

This is a published notice on the Find a Tender service: <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/001928-2025>

Tender

## **Strengthening Higher Education for Female Empowerment (SHEFE)**

Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-001928

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04d4cd

Published 20 January 2025, 4:24pm

The closing date and time has been changed to:

**18 March 2025, 1:00pm**

See the [change notice](#).

### **Section I: Contracting authority**

#### **I.1) Name and addresses**

Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office

King Charles Street

London

SW1A 2AH

#### **Email**

[marco.hurst@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:marco.hurst@fcdo.gov.uk)

#### **Telephone**

+44 1355844000

**Country**

United Kingdom

**Region code**

UK - United Kingdom

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/foreign-commonwealth-development-office/about/procurement>

**I.3) Communication**

The procurement documents are available for unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/foreign-commonwealth-development-office/about/procurement>

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

<https://fcdo.bravosolution.co.uk/web/login.html>

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted to the above-mentioned address

**I.4) Type of the contracting authority**

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

**I.5) Main activity**

General public services

## **Section II: Object**

### **II.1) Scope of the procurement**

#### **II.1.1) Title**

Strengthening Higher Education for Female Empowerment (SHEFE)

#### **II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 75211200 - Foreign economic-aid-related services

#### **II.1.3) Type of contract**

Services

#### **II.1.4) Short description**

Procurement of supplier for Strengthening Higher Education for Female Empowerment (SHEFE)

#### **II.1.5) Estimated total value**

Value excluding VAT: £81,000,000

#### **II.1.6) Information about lots**

This contract is divided into lots: No

### **II.2) Description**

#### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

Main site or place of performance

Place of performance not yet known

#### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

Inception Period: The below work will be preceded by an inception period to fully resource the team as well as finalise design of the programme.

Grant Management: In Phase 1 of the grant management activity the Supplier will design a closed call competitive grant process to invite and select 4 successful pilots from the SPHEIR programme up to a total of £12.7 million with each grant receiving between (£1-4 million). These have demonstrated 'proof of concept' and strong results in improving access, quality, and relevance to scale and replicate interventions in new states and geographies. SPHEIR pilots will be required to pivot their concepts to adopt a comprehensive gender transformative approach.

In Phase 2 The Supplier will run an open call competitive process to invite 8 new, high potential and innovative proposals up to a total of £25.6 million, in priority geographies with a focus on improving access, safeguarding and employment outcomes for women and girls. Interventions may include improving take up of STEM subjects and increasing female representation in academia and underrepresented fields such as the tech industry. The Supplier will also invite proposals that drive an evidence-based approach to reducing all forms of gender-based violence and harm, including tackling sexual violence, exploitation, abuse and harassment in the HE sector.

Centre of Expertise – Higher Education: The Supplier will launch a new pilot offer under the Centre of Expertise for Education which will be delivered through SHEFE. The demand-led, draw down facility will ensure the FCDO's global network has access to high-quality technical expertise, best practice and tailored policy advice. This will not only expand our global reach to support HE reform, but it will also help to strengthen diplomatic engagement with policy makers. The new enhanced offer will also respond to new windows of opportunity when they arise, including short term requests for direct support from host governments to deliver HE reform, including short-term deployments of embedded experts. It will enhance the 'Best of British' brand by promoting UK expertise and showcase our ability to convene prominent international experts in a community of practice.

### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

### **II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system**

Duration in months

48

This contract is subject to renewal

No

### **II.2.10) Information about variants**

Variants will be accepted: No

### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: Yes

Description of options

option to extend by a further 24 months and by £40 million

### **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

---

## **Section IV. Procedure**

### **IV.1) Description**

#### **IV.1.1) Type of procedure**

Open procedure

#### **IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)**

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

### **IV.2) Administrative information**

#### **IV.2.2) Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate**

Originally published as:

Date

4 March 2025

Changed to:

Date

18 March 2025

Local time

1:00pm

See the [change notice](#).

**IV.2.4) Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted**

English

**IV.2.6) Minimum time frame during which the tenderer must maintain the tender**

Duration in months: 8 (from the date stated for receipt of tender)

**IV.2.7) Conditions for opening of tenders**

Date

4 March 2025

Local time

1:00pm

---

**Section VI. Complementary information**

**VI.1) Information about recurrence**

This is a recurrent procurement: No

**VI.4) Procedures for review**

**VI.4.1) Review body**

Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office

London

Country

United Kingdom