

Reality of Cash Economies - When posts being considered for regionalization operate in jurisdictions where there is a genuine requirement for significant payments in the form of cash, the amount of such requirements must be reviewed to determine whether they can be easily met by transfers of funds from a central location. Where the bulk of such a post's budget continues to be payroll, rent and utilities not paid in cash, there may continue to be merit in regionalizing the post.

Time Zones - It would be unrealistic to consider serving a post located in a time zone that is six or more hours different from the central location, since communication of financial advice and assistance would only be possible for an hour each day, (e.g. Paris served by Ottawa). Accordingly, the time zones of both the post being considered for regionalization and of the proposed FMO location must be considered to determine whether their business days overlap significantly.

For this reason, it is likely that a central location could serve posts located in as many as three time zones on each side of it, encompassing operations in a total of six different zones. The central location would then be able to offer assistance to the eastern-most post from 10 AM to 2 PM (when it is 1 - 5 PM at the post), and to the western-most post from 1 - 3 PM (when it is 10 AM to noon at the post).

Size of Operation - When considering whether a post should be regionalized, the implications of its size (as reflected by the number of staff, programs, etc.) must be evaluated. For example, a small post likely has fewer requests for financial advice so these requests could be answered relatively easily from a distant location. At the other extreme, a large post with more frequent requests for financial counselling would suffer a greater loss of service when that function was moved offsite. These two situations suggest that regionalization would be more appropriate for the small post, while other considerations (opportunity for significant staff savings, economies of scale, etc.) tend to reflect the opposite.