CODI

CORE DIAGNOSTIC INSTRUMENT

INTRODUCTION

SYSTEM

Introduction

This tool is part of the **Inter Agency Social Protection Assessments (ISPA)** initiative, a set of practical tools that help countries improve their social protection system by analyzing its strengths and weaknesses and offering options for further action. Countries can apply ISPA tools periodically to track performance over time.

ISPA tools fall into 1 of 3 categories:

SYSTEM **PROGRAM** **DELIVERY**

The **Inter Agency Social Protection Assessments (ISPA)** tools are the result of a multi-agency initiative that aims to put forth a unified set of definitions, assessment tools, and outcome metrics to provide systematic information for a country to assess its Social Protection system, schemes, programs, and implementation arrangements. Assessments are done with the goal of improving performance and analyzing trends over time. The ISPA tools are part of a free and publicly available platform, building on existing work by the United Nations system, the World Bank, bilateral donors, and other development agencies.

Defining Social Protection:

Within the context of ISPA, **social protection** refers to the set of policies and programs aimed at preventing or protecting all people against poverty, vulnerability, and social exclusion throughout their lifecycles, with a particular emphasis towards vulnerable groups. Social protection can be provided in cash or in-kind, through non-contributory schemes, providing universal, categorical, or poverty-targeted benefits such as social assistance, contributory schemes with social insurance being the most common form, and by building human capital, productive assets, and access to jobs.

Why assess the social protection system?

There is strong demand among governments for tools that assess social protection systems and identify ways to improve system performance. Many evaluation tools exist for analyzing individual programs. **CODI is unique in providing a unified framework to carry out a comprehensive assessment of social protection system performance**, allowing governments to identify duplications, fragmentation, and inefficiencies across schemes and programs. CODI increases coordination among national stakeholders as well as development partners across different sectors.

✕ About The Tool

The **Core Diagnostic Instrument (CODI)** has been designed to:

- Map the elements of a social protection system in a given country, including national objectives, strategies, policies, programs, and schemes of the social protection system.
- Analyze social protection system performance against national social protection objectives and track progress against a standardized set of performance criteria over time.
- Serve as an evidence base for country dialogue on how to strengthen a social protection system and identify a set of entry level policy reform options, taking into account local conditions.
- Promote exchange & coordination between national & international partners.

The assessment follows the standard ISPA framework:

1 "What Matters" Guidance Note

2 Data Collection Framework

3 Overview of Findings

4 Country Report

Implementation Guidelines

Outlines the process of application of an ISPA tool from start to completion.

The tool is not prescriptive and does not provide a specific implementation plan. It is a diagnostic tool that should be applied by a team of professionals with expertise in the subject matter as an input to developing policy options and recommendations. CODI is not meant to do cross-country comparisons.

ABOUT THE "WHAT MATTERS" GUIDANCE NOTE

The **"What Matters" Guidance Note** lays out the overall approach, concepts, and framework of CODI. It is organized in four Modules, lays the conceptual foundation for the assessment, and explains the assessment criteria and logic.

The "What Matters" Guidance Note is divided into four Modules:

Policy includes an overview of the basic features of the national social protection policy framework, including the legal framework and rights; the national social protection strategy and objectives; institutional arrangements; degree of benefits institutionalization; national capacity for policymaking, dialogue, implementation, and coordination; public spending and sources of financing; and monitoring and evaluation capacity.

Program Design maps out the key design features of the major social protection programs in the country and assesses the gaps, looking for opportunities to improve, as well as reinforce programs' complementarities inside and outside the social protection system.

Program Implementation determines whether well functioning implementation mechanisms are in place to accurately identify all potentially eligible individuals or households and have a robust way of determining their eligibility; facilitate low cost ways to access and sign up for programs while still preserving the dignity of beneficiaries and their families; ensure that the goods, cash or in-kind care services are reaching in-need households; and monitor and evaluate results in a timely manner that allows citizens, stakeholders, program administrators, and policy-makers to track and improve program performance in a way that is sustainable and credible.

System Assessment Guidelines proposes a methodology to assess the social protection system performance against the **10 Performance Criteria**. This methodology assesses the results of the Data Collection Framework against the 10 Performance Criteria, using the Overview of Findings as a guide, which is based on a 4 point scale.

The performance of a county's social protection system is assessed in CODI using the following

10 Performance Criteria:

1 INCLUSIVENESS

2 ADEQUACY

3 APPROPRIATENESS

4 RESPECT FOR RIGHTS & DIGNITY

5 GOVERNANCE & INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

6 FINANCIAL & FISCAL STABILITY

7 COHERENCE & INTEGRATION

8 RESPONSIVENESS

9 COST-EFFECTIVENESS

10 INCENTIVE COMPATIBILITY

ABOUT THE
DATA COLLECTION FRAMEWORK

The **Data Collection Framework** is designed to collect quantitative and qualitative information on social protection system attributes and on some key social protection programs. Its structure and content correspond to the Guidance Note.

ABOUT THE
OVERVIEW OF FINDINGS

The **Overview of Findings** helps to organize the findings from the Data Collection Framework. It uses a four point scale. The assessment approach helps to identify social protection areas that may benefit from strengthening or are in line with good practices, as well as ensuring that trade-offs between criteria are explicit to policy makers.

Latent | Advanced

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

ABOUT THE
COUNTRY REPORT

The main deliverable is the **Country Report.** This document presents the findings, highlights strengths and weaknesses in relation to good practice, summarizes the complex landscape of policies and institutions, and serves as the common starting point for future dialogue between stakeholders.

HOW ARE ISPA TOOLS APPLIED?

1 **Contact** an ISPA agency	**2** **Preparation** for ISPA assessment	**3** **Data** & information collection
4 **Assessment**	**5** **Country Report**	**6** **Policy Dialogue**

The CODI assessment is done with data gathered through both desk research and information provided by stakeholders in the field. The time required for the application of the CODI tool will vary depending on the complexity and comprehensiveness of the social protection system being evaluated & the availability of relevant data.

WHY USE ISPA?

Countries:
ISPA supports the building of cohesive social protection systems

Governments:
ISPA provides consistent, reliable & technically sound evidence on improving the effectiveness & efficiency of a social protection system

International partners:
ISPA helps to coordinate advice & resources & facilitates the sharing of information and good practices

Households experience:
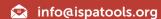- Better access to goods & services
- Improved adequacy of social protection benefits
- More coordinated & integrated provision of government benefits & services

HOW TO GET STARTED?

Countries looking to develop and improve their social protection systems should approach the relevant in-country development partners and request support to complete an ISPA assessment.

Countries can also contact the ISPA Coordination Team:

✉ **info@ispatools.org**

🖥 **www.ispatools.org**