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Award

Strengthening the Teaching of Primary School Mathematics in Malawi

Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-041944

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-0563b2

Published 22 July 2025, 11:47am

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office

King Charles Street

London

SW1A 2AH

Email

mercy.mashem@fcdo.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 355844000

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Justification for not providing organisation identifier

Sole trader

Internet address(es)

Main address

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

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 the Teaching of Primary School Mathematics in Malawi

Reference number

PO 10025 ecm_3793

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 Roll Out and Institutionalization of the National Mathematics Curriculum Reform (NMCR) is a core component of the Maziko a Maphunziro (Foundations of Learning)

Programme, a programme that aims at strengthening the quality of foundational education in Malawi.

The UK is providing funding to support the Malawi government to improve the quality of early grade numeracy teaching, so all children are supported to learn more effectively.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.1.7) Total value of the procurement (excluding VAT)

Value excluding VAT: £38,200,000

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 75211200 - Foreign economic-aid-related services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

Main site or place of performance

Malawi

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) seeks to extend the contract for the Strengthening the Teaching of Primary School Mathematics in Malawi programme by 3.5 months, extending the remaining term from 12 December 2025 to 31 March 2026, and to increase the current contract value from £31.4 million to £38.2 million.

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

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

Negotiated without a prior call for competition

- The works, supplies or services can be provided only by a particular economic operator for the following reason:
 - absence of competition for technical reasons

Explanation:

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) seeks to extend the contract for the Strengthening the Teaching of Primary School Mathematics in Malawi programme by 3.5 months, extending the remaining term from December 2025 to 31 March 2026, and to increase the current contract value from £31.4 million to £38.2 million.

Due to recent reductions in the UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA) budget, the scope and budget of the National Mathematics Curriculum Reform programme (NMCR) has been reduced to £6.8 million for FY25-26. The bulk of the remaining work for this year consists of completion of the printing and distribution of textbooks for Term 2 (thus due before January 2026), and the training of Standard 3 and 4 teachers, which has to take place in December 2025. A detailed closure and exit plan will also be implemented during the period to March 2026. In the circumstances, given the time necessary for any new supplier to commence operations in the country, following a procurement process, in order to supply these deliverables, it would not be realistically possible for a new supplier to meet these immovable deadlines. Any delay would significantly disrupt the planned schedule for training and textbook distribution, which has to be aligned with the school calendar. It has not been possible to commence a procurement process any earlier owing to the need to comply with the ODA spend reduction processes.

In the event that budget is allocated for a second phase of this programme, a procurement will be run for a new contract.

Given the immediacy of the need to complete these main remaining tasks, which are necessary but were not included in the original procurement, as well as wind down the contract by March 2026, a change of contractor is not technically or economically possible within these timescales and would cause significant inconvenience and substantial duplication of costs for FCDO.

The proposed increase is within the 50% threshold permitted under Regulation 72(1)(b) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

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.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure

Notice number: [2019/S 164-402972](#)

Section V. Award of contract/concession

Contract No

PO 10025

Title

Strengthening the Teaching of Primary School Mathematics in Malawi

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

24 February 2020

V.2.2) Information about tenders

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: No

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire

Mott MacDonald Limited T/A Cambridge Education

22 Station Road Cambridge

Cambridge

CB1 2JD

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

V.2.4) Information on value of contract/lot/concession (excluding VAT)

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £38,200,000

V.2.5) Information about subcontracting

The contract/lot/concession is likely to be subcontracted

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

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VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Cabinet office

London

Country

United Kingdom