications specialized by industry and built for the cloud. With total annual revenue of \$2.8b and 15,000 employees, Infor covers 90,000 customers in over 200 countries worldwide.

www.infor.com

About GFA B.I.S.

GFA B.I.S., a member of the GFA Consulting Group, has specialized in the implementation of Infor SunSystems in the Official Development Assistance and Not-for-profit sector since 2002. Based on its in-depth understanding of international cooperation and profound IT knowledge, GFA B.I.S. is best suited for providing tailor-made solutions. The company is a certified Infor SunSystems associate channel partner.

www.gfa-bis.de