

## TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR EXPERTS

Terms of reference for on-site activities and missions

**Action code and partner country:** SOCIEUX 2020-19 TANZANIA (ZANZIBAR)

**Action title:** Assessment of School Feeding Programme for pre-primary and primary school in Zanzibar

**Partner institution:** President's Office, Regional Administration and Special Departments (PORASD)

**Activity number and title:** Activity 2 – Assessment of the quality and nutritional value of the meals provided to pre-primary school children in Zanzibar

**Date of implementation of activity/ies:** 10-day on-site mission (plus preparation and finalization time worked at distance), tentatively scheduled on April 12<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> 2021.

**Expert positions and responsibilities (activity 1):**

Expert 1 (principal) – Access to Education; Access to basic services

Expert 2 – : Rights of the Child

**Workload:**

Expert 1 : 19 days

Expert 2 : 18 days

**Call for experts' reference:** 20-19/TNZ/2

**Version - #:** 2

Draft

Final

Date: January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021

SOCIEUX+ is implemented by

Partnership led by:

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## 1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### 1.1 Country overview

In 1964, Tanganyika united with the Island of Zanzibar to form the United Republic of Tanzania, the largest in the East African region, bordered by Kenya and Uganda to the North, Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo to the West and Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique to the South. Tanzania has a population of around 50 million people. While the official capital is Dodoma, the largest city, chief port, major economic and transportation hub and de facto capital, is Dar es Salaam. Spoken languages are Swahili and English (both official), Arabic (widely spoken in Zanzibar).

Tanzania has been spared the internal strife that has blighted many African states. Unfortunately, domestic stability has not translated into economic prosperity for Tanzanians. Despite efforts between 2007 and 2016 that have reduced the country's poverty rate from 34.4% to 26.8%, the absolute number of poor people has held at about 13 million due to high population growth, although the country has had some success in wooing donors and investors. Tanzania is a developing country and its economy depends heavily on agriculture. The sector accounts for more than 40% of GDP, provides 85% of the country's exports and employs 80% of the total workforce. Apart from the agricultural sector, tourism, mining and small scale industries are increasingly contributing to the national economic growth.

Zanzibar comprises two main islands, Unguja and Pemba, and a number of sparsely populated smaller islands. According to 2012 population census, Zanzibar is home to around 1,3 million inhabitants. A former centre of the spice and slave trades, present-day Zanzibar is infused with African, Arab, European and Indian influences. The capital is Zanzibar City, located on the island of Unguja. Its historic centre is Stone Town, which is a World Heritage Site. Zanzibar's main industries are spices, raffia, and tourism. In particular, the islands produce cloves, nutmeg, cinnamon, and black pepper.

While the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania is responsible for defence, external affairs, fiscal policy and monetary issues, Zanzibar has autonomy over development policy. Education, for example, is not a Union's matter: its development falls under the full responsibility of the Government of Zanzibar. The primary and secondary education system in Zanzibar is slightly different from that of the Tanzanian mainland. On the mainland, education is only compulsory for the seven years of primary education, while in Zanzibar an additional three years of secondary education are compulsory and free. Students in Zanzibar score significantly less on standardized tests for reading and mathematics than students on the mainland.

### 1.2 Sector situation

Decentralization-by-Devolution in Zanzibar was official adopted on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 to facilitate autonomy of local governments in service delivery and local economic development. Devolution was applied selectively. The selected sector Ministries for the first phase of devolution are: Education, Health and Agriculture including natural resources, fisheries and livestock. In the Ministry of Education, 5 specific functions have been devolved: Enrolment in Pre and Primary Schools; Operationalization of Pre and Primary Schools (payment of water, electricity and minor repairs); School feeding (pre-primary and primary schools); Payment of bus fares for teachers; and; Payment of allowances for TUTU school's teachers (community-based pre-primary centres which were constructed to attempt to speed up the infrastructure for pre-primary enrolment).

All Zanzibar children aged 5 and 6 years are expected to be enrolled in pre-primary education for 2 years. Enrolment in pre-primary schools has increased in recent years. In 2018, 71,979 children were enrolled at pre-primary level. In the same year, there were 95 government pre-primary schools, 361 government primary schools, and 301 TUTUs (these are not included in the government school feeding programme). As part of their new responsibilities, Local Government Authorities have taken on the management of school feeding for pre-primary schools their respective districts. This is in line with the Zanzibar Education policy (2006, p. 61) which indicates that "*Children should be healthy in order to learn properly. Health and nutrition are essential for students both for learning and for maintaining a healthy life*". School feeding is provided to all students in government pre-primary schools and is fully funded by the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar. In addition, a donor programme for primary schools (managed through the Ministry of Education) provides meals in students at 27 primary schools in remote areas.

### 1.3 Role of partner institution in the sector

The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar issued Legal Notice No 21 of March 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 whereby the President's Office, Regional Administration and Special Departments (PORASD) was created. This Office was charged with the responsibility for maintaining peace and security in Zanzibar, as well as overall supervision and coordination of the implementation of the entire Decentralisation-by-Devolution process including fiscal decentralization. This implies that the PORASD monitors all local government authorities. It also performs all functions as provided for in the Zanzibar Local Government Policy 2014, Local Government Act (No 7/2014), Regional Administration Act (No 8/2014) and Decentralization-by-Devolution Agenda for Zanzibar. According to the Strategic Plan 2019/20 - 2023/24, the PORASD's mission is to create and provide social economic environment, quality services, peace and security to the general community.

With the advent of decentralisation in 3 sectors, health, education and agriculture, the responsibilities of primary health, pre and primary education and agricultural extension services have been transferred to Local Government Authorities for service delivery. The responsibilities of the PORASDs specifically includes to monitor and evaluate the performance of Local Governmental Authorities (LGAs) in service delivery. Within the department, the Devolved Sectors Coordination Division is tasked specifically with supervising and monitoring LGAs on management of devolved sector services in their areas of jurisdiction.

*Sectoral and institutional needs and gaps in particular related to the original objectives agreed with the Partner Institution.*

The recently drafted Mid-term Evaluation of the Implementation of the Zanzibar Social Protection policy (June 2020) notes that: *"The school feeding priority has changed. Rather than a gradual scaling up of feeding in both pre-primary and primary schools, the new policy is to prioritise pre-primary schools and provide food to all children at this level. Responsibility for implementation of this now lies with the President's Office, Regional Administration, Local Government and Special Departments (PORASD), rather than the Ministry of Education. Funds pass through the regions and local government authorities to schools. However, there are no guidelines to local authorities on how to maximise nutritional value for minimum cost and reportedly some schools are simply providing bread. This may also be linked to the low budget allocated of just 100 TZS per child per day. No assessment of the minimum cost of a nutritionally appropriate meal has yet been carried out."*

There are several Ministries which are critical stakeholders of school feeding: Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (MoEVT) and Ministry of Health (MoH), and the Nutrition and food security unit at the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA).

Currently, there is one donor-funded school feeding initiative: the Home Grown School Feeding Programme. It is funded by Table for Two International (TfT), and managed by the Partnership for Child Development (PCD). This special programme targets 27 primary schools and is managed by the Ministry of Education (not PORASD).

## 2 ACTION DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Overall objective

To assess the nutritional value and quality of meals currently offered to pre-primary school children and provide recommendations for their improvement

### 2.2 Specific objective (s) (purpose)

- SO1. To assess the nutritional value and quality of meals currently offered to pre-primary school children and provide recommendations for their improvement
- SO2. To assess the actual management and implementation of the school feeding programme.
- SO3. To assess current linkages with local systems, in particular with regards to the agricultural sector, in order to enable the local environment in view to systemically scale up the school feeding programme

### 2.3 Expected results

An assessment is formulated on the above-mentioned matters (see Specific Objectives) that directly contribute to the upcoming formulation of guidelines for the pre-primary and primary school feeding programme, as well as recommendations to support its operational efficiency.

## 2.4 Final deliverables

D1. An assessment report, on the operational management of the Zanzibar's School Feeding Programme. The assessment will primarily focus and provide recommendations on the following aspects:

- the optimal capitation grant to adequately cover the operational costs and permit LGAs to purchase the most nutritious food options;
- the current school feeding supply chain, administrative and organisational structure and roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders (including capacity-building requirements);
- general and/or contextual operational bottlenecks to the efficient running of the programme and outline variations of implementation;
- monitoring indicators to be used to ensure that school feeding programme is performing adequately

D2. An assessment report, on the current and optimal linkages with local systems, including in view of achieving value-added in the agricultural sector and to build-up an enabling environment adequate to scale up the School Feeding Programme.

D3. An assessment report, on the quality and nutritional value of the meals provided to pre-primary school children in the various districts in the framework of the Zanzibar's School Feeding Programme

D4. A final review of D1 & D2 that takes into account the observations and findings of the on-site mission.

## 3 METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 General methodology (of the action)

The whole Action will provide peer-to-peer technical support in order to address the following challenges:

- How to implement a scalable, sustainable and effective school feeding programme, including what is the overall operational cost for this.
- There is a question about the quality of the food provided to school children. In particular, there is little knowledge around what would be the most adequate and nutritious foods for children aged 4 – 5 and in view of the agricultural context of Zanzibar.
- There is inadequate multisectoral linkages, including: with the health sector (the nutrition unit within the Ministry of Agriculture), for their technical inputs; and with the local agricultural sector in view to contribute to the local economy.

PORASD and the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (MoEVT) are planning to develop National Guidelines for School Feeding. The assessment conducted in the framework of this Action shall provide information that will be useful for the development of the Guidelines.

The Action will deploy two activities: the first one has been implemented at distance, the second one will be implemented on-site.

The first activity serves to assess the management and implementation of the School Feeding Programme, with particular regards to the following dimensions:

- the actual capitation grant and formulate recommendations on the optimal size of the capitation grant in order to adequately cover the operational costs and permit LGAs to purchase the most nutritious food options;

- the current school feeding supply chain, the connected administrative and organisational structures, the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders; capacity requirements will also be considered and may produce capacity-building recommendations;
- general and/or contextual operational bottlenecks to the efficient running of the programme, in order to outline variations in the implementation process;
- monitoring indicators to be used to ensure that the school feeding programme performs adequately.

Experts also look into the system of institutional and multi-stakeholders relations that take place in the framework of the School Feeding Programme. The overall assessment of the system involved in the School Feeding Programme explores suitable options for scaling up the Programme itself, in the context of an increasingly enabling institutional and cooperation environment. A particular consideration is paid to the potential economic value-added for the local agricultural sector.

The second activity will contribute to the assessment of the quality and nutritional value of meals provided to pre-primary school children in the different districts in Zanzibar in the framework of the School Feeding Programme. The available agricultural resources of the Island shall be considered in order to determine how they can best combine in view to constitute a nutritious, high-quality school meal for pre-primary school children. The activity shall be conducted on-site, as a remote implementation seems to be little adequate to the task.

Experts shall have access and review relevant, first-hand information about the composition of meals provided to pre-primary school children in the various districts of Zanzibar. The assessment will result from a peer-to-peer exchange through meetings and on-site visits between the experts mobilized by SOCIEUX+ and the different relevant actors, including officials at PORASD, at the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, at the Ministry of Health, but also, at the district level, District Assistant Directors of Education and relevant staff in the different school districts of Zanzibar. Experts may, where possible, meet children's families in order to gather their opinion on the subject matter. The Partner will be responsible to facilitate the participation of all relevant actors to the dialogue with the experts' Team.

### **3.2 Planned activities (work plan of the action)**

The following activities are currently planned for the action:

- Activity 1 – Systemic assessment of the operational management of the Zanzibar's School Feeding Programme
- Activity 2 – Assessment of the quality and nutritional value of the meals provided to pre-primary school children in Zanzibar

The present terms of reference cover the services expected for activities of the above work plan:

- Activity 2 – Assessment of the quality and nutritional value of the meals provided to pre-primary school children in Zanzibar

### **3.3 Inclusion of cross-cutting issues**

SOCIEUX+ recognises the importance to include cross-cutting issues in social protection, labour and employment policies and systems. The following cross-cutting issues are duly taken into account:

- Gender equality;
- Good governance;
- Environmental sustainability;
- Human rights (including rights of children, people living with disabilities, vulnerable groups and minorities); and,
- Social and economic inclusion of vulnerable groups.

## **4 ACTIVITIES DESCRIPTION**

### **4.1 Tasks**

The principal expert will lead the mission. He/she will be responsible for the final delivery of all deliverables of the activity (see below Section **iError! No se encuentra el origen de la referencia.**). He/she will be responsible for the preparation, coordination, implementation and reporting of the overall activity towards SOCIEUX+.

The main tasks of the mission team include:

- Ahead of the on-site mission, to get substantial knowledge of the local context; review any relevant background documents provided by the SOCIEUX+ Team and/or the Partner.
- Preliminary contacts with the Partner in view of the preparation of the mission's methodology and agenda, to be transmitted ahead of mission to the SOCIEUX+ team for approval;
- Taking part to the pre-departure briefing with SOCIEUX+ team (around 1 week before the mission);
- Organizing and conducting remote consultations with the Partner's executives and staffs, as well as any other external actor that can support the positive deployment of the mission;
- To make themselves available for a meeting with the EU Delegation office in Dar es Salaam;
- To present the outcomes of the mission to the partner in order to discuss and take into account comments on the contents of the deliverables before their finalization;
- At the end of the mission, timely submission to SOCIEUX+ of the final deliverables (10 working days after the mission), and availability to go through a round of comments and adjustments in interaction with SOCIEUX+ and the Partner;
- To channel to SOCIEUX+ Communication officer any material that can be useful to inform the public about the activity (pictures, interviews, brief notes or articles);
- To employ the different templates and evaluation forms provided by the SOCIEUX+ Team.

## 4.2 Deliverables

### 4.2.1 Pre-mission deliverables

- P1: A methodological note, detailing the working approach, tools and methods to employ, a risks analysis, etc. The Methodological Note shall not exceed 3 pages (excluding cover page and annexes).
- P2: An agenda of the distant exchanges, detailing the meetings and working sessions to be held, persons to meet, etc. The Activity/mission Agenda shall not exceed 2 pages.

### 4.2.2 Final deliverables

- ExMR: An individual Expert Mission Report (ExMR) in SOCIEUX+ format (template provided). This report is a confidential product intended solely for and use by SOCIEUX+. The expert team may also submit a single-joint ExMR report if they prefer to do so (see instructions on the template).
- ExF: An individual completed Expert Feedback Form (ExF) completed online (see instructions and link on the ExMR template).
- AcR: A collective Activity Report (AcR) in SOCIEUX+ format (template provided). This AcR is to be produced jointly by the mission team. It is intended for the Partner Institution, and will be shared, most probably, with key stakeholders of the action. The report will reflect the tasks conducted in during the activity. It shall provide a meaningful contribution towards the final deliverables of the action.
- D2: An assessment report, on the quality and nutritional value of the meals provided to pre-primary school children in the various districts in the framework of the Zanzibar's School Feeding Programme
- D3: A final review of D1 that takes into account the observations and findings of the on-site mission

## 5 REPORTING AND SUBMISSION OF DELIVERABLES

## 5.1 Formats

All deliverables and products of the activity (notes, reports, presentations, etc) shall comply with the formats and templates provided by the SOCIEUX+ Team.

All deliverables are to be submitted in electronic in electronic editable versions [Microsoft Word 97-2003 [doc], PowerPoint 97-2003 [ppt] and Excel 97-2003 [xls]; or in equivalent OpenDocument format). Non-editable electronic document such as in Portable Document Format (PDF) shall not be accepted.

Templates for electronic presentations during the activity/mission are provided by the SOCIEUX+ Team. These templates are in Microsoft PowerPoint format and comply with the SOCIEUX+ Corporate Image standards. These templates are to be used as a sole format by all members of the expert mission team. They are to be used for all presentations by the experts during and for the activity/mission. The use by the experts of their own, or their organisation(s), templates or formats are not allowed unless otherwise instructed in written [by email] to the experts by the SOCIEUX+ Team.

All versions of deliverables or other products used or produced during activity/mission by the experts shall include the following disclaimer:

*"Disclaimer:*

*The responsibility of this publication sole lies with its authors. The European Union, the European Commission, the implementation partners of SOCIEUX+ and the SOCIEUX+ Staff are not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein."*

Please refer to the expert information package for further guidance on communication and templates.

All deliverables are to be provided in English.

## 5.2 Submission and approval

All deliverables versions (drafts, final or other) shall be submitted directly and only to SOCIEUX+ Team, unless otherwise instructed in written [by email] to the experts by the SOCIEUX+ Team.

### 5.2.1 Pre-mission deliverables

- Pre-mission deliverables shall be submitted no later than 5 working days before the start of activity or departure of the mission of the experts, whichever is the earliest.
- Pre-mission deliverables will be shared and reviewed by the SOCIEUX+ and the Partner Institution. Feedback on the deliverables should be provided to the Principal Expert at latest 2 days before the start of activity or departure of the mission of the experts, whichever is the earliest. Comments and recommendation of this feedback shall be taken into account for the implementation of the activity/mission by the experts. Only the mission agenda shall be resubmitted with revision if requested by the SOCIEUX+ Team.

### 5.2.2 Final deliverables

- The first draft versions of the final deliverables are to be submitted no later than 10 working days upon completion of the activity or return of the experts.
- Feedback to the first draft version of the report should be provided 10 working days after its submission.
- Inclusion of the feedback on drafts versions is expected 5 working days upon reception of the comments by the principal expert. (In general, no more than one round of feedback and revision is required, unless the quality of the deliverables is considered unsatisfactory by the SOCIEUX+ Team or/and the Partner Institution.)
- Final versions of the deliverables should be approved or rejected no later than 10 working days upon their submission to the SOCIEUX+ Team.
- Final payments and reimbursement of travel costs to experts can only be authorised upon approval of the final version of the deliverables by SOCIEUX+.

## 6 REQUIRED EXPERTISE

## 6.1 Expertise profile

### **Principal expert (Expert #1):**

**Area(s) of expertise:** Access to Education; Access to other Basic Social Services

**Specific skill(s) of expertise:** Policy & Strategy making and development

#### **Requirements (essential/required):**

- Education: university level (Masters or PhD relating to the subject are considered a plus)
- At least 10 years of professional experience within EU public administrations or, international organisations, academia, social partners, civil society organizations
- Specific experience and skills in food security and school-feeding policies;
- Previous experience in access to education and/or other basic services;
- Previous experience in assessing and designing school feeding policies and/or managing school feeding programs;
- Fluent in English, written and oral;
- Acute sense of diplomacy and institutional relations.

#### **Additional assets (advantageous in selection):**

- A previous experience in delivering short-term technical assistance in international cooperation;
- A previous professional experience in sub-Saharan Africa.

### **Expert #2**

**Area(s) of expertise:** Rights of the Child

**Specific skill(s) of expertise:** Service delivery

#### **Requirements (essential/required):**

- Education: university level (Masters or PhD relating to the subject are considered a plus)
- At least 10 years of professional experience within EU public administrations or, international organisations, academia, social partners, civil society organizations
- Specific experience and skills in protecting and promoting the Rights of the Child;
- Specific experience and skills in access to education;
- Previous experience in assessing and designing school feeding policies;
- A proven capacity to conduct ethnographic research;
- Fluent in English, written and oral;
- Acute sense of diplomacy and institutional relations.

#### **Additional assets (advantageous in selection):**

- Any other favourable/additional qualification that may improve the delivery of expected results.

**OR/AND****Collaborative institution:**

**Area of expertise:** Educational policies and access to education; Nutritional policies

Geographic and institutional span: EU Member States administrations (national and decentralised levels); International and Non-Governmental Organisations dealing with Educational policies and nutritional policies.

**6.2 Estimated workload**

	<b>Preparation</b>	<b>On-site work</b>	<b>Travel</b>	<b>Reporting &amp; deliverables</b>	<b>Total Working days</b>
Principal expert (#1)	4	10	2	5	<b>21</b>
Expert (#2)	3	10	2	4	<b>19</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>40</b>

**7 APPLICATIONS****7.1 Call for experts**

All calls for experts for SOCIEUX+ activities are published online on the SOCIEUX+ website. Interested experts should submit their application on the SOCIEUX+ on-line expert database: <https://pmt.socieux.eu> (currently only available in English). The application process is:

1. If they have not already, experts create their SOCIEUX+ account by clicking on "Create an account" using an email address.
2. Login details for their account will be sent to experts by email, experts should create and submit their profile for review by<sup>1</sup>:
  - a. Providing contact details
  - b. Providing information on the competences, skills and working history of the expert. Experts are required to provide only limited information through fields marked with an asterisk. However, *experts are encouraged to complete in most detail de sections on skills and competences as the SOCIEUX+ Team also regularly reviews profiles in the roster to identify and contact potential experts for future missions.*
  - c. Uploading of a curriculum vitae, preferably in Europass format<sup>2</sup>.
3. Once their profile is approved by the SOCIEUX+ Team, they can apply to any available calls for experts accessible under the tab "Call for experts" and click on "Apply."

If more information is needed, please contact SOCIEUX+ by email at [experts@socieux.eu](mailto:experts@socieux.eu) with the reference number of the application.

Collaborative or interested institutions wishing to make expertise available for a specific call for application may directly contact the team of SOCIEUX+ at [experts@socieux.eu](mailto:experts@socieux.eu).

<sup>1</sup> SOCIEUX+ expert database and other management tools comply with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) -Regulation (EU) 2016/679.

<sup>2</sup> Europass templates for CVs are available here: <http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/en/documents/curriculum-vitae/templates-instructions>

## 7.2 Selection of experts

In principle, SOCIEUX+ mobilises experts from the public administrations and mandated bodies of EU member states, and practitioners working for social partners, including:

- Practitioners, civil servants and employees from publicly mandated bodies;
- Collaborators and employees of social partner institutions, such as trade unions and employer associations; and,
- Academic and research institutions.

Active public experts are given priority in the selection. Private consultants may also apply.

Only short-listed applicants may be contacted. The selection process may include interviews by phone or other communication means.

Interested candidates may download the **Guide for Experts and Collaborative Institutions** with detailed information on contracting with SOCIEUX+ at [www.socieux.eu](http://www.socieux.eu)

## 7.3 Contracting of public experts

Public experts can be in active duty or retired. Retired employees from international specialised agencies or cooperation agencies can also be mobilised, without regard to their former employer's collaborating with SOCIEUX+ on a specific action. Retired experts are considered as public experts for all purposes, benefits, and financial compensation provided by SOCIEUX+.

Short-listed candidates may be required to provide the contact of employer or proof of their ability to be directly contracted under their status as civil servant or public employee.

## 7.4 Financial compensations

Contract officials or active-duty or retired employees are entitled to standard fixed allowances of 350 euros per working day worked. The fees of private consultants are negotiated according to their number of years of relevant expertise and the standard scale of SOCIEUX+.

Retired experts are assimilated to public employees for all intents and purposes, benefits and financial compensation provided by SOCIEUX+.

National regulations on remuneration and compensation of public employees and civil servants applies, and may limit the payment of allowances by SOCIEUX+. The responsibility for compliance and verification lies with individual experts and their institutions of origin. The payment of income or other taxes is the sole responsibility of the mobilised experts and/or their organisations.

## 7.5 Travel costs

All travel expenses for the mobilized experts (public, private or international institutions) are covered by SOCIEUX in accordance with the **Guide for Experts and Collaborative institutions** with detailed information on contracting with SOCIEUX+ (version as on date of signature of the contract).

## 8 COMMUNICATION & VISIBILITY

SOCIEUX + can use its communication channels, such as the web, newsletter and other media, to share information about the implementation and results of the activities. For this, contributions of the experts mobilised are expected. The experts may be requested to provide such contributions in the field of communication as photographs, provide short texts, and interviews.

Short briefings, before and after the mission, with the Communication Officer of SOCIEUX+. This briefings will provide the opportunity to identify communication opportunities and strategies.

For specific activities, visibility products, such as brochures, USB sticks, notebooks and pens, can be made available to experts for on-site distribution.

## 9 CODE OF CONDUCT

The experts mobilised by SOCIEUX+ will provide technical assistance from the preparatory stages of each activity to the delivery of products. The SOCIEUX+ Team will assist experts to fulfil their assignments by supporting and advising on the preparation of background materials before meetings. The SOCIEUX+ team will collect feedback from partner institutions and relevant stakeholders to ensure that mission reports and recommendations are delivered to national authorities, the EU Delegations in the partner countries and EuropeAid.

The experts mobilised are not representing SOCIEUX+ or the EU. Technical opinions and recommendations expressed are their own. They shall not express negative opinions on the implementation of actions supported by SOCIEUX+ to third-parties. Nevertheless, they shall be aware of SOCIEUX+'s objectives and functioning, and promote its services at the best of their knowledge, whenever possible and feasible.

The experts shall perform their duties in the Partner Country in a way that is fully compliant with and respectful of the local institutions, policies and cultural behaviours. They shall particularly adopt a culturally-sensitive behaviour in their way to deal with the local counterparts.

## **10 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

None

## **11 ANNEXES**

None

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## ABOUT SOCIEUX+

The European Union (EU) promotes and maintains dialogue on social protection and inclusive employment policies with an increasing number of partner countries. This effort has been confirmed by the European Commission (EC) Communication COM (2016) 740 final - "Proposal for a new European Consensus on Development, entitled *Our world, our dignity, our future*. A significant number of cooperation initiatives in these fields are funded by geographic or thematic instruments of the EU in different countries. Those initiatives are highly structured and address the medium- to long-term needs of partner countries. However, short-term measures and peer-to-peer cooperation to promote the development of social protection systems are needed to complement the EU's cooperation with third countries. SOCIEUX+ - EU Expert Facility on Employment, Labour and Social Protection responds to this need.

The SOCIEUX+ facility was setup by the EU through co-funding from France, Spain and Belgium and the resources managed by the European Commission's Directorate for Development and Cooperation (EuropeAid). The facility is implemented by a partnership composed of development cooperation agencies from Member States: Expertise France (the partnership lead), Fundación Internacional y para Iberoamérica de Administración y Políticas Públicas (FIIAPP) from Spain, Belgian International Cooperation on Social Protection (BELINCOSOC), and the Belgian Development Agency (Enabel).

The general objective of the Facility is to expand and improve access to better employment opportunities and inclusive social protection systems in partner countries. Its specific objective is to enhance the capacities of partner countries to better design, manage and monitor inclusive, effective, and sustainable employment strategies and social protection systems through short-term, peer-to-peer technical assistance and knowledge development.

SOCIEUX+ recognises the impact of social protection and employment in reducing poverty and vulnerability. It supports the efforts of partner governments in promoting inclusive and sustainable social protection and employment systems. SOCIEUX+ also complements the efforts made through other European Union initiatives.

The Facility is an expansion of SOCIEUX Social Protection EU Expertise in Development Cooperation, established in 2013.

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