

Commissioned by: UN Environment, CTCN, Adaptation Fund

Project Title: Solar based irrigation business mode ‘pay as you irrigate’ for women empowerment, water management and food security in Mozambique

Proposed by: Universidade Pedagógica de Maputo & Ministry of Science and Technology and High Education

Implemented by: Practica Foundation & HUB

Country: Mozambique

Deliverable: 1.2 Inception meeting report



Solar based irrigation business model ‘pay as you irrigate’ for women empowerment, water management and food security in Mozambique

Inception meeting report

April 2023

This project has been proposed by Universidade Pedagógica de Maputo.



With the support of the Ministry of Science and Technology and High Education



Implemented by PRACTICA & HUB



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Disclaimer

This document is an output of the Technical Assistance Response in Mozambique. The present report is the output of the project 'Solar based irrigation business model 'pay as you irrigate' for women empowerment, water management and food security in Mozambique. The views and information contained herein are a product of the international TA implementation team led by PRACTICA & HUB.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Project Summary

Mozambique is vulnerable to climate change, being systematically affected by extreme events such as floods, cyclones, and droughts and putting the food security of smallholder farmers at risk. The use of Solar Powered Irrigation Systems (SPIS) is seen as one of the leading solutions for farmers to increase their food security and reduce their reliance on fossil fuels. Irrigation in general and SPIS specifically are also believed to address the problem of erratic rainfall, dry spells and increasing temperatures that lead to higher evapotranspiration, lower yields and production. The project aims to identify the best SPIS solution for Mubobo that could be deployed using groundwater, surface water, and the possibility of rainwater harvesting. Followed by the design of a clear *'pay as you irrigate'* model tailored to the context of Mubobo, and building the capacities of relevant institutions to deploy this model. The model will enable unbanked smallholder farmers, especially women, to plan, procure and sustainably implement SPIS, considering making cost-effective investments in a situation of climate unpredictability and with the help of this financial model, which supports their economic condition.

2. Inception meeting

2.1 Objectives

The overarching objectives of the inception meeting were to:

1. Present the project to the relevant actors identified in the stakeholder mapping
2. Clarify the overarching goal, specific objectives, synergies and expectations of the project
3. Build warm relations between the working group
4. Share the work plan with the group, and reach common agreements.
5. Planning the field visit in the Mubobo commune to gather data for the first designs of the SPIS.

2.2 Agenda

Agenda

Inception Meeting for the project 'Solar-based irrigation business model *pay-as-you-irrigate* for women empowerment, water management and food security in Mozambique

Local time: Mozambique (GMT+2)

Date: 20 March 2023

Time	Activity
08:30-09:00	Registration and welcoming of participants
09:00-09:30	Opening and historical presentation of the project Arsénio Mindu (Universidade Pedagógica de Maputo)
09:30-10:00	Presentation of the agenda and introduction of the team and participants Aldo Zamarroni (PRACTICA) & Lionel Zisengwe (HUB)
10:00-10:30	Presentation of the project activities and objectives in general Lionel Zisengwe (HUB)
10:30-10:45	Coffee break
10:45-11:15	Discussion on expectations about the project from each participant Mediated by Aldo Zamarroni (PRACTICA) & Lionel Zisengwe (HUB)
11:15-11:45	Participatory discussion on how to reach agreements for the project Aldo Zamarroni (PRACTICA) & Lionel Zisengwe (HUB)
11:45-12:30	Update and sign the final stakeholder working group agreement document Aldo Zamarroni (Practica Foundation)
12:30-13:00	Q&A Wrapping up for the next day, coming activities
13:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-16:00	Joint visit to the fields, first general observations

2.3 List of Attendants

No	Name	Institution	Gender
1	Armida Culeco	INIR	Female
2	Ashley Massingue	GAPI	Female
3	Olaxio Messa	SDAE Moamba	Male
4	Joaquim Valoi	SDAE Moamba	Male
5	Inácio Nhancale	HUB	Male
6	Alfredo Amisse	MIREME	Male
7	Manuel P Miquitaio	INIR	Male
8	Simao Anguilaze	HUB	Male
9	Almira L. Langa	HUB	Female
10	Rosa Maria Curri	MGCAS	Female
11	Ezar Esau	UP-Maputo	Male
12	Herieta Massango	UP-Maputo	Female
13	Adelino Inguane	Smallholder farmer Mubobo	Male
14	Arsénio Mindú	UP- Maputo	Male
15	Aldo Zamarroni	PRACTICA	Male
16	Lionel Zisengwe	HUB	Male
17	Tania Saranga	HUB	Female

3. Main outcomes of the inception meeting

Presentation of the history of the project

The project proponent, Universidade Pedagógica de Maputo (UP), represented by Arsenio Mindu, explained the role of the UP and the Ministry of Science and Technology and High Education, (MCTES) had for the preconception of the project. They began their involvement with CTCN to find a suitable community in Mozambique to implement the project. Arsenio explained that two communities were identified as suitable for the implementation. Still, it was decided, due to budget restraints, that Mubobo would be the selected community to implement the project.

Presentation of the consortium team, general objectives and activities for the project

The consortium represented by Aldo Zamarroni (PRACTICA) and Lionel Zisengwe (HUB) presented the overarching goal, specific objectives and work plan of the technical assistance that will take place for the coming 18 months. The consortium clarified what is expected from the working group, their involvement and the required pre-conditions. The consortium explained that the technical assistance provided to the government of Mozambique (UP & MCTES) through CTCN is only to identify the best SPIS for Mubobo that could be deployed using groundwater, surface water as well as the possibility for rainwater harvesting. The system's design will be reinforced by the definition of a clear 'pay-as-you-irrigate' business model that will be customized for the lowest-income farmers.

Discussion on the project expectations of each member of the working group

For the consortium, it was important to have clear expectations from all the participants regarding their involvement and the results after their involvement in future project activities.

The project proponent, the agricultural extensionist, and the farmers' representative in Mubobo mentioned that access to water is a common problem in the Mubobo commune. Therefore, after this project, they would like to see the well rehabilitated and a solar irrigation system installed for the community. Participants from the Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy (MIREME) and the National Institute of Irrigation (INIR) asked if the system was already designed and the design's characteristics.

The consortium clarified that this project is only technical assistance to identify the most suitable SPIS for the existing conditions of the Mubobo commune. And that will be reinforced by a 'pay-as-you-irrigate' business model. But it does not include any rehabilitation, construction, or installation of any asset.

The project proponent (represented by Arsenio) mentions there is confusion; he highlights that during the discussions with CTCN, it was understood that the rehabilitation of the well and solar pump installation would be done. He also suggests the budget is enough for conducting study and rehabilitation activities.

The consortium clarifies that what is presented in the working plan is the contract CTCN and the consortium had agreed on. It cannot include any activity outside the scope of the project.

Discussion on the agreement for participation in the working group

The consortium presented the agreement document for the participation of the working group (Annex 3). This document clarifies the responsibilities of both parties, consortium & members of the working group, the project timeline, and the communication procedures to be followed.

The participants refer they are not in a position to sign an agreement for participation in the working group. It should be sent to the organization, and inside each institution, they will decide if they want to participate and who is the best person to follow up on this matter.

The participants of this meeting will revise the document, and they will provide comments on it. The document should be accompanied by a letter explaining the project and the involvement of the organisations as part of the working group. The letters and the agreement will be delivered to the offices of each organisation for follow-up.

3.1 Urgent clarification meeting with CTCN

To clarify the expectations raised during the inception meeting, it was decided that an urgent meeting would be called with the participation of CTCN, the project proponents (UP & MCTEs), and the consortium (PRACTICA & HUB).

The meeting took place on the 21st of March at 14:00 Mozambique time. The attendants were Arsenio (UP), Molly Sharone (CTCN), Berry (Practica), Aldo (Practica), Lionel (HUB), Henrietta Massango (UP), Simao (HUB), Ezra (UP), Valentin (CTCN), No Representative Min of Science (asked for an apology because of network problems).

The meeting started with presenting the impasse encountered during the inception meeting. The project proponent shared his concern about what the project would bring to the community. Farmers need water to pursue their agricultural activities. He refers to the expectations within the community that had been raised. Farmers will not agree that only a technical document will be produced as an outcome of this technical assistance.

Valentin representing the CTCN apologized for the miscommunication and misunderstanding. The ToR, as designed and presented, align with what has been contracted by CTCN. Therefore, no construction, rehabilitation or installation is included in this project.

Valentin indicated that the objective of CTCN is to create initial capital for technologies to convince financial institutions that climate-smart technologies are bankable. After the finalization of this project, it should be clear to the banking institutions, donors, and smallholder farmers, if investing in an SPIS could be creditable.

CTCN also clarified the role of the project proponent. UP, MCTES and INIR are part of the leading local proponents; throughout this project, they guide to keep the project focused on the expectations and deliverables. They must also support the implementation team to introduce them to other key departments and partners. UP requested to be more involved in elaboration

plans and the organization and implementation of the activities. There is a request to include UP and MCTES logos in the documents.

4. Way Forward from the meeting

Overall, the meeting was highly productive and provided common ground for future project activities. The agreed actions from the inception and the meetings are:

1. The consortium will adjust the agreement to install the working group and include a letter to introduce the project (with as much detail as possible) to the institutions involved in the working group. The agreement and letter will be delivered to the organizations through the focal points that attended the meeting, and the consortium will follow up on that.
2. The consortium will create a WhatsApp group with the focal points to update on the planning for future meetings, field visits, clarify doubts, etc. The WhatsApp group will remain the primary communication channel for future sessions, document sharing, and project updates.
3. The consortium will involve the Universidade Pedagógica in elaborating plans, organization and implementation of activities.
4. Through the WhatsApp group, the consortium will continue planning the activities closely with the working group.
5. The consortium will visit Mubobo to make the first field assessment to conduct the draft design of the SPIS.

5. Field visit to Mubobo

On the 22nd of March 2023, the team leader (Aldo Zamarroni) visited the commune of Mubobo accompanied by Olaxio Messa (SDAE Mubobo). The objectives of this visit were to:

1. Assess the availability and accessibility of water sources available for irrigation;
2. Assess the current irrigation and agricultural practices of the Mubobo commune;
3. Assess the profile of smallholder farmers;
4. Assess the products and services offered by local suppliers, including technology and finance solutions.

The detailed report can be seen in Annex 6.5

5.1 Findings of the field visit

5.1.1 Technical field assessment

The technical field assessment consisted of landscape observations, water level measurements, and communication with the local stakeholders. Landscape observations were used to assess the availability of surface water, expected groundwater depths and the total suction and delivery head required for irrigation pumps. When possible, water level measurement was done in the existing borehole. The timing of the visit was not ideal since it was at the end of the rainy season. Therefore, water table indications can be unrealistic. The water level in the natural stream could

not be used as an indication of the groundwater level. As the farmers mentioned, the seasonal stream disappears in the middle of the dry season.

Water sources for irrigation: There are two water sources for irrigation in Mubobo, a borehole close to the school (with a non-functional pump from ADPP) and a seasonal water stream close to the farm areas.

Water levels in the ADPP borehole: During the visit, the measured static water level was 8m (end of rainy season). There is no information on the water level during the dry season. However, based on the pump's installed depth, we can assume the static level in the borehole drops significantly during the dry season, which, added to the assumed poor transmissivity of the well, does not present good characteristics for irrigation. It was not possible to conduct a yield test of the borehole since the pump was non-functional. See estimations of the water availability in point 5.1.2.

Water levels in the seasonal stream: The community has a seasonal stream (disappearing at the middle of the dry season) that is used for the irrigation of crops when possible. Sometimes it is also used for fetching drinking water. Farmers refer to the quality of this water as low, as it increases its salinity through the dry season.

Water quality: The water quality for irrigation in the Mubobo commune fluctuates throughout the year. From the farmer's experience, the water in the borehole and the water stream can be used for irrigation for some months after the rainy season. However, there is a point during the dry season when the water becomes so salty that it cannot be used for irrigation and drinking purposes.

Operation of the pump: It was mentioned by the farmers that the pump installed by ADPP used to work in pauses. This means it will turn on for 15 minutes, rest, and then turn on again for 15 minutes. The pump has a protection sensor that allows the pump to stop when the water reaches the minimum level in the well. We assume there is a low production of the aquifer where the borehole is installed¹. A discussion with a borehole driller in Maputo and the geological maps corroborates that. The pump's lifespan is affected by the number of times it gets started. Therefore, this operation scheme could have been the reason for its failure.

5.1.2 Estimated Flow

As it was not possible to conduct a yield test of the borehole. We used the pump curve, an assumed dynamic level of 45 m (depth of installation of the pump measured during the field visit), plus some extra pressure to fill in the tanks; the total head can be estimated as 60 m, and the rated power of the panels as 270Wp per panel times 7= 1890-, or 1.9-kW panels to estimate

¹ Calculating the volume of water that is stored in the pipe, assuming there is no water entering into the pipe (inflow zero). Applying the formula to calculate the volume of a cylinder $v = \pi(r^2)(h) = \pi(0.0508\text{m}^2)(45\text{m}) = 0.36\text{m}^3$. And comparing with the flow rate of the pump 2.5 m³/h. The calculations reflect that it takes about 8 minutes to empty the water that is only stored in the well. This is very well in line with the 15 minutes that farmer's mention it takes for the pump to stop. Therefore, we can suggest the aquifer where the well is installed is not productive for irrigation.

the flow². **The estimated flow from the pump is 2.5 m³/h**; see the figure below. However, as was mentioned by the farmers, the pump would work in pulses. This indicates that the maximum capacity of the borehole is lower than 2.5 m³/h.

SQF 2.5-2

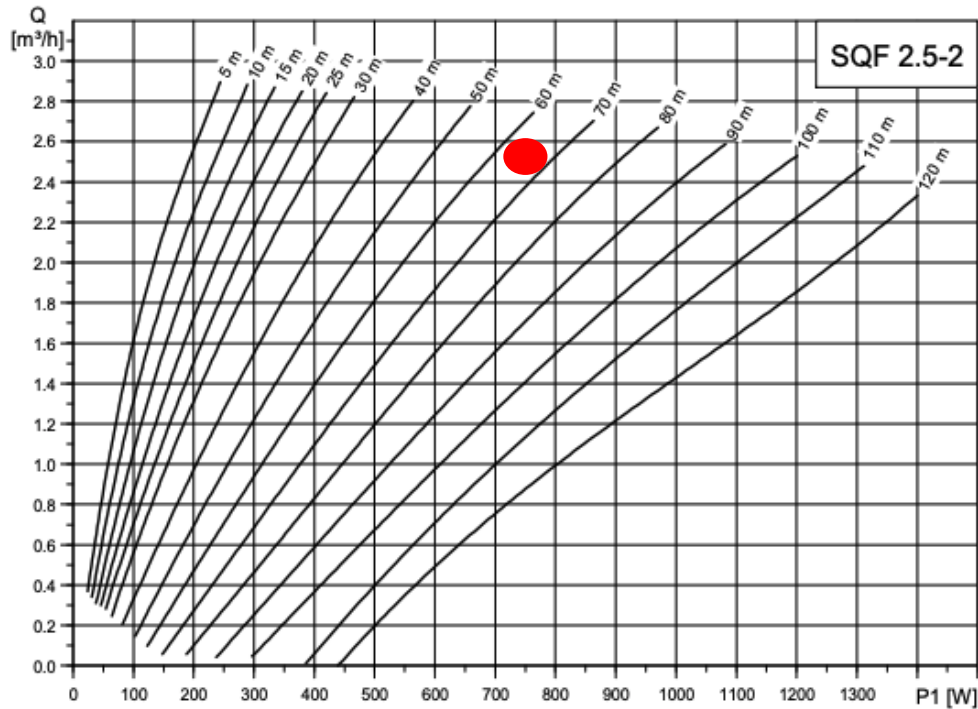


Figure 1. Pump curve SQF 2.5-2 Grundfos.

5.1.3 Estimation of Water Needs

A rough assessment to calculate the water needs was done using [Aquistat climate tool from FAO](#) to gather climatic data and model a water needs scenario for one crop season (April-July) with a daily peak at 5 mm of Evapotranspiration (Eto), see annexe 6.6 for Eto calculations.

The AQUASTAT software allows modelling water crop deficit calculations using climatic data for average and for dry years. The results for both models are shown below.

The values introduced for the calculations were:

- Climate data: Maputo Province, Mozambique. lat -25.5128, long 32.1137
- Crop: Vegetables
- Planting/Sowing/date: April 1
- Soil: Sandy loam

² The solar panels power is possibly oversized. On sunny days it will be enough to have 800 kW, however on cloudy days the surplus panels could help to still have sufficient water. A surplus of solar capacity is not a real technical problem but increases the cost of the system.

The results for water needs for the period April-July:

- Water needs (average year) = 1270 m³/season/ha
- Water needs (dry year) = 3450 m³/season/ha

Using the Eto result of 5mm/day. The water requirements can be calculated as 50 m³/ha/day. Assuming a solar pump provides this flow (average of 6 hours of daily operation³). **The estimated flow required for pumping will be of 8m³/hour/ha⁴.**

According to the British Geological Survey (BGS), if the expected discharge of a borehole is 3 l/sec (11 m³/hour) => In general, there is a potential to irrigate approximately a surface of 2 ha.

Suppose we compare the maximum estimated borehole yield of 2.5 m³/hour (15 m³/day) against the 250 m³/day (five times the 50 m³/ha/day) required to irrigate the 5 ha available for horticulture in Mubobo. **A rough estimation of 16 boreholes would need to be constructed in Mubobo⁵.**

5.1.4 Socio-economic field assessment

A socioeconomic field assessment was carried out alongside the technical evaluation to understand the current farming system development and existing business model. The methodology consisted of farmer interviews and farm field observations. The observations focused on the size of the garden and irrigated area, crop type and status, irrigation method and technologies used, and the distance to the water source(s). The observations were used as a starting point for farmer interviews about the practices, inputs and outputs related to crops grown. Farmers were also interviewed about their water access during the year, their marketing strategy and the supply of technologies.

Farmer's profile: The targeted community is composed of 35 farmers, of which only 6 are men (17%), and 29 are women (83%). The land rights are communal. Each farmer has a plot assigned by the communal authorities. Even though there is more area to be distributed, due to the lack of water during the dry season, they only irrigate 100m² per person. They produce two agricultural campaigns annually- one dry season for horticulture (April-August) and one rainy season for maize (November-March).

The farmers do not have access to nor are they familiar with microcredit. The solar pump, water tanks and greenhouse were received through a donation. They were also supported during the first agricultural campaign in 2020, receiving seeds for starting production. Their irrigation knowledge is low. They irrigate with buckets depending on the crop and the water available in

³ 5 to 6 hours is the maximum average operation range for solar pumps which does not have a set of batteries installed, as it is the case in Mubobo.

⁴ This calculation is based on 100% efficiency. In reality the rflow requirements are even higher.

⁵ Assuming the yield of the well is enough to operate under a rate of 2.5 m³/day). Which has shown in point 5.1.1 is not the case)

the seasonal surface water spring (when possible). The community's primary source of income is charcoal production. They commonly have livestock as a saving strategy (cows, pigs, cabrito).

Current irrigation practices: Each farmer is responsible for their farm. They usually use buckets to irrigate crops during the dry season. But this only lasts until the mid of the dry season when the water levels decrease to the minimum, and the salt levels increase in the water, so they cannot be used for irrigation. The water from the stream is only used by the farmers who are close to the stream (80-100m distance), others do not irrigate at all.

Commercialization: The rainfed crop (Maize) is mainly for self-consumption. Farmers process the dry maize to make flour, which is used throughout the year. For the vegetables (dry season), they use two commercialization channels; sell directly at the farm (40% of the production), or go to the markets close to Mubobo, namely Moamba or Ressano Garcia (60% of the production).

There is no post-harvest transformation of the products. They harvest very early in the morning and sell during the day.

Local irrigation supplier's assessment: There is no supplier of agriculture or irrigation technologies in Mubobo. The closest agricultural supplies stores are in Moamba and mainly focused on seeds, fertilizers and pesticides. They do sell buckets (spray cans). The local hardware stores sell pipes and other plumber supplies mainly used for house construction. If farmers want to get a petrol pump or specialized irrigation equipment, they must go to Maputo. When asked the manager why they don't have it, the answer is that there is no market there. And those who want those technologies prefer to go to Maputo; it's close enough.

5.2 Conclusion from the field visit to Mubobo

Successful irrigation systems have to be designed starting from the water source. The water quantity needs to be enough to satisfy the crop's requirements throughout the production season, and the water quality plays a crucial role in enabling productive irrigation.

The consortium's main conclusion from the first visit and calculations is that there are no technical conditions to increase irrigation in the Mubobo commune.

There is insufficient water to irrigate the envisaged irrigated area (5ha), and the water quality is unsuitable for establishing irrigated commercial agriculture for a sustainable pay-as-you-irrigate business model.

Due to the high cost, it is not realistic to construct more boreholes to satisfy the water demands. For the same reason it is also unrealistic to install desalination technologies. Building a dam in the seasonal stream is also unrealistic since the water flow is seasonal and insufficient.




5.3 Recommendations

The technical team of the consortium foresees two ways to move forward:

1. Select another community in the Moamba district to implement the technical assistance, starting with a sound field recognition to ensure enough water availability and quality for establishing smallholder commercial agriculture. For establishing a successful business case, it is recommended that farmers already have some irrigation practices (can be bucket irrigation). Satellite images suggest that potential areas exist in Moamba, mainly in those areas close to the Incomati river.
2. Select another community within the country that meets the technical conditions (water availability and quality) for irrigation. Starting with a sound field recognition to ensure enough water availability and quality for establishing smallholder commercial agriculture. For establishing a successful business case, it is recommended that farmers already have some irrigation practices (can be bucket irrigation).

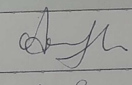
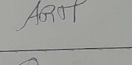
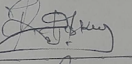
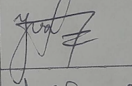
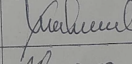
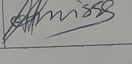
6. Annexes

6.1 List of Attendance

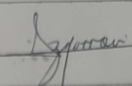
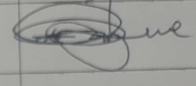
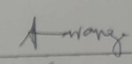
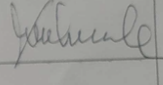
LISTA DE PRESENCAS Data: 20 Março 2023

Nota: Ao assinar esta lista, você concorda com o consórcio em contatá-lo para qualquer assunto relacionado ao projeto, bem como utilizar as fotos e materiais gerados na reunião para fins de relatórios e comunicação:

Nº	Nome	Nome da empresa o instituição	Número de telemóvel	Endereço eletrónico	Assinatura
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19					
20					

6.2. Pictures of the inception meeting





6.3 Agreement for the installation of the working group.

Acordo para o estabelecimento do grupo de trabalho para o projecto "Modelo de negócio de irrigação baseado em energia solar 'pay-as-you-irrigate' para o empoderamento das mulheres, gestão da água e segurança alimentar em Moçambique".

Introdução

Este acordo faz parte dos resultados do projecto "*Modelo de negócio de irrigação baseada em energia solar, pay-as-you-irrigate para o empoderamento das mulheres, gestão da água e segurança alimentar em Moçambique*". Este projeto é um esforço do proponente do projeto Universidade Pedagógica de Maputo, e o Ministério da Ciência e Tecnologia. Implementado pelo consórcio PRACTICA e HUB.

O objetivo geral do projeto é identificar o melhor Sistema de Irrigação Solar (SPIS) para Mubobo que poderia ser implantado usando águas subterrâneas e superficiais, bem como a possibilidade de coleta de água da chuva. O design do sistema será reforçado pela definição de um modelo de negócios claro de *pagamento conforme a irrigação* que será personalizado para os agricultores de menor renda.

Duração do projeto

O projeto tem duração de 18 meses, com início em Janeiro de 2023. A previsão é que finalize a assistência técnica em julho de 2024.

Funções e Responsabilidades

Do consórcio

Papel

- Fornecer liderança estratégica no desenvolvimento, implementação e sustentabilidade da assistência técnica.

Responsabilidades

- Comunicar ao grupo de trabalho as atividades que foram feitas no passado, o que está atualmente em preparação e quais as atividades futuras que estão sob o escopo do projeto.
- Para acompanhar as entregas e levar a assistência técnica a um bom fim. Comunicar ao grupo de trabalho qualquer atraso.
- Comunique-se com o grupo de trabalho com pelo menos uma semana de antecedência antes de qualquer reunião.

Dos membros do grupo de trabalho

Papel

- Para acompanhar o progresso do consórcio, fornecer informações do conhecimento da comuna de Mubobo, envolver-se nas discussões e fornecer uma revisão crítica das entregas.

Responsabilidades

- Estar presente nas reuniões que o consórcio convocou.
- Participar ativamente das reuniões convocadas pelo consórcio.
- Revisar as entregas e fornecer feedback dentro do prazo acordado.

Pontos da ordem do dia

O consórcio fornecerá um rascunho da agenda no início das reuniões. O primeiro ponto da ordem do dia será discutir e chegar a acordo sobre a ordem do dia proposta antes de iniciar a sessão.

Actas e documentos de reunião

As atas das reuniões serão elaboradas pelo consórcio e partilhadas com todos os membros do grupo de trabalho, de preferência por e-mail, mas também por outros meios quando o e-mail não for possível; O WhatsApp e os documentos impressos serão disponibilizados.

Comunicação

A comunicação será feita preferencialmente por e-mail. Para compartilhar convites para reuniões e entregas. Se não for possível, telefone e mensagens de WhatsApp serão enviados.

Revisão de entregas

- As entregas serão submetidas a um máximo de uma ronda de revisão com o grupo de trabalho selecionado.
- Todos os membros do grupo de trabalho terão dez dias úteis para fornecer feedback sobre as entregas e compartilhá-lo com o consórcio.
- Uma vez feita a revisão, o consórcio submeterá as entregas à parte contratante (CTCN), e estas não estarão abertas a qualquer modificação.

Igualdade de género e inclusão social

O consórcio mantém elevados padrões de elevada inclusão e igualdade de tratamento. Não toleramos qualquer discriminação com base em raça, sexo, idade, casta, religião, orientação sexual ou deficiências. Todos os membros do grupo de trabalho são encorajados a aderir a estes princípios.

Assinatura de todos os membros do grupo de trabalho.

Nº	Nome	Nome da instituição	Assinatura
1			
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