

Aid Sector

SunSystems Modules:

- Core Module
- Ledger Accounting
- Multi-currency
- Process Manager

Database:

- ISAM

Platform:

- Windows 95

Interface with:

- Head office
accounts system

Industry Sector:

- Not-for-Profit
- Aid agency

Geographic Locations:

- Worldwide

→ Company description:

Save the Children (UK) is a leading charity that works to create a better world for children. It operates in 60-70 countries at any time helping children in the world's most impoverished communities. The UK-based charity is part of the International Save the Children Alliance, a group of 30 like-minded but separately managed member organizations working in over 120 countries. They champion the right of every child to have a secure and happy childhood and the right to be protected from violence, abuse and exploitation.

The brief:

Prior to the introduction of SunSystems, there was no standard finance system in the field offices resulting in re-keying and high courier costs.

The solution:

Outside the UK, all financial management is handled on SunSystems.

Because of the worldwide spread of Save the Children programs, its multi-currency and multi-lingual capabilities are prerequisites. Moreover, it is not unusual for goods to be bought in one country for use in another. In London, these costs are automatically recharged to ensure completeness of reporting.

The benefits:

Of the GB£110m+ (US\$180m+) income of Save the Children (UK), roughly half is restricted funds. These are donated either with a specific usage in mind or as grants for defined purposes. The ability to account for every penny or cent of grants received is essential since full reporting back to donors can be required. Future funds are more likely to be secured if previous donations are shown to have been wisely spent.

The result:

Angela Connolly, head of the finance systems development unit, said:

"Consistent consolidation of our monthly accounts and a high accuracy of data for donors were major drivers for choosing SunSystems. The time and money we have saved through improved administration processes is considerable. For grants with particular uses in mind, our reports must be very detailed to demonstrate compliance. Providing this information, cost effectively, is vital. And that means more of our funds can be spent on saving children."

Websites:

Save the Children (UK) ... www.savethechildren.org.uk
International Save the Children Alliance ... www.savethechildren.net



Photo by Kalpesh Lathigra/ Save the Children UK