

# DCI quality assurance protocol for publications

The Digital Convergence Initiative (DCI) is the global initiative to support the digital transformation of social protection systems. Launched in 2021 as part of the USP2030 partnership, the DCI is an open and collaborative platform for governments, development partners, civil society organizations and the private sector united by a shared vision: expanding the coverage of social protection and enhancing its delivery through inclusive, interoperable digital systems.

DCI is committed to producing technically sound publications. The quality assurance protocol aims to ensure accuracy and technical soundness of the publications and endorsement by the coordinating partner agencies providing technical assistance to the implementing government agencies. The quality assurance protocol should be applied to any DCI publication.

## 1. Quality assessment criteria:

Each publication should detail the following:

- **Consistency:** All publications should reflect the shared DCI partnership and USP2030 values and messaging of the initiative. All publications should apply consistent key messaging and approved descriptions of the initiative.
- **Executive summary:** There publication contains an executive summary of key findings.
- **Internal validity:** The report content is coherent and does not include contradictory messages.
- **External validity:** The report is consistent with other related key authoritative sources and documents
- **Thorough:** The report takes into account sufficient credible sources of information and evidence
- **Plausible:** Findings are backed with sound arguments and sufficient evidence

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The DCI receives funding from the European Commission and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The secretariat of the DCI is jointly housed at Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Expertise France, Foundation for the Internationalization of Public Administrations (FIAP), the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the World Bank.

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- **Transparency:** The authors and reviewers of the publication are named. If none of the coordinating partners were involved in the publication, a disclaimer stating that the coordinating partners are not responsible for its content needs to be added.
- **Methodology and information sources for research papers:** In case of research papers, the publication describes the methodology for the preparation of the report, including information and data sources and related gaps, interviews, constraints, how contradictions between different data sources have been dealt with, methodology to conduct focus groups, etc.

## 2. Endorsement

A minimum of two experts from the DCI secretariat for the respective assessed social protection issue who did not participate in preparing the publication will be tasked to review the report with the perspective of appropriate application of the above mentioned lenses and the resulting policy options (long term and short term) within 4 weeks.

The DCI Management Team will formally endorse DCI publications that fulfil the above criteria by means of:

- **Issuing a statement** to the lead agency that the report has met the DCI quality assurance criteria.
- **Authorizing the use of the DCI logo** on the report's front page – while displaying on the DCI website the exact requirements for obtaining this stamp/logo.
- Prominently marking reports that have obtained process endorsement **on the DCI website.**

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