Prosperminds

Issue 03 · Double edition
November–December 2026

The Prosper Bulletin

PFM analytics, AI and IPSAS, in five minutes

THE BIG IDEA

Clean data first. AI next. IPSAS gets easier.

It seems like everyone wants AI, while your books still need work. You are not behind. Good AI and good IPSAS reports both need data you can trust. This issue gives you nine lessons and nine small actions.

67,000+
ghost names removed from Ghana's public payroll[1]

53%
lower typical fraud loss where data is checked regularly[2]

56%
of governments expected on accrual by 2030, up from 31% in 2024[3]

FOUR PLAIN WORDS

PFM analytics	Using finance data to find errors, risks and savings.
AI	Software that can sort, draft or flag work. A person still decides.
IPSAS	Global accounting standards for governments.
Accrual	Recording income and costs when they happen, not only when cash moves.

INSIDE

PFM analytics	Page 2
AI	Page 3
IPSAS compliance	Page 4
Your action sheet	Page 5
Learn with us, and sources	Page 6

PART 1 · PFM ANALYTICS

Your data already knows.

You do not need new software to start. You need two lists and a little time. Both lessons below work in a spreadsheet you already own.

1 Compare two lists to find who has left.

Ghana's system showed that 53,311 staff had left government. But those exit details did not reach the office that stops salaries. An audit found that 2,446 of them were paid after they left.[4]

Ghana has now removed more than 67,000 ghost names.[1] The Auditor-General has recovered GH¢57.2 million. Staff now pass a biometric check every quarter, and supervisors who approve false pay can be made to repay it.[5]

The lesson: errors hide in the gap between two lists.

DO THIS

Put last month's payroll beside your HR exit list. Mark every name on both. Check each one this week.

EXCEL HELP

```
=COUNTIF(ExitList!A:A, A2)
```

Keep staff IDs in column A of both sheets. A result above 0 means: check this name.

2 Check payments often, not once a year.

A global study of 2,402 fraud cases compared groups that check their data regularly with groups that do not. Those with regular checks had lower losses, and they found the fraud sooner.[2] This shows a link, not proof of cause. The study covers all sectors, not only government.

The lesson: a small test, repeated, beats a big test done late.

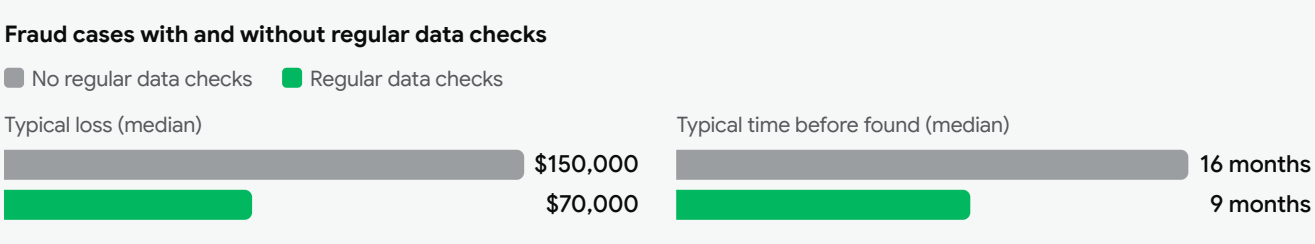
DO THIS

Sort this year's payments by supplier and amount. Flag any repeats. "ABC Ltd" and "A.B.C. Limited" may be one firm. Check each flag, then repeat every month.

EXCEL HELP

```
=COUNTIFS(B:B, B2, C:C, C2)
```

Keep supplier in column B and amount in column C. A result above 1 means: check this payment.



PART 2 · AI

Start small. Keep a person in charge.

AI is a helper, not a replacement for people.[12] These three lessons show where it works, where to begin, and how to stay safe.

3 Give AI good data from outside your office.

South Africa's tax office (SARS) assesses returns using data from employers, banks, medical schemes, retirement funds and insurers. It uses AI and machine learning to spot risks. It assessed six million taxpayers automatically in a year, and those due refunds were paid within 72 hours.[6] SARS also collected R2.01 trillion, its first time above R2 trillion.[7]

The lesson: AI is only as good as the data behind it.

DO THIS

Pick one number you report. Name one outside record that can prove it, such as a bank statement. Compare the two this month.

4 Begin with your own rule book.

The World Bank says Africa has 18% of the world's people but just 0.6% of its data centre capacity. It says the biggest near-term chance is adapting "practical, low-cost tools", not chasing the most advanced models.[8]

Nigeria's Service-Wise GPT is one local example. It helps civil servants find answers in the Constitution, public service rules and financial regulations.[9] Government reports 50,000+ conversations by May 2026, and says early users saved 73% of their time. These figures have not been checked independently.[10]

The lesson: start where the answers can be checked.

DO THIS

List the 10 rule questions your team asks most. Ask an approved AI tool. Check each answer against the rule book. Use no private data.

PROMPT TO COPY

"Answer only from the document I give you. Name the section you used. If the answer is not there, say 'not found'."

5 Make a named person check all AI work.

In 2025, a large consulting firm agreed to repay part of its fee to the Australian government. Its 237-page report had a made-up court quote and references to research that did not exist.[11] The OECD says human oversight is essential for trust and accountability.[12]

The lesson: AI can sound sure and still be wrong.

DO THIS

Add one office rule: no AI number, quote or source goes into a report until a named officer checks it at the source.

PART 3 · IPSAS COMPLIANCE

One step at a time, in the right order.

IPSAS use is growing. Of the governments on accrual in 2024, 66% used IPSAS in some way. By 2030, that share is expected to reach 81%.[3]

6 Know which dates apply to you.

These are the IPSAS Board's start dates.[13,14] Your national law decides what applies in your country. If you apply them and your year ends on 31 December, 2026 is the first year for the green column.

DO THIS

Ask your Accountant-General: "Which IPSAS version do we use this year-end?" Write the answer in your policy.

1 Jan 2025	1 Jan 2026	1 Jan 2027	1 Jan 2028
IPSAS 43 Leases; 44 Assets held for sale; 45 Property, plant and equipment; 46 Measurement	IPSAS 47 Revenue; 48 Transfer Expenses; 49 Retirement Benefit Plans	IPSAS 50 Mineral Resources; Concessionary Leases; Definition of Material	IPSAS 51 Natural Resources; SRS 1 Climate; updated IPSAS 33

7 Read your grant agreements again.

IPSAS 47 replaces three older revenue standards. Under IPSAS 47 and 48, the accounting depends on whether a binding arrangement exists.[15] So the agreement now shapes the numbers.

DO THIS

Mark your 5 largest grants or transfers: binding, yes or no. Give the list to your accountant.

8 Move to accrual in stages.

Kenya's Treasury split the change across three financial years.[16] It expects a fuller picture of pending bills, pensions and debt.[17]

DO THIS

Draw your own three-year table. Start with cash, unpaid bills and debt.

To June 2025	To June 2026	To June 2027
Cash, money owed to you, investments, unpaid bills, debt	Adds inventories	All assets and liabilities

9 Start your asset count early.

Kaduna State in Nigeria adopted accrual IPSAS in 2016. Its Accountant General reports better asset management and spending tracking. The same official says finding and valuing old assets remains slow.[17] IPSAS 33 gives first-time adopters some exemptions, for three years at most.[18]

DO THIS

Walk one site. Check 10 assets against the register. Note any gaps.

YOUR ACTION SHEET

Nine small actions.

Print this page. Give each action an owner and a date. Would it be a bad idea to try just one before 31 December?

DONE	#	ACTION	OWNER	BY WHEN
☐	1	Compare payroll with your HR exit list.		
☐	2	Sort payments by supplier and amount. Check repeats.		
☐	3	Prove one reported number with one outside record.		
☐	4	Test AI on your 10 most common rule questions.		
☐	5	Add the rule: a named officer checks all AI work.		
☐	6	Confirm which IPSAS version applies this year-end.		
☐	7	Mark your 5 largest grants: binding, yes or no.		
☐	8	Draw your own three-year accrual table.		
☐	9	Walk one site. Check 10 assets against the register.		

We have no budget for AI. Where do we start?

Start with Lessons 1 and 2. They need no AI at all. The World Bank also lists skills and data among the things that make AI work.[8]

Do this: Tidy one list, such as your supplier names.

Can we put government data into an AI tool?

Not by default. The World Bank urges governments to apply their data protection and cybersecurity rules to AI risks.[8] Test on public documents first.

Do this: Ask your ICT and legal teams which tools are approved.

THE ONE QUESTION

Which two finance lists in your office have never been compared?

Send us your answer and what you found at **info@prosper-minds.com**. We may share the best lessons in the next issue, with your permission.

LEARN WITH PROSPERMINDS · NEXT UP

Christmas PFM Mastery School for the Digital Finance Era

Sarova Whitesands, Mombasa. 14–18 December 2026. Training on 15, 16 and 17 December. Write to info@prosper-minds.com.

Register now

IPSAS and PFM Analytics Conference

Nairobi

26–30 April 2027

Data Modelling in PFM and IPSAS Compliance Conference

Cape Town

23–27 August 2027

Christmas PFM School for Data Analytics and IPSAS

Mombasa

6–10 December 2027

2027 events: USD 550 each. Register 3 months before and pay USD 440. Register 2 months before: USD 467.50. Register 1 month before: USD 495.

PFM Insight Live. Free monthly webinar on PFM analytics and AI, with our partner CapaBuil.

www.prosper-minds.com

SOURCES

Sources were checked on 5 November 2026. Where a result comes from a government's own report, we say so. Click a title to read the source.

1 Ecofin Agency. Ghana payroll purge removes 67,000 ghost names. 28 Apr 2026.

2 ACFE. Occupational Fraud 2026: A Report to the Nations, Spanish edition, Figures 28–29. 2026.

3 IFAC and CIPFA. International Public Sector Financial Accountability Index: 2025 Status Report, pp. 2–4. Sep 2025.

4 Daily Graphic, Ghana. Auditor-General recovers GH¢10m unearned salaries. 16 Sep 2025.

5 MyJoyOnline, Ghana. GH¢57.2m unearned salaries recovered by Auditor-General. Apr 2026.

6 ITWeb. SARS crosses R2tn as AI reshapes tax collection. 2 Apr 2026.

7 SAnews, South African Government. SARS exceeds R2 trillion in 2025/26 net revenue collection. 1 Apr 2026.

8 World Bank. Africa Economic Update: Building AI Readiness, Executive Summary, pp. 4–7. Oct 2026.

9 Radio Nigeria Lagos. Federal Civil Service to go fully digital by December 2025. Oct 2025.

10 Apolitical. Two audiences, two tools: how Nigeria uses AI (case study). 2026.

11 Associated Press, via News4JAX. Deloitte to partially refund Australian government for report with apparent AI-generated errors. 7 Oct 2025.

12 OECD.AI. AI in Government: Public financial management. Undated.

13 IPSASB. Work Program, September 2025 (dates for 2025 and 2026). Sep 2025.

14 IPSASB. Work Program, March 2026 (dates for 2027 and 2028). Mar 2026.

15 IPSASB. IPSASB issues package of revenue and transfer expense pronouncements. May 2023.

16 National Treasury, Kenya. Roadmap on Transition from Cash to Accrual Accounting. Nov 2024.

17 ACCA, AB magazine. Africa's IPSAS migration. Jan 2025.

18 IPSASB. IPSAS 33 (2025): At a Glance. Nov 2025.

An Africa where every public institution is trusted with its money.

Published by ProsperMinds · +254 740 582 302 | +254 741 174 909 · info@prosper-minds.com · LinkedIn: Prosper-Minds