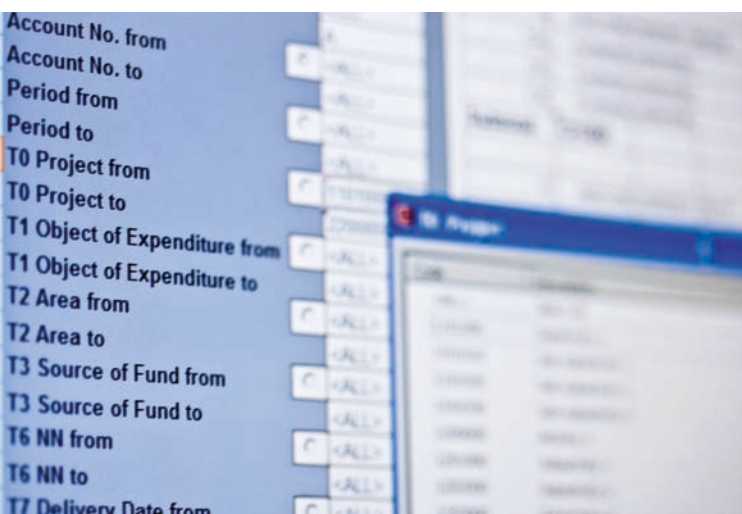


Fund and Financial Management Systems

Challenges

Development funding is increasingly scrutinized by tax payers, donors, and other stakeholders. International development organizations are expected to deliver credible information on their performance. Typically, they manage complex budgeting and reporting processes and have to meet the demands of a variety of stakeholders. Professional software solutions that help supervise the funds entrusted and produce transparent financial statements are a must.



However, accountability to external interest groups is not the only challenge. Managers require relevant financial data just in time as to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in planning and implementing projects and programs. Their responsibilities comprise setting up, monitoring and readjusting budgets on a regular basis. To this end, appropriate and easy-to-use tools which generate the required data in real-time provide significant assistance.

But there are different requirements for the financial management concerned and, consequently, the software to be purchased. Demands tend to increase by the number of donors, projects and sites an organization has to manage. While some institutions are able to contract professional finance staff, others delegate the keeping of accounts to a secretary who may lack accounting know-how. Ultimately, users should be able to operate the software in their desired language.

Therefore, setting up a suitable financial management system requires a tailor-made approach and a software package which

is flexible enough to allow for easy customization. Also, license and maintenance costs involved should be affordable, and time and effort spent on implementation and user training should be reasonable.

GFA B.I.S. Services

When developing financial management systems, GFA B.I.S. adheres to the guiding principle that the software should be adapted to our clients' needs. Existing processes may need to be streamlined in order to make accounting procedures consistent, but individual solutions is our prime concern.

GFA B.I.S. relies on INFOR FMS SunSystems, a world-renowned product highly suitable for international development organizations. It features outstanding analysis capabilities and a flexible reporting device based on MS Excel. INFOR FMS SunSystems has been configured by GFA B.I.S. to meet local and global accounting and reporting requirements of organizations handling budgets of one million to several hundred millions of Euro.

GFA B.I.S. offers its services throughout the whole project or program cycle. Starting from the analysis of procedures and processes, we enable system configuration and documentation, and the programming of reports. User training, ongoing support and maintenance is part of our services as well. Software solutions customized by GFA B.I.S. are implemented in a short period of time and at reasonable cost. Examples illustrating how the software helps organizations manage their funds are given overleaf.



GFA B.I.S. at Work

System Design for MCC Projects MCC, since 2006

Many Millenium Challenge Account (MCA) organizations that receive funds from the Government of the United States through the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) contract



GFA as fiscal agent to take on financial management on their behalf. Based on INFOR FMS SunSystems, GFA B.I.S. has developed and implemented tailor-made a accounting and reporting solution that supports MCC and MCA standards in Georgia, Armenia, Madagascar, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Lesotho, Mozambique, Morocco, Senegal, Philippines and Mongolia. The system uses the software's powerful analysis capabilities so that the implementation of activities, execution of contracts and utilization of funding sources can be tracked. In addition to the set of standard reports that facilitate the monitoring of budgets, invoices and payments, the software is flexible enough to adapt to local tax or other legal requirements. Other services provided by GFA B.I.S. encompass system maintenance, training, and online support. The majority of MCC projects managed by consulting companies rely on the GFA B.I.S. software solution. The related funds cover more than four billion US Dollars.

Natural Resource Management in Cameroon KfW, since 2007

GFA B.I.S. has developed a standard solution for smaller fund management projects which is characterized by full transparency and auditability on the one hand and low license and implementation costs on the other hand. In this project, KfW joined forces with other international donors to support the

Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife in Cameroon. GFA as implementing agency channels all funds to selected partner organizations. These account for the funds received by completing Excel templates that are imported into INFOR FMS SunSystems at the project's headquarters. This approach enables local bookkeepers to use simple tools when preparing accounts at different sites. Before data are transferred into SunSystems, consistency is checked by qualified accountants. GFA B.I.S. programmed KfW disbursement requests and reports in linr with relevant standards directly printed out of the accounting system.

Social Marketing of Condoms, Chad World Bank, KfW & Global Fund, since 2004

The project promotes condom use, improves the accessibility of condoms to the population and raises the awareness about the transmission and prevention of HIV/AIDS. GFA B.I.S. was commissioned by GFA Consulting Group to provide implementation services. In 2007, Quickbook was replaced by Infor FMS SunSystems as an enhanced solution for logistics and financial management. The new system comprises up to seven analysis dimensions, integrated logistic functions, automated budget management and donor reporting, and makes direct donor reporting possible. In 2010, the system has been extended in order to cover Global Fund reporting requirements.



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