

NERCHA gains automated reporting with Infor products

Facts at a glance

Product: Infor SunSystems; Infor Query & Analysis
Industry: Parastatal
Country: Swaziland

“Financial Management of Multiple Grants is comparatively easy: You have to do payments, record payments and report on payments. These three easy steps can only be done when you have a good reporting module.”

Dumisani Kunene
Director Financial Services at NERCHA

About the organization

Headquartered in Mbabane, Swaziland, NERCHA – the National Emergency Response Council on HIV/AIDS provides leadership in the coordination of the national response to HIV and AIDS. NERCHA channels funds received from the Government, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and other multilateral partners. NERCHA works with organizational and community partners across all sectors to ensure that comprehensive services are delivered at grass-roots level throughout the country.

Under NERCHA's leadership, a strategic and multisectoral response to HIV and AIDS has been mounted. That has impacted thousands of Swazis in the areas of prevention, treatment and impact mitigation of AIDS. The response has a pointed focus on local, community-driven solutions that align with the national vision to have an AIDS-free Swaziland by 2022. These programs are geared to be sustainable and to target all segments of Swazi society, the uninfected, the infected and the affected.

To learn more about NERCHA, visit www.nercha.org.sz and www.youngheroes.org.sz

Setting the strategy

As a grant recipient (from the Swaziland Government, The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, bilateral and multilateral and other funders), NERCHA has the responsibility to ensure that every dollar is used as intended namely: to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. This responsibility comes with the need to provide detailed reports according to different criteria of the government, multi-lateral and bilateral partners.

While the old accounting software at NERCHA could provide financial statements, there were challenges with producing real-time financial reports. Furthermore there were difficulties

in adding analytical information to the transactions to enable automated comprehensive and analytical reporting. That's when the search for a robust accounting software started that would produce flexible and automated donor reports.

Getting business specific

Over the past years GFA B.I.S has developed a vertical Branch solution for NGO's and Parastatals based on Infor SunSystems. Infor SunSystems is a global financial management and analysis solution proven by more than 9,000 customers in 190+ 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 fulfill 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 independent of 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 transaction level and get the information needed direct in Excel, without an additional software. They can control the allocation of expenditures to budget lines contemporary and avoid budget overdrawings.

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 that Excel reports always show up to date values

through a direct interface to the financial database. Data can be analyzed 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.

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

Fast track implementation

As all grant recipients, NERCHA was interested in keeping the administration side of their business at a minimum. In this context, the total cost of ownership over the life of the system is most relevant. Over the past ten years, GFA B.I.S. has implemented Infor SunSystems in more than 50 projects in 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. Since NERCHA deals with multiple funding sources/ donors, it has an array of complex needs.

Seeing results

With Infor SunSystems and Infor Query & Analysis NERCHA is now able to record budgets, commitments and forecasts in one software and to add analysis values like programme/ budget code, disease, source of fund, expense category or contract code directly to each transactions. With this additional data entry even complex reporting requirements of all donors can be fulfilled. Controlling reports are generated automatically and sent on weekly basis to the responsible staff within NERCHA. These reports are customized to the recipient's authorization level and responsibility.

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

Some of the achievements/efforts include:

- Over 8,700 Journal Entries posted in Ledger Accounting alone
- 19 Functional automated reports, including donor and corporate reports i.e. PUDR/EFR and PEU
- 7 Handy Import templates
- Use of Infor Query & Analysis Alert reports

- Use of dual currency, providing spot-on exchange rates, eliminating the need of manual calculations in reporting
- Entire Finance and Procurement trained on the use of Infor SunSystems and Infor Query and Analysis
- Key Grant Management Unit and Response Leadership Department trained on the use of Infor Query and Analysis
- Successful data migration from old system
- All system related issues settled, or alternative solution implemented
- Tweaking system as and when necessary
- Real-time information/data readily available to end-users without the need for asking Finance and /or Procurement for details
- Updating relevant manuals
- Increased accountability and oversight

As users are increasingly becoming accustomed to the new system requirements, and processes surrounding non-system issues dealt with, efficiencies will essentially increase. Established automated monitoring reports can now be generated, verified, and used as a management monitoring tool for the System to function smoothly.

The readily available real-time financial information helps end-users (i.e. Project Managers) make informed decision and improve accountability, offering enormous value to the organization. Automated PUDRs/EFRs (donor reports) and various other reports such as Budget Monitoring Reports have enhanced Budget Management and made overall reporting and analysis easier.

About INFOR

Infor is fundamentally changing the way information is published and consumed in organizations, helping 73,000 customers in more than 200 countries and territories improve operations, drive growth, and quickly adapt to changes.

www.infor.com

About GFA B.I.S.

GFA B.I.S., member of the GFA Consulting Group, specializes 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 certified Infor SunSystems channel partner.

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