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

## **DAC Working Party on Development Finance Statistics**

### **The OECD-DAC policy marker on nutrition**

#### **Handbook for data reporters and users**

Informal meeting of the Working Party on Development Finance Statistics (WP-STAT), 16 December 2020, virtual meeting.

The handbook on the policy marker on nutrition, developed in collaboration with the SUN donor Network and the SUN Movement Secretariat, is circulated for INFORMATION under item 13 of the draft annotated agenda of the WP-STAT of 24-25 November and 16 December 2020.

Please note that the full document is available in PDF format only.

Contacts:

Giorgio Gualberti - [Giorgio.GUALBERTI@oecd.org](mailto:Giorgio.GUALBERTI@oecd.org)

Julia Benn [Julia.Benn@oecd.org](mailto:Julia.Benn@oecd.org)

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# The OECD-DAC Nutrition policy marker

## Handbook for data reporters and users



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For any further inquiries, please contact Giorgio Gualberti ([giorgio.gualberti@oecd.org](mailto:giorgio.gualberti@oecd.org)).

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## Summary card - Nutrition policy marker

<b>Definition</b>	<p>A project should be identified as nutrition-related with the policy marker (score principal or significant) when it is intended to address the <u>immediate</u> or <u>underlying</u> determinants of malnutrition.</p> <p>This can encompass a range of projects across a variety of sectors, including maternal health, WASH and agriculture.</p>
<b>Eligibility Criteria</b>	<p>A project is eligible for the nutrition policy marker if:</p> <p>1) It is reported under the basic nutrition purpose code (12240)</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>2) It contributes to a nutrition-sensitive outcome AND the project documentation includes an explicit nutrition objective or indicator.</p>
<b>Scoring System</b>	<p>2 – Principal objective          1 – Significant objective          0 – Not targeted          NULL – Not screened</p>
<b>Default Values</b>	<p>All projects under the purpose code 12240 “basic nutrition” are marked principal (2) by default (unless multiple purpose codes are used)<sup>1</sup></p>
<b>Flows</b>	<p>All flows can be marked: ODA (flow type 10), OOF (flow type 21) and philanthropic flows (flow type 30).</p>
<b>Development Co-operation Modalities (previously Types of Aid)</b>	<p>All development co-operation activities can be marked, except for administrative costs (G01) and core contributions to multilateral institutions (B02).</p>
<b>Reporters</b>	<p>All institutions (bilateral, multilateral and philanthropic) that report to the OECD CRS can screen and mark their activities. Reporting is voluntary.</p>

<sup>1</sup> See section III.3 - Scoring

### Terminology

The nutrition policy marker uses three different terms to identify different types of nutrition activities. These are defined as follows:

**1) Nutrition-specific** activities address the immediate determinants of malnutrition which include adequate food and nutrient intake, feeding, caregiving and parenting practices, and low burden of infectious diseases. Activities reported under the basic nutrition purpose code (12240) are generally considered as nutrition-specific interventions, but nutrition-specific activities are not limited to those reported under code 12240.

Example: a project aiming ‘to provide nutritional supplements and reduce the wasting rate of children under 5 years old’ or ‘to reduce acute malnutrition’.

**2) Nutrition-sensitive** activities address the underlying determinants of malnutrition which include adequate caregiving resources at the maternal, household and community levels and access to health services and a safe and hygienic environment, incorporating specific nutrition goals and actions. Nutrition-sensitive programs can be delivered across sectors including agriculture, education, social protection, and water supply and hygiene.

Example: a project aiming to improve nutrition through improving the availability of food and the reduction of the levels of household food insecurity.

**3) Nutrition-related** is a broader term that covers all activities identified by the nutrition policy marker with either a significant or a principal score. It includes both nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive actions.

OECD-DAC statistics use equivalent terminology for all policy markers. For example, “climate-related”, “gender-related” or “biodiversity-related” development finance indicate all activities marked with those markers.

## Background

The nutrition policy marker is designed to improve the identification, reporting and monitoring of multi-sectoral and cross-cutting nutrition activities in the Creditor Reporting System (CRS) of the OECD-DAC. It was integrated in the CRS in 2018 following the decision of the Working Party on Development Finance Statistics (WP-STAT)<sup>2</sup>, a subsidiary body of the OECD-DAC that sets the standards for reporting statistics on Official Development Assistance (ODA). Reporting on this policy marker started in 2019 on 2018 activities, on a voluntary basis.

This handbook, prepared in collaboration with the SUN Donor Network, the SUN Movement Secretariat and the OECD Secretariat, provides information for data reporters and users on how to correctly mark

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<sup>2</sup> See: [https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD/DAC/STAT\(2018\)38/REV1/en/pdf](https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD/DAC/STAT(2018)38/REV1/en/pdf) and

activities with the nutrition policy marker and how to better interpret the data. This handbook does not substitute the official reporting instructions contained in the Statistical Directives of the OECD-DAC Creditor Reporting System, which are available online<sup>3</sup>.

## I. How do the OECD-DAC statistics track development finance in support of nutrition?

The OECD-DAC statistics track nutrition-related development finance through three data fields: the CRS purpose codes, the SDG focus field and the nutrition policy marker. These three fields are interrelated, each focusing on a different range of activities that support nutrition. The CRS purpose codes, by identifying the “specific areas of the recipient’s economic or social structure the transfer is intended to foster”, capture nutrition-specific activities in the health sector. The SDG focus field identifies activities that have been reported in support of the SDG 2 to “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”, or its targets 2.1 on “ending hunger and access to food” or 2.2 on “ending all forms of malnutrition”. The nutrition policy marker captures activities in any sector that contribute to nutrition outcomes, and identifies if nutrition is a principal or significant objective of the activity<sup>4</sup>.

### The CRS purpose codes

The CRS purpose codes identify the economic sector to which the activity contributes. Reporters can assign multiple purpose codes, indicating for each code the corresponding share of finance, so that the sum of all shares equals 100%. The purpose code 12240 for “Basic nutrition” belongs to the Health sector and to the “Basic health” subsector (codes 122XX). It identifies activities specifically designed to support nutrition, as defined below.

<b>12240</b>	<b>Basic nutrition</b>	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. Use code 11250 for school feeding and 43072 for household food security.
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The purpose code 12240 covers only a small part of activities related to nutrition. Nutrition-related activities can be carried out in several sectors, such as agriculture, water, education, emergency response and others (see Table 4 in Section IV).

<sup>3</sup> See the section Data collection and resources for reporters in <http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/>


<sup>4</sup> For a discussion on the differences between tracking nutrition with the SDG field and the nutrition policy marker, see: [https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD/DAC/STAT/RD\(2018\)1/RD1/en/pdf](https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD/DAC/STAT/RD(2018)1/RD1/en/pdf)



## The SDG focus field

Starting from 2019, reporters to the OECD CRS can assign the SDG focus of their development co-operation activities. The field responds to the question: “to which sustainable development goal or target does the activity aim to contribute directly?”. The SDG focus can be reported at the goal and/or at the target level. Up to ten concurrent goals or targets can be indicated. There is no ranking associated with the goals or targets identified.

The SDG which specifically targets nutrition is SDG 2 to “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”, which has the following targets:

 <b>End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture</b>	
2.1	By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round
2.2	By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons
2.3	By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment
2.4	By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality
2.5	By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed
2.a	Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries
2.b	Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round
2.c	Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility

Tracking nutrition-related development finance is possible through the SDG field, but not as precisely as with the OECD policy marker. In fact, support for SDG2 can include activities that are only indirectly linked to nutrition (such as activities targeting 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5 on sustainable agriculture). Reporters providing data at the target level can identify nutrition-related activities principally with SDG targets 2.1 and 2.2. SDG 2.1 is specifically about “ending hunger” while SDG 2.2 is about ending all forms of malnutrition including the “internationally agreed targets” for maternal, infant and young child nutrition (such as the targets agreed by WHO)<sup>5</sup> and for older people. The other SDG2 targets (such as 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5 on

<sup>5</sup> See: <https://www.who.int/nutrition/global-target-2025/en/> - SDG target 2.2 refers to some of these targets explicitly.

sustainable agriculture) can also be related to nutrition, albeit more indirectly. Identification of nutrition-related activities through the SDG focus field necessitates reporting at the target level.

### The OECD nutrition policy marker

The nutrition policy marker informs of how nutrition objectives are mainstreamed in development co-operation activities. The marking is based on a scoring system to distinguish between activities that have nutrition as the principal objective (score 2) and activities that have nutrition as a significant objective (score 1). The marker can be applied to activities in any sector (excluding administrative costs). Core contributions to multilateral institutions are excluded from marking. Each activity is a unique record in the database and it can provide information about a project or a programme (or part of a project or programme).

## II. Definition and eligibility criteria

Activities marked with the nutrition policy marker should comply with the following definition and eligibility criteria<sup>6</sup>. The key terms used in the definition are explained in Table 2.

**Table 1 - Nutrition policy marker - definition and eligibility criteria**

<b>Definition</b>	A project should be identified as nutrition-related when it is intended to address the <u>immediate</u> or <u>underlying</u> determinants of malnutrition. This can encompass a range of projects across a variety of sectors, including humanitarian interventions, maternal health, WASH and agriculture.
<b>Eligibility Criteria</b>	A project is eligible for the nutrition policy marker if: 1) It is reported under the 12240 basic nutrition purpose code. <b>OR</b> 2) It contributes to a nutrition-sensitive outcome AND the project documentation includes an explicit nutrition objective or indicator.

Table 2 - Explanatory terms<sup>7</sup> (examples are non-exhaustive)

Immediate determinants of malnutrition include	- Inadequate dietary intake; - Inadequate feeding practices or; - Inadequate access to food.
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<sup>6</sup> See: [https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD/DAC/STAT\(2018\)52/en/pdf](https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD/DAC/STAT(2018)52/en/pdf)

<sup>7</sup> This table is based on the explanatory table included in the statistical directives, further developed to include additional examples.

Underlying determinants of malnutrition include	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Food security;</li> <li>- Adequate caregiving resources at the maternal, household and community levels;</li> <li>- Access to health services and a safe and hygienic environment.</li> </ul>
Nutrition-sensitive outcomes include	<p>Individual level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improved access to nutritious food for women, adolescent girls and/or children;</li> <li>- Improved diet in quality and/or quantity for a target population;</li> <li>- Improved access to nutritious food for a target population;</li> <li>- Improved access for a target population to water, sanitation and hygiene;</li> <li>- Improved access to education/school for adolescent girls;</li> <li>- Improved knowledge/awareness on nutrition for relevant audiences;</li> <li>- Improved empowerment of women;</li> <li>- Improved access to primary health care for women, adolescent girls and children;</li> <li>- Improved access to child care (beyond health care).</li> </ul> <p>National level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improved governance of nutrition;</li> <li>- Increased nutrition-sensitive legislation;</li> <li>- Increased scientific research with nutrition objectives.</li> </ul>
Nutrition objectives include	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improve access to more diversified nutritional diets and food;</li> <li>- Improve the nutritional status of a target population;</li> <li>- Improve infant and young child feeding practices;</li> <li>- Improve access to management of acute malnutrition.</li> </ul>
Nutrition indicators include	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prevalence of stunting amongst children under five;</li> <li>- Prevalence of overweight;</li> <li>- Food Consumption Score;</li> <li>- Prevalence of severely underweight children under 5 years old;</li> <li>- % of acutely malnourished children under-5 years old enrolled in feeding programme;</li> <li>- Prevalence of anaemia among women in childbearing age;</li> <li>- Minimum dietary diversity for women;</li> <li>- Minimum acceptable diet for children;</li> <li>- % of exclusive breastfeeding;</li> <li>- Number of improved policies / programmes / plans for food security and nutrition.</li> </ul>

### III. Scoring

The nutrition policy marker uses the same scoring methodology as the other policy and Rio markers in the CRS statistical framework, which is based on the following principles:

- The scoring is based on three values (Table 3 and Figure 1):

Score 2 - Nutrition is the **principal objective**;

Score 1 - Nutrition is a **significant objective**;

Score 0 - The activity has been screened but **it does not target nutrition**.

Activities that have not been screened should be left blank (NULL) and not marked 0 by default.

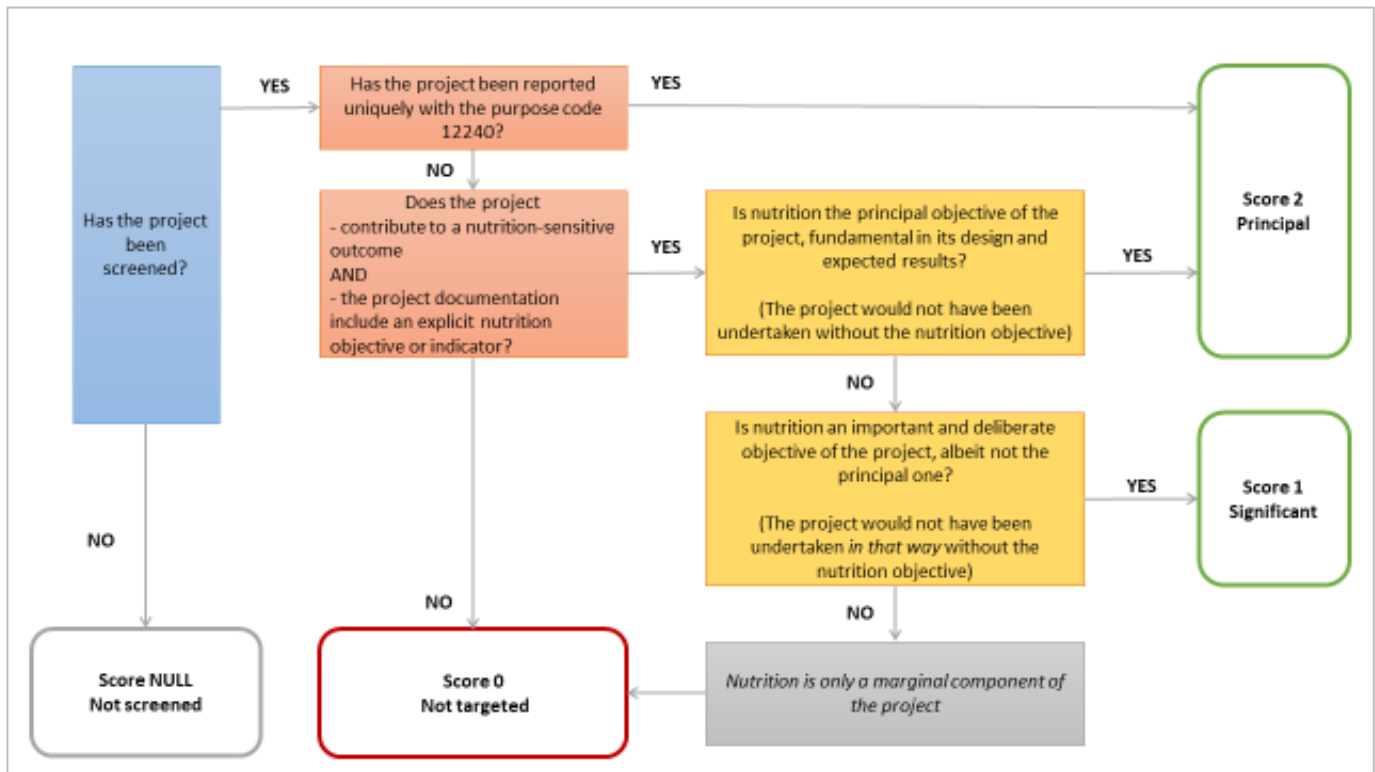
Examples of scoring are provided in Annex I.

**Table 3 - Scoring system of the OECD-DAC nutrition policy marker**

<p><b>Principal objective</b> (score 2)</p>	<p>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 the nutrition objective. The entire project, in addition to other objectives, is designed with the principal intention to have a positive impact of advancing nutrition.</p> <p>All projects reported under the 12240 basic nutrition purpose code are scored “principal” by default (unless multiple purpose codes are used)<sup>8</sup>.</p>
<p><b>Significant objective</b> (score 1)</p>	<p>Nutrition is an important and deliberate objective, but not the principal reason for undertaking the project.</p> <p>The nutrition objective must be <b>explicit</b> in the project documentation, i.e. it cannot be implicit or assumed. The project, in addition to other objectives, is designed to have a positive impact on advancing nutrition.</p>
<p><b>Not targeted</b> (score 0)</p>	<p>The project has been screened against the marker but has not been found to target nutrition in any significant way.</p>
<p><b>Not screened</b> (score NULL)</p>	<p>The project has not been screened. The field is left empty.</p>

<sup>8</sup> The Secretariat does not apply a default value to the policy markers if multiple purposes codes are used.

**Figure 1 - Nutrition policy marker decision tree**



- Projects identified with the purpose code 12240 should be scored principal by default (if no multiple purpose codes are used).
- The scoring is of a qualitative nature.

The scoring reflects the level of mainstreaming of nutrition in development co-operation activities, not an exact quantification of the financial support to nutrition. The data should be read as the number/volume (or share) of activities that have nutrition as a principal/significant objective, rather than the amount of financing devoted to it (see box Box 1 below on the quantitative coefficients applied by the Sun Donors Network).

- The scoring does not measure the impact of the activities.

All other things being equal, the impact of an activity with a principal score (score 2) is not necessarily greater than the impact an activity with a significant score (score 1). The OECD-DAC CRS statistical framework collects data on the “inputs” of development co-operation activities. The database is not linked to results frameworks, impact indicators or ex-post evaluations.

- Data reporters should base their scoring decision on an assessment of the objectives of the activity, as described in the activity documentation.

The nutrition objective should be clearly mentioned in the written documentation that forms the basis for the agreement to provide funding. The documentation could be the actual project or programme

document, a proposal for funding an action which is outlined in a partner country document such as a national development strategy, sectoral strategy or local strategy, or other document that provides sufficient level of detail to assess the objectives of the action. The nutrition objective should be explicit and deliberate in the project documentation, and not implicit or assumed, for both activities marked principal or significant.

- The relation between the activity and the nutrition objective should be explicitly communicated in the activity descriptions reported to the CRS, in particular for the activities marked principal and the largest activities.

The descriptive fields of the CRS (title, short and long description) are key transparency tools. They provide essential information to the public, and enable the Secretariat to check the quality of reporting. While there might be administrative challenges when numerous activities with small monetary value are reported, data reporters should be able to mention the policy objective in the descriptive fields for the activities marked principal and for the largest activities.

**Box 2 - Quantifying nutrition investments on the basis of the nutrition policy marker**

Prior to the introduction of the OECD-DAC nutrition policy marker, the SUN Donor Network (SDN) was using an internal scoring system to distinguish between activities with a “dominant” and a “partial” nutrition objective<sup>9</sup>. Their methodology included also the possibility of applying coefficients to the scores, in order to obtain an approximate financial value of the support dedicated to nutrition using a consistent approach between SDN members. With the introduction of the OECD-DAC nutrition policy marker, the SDN started applying these coefficients to the “principal” and “significant” scores, as follows:

- **Activities scored principal** are considered fully dedicated to nutrition, and therefore 100% of the value of their commitment or disbursement is counted.
- **Activities scored significant** are considered only partially dedicated to nutrition, and therefore 25% of the value of the commitment or disbursement is counted.
- **Activities not targeting nutrition**, or not scored, are excluded.

In summary:

Score	Description	Coefficient for quantification
2	Principal	100%
1	Significant	25%
0	Not targeted	0%
Null	Not screened	0%

These coefficients are used internally by the SDN, and can be used by other development finance providers that wish to follow the same methodology. Note however that the coefficients are not part of the OECD-DAC Statistical Directives. The SUN Donor Network might revise the coefficients used for quantification (currently 100% for principal and 25% for significant) in the future.

<sup>9</sup> See: [http://docs.scalingupnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/RESOURCE\\_TRACKING\\_METHODODOLOGY\\_SUN\\_DONOR\\_NETWORK.pdf](http://docs.scalingupnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/RESOURCE_TRACKING_METHODODOLOGY_SUN_DONOR_NETWORK.pdf)

## Scoring by sector and SDG

The purpose of this section is to help reporters to identify nutrition-related activities in various sectors. Table 4 provides examples of possible linkages between nutrition and development co-operation activities in all sectors. Table 5 illustrates linkages between the nutrition marker, the SDG 2 and its targets.

### Examples by sector

The examples provided in Table 4 are indicative, and not prescriptive or exhaustive. Identifying nutrition-related projects and the appropriate scores should always be based on the specific characteristics of each project as indicated in the written documentation.

**Table 4 – Examples of nutrition-related activities by sector**

CRS – DAC 5 code	Purpose code	Description	Rationale
110		<b>Education</b>	Education activities can be nutrition-related and can include actions addressing both the underlying determinants of malnutrition (e.g. improving income opportunities) or immediate determinants (such as providing school meals).
120		<b>Health</b>	The contribution of the health sector to nutrition is essential, for example through delivering preventive and curative nutrition services.
	12240	Basic nutrition	By default scored as Principal (unless multiple purpose codes are used, in which case it could be principal or significant).
130		<b>Population Policies/Programmes &amp; Reproductive Health</b>	Population policies / programmes includes some activities that can have a strong linkage with nutrition, such as reproductive health care.
140		<b>Water Supply &amp; Sanitation</b>	Water supply and sanitation can affect both immediate and underlying determinants of malnutrition. Access to safe drinking water is a prerequisite for nutrition.
150		<b>Government &amp; Civil Society</b>	Some of the purpose codes in the Government & Civil Society sector (151) can relate to nutrition, for example, through generic public sector policies. Activities in Conflict, Peace & Security (152) can also include nutrition-related activities.
160		<b>Other Social Infrastructure &amp; Services</b>	Social security mechanisms in this sector may include the objective to reduce malnutrition.
210		<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>	Transport and storage activities can improve the access to food markets and can have nutrition objectives.
220		<b>Communications</b>	Communication equipment and programmes can be related to nutrition objectives, for example if linked to food production and access to markets.
230		<b>Energy</b>	Energy access is a necessary service to achieve food security, implement agro-processing and food storage.
240		<b>Banking &amp; Financial Services</b>	Some of the purpose codes in this sector related to micro credit and remittance facilitation that could be linked to nutrition.
250		<b>Business &amp; Other Services</b>	Typically, the activities in this sector do not have nutrition as a principal objective, but a significant nutrition objective cannot be excluded.
310		<b>Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing</b>	Activities in this sector contribute directly to the production and access to food and agricultural products, and often present strong linkages with nutrition.
320		<b>Industry, Mining, Construction</b>	Agro-industry activities in this sector (32161) can have nutrition objectives. The other codes are less likely to be nutrition-related.
330		<b>Trade Policies &amp; Regulations</b>	Trade policies and regulations have large impact on food markets and food access and activities in this sector might have nutrition objectives.
410		<b>General Environment Protection</b>	Environment and bio-diversity activities are interlinked with food production and nutrition.
430		<b>Other Multisector</b>	This sector includes a variety of activities, some of which could present linkages with nutrition, such as rural development and disaster risk reduction. Some of the codes are specifically linked to food security and quality (see below).

	43071	Food security policy and administrative management	Activities in the sectors of food security, safety and quality are likely to have nutrition objectives.
	43072	Household food security programmes	
	43073	Food safety and quality	
<b>510</b>		<b>General Budget Support</b>	General budget support activities (which are associated by default to the co-operation modality A01) are non-allocable aid. The Secretariat standard visualisation of policy markers data excludes non-allocable aid.
<b>520</b>		<b>Developmental Food Aid/Food Security Assistance</b>	Sector 520 includes only one purpose code (52010) on food assistance which has strong linkages with nutrition.
	52010	Food assistance	
<b>530</b>		<b>Other Commodity Assistance</b>	Activities in this sector support the import of capital goods and commodities which might be nutrition - related.
<b>600</b>		<b>Action Relating to Debt</b>	Activities in this sector are associated by default to the co-operation modality F01 and are non-allocable aid. These activities are unlikely to have nutrition objectives. Furthermore, the Secretariat's standard visualisation of policy marker data excludes non-allocable aid.
<b>720</b>		<b>Emergency Response</b>	Emergency response activities are likely to include nutrition objectives for the target population. The sector includes a specific code for emergency food assistance (see below).
	72040	Emergency food assistance	Emergency food assistance includes activities such as provision of food and non-medical nutrition interventions, which have strong linkages with the nutrition policy marker.
<b>730</b>		<b>Reconstruction Relief &amp; Rehabilitation</b>	Immediate post emergency relief can include activities with nutrition objectives.
<b>740</b>		<b>Disaster Prevention &amp; Preparedness</b>	Activities on disaster prevention and preparedness can have objectives related to nutrition, for example setting up contingency plans to ensure that in a disaster, the population gets access to adequate food.
<b>930</b>		<b>Refugees in Donor Countries</b>	Activities that support refugees in donor countries could provide for improved access to nutritious food for the target population.

## Interlinkages between the nutrition policy marker and SDG 2

The SDG 2 on “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture” has strong linkages with nutrition. The OECD recommends coherent reporting between the policy markers and the SDGs values<sup>10</sup>. The correspondence between the SDG 2 and the nutrition policy marker is not automatic, but given the strong interlinkages, reporters should pay close attention when screening the nutrition policy marker for projects already identified as contributing to SDG2, and vice versa. Table 5 below could be used as guidance.

<sup>10</sup> See: [https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD/DAC/STAT\(2020\)7/en/pdf](https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD/DAC/STAT(2020)7/en/pdf)



**Table 5 - Interlinkages between the SDG focus field and the nutrition policy marker**

IF a reported activity is	THEN
marked with a principal or significant nutrition objective	the activity is likely to have a focus on SDG target 2.1 or 2.2.
flagged with the SDG target 2.1 or 2.2	the activity is likely to have nutrition policy objectives that could be identified with the OECD policy marker as either principal or significant.
flagged with the SDG 2 (goal level) or other SDG targets (2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.a, 2.b, 2.c)	the activity can have nutrition policy objectives that can be identified with the marker.

## IV. What does the nutrition policy marker show?

### ***What can the marker data tell us?***

The marker is a qualitative tool to estimate the level of mainstreaming of nutrition in development co-operation activities. The total volume of projects marked significant (1) and principal (2) are counted as nutrition-related. The nutrition policy marker is instrumental to:

- Identify individual nutrition-related projects.
- Estimate the amount (or share) of development finance that has nutrition as a significant or principal objective.
- Assess the sectors and countries prioritised by nutrition-related aid.
- Identify overall trends and changes over time in nutrition-related aid.

### ***What cannot the marker data tell us?***

- **The nutrition policy marker cannot and does not intend to measure the outcome or impact of a project.** Monitoring and evaluation instruments are required for this.
- **The nutrition policy marker cannot distinguish between nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive activities.** Significant volumes of nutrition-specific aid are not captured in the Basic Nutrition purpose code, or in any other CRS purpose codes. The scoring system and the CRS purpose codes taxonomy do not directly align with the terms ‘nutrition-specific’ and ‘nutrition-sensitive’.
- **The nutrition policy marker does not quantitatively estimate the amount of funding available to nutrition within a project.** The statistical system does not collect information on the share of nutrition-focused activities financial resources within a project. The summation of funding of projects that are marked 1 or 2 should not be used to represent the total funding going towards nutrition.

## V. Data presentation and visualisation

The OECD publishes policy marker data in a standardised fashion, to assure comparability with the data published for other markers, and over time. Although all data collected are available in the bulk downloads section of the CRS database, data visualisation and communication from the OECD on policy markers generally takes in consideration a subset of activities called “allocable” (or bilateral allocable, if from bilateral providers).

**Allocable aid** (or development finance) excludes all activities for which the provider is not in the position to determine the characteristics of the final allocation of the funds. In practice, allocable activities are filtered through the data field “co-operation modalities” (formerly called types of aid). Only the following co-operation modalities are included in bilateral allocable aid:

- A02 - Sector budget support;
- B01 - Core support to NGOs, other private bodies, PPPs and research institutes;
- B03 - Contributions to specific-purpose programmes and funds managed by implementing partners;
- B04 - Basket funds/pooled funding;
- C01 - Project-type interventions;
- D01 - Donor country personnel;
- D02 - Other technical assistance.

On the basis of allocable aid, three standard data presentations / visualizations are made available.

1. **Data coverage (DC)** identifies the share of allocable activities that has been screened with the marker.

$$DC = (\text{Sum of allocable activities marked 0, 1 or 2}) / (\text{Sum of all allocable activities})$$

Data coverage indicates the level of implementation of the marker by the data providers.

2. **Proportion of aid (or development finance) going towards nutrition-related activities (PoA)** over total, by objective.

$$PoA = (\text{Sum of allocable activities marked 1} / \text{total allocable activities}) + (\text{Sum of allocable activities marked 2} / \text{total allocable activities})$$

The proportion of nutrition- related aid (or development finance) indicates the level of mainstreaming of the nutrition objective (principal and significant) into development co-

operation activities. The share can be calculated for ODA or, alternatively, the whole development finance (concessional and non-concessional).

### 3. Volume of nutrition-related aid (or development finance) (VN)

VN (upper bound) = Sum of allocable activities marked 2 + Sum of allocable activities marked 1

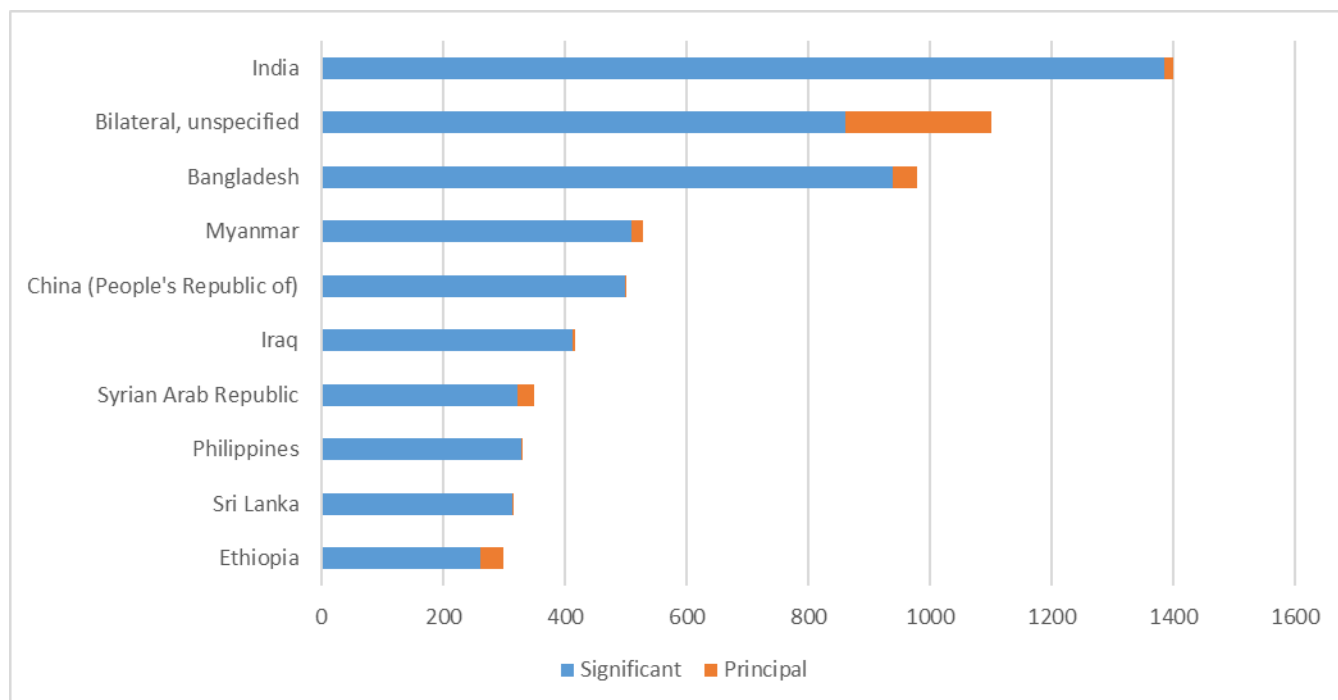
VN (lower bound) = Sum of allocable activities marked 2

The volume of nutrition-related aid (or development finance) represents the sum of the financial values of the activities marked principal or significant. These amounts do not represent an exact quantification of the financing to nutrition, rather they are the volume of ODA (or development finance) for which nutrition is mainstreamed. The “lower bound” represents the sum of the amounts of all activities having nutrition as the principal objective. The “upper bound” represents the sum of the amounts of all activities with a nutrition objective, whether principal or significant.

*Table 6 - Example: - Australia, nutrition-related, bilateral allocable ODA, USD millions, commitments 2018.*

Score	0	1	2	NULL	Grand Total
USD millions	1884	312	133	21	2350
(DC) Data Coverage	= (1884+312+133) / 2350 = 99%				
(PoA) Proportion of nutrition-related ODA	= (312 + 133) / 2350 = 19%				
VN (Upper bound)	= (312+133) = USD 445 m.				
VN (Lower bound)	= USD 133 m.				

Figure 2 – Example - : Top 10 recipients of nutrition-related development finance (includes concessional and non-concessional flows from bilateral and multilateral institutions, and private philanthropy), USD millions, commitments, 2018.



## V. Implementation best practices

To strengthen the accuracy and comparability of the data between reporters, some best practices are recommended.

### 1. Apply the marker from the early phases of project design.

The nutrition policy marker could have a strong impact when used as a “live tool” to spark discussions about the integration of nutrition objectives in the early stages of the project appraisal and design, when substantial amendments are still possible.

### 2. Assign responsibility for applying the marker to project managers/officers

As the marking must reflect the project’s overall intentions, responsibility for applying the marker should sit with project managers/officers who have a good understanding of the project. Ideally, the marker should be applied in consultation with nutrition experts, and with verification from the statistical/quality control unit.

### 3. Invest in staff capacity to apply the marker correctly

It could be useful to invest in capacity building for staff members who have responsibility for reporting the activities, to ensure that the marker is applied correctly.

Options to support the coding process include:

- Dedicated staff trainings on how to use the nutrition policy marker, for example: practical exercises on how to code projects based on concrete case studies are often seen as the most useful activity;
- Developing internal guidance material on the marker and providing technical support (e.g. to conduct nutrition analyses) within agencies to support the consistency of coding;
- Encouraging reporters to share existing material and tools for capacity-building and training activities with project officers in charge of the marking;
- Setting up a helpdesk/nominating a contact point to support the officers responsible for the marking.

#### **4. Establish strong internal quality control mechanisms**

The reporters are responsible for putting in place quality assurance and control mechanisms to guarantee the accuracy of the application of the marker and the data that they report to the CRS. The Secretariat is not able to conduct in-depth checks for each reporter and does not have access to sufficient qualitative information to review the marking of each project.

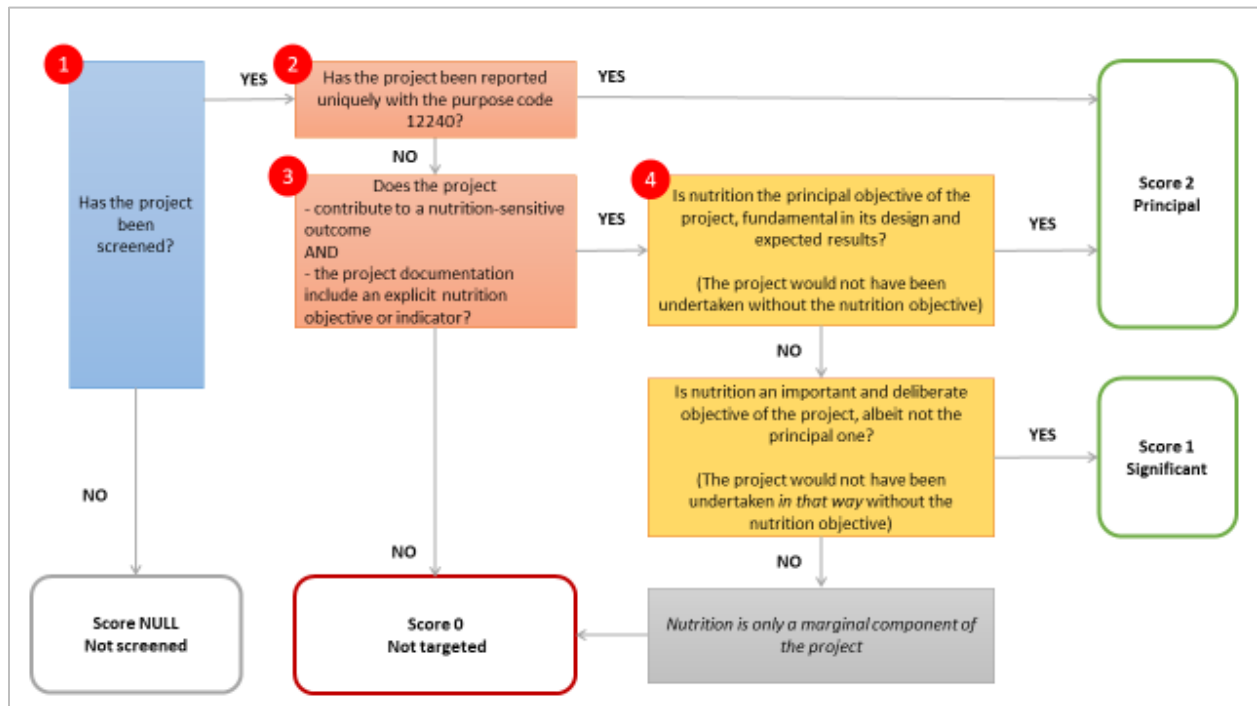
- Reporters should introduce regular checks to review the marking of the data before submission.
- Recommendations to strengthen internal quality assurance include:
  - Conducting a systematic check of the marker score (for instance by the operational or geographic division) before the approval of the project.
  - Developing a quality assurance plan to support consistent and robust reporting.

## Annex 1 – Project examples

### Project Example 1: Saving Children’s Lives

**Project description:** The project aims to reduce child mortality in targeted regions benefitting an estimated 452,345 women and 3,740,379 children. Substantial progress has been made in achieving the Millennium Development Goals to reduce child mortality and improve maternal health. However, this progress often conceals widening disparities in given countries or regions. This project aims to address health disparities and gaps in maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH), by prioritizing interventions identified as critical to advancing progress in reducing child mortality.

Project activities include: (1) conduct and analyze research on health needs and solutions for mothers and children; (2) review and enhance existing policies and guidelines to improve MNCH; (3) develop and provide training on gender responsive MNCH interventions, on civil registration and vital statistics systems, and on health information management system; (4) test and implement models to address gaps in MNCH; (5) develop and deliver community awareness campaigns to increase knowledge on MNCH interventions; and (6) procure and distribute critical health supplies.



### Steps to evaluate the project for the Policy Marker Nutrition:

1. **Yes**, the project has been screened.
2. **No**, the project is reported under the OECD CRS Code “Basic nutrition” but the project has multiple purpose codes (the code 12240 is associated with a share of 10%). It is a broader integrated MNCH project.

3. **Yes**, the project contributes to a nutrition-sensitive outcome AND project's documentation includes an explicit nutrition objective OR indicator (see below), which are:

**Nutrition-sensitive outcome:** *strengthening the capacity of health workers to implement health and nutrition interventions.*

**Nutrition objectives:** *The project aims to (1) improve collection and sharing of civil registration and vital statistics system data by governments in targeted countries; (2) improve provision of equitable and gender responsive MNCH interventions and improving nutrition outcomes for adolescents; and (3) enhance commitment to scale up proven MNCH interventions by stakeholders in selected countries.*

**Nutrition indicators:** *for Haiti and Indonesia (country log frames):*

- *% adolescent girls (age 12 - 18) who are anaemic 18.8% (2017)*
- *% of adolescent girls and boys (12-18 years) with low body mass index for age*

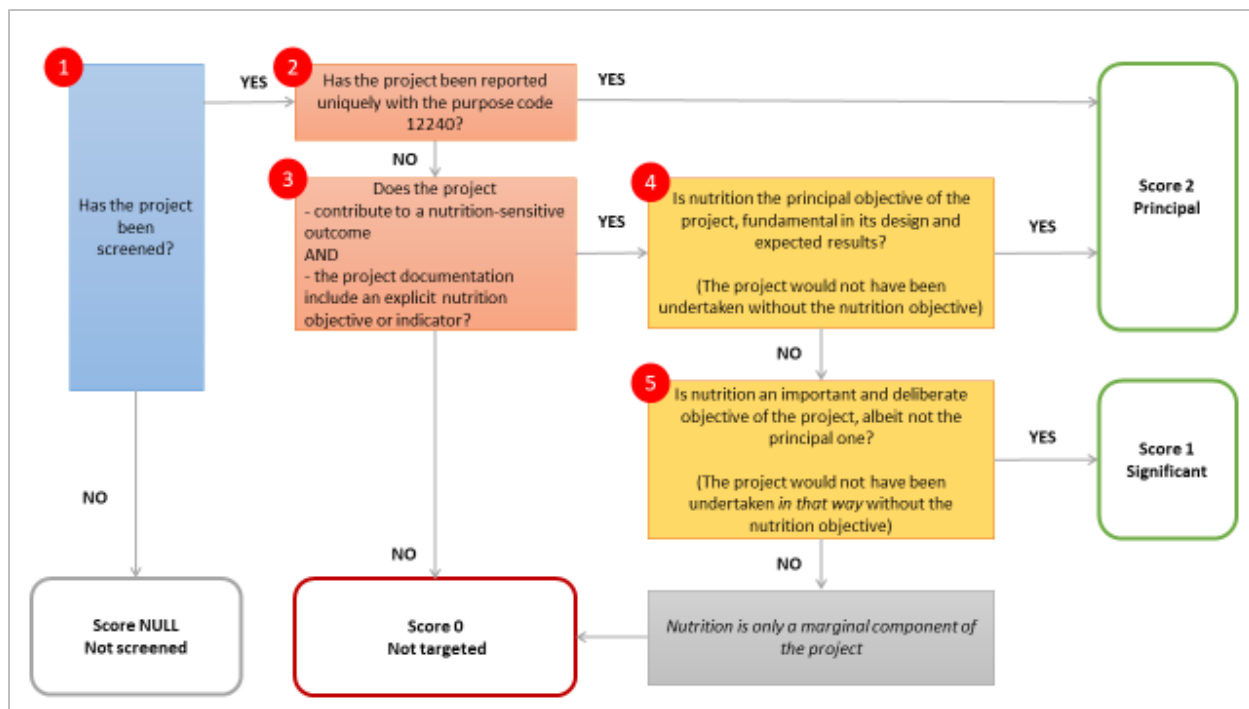
4. **NO**, nutrition is NOT the principal objective of the project. It is a broader integrated MNCH project → **Score 1 Significant.**

### **Project Example 2: Breaking Barriers to Girls' Education**

**Project description:** The World Food Programme (WFP), UN Population Fund (UNFPA), and UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) are working jointly in emergency contexts in Chad and Niger, using WFP's new school feeding platform to better meet the different needs of children and adolescent girls, specifically barriers to education.

A gender-responsive approach is taken to ensure girls and adolescent girls in particular are enrolled in and stay in school. All children are provided with nutritious, fortified school meals, integrated school health packages, including education services about nutrition and health as well as about sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence (GBV).

In addition, adolescent girls receive additional targeted support to address their specific needs and barriers including the provision of micronutrients, conditional cash incentives, services and support related to sexual and reproductive health rights, and tailored support in school, including mentoring and coaching.



### Steps to evaluate the project for the Policy Marker Nutrition:

1. **Yes**, the project has been screened.
2. **No**, the project is not reported under the OECD CRS Code “Basic nutrition”.
3. **Yes**, the project contributes to a nutrition-sensitive outcome AND project documentation includes an explicit nutrition objective OR indicator, which are:
 

**Nutrition-sensitive outcome:** *improved health and nutrition of targeted adolescent girls in affected areas*

**Nutrition objectives:** : (1) Lower worm prevalence in targeted girls and boys / (2) Enhanced micronutrient intake of targeted adolescent girls / (3) Improved diet diversity among adolescent girls / (4) Improved knowledge on health and nutrition among adolescent / (5) Improved attitudes on health and nutrition habits among girls

**Nutrition indicators:** *Provision of nutritious school meals and snacks: fortified and/or including locally procured fresh foods where possible (106K beneficiaries) / Micronutrient supplementation: iron and folic acid (53K beneficiaries)*
4. **No**, nutrition is NOT the principal reason for undertaking the project. While nutrition is seen as one of the many barriers to the project’s main objective of improving to improve education access to education for girls, it is not the principal one.
5. **Yes**, nutrition is an important and deliberate objective of the project → **Score 1 Significant**.

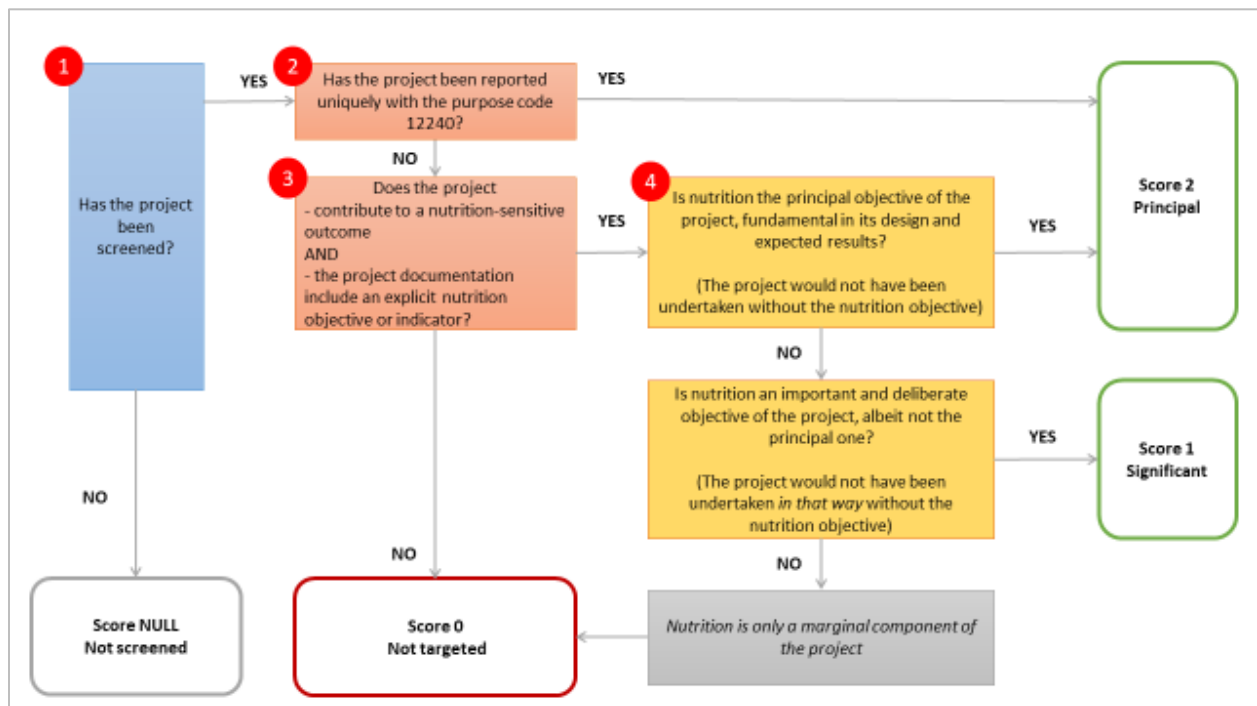


### Project Example 3: Strengthening the right to adequate food and nutrition (RTFN)

With 815 million undernourished people in 2017, the right to food as laid in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights is still not realized. In spite of the comprehensive framework and the numerous international instruments on the right to food, there is still a wide gap in implementation of these standards, a lack of accountability and a lack of policy coherence at national and global levels. This is compounded by the current shrinking space for civil society to claim the right to food and nutrition, with serious consequences such as the increasing criminalization of right holders. This project aims at providing support to the realization of the right to food and nutrition by promoting the effective participation of right holders in food security and nutrition policies and governance mechanisms through civil society support.

The project pursues the following objectives:

- Strengthen RtFN legal and policy frameworks in selected countries
- Strengthen RtFN accountability through human rights monitoring at all levels
- Improve policy coherence with the RtFN in global standard setting processes



#### Steps to evaluate the project for the Policy Marker Nutrition:

1. **Yes**, the project has been screened.
2. **No**, the project is not reported under the OECD CRS Code “Basic nutrition”.
3. **Yes**, the project’s documentation includes an explicit nutrition objective OR indicator (see below) AND the project contributes to a nutrition-sensitive outcome, which are:

***Nutrition-sensitive outcome:***

*The project aims at providing support to the realization of the right to food and nutrition*

***Nutrition objectives:***

- *Strengthen RtFN legal and policy frameworks in selected countries*
- *Strengthen RtFN accountability through human rights monitoring at all levels*
- *Improve policy coherence with the RtFN in global standard setting processes*

***Nutrition indicator:***

- *Adoption of RtFN legal and policy frameworks*

4. **Yes**, nutrition is the principal objective of the project, fundamental in its design and expected results → **Score 2 Principal**.