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Award

Technical Assistance (TA) Facility to strengthen Rwanda's Social Protection Sector: Exiting Poverty Rwanda Programme

Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-058840

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-059ffc

Published 23 September 2025, 11:52am

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office

Abercrombie House, Eaglesham Road

East Kilbride

G75 8EA

Email

wasonga.misumi@fcdo.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 1355844062

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.fcdo.bravosolution.co.uk

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

I.5) Main activity

Other activity

Development & Diplomacy

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Technical Assistance (TA) Facility to strengthen Rwanda's Social Protection Sector:
Exiting Poverty Rwanda Programme

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 TA Facility will provide technical expertise and capacity building to the Government of Rwanda and support the effective implementation of its Social Protection Sector Strategic Plan (SP-SSP) and ultimately a strengthened national social protection system, as well as the delivery of FCDO's Exiting Poverty in Rwanda (EPR) programme which aims to eradicate extreme poverty and reduce overall poverty.

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: £7,376,925

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- RW - Rwanda

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

This is a voluntary ex ante transparency (VEAT) notice. This notice is to indicate that the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) proposes to extend the contract with the named supplier for the Technical Assistance (TA) Facility to strengthen Rwanda's Social Protection Sector: Exiting Poverty Rwanda Programme in a manner that is necessary to support a responsible exit from the programme . This contract extension will increase the contractual value by £1.8m as set out in the original contract and a 15 month time extension.

The Technical Assistance facility provides technical expertise and capacity building to the Government of Rwanda and support the effective implementation of its Social Protection Sector Strategic Plan (SP-SSP) and ultimately a strengthened national social protection system, as well as the delivery of FCDO's Exiting Poverty in Rwanda (EPR) programme which aims to eradicate extreme poverty and reduce overall poverty.

This extension will enable continued delivery of the technical assistance facility which provides technical expertise and capacity building to the Government of Rwanda.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Technical / Weighting: 70

Cost criterion - Name: Cost / Weighting: 30

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

The original contract included options to extend the right to extend

the programme by up to 1.5 years with a maximum, potential 50% increase to budget of the initial contracted value.

This modification will extend the contract by 15 months from 31 March 2026 to 30 June 2027. It will increase the financial limit by £1.8m. which is within the 50% increase of budget as initially tendered.

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

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

II.2.14) Additional information

This contract was awarded to CowaterSogema International Inc as per contract award notice

(<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/notice/f822e7a8-824a-4bc6-a559-606a0ce62366?origin=SearchResults&p=1>) External ID: f822e7a8-824a-4bc6-a559-606a0ce62366

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Award of a contract without prior publication of a call for competition in the cases listed below

- The procurement falls outside the scope of application of the regulations

Explanation:

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) intends to award a 15 month extension to the Technical Assistance (TA) Facility to strengthen Rwanda's Social Protection Sector: Exiting Poverty Rwanda Programme. This amendment is made under Regulation 72(1)(b) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, which permits modifications because additional services by the original contractor have become necessary where a change of contractor cannot be made for economic or technical reasons. FCDO considers that the extension can be awarded without prior publication of a notice under Part 2 of the

Public using the procedure in regulation 99(3) (VEAT notice). The modification does not exceed 50% of the original contract value.

The extension to 30 June 2027 is necessary to allow FCDO unlock £15m in additional donor funding that is crucial to enable a responsible exit from the programme in a way that minimises harm to its beneficiaries. The nature and scope of the contract remain unchanged. This amendment does not materially expand the contract scope. Cowter International will continue to deliver the same core services.

Proceeding with a new procurement would introduce significant risks, including loss of the additional donor funding, the potential for duplication of costs already borne, reputational risk with host government and adverse development impact on the most vulnerable beneficiaries. Additionally, a change of supplier would be impractical due to technical knowledge of the supplier on the Rwanda Social Protection System, trust, and well established relationships with the host government. These attributes are not readily transferable.

Before entering the proposed contract amendment, the Authority will observe the standstill period of 10 calendar days from the day after publication on the UK e-notification service required by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 at regulation 99 before executing the amendment allowing all relevant parties adequate time to review and respond.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

Section V. Award of contract/concession

Contract No

PROJ_10147

Title

TA Facility to strengthen Rwanda's Social Protection Sector as part of FCDO's Exiting Poverty in Rwanda Programme

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

3 March 2021

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

Cowater International

275 Slater Street Suite 1600

Ontario

KP1P5H9

Country

Canada

NUTS code

- CA - Canada

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: £7,376,925

V.2.5) Information about subcontracting

The contract/lot/concession is likely to be subcontracted

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) intends to award a 15 month extension to the Technical Assistance (TA) Facility to strengthen Rwanda's Social Protection Sector: Exiting Poverty Rwanda Programme. This amendment is made under Regulation 72(1)(b) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, which permits modifications because additional services by the original contractor have become necessary where a change of contractor cannot be made for economic or technical reasons. FCDO considers that the extension can be awarded without prior publication of a notice under Part 2 of the Public using the procedure in regulation 99(3) (VEAT notice). The modification does not exceed 50% of the original contract value.

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Proceeding with a new procurement would introduce significant risks, including loss of the additional donor funding, the potential for duplication of costs already borne, reputational risk, adverse development impact on the most beneficial beneficiaries.

Before entering the proposed contract amendment, the Authority will observe the standstill period of 10 calendar days from the day after publication on the UK e-notification service required by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 at regulation 99 before executing the amendment allowing all relevant parties adequate time to review and respond.

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office

Abercrombie House, Eaglesham Road

East Kilbride

G75 8EA

Telephone

+44 1355844062

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

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

VI.4.2) Body responsible for mediation procedures

Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office

Abercrombie House, Eaglesham Road

East Kilbride

G75 8EA

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

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