This is the readme file for the dataset used in the paper “How did COVID-19 Impact Software Design Activities in Global Software Engineering — Systematic Review”. The repository consists of the following files:

1. **Search String & Snowballing:** This file contains the search strings used in the first phase of the systematic mapping study, followed by the forward snowballing approach used in the second phase of the research study.
2. **Data Extraction Template & Inclusion\_Exclusion Criteria:** This file includes the data extraction template used to organize the key features of papers specific to the research questions of the study. It also lists the inclusion and exclusion criteria applied in both phases of the study.
3. **Screening Process:** This file details the screening process for both phases. The screening process is applied at three levels in each phase:
   1. In the first level, research studies are excluded based on title
   2. In the second level, research studies are excluded based on their abstract
   3. In the third level, research studies are excluded based on their full text

Additionally, the primary studies used in the second phase are analyzed in a separate tab.

1. **RQs Analysis:** In the first phase, 3317 studies were retrieved, which were reduced to 580 by applying the inclusion and exclusion criteria. In the second phase, 12 additional primary studies were selected. The final set analyzed in this study consists of 592 papers. The detailed analysis of research questions (RQs) is as follows:
   1. **RQ1 Analysis:** This tab shows the temporal distribution of GSE papers, revealing patterns and trends over time, and the evolution of GSE research.
   2. **RQ2 Analysis:** This tab shows the distribution of studies by research type, providing insights into the diverse methodologies, frameworks, and empirical studies contributing to the GSE literature.
   3. **RQ3 Analysis:** This tab shows the distribution of studies by main stakeholders to understand the involvement of different stakeholders in GSE and providing valuable information about collaboration and industry engagement.
   4. **RQ4 Analysis:** This tab shows the distribution of studies by GSE research areas to categorize and analyze the addressed topics to contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the field.
   5. **RQ5 Analysis:** This tab shows the distribution of studies by software engineering phases in GSE to examine the specific aspects of the GSE field that researchers prioritize and investigate.

The research methodology and main results can be found in the paper.