Training Course on Auditing of Donor Funded Projects

Professional Development Training Course Outline

Category	Business	**Duration**	10 Days
Base Fee	$3,000 USD	**Delivery Mode**	Online / On-site Hybrid

Course Introduction

Donor-funded projects are cornerstones of international development, humanitarian aid, and research initiatives, channeling significant resources towards critical goals. However, these funds come with stringent **accountability**, **transparency**, and **compliance** requirements set by diverse donors like the World Bank, USAID, EU, UN agencies, and private foundations. Effectively **auditing donor-funded projects** is therefore not just a regulatory necessity but a vital function ensuring funds are used efficiently, effectively, and for their intended purpose, safeguarding **financial stewardship** and maintaining stakeholder trust in a complex global landscape. Mastering the unique **audit methodologies**, risk considerations, and reporting standards specific to this sector is crucial for professionals tasked with providing assurance.

This intensive training course provides participants with the specialized knowledge and practical skills required to conduct high-quality audits of projects financed by international and domestic donors. It delves into the specific **risk environment**, complex **regulatory frameworks**, and **donor agreement** nuances inherent in these engagements. Participants will explore the entire **audit cycle**, from planning and risk assessment focused on **grant compliance** and **fraud detection**, through execution involving rigorous testing of controls and transactions, to effective reporting that meets diverse **donor reporting standards** and supports project improvement. The course emphasizes a practical, risk-based approach aligned with international auditing standards.

By completing this program, professionals will be equipped to navigate the complexities of **donor audits**, enhance **internal control systems**, and provide valuable assurance to both implementing organizations and funding agencies. This training aims to build **auditing capacity**, promote **best practices** in financial management and **grant management**, and ultimately contribute to greater project success, improved development outcomes, and sustained **stakeholder confidence**. Participants will gain the competence to identify non-compliance, recommend corrective actions, and ensure **value for money (VfM)** is achieved within donor-funded initiatives.

Programme Curriculum

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Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, participants will be able to:

1. **Interpret** diverse **donor regulations**, grant agreements, and specific funding requirements.
2. **Develop** comprehensive, **risk-based audit plans** tailored to donor-funded project environments.
3. **Assess** project **internal control systems** for design adequacy and operating effectiveness against donor expectations.
4. **Execute** effective **compliance testing** procedures covering eligibility, procurement, financial reporting, and grant conditions.
5. **Apply** substantive **audit procedures** to verify project expenditures, income, assets, and liabilities.
6. **Identify** key **fraud risks** and red flags specific to donor-funded projects and apply appropriate detection techniques.

7. **Evaluate** project **procurement processes** for compliance with donor rules and sound commercial practices.
8. **Audit** personnel costs, timesheets, and related expenditures for **allowability** and compliance.
9. **Master** appropriate **audit sampling techniques** for use in donor audit engagements.
10. **Compile** sufficient, appropriate **audit evidence** and maintain robust audit documentation (working papers).
11. **Draft** clear, concise, and actionable **audit reports**, including findings, recommendations, and audit opinions acceptable to donors.
12. **Analyze** financial reports for **consistency** with donor reporting templates and underlying project records.
13. **Understand** the principles of **Value for Money (VfM)** audits in the context of donor projects.

Organizational Benefits

- Enhanced **donor compliance**, reducing risks of disallowed costs and reputational damage.
- Strengthened **internal controls** over project funds, mitigating fraud and financial mismanagement.
- Improved **financial reporting** accuracy and timeliness to donors, fostering trust.
- Increased **audit efficiency** and effectiveness through skilled personnel.
- Greater assurance for management and governing bodies regarding **grant management**.
- Improved project performance and likelihood of achieving objectives through better oversight.
- Enhanced capacity to secure future **donor funding** through demonstrated accountability.
- Contribution to overall organizational **governance** and **risk management** frameworks.

Target Participants

1. Internal Auditors (NGOs, International Organizations, Government)
2. External Auditors & Consultants
3. Project Managers & Coordinators
4. Finance Managers & Officers (Implementing Agencies)
5. Grant Managers & Administrators
6. Compliance Officers
7. Donor Agency Staff (Program & Financial Oversight)
8. Government Officials overseeing donor projects

Course Outline

Module 1: Introduction to Donor Funded Projects & Auditing

- Overview of the donor funding landscape (types of donors, trends).
- Importance of accountability, transparency, and compliance.
- Unique characteristics and challenges of donor-funded projects.
- Role and responsibilities of auditors (internal vs. external).
- Applicable auditing standards (ISA, INTOSAI, specific donor standards).

Module 2: The Donor Grant Agreement & Regulatory Framework

- Key components of grant agreements and contracts.
- Understanding specific donor regulations (e.g., USAID CFR, EU PRAG, WB Guidelines).
- Identifying key compliance requirements (financial, programmatic, reporting).
- Hierarchy of regulations and contractual obligations.
- Common pitfalls in agreement interpretation.

Module 3: Audit Planning & Risk Assessment

- Understanding the project context, objectives, and activities.
- Identifying inherent, control, and detection risks specific to donor projects.
- Materiality considerations in a compliance-driven environment.
- Developing the overall audit strategy and detailed audit plan.
- Techniques for risk-based audit scoping.

Module 4: Assessing Internal Control Systems

- Key components of internal control (Control Environment, Risk Assessment, Control Activities, Information & Communication, Monitoring).
- Evaluating the design and implementation of controls over project funds.
- Common control weaknesses in donor-funded projects.
- Testing the operating effectiveness of key controls.
- Upcoming Scheduled Sessions

Start Date	End Date	Location	Price
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Online	$2,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$3,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$6,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$6,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$12,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$9,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$12,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$12,000

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