BLACKBIRD FOR TRAINING

Advanced Financial Management for Donor-Funded Projects

5 – 16 April 2027
Geneva (Switzerland)



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Introduction

Effective financial management is a critical requirement for the success, credibility, and sustainability of donor-funded projects. Organizations managing donor resources must ensure transparency, compliance, accountability, and efficient use of funds while meeting detailed donor requirements and regulatory expectations.

This course provides a structured and professional understanding of financial management practices in donor-funded project environments. It focuses on budgeting, financial planning, reporting, compliance, risk management, internal controls, audit readiness, procurement oversight, digital financial tools, value-for-money, and financial sustainability.

The program helps participants strengthen their financial and operational capabilities in managing donor funds, improving expenditure control, enhancing reporting quality, and supporting sound financial decision-making across development, humanitarian, and institutional projects.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Understand donor funding frameworks and related compliance requirements.
- Strengthen budgeting and financial planning skills for donor-funded projects.
- Improve financial reporting, documentation, and accountability practices.
- Apply internal control measures and financial risk management tools.
- Manage fund utilization, disbursement, and cash flow more effectively.
- Prepare for audits and maintain continuous compliance with donor requirements.
- Use digital tools to improve financial monitoring and reporting efficiency.
- Apply value-for-money principles in project financial management.
- Track expenditures and analyze budget variances accurately.
- Support better financial decisions in donor-funded project environments.



Course Outline

Day 1: Introduction to Donor Financial Management

- Donor funding frameworks and regulatory requirements.
- Financial governance and accountability principles.
- Roles and responsibilities in project finance.
- Ethical standards in managing donor funds.
- Fraud prevention and misuse of resources.
- The relationship between funding, compliance, and project performance.

Day 2: Budgeting and Financial Planning

- Core principles of project budgeting.
- Cost estimation and allocation by project activity.
- Financial forecasting and resource planning.
- Cash flow planning for donor-funded projects.
- Budget monitoring and variance analysis.
- Budget revision procedures and approval requirements.

Day 3: Financial Reporting and Accountability

- Donor financial reporting requirements.
- Expenditure tracking against project budgets.
- Variance analysis between planned and actual spending.
- Supporting documentation and transparency requirements.
- Organizing financial files for review and audit.
- Best practices in preparing accurate financial reports.

Day 4: Risk Management and Internal Controls

- Internal control frameworks for donor-funded projects.
- Identification and assessment of financial risks.
- Risk mitigation procedures and control activities.
- Fraud prevention and financial misconduct controls.
- Compliance monitoring systems.
- Documentation and periodic review of internal controls.



Day 5: Fund Utilization and Disbursement Management

- Disbursement mechanisms and cash management.
- Payment planning based on project needs.
- Monitoring expenditure efficiency and resource use.
- Managing currency risks and funding fluctuations.
- Improving utilization of available financial resources.
- Linking disbursement to project outputs and performance indicators.

Day 6: Audit Readiness and Compliance

- Preparing for financial audits.
- Organizing financial records and supporting documents.
- Common compliance challenges in donor-funded projects.
- Responding to audit findings and observations.
- Corrective action planning.
- Maintaining continuous compliance throughout the project cycle.

Day 7: Procurement and Financial Oversight

- Procurement compliance requirements.
- Procurement procedures in donor-funded projects.
- Contract and vendor management.
- Financial oversight of procurement activities.
- Procurement and supply risk management.
- Documenting procurement processes for audit purposes.

Day 8: Technology in Financial Management

- Digital financial systems and enterprise resource planning tools.
- Financial dashboards for performance monitoring.
- Reporting automation and accuracy improvement.
- Cybersecurity considerations in financial systems.
- Improving financial process efficiency through technology.
- Using data to support financial decision-making.

Day 9: Value-for-Money and Financial Sustainability

- Value-for-money principles in donor-funded projects.
- Measuring project financial performance.
- Cost-effectiveness analysis.
- Linking resources to outputs and outcomes.
- Financial sustainability planning after donor funding.
- Improving the financial and developmental impact of projects.



Day 10: Integrated Financial Management

- Integrated financial management practices in donor-funded projects.
- Linking budgeting, reporting, compliance, and internal controls.
- Best practices in managing donor-funded projects.
- Strategic financial improvement planning.
- Comprehensive review of key concepts and applications.
- Final assessment and practical case application.

Why Attend This Course: Wins & Losses!

- Strengthen financial management and compliance capabilities.
- Improve budgeting and financial reporting skills.
- Increase readiness for financial audits and donor reviews.
- Apply practical approaches to risk management and internal controls.
- Improve the efficiency of fund utilization and disbursement.
- Use digital tools to enhance financial operations and reporting.
- Develop sustainable financial practices based on value-for-money.
- Support better decision-making in donor-funded environments.
- Reduce risks related to non-compliance and weak documentation.
- Improve transparency and accountability with donors and stakeholders.

Conclusion

The Advanced Financial Management for Donor-Funded Projects course provides a structured framework for understanding the financial, compliance, and control requirements of donor-funded programs.

By covering financial planning, budgeting, reporting, internal controls, risk management, audit readiness, procurement oversight, and financial technology, the course helps participants improve their ability to manage donor resources efficiently and transparently.

The course also emphasizes accountability, expenditure quality, and sustainable financial performance in changing development and institutional environments. By the end of the program, participants will be better prepared to apply advanced financial management practices that support compliance, efficiency, and sustainability in donor-funded projects.

