

# Successful introduction of WINPACCS

WINPACCS Symposium 2024 Katja Horstmann, Sebastian Huthmacher, Martin Schömburg 06.11.2024

Outset

Introduction of WINPACCS



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**Introduction of WINPACCS** 



- International humanitarian aid organization and relief agency of the Catholic Sovereign Order of Malta
- For over 60 years we provide relief and recovery for people during and following conflicts and disasters around the world.

Americas

6 countries

in program funding Maltese

21 projects

Africa

«31.9<sub>MM</sub>

8

in program funding countries projects

45

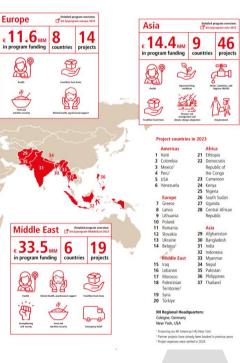
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warious projects in the Americas region. Both organizations have a comb

man whome of £ 11.9 million after intercompany adjustments. Further inform

- In over 30 countries in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and the Middle East, we support people in need – regardless of their religion, origin or political convictions.
- Interventions focus on the areas of Health, WASH, FNS & Livelihood
- Employs close to 1,000 Malteser International staff members
- Approx. 97 million € (2023) in program funding in approx. 150 projects









- Legally part of MHD e.V., part of the Caritas Verband e.V.
- Annual closure and accounting subject to the HGB (German Commercial Code)
- HQ/ General Secretariat is in Cologne, countries of project implementation considered as branch offices (centralised system)
- Partially self-implementation of projects; but more and more projects are implemented with national partner organizations
- Main donors: The German Federal Foreign Office (AA), German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation & Development (various BMZ budget lines), ECHO, EuropeAid, USAID, UN-organizations, Global Fund, wide variety of foundations
- Euro as company currency
- Accounting software used by MI since 2005: Fundtrac 2.8 & Fundtrac Light 3.0 by CIWI GmbHc combines project and financial accounting in one system



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#### **Outset:** Reasons for Change

- Colleagues around the world complaining about availability and quality of financial data
  - $\rightarrow$  Challenges faced
    - Late availability of financial data in main system FT 2.8
    - Parallel excel cash books for reporting and budget controls
    - Exchange rate calculation prone to errors
    - $\cdot$  Correction of mistakes/ reallocation of bookings only possible in the main system/ in HQ
    - Lots of manual data consolidation and comparison between excel and accounting system
    - Budget control too complicated in system, donor reporting therefore not possible
- Need for better performing, up to date, and user-friendly project accounting software, as outcome of strategic analysis with participation of the field
- No further development of Fundtrac by the software producer planned (technical + content)





#### **Outset:** Selection process

- Requirements:
- tried and tested software that is already in use by other NGOs
- HGB certification
- SAP interface
- Market analysis and exchange with other NGOs over several years
- Deep-dive into 3 software solutions





### **Outset:** Why WINPACCS?

**WINPACCS**<sup>®</sup> CLOUD



- Up to date tool with more possibilities and modern user interface
- Ready-to-use software with little customization requirements
- Reduction of Excel files
- Simplified and extended donor reporting with individual customization possibilities
- Minimization of frequent errors through automized processes (e.g. exchange rate calculation)
- Partner reporting and connection to partner accounting (new module end 2024)
- Individual WINPACCS Accounting installations per user/ laptop
- Accounting App usable offline and online
- Access to WINPACCS Cloud database possible from anywhere
- Expertise of mbi for more than 20 years in this field



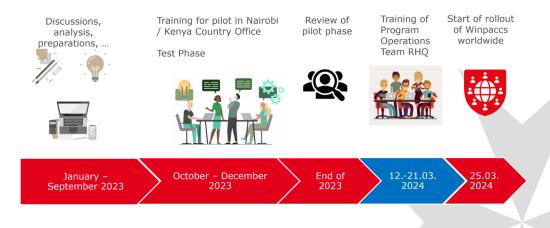
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### Introduction of WINPACCS: First steps/Consultation process

- 1. Reading of white papers and meetings with mbi to get an understanding of the software
- 2. MI internal: intensive analysis of what processes need to be changed if new software is introduced
- 3. Regular exchange with mbi on upcoming questions
- 4. Training by mbi of selected HQ key staff from different departments to get their view on the software
- 5. Introduction of software in pilot location





#### Introduction of WINPACCS: Pilot Project



- Before final decision, MI conducted a 4-month pilot project as "field test" in productive environment
- Checking of postings (day- and month-end closures by HQ) to get a better feeling and understanding for the problems on all levels
- Separate offer and service by mbi, with possibility to pull out, i.e. true pilot
- Nairobi selected as pilot location due to:
  - $\circ\,$  Representative amount of postings
  - $\circ\,$  "Standard set-up" of MI location, not too complicated
  - $\,\circ\,$  Country responsible knowledgeable of financial topics
  - $\circ~$  Stable internet connection



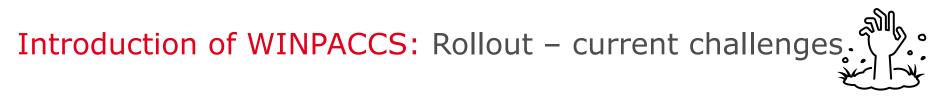


#### Introduction of WINPACCS: Roll-out

- 2-year plan: rollout to be completed by end of 2025 instead of big bang
- Wherever possible trainings are done on-site in the project locations
- Check list of to dos before roll-out discussed with locations 6-8 weeks in advance
- Call with location ca. 4 weeks before training to discuss set-up (money flows) and "special" cases
- 3-4 weeks in locations for on-the-job support of the staff members (at least 1 week ahead of the training and 2 weeks after the training for a "live" posting of vouchers and support in processes)
- mbi consultant supports each training for 3 days
- MI team of 3 people: WINPACCS project management, trainings, 1<sup>st</sup> level support







• Change process is always uncomfortable, a lot of adjustments and communication is needed.

Pick-up of field locations well in advance is required (e.g. day-end closure).

#### Example Terminology :

Fundtrac	Winpaccs	Description
Cash in Cash out Date	Voucher Date	Date of payment
Voucher Date	Invoice Date	Date on the receipt

- Ready-to-use software means that structure must be adjusted to software not the other way around
- Revision/ adaption of software only done when beneficial to all clients
- Despite double entry system, no financial accounting component (yet)
- SAP interface needs to already be taken into consideration, as well as current software



## Introduction of WINPACCS: Rollout – current challenges

- Currently, in the transition period, reporting still needs to be extracted from old system because of existing data from ongoing projects and current HQ expenses → full potential of new software cannot yet be felt by all colleagues
- Budget control does not have a forecast function
- User roles are highly detailed (down to almost every function) but tied to defined overall users (not adjustable). MI needs many predefined user roles.





#### Introduction of WINPACCS: Rollout – already visible successes

- Successfully rolled out in 9 locations, half of the envisaged trainings completed
- Financial data more up to date (Colleagues of Turkey team were able to post a whole month in one day /150 postings)
- Improved access to relevant reports
- Reporting currency
- Voucher list according to donor requirements
- Processes need to be newly thought through: a chance to update outdated processes







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### **Outlook & Conclusion:** Next Steps



- 7-8 more trainings in locations, rollout in 12 locations to be completed by October 2025
- Pilot with partner organization to import partner data in WINPACCS and be able to create consolidated reports
- Add inventorization feature
- Integration with SAP/4-Hana through direct interface up and down



#### **Outlook & Conclusion:** Conclusion

• Lesson Learnt:

- $\circ$  Focus has to be fully on the trainings: All required staff (including coordinators) have to attend
- $_{\odot}$  Requires constant "keeping at it" and proactive follow-up by the 1st level support
- $_{\odot}$  Need for better planning regarding data merging between the systems (interface)
- $_{\odot}$  Allocate key staff to closely accompany pilot project
- Very open, constructive and helpful exchange with mbi on how to deal with challenges
- At the moment, the introduction is a lot of work and the process is bumpy, but we are still convinced that it is the right project finance software for us
- To put it in the words of a colleague from Kenya: "It has a lot of potential, and we can make it work well for us"



