



Built to connect. Ready to share.

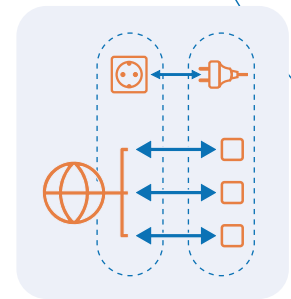
DCI provides ready-to-use **interoperability standards** and hands-on support to connect your social protection systems seamlessly.

Why are standards important?

Social protection programs often share similar processes, yet they operate in isolation. Without harmonization, systems cannot communicate effectively. This leads to wasted resources and fragmented beneficiary data.

As a result, people who are eligible for services may be excluded or struggle to access them. Shared technical standards enable interoperability.

They make it possible for social protection systems to exchange data reliably and efficiently with one another, and with other government systems. This reduces administrative silos and improves service delivery.



Building a global language

The Digital Convergence Initiative (DCI) works to harmonize technical interoperability standards for digital social protection. By creating a “global language” for interoperability, DCI ensures that social protection systems can communicate seamlessly.

The DCI facilitates transparent, multi-stakeholder, consensus-building processes to develop these

standards in strategic areas. It follows the **EU Interoperability Framework (EIF)**, focusing on three critical layers – process standards (organizational), data standards (semantic), and API standards (technical) – to ensure systems can “talk” to one another.

The benefits of adopting interoperable standards

The adoption of interoperability standards can help to accelerate the digital transformation of social protection. Benefits include:

- **Vendor Neutrality:** Allows countries to “mix and match” modular software from different providers.
- **Efficiency:** Reduces the time and expense of building custom interfaces for every new system.

- **Scalability:** Systems designed with DCI standards are “future-ready” and can easily integrate with emerging technologies.

To learn more about how interoperability standards are being applied in practice, visit spdci.org/technical-standards

An expanding library of standards

DCI continuously expands a library of standards to cover the entire social protection delivery chain. Standards interfaces endorsed by USP2030 members include:



Civil Registration and Vital Statistics standards enable social protection systems to verify life events (births, deaths, marriages), ensuring that benefits reach eligible individuals.



Farmer Registry standards link social protection systems to agriculture sector data about “who does what where”, enabling the precise delivery of targeted assistance.



Social Registry standards support outreach, intake, and registration, allowing governments to assess the needs and conditions of potential beneficiaries.



Identification Systems standards allow for secure authentication and data verification while protecting individual privacy.



Integrated Beneficiary Registry standards consolidate data on the benefits received by individuals across multiple programs, help to prevent duplication, and identify gaps where people may be underserved.



Employment Systems standards link social assistance with labor market initiatives like job training and placement, supporting transitioning to sustainable employment.



Disability Registry standards ensure that persons with disabilities are officially recognized and can seamlessly access specialized support.



Payment Systems standards ensure interoperability with various payment providers, allowing for faster, more transparent, and choice-based cash transfers.



Early Warning standards ensure that risk and hazard alerts arrive quickly, so affected populations can receive timely support.

For full documentation and technical schemas, visit the DCI GitBook at standards.spdci.org.

Implementation support is available

The DCI Helpdesk provides technical support on the application and implementation of the interoperability standards within and beyond the social protection sector. Governments at the national or provincial level can request support from the Helpdesk.

To request support, download and complete the **request form** at spdci.org/helpdesk and send it to contact@spdci.org, or contact us directly for any questions.

About the DCI

The Digital Convergence Initiative (DCI) is the global initiative for the digital transformation of social protection systems. Established 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.



Co-funded by



Coordinated by

