

413503-2026 - Competition

Denmark – Evaluation consultancy services – Evaluation of the African Guarantee Fund and Denmark's contribution

OJ S 114/2026 16/06/2026

Contract or concession notice – standard regime

Services

1. Buyer

1.1. Buyer

Official name: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark

Email: niklej@um.dk

Legal type of the buyer: Central government authority

Activity of the contracting authority: Economic affairs

2. Procedure

2.1. Procedure

Title: Evaluation of the African Guarantee Fund and Denmark's contribution

Description: The African Guarantee Fund - for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Ltd (AGF) is a non-bank financial institution established to enhance access to finance for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) across Africa. Its activities include the provision of guarantees to financial institutions and capacity development support to both lenders and SMEs. AGF was one of five concrete initiatives recommended by the Commission on Effective Development Cooperation with Africa in 2010, and has now been in operation for almost 15 years. Denmark was a founding shareholder and has supported the AGF through a combination of shareholder capital, grant financing, and representation on the board. A 2016 evaluation of the results of the Africa Commission included an early assessment of AGF, which found the AGF to be relevant, innovative, and on a promising path, with rapid portfolio growth, strong interest from partner banks, and early indications that participating banks had increased the SME lending portfolio. At the same time, the evaluation noted that AGF was still at an early stage of implementation, and that systematic data on SME-level outcomes, employment effects, financial additionality, and long-term sustainability were not yet available, limiting the scope for assessing broader impacts. It also highlighted a key strategic challenge going forward: balancing the goal of becoming a self-sustaining, market-oriented guarantee fund with the need to expand into higher-risk markets and partner with lower-tier banks in order to maximise development impact. Since then, the AGF has expanded significantly in scale and geographical reach, and has progressively developed its monitoring and evaluation systems, while a longer operational time horizon now provides a much stronger basis for assessing outcomes, additionality, sustainability and longer-term impacts. To document results and draw lessons from AGF's experience and the Danish support hereto, the Department for Evaluation, Learning and Quality (LEARNING) of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) has therefore decided to commission an evaluation. The overall purposes of the evaluation are to document and assess: (1) The contribution of the AGF to improving access to finance for SMEs in Africa and to generating associated development outcomes; and (2) The contribution and added value of Danish support to the AGF. And, based on this, draw lessons for AGF's future strategy and operations, for future Danish support to the AGF specifically, and for future Danish support to SME development in Africa through blended finance instruments. The

objectives of the evaluation are to: (1) Establish a structured and analytically grounded mapping and characterisation of AGF's institutional model, blended finance architecture, portfolio evolution and positioning within the broader SME finance ecosystem as well as of Danish support to the AGF; (2) Assess, across time and geographical contexts, AGF's relevance in addressing SME financing constraints; coherence with other initiatives in the SME finance space; success in mobilising private capital to support SME finance; and financial sustainability; (3) Assess the contribution and added value of Danish support, including capital, concessional grant funding, and governance engagement; (4) Generate credible quantitative evidence on the results of AGF-supported guarantees and capacity development in two country contexts, considering both financial and development additionality, and outcomes at both SME, PFI and broader SME finance market level; (5) Identify contextual, institutional, and design factors that explain observed results and variation across countries, instruments, and institutional settings; (6) Formulate lessons learned and forward-looking, evidence-based recommendations to inform AGF's future strategy and Denmark's future engagement with the AGF and guarantee-based blended finance instruments more broadly.

Procedure identifier: 93a8bd8f-002c-4938-9c5b-12bff2ab8169

Internal identifier: bc7c9d72-0a13-4e0b-8786-3c7c7aad15a2

Type of procedure: Restricted

The procedure is accelerated: no

Main features of the procedure: Access to the procurement procedure requires online registration. Guidance (in Danish and English) on the use of the tendering system can be found at: <https://mercell.atlassian.net/servicedesk/customer/portal/3/article/177996038?src=1869524006> Economic operators may only submit one application (request to Participate) or tender. Economic operators must submit a European Single Procurement Document (ESPD) as preliminary evidence, that the economic operator is not subject to exclusion grounds and that the economic operator fulfils the requirements for economic and financial standing and technical and professional ability. When the economic operator is participating together with others or if the economic operator relies on the capacity of other entities, each participating economic operator must provide a separate ESPD. In Part III.A-C of the ESPD, economic operators must answer whether they are subject to exclusion grounds, listed in section 2.1.6 of this contract notice. An economic operator is not required to answer whether it is subject to purely national exclusion grounds, cf. Part III.D of the ESPD. The contracting authority has a maximum budget of DKK 4,500,000 net of VAT in relation to the procurement. Tenders will be rejected if they exceed the contracting authority's maximum budget. The assignment will include evaluation of Danida-funded projects/programmes. Therefore, economic operators must submit declarations of prior and ongoing involvement from the economic operator and each involved Key Staff. Decisions on whether a conflict of interest or unfair competition exists rest with the contracting authority and are made on a case-by-case basis. Economic operators will not receive remuneration for their participation in the procedure.

2.1.1. Purpose

Main nature of the contract: Services

Main classification (cpv): 79419000 Evaluation consultancy services

Additional classification (cpv): 66171000 Financial consultancy services, 75211200 Foreign economic-aid-related services, 79412000 Financial management consultancy services

2.1.2. Place of performance

Country: Kenya

Anywhere in the given country

Additional information: The evaluation will include country-level analyses, designed to assess the results of AGF-supported guarantees and capacity development in terms of access to finance, enterprise performance, employment, and related outcomes which address the OECD-DAC criteria of effectiveness and impact. This will include an examination of how AGF's specific blended finance model influences results. One of the case countries shall be Kenya, representing the location of the operational headquarters of the AGF, and a significant share of activities.

2.1.2. Place of performance

Country: Côte d'Ivoire

Anywhere in the given country

Additional information: The evaluation will include country-level analyses, designed to assess the results of AGF-supported guarantees and capacity development in terms of access to finance, enterprise performance, employment, and related outcomes which address the OECD-DAC criteria of effectiveness and impact. This will include an examination of how AGF's specific blended finance model influences results. The other case country is expected to be in West Africa, and shall be determined during the inception phase (tenderers should budget for Côte d'Ivoire).

2.1.3. Value

Estimated value excluding VAT: 4 500 000,00 DKK

2.1.4. General information

Additional information: In the tender, economic operators must submit a completed and signed statement regarding Article 5k(1) of Council Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 of 31 July 2014 concerning restrictive measures in view of Russia's actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine, as amended by Council Regulation (EU) No 2023/1214 of 23 June 2023. The contract cannot be awarded to a tenderer subject to Article 5k(1) of Council Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 of 31 July 2014, as amended by Council Regulation (EU) No 2023/1214 of 23 June 2023. Before the time limit for receipt of tenders, the candidates, which the contracting authority has invited to tender, must present documentation of the information provided in the ESPD. The contracting authority can accept the following documentation in relation to the exclusion grounds in sections 135(1), 135(3) and 137(1)(2) of the Danish Public Procurement Act (in order of priority): (1) Extracts from the relevant register or similar documents issued by a competent judicial or administrative authority or certificates issued by the competent authority in the country referred to as documentation that the tenderer is not subject to the grounds for exclusion stipulated in sections 135(1), 135(3) and 137(1)(2); (2) A declaration on oath (only if such extracts, certificates or similar documents are not issued in the country where the economic operator is established, or where the documentation does not cover all the grounds for exclusion stipulated in sections 135(1), 135(3) and 137(1)(2) entirely); (3) A solemn declaration made by the person concerned before a competent judicial or administrative authority, a notary or a competent professional or trade body, in the country of origin or in the country where the economic operator is established (only if there is no provision for declarations on oath in the country where the economic operator is established). Thus, the contracting authority cannot accept e.g. a solemn declaration made before a notary if there can be issued a certificate by the competent authority in the country where the economic operator is established. Moreover, the contracting authority cannot accept self-declarations or similar declarations issued by the economic operator or the person concerned as documentation in relation to the exclusion grounds. Economic operators can identify the relevant documentation using the online platform e-Certis: <https://ec.europa.eu/tools/ecertis>. If an economic operator is entered on an official list of approved economic operators or has an

equivalent certificate (e.g. under a national (pre)qualification system), the economic operator may refer to the list in question or present a certificate issued by the competent authority instead of documentation of the information provided in the ESPD. When an economic operator is participating in the procurement procedure together with others, the economic operator must present a joint statement from all the participating economic operators which identifies the member of the group who can act as an agent on behalf of the group with mandate to establish a legal obligation on behalf of the group in relation to the contracting authority. Economic operators are encouraged to submit all necessary documentation as early as possible. Prior to the signing of the contract, the tenderer, which the contracting authority has awarded the contract to, must present statements of availability from all non-permanent staff (e.g. project specific consultants or freelance consultants). This contract has not been divided into lots, cf. section II.1.6), due to market and economic considerations.

Legal basis:

Directive 2014/24/EU

<https://www.retsinformation.dk/eli/lt/2025/116> - The procurement procedure is governed by Danish law and the rules applicable hereunder, specifically the Danish Public Procurement Act.

2.1.6. Grounds for exclusion

Sources of grounds for exclusion: Notice

Corruption: The contracting authority shall exclude an economic operator from participation in the procurement procedure if the economic operator has been convicted by a final judgment or has accepted a fine for bribery as defined in Article 3 of the Convention on the fight against corruption involving officials of the European Communities or officials of Member States of the European Union, and Article 2(1) of Council Framework Decision 2003/568/JHA of 22 July 2003 on combating corruption in the private sector (OJ 2003, L 192, p. 54) and bribery as defined in the national law of the economic operator's Member State or home country or the country in which the economic operator is established, cf. section 135(1)(2) of the Danish Public Procurement Act. The contracting authority shall also exclude an economic operator when a person who has been convicted by a final judgment or has accepted a fine for such acts is a member of the economic operator's board of directors, executive board, or supervisory board. The contracting authority shall also exclude an economic operator if the convicted person has the authority to represent, control, or make decisions in the economic operator's board of directors, executive board, or supervisory board, cf. section 135(2) of the Danish Public Procurement Act. When the exclusion period is not determined by a final judgment, the contracting authority shall exclude an economic operator from participating in the procurement procedure for 5 years from the date of the final judgment or accepted fine, cf. section 138(6) of the Danish Public Procurement Act.

Fraud: The contracting authority shall exclude an economic operator from participation in the procurement procedure if the economic operator has been convicted by a final judgment or has accepted a fine for fraud as referred to in Article 1 of the Convention on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests, cf. section 135(1)(3) of the Danish Public Procurement Act. The contracting authority shall also exclude an economic operator when a person who has been convicted by a final judgment or has accepted a fine for such acts is a member of the economic operator's board of directors, executive board, or supervisory board. The contracting authority shall also exclude an economic operator if the convicted person has the authority to represent, control, or make decisions in the economic operator's board of directors, executive board, or supervisory board, cf. section 135(2) of the Danish Public Procurement Act. When the exclusion period is not determined by a final judgment, the

contracting authority shall exclude an economic operator from participating in the procurement procedure for 5 years from the date of the final judgment or accepted fine, cf. section 138(6) of the Danish Public Procurement Act.

Money laundering or terrorist financing: The contracting authority shall exclude an economic operator from participation in the procurement procedure if the economic operator has been convicted by a final judgment or has accepted a fine for money laundering or terrorist financing as defined in Article 1 of Directive 2005/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2005 on the prevention of the use of the financial system for the purpose of money laundering and terrorist financing (OJ 2005, L 309, p. 15), cf. section 135(1)(5) of the Danish Public Procurement Act. The contracting authority shall also exclude an economic operator when a person who has been convicted by a final judgment or has accepted a fine for such acts is a member of the economic operator's board of directors, executive board, or supervisory board. The contracting authority shall also exclude an economic operator if the convicted person has the authority to represent, control, or make decisions in the economic operator's board of directors, executive board, or supervisory board, cf. section 135(2) of the Danish Public Procurement Act. When the exclusion period is not determined by a final judgment, the contracting authority shall exclude an economic operator from participating in the procurement procedure for 5 years from the date of the final judgment or accepted fine, cf. section 138(6) of the Danish Public Procurement Act.

Participation in a criminal organisation: The contracting authority shall exclude an economic operator from participation in the procurement procedure if the economic operator has been convicted by a final judgment or has accepted a fine for acts committed as part of a criminal organization as defined in Article 2 of Council Framework Decision 2008/841/JHA of 24 October 2008 (OJ 2008, L 300, p. 42), cf. section 135(1)(1) of the Danish Public Procurement Act. The contracting authority shall also exclude an economic operator when a person who has been convicted by a final judgment or has accepted a fine for such acts is a member of the economic operator's board of directors, executive board, or supervisory board. The contracting authority shall also exclude an economic operator if the convicted person has the authority to represent, control, or make decisions in the economic operator's board of directors, executive board, or supervisory board, cf. section 135(2) of the Danish Public Procurement Act. When the exclusion period is not determined by a final judgment, the contracting authority shall exclude an economic operator from participating in the procurement procedure for 5 years from the date of the final judgment or accepted fine, cf. section 138(6) of the Danish Public Procurement Act.

Terrorist offences or offences linked to terrorist activities: The contracting authority shall exclude an economic operator from participation in the procurement procedure if the economic operator has been convicted by a final judgment or has accepted a fine for terrorist acts or offenses related to terrorist activities as defined in Articles 1, 3, and 4 of Council Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA of 13 June 2002 on combating terrorism (OJ 2002, L 164, p. 3) as amended by Council Framework Decision 2008/919/JHA of 28 November 2008 amending Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA on combating terrorism (OJ 2008, L 330, p. 21), cf. section 135(1)(4) of the Danish Public Procurement Act. The contracting authority shall also exclude an economic operator when a person who has been convicted by a final judgment or has accepted a fine for such acts is a member of the economic operator's board of directors, executive board, or supervisory board. The contracting authority shall also exclude an economic operator if the convicted person has the authority to represent, control, or make decisions in the economic operator's board of directors, executive board, or supervisory board, cf. section 135(2) of the Danish Public Procurement Act. When the exclusion period is not

determined by a final judgment, the contracting authority shall exclude an economic operator from participating in the procurement procedure for 5 years from the date of the final judgment or accepted fine, cf. section 138(6) of the Danish Public Procurement Act.

Child labour and including other forms of trafficking in human beings: The contracting authority shall exclude an economic operator from participation in the procurement procedure if the economic operator has been convicted by a final judgment or has accepted a fine for violation of Section 262a of the Danish Penal Code or, with regard to a judgment from another country concerning child labour and other forms of trafficking in human beings as defined in Article 2 of Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2011 on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA (OJ 2011, L 101, p. 1), cf. section 135(1)(6) of the Danish Public Procurement Act. The contracting authority shall also exclude an economic operator when a person who has been convicted by a final judgment or has accepted a fine for such acts is a member of the economic operator's board of directors, executive board, or supervisory board. The contracting authority shall also exclude an economic operator if the convicted person has the authority to represent, control, or make decisions in the economic operator's board of directors, executive board, or supervisory board, cf. section 135(2) of the Danish Public Procurement Act. When the exclusion period is not determined by a final judgment, the contracting authority shall exclude an economic operator from participating in the procurement procedure for 5 years from the date of the final judgment or accepted fine, cf. section 138(6) of the Danish Public Procurement Act.

Grave professional misconduct: The contracting authority shall exclude an economic operator from participation in the procurement procedure when the contracting authority can demonstrate that the economic operator is guilty of grave professional misconduct, which renders its integrity questionable, cf. section 136(4) of the Danish Public Procurement Act. When the exclusion period is not determined by a final judgment, the contracting authority will exclude an economic operator from participating in the procurement procedure for 3 years from the date of the relevant event or action, cf. section 138(7) of the Danish Public Procurement Act.

Misrepresentation, withheld information, unable to provide required documents or obtained confidential information of this procedure: The contracting authority shall exclude an economic operator from participation in the procurement procedure when the contracting authority can demonstrate that the economic operator in the specific procurement has provided grossly misleading information, withheld information, or is unable to submit supplementary documents regarding the grounds for exclusion, cf. sections 135(1), 135(3) or 137(1)(2), the established minimum suitability requirements, cf. sections 140-144, or the selection, cf. section 145, cf. section 136(3) of the Danish Public Procurement Act. The contracting authority will exclude an economic operator from participating in the procurement procedure for 3 years from the date of the relevant event or action, cf. section 138(7) of the Danish Public Procurement Act.

Conflict of interest due to its participation in the procurement procedure: The contracting authority shall exclude an economic operator from participation in the procurement procedure when the contracting authority can demonstrate that a conflict of interest in relation to the specific procurement cannot be effectively remedied by less intrusive measures, cf. section 136(1) of the Danish Public Procurement Act.

Direct or indirect involvement in the preparation of this procurement procedure: The contracting authority shall exclude an economic operator from participation in the procurement procedure when the contracting authority can demonstrate that a distortion of competition, cf. section 39, due to the prior involvement of the economic operators in the preparation of the procurement procedure in relation to the specific procurement cannot be effectively remedied by less intrusive measures, cf. section 136(2) of the Danish Public Procurement Act.

Breaching obligation relating to payment of social security contributions: The contracting authority shall exclude an economic operator from participation in the procurement procedure if the economic operator has unpaid overdue debt of DKK 100,000 or more to public authorities concerning contributions to social security schemes under Danish law or the law of the country in which the economic operator is established, cf. section 135(3) of the Danish Public Procurement Act. Notwithstanding, the economic operator is not excluded when the economic operator has entered into an agreement with the collection authority on a repayment plan and this plan is being adhered to, cf. section 135(4) of the Danish Public Procurement Act, or the economic operator provides security for the payment of the part of the debt that is DKK 100,000 or more, cf. section 135(5)(2) of the Danish Public Procurement Act.

Breaching obligation relating to payment of taxes: The contracting authority shall exclude an economic operator from participation in the procurement procedure if the economic operator has unpaid overdue debt of DKK 100,000 or more to public authorities concerning taxes or duties under Danish law or the law of the country in which the economic operator is established, cf. section 135(3) of the Danish Public Procurement Act. Notwithstanding, the economic operator is not excluded when the economic operator has entered into an agreement with the collection authority on a repayment plan and this plan is being adhered to, cf. section 135(4) of the Danish Public Procurement Act, or the economic operator provides security for the payment of the part of the debt that is DKK 100,000 or more, cf. section 135(5)(2) of the Danish Public Procurement Act.

Business activities are suspended: The contracting authority shall exclude an economic operator from participation in the procurement procedure if the economic operator's business activities have been suspended, cf. section 137(1)(2) of the Danish Public Procurement Act. The contracting authority will exclude an economic operator from participating in the procurement procedure for 3 years from the date of the relevant event or action, cf. section 138(7) of the Danish Public Procurement Act.

Bankruptcy: The contracting authority shall exclude an economic operator from participation in the procurement procedure if the economic operator has been declared bankrupt, cf. section 137(1)(2) of the Danish Public Procurement Act. The contracting authority will exclude an economic operator from participating in the procurement procedure for 3 years from the date of the relevant event or action, cf. section 138(7) of the Danish Public Procurement Act.

Arrangement with creditors: The contracting authority shall exclude an economic operator from participation in the procurement procedure if the economic operator is in an arrangement with creditors, cf. section 137(1)(2) of the Danish Public Procurement Act. The contracting authority will exclude an economic operator from participating in the procurement procedure for 3 years from the date of the relevant event or action, cf. section 138(7) of the Danish Public Procurement Act.

Insolvency: The contracting authority shall exclude an economic operator from participation in the procurement procedure if the economic operator has been under insolvency proceedings, cf. section 137(1)(2) of the Danish Public Procurement Act. The contracting authority will exclude an economic operator from participating in the procurement procedure for 3 years from the date of the relevant event or action, cf. section 138(7) of the Danish Public Procurement Act.

Assets being administered by liquidator: The contracting authority shall exclude an economic operator from participation in the procurement procedure if the economic operator's assets are being administered by a liquidator or by the court, cf. section 137(1)(2) of the Danish Public Procurement Act. The contracting authority will exclude an economic operator from participating in the procurement procedure for 3 years from the date of the relevant event or action, cf. section 138(7) of the Danish Public Procurement Act.

Analogous situation like bankruptcy, insolvency or arrangement with creditors under national law: The contracting authority shall exclude an economic operator from participation in the procurement procedure if the economic operator is in a situation like bankruptcy under a corresponding procedure provided for in national law where the economic operator is established, cf. section 137(1)(2) of the Danish Public Procurement Act. The contracting authority will exclude an economic operator from participating in the procurement procedure for 3 years from the date of the relevant event or action, cf. section 138(7) of the Danish Public Procurement Act.

5. Lot

5.1. Lot: LOT-0000

Title: Evaluation of the African Guarantee Fund and Denmark's contribution

Description: The African Guarantee Fund - for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Ltd (AGF) is a non-bank financial institution established to enhance access to finance for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) across Africa. Its activities include the provision of guarantees to financial institutions and capacity development support to both lenders and SMEs. AGF was one of five concrete initiatives recommended by the Commission on Effective Development Cooperation with Africa in 2010, and has now been in operation for almost 15 years. Denmark was a founding shareholder and has supported the AGF through a combination of shareholder capital, grant financing, and representation on the board. A 2016 evaluation of the results of the Africa Commission included an early assessment of AGF, which found the AGF to be relevant, innovative, and on a promising path, with rapid portfolio growth, strong interest from partner banks, and early indications that participating banks had increased the SME lending portfolio. At the same time, the evaluation noted that AGF was still at an early stage of implementation, and that systematic data on SME-level outcomes, employment effects, financial additionality, and long-term sustainability were not yet available, limiting the scope for assessing broader impacts. It also highlighted a key strategic challenge going forward: balancing the goal of becoming a self-sustaining, market-oriented guarantee fund with the need to expand into higher-risk markets and partner with lower-tier banks in order to maximise development impact. Since then, the AGF has expanded significantly in scale and geographical reach, and has progressively developed its monitoring and evaluation systems, while a longer operational time horizon now provides a much stronger basis for assessing outcomes, additionality, sustainability and longer-term impacts. To document results and draw lessons from AGF's experience and the Danish support hereto, the Department for Evaluation, Learning and Quality (LEARNING) of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) has therefore decided to commission an evaluation. The overall purposes of the evaluation are to document and assess: (1) The contribution of the AGF to improving access to finance for SMEs in Africa and to generating associated development outcomes; and (2) The contribution and added value of Danish support to the AGF. And, based on this, draw lessons for AGF's future strategy and operations, for future Danish support to the AGF specifically, and for future Danish support to SME development in Africa through blended finance instruments. The objectives of the evaluation are to: (1) Establish a structured and analytically grounded mapping and characterisation of AGF's institutional model, blended finance architecture, portfolio evolution and positioning within the broader SME finance ecosystem as well as of Danish support to the AGF; (2) Assess, across time and geographical contexts, AGF's relevance in addressing SME financing constraints; coherence with other initiatives in the SME finance space; success in mobilising private capital to support SME finance; and financial sustainability; (3) Assess the contribution and added value of Danish support, including capital, concessional grant funding, and governance engagement; (4) Generate credible quantitative

evidence on the results of AGF-supported guarantees and capacity development in two country contexts, considering both financial and development additionality, and outcomes at both SME, PFI and broader SME finance market level; (5) Identify contextual, institutional, and design factors that explain observed results and variation across countries, instruments, and institutional settings; (6) Formulate lessons learned and forward-looking, evidence-based recommendations to inform AGF's future strategy and Denmark's future engagement with the AGF and guarantee-based blended finance instruments more broadly.

Internal identifier: 1ad74db3-9107-41f7-afb0-c5b8210bb342

5.1.1. Purpose

Main nature of the contract: Services

Main classification (cpv): 79419000 Evaluation consultancy services

Additional classification (cpv): 66171000 Financial consultancy services, 75211200 Foreign economic-aid-related services, 79412000 Financial management consultancy services

Options:

Description of the options: Within the total contract budget is included a lump sum of DKK 500,000 net of VAT to cover potential, additional costs related to acquisition of administrative data, other existing quantitative data sources and/or additional costs specifically associated with implementing the fall-back option. The lump sum constitutes a capped contribution towards such additional costs; all other costs shall be accommodated within the overall contract budget. Use of the lump sum shall be subject to written approval by the contracting authority (i.e. the lump sum is an option for the contracting authority). For more information, please see information on the fall-back options in Appendix 1 Scope of Services.

5.1.2. Place of performance

Country: Kenya

Anywhere in the given country

Additional information: The evaluation will include country-level analyses, designed to assess the results of AGF-supported guarantees and capacity development in terms of access to finance, enterprise performance, employment, and related outcomes which address the OECD-DAC criteria of effectiveness and impact. This will include an examination of how AGF's specific blended finance model influences results. One of the case countries shall be Kenya, representing the location of the operational headquarters of the AGF, and a significant share of activities.

5.1.2. Place of performance

Country: Côte d'Ivoire

Anywhere in the given country

Additional information: The evaluation will include country-level analyses, designed to assess the results of AGF-supported guarantees and capacity development in terms of access to finance, enterprise performance, employment, and related outcomes which address the OECD-DAC criteria of effectiveness and impact. This will include an examination of how AGF's specific blended finance model influences results. The other case country is expected to be in West Africa, and shall be determined during the inception phase (tenderers should budget for Côte d'Ivoire).

5.1.3. Estimated duration

Start date: 03/11/2026

Duration end date: 28/04/2028

5.1.5. Value

Estimated value excluding VAT: 4 500 000,00 DKK

5.1.6. General information

Reserved participation:

Participation is not reserved.

The names and professional qualifications of the staff assigned to perform the contract must be given: Tender requirement

Procurement Project not financed with EU Funds.

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA): yes

This procurement is also suitable for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs): yes

Additional information: In the tender, economic operators must submit a completed and signed statement regarding Article 5k(1) of Council Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 of 31 July 2014 concerning restrictive measures in view of Russia's actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine, as amended by Council Regulation (EU) No 2023/1214 of 23 June 2023. The contract cannot be awarded to a tenderer subject to Article 5k(1) of Council Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 of 31 July 2014, as amended by Council Regulation (EU) No 2023/1214 of 23 June 2023. Before the time limit for receipt of tenders, the candidates, which the contracting authority has invited to tender, must present documentation of the information provided in the ESPD. The contracting authority can accept the following documentation in relation to the exclusion grounds in sections 135(1), 135(3) and 137(1)(2) of the Danish Public Procurement Act (in order of priority): (1) Extracts from the relevant register or similar documents issued by a competent judicial or administrative authority or certificates issued by the competent authority in the country referred to as documentation that the tenderer is not subject to the grounds for exclusion stipulated in sections 135(1), 135(3) and 137(1)(2); (2) A declaration on oath (only if such extracts, certificates or similar documents are not issued in the country where the economic operator is established, or where the documentation does not cover all the grounds for exclusion stipulated in sections 135(1), 135(3) and 137(1)(2) entirely); (3) A solemn declaration made by the person concerned before a competent judicial or administrative authority, a notary or a competent professional or trade body, in the country of origin or in the country where the economic operator is established (only if there is no provision for declarations on oath in the country where the economic operator is established). Thus, the contracting authority cannot accept e.g. a solemn declaration made before a notary if there can be issued a certificate by the competent authority in the country where the economic operator is established. Moreover, the contracting authority cannot accept self-declarations or similar declarations issued by the economic operator or the person concerned as documentation in relation to the exclusion grounds. Economic operators can identify the relevant documentation using the online platform e-Certis: <https://ec.europa.eu/tools/ecertis>. If an economic operator is entered on an official list of approved economic operators or has an equivalent certificate (e.g. under a national (pre)qualification system), the economic operator may refer to the list in question or present a certificate issued by the competent authority instead of documentation of the information provided in the ESPD. When an economic operator is participating in the procurement procedure together with others, the economic operator must present a joint statement from all the participating economic operators which identifies the member of the group who can act as an agent on behalf of the group with mandate to establish a legal obligation on behalf of the group in relation to the contracting authority. Economic operators are encouraged to submit all necessary documentation as early as possible. Prior to the signing of the contract, the tenderer, which the contracting authority has awarded the contract to, must present statements of availability from all non-permanent staff (e.g. project specific consultants or freelance consultants). This contract has not been divided into lots, cf. section II.1.6), due to market and economic considerations.

5.1.9. Selection criteria

Sources of selection criteria: Notice

Criterion: Average yearly turnover

Description of selection criterion: The economic operator is required to have an average yearly turnover of minimum DKK 9,000,000 for the last 2 financial years available (where the economic operator can present annual reports). When the economic operator is participating in the procurement procedure together with others (e.g. a consortia or joint venture) or if the economic operator relies on the capacity of other entities, it is required that the participating economic operators or the economic operator and the entities referred to altogether meet the selection criteria. Each involved economic operator or entity must submit a completed ESPD and the participating economic operators or the entities referred to are subject to joint and several liability for the performance of the contract. The contracting authority can accept annual reports or excerpts hereof or relevant statements from a bank or certified accountant as documentation in relation to the economic and financial standing. When an economic operator is participating in the procurement procedure together with others or when an economic operator relies on the economic and financial standing of other entities, the economic operator must also provide statements of support or other documentation proving that the economic operator has access to the necessary economic and financial standing. The statements of support must establish a legal obligation for the party concerned and state that the involved economic operators or entities are subject to joint and several liability for the performance of the contract.

Criterion: References on specified services

Description of selection criterion: The economic operator is required to have performed (entered into, ongoing or finalized) minimum 1 contract regarding an evaluation or assessment of development cooperation using a quasi-experimental design or other rigorous quantitative causal identification strategies within the last 5 years. When the economic operator is participating in the procurement procedure together with others (e.g. a consortia or joint venture) or if the economic operator relies on the capacity of other entities, it is required that the participating economic operators or the economic operator and the entities referred to altogether meet the selection criteria, that each involved economic operator or entity submits a completed ESPD and that the specific parts of the contract must be performed by the economic operators or entities with the required technical and professional abilities. The economic operator must fill in a list of maximum 5 contracts (i.e. from all involved economic operators in a group of economic operators and/or other supporting entities). If an economic operator has listed more than 5 contracts, the contracting authority will only read and assess the 5 most recent contracts listed (first based on end date, and then based on start date). Each listed contract should include the following information: (1) a description of the contract (nature and quantity of services from the economic operator and how they compare to the description of this procurement), (2) amount (remuneration received by the economic operator for the performance of the services), (3) start date (date of conclusion of the contract), (4) end date (date of completion of services), and (5) recipient (name and contact information). The contracting authority reserves the right to contact the recipients of services or require statements from the recipients, confirming that the economic operator has performed the listed contracts, as documentation in relation to the technical and professional ability. When an economic operator is formed by a group of economic operators or relies on the technical and professional abilities of other entities, the economic operator must also provide statements of support or other documentation proving that the economic operator has access to the

necessary technical and professional abilities. The statements of support must establish a legal obligation for the party concerned and state the parts of the contract to be performed by the party concerned.

Criterion: References on specified services

Description of selection criterion: If more than 5 economic operators fulfil the minimum requirements to economic and financial standing and technical and professional ability, the candidates will be selected on the basis of the information concerning technical and professional ability. In the selection, the contracting authority will specifically emphasise: (1) The number of relevant contracts (i.e., contracts that fulfil the minimum requirements to technical and professional ability); (2) The extent to which the performed contracts compare to the description of this procurement, including: (a) the extent to which the performed contracts concern evaluations or other assessments of SME finance or credit markets in Africa, including analysis of market functioning, constraints or effects of interventions; (b) the extent to which the performed contracts concern evaluations or assessments of guarantee instruments or other credit market instruments in developing country contexts; (c) the extent to which the performed contracts concern evaluations or assessments using administrative financial and SME sector data in an African context.

The criteria will be used to select the candidates to be invited for the second stage of the procedure

Maximum number of tenders passing: 5

Information about the second stage of a two-stage procedure:

Minimum number of candidates to be invited for the second stage of the procedure: 5

Maximum number of candidates to be invited for the second stage of the procedure: 5

The procedure will take place in successive stages. At each stage, some participants may be eliminated

5.1.10. Award criteria

Criterion:

Type: Quality

Name: Quality

Description: Please refer to the Criteria and Method of Evaluation. As part of the evaluation of tenders, the contracting authority will also conduct individual interviews with all Key Staff proposed for the position as Team Leader (in compliant tenders). Please refer to the Instructions to Tenderers.

Category of award weight criterion: Weight (percentage, exact)

Award criterion number: 90

Criterion:

Type: Price

Name: Price

Description: Please refer to the Criteria and Method of Evaluation.

Category of award weight criterion: Weight (percentage, exact)

Award criterion number: 10

5.1.11. Procurement documents

Languages in which the procurement documents are officially available: English

Address of the procurement documents: <https://www.ethics.dk/ethics/eo#/842d22b9-494c-4798-830f-8d3ff6d4f7b3/publicMaterial>

5.1.12. Terms of procurement

Terms of the procedure:

Estimated date of dispatch of the invitations to submit tenders: 21/08/2026

Terms of submission:

Electronic submission: Required

Address for submission: <https://www.ethics.dk/ethics/eo#/842d22b9-494c-4798-830f-8d3ff6d4f7b3/homepage>

Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted: English

Electronic catalogue: Not allowed

Variants: Not allowed

Tenderers may submit more than one tender: Not allowed

Deadline for receipt of requests to participate: 10/08/2026 12:00:00 (UTC+00:00) Western European Time, GMT

Terms of contract:

The execution of the contract must be performed within the framework of sheltered employment programmes: No

Conditions relating to the performance of the contract: The winning tenderer is to perform the contract in compliance with the Danida Anti-Corruption Policy (<https://um.dk/en/danida/anti-corruption>) and the principles of the UN Global Compact (<https://www.unglobalcompact.org/what-is-gc/mission/principles>). The contract includes a labour clause concerning conditions on pay and work for the staff assigned for the performance of the contract.

A non-disclosure agreement is required: no

Electronic invoicing: Required

Electronic ordering will be used: no

Electronic payment will be used: yes

Financial arrangement: Payments for fees shall be made in the following four instalments:

Milestone 1: When the final version of the Inception Report is approved by the Client.

Milestone 2: When the draft Evaluation Report is approved by the Client for discussion with the Evaluation Reference Group. Milestone 3: When the final Evaluation Report is approved by the Client. Final payment: For Services rendered after Milestone 3. Payments for reimbursable expenses shall be made as quarterly progress payments and a final payment. Please refer to Article XI and Article XII in the Consultancy Agreement.

5.1.15. Techniques

Framework agreement:

No framework agreement

Information about the dynamic purchasing system:

No dynamic purchase system

5.1.16. Further information, mediation and review

Review organisation: Klagenævnet for Udbud

Information about review deadlines: Actions regarding requests to participate and selection must be submitted within 20 calendar days from the day after the contracting authority has notified the economic operators of the decisions regarding selection. Other actions regarding the procedure (e.g. decisions regarding award of contract) must be submitted within 45 calendar days from the day after the publication of a contract award notice in the Official Journal of the EU. Complaint guidelines (in English) can be found at: <https://naevneneshus.dk/media/u42g3exz/complaint-guidelines.pdf>

Organisation providing more information on the review procedures: Konkurrence- og Forbrugerstyrelsen

8. Organisations

8.1. **ORG-0001**

Official name: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark
Registration number: 43271911
Department: Evaluation, Learning, and Quality (LEARNING)
Postal address: Asiatisk Plads 2
Town: Copenhagen
Postcode: 1448
Country subdivision (NUTS): Byen København (DK011)
Country: Denmark
Contact point: Ninja Ritter Klejnstrup
Email: niklej@um.dk
Telephone: +45 33 92 00 00
Internet address: <https://um.dk/en/danida>

Roles of this organisation:

Buyer

8.1. **ORG-0002**

Official name: Klagenævnet for Udbud
Registration number: 37795526
Postal address: Toldboden 2
Town: Viborg
Postcode: 8800
Country subdivision (NUTS): Vestjylland (DK041)
Country: Denmark
Email: kflu@naevneneshus.dk
Telephone: +45 72405600
Internet address: <https://naevneneshus.dk/start-din-klage/klagenaevnet-for-udbud/>

Roles of this organisation:

Review organisation

8.1. **ORG-0003**

Official name: Konkurrence- og Forbrugerstyrelsen
Registration number: 10294819
Postal address: Carl Jacobsens Vej 35
Town: Valby
Postcode: 2500
Country subdivision (NUTS): Byen København (DK011)
Country: Denmark
Email: kfst@kfst.dk
Telephone: +45 41715000
Internet address: <https://www.kfst.dk>

Roles of this organisation:

Organisation providing more information on the review procedures

8.1. **ORG-0004**

Official name: Merzell Holding ASA
Registration number: 980921565
Postal address: Askekroken 11
Town: Oslo
Postcode: 0277

Country subdivision (NUTS): Oslo (NO081)

Country: Norway

Contact point: eSender

Email: publication@mercell.com

Telephone: +47 21018800

Fax: +47 21018801

Internet address: <http://mercell.com/>

Roles of this organisation:

TED eSender

Notice information

Notice identifier/version: 5a0990c7-2829-4508-97df-7129ef4e52b8 - 01

Form type: Competition

Notice type: Contract or concession notice – standard regime

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