Responding to COVID-19

Countries across the globe are using or adapting social protection systems and programmes, as well as humanitarian cash assistance, to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. Getting assistance to those who need it quickly is helping to safeguard the wellbeing of individuals and families by enabling them to meet unexpected costs and compensate for loss of income — both in the immediate and longer term as countries enter periods of recession.

Since April 2020, the SPACE service has been supporting decision-makers across national governments, donors and implementing partners with thinking through how to establish, maintain or adapt systems and programmes to meet rapidly growing needs. Demand for engagement with our multi-disciplinary expert team, as well as our large and ever-expanding suite of guidance documents has proved so high that the service has now been extended to May 2021, with support to the Asia Pacific region available until June 2021.

An overview of SPACE themes

To date, we have worked in over 30 countries providing independent, evidence-based, timely, practical, and actionable advice. Direct support is responsive to the unique requirements of specific actors and contexts but can broadly address the following themes:

- Social protection and humanitarian linkages
- Gender and social inclusion principles
- Programme adaptation and phasing
- Shock responsive social protection
- Delivery systems including targeting and registration, transfer values, payment mechanisms, information management, communications, grievance redress mechanisms and monitoring and evaluation
- Recovery and systems strengthening
- Digital technology
- Anti-corruption
- Economic impacts
- Localisation
- Climate and environment
- Economic inclusion

Publications, learning and policy influence

To date, SPACE has published over 20 framing documents, thematic overviews and implementation-support papers, which can all be accessed on our publications page. We will continue to consolidate best practice and learning on the COVID-19 response through a range of upcoming publications — including case studies, policy briefs and operational guidance, so do keep an eye on the page for new resources. We will also continue to run and participate in learning sessions and webinars. If you would like one of our experts to participate in an event, have a topic or case study you want to share, or are interested in exploring co-authoring a publication – please get in touch via SPACE@dai.com.

Accessing direct SPACE Support

Are you working to deliver social protection responses or humanitarian cash responses to COVID-19? Would unbiased expert advice help you make critical decisions? You can request direct support from SPACE by completing a request form or contacting SPACE@dai.com. Support is predominantly provided in English, though Spanish and French can be offered on an ad hoc basis. Once your request has been received, SPACE will assign a technical point of contact, who will work with you and a team of relevant experts to understand your challenges and design appropriate support. Support packages can take many forms including:

- Review of documents, reports, proposals, etc.
- Consolidating relevant evidence around specific needs, knowledge gaps and questions;
- Mapping in-country systems and stakeholders engaged in the COVID-19 response;
- Direct, remote engagement with our experts, including short-term assistance through calls and more sustained and flexible engagement.

Collaboration

SPACE is a joint initiative of FCDO’s Better Assistance in Crises (BASIC) and Gender Responsive Social Protection (GSP) programmes (funded by UKAid); GIZ (funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development); and the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). All costs related to accessing SPACE experts and services are covered by FCDO, GIZ and DFAT.

Implementation Lead

Implementing Partners

DAI

HEART

GIZ

GFMA

Shaping a more flexible world.