

Development Co-operation Directorate
Development Assistance Committee**DAC Working Party on Development Finance Statistics****PROPOSAL TO REDEFINE THE BASIC NUTRITION PURPOSE CODE AND ESTABLISH A POLICY MARKER FOR NUTRITION****Formal meeting of the Working Party on Development Finance Statistics (WP-STAT), 20-21 June 2017**

At its February 2017 informal meeting, the WP-STAT discussed a proposal for redefining the “basic nutrition” purpose code and introducing in the CRS a policy marker for nutrition. Members were generally in favour of the proposed modifications and more granular information in the CRS, but thought that some adjustments and clarifications were needed, especially on the nutrition marker. At the same time, it was stated that with the increased granularity of purpose codes and the use of multiple purpose codes, there would be a need to clarify or redefine the use and meaning of policy markers.

This room document by France presents a revised and clarified proposal for discussion at the formal WP-STAT meeting on 20-21 June 2017. Members are invited to APPROVE the proposed changes to the purpose codes (section 1.c) and the proposed nutrition policy marker (section 2.c) taking into account, as appropriate, the conclusion of discussions on other proposed adjustments to the CRS covered under items 9 and 10 of the draft annotated agenda.

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**PROPOSAL TO REDEFINE THE BASIC NUTRITION PURPOSE CODE AND
ESTABLISH A POLICY MARKER FOR NUTRITION**

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1. PROPOSAL TO REDEFINE THE BASIC NUTRITION PURPOSE CODE

a) Rationale

Resource tracking for nutrition is critical to monitor progress and commitments towards the World Health Assembly targets for nutrition and Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG2). The global nutrition community uses the OECD DAC Creditor Reporting System (CRS) to track aid for nutrition. The purpose code for basic nutrition (12240) is commonly used as a proxy for investments in nutrition-specific interventions, which are direct, high-impact nutrition interventions that address the immediate determinants and causes of undernutrition. However, while there is international and scientific consensus on the definition of nutrition-specific interventions, the basic nutrition purpose code is not well-aligned with this definition^{1,2}. For example, the basic nutrition code includes school feeding and household food security, which are not typically considered nutrition-specific. The inclusion of these investments leads to an overestimation of nutrition-specific investments and misinterpretation of progress towards nutrition scale-up.

Analysis by Results for Development showed that in 2013, 20% of basic nutrition disbursements went towards school feeding (\$190 million) and in 2014, 16% of disbursements went towards school feeding (\$151 million). In addition, about 10% of disbursements went towards household food security not linked with nutrition-specific interventions (i.e., training of smallholder farmers, sustainable agriculture techniques, etc.).³ These findings indicate as much as a 30% overestimate of actual disbursements globally for nutrition-specific interventions by use of the basic nutrition code under its current iteration.

To improve the reporting and monitoring of nutrition-specific investments, we are proposing to redefine the basic nutrition purpose code to align with the internationally agreed upon definition of nutrition-specific investments drawing from *The Lancet*⁴ recommendations and WHO guidance through documentation of the “Essential Nutrition Actions.”⁵

This will improve the quality, availability, and accuracy of data of ODA reporting for nutrition for use by donors and civil society to track progress towards the World Health Assembly targets for nutrition and SDG2.

b) Overview of the proposal to redefine the basic nutrition code

The redefinition of the basic nutrition purpose code follows three overarching principles. First, the definition should align with international and scientific consensus on the criteria for nutrition-specific interventions while allowing for the inclusion of new innovations in nutrition programming *if* they meet criteria for a direct, high-impact nutrition-specific intervention (i.e., based on high-impact and cost-effectiveness tenants used by *The Lancet* to achieve nutrition outcomes). Second, it follows that if the revised definition is better aligned with the internationally agreed upon standard, it will lend itself to clear policy and programme applications. Third, the basic nutrition code should include investments that are linked to coverage (i.e., implementation of programs) *and/or* that support the scale-up of nutrition-specific interventions, including through policy development, capacity building, research, and monitoring and evaluation.

In accordance with the above, we propose the following:

- Continue to include interventions that are currently recommended as high-impact nutrition-specific interventions:
 - Micronutrient deficiency identification and supplementation;
 - Infant and young child feeding promotion including exclusive breastfeeding;
 - Provision of complementary feeding to target groups;
 - Non-emergency management of acute malnutrition and other targeted feeding programs;
 - Staple food fortification including salt iodization;
 - Nutritional status monitoring and national nutrition surveillance ;

¹ Bhutta, Z. A., Das, J. K., Rizvi, A., Gaffey, M. F., Walker, N., Horton, S., and Black, R. E. (2013). "Evidence-based interventions for improvement of maternal and child nutrition: What can be done and at what cost?" *The Lancet*, 382(9890), 452-477.

² WHO (2013). "Essential Nutrition Actions: Improving maternal, newborn, infant and young child health and nutrition" http://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/infantfeeding/essential_nutrition_actions/en/

³ R4D (2016). Tracking Funding for Nutrition: Improving how aid for nutrition is reported and monitored. <http://www.r4d.org/tracking-nutrition-funding>

⁴ Bhutta, Z. A., Das, J. K., Rizvi, A., Gaffey, M. F., Walker, N., Horton, S., and Black, R. E. (2013). "Evidence-based interventions for improvement of maternal and child nutrition: What can be done and at what cost?" *The Lancet*, 382(9890), 452-477.

⁵ WHO (2013). "Essential Nutrition Actions: Improving maternal, newborn, infant and young child health and nutrition" http://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/infantfeeding/essential_nutrition_actions/en/

- Research, capacity building, policy development, monitoring and evaluation in support of these interventions.
- Remove interventions that are not typically considered nutrition-specific: "school feeding" and "household food security" from the definition. It is proposed that these nutrition actions should be reallocated to other purpose codes in the database:
 - "Household food security" could be allocated to a new DAC purpose code 520xx "Household food security programmes" under "developmental food aid and food security assistance"
 - School feeding could be allocated to a new DAC purpose code 112xx "School feeding" under "basic education."

c) Proposed revision

DAC 5 CODE	DAC SECTOR NAME	CRS CODE	Impact on Historical Series	CURRENT DESCRIPTION	Current additional notes on coverage
122	BASIC HEALTH	12240	Break in DAC5 sectors	Basic nutrition	<p>Direct feeding programmes (maternal feeding, breastfeeding and weaning foods, child feeding, school feeding); determination of micro-nutrient deficiencies; provision of vitamin A, iodine, iron etc.; monitoring of nutritional status; nutrition and food hygiene education; household food security.</p> <p>12240 Modify coverage (What should be included)</p> <p>Micronutrient deficiency identification and supplementation; Infant and young child feeding promotion including exclusive breastfeeding; Non-emergency management of acute malnutrition and other targeted feeding programs (including complementary feeding); Staple food fortification including salt iodization; Nutritional status monitoring and national nutrition surveillance; Research, capacity building, policy development, monitoring and evaluation in support of these interventions.</p> <p>Use code 112xx for school feeding and 520xx for household food security.</p>

DAC 5 CODE	DAC SECTOR NAME	CRS CODE	DESCRIPTION	Clarifications / Additional notes on coverage
520	DEVELOPMENTAL FOOD AID/FOOD SECURITY ASSISTANCE	520xx new	Household food security programmes	Short or longer term programmes that improve the access of households to nutritionally adequate diets.

DAC 5 CODE	DAC SECTOR NAME	CRS CODE	DESCRIPTION	Clarifications / Additional notes on coverage
112	BASIC EDUCATION	120xx new	School feeding	Provision of meals or snacks at school; other uses of food for the achievement of educational outcomes including "take-home" food rations provided as economic incentives to families (or foster families, or other child care institutions) in return for a child's regular attendance at school; food provided to adults or youth who attend literacy or vocational training programmes; food for pre-school activities with an educational component. These activities may help reduce children's hunger during the school day if provision of food/meals contains bioavailable nutrients to address specific nutrition needs and have nutrition expected outcomes in school children, or if the rationale mainstream nutrition or expected outcome is nutrition-linked.

d) Nutrition-specific activities and NCDs

We are aware of a concurrent proposal to the OECD to add purpose codes for noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) with the inclusion of interventions to promote healthy diets and physical activity (i.e., interventions to control/prevent NCDs through overweight and obesity control/prevention). We recognize the rising burden of overweight and obesity

and its link to both the World Health Assembly targets and SDG2, and believe that these purpose codes will track these investments. The nutrition policy marker being proposed will allow donors to capture both undernutrition and overweight/obesity, along with the multi-sectoral investments that cannot be captured under the basic nutrition code.

2. PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHING A POLICY MARKER FOR NUTRITION

a) Rationale

The OECD-DAC Creditor Reporting System (CRS) purpose code for basic nutrition (12240) is the only way to systematically track nutrition investments within the CRS. However, this code is insufficient in capturing total aid for nutrition simply due to the inherent multi-sectoral and cross-cutting nature of nutrition programming within development. Nutrition is an important thematic area within health, agriculture, emergency response, education, social security, and other sectors. As such, nutrition components could be integrated within an array of programmes across sector codes, including, for example, reproductive health, HIV prevention, and emergency response programmes. Because these investments would be coded under sector codes for population policies/programmes and reproductive health (130) or emergency response (720), there is currently no systematic approach to identify investments in these areas as supporting the enabling environment for nutrition. Nutrition investments that are integrated within programmes across sectors are critical to improve nutrition outcomes, and thus, it is important to identify and track them so that investments can be monitored and information provided to stakeholders in a timely and transparent manner.

To fill this information gap on multi-sectoral investments in nutrition, both the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement Donor Network (SDN) and the G7 Food Security Working Group (FSWG) have developed methodologies to track their members' investments in nutrition. Both methodologies are based upon two different pre-selected sets of DAC codes and keyword filters to identify donor projects with nutrition components. Donors have clearly recognized the need to monitor nutrition as a cross-cutting global health and development investment; however the presence of competing methodologies to track multisector investments in nutrition is inefficient and produces competing narratives for reporting nutrition progress and investments across global platforms.

To improve the reporting and monitoring of multi-sectoral and cross-cutting nutrition investments, we are proposing a policy marker for nutrition, aligned with the approach employed by the SUN Donor Network and the G7 Food Security Working Group, to be implemented in a phased approach, with all donors in compliance by 2020.⁶

In the context of the 2030 agenda, the marker will be the only common tool available to DAC members to track bilateral aid in support of the commitments to end all forms of malnutrition. It will enable the tracking of nutrition investments aligned with SDG2 as well as all other nutrition-sensitive SDGs. Nutrition is vital to the success of many of the SDGs due to its underlying cause and effect on health, development, and economic prosperity.

The objective of the policy marker is two-fold: first it would provide a streamlined approach to tracking multi-sectoral nutrition investments by all donors across all nutrition reporting platforms; and second it would allow donors, for the first time, to systematically track the level of integration of nutrition components within the ensemble of their ODA programming portfolios. The resulting data would also be publicly available to donors, researchers, and civil society.

b) Scoring system

We recommend adopting a three-point scoring system as used for other policy markers. Screened projects may be given one of three values, depending on the extent to which nutrition is central to the intervention:

- Principal objective (2)
- Significant objective (1)
- Not targeted to the policy objective (0)

The basic difference between a score of significant or principal can be ascertained with the question, "Would the project have been undertaken without this objective" OR "Is nutrition a fundamental component/objective of the project?" If yes, a principal score is given.

⁶ SUN Donor Network, 2013

Table 1. Three-point scoring system proposed for the nutrition policy marker

Score	Description
Principal (score 2)	Nutrition is the principal objective of the project and is fundamental in its design and expected results. The project would not have been undertaken without this nutrition objective.
Significant (score 1)	Nutrition is an important and deliberate objective, but not the principal reason for undertaking the project.
Not targeted (score 0)	The project has been screened against the marker but has not been found to target nutrition.
0 or 1 or 2	The sum of projects given a 0-1-2 represents number of projects screened.
Blank	Blank entries mean the project was not screened for the nutrition marker.

Source: *Adapted from OECD (2016). Handbook on the OECD-DAC Gender Equality Policy Marker.*

c) Definition and eligibility criteria

Projects would be screened per the criteria for eligibility stated below.

<p>Definition A project should be identified as nutrition-related with the policy marker (score Principal or Significant) when:</p>	<p>It is intended to address the <u>immediate</u> or <u>underlying</u> determinants of malnutrition⁷. This can encompass a range of projects across a variety of sectors, including humanitarian interventions, maternal health, WASH and agriculture.</p>
<p>Criteria for eligibility A project is eligible for the nutrition policy marker if:</p>	<p>a) It is reported under the 12240 basic nutrition purpose code OR b) The activity documentation includes an explicit nutrition objective or indicator AND contributes to a nutrition-sensitive outcome</p>

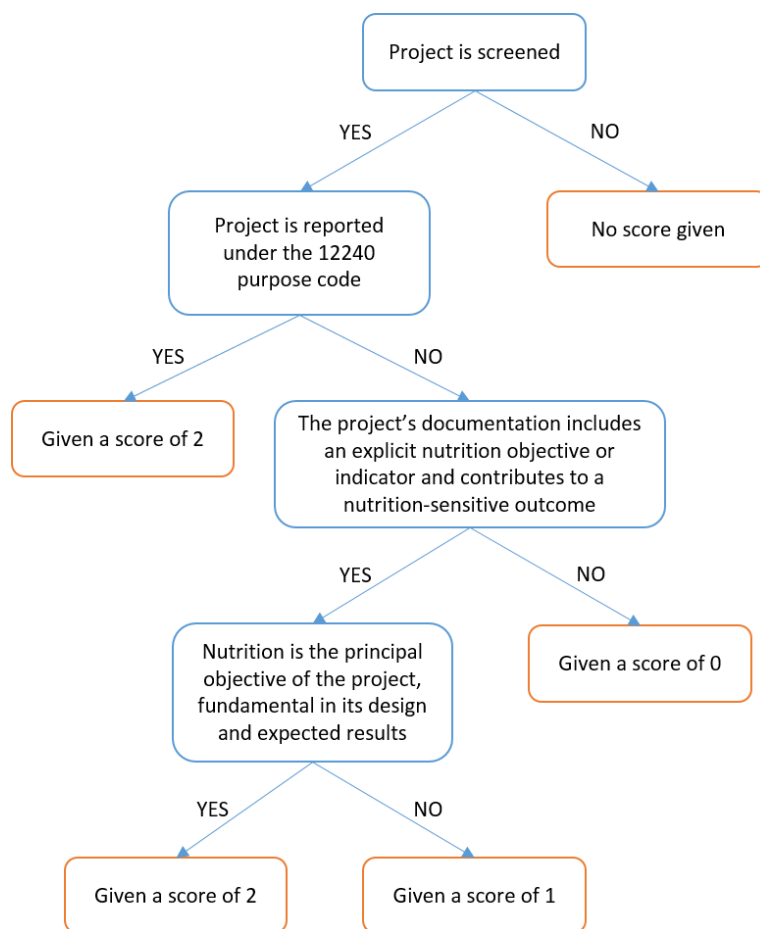
<p>Example nutrition objectives and indicators* Nutrition objectives or indicators must be specific to nutrition and demonstrate an intention to achieve results at the individual level. *This list is not exhaustive.</p>	<p>Qualifying objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve access to more diversified nutritional diets or food • Improve the nutritional status of target populations • Improve nutritional value of a staple food through fortification • Improve infant and young child feeding practices • Improve access to management of acute malnutrition • Improve the nutritional qualities of major staple crops through biofortification <p>Qualifying indicators include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevalence of stunting amongst children under five years • Prevalence of overweight • Household Food Consumption Score • Household Dietary Diversity Score • Prevalence of severely underweight children under 5 years • % of acutely malnourished children under 5 years enrolled in a feeding programme • Prevalence of anaemia among women in childbearing age • Mean household food consumption <p>Indicators that only monitor increasing resources in the hands of women, such as increased access to reproductive health care, or improved access to education alone would not qualify.</p>
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⁷ The immediate determinants of malnutrition include inadequate dietary intake, feeding practices or access to food. Underlying determinants of malnutrition include food security; adequate caregiving resources at the maternal, household and community levels; and access to health services and a safe and hygienic environment.

<p>Examples of nutrition-sensitive⁸ outcomes*</p> <p>*This list is not exhaustive.</p>	<p>Individual level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased purchasing power or level of literacy of women • Improved access to nutritious food for women, adolescent girls and/or children • Improved diet in quality and/or quantity for women, adolescent girls or children • Improved access to primary healthcare for women or adolescent girls or children • Improved access to water, sanitation and hygiene for women or adolescent girls or children • Improved access to education/school for adolescent girls • Improved knowledge/awareness of nutrition for relevant audiences • Improved empowerment of women <p>National level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved governance of nutrition • Increased nutrition-sensitive legislation <p>Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased research with nutrition objectives
<p>Examples of typical qualifying projects</p> <p>This list is not exhaustive. Projects may be scored only if the above criteria for eligibility are fulfilled.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fortification of staple foods with the aim of reducing iron and folic acid deficiency • Management of acute malnutrition in emergency situations • Behaviour change communication to promote exclusive breastfeeding • Improvements in nutrition surveillance and health information systems • Training health personnel to identify and treat nutritional deficiencies • An integrated programme for maternal and child health that includes breastfeeding promotion, along with several other health interventions that are not directly relevant to nutrition • A school feeding programme whose principal objective is increased school attendance, while also including explicit objectives/indicators for the dietary diversity and micronutrient richness of school meals • An agriculture programme whose principal objective is improving the access of smallholder farmers and women to markets, while also including explicit objectives/indicators for the availability and affordability of nutritious foods in markets • Programmes promoting dietary diversity

⁸ Nutrition-sensitive interventions are understood as interventions that address the underlying determinants of fetal and child nutrition and development (food security including availability of food, economic access, and use of food; adequate feeding and caregiving resources at the individual, household and community levels; and access to and use of health services and a safe and hygienic environment).

Figure 1: Summary of screening and scoring process per the eligibility criteria



d) Scoring examples

Projects scoring either “significant” or “principal” must each meet the eligibility criteria as outlined in section 2.c. Projects would be scored as significant (score “1”) when nutrition is an important and deliberate objective, but not the principal reason for undertaking the activity. These include many projects that are delivered across various sectors where nutrition is an important objective or part of the project.

Examples of projects found within the CRS that would likely be scored as significant (score 1)

<p>Example 1</p>	<p>Purpose code: 13020 – Reproductive health care</p> <p>Description: Australia’s contribution to the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) supports the IPPF’s work in East and South East Asia, and Oceania regions. This initiative provides core funding to support women’s and children’s health focusing on: maternal health; sexual and reproductive health; access to safe and effective contraception based on informed choice; nutrition; and programmes to combat gender based violence.</p> <p>Notes: Though there is an explicitly defined component for nutrition, nutrition is only one of several objectives.</p>
<p>Example 2</p>	<p>Purpose code: 52010 - Food aid/Food security programmes</p> <p>Description: To address food and livelihood insecurity, malnutrition, seasonal vulnerability, social exclusion, injustice and discrimination to the target groups: the ultra-poor women and the marginal farmers and sharecroppers in North-western District of Bangladesh</p> <p>Notes: Though there is an explicitly defined component for nutrition, nutrition is only one of several objectives.</p>

Example 3	<p>Purpose code: 31120 – Agricultural development</p> <p>Description: Climate change makes farming in Kenya's arid regions particularly challenging because of low and increasingly erratic rainfall. Unfortunately, many technologies developed after decades of agricultural research to improve farming systems in the region have not been adopted by farmers. This project will allow researchers to test and promote new strategies to facilitate large-scale adoption of resilient farming practices among resource-poor women and men in three semiarid counties in Kenya. The project will endeavour to strengthen farmers' links to markets and increase consumption of nutritious local foods by women and children. This will involve on-farm trials and farmer training, plus ongoing assessment of the social, economic, nutritional, and institutional and policy contexts that determine the adoption of new farming practices.</p> <p>Notes: The principal purpose of this project is to improve farming practices. There is a clear and explicit nutrition objective ("increase the consumption of nutritious local foods by women and children").</p>
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Projects would be scored as principal (score "2") when nutrition is the principal objective and/or where nutrition is fundamental to the project's design and expected results. These include:

- All projects coded under the basic nutrition purpose code (12240).
- Most projects that have nutrition-related activities or components integrated within them but are not coded under the basic nutrition code because of the integrated or cross-cutting nature of the programme or because they are part of emergency response.
- Emerging noncommunicable disease (NCDs) prevention/control projects that include activities and components to promote healthy diets. A parallel proposal to the OECD to improve the way NCD investments are tracked within the CRS is under consideration.

Examples of projects found within the CRS that would likely be scored as principal (score 2)

Example 1	<p>Purpose code: 72040 – Emergency food aid</p> <p>Description: Targeted supplementary feeding to refugees and vulnerable people affected by malnutrition and recurrent food crises. The aim is to help mothers and children suffering from malnutrition.</p> <p>Notes: Since this is primarily an emergency-related investment, it was not coded under basic nutrition. However, the policy marker would allow us to identify this as a principal nutrition activity.</p>
Example 2	<p>Purpose code: 12281 – Health personnel</p> <p>Description: The Support to Zero Malnutrition Program project supports the Government of Bolivia in its commitment to eradicate malnutrition in children under two years of age and to greatly decrease malnutrition in children under five years of age and in pregnant women. The project contributes to one of the Government of Bolivia's cornerstone programs, the Zero Malnutrition Program. There are three components to the project. This component builds on the micronutrient component of the Zero Malnutrition Program. It addresses three of the main malnutrition challenges in Bolivia - iron, vitamin A, and zinc deficiencies - mainly through building the capacity of institutions and health personnel to eradicate these prevalent causes of malnutrition.</p> <p>Notes: Since this is primarily an investment in capacity building of health personnel, it was not coded under basic nutrition. However, the policy marker would allow us to identify this as a principal nutrition activity.</p>
Example 3	<p>Purpose code: 31320 – Fishery development</p> <p>Description: Indigenous communities involved in fisheries and aquaculture are among the most food insecure in the Bolivian Amazon. Although fish could be the main source of protein, it is often not part of the local diet. This project will explore the potential contribution of fish to the nutritional well-being of vulnerable populations, particularly women and ethnic minorities. Researchers will investigate artisanal fishery and small-scale aquaculture value chains in two pilot areas. The team will analyse the nutritional value of different species, identify bottlenecks in the value chain, and find ways of improving fish handling, processing and marketing. The research will make a direct contribution to the Bolivian government's new plan for strengthening fisheries in the Amazon.</p> <p>Notes: Since this is primarily an investment in fisheries, it was not coded under basic nutrition. However, the policy marker would allow us to identify this as a principal nutrition activity.</p>