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DAC Working Party on Development Finance Statistics

The OECD-DAC policy marker on the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities

Handbook for data reporters and users – 2026 edition

DAC Working Party on Development Finance Statistics (WP-STAT)

This Handbook presents guidance on the use of the DAC policy marker on the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities.

The Handbook was developed through an inclusive process that brought together members, experts, international organisations and organisations of persons with disabilities. It replaces a previous edition developed in 2020.

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1 Introduction

1. The policy marker on inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities (henceforth the disability marker) is a statistical tool of the OECD Creditor Reporting System (CRS) to allow data providers to identify and report the activities related to disability inclusion, increasing the attention on this topic. The policy marker identifies development co-operation activities that promote the objectives and support the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) (See Annex A). The marker is mentioned in the Amman-Berlin Declaration as an important monitoring tool (See Annex B).
2. The Working Party on Development Finance Statistics (WP-STAT) – a subsidiary body of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) - approved the disability marker in 2018, with the first data collected in 2019 on 2018 activities¹. The disability marker is based on the same functioning principles as other CRS policy markers, which are defined in the Statistical Reporting Directives, Annex 19².
3. This Handbook is an update of the previous version prepared in 2020 [DCD/DAC/STAT(2020)48]. The Handbook is designed to promote a better understanding of the policy marker and to support institutions to apply the marker when reporting to the OECD CRS, by providing recommendations for its effective application. It has a guidance purpose and does not substitute, but complements, the reporting rules included in the Statistical Reporting Directives.
4. This version, which was prepared by the Secretariat in collaboration with governmental and independent experts and organisations of persons with disabilities, includes new minimum standards for scoring the marker, and has been edited to improve readability and to respond to the feedback received by the Secretariat after the first few years of implementation of the marker.

¹ See: DCD/DAC/STAT(2018)39/REV1 and DCD/DAC/STAT(2019)1

² See: <https://www.oecd.org/en/data/insights/data-explainers/2024/10/resources-for-reporting-development-finance-statistics.html>

2 Definition and eligibility criteria

5. The policy marker on the “Inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities” allows OECD-DAC members, and as well all other reporters to the CRS (bilateral, multilateral and philanthropic foundations) to identify and report development co-operation activities which have disability inclusion as a policy objective.

6. Activities marked with the disability policy marker should comply with the following definition and eligibility criteria.

Table 1 – The policy marker on inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities - definition and eligibility criteria.

<p>Definition</p>	<p>Development co-operation activities are classified as being inclusive of persons with disabilities (scores Principal or Significant) if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have a deliberate objective on ensuring that persons with disabilities are included, and able to share the benefits, on an equal basis to persons without disabilities. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If they contribute to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and promote respect for their inherent dignity in line with Art. 1 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If they support the ratification, implementation and/or monitoring of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
<p>Eligibility Criteria</p>	<p>Support to activities that contribute to the respect, protection and fulfilment of the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities, explicitly promoted in activity documentation through specific measures which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote and protect the equal enjoyment of all human rights by all persons with disabilities, and promote respect for their inherent dignity (CRPD Art. 1). <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure empowerment and accessibility for persons with disabilities to the physical, social, economic and cultural environment, to health and education and to information and communication.

OR	<p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote social, economic or political inclusion of persons with disabilities; or develop or strengthen policies, legislation or institutions in support of effective participation in society of persons with disabilities and/or their representative organisations.
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Table 2 - Explanatory terms

Persons with Disabilities	<p>In accordance with the CRPD (Art.1), persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.</p>
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Source: Converged Statistical Reporting Directives for the Creditor Reporting System (CRS) and the Annual DAC Questionnaire, Annex 19 [DCD/DAC(2024)40/ADD2/FINAL]

7. The disability policy marker follows the same rules as the other DAC policy markers, which are described in the OECD Converged Statistical Reporting Directives for the Creditor Reporting System (CRS) and the Annual DAC Questionnaire, Annex 19³, and notably:

- The marker is applicable to all types of flow: Official Development Assistance (10), non-export credit Other Official Flow (21), Private Development Finance (30), Private Sector Instruments (60).
- The marker is applicable to all development co-operation modalities, except for administrative costs (G01) and core contributions to multilateral institutions (B02).
- All institutions (bilateral, multilateral and philanthropic foundations) that report to the OECD CRS can screen and report their activities with marker. Reporting is voluntary but strongly encouraged.
- The marker is applicable to humanitarian aid, as well as to development co-operation activities in any sector.

³ The latest version of the Statistical Reporting Directives is available here: <https://www.oecd.org/en/data/insights/data-explainers/2024/10/resources-for-reporting-development-finance-statistics.html>

3 Scoring and minimum standards

Methodology

8. The disability marker follows the same scoring methodology of all the other policy and Rio markers tracked in the OECD-CRS. The OECD-DAC policy marker methodology is based on an *ex-ante* assessment of the policy objectives the project/programme intends to address, explained in the written documentation of the project. It is based on three basic steps:

- Screening of the project/programme to determine – on the basis of the written project documentation – what are the policy objectives it pursues.
- Assessment of whether ‘inclusion and empowerment of persons with disability’ is an explicit objective of the project, and if it fulfils the eligibility criteria and definition of the disability marker. If these conditions are not met, the project would be considered as ‘not targeted’ (score 0).
- Determine if disability is the ‘principal’ reason for undertaking the project (score 2), or a secondary, ‘significant’ one (score 1).

9. Assigning a correct score is the most crucial step in the OECD-DAC policy marker methodology. To support reporters in choosing the score, reporters can refer to the following two items:

- An explanatory table on the meaning of the scoring values.
- The minimum standards for scoring.

What do the scoring values mean?

10. The marker has a qualitative nature.

The data generated by the marker provides an estimate of development finance in support of empowerment and inclusions of persons with disability, rather than an exact quantification. The marker is a qualitative instrument rather than a quantitative tool. The total amounts of projects and programmes with a score 1 or a score 2 are counted as development finance with disability inclusion as a principal or significant objective, rather than the exact amount of development finance for disability.

Table 3 - Explanatory table on the scoring of the policy marker on disability

Not targeted (Score 0)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The score “not targeted” (“0”) means that the activity was examined but found not to target the objective in any significant way. The project does not satisfy the minimum recommended criteria for scoring significant. A project/programme that ‘does not harm’ would score zero.
Significant objective (Score 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disability inclusion and empowerment is an important and deliberate objective, but not the main reason for undertaking the project/programme. There was a deliberate effort by the project developers to include disability inclusion among the project design objectives. The project/programme has been designed in such a way to achieve the disability objective stated in the project documentation. The project satisfies the minimum recommended criteria for the score significant.
Principal objective (Score 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disability inclusion and empowerment is the main objective of the project/programme and it is fundamental in its design and expected results. The project/programme would not have been undertaken without this disability inclusion objective. The project satisfies the minimum recommended criteria for the score principal.
Blank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project has not been screened. The field is left empty.

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

The impact of a project/programme with a principal score (score 2) is not necessarily greater than the impact of a project/programme 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.

12. The scoring decision should be based on factual elements included in the written documentation of the project.

The disability objective for activities marked principal or significant should be explicit and deliberate in the project documentation (for example project proposal or funding agreement), and not implicit or assumed.

13. The disability focus of the activity should be clear in the activity descriptions reported to the CRS.

To facilitate transparency and in light of public scrutiny of the data, it is important that, in activity descriptions reported to the CRS, the relation between the activity and the policy objective is clearly communicated and made explicit, especially for principal score and the largest activities (recognising the administrative constraint when numerous small activities are concerned).

14. The scoring is applicable to both commitments and disbursements.

Care should be taken to assure that, in case of multiple years disbursements, coherent scoring values are used for the commitment and all subsequent disbursements reported to the OECD-DAC.

Minimum standards

15. Minimum standards provide further guidance for scoring activities under the disability marker. While the eligibility criteria approved in the definition of the marker helps to identify projects that have disability objectives and therefore are eligible for the marking, the minimum standards are a guidance to identify key characteristics that activities scored significant or principal should possess. The minimum standards serve as a guidance for reporters to more easily assign the marker on the basis of the characteristics of the project. **It is recommended that all the criteria indicated with a star be met for each respective scoring level.**

Table 4. Minimum standards for scoring the marker on inclusion and empowerment of persons with disability

Minimum standards (recommended to be met when a star is indicated)	0	1	2
1. A disability analysis of the project/ programme has been conducted. This can take different forms, proportionate to the characteristics, size and complexity of the project. It may be part of a gender, disability and social inclusion analysis, social safeguarding assessments, or specifically targeting disability.	★	★	★
2. Findings from this analysis are used to ensure the project/programme does no harm and does not reinforce discrimination.	★	★	★
3. The project/programme actively involves persons with disabilities. These are consulted through their representative organisations, using flexible approaches proportionate to the characteristics, size and complexity of the project, to ensure tangible improvements in project design and outcomes. The necessary measures to ensure participation are assured by the project developers.		★	★
4. One or more project objectives, expected results, or related activities are disability-related and appropriately funded. The explicit inclusion in project activities of at least one core element - accessibility, inclusion, consultation, or empowerment - rather than being implicit or assumed, helps identify activities with disability objectives.		★	★
5. Project/programme data and at least one indicator are disaggregated by disability status, where applicable. A commitment to monitor and report on the disability inclusion and empowerment results achieved by the project exists.		★	★
6. The results framework measures progress towards the project/ programme's disability inclusion and empowerment objectives through disability-specific indicators to track outcomes/ impact.			★
7. The top-level ambition of the project/program is to advance disability equity and rights, empower persons with disabilities, promote the objectives of the CRPD. The project/programme would not have taken place if not for this objective.			★

4 Key concepts and terminology

16. This section provides explanations of terms which are commonly used in the context of activities in support of persons with disabilities tracked with the marker:

- **Disability Analysis.**

A disability analysis takes into account the barriers that persons with disabilities face, and whether these barriers can be overcome with the project / program.

A disability analysis can take different forms, including as part of a gender, disability and social inclusion analysis (GEDSI), social safeguarding assessments, or other disability-related research.

The extent and complexity of the disability analysis is proportionate to the characteristics, size and complexity of the project, and whether disability is a principal or a significant objective.

The disability analysis is distinct from the process of assigning a marker but provides the elements for assessing the marker. The disability analysis can lead to the inclusion of explicit measures in the project design to make sure that the project:

- complies with local applicable laws in terms of disability;
- does no harm to persons with disabilities, and avoids the exacerbation of existing discrimination;
- includes at least one of the core elements of accessibility, universal design, inclusion and consultation with persons with disabilities;
- ensures that both persons with and without disabilities benefit equitably from the project's results;
- uses disability specific indicators, including impact indicators, to monitor and evaluate progress and results.

- **Accessibility.**

Accessibility is an intrinsic characteristic of a good or service, which can be wholly or partially usable by persons with different abilities, for example physical infrastructures, schools, cultural products, transport or public services, information, communications and other services, including electronic services and emergency services (See Art. 9 of CPRD and General comment 2 on Art. 9).

- **Universal Design.**

Related to accessibility is the concept of universal design, which Article 2 of the CRPD defines as “the design of products, environments, programmes and services to be

usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design. Universal design shall not exclude assistive devices for particular groups of persons with disabilities where this is needed”.

- **Inclusion.**

The right to be included in the community relates to the principle of full and effective inclusion and participation in society as enshrined in, among others, Article 3 (c) of the Convention. It includes living a full social life and having access to all services offered to the public and to support services offered to persons with disabilities to enable them to be fully included and participate in all spheres of social life. These services can relate, among others, to housing, transport, shopping, education, employment, recreational activities and all other facilities and services offered to the public, including social media. The right also includes having access to all measures and events of political and cultural life in the community, among others, public meetings, sports events, cultural and religious festivals and any other activity in which the person with disability wishes to participate. Inclusion activities make use of accessible goods and services (and thus encourage the provision of accessible goods and services) but the focus is on positive actions allowing all persons to participate in full to the society and on the society to consider different needs and abilities when taking decisions (See Art. 4(3), 19, 20, 27 of CPRD and general comment 7 on Articles 4(3) and 33(3)).

- **Consultation of persons with disabilities.**

Consultation of persons with disabilities is the process of involving persons with disabilities in key policy and programming decisions. As Article 4(3) of the CRPD notes, “In the development and implementation of legislation and policies to implement the present Convention, and in other decision-making processes concerning issues relating to persons with disabilities, States Parties shall closely consult with and actively involve persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations”. In the context of applying the disability marker the focus should be on ensuring that such participation leads to tangible improvements in project design and outcomes, addressing identified challenges. Flexible approaches to engagement with organizations of persons with disabilities should be adopted to ensure efficiency, taking into consideration the size and complexity of the project.

- **Empowerment**

Empowerment has been defined as the capacity of individuals, groups and/or communities to take control of their circumstances, exercise power and achieve their own goals, and the process by which, individually and collectively, they are able to help themselves and others to maximize the quality of their lives⁴. Empowerment is an ongoing, continuous process, rather than an end in itself. Activities that support empowerment have the objective of supporting persons with different abilities to overcome limitations and barriers, enjoy human rights and fundamental freedoms, and perform major life activities without constraints (See general comment 7 to the CPRD⁵).

⁴ Adams, Robert. Empowerment, participation and social work. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008, p.xv

⁵ General comments to the CPRD are available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/GC.aspx>

- **Disability-related activities**

In the OECD-DAC Statistical framework, and in this document, the term “disability-related activities” refers to activities that are identified with the policy marker on inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities. An activity is a data point reported to the CRS database. It could describe a programme, a project or part of a programme or project. This includes activities from bilateral, multilateral or philanthropic finance providers, as well as earmarked contributions through multilateral institutions.

5 Implementation best practices

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

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

The disability policy marker should be applied during the early stages of the project appraisal and design, when substantial amendments are still possible. At the design stage, consultation with beneficiaries and organisations of persons with disability (OPDs) is crucial to properly address disability inclusion.

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. Ideally, the marker should be applied in consultation with disability experts, and with verification from the statistical/quality control unit.

3. Invest in staff capacity to apply the marker correctly

Capacity building for staff members who have responsibility for assigning the codes could be useful to ensure that the marker is applied correctly. Application of the marker can be supported through:

- Trainings on using the disability policy marker, including practical exercises based on case studies.
- Developing internal guidance on the marker.
- Providing technical support to staff applying the marker through a helpdesk or contact point.
- Broader internal capacity building on disability inclusive development.

4. Establish strong internal quality control mechanisms

Reporters are responsible for quality assurance to guarantee the accuracy of the application of the marker and the data that they report to the CRS. 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.
- Comprehensive ex-post reporting on the outcomes and impact of project/programmes marked as 1 or 2 at the evaluation stage.

6 Additional guidance by sector

Sector codes

18. The disability marker can be used for activities in all sectors (including humanitarian aid) and contributing to any SDG⁶. In other words, the marker value is independent from the sector code or SDGs. There are however three purpose codes that explicitly mention “persons with disabilities” in their description, and always in association with other vulnerable and marginalized groups. These codes identify the support to human rights (code 15160), social protection (code 16010) and refugees/asylum seekers (93013). Activities that fall in these categories might explicitly target persons with disabilities as their beneficiaries (see Table 5). Reporters should give particular attention to these activities, to identify if they include disability objectives.

Table 5 - CRS purpose codes explicitly mentioning persons with disabilities.

15160	Human rights	Measures to support specialised official human rights institutions and mechanisms at universal, regional, national and local levels in their statutory roles to promote and protect civil and political, economic, social and cultural rights as defined in international conventions and covenants; translation of international human rights commitments into national legislation; reporting and follow-up; human rights dialogue. Human rights defenders and human rights NGOs; human rights advocacy, activism, mobilisation; awareness raising and public human rights education. Human rights programming targeting specific groups, e.g. children, persons with disabilities , migrants, ethnic, religious, linguistic and sexual minorities, indigenous people and those suffering from caste discrimination, victims of trafficking, victims of torture. (Use code 15230 when in the context of a peacekeeping operation and code 15180 for ending violence against women and girls. Use code 15190 for human rights programming for refugees or migrants, including when they are victims of trafficking. Use code 16070 for Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, i.e. Child Labour, Forced Labour, Non-discrimination in employment and occupation, Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining.)
16010	Social protection	Social protection or social security strategies, legislation and administration; institution capacity building and advice; social security

⁶ The Secretariat suggests not to use the marker associated with purpose code 91010 (administrative costs non-sector allocable) and 99810 (sectors non-specified) due to their genericity.

		and other social schemes; support programmes, cash benefits, pensions and special programmes for older persons, orphans, persons with disabilities , children, mothers with newborns, those living in poverty, without jobs and other vulnerable groups; social dimensions of structural adjustment.
93013	Refugees/ asylum seekers in donor countries — health	Costs incurred in donor countries for basic assistance to asylum seekers and refugees from developing countries, up to 12 months: basic health care and psycho-social support for persons with specific needs e.g. unaccompanied minors, persons with disabilities , survivors of violence and torture.

Scoring by sector

19. The following table presents the rationale for identifying and scoring disability-related activities in different CRS sectors, presenting some linkages with the CRPD and the SDGs. See also Annex C for highlights on the disability targets in the SDGs. Data reporters are reminded that the scoring is always based on an assessment of the individual project/programme.

Table 6 – Overall guidance by sector

Sector code	Sector Name	Notes
110	Education	The right of persons with disabilities to education is stated in the Art. 24 of the CRPD as well as in the SDG 4 on education. Activities that ensure the inclusion of children with disabilities in the primary or secondary education system are eligible for the marker. The segregation of children with disabilities in separate classes does not conform with the principles of CRPD, contrasting with the ‘do no harm’ principle, and should not be marked.
120	Health	The right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health without discrimination on the basis of disability is protected by the Art. 25 of CRPD, while the SDG 3 has the objective of promoting health and well-being for all. Activities in this sector shall include either provisions to ensure universal accessibility of health care, or the provision of health services needed by persons with disabilities specifically because of their disabilities.
130	Population Policies/Programmes & Reproductive Health	(same as above)
140	Water Supply & Sanitation	Access to water and sanitation for persons with disabilities is protected by the Art. 28 of the CRPD and by the SDG 6 on access to water and sanitation for all. Activities that promote inclusive access to water and sanitation are eligible for the marker.

150	Government & Civil Society	Activities in the government and civil society sector can contribute to inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities, for example by ensuring public services, democratic participation, human rights, gender equality, safe migration and mobility. These activities are covered by several CRPD articles (such as Art. 12 – equal recognition before the law, 13 –access to justice, 14–liberty and security of the person and 29 – participation to political and public life) and by the SDG 16 (peaceful and inclusive societies).
		Special attention is recommended to the code 15160 on human rights, which can specifically include activities in support of persons with disabilities.
160	Other Social Infrastructure & Services	Activities in this sector include social protection, employment creation, housing, basic social services and labour rights, which could be pivotal for the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities. These are protected by several CRPD articles (such as Art. 19 – living independently and being included in the community, Art. 27 – work and employment, and Art. 28 – adequate standard of living and social protection) and several SDGs (such as SDG 1 on poverty, and SDG 8 on inclusive growth).
16010	Social Protection	Special attention is recommended to the code 16010 on social protection, which can specifically include activities in support of persons with disabilities (see table 5).
210	Transport & Storage	Activities that promote accessibility (to transport) on an equal basis are promoted by Art. 9 of the CRPD on accessibility, by Art. 20 on personal mobility and by SDG 11 on sustainable and inclusive cities.
220	Communications	Activities that promote accessibility (to communication) on an equal basis are promoted by the Art. 9 (accessibility) and Art. 21 (freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information) of the CRPD, and by SDG 9 on inclusive infrastructure.
230	Energy	Activities that assure access to modern energy services (electricity and clean cooking) for all could include specific provisions to foster the access to persons with disabilities. Accessibility is promoted by the Art. 9 of the CRPD, while universal access to energy services is covered by the SDG 7.
240	Banking & Financial Services	Access on equal basis to banking and financial services is envisaged by the Art. 12 of the CRPD (equal recognition before the law) and by SDG 8 on inclusive growth.
250	Business & Other Services	Inclusive business development projects are key to foster inclusion of persons with disabilities. The activities in this sector are mentioned in Art. 27 of CRPD (work and employment) and by SDG 8 (inclusive growth).
310	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing	Activities in this sector could be designed to foster social and economic inclusion of persons with disabilities, as envisaged by the Art. 27 of CRPD and by SDG 8.
320	Industry, Mining, Construction	(same as above)
330	Trade Policies & Regulations	Activities in this sector can have important implications for disability inclusion. For example, trade regulations may affect workers' protections which are essential to ensure that persons with disabilities can enjoy their right to work on an equal basis.

410	General Environment Protection	General environmental protection activities could be related to disability inclusion, either through a direct participation of person with disabilities in the project activities, or through the accessibility of the benefits to all persons.
430	Other Multisector	Other multisector projects include vast array of activities that could be disability-related, such as urban and rural development activities, or food security.
510	General Budget Support	General budget support activities are not eligible with policy markers (but sector budget support are).
520	Developmental Food Aid/Food Security Assistance	Activities in this sector generally refer to wholesale food operations. In some cases they might be disability-related. Access to food is particularly mentioned in the Art. 28 of the CRPD (adequate standard of living) and SDG 1 (poverty) and SDG 2 (hunger).
530	Other Commodity Assistance	Activities in this sector support the generic import of goods and services. Although typically not disability-related, there may still be opportunities to ensure disability inclusion – for example, through dialogue about how to ensure procurement criteria to incorporate accessibility.
600	Action Relating to Debt	Not related to disability.
720	Emergency Response	Emergency response has strong linkages with disability inclusion. Activities in this category include provision of shelter, water, aid, sanitation, health services and food in emergency situations. Art. 11 of the CRPD (situation of risk and humanitarian emergencies) promotes the protection of persons with disabilities in emergencies.
730	Reconstruction Relief & Rehabilitation	(same as above)
740	Disaster Prevention & Preparedness	(same as above)
910	Administrative costs of donors	Should not be scored with the marker.
930	Refugees in Donor Countries	Actions that promote the inclusion of refugees with disabilities should be identified with the marker, on the basis of the Art. 5 of the CRPD (equality and non discrimination), Art. 10 (right to life) and Art. 12 (equal recognition before the law), among others. Special attention is recommended to the code 93013 on Refugees/ asylum seekers in donor countries —, which can specifically include activities in support of persons with disabilities.
998	Unallocated/ unspecified	99810 Should not be in principle scored with the marker.

Examples

20. Annex D presents examples of projects in various sectors, scored either “not targeted”, “significant” or “principal” for the disability marker.

7 Data access, visualisation and interpretation

Data Access

21. Development co-operation data reported to the OECD Creditor Reporting System is publicly available online on the OECD website. The data on disability-related development finance is available in three formats.

1. **OECD Data Explorer data cube on ‘[Other Markers: Aid activities targeting other policy objectives](#)’**, makes available disability-related data reported by DAC members on their ODA activities.
2. **Dashboard on [Official development assistance by policy objective](#)** makes available data visualisations and filtered data on disability-related data reported by DAC members on their ODA activities.
3. **[The Creditor Reporting System bulk files](#)** provide the full details on the activities submitted to the CRS, including their eventual disability score. Activities include both ODA, Private Sector Instruments and Other Official Flows. An API is also available to access the data.

Data interpretation

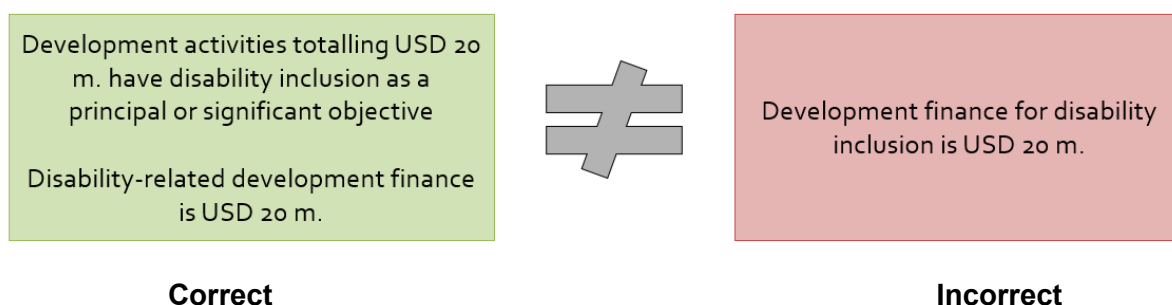
What can the marker data tell us?

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

- Identify disability-related projects.
- Estimate the disability-related development finance for each data reporter, and globally.
- Assess the sectors and countries prioritised by disability-related development finance.
- Identify the shares of disability-related development finance with a principal or significant objective.
- Identify overall trends and changes over time in disability-related development finance.

What the marker data cannot tell us?

- **The marker cannot and does not intend to measure the outcome or impact of a project.** Monitoring and evaluation instruments are required for this task.
- **The disability policy marker does not quantitatively estimate the amount of funding available to disability-related actions within a project.** The statistical system does not collect information on the potential share of disability-focused activities within a project, e.g. a project only partially targeting the objectives of the disability marker through a dedicated component. See last example in Annex D, where the component was deemed minimal and the score assigned as “not targeted”. The dedicated component can instead be reported separately, with a score 2. The summation of funding of projects that are scored 1 or 2 should not be used to represent the total funding going towards disability-inclusion, but rather represent the amount of development finance that has disability inclusion as a significant or principal objective. It is recommended to showcase the two scores separately.

Figure 1 Qualitative narrative

Annex A. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

The UN General Assembly approved in 2006 the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), that subsequently came into force in 2008. As of 2026 the treaty has 164 signatories and 192 ratifications/accessions.

The purpose of the Convention is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity **(Art.1)**.

The general principles of the Convention **(Art.3)** are the following:

- (a) Respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy including the freedom to make one's own choices, and independence of persons;
- (b) Non-discrimination;
- (c) Full and effective participation and inclusion in society;
- (d) Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity;
- (e) Equality of opportunity;
- (f) Accessibility;
- (g) Equality between men and women;
- (h) Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities.

The State Parties to the Convention recognize the importance of international cooperation for improving the living conditions of persons with disabilities in every country, particularly in developing countries **(Preamble)**.

Some of the articles of the Convention are particularly relevant in the context of international co-operation, including:

Article 11 - Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies

States Parties shall take, in accordance with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including

situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters.

Article 31 - Statistics and data collection

States Parties undertake to collect appropriate information, including statistical and research data, to enable them to formulate and implement policies to give effect to the present Convention [...].

Article 32 - International cooperation

States Parties recognize the importance of international cooperation and its promotion, in support of national efforts for the realization of the purpose and objectives of the present Convention, and will undertake appropriate and effective measures in this regard, between and among States and, as appropriate, in partnership with relevant international and regional organizations and civil society, in particular organizations of persons with disabilities. Such measures could include, inter alia:

- a) Ensuring that international cooperation, including international development programmes, is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;
- b) Facilitating and supporting capacity-building, including through the exchange and sharing of information, experiences, training programmes and best practices;
- c) Facilitating cooperation in research and access to scientific and technical knowledge;
- d) Providing, as appropriate, technical and economic assistance, including by facilitating access to and sharing of accessible and assistive technologies, and through the transfer of technologies.

The full text of the Convention is available at

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities.html>

Annex B. The Amman-Berlin Declaration

The third global Disability Summit, held in Berlin in 2025, adopted a final declaration which included voluntary targets on promoting disability inclusion into development co-operation activities, mentioning the DAC policy marker as an important monitoring tool. The Declaration was not negotiated or adopted by the DAC or its subsidiary bodies, but a majority of DAC members have endorsed it, as well as international organisations and partner countries⁷. An extract here follows.

Amman Berlin Declaration, extract.

[...]

Seeking to ensure that international development and humanitarian programs are harmonized with the CRPD and its Articles 11 and 32,

We declare the following:

1. We will strive for all our international development programs to be inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities, by actively making a positive contribution to inclusive and full equality and to non-discrimination and by doing no harm.

2. We will strive to ensure that at least 15 percent of international development programs being implemented at the country level pursue disability inclusion as an objective ("15 percent for the 15 percent"). The 15 percent target requires joint action to increase efforts by focusing current resources on disability inclusion and dedicating more resources to this purpose. We will strive to achieve this target by 2028, the year in which the fourth and next Global Disability Summit is to be held.

[...]

We recognize the OECD-DAC policy marker on the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities as an important monitoring and steering mechanism and encourage its wide usage and continued strengthening.

All parties, including multilateral institutions, are invited to report on disability inclusion in their programs. This is key for countries to be able to monitor their development cooperation portfolios.

[...]

⁷ See: <https://www.globaldisabilitysummit.org/resource/amman-berlin-declaration/>


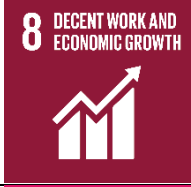

Annex C. Disability targets in the SDGs



The inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities is an integral part of the concept of “leave no one behind” that is a foundational element of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Disability inclusion is embedded in several SDGs, but no goal or target is exclusively dedicated to this issue. As such, the information on the SDG focus of the activities is not suitable to identify disability inclusion in the OECD-DAC statistical framework. The SDG information could be useful when analysed together with the disability marker, to improve the understanding of where disability-inclusive development finance is being targeted.

Some SDGs mention disability explicitly in the definition, to ensure that persons with disability, together with other specific vulnerable and marginalized groups, are also included. The goals that explicitly mention disability, indicated in table 2, are: quality education (SDG4), job opportunities (SDG 8), economic, social, political and economic inclusion (SDG 10), sustainable cities (SDG 11) and capacity building to developing countries (SDG17).

Other SDGs, while not explicitly mentioning explicitly disability inclusion, include in their definition a special attention to persons with vulnerabilities or to universal access to basic products or services. These goals include SDG1 on poverty, SDG2 on nutrition, SDG3 on health, SDG5 gender equality and women empowerment, SDG6 on water and sanitation and SDG7 on energy (Table 7).

Table 7 - SDGs with explicit references to persons with disabilities

	4.5	By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities , indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations
	4.a	Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all
	8.5	By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities , and equal pay for work of equal value
	10.2	By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability , race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

 <p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>	11.2	By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, <u>with special attention to the needs of</u> those in vulnerable situations, women, children, <u>persons with disabilities</u> and older persons
	11.7	By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, <u>in particular for</u> women and children, older persons and <u>persons with disabilities</u>
 <p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p>	17.18	By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable <u>data disaggregated by</u> income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, <u>disability</u> , geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts

Annex D. Examples of scoring

Project title	Project description	DAC Sector	Development co-operation modality	Marker	Note
Disability Inclusive Development Programme	This programme delivers support for persons with disabilities in a number of ODA-eligible countries, improving access to education, jobs, healthcare and reducing stigma and discrimination. The programme will also evaluate innovative approaches to disability inclusion, generate high quality research and discover what works to support the inclusion of persons with disabilities in ODA-eligible countries. Interventions that work will be scaled up, widening their reach. The new learning and evidence generated will be shared across the global development community and national governments.	43010 and 43082 Multisector and Multisector education and training	C01	Principal	This project has a principal objective of ensuring empowerment and inclusion.
Disability Catalyst Programme	A global partnership for action on disability-inclusive development, led by persons with disabilities. This project will strengthen the voice of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities at regional, national and global level to advocate for changes in policies, legislations and programmes to ensure they are inclusive of persons with disabilities. It will also establish and strengthen mechanisms within the United Nations to deliver on the global goals for persons with disabilities, critical to achieving the promise to leave no one behind.	15160 Human rights	B03	Principal	This project is led by persons with disabilities for persons with disabilities. It operates at a strategic level, and is designed to produce systemic change in policies, legislation and programming. it conforms fully with UNCPRD.

Contribution to ICRC's Activities in [...] under the ICRC Disability and Mine Action Appeal 2019	Project objective: Immediate needs regarding mine risk education and physical rehabilitation of vulnerable people affected by conflict and/or other situations of violence in [...] are covered. In 2019, the ICRC aims to achieve the following results: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two physical rehabilitation centers [...] are staffed, equipped and operational. • Support of up to 6,100 affected persons affected by conflict. • Threats posed by conventional and non-conventional weapons to the local population are reduced. • Communication and number of referrals to potential beneficiaries in catchment area regarding services of physical rehabilitation centers is increased. 	72050 relief co-ordination, and support services	B03-1	Significant	One of the objectives of the project is to provide specific rehabilitation for persons with disabilities
Protection and promotion of the rights of children with disabilities in [...]	The programme is dedicated to the implementation of CRPD in particular for the promotion of the rights of children with disabilities. General objective: Promoting the full enjoyment of rights and the equal access to goods and services by persons with disabilities, in line with the International and European standard (UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and European Disability Strategy 2010-2020).	15160 Human rights 16010 Social Protection	C01	Principal	The project has a principal objective of implementing the CRPD.
Small Towns Water Sanitation and Hygiene Programme	The Small Towns Water Sanitation and Hygiene programme (STWSH) delivered through United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), seeks to provide improved access to safe water and sanitation and to improve hygiene practices for 500,000 women, men, girls and boys (including persons with disabilities and the elderly) through rehabilitation of water and sanitation systems and hygiene promotion. STWSH focuses on small and medium towns and will reduce the vulnerability of people living in these towns to the risk of waterborne diseases. STWSH currently provides 14 small towns (500,000 people) with improved access to water supply and sanitation services and improved hygiene practices with focus on equity and gender and improves operational capacity and efficiency of sewerage systems and sewage treatment plants in target small towns.	14030 Basic drinking water supply and basic sanitation	C01	Significant	Access to water and sanitation for persons with disabilities is included in the objectives but it is not the principal motivation for the action.

Programme: POSIT “Strengthening the primary care system in [...]”	The Project aims to improve primary health care services with particular reference to: emergency services; health of women with a focus on the prevention of breast cancer and the development of the network of maternity facilities; non-communicable diseases with a focus on primary prevention; strengthening of community mental health, psychosocial rehabilitation and job placements; accessibility of the facilities for primary health care. The project includes promotion of health services accessibility to persons with disabilities in line with the Article 9 of the CRPD. This component also provides an event to raise awareness on human rights, discrimination and violence, with a specific focus on disability.	12220 Basic health care	C01	Significant	The project has a well-defined objective on disability inclusion and empowerment, albeit this is not the principal reason to undertake the activity.
Contribution to the UN country Programme 2016 - 2018	The overall objective of the project is to support the Government of [...] in improving the enabling environment for equal access to justice, particularly for vulnerable groups. The three outcomes of the project are: Outcome 1: Evidence-based, inclusive decision-making and policy development is advanced, towards a single policy framework on governance that measures both Gross National Happiness and SDG results, where no-one is left behind Outcome 2: The Rule of Law and related institutions are strengthened for enhanced access to justice for women, marginalized groups, and key populations, including LGBTI, People Living with HIV and Persons with Disabilities. Outcome 3: Parliament and key institutions strengthened to perform core functions for improved accountability, participation and representation.	15130 legal and judicial development	B03-0	Significant	The project include a component on access to justice for persons with disabilities.
Education for children and youth in [...]	A quality education for children and youth in [...]. The initiative aims to contribute to the future of youth and children by improving their education and well-being, giving them more opportunities to find a job and, consequently, promoting their social and economic inclusion particularly for those who belong to more vulnerable groups and are more at risk of exclusion. 25% of budget investment dedicated to disability.	11110 Education policy and administrative management 11120 Education facilities and	C01	Significant	The project include a component on disability inclusion, albeit this is not the principal reason for the action.

		training			
Global Polio Eradication	Funding under this initiative provides core funding support to the World Health Organisation for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. The contribution will provide funding and technical assistance for polio surveillance, monitoring, supplementary immunisation campaigns and outbreak responses.	12250 Infectious disease control	C01	Not targeted	This investment aims to eliminate a medical condition that causes nerve injury which may lead to paralysis and, as such, has been marked as not targeting disability as it is a prevention activity, not targeting persons with disabilities.
Research, Policy and Programme Development II	The [...] Research, Policy and Programme Development II initiative provides programme enabling and management costs that will enhance the programs ability to flexibly respond to current and emerging programme enabling and management needs that are a priority for [...] the Government of Tonga such as: gender and disability inclusive development; support for the programme's communication strategy and public diplomacy; activities that support and inform partnership dialogue and discussions; strengthening of donor coordination activities; and whole-of-government activities such as the Governor Generals sports scholarships. This initiative will provide the programme with a mechanism for efficient management of small-scale activities that address broader aid programme objectives and specific programme development and management requirements.	15110 Democratic participation and civil society	C01	Not targeted	While disability is incorporated as a component within this aid investment, the provider declared the contribution as minimal. For DAC purposes the activity is marked 0, neither significant nor principal. Reporter could however split the disability component and report it separately.