DAC Working Party on Development Finance Statistics

PROPOSAL FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF A POLICY MARKER TO TRACK DEVELOPMENT FINANCE IN SUPPORT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE CRS

Informal meeting of the Working Party on Development Finance Statistics (WP-STAT)
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This document is presented under item 4 of the draft annotated agenda DCD/DAC/STAT/A(2018)1.
Comments on the proposal are invited in writing by 28 February 2018.
This paper presents a proposal for the introduction of a Policy Marker to track development finance in support of persons with disabilities in the CRS, based on an earlier paper by the United Kingdom.

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1. Introduction

1. Persons with disabilities are among the most vulnerable groups in developing countries; they consistently fare less well than their non-disabled peers, often face stigma and discrimination and have difficulty accessing public services.

2. The importance of the inclusion of persons with disabilities is reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through specific targets and indicators and through the overall commitment of “leave no one behind”. There is however little information available on how they are being supported.

3. Disability-inclusive programming is critical to addressing the needs of persons with disabilities. The current CRS classification does not provide an accurate picture of development financing in disability-inclusive projects, as the issue is not recorded explicitly and cannot be tracked across several purpose codes.

4. At the WPSTAT meeting of June 2017 ([DCD/DAC/STAT/M(2017)2]) the UK presented a paper advocating for the introduction in the CRS of a policy marker to track development finance in support of persons with disabilities ([DCD/DAC/STAT/RD(2017)9]). Members reacted positively to the proposal that is presented here in updated form taking into account the comments received by the Secretariat.

5. Members are invited to comment the proposal in 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4 by 28 February 2018. Depending on the nature of comments received, the proposal will be either finalised for approval under the written procedure or presented for discussion at June 2018 WP-STAT meeting.
2. The proposal

2.1. Rationale

6. Persons with disabilities are one of the most vulnerable groups, often the poorest in their communities; they face multiple barriers to fully realise their rights and live with dignity.

7. Inclusion and non-discrimination are at the core of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that affirms that “People that are vulnerable must be empowered”, making an explicit reference to persons with disabilities.

8. The current statistical classification for development co-operation does not allow tracking of activities that are principally targeted to address the needs of disabled people, or that take into account the needs of persons with disabilities. Disability is mentioned in the explanatory notes of two purpose codes:

   16010 – Social/ welfare Services
   15160 – Human rights

   In both cases, the coverage is not exclusive to disability but include disability-related activities within a group of other possible purposes.

9. Seven SDG targets mention disability (4.5, 4.a, 8.5, 10.2, 11.2, 11.7, 17.18) (Annex I). None of these exclusively address disability, but all include disability or persons with disabilities among other issues or vulnerable groups. Disability disaggregated indicators are present also to monitor several other SDG targets (e.g. indicator 1.3.1. on Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/system)\(^1\). The eventual approval of an SDG field in the CRS database ([DCD/DAC/STAT(2018)1]) would not adequately address the need to monitor development finance in support of persons with disabilities.

10. Support of persons with disabilities, and mainstreaming of disability concerns into development co-operation activities, are cross-cutting issues that can be effectively tracked only through an overarching policy marker. Development finance statistics on the issue will be important for improving understanding of where more effort is needed and for leveraging government and donor responses.

11. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities include a specific commitment which aims at – inter alia - Ensuring that international cooperation, including international development programmes, is inclusive of and accessible to

\(^1\) See https://undocs.org/A/RES/71/313
persons with disabilities (art.32). A specific policy marker would allow monitoring international co-operation activities that follow these principles.

2.2. Objectives

12. The policy marker has the objective of tracking development co-operation activities in support of persons with disabilities.

13. The policy marker would also track development co-operation activities in support of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

14. The policy marker would not cover programmes that prevent disabilities, for example immunisation or road safety programmes.

2.3. Definition

15. An activity is classified as being inclusive of persons with disabilities (scores Principal or Significant) if it has a deliberate focus on ensuring persons with disabilities are included in, and able to share the benefits on an equal basis to persons without disabilities, or

or

if the activity support the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

2.4. Criteria for eligibility

16. Support to, and inclusion of persons with disabilities is explicitly promoted in activity documentation through specific measures which:

- reduce vulnerability and social, economic or political inequalities of persons with disabilities; or
- assure that persons with disabilities benefit equally from the activity, or compensate for past discrimination; or
- develop or strengthen policies, legislation or institutions in support of persons with disabilities.

2.5. Scoring

17. An activity can be marked as principal when the objective is explicitly stated as fundamental in the design of, or the motivation for, the activity. Promoting the objective will thus be stated in the activity documentation as one of the principal reasons for undertaking it. In other words, the activity would not have been funded (or designed that way) but for that objective.

18. An activity can be marked as significant when the objective is explicitly stated but it is not the fundamental driver or motivation for undertaking it. Instead, the activity has other prime objectives but it has been formulated or adjusted to help meet the relevant climate concerns.

19. The score “0” means that the activity was examined but found not to target the objective in any significant way. For activities that have not been assessed, the marker field should be left empty. This ensures that there is no confusion between activities that do not target the objective (score = “0”), and activities for which the answer is not known (score = “null”).

2.6. Example of activities.

20. Examples of activities that could be marked as principal objective:
   - support to special needs education programmes;
   - support to job insertion programs for persons with disabilities;
   - support to health and social projects specifically designed to reduce the vulnerability of the persons with disabilities;
   - support to reduce architectural barriers in urban areas.

21. Examples of activities that could be marked as significant objective:
   - a new or refurbished infrastructure project that is fully accessible to persons with disabilities;
   - a local library/school that makes cultural and education material also available in a form accessible to persons with visual or hearing impairments;
   - a social inclusion projects that includes persons with disabilities among the target groups.
3. Next Steps

22. Members are invited to comment on the proposal, and to send them to the Secretariat by 28 February 2018.

23. The Secretariat will consolidate comments and will circulate an updated proposal for approval.

24. Depending on the nature of comments received, the proposal will be either finalised for approval under the written procedure or presented for discussion at June 2018 WP-STAT meeting.
Annex 1: Disability targets in the SDGs

The vision of the SDGs is a world where extreme poverty is eradicated and ‘no one is left behind’.

The needs of persons with disabilities apply to all SDG goals and targets. Those which specifically mention persons with disabilities are as follows:

**Goal 4.** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations

4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and people safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.

**Goal 8.** Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.

**Goal 10.** Reduce inequality within and among countries

10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.

**Goal 11.** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons

11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

**Goal 17.** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts