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Planning

## **Freedoms, Reforms and Elections in Ethiopia (FREE)**

Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-013981

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-045653

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

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

Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office

King Charles Street

London

SW1A 2AH

#### **Email**

[Martha.Selvaratnam@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:Martha.Selvaratnam@fcdo.gov.uk)

#### **Telephone**

+44 2070080932

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

#### **Region code**

UK - United Kingdom

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://forms.office.com/e/DPtT6WYM8h>

**I.3) Communication**

Additional information can be obtained from 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

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**Section II: Object**

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

**II.1.1) Title**

Freedoms, Reforms and Elections in Ethiopia (FREE)

**II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 75211200 - Foreign economic-aid-related services

**II.1.3) Type of contract**

Services

**II.1.4) Short description**

The programme aims to support open societies and accountable institutions in Ethiopia that enable progress towards freedom and democracy; this will support Ethiopia transition away from conflict and towards peace. The Outcome Statement is: Ethiopia's democratic space is protected from further rollback as nascent gains achieved in civic space, institutional reform and enfranchisement of the electorate are sustained.

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

This contract is divided into lots: No

## **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 75211200 - Foreign economic-aid-related services

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

NUTS codes

- ET - Ethiopia

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

FREE brings under it strands of UK democratic governance work (on civic actors, institutions, and elections) that were previously housed under separate programmes. The programme aims to promote an open, inclusive, and active democratic space by directly engaging with civic actors (for e.g., civil society and media) and autonomous and oversight bodies (for. e.g., parliament), so that they can freely engage and hold government to account on issues that matter to them. The enabling environment that is needed for Ethiopia's next general elections (slated for June 2026) is a key lens through which FREE's activities around civic actors and institutions need to be understood.

The main components of the programme, which correspond to the needs it addresses, are:

- Support to civic actors (e.g., civil society and media) because they play a vital role in maintaining open societies and promoting accountability - as well as providing services to, and speaking out for, the most marginalised.
- Support to oversight Institutions and oversight work, that preserve and promote democratic governance, accountability, and effectiveness of development assistance. This work includes Fiduciary Risk Assessments.
- Rapid analyses to ensure that interventions are responsive and adaptive to the context, emerging opportunities and promotes democratic space. This work includes Political Economy Analyses.

What are the expected results?

Outcome: Ethiopia's democratic space is protected from further rollback as nascent gains achieved in civic space, institutional reform and enfranchisement of the electorate are sustained.

Outputs:

- Empowered civic actors (CSOs, media, political parties) engage in advocacy, promoting accountability, service delivery, and representation of citizens, including marginalized groups (women, girls, IDPs, PWDs).
- Increased technical capacity in oversight institutions for fiscal discipline, efficiency and accountability in public spending and fiduciary risks management.

FREE builds on the lessons, challenges, and successes, as well as recommendations from previous interventions and acknowledges the transformed context it will be operating in and is realistic about what it will be able to achieve with the resources available.

The proposed programme budget is £13m (inclusive of VAT and local taxes) over 4 years. The primary implementing partners will be media and civil society organisations and their sector representative bodies and oversight and autonomous bodies selected for targeted capacity support. The supplier and their potential partners would need to obtain registration under the relevant department as laid out by rules of the government of Ethiopia.

### **II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice**

1 July 2024

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## **Section IV. Procedure**

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

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

### **VI.3) Additional information**

<https://forms.office.com/e/DPtT6WYM8h>