

John Alias

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(UAE golden visa resident- immediate availability)



Professional Summary

Accomplished Senior Finance Leader with 20+ years of expertise across FMCG, manufacturing, real estate and logistics, driving financial strategy, governance, and business performance in multinational and family-owned environments. Proven record in budgeting, forecasting, financial modelling, compliance, and cost control, with strong leadership in guiding finance teams and partnering with C-suite executives. Skilled in managing multi-billion-dollar facilities, trade finance structures, and cross-border financial flows, while delivering measurable results in growth, profitability, and operational efficiency.

Core Strengths

- Financial Strategy, Budgeting & Forecasting
- FP&A, Reporting & Performance Management
- Regulatory Compliance & Corporate Governance
- Trade Finance Structuring & Cross-Border Flows
- Treasury, Cash Flow & Bank Facility Management
- Leadership, Team Development & Stakeholder Management
- ERP Implementation & Finance Automation (SAP, Hyperion, Oracle)
- IFRS, Audit & Risk Controls

Professional Experience

Al Qaryan Manufacturing Group – Dammam, KSA

Senior Finance Manager – FP&A | Sep 2024 – Present

- Lead financial strategy, estimates, and rolling forecasts for a **USD 3B+ revenue group**.
- Supervise **commodity trading finance** (copper, zinc, aluminum, brass), with **exports to Asia & Africa** via **LME-linked trading**.
- Manage **SAR 2B+ bank finance facilities**, ensuring liquidity and optimizing fund utilization.
- Act as a core Member for SAP S4 HANA implementation.
- Oversee hedging strategies, margin monitoring, and risk management.
- Provide dashboards, variance analysis, and insights to Group CEO and Board, aligning finance with strategic growth.
- Direct estimates, rolling forecasts, and strategic plans for commodity trading entities, supporting ownership and executive decision-making.
- Provide performance dashboards and variance analysis on price, volume, and mix to drive accountability across global operations.

Al Safi Danone, Dubai, UAE**March 2011 – August 2024****Senior Finance Manager (Gulf, Levant, and Iraq)**

- Served as a strategic finance partner to Supply Chain, Sales, Marketing, and HR, providing financial insights and feasibility analysis to support key initiatives and cross-functional decision-making.
- Led the Budgeting, Forecasting, and Estimation cycles for the GLI Business Unit, ensuring robust cost control, variance analysis, and alignment with business objectives.
- Partnered with the Commercial team to deliver 17% top-line growth in 2023, driving pricing strategy, promotional efficiency, and margin improvement initiatives.
- Validated Business Development Agreements (BDAs) with customers and distributors, ensuring compliance and alignment with strategic objectives. Oversaw distributor agreements, controlled Trade Terms management, and drove cost optimization and disciplined spend control across commercial operations.
- Spearheaded productivity and cost optimization programs, delivering cumulative savings of AED 47M (AED 20M+ in 2021–2022; AED 27M in 2023). Initiatives included value chain optimization, volume-mix-price margin enhancement strategies, resulting in a 3x increase in net income over two years.

Internal Controls Manager (KSA and GLI)*June 2018 – November 2019*

- Led internal controls for KSA, managing a team of four and reporting to the CFO.

Controller: Sales, Supply Chain, and Marketing (KSA and GLI)*March 2011 – May 2018*

- Managed budgeting for sales, supply chain, and marketing departments across the whole middle east
- Achieved 7% annual productivity improvement, contributing AED 25M+ annually through multiple projects.
- FP&A Tool – Essbase (Hyperion)– implementation – worked as the key team member to develop Market, Channel and Route P&L automation project

Aujan Industries**February 2009 – February 2011****Accounting Manager, Iran**

- Served as a core team member for ERP implementation in a newly established business unit, ensuring successful system integration aligned with business requirements.
- Held dual responsibility as Sales Accounting Manager, overseeing customer account management, trade terms governance, and credit control operations to mitigate financial risk.
- Led day-to-day accounting operations, ensuring accurate financial reporting and full compliance with internal policies and regulatory standards.
- Implemented process improvement initiatives that enhanced accounting efficiency by 15%, streamlining workflows and reducing manual intervention.

- Led the financial accounting and reporting functions for multiple high-value residential and commercial projects in Dubai, ensuring full compliance with UAE regulatory frameworks and IFRS.
 - Played a key role in budgeting and financial planning for ongoing developments, coordinating with project management and commercial teams to track cost-to-completion and margin forecasts.
 - Implemented a faster month-end closing process, reducing the timeline by 25% through ERP enhancements and automation of reconciliations and reporting.
 - Managed cash flow planning, project invoicing, and contractor/vendor payments in coordination with development teams to ensure alignment with construction milestones.
 - Supported external audit processes, liaised with Big Four auditors, and ensured timely submission of statutory and investor reports.
 - Contributed to early-stage feasibility analysis and investment evaluation for new land acquisitions and project launches.
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Education

- **MBA in Finance Management**, Jaipur National University, India, 2015
 - **Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting**, Mahatma Gandhi University, India, 1995
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Professional Certifications

- Certified Management Accountant (CMA), USA, Australia, India.
 - Certified Business Valuer (CBV), 2017
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Technical Skills

- ERP Systems: SAP, Hyperion, Oracle
- Tools: Excel (Power Query, Pivot Tables), Power BI
- Languages: English, Hindi, Malayalam, Farsi, Basic Arabic