

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

DAC Working Party on Development Finance Statistics

PROPOSING A NEW APPROACH TO MEASURE SUPPORT TO STATISTICS AND DATA IN THE OECD CREDITOR REPORTING SYSTEM

This note, which is presented for APPROVAL under the silent procedure, contains a proposal to improve the measurement of support to statistics and data in the CRS.

This proposal was initially developed by PARIS 21 and presented at the meeting of the WP-STAT in February 2019 under cote DCD/DAC/STAT(2019)4. At their meeting in July 2019, the WP-STAT discussed a revised version of the proposal under cote DCD/DAC/STAT(2019)26. The Secretariat incorporated the comments received in a new version DCD/DAC/STAT(2019)26/REV1, which was submitted for approval under the silent procedure. Members provided further suggestions in writing and during the WP-STAT meeting in December 2019. These have been incorporated in the present note.

If no objections are received by COB 23 January 2020, the proposal will be considered approved. The new codes will enter into effect in 2020 for reporting on 2019 activities.

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Proposing a New Approach to Measure Support to Statistics and Data in the OECD Creditor Reporting System

1. Background

1. Data and statistics play a fundamental role in development. A consensus has emerged among development co-operation providers on the need for sound data and statistics to inform policies and measure progress. The call to “Leave No One Behind” (LNOB), set out in the 2030 Agenda with its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), has put forth an increasing need for better data and statistics to support informed policymaking. To the extent that data can make a difference in the way public policy is delivered, securing funding for statistics in the coming years is of vital importance: good quality, disaggregated data is essential for putting LNOB into practice.

2. For a number of years, the donor community has stressed the importance of having a more accurate picture of financial support for the data and statistics sector. Amongst other benefits, this will facilitate a better allocation of support to data systems. Furthermore, with the increasing number of actors working on statistical development, information on financial support to statistics is also critical for donor co-ordination. It requires not only a wide coverage of donors, but also detailed information about the completeness of captured projects.

3. The PARIS21 Secretariat has proposed a revision of the CRS taxonomy for Statistical Capacity Building to the WP-STAT. This topic was initially discussed at the informal WP-STAT meeting in February 2019, where a paper with various reform options was presented [DCD/DAC/STAT(2019)4]. The Secretariat collected feedback from members through the community site¹ and presented a revised version for discussion at the July 2019 WP-STAT meeting [DCD/DAC/STAT(2019)26], where members expressed their support and suggested few edits [DCD/DAC/STAT/M(2019)2/FINAL]. These were incorporated in a revised note [DCD/DAC/STAT(2019)26/REV1] that was circulated for approval under silent procedure. Members provided further suggestions in writing² and during the WP-STAT meeting in December 2019³. These suggestions have been incorporated in the present note.

4. **Members are invited to APPROVE the amendments to the CRS taxonomy as described in paragraphs 7 (table 2), 8 (table 3) and 9 (table 4) through the silent procedure by COB 23 January 2020.** If approved, the revised codes will enter into force in 2020 for reporting on 2019 activities.

¹ See: <https://community.oecd.org/thread/24780>

² See: <https://community.oecd.org/thread/25847>

³ See: <https://community.oecd.org/docs/DOC-165468>

2. Limitations of the current methodology to track statistical activities

5. The current CRS taxonomy presents statistical activities under several codes. The purpose code 16062 is designed to track statistical capacity building activities both in national statistical offices and other government ministries. However, a series of other codes also mention data and statistics in their descriptions (Table 1).

Table 1. Existing purpose codes using statistical concepts

Note: The statistical concepts/tools contained in existing purpose codes are highlighted **in bold**.

Purpose code	Purpose Name	Description
16062	Statistical capacity building	Both in national statistical offices and any other government ministries.
13010	Population policy and administrative management	Population/development policies; census work, vital registration; migration data ; demographic research/analysis; reproductive health research; unspecified population activities.
14015	Water resources conservation (including data collection)	Collection and usage of quantitative and qualitative data on water resources ; creation and sharing of water knowledge; conservation and rehabilitation of inland surface waters (rivers, lakes etc.), ground water and coastal waters; prevention of water contamination.
31130	Agricultural land resources	Including soil degradation control; soil improvement; drainage of waterlogged areas; soil desalination; agricultural land surveys ; land reclamation; erosion control, desertification control.
31210	Forestry policy and administrative management	Forestry sector policy, planning and programmes; institution capacity building and advice; forest surveys ; unspecified forestry and agro-forestry activities.
31310	Fishing policy and administrative management	Fishing sector policy, planning and programmes; institution capacity building and advice; ocean and coastal fishing; marine and freshwater fish surveys and prospecting; fishing boats/equipment; unspecified fishing activities.
41082	Environmental research	Including establishment of databases , inventories/accounts of physical and natural resources; environmental profiles and impact studies if not sector specific.

6. The current CRS taxonomy on data and statistical support presents some limitations.

- Firstly, the purpose code 16062 “Statistical capacity building” is vaguely described as “*Both in national statistical offices and any other government ministries*”. This lack of a precise definition prevents a wider use of the code. The Partner Report on Support to Statistics (PRESS)⁴ analysed the syntax of project descriptions in the CRS database in 2006-2016 and found that around 18% of the projects with significant statistical components were not classified with the purpose code 16062.
- Secondly, as several codes in the taxonomy cover both statistics and non-statistics-related projects, there

⁴ PARIS21, 2018. Partner Report On Support to Statistics 2018. OECD Publishing: Paris. Available from: https://paris21.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/PRESS2018_BAT_web_v2.pdf

could be notable under-reporting of donor commitments to statistical capacity development. These codes include statistical activities such as “data collection”, “survey” and “census” in their definitions. According to PRESS data, most of the non-16062 projects with statistical activities were assigned to Health (120), Population Policy (130) and Government & Civil Society (150) sectors.

3. Proposed improvements

7. To address the first limitation, a revision of the clarification notes of code 16062 on statistical capacity building is proposed. To reflect the changes in the data ecosystem and the responsibilities of national statistical offices, it is proposed that the definition of statistical capacity building is modified as shown in Table 2, based on an international definition⁵ broadly agreed by UN member states⁶. The code explicitly excludes monitoring and evaluation of donors’ programmes, which is not considered statistical capacity building.

Table 2 - Proposed revision of CRS code 16062

CRS CODE		Description	Clarifications / Additional notes on coverage
16062	Current	<i>Statistical Capacity Building</i>	Both in national statistical offices and any other government ministries.
	Proposed	<i>Statistical Capacity Building</i>	All statistical activities, such as data collection, processing, dissemination and analysis; support to development and management of official statistics including demographic, social, economic, environmental and multi-sectoral statistics; statistical quality frameworks; development of human and technological resources for statistics, investments in data innovation. Activities related to data and statistics in the sectors 120, 130 or 150 should preferably be coded under the voluntary purpose codes 120XX, 130XY and 150XZ. Activities with the sole purpose of monitoring development co-operation activities, including if performed by third parties, should be coded under 91010 (Administrative costs).

8. To address the second limitation and facilitate the identification of sector-specific statistical activities, the addition of three new voluntary codes is proposed for the three sectors where most of the non-16062 projects are

⁵ Based on United Nations Statistical Division’s classification of statistical activities (<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/iiss/Classification-of-International-Statistical-Activities.ashx>) developed by an interagency task team that defined the PRESS methodology.

⁶ The OECD DAC Secretariat obtained approval to integrate a work stream on Data for Development in the 2019-2020 programme of work. This new work stream reflects a strong interest and commitment from DAC members in solving critical data challenges. Two meetings were held in 2018 where 16 OECD members presented data strategies for development from countries and discussed policy areas that the working group could develop, including investment in data, partnership with donors and evaluation of data interventions.

found, namely Health (120), Population Policies/Programmes & Reproductive Health (130) and Government & Civil Society (150). The descriptions for the three codes are proposed in Table 3.

Table 3. Proposed voluntary purpose codes for tracking statistical activities in three targeted sectors

CRS CODE	Description	Clarifications / Additional notes on coverage
120XX	Health statistics and data	Collection, production, management and dissemination of statistics and data related to health. Includes health surveys, establishment of health databases, data collection on epidemics, etc.
130XY	Population statistics and data	Collection, production, management and dissemination of statistics and data related to Population and Reproductive Health. Includes census work, vital registration, migration data collection, demographic data, etc.
150XZ	Government and civil society statistics and data	Collection, production, management and dissemination of statistics and data related to Government & Civil Society. Includes macroeconomic statistics, government finance, fiscal and public sector statistics, support to development of administrative data infrastructure, civil society surveys.

9. To ensure coherence in the taxonomy, the code 13010 is proposed to be edited to remove from the description “census work, vital registration; migration data” now mentioned in the new code 130XY. The revised explanatory notes are as follows.

Table 4 - update to the clarification note of code 13010

Purpose code	Purpose Name	Description
13010	Population policy and administrative management	Population/development policies; census work, vital registration, migration data ; demographic research/analysis; reproductive health research; unspecified population activities. (Use code 130XY for census work, vital registration and migration data collection.)

10. To enable the tracking of statistical activities in other sectors, members are encouraged to take advantage of the possibility of assigning multiple purpose codes, associating the code 16062 with relevant sector codes.

4. Implementation

11. If approved, the proposed changes will take effect in 2020 for data collected on 2019 expenditures.