

FSMU Overview

FINANCIAL SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT UNIT (FSMU)

As a key factor in the ongoing improvement of information technology management and support, Finance Division established the Financial Systems Management Unit (FSMU) in July 2006. The FSMU is a single organisational structure that works across the whole of the public finance business areas, but primarily Finance Division (FD) and Controller General of Accounts (CGA), to not only focus on the support of the hardware and systems, but also provide expert management and advice on technology to senior management. As a single structure the FSMU benefits from resource flexibility and economies of scale.

The FSMU has been implemented through means of a Standing Committee that consists of some 32 personnel, including 8 GoB IT officers and outsourced staff (supplied under a single service contract). Staff of the FSMU are grouped within three key management functions of: Accounting Division, Budget Division and Infrastructure Services Division. The unit is headed by a Director (Additional/Joint Secretary, Budget) and managed by an Additional Director (Senior Systems Analyst, CGA). With a view to the long-term sustainability of the FSMU, and the ICT hardware and systems that the unit supports, GoB now feels that there is need to formalise the FSMU through the creation of its positions as a permanent structure of GoB.

Financial System Management Unit (FSMU) not only providing the technical supports but there are various types of functions are done by it, there are as follows

1. Accounting Systems

The Accounting Systems division is tasked with the management of all activities for the operation of the accounting, auditing and related systems in place or planned for implementation at the CGA, its sub-offices and optionally at the office of Comptroller & Auditor General (C&AG). The division is managed along functional lines with two key areas of activity:

Systems Support: to provide all end-user technical support of all hardware, software and applications; to deliver training and to liaise with the functional support officers of the Accounting systems to resolve end-user problems. This function also includes a helpdesk officer to log, assign and track problem calls;

Server Operations: to provide system/database administration, backup/recovery, reporting system password control and expert advice on areas requiring intimate database knowledge of the accounting/auditing systems.

These sections are not limited in their activities and may provide further services for the effective operation and everyday management of the systems of CGA, C&AG and also to provide supporting services to Financial Management Academy (FIMA).

2. Budget Systems

Similar in concept to the Accounting Systems division, Budget Systems division is tasked with the management of all activities relating to the support of the Ministry of Finance (MoF) budgeting, debt management and related systems at Finance Division and second line of support for the budget systems at the line Ministries. The division is also managed along functional lines with two key areas of activity, Systems Support & Server Operations, of the budget/debt management systems. In working with the ever growing number of Ministries adopting the Mid-Term Budgetary Framework (MTBF) approach to budgeting, it is necessary that the Systems Support section will provide secondary line of support for all financial systems in use at the Ministries. The Ministries themselves should utilise their own IT staff in the first instance for any IT related problem. However, should the Ministry IT staff not be able to resolve a problem related to the financial systems then the MoF based Budget Systems Support section will take the necessary action to resolve it.

3. Infrastructure Services

The Infrastructure Services (IS) division has the most diverse role to play within the FSMU. It manages, administers and supervises all underlying physical equipment and networks required to operate the various financial systems in use at MoF, CGA and its offices, MTBF line-ministries, C&AG and FIMA, while also providing specialised services across the whole of the MoF for the security and proper operation of the IT systems. The division is divided along functional lines with the following sections:

Hardware Management: Dealing with hardware procurement, stock control, maintenance and minor equipment repairs this section ensures the availability and working condition of all PCs, printers, LAN networking devices, and servers.

Network Administration & Security: This group has sole responsibility for the support, administration and security of all computer networks (LAN & WAN). There are 2 key functions within this group: WAN Administration and security: ensuring the continued operation of all wide area network links and both physical and logical security of the network; and Network Administration: dealing with the administration of the single Windows network operating across the total WAN and the services provided, such as internet, email, web and intranet site hosting.

4. Software Development Services

The Software Development Services division is a role that is currently provided by Consultants and Programmers of the ongoing project. However, as the project ends, provision should be made to engage a number of Systems Analysts and Programmers to both maintain and enhance the systems already in place and those being introduced. This includes the various applications across all Public Financial Management (PFM) areas and also web and intranet sites of Finance. The Section provides all types of software development services, starting from systems specification and definition to programming (whether in-house or managed out-sourced), implementation, training, auditing, testing and promotion of standards.

Under initiatives so far taken by the Finance Division, a fully functional and professional Financial Management System has been established to work across all areas of public financial management for support of its IT hardware, software and infrastructure needs. However, this structure is not permanent and relies on both the current limited GoB IT resources and staff provided through an outsourced services contract, currently funded by the project, organised in a committee structure. Recognising that the need that the management and support of IT services is very much a necessity, the Finance Division would now like to formalise the role of the FSMU within the organisation and thereby create its function as a permanent GoB structure.