What we offer

About Dgroups

The Dgroups Foundation was established in 2009 as a group of organisations committed to enhance online collaboration and interaction in development, human rights and humanitarian aid. Since 2019, the Foundation brokers simple, effective and affordable solutions, knowledge and expertise to enhance collaboration among organizations, projects, networks and campaigns in international development.

dgroups.info

Our twenty years working with online groups, collaboration and dialogue shows that people and organisations in the development/humanitarian spaces are frequently confronted by **three main challenges** that hold us back from achieving our objectives:

1. **Discover and connect** – where and who are the people, expertise and communities I can join and partner with? How do I attract the right people to join my group?

2. **Assess and apply** – where and how do I find and choose the tools and platforms that match my needs and capacities?

3. **Learn and implement** – how do I best design, set up and run or deliver effective online groups, communities, dialogues or events?

Responding to these, the Dgroups Foundation works through **four packages** of services that help its partners:

Find and connect to online communities, tools and platforms

Access

Negotiate and broker preferential access to online tools and platforms

Brokerage

Support effective online communication, collaboration and dialogue

Capacities

Facilitate learning and connections among our partners

Dialogue

Access package

Where and who are the people, expertise and communities I can join and partner with? How can I attract people to join my group?

The Foundation and its partners make online communities, knowledge and expertise more visible and accessible.

Making online communities and groups discoverable can help both people looking for conversations and communities looking to engage more people. Specific activities we provide include:

Community connector - maintaining a register of online groups and communities active in the development and humanitarian spaces. This helps people find relevant groups; it also helps the groups of our partners to be found. Free for partners.

Community information and exchange - facilitating sharing, communication and collaboration across partners and their groups. Tools and services we facilitate include: partners group, moderators group, dgroups.info blog, annual partner dialogue event, events calendar, relevant dialogues. Free for partners.

Community identities - partners may use consistent internet domains that make them and their activities more visible. Available domains include: dgroups.io, Dgroups.net, Dgroups.info. Optional, free for partners.

Brokerage package

Negotiate and
broker preferential
access to online
tools and platforms

Brokerage

Where and how do I find and choose tools and platforms that match my needs and capacities?

The Foundation provides advice, guidance and negotiated preferential access to selected third-party online solutions and platforms.

Our 2020 brief on effective online interaction identifies choice of online collaboration platforms and tools as a critical element where people and organisations struggle to find what they need. Specific activities we provide include:

Selecting solutions - The Foundation interacts with online collaboration tool and platform providers, negotiating preferential access for its partners to use some platforms and is exploring collective access to selected widely-used tools. Free to partners.

Community incubator and support - As part of joint projects, the Foundation works with partners to incubate online groups. Free to partners.

Support
effective online
communication,
collaboration and
dialogue

Capacities

Capacities package

How do I best design, set up and run or deliver effective online groups, communities, dialogues or events?

The Foundation convenes and delivers experience-based and peer-to-peer learning, training and other support for effective online collaboration and dialogue.

In 2020, the Foundation convened an online dialogue to take stock of online collaboration practices and lessons in international development. Through this process, four critical areas for effective online interaction were identified:

- ✔ enhanced online participation and inclusion;
- ✔ effective online communities;
- ✔ appropriate online collaboration platforms and tools; and
- ✔ sustained online engagement over time.

The Foundation facilitates learning and training in these areas and supports partner-led projects and other activities to improve online collaboration capacities of groups, communities and networks or projects. Specific activities we provide include:

'Make the most of a groups.io community' - Organized on demand for partners and Foundation-led groups. This introduces group members and users to the essential features and settings of the platform. Free to partners.

'Supporting and managing a groups.io community' - Organized for partners and Foundation-led groups alongside a dedicated online support group. This introduces groups.io community moderators or administrators to groups.io settings as well as lessons and insights that will help get the most benefit from their groups. Free to partners.

'Effective online community engagement and moderation' course for community facilitators/moderators - Organized and delivered at cost with partners or third parties. The specific objectives are customized to the situation. Usually a mix of peer-to-peer experience capitalisation, some formal training, and drawing on expertise in the partnership/network for resource persons and trainers. Delivered at cost.

Ad hoc collaborative or learning opportunities - Organized and delivered at cost and on demand for specific situations. Normally drawing in expertise from the partnership/network, indicative topics include: How to run an effective online dialogue; How to deliver an effective online event; How to run an effective 'blended' e-community and in-person or virtual event; Evaluating online collaboration; individual mentoring and coaching. Delivered at cost.

Dialogue package

Where and who are the people, expertise and communities I can partner with to run my own public dialogue or focused event?

The Foundation organises or co-organises online events with partners.

Dialogue

During the 2020-2021 pandemic, organisations recognised the need to move events and other activities online. Even with the best platforms, they discovered they also needed 'process' and 'engagement' expertise to design and facilitate inclusive, participatory and ultimately productive online actions. We can support:

Partner-led online dialogues or events - The Foundation can support the design and delivery of bespoke online dialogues and online events. It usually draws from its wider partnership and associated individuals to bring both process expertise as well as linkages to the wider communities it works with. Delivered at cost as mini-projects.

Joint issue-focused online dialogue and experience capitalisation processes - The Foundation can co-convene dialogues on specific issues and topics. These ideally combine partner thematic expertise with Foundation and partners' process expertise and they mobilise expertise and knowledge around hot topics important to the partner as well as wider Dgroups communities. Delivered at cost as mini-projects.

How it works

1. Instead of searching out and matching up solutions from many platforms and providers, for a small annual contribution, **partners get a unique bundle of services** from the Dgroups Foundation.

2. **Organisations or projects become Foundation partners**, making an annual contribution, based on the organisation's capacity to do so:

→ EUR1000/year for 'supporter' organisations (e.g. larger organisations, donors)

→ EUR 500/year for organisations and projects (e.g. medium and small organisations)

→ EUR 200/year to unfunded individuals or collaboratives/ collectives matching our development mission

This annual contribution helps cover the Foundation's core costs.

3. This also entitles partners to benefit from the ABCD services outlined above as well as additional services 'delivered at cost' by Dgroups Foundation Associates.

Request more Info

🌐 https://www.dgroups.info

✉ foundation@dgroups.info

Dgroups FOUNDATION