The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) is the only professional accountancy body and member of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) specialising in the public sector. Our strategic purpose is “Working in the public interest, to promote high standards and deliver excellence in governance and financial management throughout the public services”. Our role is to advance public financial management (PFM) and promote best practice. In the UK, we are the leading independent commentator on PFM and governance. Around the world, we champion the performance of public services by driving the effective and efficient use of public money.

CIPFA is the awarding body for the CPFA (Chartered Public Finance Accountant) qualification, the global gold standard for PFM. Our portfolio of international PFM qualifications includes the International Certificate, Diploma, Advanced Diploma and Professional Qualification in PFM. CIPFA offers stand-alone qualifications in International Public Sector Accounting Standards, Cert IPSAS, and awards other qualifications in PFM, including in internal audit and accountancy, to students around the world.

CIPFA is a founder member of IFAC, the International Accounting Standards Board and the Fédération des Experts Comptables Européens. We are a registered UK charity with a Royal Charter. Established in 1885, we have some 250 staff and 14,000 members working in public service bodies, national audit agencies and major national and international accountancy firms, often at the most senior levels.

Our staff

CIPFA is staffed by leading PFM experts covering all issues relating to PFM, from key service sectors such as health, education and policing, to PFM at central, regional and local levels, to accounting, audit and counter-fraud. Further information about CIPFA’s in-house expertise can be found at https://www.cipfa.org/cipfa-thinks/cipfa-experts. Our projects are implemented by a combination of this in-house technical expertise and a small number of trusted associates, who work closely with CIPFA on a regular basis.

CIPFA staff and members hold influential positions on a number of cross-sector IFAC Boards and Committees, including the International Accounting Education Standards Board and the Professional Accountancy Organisations Development Committee. CIPFA is also a member of IFAC’s International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board and chair several IFAC Task Forces. These appointments mean that CIPFA members and staff are uniquely positioned to actively promote excellence in international PFM, sustainable capacity development and ultimately, the reduction of poverty.

Our experience

CIPFA’s training capacity is comprehensive. Through our in-house education and training centre we deliver the full range of CIPFA courses throughout the UK and, working with Kaplan and other carefully selected training partners, at locations around the world. We have an active and growing portfolio of international projects, educating and training professionals in developed and less developed countries. Recent projects include:

- **Somalia – PFM Education and Training Programme (World Bank, 2014-2017):** As part of a consortium, we delivered training in our IPFM Certificate to more than 200 Somali civil servants at Federal and State level through building PFM training capacity in four local universities, supported by an online distance learning platform. The project also delivered budget training workshops and developed a scheme of service for the PFM cadre.

- **Philippines – Professionalising the PFM workforce: Phase 1 design of a PFM Competency Framework (2013):** As part of a consortium, we designed a competency framework for approximately 60,000 government PFM staff.

- **Bangladesh – Strengthening the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (World Bank, 2012-present):** As part of the SPEMP-B programme in
Bangladesh, we are providing capacity development services to the OCAG’s Financial Management Training Academy.

- **Worldwide – UN Agencies Finance Training & Certification Programme (UN, 2010-present):** Provision of training and assessment on CIPFA’s IPFM qualifications to staff from the UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNOCHA, in more than 140 countries across all regions of the world.

- **Nigeria – Modernisation of the Federal Treasury Academy (2010-present):** Professionalisation of PFM at the Federal level, including capacity development of the Academy to enable them to provide courses leading to CIPFA’s IPFM qualifications, provision of courseware, assessment of students and award of qualifications.

- **Africa - Piloting of the World Bank PFM Staff Capacity Development Initiative (2008-2009):** With the Institute for Public Finance and Auditing of South Africa, we developed a PFM qualifications framework and criteria for accreditation of programmes and piloted the programme.

- **Lesotho – Strengthening the capacity of the Centre for Accounting Studies (2005-present):** Review of training needs and recommendations on an approach to the training of PFM staff in government, followed by a report into the feasibility of introducing CIPFA qualifications in Lesotho. The programme commenced in December 2006 and has been extended several times. We continue to train PFM students in Lesotho, and to date over 300 have undertaken some or all of their PFM qualifications.

- **Slovenia:** We supported the Centre of Excellence in Finance (CEF), who train students on CIPFA programmes, including the International Certificate and Diploma in Public Sector Internal Auditing. Courses have been taught in **Slovenia, Croatia, Albania, Macedonia, Moldova and Kosovo.** CIPFA provided all of the learning materials, training for tutors and assessment processes and continue to provide quality control.

**Our areas of expertise**

CIPFA’s Education and Training Centre (CETC) has delivered certificated training on internal audit, external audit, financial reporting, basic financial skills, the IPFM and the Professional Qualification in many countries around the world. Since its founding in 1986, CETC has delivered training to over 20,000 students, from CPFA in central London to trainee auditors in **SE Europe**, finance staff in **Africa** and professional accountants in **Australia and Canada**. They have delivered training on IPSAS for students in **Azerbaijan** and on internal audit for staff at the **European Union**.

CIPFA has also provided training in the implementation of the **PEFA** framework in **Armenia, India, Tanzania, Germany** and the United Kingdom. This training has been provided for government officials, donor organisations and other bodies. More recently, CIPFA has been delivering training on IPSAS, both face-to-face and though online certified training. This runs alongside our International Certificate in International Public Sector Financial Reporting, which includes training in both IPSAS and IFRS for public sector bodies. This certified qualification is available globally.