

OCDS Publication Policy



Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA)

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ACRONYMS

API	Application Program Interface
CSV	Comma Separated Values
NeST	National electronic Procurement System
JSON	Java Script Object Notation
XLSX	Excel Spreadsheet
OCDS	Open Contracting Data Standard
PPRA	Public Procurement Regulatory Authority

1. Publication purpose

The Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) is committed to strengthening transparency, accountability, and integrity in public procurement through the structured and open dissemination of procurement data. This Policy serves as a guiding framework for publishing procurement information in alignment with the Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS) and Tanzania's prevailing legal and regulatory requirements governing public procurement.

Fostering transparency in procurement is a core statutory objective of PPRA, as provided under Section 9 of the Public Procurement Act, CAP 410 of 2023. To fulfil this mandate, and in line with Section 10(g) of the same Act, PPRA is required to organize and maintain a system for the publication of procurement data relating to public procurement opportunities, contract awards, and any other information deemed to be of public interest. Moreover, Regulations 19 and 242 of the Public Procurement Regulations, 2024 (GN No. 518), further mandate the publication of procurement plans, tender notices, contract awards, and implementation updates through the national procurement system.

This Policy operationalizes these legal requirements and affirms PPRA's commitment to aligning public procurement data practices with national development priorities and international best practices. It sets out a structured approach to ensuring that procurement data is accurate, timely, complete, and accessible to all stakeholders.

The National e-Procurement System of Tanzania (NeST) is the official digital platform for managing public procurement across all stages of the procurement lifecycle. By leveraging information and communication technologies, NeST facilitates the procurement of goods, works, and services in accordance with applicable procedures; enables the dissemination of procurement-related data to the public and stakeholders; supports the full automation of procurement transactions from planning to contract execution; and allows for the monitoring and oversight of procurement activities to ensure efficiency, compliance, and value for money.

NeST is not only a transactional tool but also a critical enabler of procurement reforms and governance transformation. To enhance its function as a transparency instrument, PPRA has adopted the Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS), a globally recognised framework that allows for the structured publication of data across each phase of the procurement process, from planning, tender, and award to contract and implementation. The adoption of OCDS facilitates increased public access to procurement information, supports meaningful participation by stakeholders, and enhances evidence-based decision-making.

Procurement data structured under OCDS is published through the NeST Open Contracting Data Portal, accessible via <https://data.nest.go.tz>. This portal provides centralised and real-time access to machine-readable procurement data published by procuring entities through NeST. It allows users, including citizens, oversight institutions, researchers, civil society organisations, and the private sector, to track public spending, monitor contract implementation, and hold procuring entities accountable.

Under this Policy, PPRA is the official publisher of procurement data received from procuring entities via the NeST system. The data is generated as part of regular procurement operations and subjected to validation processes to ensure it meets standards of completeness, accuracy, and consistency. Data publication is carried out in accordance with OCDS specifications and open data principles, ensuring transparency, interoperability, and reusability.

Certain categories of information may be excluded from publication where there is a legitimate basis under Tanzanian law. This includes data related to national security, personal data protected by law, or information deemed commercially sensitive or confidential. All exclusions shall be justified and documented in accordance with applicable legal and ethical standards. The Policy also provides for periodic review and stakeholder feedback mechanisms to promote continuous improvement, adapt to emerging trends, and ensure that the publication of procurement data remains relevant, effective, and responsive to public needs.

Furthermore, this Policy reinforces PPRA's strategic objective of promoting an open, inclusive, and accountable procurement system. Through effective implementation, the Policy contributes to enhancing public trust, deterring corruption, improving procurement outcomes, and supporting national goals for transparency, efficiency, and sustainable development.

1.1. Uses of the data

The Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA), in collaboration with the Open Contracting Partnership (OCP), is leveraging open contracting data to enhance the accessibility, usability, and sharing of public procurement information. This initiative is aligned with the fundamental principles of public procurement and supply as set out under Section 5 of the Public Procurement Act, CAP 410 of 2023, which require that all procurement be conducted in a manner that ensures value for money, and promotes integrity, accountability, competition, economy, efficiency, transparency, and sustainability.

By adopting structured, standardized, and open data formats for public contracting, PPRA is reinforcing its commitment to the highest standards of equity and fairness, including equal opportunity for all tenderers, fair treatment of all parties, and the promotion of local industry and sustainable development. The use of open contracting data strengthens the capacity of stakeholders to:

- deliver better value for money for government expenditure,
- Foster fairer competition and a level playing field, particularly for small and medium enterprises (SMEs);,
- Enhance the quality and efficiency of goods, works, and services delivered to citizens;,
- Prevent fraud, collusion, and corruption through increased transparency; and
- Enable smarter analysis and evidence-based solutions to public procurement challenges..

2. Publication details

This section outlines the details of the OCDS data publication itself. Sections covered are: creation of OCDS datasets; OCID generation; data portal and publication formats; frequency of updates; and a list of ways to access the data.

2.1. Creation of OCDS datasets

The data is updated on a daily basis through an established process that extracts records from the NeST system, converts them into the Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS) format, and indexes them to enable searchability and structured access. Information available through the [data portal/API](#) reflects these daily updates. However, [bulk download files](#) are updated weekly to allow sufficient time for quality assurance, data verification, and compliance with publication standards.

2.2. OCID generation

Our publication uses the ocds-mv5oob as the prefix, and the field tender reference number as the contracting process identifier. The prefix was registered on 30th October 2024 by PPRA. That local identifier was selected because it's unique per advertised tender.

2.3. Accessing the data

This section outlines the various channels through which users can access the Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS) data published by PPRA. It provides an overview of the features available on the public-facing data portal, including search functionalities and interactive tools. The section also highlights additional access options such as bulk data downloads and programmatic access via APIs. Furthermore, it identifies any complementary contracting data sets that, while not in OCDS format, are made publicly available to enhance transparency and support data use across different stakeholder groups.

2.3.1 OCDS data

PPRA makes OCDS data available in various formats to meet the needs of different users. The following formats are available as indicated in Table 2.1

Table 2.1: OCDS Data

Format	Description	Link(s)
Bulk OCDS release download (JSON)	Monthly files segmented by release date Suitable for analysis and storage in a	https://data.nest.go.tz/ocds

	document database	
Bulk OCDS record download (JSON)	Monthly files segmented by release date Suitable for analysis and/or storage in a document database	https://data.nest.go.tz/ocds
Bulk OCDS release download (CSV)	Monthly ZIP archive containing a multi-table CSV serialization of OCDS data, segmented by release date Suitable for analysis and/or storage in a document database	https://data.nest.go.tz/ocds
Bulk OCDS record download (CSV)	Monthly ZIP archive containing a multi-table CSV serialization of OCDS data, segmented by initial release date. Suitable for analysis in spreadsheet software and/or storage in a relational database.	https://data.nest.go.tz/ocds
Bulk OCDS release download (XSL)	Monthly ZIP archive containing a multi-table excel serialization of OCDS data, segmented by release date Suitable for analysis and/or storage in a document database	https://data.nest.go.tz/ocds
Bulk OCDS record download (XSL)	Monthly ZIP archive containing a multi-table excel serialization of OCDS data, segmented by initial release date. Suitable for analysis in spreadsheet software and/or storage in a relational database.	https://data.nest.go.tz/ocds
Release API (JSON)	Programmatic API with query parameters for ocid, release id, release date and buyer. Suitable for access by digital tools to obtain recently updated data or to download a subset of data	https://data.nest.go.tz/ocds
Record API (JSON)	Programmatic API with query parameters for ocid and buyer. Suitable for access by tools, to obtain recently updated data or to download a subset of data	https://data.nest.go.tz/ocds

2.3.2 Open contracting portal - NeST Data Portal

The Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) provides an Open Contracting Data Portal accessible at [<https://data.nest.go.tz>], designed to facilitate public access, analysis, and reuse of procurement data in line with principles of transparency, accountability, and open governance.

The portal features a robust search engine, advanced filtering options, and interactive visualisations that enable users to explore various stages of the public procurement process, from planning and tendering to award and contract implementation. Users can refine their queries using parameters such as procuring entity, procurement method, tender status, financial year, geographic location, and contract value, among others. This functionality empowers stakeholders, including policymakers, civil society, researchers, and private sector actors, to access relevant and timely information tailored to their specific interests and oversight needs.

3. Data scope

This section provides detail what is included in the OCDS data and what is not included, as explained in Table 3.1

Table 3.1: Data scope

Dates	2023-07-01 onwards
Buyers	Buyers include all public bodies and any other entities or units established and mandated by the Government of Tanzania to perform public functions, with the exception of security organs engaged in the procurement of restricted items or other classified national security-related procurements..
Values	All contract values resulting from framework or tendering proceedings
Coverage	. Procurement data is published in accordance with the Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS), while adhering to the disclosure thresholds established under relevant laws, regulations, and applicable policy guidelines.
Process types	Public, Restricted, and Single procurement method categories, including tendering and framework processes, subject to applicable confidentiality and security safeguards and with appropriate monitoring measures to ensure compliance with legal and regulatory requirements.
Stages	In accordance with the Public Procurement Act and its Regulations, we publish comprehensive data across all key stages of the procurement cycle, including procurement plans, tender notices, and contract awards.
Change History	A change history for each contracting process is provided through

	releases associated with each contract's id (OCID). This is published daily as noted in " <i>Creation of OCDS datasets</i> "
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3.1. Exclusions and omissions

The scope of data excluded from publication under this Policy is governed by the provisions of the Public Procurement Act (CAP 410), and the provisions under the Personal Data Protection Act (CAP 44), and Section 2 of the Public Procurement Act (CAP 410) relating to procurement by Security Organs. In line with these legal provisions, certain data shall be withheld from OCDS publication where its disclosure would:

- I. Contravene the laws of the United Republic of Tanzania;
- II. Undermine law enforcement processes;
- III. Not serve the public interest;
- IV. Prejudice the legitimate commercial interests of contracting parties;
- V. Distort or inhibit fair competition; or
- VI. Reveal detailed information related to the evaluation of tenders, framework agreements, or pre-qualification processes.

Privacy

The Personal Data Protection Act, 2022 (Cap 44). prohibits the disclosure of personal information of a data subject without the subject's express written permission for the collection, collation, processing or disclosure of that information unless the data controller is permitted or required to do so by law.

Therefore, only personal data which the PPRA is authorised to publish under the provisions of the Public Procurement Regulations, GN No. 518 or is expressly consented to shall be published under the OCDS.

National Security

In accordance with national laws and regulatory frameworks, certain documents and information shall be excluded from publication under this Policy to safeguard national interests and public safety.

Procurement documents or data that could compromise the security, defence, or international relations of the United Republic of Tanzania shall not be processed for publication. This includes any information communicated in confidence by or on behalf of a foreign government, diplomatic mission, or international organization.

Similarly, documents submitted to or originating from Cabinet deliberations, including those proposed by Ministers for Cabinet consideration, shall not be published. Where applicable, such documents may be reviewed for disclosure based on national archival or access-to-information guidelines, subject to direction by competent authorities.

Any data or documentation that could negatively affect the enforcement of the law, compromise ongoing investigations, or endanger the safety, life, or physical well-being of individuals will be excluded from publication. This also includes information that may prejudice the fair trial of individuals, interfere with judicial or quasi-judicial proceedings, or undermine inquiries or investigations conducted under the relevant legal frameworks.

Furthermore, information protected under legal professional privilege, obtained in confidence, or containing sensitive commercial details such as business strategies, trade secrets, pricing models, exchange rates, or research data, shall not be published if its release would compromise legitimate business or economic interests.

Documents whose disclosure would be in contempt of court or Parliament, or which are subject to valid non-disclosure provisions under the Access to Information Act or other relevant legislation, shall also be withheld. The exclusion of such information ensures that the objectives of transparency and accountability are balanced with the need to protect national security, public safety, and the rights of individuals and institutions under Tanzanian law.

3.2. Legal concepts and OCDS data

The procurement processes and terminology used in Tanzania are defined under the Public Procurement Act (CAP 410) and its accompanying Regulations. To support data users in understanding how these legal concepts relate to our open data practices, we provide documentation that maps local procurement terminology and processes to the structure and fields within our OCDS publication.

Tanzania's legal framework also includes explicit provisions mandating the disclosure of procurement information. These requirements are fulfilled through the publication of structured data using the Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS). Members of the public who wish to understand the legal basis for data disclosure are encouraged to consult the Public Procurement Act and its relevant Regulations.

In addition, we provide supporting documentation to help users locate legally required information within the OCDS dataset. This includes guidance on which data elements correspond to specific legal obligations, thereby ensuring transparency, consistency, and usability of the published data.

4. Responsibility, contact and feedback

The Research Development and Innovation Unit within PPRA Tanzania is responsible for this OCDS publication. Please send any feedback to rdi@ppra.go.tz. Alternatively, get in touch via the following address and telephone number:

Director General,
PPRA,
Ununuzi House,
P.O BOX 2865,
Dodoma.

We welcome feedback on our open data and encourage data users and members of the public to get in touch with ideas on how to improve our open data sets. We particularly welcome feedback on data processing, data quality, research and any issue of your interest.

When you provide feedback, we will be in touch to acknowledge your message and may follow up with any clarifications if necessary. Issues raised through feedback will be discussed with our team in accordance with our future development plans. After discussing your feedback we may contact you to let you know what actions are being taken.

5. License

The Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) of Tanzania has made the data contained in its Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS) publication available under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial-Share Alike 4.0 International License. This licensing arrangement is intended to promote transparency, data accessibility, and public engagement, while safeguarding the integrity and responsible use of the information.

Under this license, users are permitted to access, share, and redistribute the dataset through any medium or format. Furthermore, users may adapt the data by remixing, transforming, or building upon it, and may publish new content derived from the data, including republishing the dataset, provided that attribution is given and the original source (NeST Data Portal) is clearly cited and linked.

However, the license explicitly prohibits the use of the data for commercial purposes without the prior written consent of PPRA. Users are also prohibited from applying legal or technological measures that would restrict others from exercising the rights granted by this license. Proper attribution must be given in all uses, and where the data, whether used for commercial or non-commercial purposes, results in the generation of revenue, users are required to contribute a portion of such revenue to PPRA, in accordance with applicable terms.

This license does not imply endorsement by PPRA or confer any official status on the user or their applications of the data. Any use of the data that suggests endorsement or official association is strictly prohibited.

Additionally, this license does not extend to:

- Personal or confidential data embedded within the dataset;
- Official logos of PPRA or any public sector institutions, unless such logos appear as an integral part of a document or dataset;
- Other intellectual property rights, such as trademarks, patents, or design rights.

PPRA encourages responsible and lawful use of this data to support open governance, informed participation, and evidence-based policy making in public procurement.

6. Future development plans affecting the data

PPRA Tanzania intends to further develop the NeST e-GP system through future upgrades. These enhancements may impact the underlying database model used for data analytics, potentially altering the structure and format of the published OCDS data. Consequently, users should be prepared for changes in how data is stored, accessed, and analyzed to align with the system's updated capabilities and features.

7. Disclaimer

The dataset provided through the NeST Data Portal <https://data.nest.go.tz> is made available on an "as is" basis, without any express or implied warranties, including but not limited to warranties of accuracy, completeness, reliability, fitness for a particular purpose, or non-infringement. Access to the NeST Data Portal does not imply or constitute any representation or guarantee by the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) of the veracity, accuracy, adequacy, suitability, completeness, or timeliness of the information published therein.

The procurement data disseminated via the Portal includes submissions from various Procuring Entities and Economic Operators. PPRA does not warrant that the data provided by these contributing entities is current, complete, or error-free, and expressly disclaims any liability in this regard.

Documents accompanying procurement processes represent digital reproductions of originals generated by Procuring Entities. Such publications are intended as faithful and complete compilations of the original documents issued by the respective official entities and have not been modified, edited, or otherwise altered in any way.

PPRA shall not be held liable for any decisions made or actions taken based solely on the information accessed through the NeST Data Portal, nor for any resulting damages or losses incurred by users or third parties. PPRA reserves the right to modify, update, or otherwise alter, without prior notice, any content, structure, configuration, or presentation of information available on the NeST Data Portal.