



## TERMS OF REFERENCE:

CONSULTANCY FOR DEFINING ACTION  
AGAINST HUNGER POSITIONING,  
PRIORITIES AND PLAN OF ACTIONS ON  
SOCIAL PROTECTION IN WEST AFRICA

November 2018

# BACKGROUND

To achieve our vision of a world free from hunger, Action Against Hunger (AAH) committed in its International Strategic Plan 2016-2020 to embed nutrition within all its key sectors of activity including agriculture, education, health, social protection, water, sanitation and hygiene, and mental health and care practices.

A nutrition sensitive social protection will be broader than social protection and will protect and promote nutrition of the most vulnerable. While some important progresses have already been achieved in the sphere of social protection, it remains insufficient. There is a growing need for and interest in having social protection incorporated in strategies aiming at reducing poverty, tackling exclusion and ensuring food and nutrition security.

AAH West African Regional Office (WARO) has a strong interest toward nutrition sensitive social protection. Social protection programs are being developed in most countries of the region with the support of key partners such as the World Bank, ILO or UNICEF. The design and roll out of new social protection policies in several countries is a great window of opportunity for AAH to play an active role in the construction of tomorrow's social protection systems and to make sure they will be contributing to the overall decrease of undernutrition in the region.

## JUSTIFICATION OF THE CONSULTANCY PROJECT

AAH's interest in social protection is not recent. Positioning papers and guidelines have been developed since 2009 with an initial entry on hunger safety nets. For the past 10 years, AAH has been involved in the design, formulation and implementation of safety nets projects. This included supporting and developing technical capacities at national level in order to strengthen social protection systems. West Africa has been one of AAH's geographic focus.

In Nigeria, AAH is directly involved in the implementation of the Child Grant Development Program (CGDP) for influencing nutrition-sensitive social policy programming. Our organization also runs regular seasonal cash transfers programs in the Sahel that complement national social protection programs. In 2015, the WARO office initiated national and regional consultations aiming at ensuring a progressive transition from food assistance to social protection systems and programs. Some of the main external stakeholders involved in social protection in the region (i.e. Dfid, the World Bank) initiated consultative processes on adaptive social protection. AAH's significant experience in managing cash transfer programs (including aspects related to targeting and conditionalities) focusing on nutritional outcomes has been strongly acknowledged and recognized by these stakeholders.

However, there is a will for our organization to integrate a broader reflection on social protection programs, policies and systems, and to have a clear framework on the subject to support our operational and research agenda.

A first consultancy has been conducted at global level to reinforce AAH's knowledge, expertise and capacities on social protection with a clear focus on nutrition sensitive social

protection. This resulted in the definition of a global technical agenda for the network. This technical agenda on nutrition sensitive social protection details what is AAH's specific vision on social protection and how AAH is going to make that vision happen by the end of 2020. The technical agenda details the challenges, the solutions and AAH's expected contributions at global level.

Considering our high interest and involvement in the development of nutrition sensitive social protection systems in West Africa, the WARO wants to carry on the roll-out of AAH global technical agenda on social protection in this specific region. Indeed, the WARO, HQ and missions need for guidance for strategic but also programmatic positioning.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE CONSULTANCY PROJECT

The main objective of the consultancy is to provide technical support and guidance to AAH in order to translate the global agenda on social protection to the specific context of Western Africa.

To reach that general objective, it is expected that the consultant will:

- Conduct a desk review on existing social protection initiatives, programs and policies in West Africa with a special emphasis on a shock responsive, food and nutrition sensitive social protection
- Conduct a stakeholder analysis on social protection in the region, analyse how AAH is perceived by other stakeholders working in the sector and suggest way forward for better positioning
- Discuss, adapt and specify AAH's global technical agenda on social protection in the West Africa context:
- Support the definition of key priorities for AAH on social protection in Western Africa and the way forward to operationalise them (Plan of actions).

## GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

The overall management of this consultancy project will be done by a project supervision team composed of two (2) persons, the Food Security and Livelihoods Regional Advisor and the Nutrition and Health Regional Advisor both based in Dakar.

The role of this project supervision team will be to:

- supervise and support the consultant in accessing information and data,
- communicate and share progresses of the consultancy with the WARO team and the members of the social protection working group,

- Ensure an active participation of the members and persons that will take part in the consultancy project.

Apart from the WARO staff and the members of the social protection working group, other internal human resources and experts will contribute to the project, especially the country staff involved in social protection strategic positioning or programs.

All technical and methodological proposals made by the consultant will have to be submitted to and approved by the supervision team.

## KEY QUESTIONS

- From the regional context on social protection and our objectives in terms of changes, what are the ways and triggers to achieve these changes?
- What is the work we already actively do that contributes to social protection agenda? (from targeting, to early warning, through HEA activities for instance, considering advocacy on universal health coverage...)
- How to ensure coherence between what we already do and our positioning towards social protection at regional and country levels?
- What is our competitive advantage at regional level in the eyes of other stakeholders, particularly on social protection related issues?
- How to articulate the global technical agenda with the objective of scaling up social protection safety nets in western Africa context?
- How can we contribute to a scaling-up of social protection in the region? Playing what role(s)?
- What are the recommendations and priorities for strategic positioning of AAH on Social protection? What can be the associated and potential risks?

## METHODOLOGY

The methodology will have to be defined by the consultant. Here is a tentative methodology suggested by AAH:

- 1/ Desk review of AAH policies, technical guidelines and projects linked to social protection.
- 2/ Desk review and mapping of on-going initiatives related to social protection at West Africa regional levels relevant to AAH's work and mandate (with a special emphasis on donors initiatives).
- 3/ Review of AAH's global technical agenda on social protection.
- 4/ Interactions with internal staff (WARO, HQ and missions) to identify strategic and programmatic priorities for AAH in the region based on the global agenda.
- 5/ Interactions with external partners and key stakeholders on social protection in the region to understand their positioning on social protection and better identify AAH potential added-value for social protection programs in the region.

6/ Definition of the operational road map of the global technical agenda for AAH in social protection for West Africa region.

## EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

All deliverables should be provided in ENGLISH and FRENCH:

- consultancy report
- List of resources materials and tools on Social Protection relevant to Action Against Hunger´s mandate and work in West Africa.
- Review and mapping of Social Protection initiatives implemented by Action Against Hunger and other main actors in the region.
- Action plan for AAH in West Africa

## TIMEFRAME OF THE CONSULTANCY PROJECT

To ensure availability of the keys persons that will have to play an active role in the implementation of the consultancy project, the project is planned over one month, meaning that the consultant will only work a few days per week on the project.

The duration of the assignment is foreseen as 11 calendar days, starting in January 2019.

## PROFILE OF THE CONSULTANT/PROJECT TEAM

The consultancy might be implemented by a team or by a single expert covering all the expertise required. The minimum skills required from the expert or from the team are listed below.

Qualification and skills:

- Master or PhD in social protection
- Minimum 5 years of experience in the area of social protection
- At least 3 years of experience in consultancy projects or activities applying participatory facilitation and conducting qualitative research
- At least 3 years of experience in West Africa
- Good knowledge of Action Against Hunger and AAH's programs
- Good knowledge of the humanitarian sector
- Good knowledge of food and nutrition security will be an asset
- Good command of spoken and written French and English

- Full computer literacy

## LOGISTICS AND FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

Possibility of home-based consultancy, with a good access to internet (but also can be based in Dakar).

Flexible timetable to adapt to the time zone and availability of the contributors.

The consultant should have his/her own computer.

## SELECTION PROCESS

Interested candidates should submit their proposal. The submission deadline, on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at 17h GMT. Each proposal should include a technical and financial proposal including at least the following elements:

- Project Team Capacity
- Contact information
- Motivation and interest to conduct the consultancy project
- Detailed methodology
- Detailed work plan
- Detailed budget
- References of similar consultancy projects

Proposals can be submitted in English or in French.

Proposals should be submitted by email, to:

- Landry MBODJ [imbodj@wa.acfspain.org](mailto:imbodj@wa.acfspain.org)
- Cédric BERNARD [cbernard@wa.acfspain.org](mailto:cbernard@wa.acfspain.org)

with copy to:

- Fanta Touré [ftoure@wa.acfspain.org](mailto:ftoure@wa.acfspain.org)
- Mamadou Diop [mdiop@wa.acfspain.org](mailto:mdiop@wa.acfspain.org)

Interviews will be conducted with all preselected applicants.