



Treatment of regional projects in the TOSSD framework

TOSSD Task Force Issues Paper¹

29-30 May 2018

For discussion under agenda item 8

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The TOSSD framework is composed of two pillars: the cross-border flows pillar, which measures resources actually flowing to developing countries ('pillar I'), and the development enablers and global challenges pillar, which includes resources provided in support of sustainable development at global or regional levels ('pillar II'). The TOSSD Task Force has developed the main statistical features of the framework, in particular the definition of TOSSD and the statistical concepts related to the cross-border flows pillar. The scope of the second pillar is yet to be discussed at the Task Force meeting in May 2018².

2. In this framework, the case of regional projects needs to be examined in two respects:

- Given that regional projects can entail direct resource transfers to developing countries and/or support to development enablers at the regional level, the question arises as to what TOSSD pillar these projects best correspond to.
- Their treatment in terms of recipient identification will also need to be discussed as they involve more than one recipient country.

3. Two types of regional projects can be identified:

- Projects implemented in multiple recipient countries and which involve direct resource transfers to these countries (e.g. the construction of a road between two countries); and
- Projects implemented at the level of a particular region with no direct resource transfer to countries included in that region (e.g. peacebuilding and conflict prevention activities).

II. PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN MULTIPLE RECIPIENT COUNTRIES

4. A TOSSD-eligible project may be implemented in multiple recipient countries, with a direct transfer of resources to each of these countries (see table 1 for examples of such projects). These types of projects would thus fall within the scope of pillar I. Given that one of the main objectives of TOSSD is to provide the greatest transparency possible on resources flowing to developing countries, the reporting of these projects should separate, for each recipient, the share of resources transferred to that recipient. This information is normally available in the budget documents or at

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² See issues paper: 'Tackling the second part of the TOSSD definition: Support to development enablers and response to global challenges at regional or global levels'.

the country level. For operational purposes, provider countries should be made responsible for collecting this information where it is available.

5. However, identifying the shares that are transferred to each of the recipients might not always be feasible, because the information may not be tracked or may only be available at a date later than the reporting date. Therefore, the question arises as to how these projects should be treated in terms of recipient identification. One option could be to develop an estimation methodology (e.g. equal share estimation methodology). However, this might not reflect the actual resources transferred to the recipients and weaken the usefulness of the measure to recipient countries. Alternatively, in order to avoid these estimations, the list of TOSSD-eligible recipients could include regions or sub-regions against which these activities could be reported.

Table 1. Examples of projects implemented in multiple recipient countries

Project description	Provider	Recipient as reported in the CRS
Transboundary water management programme in Southern African Development Community	UK	South of Sahara, regional
Solar light for all in rural Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana	OPEC Fund	South of Sahara, regional
Environmental monitoring of the Black Sea	UNDP	Europe, regional
National strategic planning and programme tools implemented with inclusion of civil society	UNAIDS	South America
Water accountability in transboundary CHU and Talas river basins	Switzerland	Central Asia
EUROMED road, rail, & urban transport project	European Union	Europe, regional

Source: OECD Creditor Reporting System (CRS)

III. ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

6. Some activities may support sustainable development at the regional level with no particular resource flow to individual countries. Examples of these activities would be capacity building programmes for the benefit of regional institutions such as the African Union or the Organisation of American States, or peacekeeping missions implemented by international organisations (see table 2 for examples of projects). The question here is whether these types of projects constitute cross-border resource flows to countries included in that region (pillar I), or represent activities that support development enablers and/or address global challenges, such as migration or security, at the regional level (pillar II). In terms of recipient identification, these projects benefit the region as a whole and could therefore be reported against regions.

Table 2. Examples of projects implemented at the regional level

Project description	Donor	Recipient as reported in the CRS
African Human Development Report 2015	UNDP	Africa, regional
Organisation of American States Cooperation plan and monitoring	Canada	America, regional
Event to support civilian activities related to peacebuilding and conflict prevention in Africa	UK	Africa, regional
Addressing the impact of development projects in Africa through increased UK/Brazil cooperation	UK	Africa, regional
Forum to strengthen resilience to flooding in Sub-Saharan Africa	UK	Africa, regional
Discussion on how the sustainable development goals are being evaluated. This project brought together regional development and evaluation experts to develop evaluation methods and partnerships.	UK	Africa, regional
Support to the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF)	Denmark	Africa, regional

Source: OECD Creditor Reporting System (CRS)

IV. Proposed text to be integrated in the draft Reporting Instructions

7. In order to clarify the treatment of projects implemented in multiple recipient countries, it is proposed to include the following text in the draft Reporting Instructions:

TOSSD-eligible projects may be implemented in multiple developing countries. To provide the greatest transparency possible on resources transferred to recipient countries, these projects should be reported by indicating for each recipient the share that is transferred to that recipient. In case these shares cannot be determined, the activity may be reported fully against the region corresponding to the group of recipients concerned.

Issues for discussion

- *Do Task Force members agree that the list of TOSSD-eligible recipients should include regions or sub-regions? Do Task Force members agree that estimation methodologies should be avoided where the individual shares that go to each recipient cannot be determined?*
- *Should projects implemented at the regional level with no direct transfer of resources to developing countries be included in pillar I or pillar II?*
- *Do Task Force members agree with the proposed text to be integrated to the draft Reporting Instructions? Should any elements be added? Should any elements be excluded?*