

**Development Co-operation Directorate
Development Assistance Committee**

DAC Working Party on Development Finance Statistics

PROPOSAL FOR INTRODUCING A POLICY MARKER FOR NUTRITION IN THE CRS

The June 2017 WP-STAT examined a proposal for redefining the “basic nutrition” purpose codes and introducing a policy marker for nutrition into the CRS [DCD/DAC/STAT/RD(2017)11]. In the aftermath of the meeting, only the proposed modifications to purpose codes have been approved by written procedure.

At the January 2018 informal WP-STAT meeting a room document by France presented a revised proposal for introducing in the CRS a policy marker for nutrition [DCD/DAC/STAT/RD(2018)1/RD1].

The proposal has been edited to take into account members’ comments and is presented in this note for APPROVAL through written procedure. If no objections are received by 8 June 2018 the proposal will be considered approved.

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1. PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A POLICY MARKER FOR NUTRITION

1.1. Background

1. The WP-STAT has examined revisions to the CRS statistical classification related to nutrition on various occasions since 2017.

- The February 2017 informal WP-STAT discussed a room document prepared by the NGO Action Contre la Faim (ACF) to amend CRS purpose codes in the nutrition sector and establish a nutrition policy marker¹.
- The June 2017 formal WP-STAT discussed a room document presented by France on the basis of the previous document and discussion, proposing amendments to the CRS purpose codes and the introduction of a policy marker². The amendments were submitted to members by written procedure, but only the amendments to the purpose codes were approved³.
- The January 2018 informal WP-STAT discussed a room document presented by France with an amended proposal for the introduction of a policy marker for nutrition⁴ and asked for written comments⁵. Seven members stated they could support the proposal, two members were hesitant, one proposing that the marker be voluntary and the other that the decision be taken after the comprehensive review of the policy markers.

2. Following the above process, this note presents a proposal to add a policy marker for nutrition to the CRS for members' approval. Members are invited to approve paragraph 5 in section 1.2, and sections 1.4 and 1.5, through written procedure. If no objections are received by 8 June 2018 the proposal will be considered approved. Members will be required to provide data by 2020 reporting on 2019 flows, and those wishing to begin reporting in 2019 on 2018 flows may do so.

1.2. Rationale

3. 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 due to the

1 DCD/DAC/STAT/M(2017)1

2 DCD/DAC/STAT/RD(2017)11

3 DCD/DAC/STAT/M(2017)2

4 DCD/DAC/STAT/RD(2018)1/RD1

5 DCD/DAC/STAT(2018)17

inherent multi-sectoral and cross-cutting nature of nutrition programming within development co-operation. 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 sectors, including, for example, reproductive health and emergency response programmes. Because activities in these areas would be classified under population policies/programmes and reproductive health (130) or emergency response (720) sectors, information on their relevance to nutrition (e.g. supporting the enabling environment for nutrition) cannot be tracked. Yet nutrition investments that are integrated within programmes across sectors are critical to improve nutrition outcomes and should be included in data for monitoring purposes.

4. 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 CRS purpose codes and keyword filters to identify donor projects with nutrition components. Donors have clearly recognised 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.

5. To improve the reporting and monitoring of multi-sectoral and cross-cutting nutrition investments, it is proposed to create a policy marker for nutrition, aligned with the approach employed by the SUN Donor Network and the G7 Food Security Working Group. It is further proposed to implement the marker in a phased approach, with all donors providing data in their 2020 reporting on 2019 flows. As with all the other policy markers, it is proposed that the reporting against this marker will be mandatory.

1.3. Objective

6. The objective of the policy marker is twofold: 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 totality of their ODA portfolios. The resulting data would be made publicly available as all CRS data and therefore benefit not only donors but also researchers and the civil society.

7. In the context of the 2030 agenda, the policy marker will support 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 causal effects on health, development and economic prosperity.⁶

⁶ Some members have commented that relying only upon the proposed SDG field to track nutrition funding (e.g. tracking activities targeted to SDG 2 or a subset of nutrition-relevant SDG targets) would result in an over or underestimation of nutrition funding to both nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive programming.

1.4. Scoring system

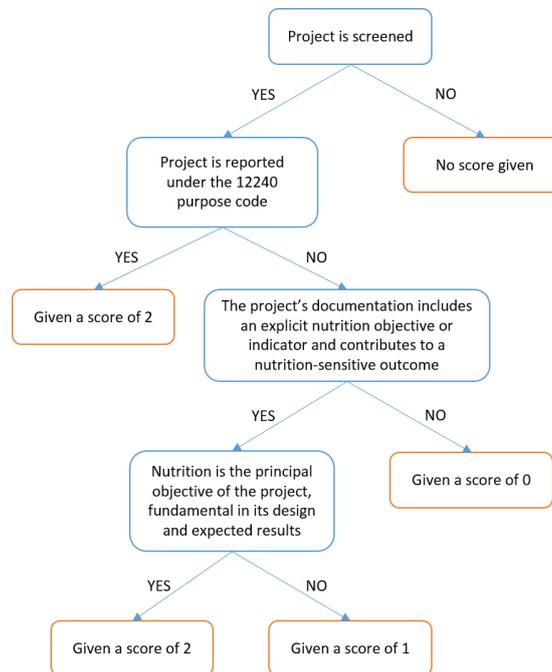
8. It is proposed to adopt a three-point scoring system as used by other policy markers. Screened projects may be given one of three values, dependent on the extent to which nutrition is central to the intervention:

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

9. 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.

Table 1.1. Three-point scoring system proposed for the nutrition policy marker

Score	Description
Not targeted (score 0)	The project has been screened against the marker but has not been found to target nutrition.
Significant (score 1)	Nutrition is an important and deliberate objective, but not the principal reason for undertaking the project.
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.
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.

Figure 1. Summary of screening and scoring process in line with the eligibility criteria

1.5. Definition and eligibility criteria

10. Projects are proposed to be screened according to the criteria for eligibility stated below.

Table 1.2. Definition and eligibility criteria

Definition	It is intended to address the <u>immediate</u> or <u>underlying</u> determinants of malnutrition ⁷ . This can encompass a range of projects across a variety of sectors, including humanitarian interventions, maternal health, WASH and agriculture.
Criteria for eligibility A project is eligible for the nutrition policy marker if:	It is reported under the 12240 basic nutrition purpose code OR project contributes to a nutrition-sensitive outcome AND the project documentation includes an explicit nutrition objective or indicator.

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.

Table 1.3. Examples of nutrition objectives, indicators and qualifying projects

	<p>Qualifying objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve access to more diversified nutritional diets and food Improve the nutritional status of a target population Improve infant and young child feeding practices Improve access to management of acute malnutrition
<p>Examples of nutrition objectives and indicators*</p> <p>*This list is not exhaustive.</p>	<p>Qualifying indicators include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevalence of stunting amongst children under five 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 enrolled in feeding programme Prevalence of anaemia among women in childbearing age Mean household food consumption
<p>Examples of nutrition-sensitive outcomes*</p> <p>*This list is not exhaustive.</p>	<p>Individual level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved access to nutritious food for women, adolescent girls and/or children Improved diet in quality and/or quantity for a target population Improved access for a target population Improved access for a target population to water, sanitation and hygiene Improved access to education/school for adolescent girls Improved knowledge/awareness on 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 Increased scientific research with nutrition objectives
<p>Examples of typical qualifying projects*</p> <p>*This list is not exhaustive. Projects may be scored as principal or significant 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 <p>Programmes promoting dietary diversity</p>

1.6. Scoring examples

11. Projects scoring either “significant” or “principal” must each meet the eligibility criteria as outlined in section 1.5. 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.

Table 1.4. Examples of projects found in the CRS that would likely be scored as significant (Score 1)

Example 1	<p>Purpose code: 13020 – Reproductive health care</p> <p>Description: The 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>
Example 2	<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>
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>

12. 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 in them, but that are not coded under the basic nutrition code because of their integrated or cross-cutting nature or being part of emergency response.
- Emerging noncommunicable disease (NCDs) prevention/control projects that include activities and components to promote healthy diets.

Table 1.5. 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.</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>
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>