

# SPACE Social Protection Approaches to COVID-19: Expert advice helpline

*a supportive space to plan, challenge, and innovate your COVID-19 response through collaboration with leading global experts*



## Support to Governments responding to Covid-19

Countries across the globe are using or adapting social protection systems and programmes, including labour market policies and social insurance schemes, as well as humanitarian cash assistance, to respond to the range of immediate and medium-term impacts of COVID-19. Getting assistance to those who need it quickly is helping to safeguard the well-being of individuals and families – enabling them to meet unexpected health care costs and adopt necessary protective behaviours; compensating for loss of income; and mitigating the impact of inflation, particularly increased food prices. Further reliance on social protection approaches is also anticipated in the future, as countries recover from the pandemic and prepare for future shocks.

## Social Protection Approaches to COVID-19: Expert advice helpline (SPACE)

National governments are at the centre of delivering social protection responses to COVID-19. SPACE helpline provides governments and their implementing partners with support in thinking through how to maintain or adapt existing systems and programmes to meet rapidly growing needs. Through a multi-disciplinary “ask-the-experts” service, SPACE provides a sounding board to plan, challenge, and innovate COVID-19 responses. Direct support to decision-makers has already been provided to over 20 countries.

SPACE is consolidating and sharing best practices and learning on COVID-19 responses from across the globe. Advice is independent and unbiased, practical and actionable – drawing upon up-to-date global evidence, relevant experience, tailor-made tools, and a suite of thematic briefing papers to support effective and inclusive decision-making.

### SPACE support focuses on:

- Using social protection systems to respond to different stages of the crisis, through expanding and adapting existing programmes, or introducing new ones now and for recovery efforts.
- Strategic decision-making and delivery system considerations for humanitarian cash transfer and shock responsive programming.
- Coordination and linkages across the humanitarian cash-social protection nexus, drawing upon components of both systems to meet needs quickly across populations, including those who are vulnerable and hard to reach.

## Access to Leading Expertise

SPACE provides leading expertise related to social protection and humanitarian assistance, in the fields of:

- Shock-responsive social protection, including social insurance;
- Humanitarian cash;
- Social protection linkages to labour markets and informal workers,
- Economics, financial services, & risk financing;
- Mobile & digital technologies for delivery of cash;
- Gender and Inclusion; and
- Humanitarian and social protection nexus.

SPACE operates through a three-stage process;

**1. Initial Engagement:** You share information with a lead expert on your key issues – such as design and implementation options, policy bottlenecks, stakeholder coordination, or funding constraints – to determine the most relevant group of SPACE experts to support you and a short-term timeline of immediate next steps.

**2. Clinic calls with 3+ independent and unbiased experts:** During a 2-hour call, experts will remotely contribute to your COVID-19 response planning process. They will provide your Government teams with advice that is independent and unbiased, to assist you in working through your most pressing issues in a confidential manner, while drawing from experiences and best practices from other countries. Experts can scrutinise technical aspects of potential responses, and consider a global range of scenarios, partnerships, and policies.

**3. Post clinic follow-up:** Each call will result in a summary note comprising of a synopsis of discussions, overview of next steps, and signposting to relevant tools, evidence and supplementary documents. Further dedicated expert support can be requested after/instead of a clinic to provide additional in-depth analysis or more detailed technical recommendations on key issues.

## Accessing SPACE

Are you representing or partnering with a Government department that is working to deliver social protection responses to COVID-19? Would unbiased additional expertise and evidence help you make urgent and critical decisions? SPACE can be requested by governments either directly or through their implementing partners by completing a [request form](#). For further questions please contact [SPACE@dai.com](mailto:SPACE@dai.com). Support is predominantly provided in English; other languages can be supported on an ad hoc basis.

### COLLABORATION

SPACE is a joint initiative of DFID's Better Assistance in Crises (BASIC) and Gender Responsive Social Protection (GSP) programmes and GIZ, funded by UKAid and the German Development Corporation. All costs related to accessing SPACE experts and services are covered by DFID and GDC.

### IMPLEMENTING LEAD



### IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

