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Guidance on reporting on migration-related activities

Working Party on Development Finance Statistics

At its meeting in March 2025, the WP-STAT discussed an updated review of purpose code 15190 on the facilitation of orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility [DCD/DAC/STAT(2025)9/FINAL]. Among others, the review included recommendations for improved reporting on migration-related activities regarding the assessment of ODA-eligibility, the reporting of project descriptions, and the application of purpose code 15190.

This document consolidates the key elements of the recommendations as a future guidance for members.

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Guidance on reporting on migration-related activities

1. Introduction

1. At its meeting in March 2025, the WP-STAT discussed an updated review of purpose code 15190 on the facilitation of orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility [DCD/DAC/STAT(2025)9/FINAL]. Among others, the review included recommendations for improved reporting on migration-related activities regarding the assessment of ODA-eligibility, the reporting of project descriptions, and the application of purpose code 15190. To facilitate their internal communication, members wished for a shorter document with key recommendations [see DCD/DAC/STAT/M(2025)1].
2. This document consolidates the key elements of the recommendations as a future guidance for members.

2. Guidance

3. When reporting on activities in the field of migration, the following rules and definitions need to be considered:
 - The **approved principles and criteria clarifying the ODA-eligibility of migration-related activities** as approved by the DAC in December 2022. See DCD/DAC(2024)40/FINAL, paragraphs 143-144 as well as the [OECD webpage on migration-related activities in ODA](#).
 - The **applicability of the purpose code 15190** as agreed by the WP-STAT in June 2018. See definition in Box 2.1 as well as the [DAC and CRS code lists](#). Migration-related activities may also be found beyond purpose code 15190. The approved principles and criteria apply to all migration-related activities, irrespective of the purpose code assigned.
4. To complement these rules and definitions, section 3 provides additional guidance in the form of frequently asked questions, based on the outcome of the updated review (see paragraph 1).

Box 2.1. Definition of purpose code 15190 on the facilitation of orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility

Assistance to developing countries that facilitates the orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people. This includes:

- Capacity building in migration and mobility policy, analysis, planning and management. This includes support to facilitate safe and regular migration and address irregular migration, engagement with diaspora and programmes enhancing the development impact of remittances and/or their use for developmental projects in developing countries.
- Measures to improve migrant labour recruitment systems in developing countries.
- Capacity building for strategy and policy development as well as legal and judicial development (including border management) in developing countries. This includes support to address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration, and strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants and preventing and combating trafficking in human beings.
- Support to effective strategies to ensure international protection and the right to asylum.
- Support to effective strategies to ensure access to justice and assistance for displaced persons.
- Assistance to migrants for their safe, dignified, informed and voluntary return to their country of origin (covers only returns from another developing country; assistance to forced returns is excluded from ODA).
- Assistance to migrants for their sustainable reintegration in their country of origin (use code 93010 for pre-departure assistance provided in donor countries in the context of voluntary returns).

Activities that pursue first and foremost providers' interest are excluded from ODA.

Activities addressing the root causes of forced displacement and irregular migration should not be coded here, but under their relevant sector of intervention. In addition, use code 15136 for support to countries' authorities for immigration affairs and services (optional), code 24050 for programmes aiming at reducing the sending costs of remittances, code 72010 for humanitarian aspects of assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) such as delivery of emergency services and humanitarian protection. Use code 93010 when expenditure is for the temporary sustenance of refugees in the donor country, including for their voluntary return and for their reintegration when support is provided in a donor country in connection with the return from that donor country (i.e. pre-departure assistance), or voluntary resettlement in a third developed country.

3. Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

3.1. Where do I find examples of ODA and non-ODA eligible activities in the area of migration?

5. The [online toolkit on ODA and non ODA-eligible activities](#) hosts examples illustrating the application of rules agreed upon by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC). The examples are intended to facilitate the assessment of similar cases in the future. The toolkit has a dedicated main area on migration. It includes cases from the ODA Casebook on activities in the field of migration [DCD/DAC/STAT(2023)34/FINAL]. Additional cases will be added to the toolkit in the future.

3.2. What general aspects do I need to consider for drafting good quality descriptions?

6. As in any other area, a meaningful and detailed project description is key for verifying the ODA-eligibility of activities in the field of migration. It is recommended to include concrete text describing the aim and context of the project rather than how resources are spent, reporting at project rather than semi-aggregate level, being mindful of spelling, abbreviations, rare acronyms, etc.

7. Accurate descriptions should make clear the nature of the activity carried out, its overall objective, the alignment with the ODA-eligibility rules when needed and potential partnerships involved (with other funding or implementing entities). They should also show consistency with information reported in other fields, in particular sector coding and policy markers.

8. The principles and criteria to guide ODA reporting in the field of migration specify that it is members' responsibility to present a clear rationale for ODA-eligibility (see Principle 3). Specific guidance on drafting project descriptions in the various migration-related areas is provided in the below.

3.3. What do I need to consider in the following specific circumstances?

3.3.1. The delivery of funds within the activity is subject to specific conditions on migration

ODA-eligibility

9. While development co-operation programmes can be part of a broader policy dialogue with the beneficiary country, an activity is not reportable as ODA if the delivery of funds is subject to specific conditions and migration outcomes. An exception might apply if the conditions imposed primarily contribute to the promotion of the economic development and welfare of the country. See Criterion 2 in the statistical reporting directives [DCD/DAC(2024)40/FINAL], paragraph 144, as well as [Case 1](#) and [Case 2](#) in the online toolkit.

Project description

10. Please note that it is the obligation of the member to describe the characteristics of its aid. If the delivery of funds is subject to specific conditions on migration, this needs to be clearly stated in the project description, including the conditions imposed. For the activity to be ODA-eligible, it also needs to be demonstrated how these conditions

primarily contribute to the promotion of the economic development and welfare of the country (if applicable).

3.3.2. The activity takes place in the field of border management

ODA eligibility

11. The boundary between ODA and non ODA-eligible activities in the field of border management is determined based on the activity's primary objective. In addition, the rules list ODA-eligible activities as well as specific exclusions from ODA. For example, activities in relation to restricting migration to the provider country are excluded from ODA, as is training for border guards except in the limited areas specified in Criterion 4. See Criterion 4 in the statistical reporting directives [DCD/DAC(2024)40/FINAL], paragraph 144, as well as [Case 3](#), [Case 4](#), [Case 5](#), [Case 6](#), [Case 7](#), [Case 8](#), and [Case 9](#) in the online toolkit.

Project description

12. If the activity takes place in the field of border management, the activity's primary objective needs to be specified in the project description. Furthermore, the project description should provide insights into the specific components the activity includes and excludes, referring to the list of ODA-eligible activities and specific exclusions from ODA (see paragraph 11).

3.3.3. The activity is in relation to return from developed countries (including pre-departure reintegration assistance)

ODA eligibility

13. While the agreed principles and criteria cover returns from a developing country as well as sustainable reintegration programmes in the country of origin, returns from a developed country (including pre-departure reintegration assistance) are governed by the reporting rules on in-donor refugee costs.

14. Support for voluntary return of asylum seekers and refugees within the first 12 months is ODA-eligible, including pre-departure assistance for return and reintegration. In contrast, costs for forced returns, the return of rejected asylum seekers, and the return of migrants are non ODA-eligible. Costs for voluntary return of refugees after the first 12 months are also non ODA-eligible. See reporting rules on in-donor refugee costs in the statistical reporting directives [DCD/DAC(2024)40/FINAL], paragraphs 107-117, as well as [Case 10](#) in the online toolkit. See also the [OECD webpage on in-donor refugee costs in ODA](#).

Project description

15. For activities around return and reintegration, the country of departure (e.g. developed vs developing country) needs to be specified in the project description.

3.3.4. The activity is in relation to returns from a developing country

ODA eligibility

16. Assistance for returns from a developing country is ODA-eligible if the return is voluntary. Costs for forced returns are excluded from ODA. See Criterion 5 in the statistical

reporting directives [DCD/DAC(2024)40/FINAL], paragraph 144, as well as [Case 12](#) in the online toolkit.

Project description

17. For activities in relation to returns from a developing country, the status of the returnee (forced or voluntary) needs to be specified in the project description, noting that only support for voluntary return is ODA-eligible.

3.3.5. The activity is in relation to reintegration in the country of origin

ODA eligibility

18. Reintegration programmes in the country of origin are ODA-eligible if they aim at the economic development and welfare of the developing country, irrespective of the status of the returnee (forced or voluntary). If the activity exclusively targets returnees from the provider country, additional safeguards apply. See Criterion 6 in the statistical reporting directives [DCD/DAC(2024)40/FINAL, paragraph 144] as well as [Case 11](#) and [Case 13](#) in the online toolkit.

Project description

19. For activities in relation to reintegration in the country of origin, it needs to be specified whether the activity targets (exclusively) returnees from the provider country. If exclusively, for the activity to be ODA-eligible, it needs to be demonstrated how it enables sustainable reintegration and does not primarily aim to address the donor's domestic migration concerns (if applicable).

3.3.6. The activity incorporates labour mobility to a non ODA-eligible country

ODA-eligibility

20. While the ODA-eligibility of activities in the field of labour mobility is less ambiguous if the activity takes place in a developing country, specific conditions must be met if the activity fosters labour mobility from ODA-eligible to non ODA-eligible countries. For such activities to be ODA-eligible, a specific focus needs to be placed on skill transfer, and a time limit of 12 months is set (in specific cases, this limit can be extended to a maximum of 48 months). See Criterion 7 in the statistical reporting directives [DCD/DAC(2024)40/FINAL, paragraph 144] as well as [Case 16](#), [Case 17](#), [Case 18](#), [Case 19](#), [Case 20](#), and [Case 21](#) in the online toolkit.

Project description

21. If the activity is related to labour mobility to non ODA-eligible countries, the relevant characteristics (e.g. focus on skills transfer, upskilling of migrants in line with clearly identified skill gaps) need to be clearly demonstrated in the project description, including an indication of the activity's duration. If the duration exceeds 12 months, the project description needs to additionally demonstrate the recipient country's request as well as the return cycle of migrants.

3.4. What do I need to consider on other reporting specifics?

3.4.1. How is purpose code 15190 delineated from other purpose codes?

22. Please refer to the definition in Box 2.1 for all aspects covered by purpose code 15190. Particular attention should be paid to the following delineations, noting that purpose code 15190 should be used for:

- **Human rights programming for refugees or migrants**, including when they are victims of human trafficking (instead of purpose code 15160 for *human rights*). See section 3.4.2 for reporting on human rights activities that target different groups.
- **Longer-term assistance to asylum systems** (instead of purpose codes 7xxxx for aspects related to humanitarian aid). For example, activities to support effective strategies to ensure international protection and the right to asylum, and access to justice and assistance for displaced persons should be coded under purpose code 15190. In contrast, humanitarian aspects of assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) such as delivery of emergency services and humanitarian protection should be reported under purpose code 72010.
- **Data on migration and refugees** (instead of purpose code 13010 for *population policy and administrative management*)
- **Capacity building in border management related to migration** (instead of purpose code 15130 for *legal and judicial development*)
- **Programmes encouraging remittances and/or their use for developmental projects** (instead of purpose code 24050 for *remittance facilitation, promotion and optimisation*)
- **Activities related to the protection of migrants and their rights, the facilitation of safe migration, the prevention of human trafficking, the enhancement of labour mobility in a migration context, the prevention of abuse and exploitation of migrant workers, the reintegration of migrants in their communities, and the support of migration and border management** (instead of purpose codes 15150 for *democratic participation and civil society*, 16020 for *employment creation*, 11330 for *vocational training*, 16010 for *social protection*, and 15110 for *public sector policy and administrative management*)

3.4.2. When should I use multiple purpose codes vs the single purpose code 15190?

23. It is advised that multiple purpose codes are used for activities that intend to foster different areas of the recipient's economic or social structure, and that the single purpose code 15190 is used if the entire activity is focused on the facilitation of orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration and mobility. For example:

- a human rights activity that targets different groups (e.g. children, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, refugees, and migrants) could be split among purpose codes 15160 and 15190 (the latter for refugees and migrants).
- In contrast, if the entire activity is focused on human rights programming for refugees and migrants, it should be reported under purpose code 15190 in full.

3.4.3. How does purpose code 15190 relate to the SDGs?

The introduction of purpose code 15190 was expected to facilitate transparent, accurate, and comprehensive reporting on migration-related development co-operation, consistent with SDG target 10.7 on *facilitat[ing] orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies*, among others. It is advised that the reporting between purpose code 15190 and SDG target 10.7 is aligned to the extent possible.