**Information on the DAC
Policy Marker on Disability
- May 2020**

**Background**

The Official Development Assistance (ODA) is monitored by [the OECD, within the Development Assistance Committee](http://www.oecd.org/dac/development-assistance-committee/) (DAC). The DAC is an international forum of the largest aid providers, gathering 30 members among which:

* the European Union (with the EU institutions represented by DG DEVCO);
* and 19 EU member states (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden).

**The 30 members of the DAC totalled almost USD 153 billion of aid in 2019, among which more than 52% (USD 80 billion) were provided altogether by EU institutions and the above listed EU member states.**

Given the high ambitions of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf), the positive inclusion of persons with disabilities in the [Sustainable Development Goals](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs), and the importance of international aid for developing countries, it became necessary to create a statistical tool to monitor how much aid aims at supporting the inclusion of persons with disabilities worldwide in order to **account on the commitments made in the 2030 Agenda**.

**Disability policy marker**

To account on their commitments of aid inclusiveness of persons with disabilities, **the DAC members have adopted in June 2018 the “**[**disability marker**](http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=DCD/DAC/STAT(2018)39/REV1&docLanguage=En)**”**, to inform their database of aid activities (know as the Creditor Reporting System – CRS). **The marker system facilitates monitoring and comparison of members’ activities in support of different policy objectives** (e.g. gender equality, aid to environment...) **that also cover, now, the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities**. The inclusion of a disability policy marker will allow the DAC members to be **in line with** [**article 32 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD**](https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities/article-32-international-cooperation.html)**)** which promotes the inclusion and accessibility of international cooperation programs to persons with disabilities.

**Content of the disability policy marker**

**The disability marker helps to track aid activities that are inclusive of persons with disabilities. Such activities** can be classified as inclusive of persons with disabilities only if:

* 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; or
* 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; or
* They support the ratification, implementation and/or monitoring of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

**Furthermore, each aid activities are scored according to the following categories:
principal (score 2) – significant (score 1) – project not targeting persons with disabilities (score 0):**

**Score 2 - Principal**: Inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities is the main objective of the activity, fundamental in its the design and expected results. The activity would not have taken place without this disability inclusion perspective.

*Exemple of activities scored 2: Support to inclusive education as defined by Art. 24 of the CRPD; Support to job insertion programmes inclusive of persons with disabilities; Support to health and social projects specifically designed to reduce the vulnerability of the persons with disabilities; Support to reduce architectural barriers in urban areas.*

**Score 1 - Significant**: Disability inclusion is an important and deliberate objective, but not the principal reason for undertaking the development co-operation activity.

*Exemple of activities scored 1: A new or refurbished infrastructure project that is fully accessible to persons with disabilities; A local library/school that makes cultural and education material also available in a form accessible to persons with visual or hearing impairments; A social inclusion project that includes persons with disabilities among the target groups.*

**Score 0 – Non-targeted** : The project has been screened against the marker and has been found not to target disability inclusion.

*Exemple of activities scored 0: A programme or activity aimed at improving basic services for the poor that states that it will also reach persons with disabilities because they tend to be amongst the poorest, but does not contain specific mechanisms or activities to ensure their inclusion; A programme establishing a segregated school for children with disabilities*.

**Aims of the disability policy marker**

The disability policy marker is a relevant tool to cover the needs and fill the gaps identified in the current reporting system to:

* Provide an early warning tool to donors if their **commitments** are at risk of leaving persons with disabilities behind across all sectors of aid;
* Provide **comparison among donors** and give them **an incentive to strengthen efforts and share knowledge** on the different approaches to disability inclusion;
* Make possible **in-depth data analyses** in order **to reflect more accurately the inclusion** **of persons with disabilities** in relation to different sectors (health, education, transport, human rights....);
* **Complement countries' efforts to gather data on persons with disabilities** and overcome the weaknesses of their national statistics system by using the [Washington Group of Short Set of Disability Question](http://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/washington-group-question-sets/short-set-of-disability-questions/).

**Limitations of the disability policy marker**

The **reporting of the disability policy maker is voluntary only**, unlike other policy markers for which reporting is mandatory. It remains therefore very important **to advocate for the implementation of the disability marker** by the largest number of DAC members. Currently, EU institutions have agreed to report on the disability marker, but not all EU member states part of the DAC have agreed to use it.

It is also important to understand that the **disability marker tells us about development partners’ intentions (commitments), but it cannot tell us about the outcomes of their spending.** This is why the disability marker has to be implemented **in complementarity with other tools** such as data collection and data disaggregation by disability, to monitor the results and the impact of aid activities on persons with disabilities.

**Reporting of the disability policy marker by the EU**

The first reporting of DEVCO for the EU institutions should be made available in June 2020.

**Further reading**

* [OCED DAC Marker on disability](http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=DCD/DAC/STAT(2018)39/REV1&docLanguage=En) **(2018)**
* [Call to Action by IDA, EDF, IDDC and the GLAD Network](Call%20to%20Action%20by%20IDA%2C%20EDF%2C%20IDDC%20and%20the%20GLAD%20Network%20%28April%202019%29%3A%20Implementation%20of%20the%20Disability%20Inclusion%20marker)**: Implementation of the Disability Inclusion marker (April 2019)**

**About EDF**

The European Disability Forum is an **independent NGO that represents the interests of 100 million Europeans with disabilities.** EDF is a unique platform which brings together representative organisations of persons with disabilities from across Europe. EDF is run by persons with disabilities and their families. We are a strong, united voice of persons with disabilities in Europe.

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**Last updated:** 21st May 2020