Tracking aid for persons with disabilities:

Why the OECD-DAC Disability marker can be a powerful advocacy tool for organisations of persons with disabilities – and recommendations on how to make it even more effective.

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Foreword

Tracking how much official development assistance from development partners reaches persons with disabilities and their representative organisations (OPDs) is critical for a robust advocacy agenda that holds governments to account on the commitments they have made on implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and for delivering on Global Disability Summit commitments.

This is the case even more now as we are at the mid-way point of Agenda 2030. The 2023 Secretary General's Global Sustainable Development Report states that only 12% of SDGs are on track and close to half are moderately or severely off track, and some 30% have either seen no movement or have regressed below the 2015 baseline. [1] The SDGs when adopted signaled positive commitments by governments ensuring persons with disabilities would benefit from development gains. There has been progress made in this respect but not enough. The pace of implementation of these commitments needs to accelerate over the remaining seven years.

Sustainable Development Goal 17 includes financing for development and more broadly international cooperation.

In recent years we have seen international cooperation mechanisms and the overall architecture for financing development cooperation coming under strain. The 2023 DAC report highlighted how rolling, concurrent crises such as the climate crisis, pandemics and conflict are eroding development progress and putting the international development system under immense pressure. Creating a challenging landscape for ensuring official development assistance reaches groups and communities who most need it. [2]

The initial consultations for the future framework replacing the 2030 Agenda will take place throughout 2024 shaping the future of development assistance and international cooperation. Effective and coordinated advocacy efforts will be needed and this includes evidence and data to continue to hold governments to account for implementation of Article 32 of the CRPD.

We look forward to continuing supporting OPDs to lead this critical advocacy.

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1 Report of the Secretary General. Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Towards a Rescue Plan for People and Planet, 2023.

2 See OECD 2023, Development Co-operation Report 2023 Debating the Aid System

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All opinions, and any errors, in the different sections of the report are the sole responsibility of those sections' respective authors.

Why now for this publication?

Tracking how official development assistance from global north governments reaches persons with disabilities and their representative organisations is critical for a robust advocacy agenda that holds government to account on the commitments made implementing the Convention on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the SDGs and for delivering on Global Disability Summit commitments.

The take up of the OECD-DAC disability marker by OPDs has seen leadership over recent years by the European Disability Forum and some of its members, among others. For organisations of persons with disabilities within the global south with limited resources, tackling the database which holds the information on how funds are flowing can be challenging and this is the genesis for this research project.

During 2022-2023, CBM Global Disability Inclusion undertook a collaborative advocacy research project with its allies across the disability movement: the research sought to explore how the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development-Development Assistance Committee's (OECD-DAC's) disability marker (see Box 1) could add value to advocacy on the rights of persons with disabilities across international cooperation and humanitarian action.

This innovative research project was the first of its kind to be undertaken on the OECD-DAC disability marker.

The project's main objective was to highlight the very wide range of ways in which disability marker data and other marker data can be a useful tool for advocates across the disability movement, particularly OPDs, and organisations engaged in advocacy at national level in the Global South.

Through a series of case studies, many of them led by OPDs, the research illustrated how the disability marker can shed light on patterns of disability-inclusive spending in different country contexts; how marker data can be combined with other elements in the Creditor Reporting System database for more detailed insights; and how marker records can be an entry point for understanding how different OECD-DAC members are seeking to put disability inclusion into practice at project level. The research also sought to highlight limitations and barriers that advocates may encounter in trying to use the marker for their accountability work, and proposed ways in which the OECD-DAC, individual OECD-DAC members, and wider stakeholders could address some of these limitations in future.

"…to highlight the very wide range of ways in which disability marker data and other marker data can be a useful tool for advocates across the disability movement…"

Box 1: The disability marker

Official Development Assistance (ODA – or 'aid') spending – sometimes referred to as "aid" – amounted to 204 billion US dollars in 2022.[3] The OECD-DAC publishes detailed data on this spending through its Creditor Reporting System database. The database is a rich source of information on, for example, the countries where ODA is targeted, the sectors in which ODA is spent, and the extent to which ODA addresses cross-cutting themes such as gender equality.

While the database covered many important dimensions, until recently, it offered no systematic way to track how far ODA spending aimed to be inclusive of persons with disabilities.[4] But in 2018, the OECD-DAC made a potentially game-changing decision: it agreed to introduce a disability marker into the Creditor Reporting System.

The disability marker makes it possible for OECD-DAC members (and other users of the Creditor Reporting System) to categorise each one of their projects [5] using a simple three-point scoring system, which indicates whether or not the project has objectives on disability inclusion: [6]

The disability marker scoring system

- Score 2 means that inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities is the principal objective of the project
- Score 1 means that inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities is a significant objective of the project
- Score 0 means that the project does not target disability inclusion in any significant way
- "Blank" means that the OECD-DAC member has chosen not to use the disability marker for this project: use of the disability marker is voluntary.

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3 This total covers the 30 bilateral governments that were members of the OECD-DAC in 2022. If all countries that 'provide' ODA were included, the total would be even higher. The total is based on preliminary data, stated on a grant equivalent basis. Source: OECD-DAC, 2023, ODA levels in 2022 – preliminary data: detailed summary note, Table 1C

4 The only way to attempt such tracking was by searching the database for disability-specific key words – an approach that has been used by Development Initiatives, among others. However, this approach will miss projects that do not explicitly refer to such key words in the very brief descriptive fields in the database. As such, projects that seek to mainstream disability among a number of other objectives may be particularly liable to be missed. In addition, searching for key words is relatively labour intensive, which may limit how far this approach is feasible outside of formal research projects.

5 With the exception of administration costs and core contributions to multilateral organisations. The current set-up of the database means that responsibility for reporting on disability inclusion in core contributions to multilateral organisations rests with the multilateral organisations themselves, rather than the OECD-DAC members who fund them. Unfortunately, as discussed further below, as at 2020, no multilaterals [other than the EU] were taking the opportunity to use the disability marker in their own reporting through the Creditor Reporting System database.

6 Full details of the marker's definitions and eligibility criteria are given on pages 10 and 11 of OECD-DAC, 2020, The OECD-DAC policy marker on the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities : handbook for data reporters and users

A score of 2 does not necessarily mean that the project contributes more to the inclusion of persons with disabilities than a score of 1. Rather, scores 1 and 2 would commonly correspond to the two 'tracks' of the twin-track approach, with score 2 corresponding to disability-targeted activities, and score 1 corresponding to disability mainstreaming. [7]

Once each project has been allocated a score, the scores across different projects can then be combined, to give an overall indication of how far ODA spending aims to be inclusive of persons with disabilities.

Source: derived from OECD-DAC, 2020, The OECD-DAC policy marker on the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities: handbook for data reporters and users, page 13.

7 See OECD-DAC, 2016, Handbook on the OECD-DAC gender equality policy marker, page 6.

The research project – a collaborative and iterative approach with OPDs

Tracking the development assistance flows is critical to be able to push the dial further on disability inclusive development assistance. In 2022, along with OPD partners and country teams, CBM Global engaged in a pilot project focused on building knowledge, research, and analytical skills on how to use the DAC marker for evidence-based advocacy. Our main assumption for the project was if OPDs gain skills on how to access and analyse the DAC database, the analysis that comes forth will be grounded with the knowledge and expertise OPDs can bring on inclusion and rights. OPDs working with development partners can play an important role in strengthening the use of the disability marker and support its interpretation. The diagram below highlights the different stages of the 18-month project.

1. A series of skills development webinars on the disability marker.
2. A survey completed by project participants identify the priority issues on the disability marker they wish to investigate.
3. Five action research teams were formed, and the action research began.
4. Guidance and advice was available throughout the project for the research teams from a disability marker expert.
5. Case studies were produced looking at sectors, donor governments and governments where development assistance was provided.
6. **Project results are published and potential for a community of practice for advocacy on disability inclusive development assistance.**

The countries, sectors, and research teams questions

The research teams looked at the different type of data that the disability marker can produce, the different sectors and the other policy markers it can be used in combination with for broader analysis. The research team's questions focused on the following:

Share of ODA reported as disability-inclusive in Global South countries - Nigeria and Nepal

The Nepal team explored how do different development partners in Nepal perform, in terms of the share of ODA reported as disability-inclusive? What are the main channels through which disability-inclusive ODA is spent in Nepal? For example, how much is channelled to the Government? How much is channelled to non-governmental organisations? The Nigeria team focused on assessing three years' worth of data from OECD members ODA flow into Nigeria from five OECD countries - Australia, France, Germany, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

Share of ODA reported as disability-inclusive by specific OECD-DAC members – the EU and Denmark

Teams researching the EU and Denmark focused on how the Disability DAC marker looked in detail at how the coding system of DAC 1, 2 and 0 is interpreted. The OPD team focused on the EU research also developed a checklist to help test the reliability of reported DAC marker scores.

Understanding how the Disability DAC marker intersects with other cross-cutting themes

One of the areas of interest for one of the teams was cross-cutting themes. They looked at the disability marker and its intersection with other thematic markers.

Potential of the OECD-DAC disability marker to be a tool for Global Disability Summit monitoring

The consultant working with us on this explored the possibility of using the disability marker to hold governments to account on their GDS commitments.

Important to note

The data used for this project is not the most up to-date data as the project took place over an 18-month period and the focus of the project was not designed to be a quantitative analysis. Its focus was to explore the different ways the disability marker could be used for advocacy purposes. For the latest disability marker data, please consult the OECD DAC data base.

How to navigate the publication

This publication has several different sections, it has been designed in such a way that it can be read it as a whole publication or you can pick and choose sections that may be of particular interest to your advocacy work. The Guide below gives details of the content of each chapter.

Section 1: Key findings from the research

The key findings presented at the start of this report draw out overarching reflections from the experience of conducting the case studies and from the case study findings.

Section 2: The recommendations

The recommendations from this research has two main audiences, organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) and the OECD-DAC.

Section 3: Country and sector case studies

This section presents the country and sector case studies including their methodologies, their findings, and more specific recommendations.

Please note the footnotes in this publication are following the original footnotes submitted. This means there can be an issue with numbering but the footnotes are correct.

Section 1

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Key findings from the research

Each of the research teams has their own dedicated chapter in the publication which can be used for local advocacy purposes in their own context. CBM Global will use the publication for two purposes:

- Support on-going advocacy efforts by OPDs to engage with the disability marker.
- Partnering with OPDs to shape advocacy messages to strengthen the implementation of commitments on disability inclusive development assistance.

The findings shared in this section are the headline findings and have been synthesised by CBM Global with background support from Polly Meeks. The detailed findings are in each of the different authors chapters in the publication.

The individual chapters of the report are the responsibility of their authors alone. The publication has different styles of writing depending on authors preferences for writing and for terminology.

Key finding 1: The disability marker has great potential as an accountability tool for OPDs and advocates

By offering a standardised way to track disability inclusion objectives within ODA – covering both targeted interventions and disability mainstreaming – the disability marker offers powerful new insights into how far OECD-DAC members' project spending matches up with their obligations and commitments on disability inclusion, in particular Article 32 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The marker is not perfect as it can be interpreted differently by different OECD-DAC members, but provided its limitations are recognised, then it can be an important source of additional evidence for organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) and other advocates for effective advocacy. For example, OPDs and advocates from Nepal and Nigeria plan to present their findings to networks of stakeholders involved in international cooperation, as a starting point to advocate for OECD-DAC members working in those countries to increase their disability-inclusive spending. This can be a great starting point for connecting with development partners and sharing findings to strengthen the understanding of how the DAC marker can be used. It offers great potential also for influencing on increasing the share of disability inclusive spending.

Key finding 2: There are identifiable gaps in OECD-DAC members' implementation of Article 32 of the CRPD

Gap 1: The large majority of ODA in Nepal and Nigeria was not reported to have objectives on disability inclusion

In Nepal, around 15% of all ODA spending by the 31 bilateral members of the OECD-DAC was reported to be disability-inclusive in 2020. Looking at the OECD-DAC marker data for the remaining 85% of ODA spending by bilateral members of the OECD-DAC, there was no evidence that the inclusion of persons with disabilities was considered. There was considerable variation in how different OECD-DAC members performed. Some countries with high ODA spending in Nepal – the USA and Germany – did not use the disability marker at all. Other OECD-DAC members only reported a very low share of their spending as being disability-inclusive: Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, France, Japan, Poland, Sweden and Switzerland all reported less than 5% of their ODA spending in Nepal as disability-inclusive. In contrast, some OECD-DAC members reported a much higher share of their ODA as disability-inclusive. Ireland, Italy, New Zealand and the UK all reported over 30% of their ODA spending as disability-inclusive. When the European Union is included in the analysis alongside the bilateral members of the OECD-DAC, we see that it reported 100% of its ODA in Nepal (amounting to one single large project) as disability-inclusive in 2020.

Gap 2: While the OECD-DAC's cross-cutting markers cover themes of crucial importance for persons with disabilities, attention to disability inclusion across these themes is consistently very low.

The research team focused on cross-cutting themes found that out of the total number of allocable ODA projects 122 give positive scores on one of the eleven markers (taking each marker in turn), the share of projects that also had positive scores for disability inclusion was never more than 13%. This means that across all eleven cross-cutting marker themes, attention to disability inclusion is low. Some thematic markers pay more attention than others. Other analysis carried out by the research team included:

- **Comparing cross-cutting priorities:** the percentage is highest for disaster risk reduction (12.9%), and lowest for climate change mitigation (4.9%). Only 9.1% of allocable ODA projects with objectives on gender equality also had objectives on disability inclusion. And despite the severe impacts of climate change on persons with disabilities, only 5.8% of allocable ODA projects with objectives on climate change adaptation had objectives on disability inclusion to the inclusion of persons with disabilities.
- **Understanding the proportion of spend on disability inclusion within cross-cutting theme budgets:** the amounts of money involved are also very low on disability inclusion, when compared with total spending on the respective cross-cutting themes. For example, around 4.5 billion USD 120 of allocable ODA was reported to have objectives on both gender equality and disability inclusion. This equates to only around 9% of allocable overall ODA spending on gender equality.
- **Using overlaps between three markers simultaneously:** since multiple markers can be applied to a single project, it is also possible to examine how the disability marker overlaps with not just one, but two or more other markers simultaneously. In total, 13,361 allocable ODA projects were reported to have objectives on climate change adaptation. Of these, 8531 (around 64%) also had objectives on gender equality. However, the number of projects with objectives on climate change adaptation and gender equality and disability inclusion was only 629 – less than 5% of the total.

Key finding 3: Improved accessibility and better data can strengthen advocacy

Accessibility barriers to undertaking analysis

A fundamental challenge is that the Creditor Reporting System database is not accessible for screen-reader users. This imposed an immediate limitation on some researchers' participation in the project, as they were not freely able to browse the database and make their own downloads. Once data had been downloaded from the Creditor Reporting System into spreadsheets (in Microsoft's Excel or Apple's Numbers), in principle the process of analysis was accessible from that point onward. But in practice guidance on accessible use of tools such as pivot tables was not always easy to locate, especially for Numbers.

Use of the disability marker is voluntary

Some OECD-DAC members do not use the marker at all, and others do not apply it to all their spending. Our research in Nepal and Nigeria illustrates the challenges that this can cause. Very often also the OECD-DAC members not using the marker are significant donors which means there could be funding that is not trackable. It also means gaps cannot be identified in how the development partners are implementing Article 32 of the CRPD.

Uncertainties over data quality and gaps in documentation

The disability marker data is self-reported by development partners, and the OECD-DAC does not carry out extensive quality assurance. This means there is a risk that not all development partners will interpret the OECD-DAC guidance in an entirely comparable way. To start to test out the quality of reported disability marker scores, the teams attempted to compare a sample of EU and Danish ODA projects that had been given positive marker scores against supporting project documentation, using the evaluation checklist developed by the OPD team. However, significant challenges were encountered. For the EU, it was not possible to locate any detailed project documentation online for the projects in the sample used. For the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the availability of documentation varied, but in many cases there seemed "to be a mismatch between the marker scores stated in [the Creditor Reporting System] and what is actually reflected in the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs'] written materials."

Limitations in the design of the marker

The minimum criteria for the disability marker are very brief. The criteria represent a relatively low set of thresholds – lower than the thresholds in the guidance on the OECD-DAC's gender marker. Key gaps include:

- The disability marker criteria does not contain an explicit requirement that projects should **do no harm**. Doing no harm is listed simply as a recommended good practice, not as a requirement for all projects screened against the marker. This contrasts with the guidance for the gender marker, which makes doing no harm a minimum requirement for **all** marker scores, including 0.
- The gender marker guidance requires that all projects – even those scored 0 – should undertake a **gender analysis**. The disability marker guidance contains no such requirement.
- The gender marker guidance includes detailed criteria on the **monitoring and evaluation** of projects scored 1 or 2, which are not included in the disability marker guidance.
- What is more, the disability marker criteria does not include any requirement that, to achieve a score of 1 or 2, projects must closely consult with and actively involve **persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations**, even though this is a fundamental requirement under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- The Creditor Reporting System **does not have a purpose code on tracking funds to OPDs,** in contrast it does have a purpose code for tracking to women's organisations.

While these limitations in the marker design do not undermine the usefulness of marker data, they do restrict the conclusions that can be drawn. Advocates need to be cautious not to interpret positive marker scores as representing full compliance with the standards of the CRPD or even as equivalent to positive scores on the OECD-DAC's gender marker, but rather to recognise that, as things stand, positive scores represent an important but more modest first step towards disability inclusion.

Section 2

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Recommendations to different stakeholders

For OPDs

Recommendation 1: Make the most of the disability marker data

Make the most of the rich opportunities that the marker already presents as an advocacy tool. This is why this project came about in the first place to work with OPDs on its use. Although there is room to improve the disability marker, it is a powerful advocacy tool for tracking Global North government commitments on disability inclusive ODA. Carrying out these different steps below can help shape evidenced based advocacy messages.

- **Produce your own analyses of the amount of disability-inclusive ODA reported in different countries in the Global South.** The Center for Inclusive Policy has produced a step-by-step guide on how to do this. CBM Global has a series of how to do the analysis videos which will be made available. The videos are in International Sign. Sight Savers will have a new website with easily accessible and downloadable information available.
- **Produce customised analysis on your priority themes.** How to do this is available in the publication. This could be a deep dive into gender and disability, climate and disability and the other cross-cutting policy areas. In doing so, you can have more to say on how disability is mainstreamed across major development themes.
- **Look at a sample of projects reported as disability-inclusive, to explore whether these projects really meet basic criteria on disability inclusion.** Use the evaluation checklist which has been designed through this project (see Annex for evaluation checklist developed by one of the research teams)

Recommendation 2: Be clear about what the disability marker can and cannot tell us

The marker can give us some useful clues on whether OECD-DAC members are living up to their obligations under Article 32 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. But it is not enough to allow a full judgement to be made. The disability marker is most powerful when combined with other sources of data, including feedback from local OPDs themselves.

For OECD-DAC, individual OECD-DAC members, and wider stakeholders

Recommendation 1: Ensure that persons with disabilities can access the data

The OECD-DAC's Creditor Reporting System is not currently accessible to screen reader users. The OECD-DAC should make the database accessible, or else should offer an alternative accessible way for screen reader users to get to the data. At the end of 2023, the data is due to migrate to a new platform (OECD data explorer). The consultant supporting this publication had contacted the OECD-DAC statistics team to inquire about accessibility of the new platform, but has not yet received a response. So at the moment, we cannot have confidence that the new platform will be any more accessible for screen reader users than the old one. [8]

Recommendation 2: Making the disability marker mandatory and use it universally

To make the data as complete as possible, OECD-DAC members and other organisations that report data through the OECD-DAC's ODA database should make full use of the disability marker. However, this should not be done by simply allocating 0 as a default score. All projects should be properly screened, to ensure that at minimum projects do not do harm to persons with disabilities. The OECD-DAC acting collectively should promote the marker from voluntary to mandatory status.

In view of these accessibility challenges, screen reader users may incur extra costs (e.g. equipment, personal assistance, time) when doing detailed research on the data. These extra costs should be fully budgeted for by funders of organisations of person with disabilities.

8 CBM Australia (2023), page 16.

Recommendation 3: Take measures to improve data quality

To make the data more reliable, OECD-DAC members and other organisations that report data through the OECD-DAC's ODA database should:

- Improve the quality of their reporting. Approaches to improving data quality include: providing detailed training materials to all staff who will be involved in marker scoring (including context-specific examples); introducing an internal quality review process; introducing a peer review process within or between agencies; and collating and sharing lessons on common errors to avoid.
- Make project level data (including project plans and results frameworks) publicly available, including through the International Aid Transparency Initiative interface. This makes it possible for organisations of persons with disabilities and other external stakeholders to see – and form their own judgements on – the rationale for why marker scores of 1 and 2 have been awarded.
- Introduce a centralised quality assurance process for reported disability marker data. This could be done on a sample basis, for manageability. Lessons from the process – for example on common errors to avoid – should be widely shared.

Recommendation 4: Take steps to make the marker more robust

The OECD-DAC should take the following steps to strengthen the design of the marker:

- Introduce a clear minimum requirement on "do no harm" for all projects, including those marked 0.
- Align the disability marker criteria with the gender marker criteria, for example in the requirement that a disability analysis should be undertaken for all projects, and in the detailed requirements on monitoring and evaluation.
- Require all projects marked 1 or 2 to closely consult with, and actively involve, persons with disabilities through their representative organisations.
- To complement this, the OECD-DAC should also introduce a dedicated purpose code into the Creditor Reporting System, to track funding channelled directly to OPDs. This should take inspiration from its existing purpose code on funding to women's equality organisations and institutions.

Recommendation 5: Ensure that all ODA spending complies with the CRPD

The findings from the data itself are a reminder of the more fundamental recommendation that all OECD-DAC members and other organisations that report ODA spending should ensure that all their ODA is inclusive of, and accessible to, persons with disabilities.

Take steps to make the marker more robust

The OECD-DAC should take the following steps to strengthen the design of the marker:

- **Introduce a clear minimum requirement on "do no harm"** for all projects, including those marked 0
- **Align the disability marker criteria with the gender marker criteria**, for example in the requirement that a disability analysis should be undertaken for all projects, and in the detailed requirements on monitoring and evaluation
- **Require all projects marked 1 or 2 to closely consult with, and actively involve, persons with disabilities through their representative organisations**. To complement this, the OECD-DAC should also introduce a dedicated purpose code into the Creditor Reporting System, to track funding channelled directly to OPDs. This should take inspiration from its existing purpose code on funding to women's equality organisations and institutions. [43]

Ensure that all ODA spending complies with the CRPD

Finally, our detailed findings from the data itself are a reminder of the more fundamental recommendation that **all OECD-DAC members and other organisations that report ODA spending should ensure that all their ODA is inclusive of, and accessible to, persons with disabilities.**

Section 3

The case studies

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NEPAL CASE STUDY

Official Development Assistance for disability inclusion in Nepal: A first look at the data

By Rajesh Marasini (CBM Nepal) [9]

The opinions in this chapter are the sole responsibility of the author.

Introduction

In 2020,[10] development partners from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development-Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) reported spending of around 465 million US Dollars (USD) of Official Development Assistance (ODA) [11] in Nepal. This equates to over 56 billion Nepalese Rupees (NPR). [12]

This chapter presents analysis by CBM Global Nepal, which examines how far this ODA spending was reported to be inclusive of persons with disabilities. The chapter explores three main questions:

- Out of the total ODA spending in Nepal, **how much was reported to be disability-inclusive?**
- **How do different development partners in Nepal perform**, in terms of the share of ODA reported as disability-inclusive?
- **What are the main channels through which disability-inclusive ODA is spent in Nepal?** For example, how much is channelled to the Government? How much is channelled to non-governmental organisations?

The chapter also discusses plans to develop and use this analysis for future advocacy. The chapter concludes with some key recommendations for development partners.

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09 Polly Meeks also contributed to parts of the write-up.

10 At the time of preparing this chapter, 2020 was the most recent year for which data was available.

11 Bilateral ODA. Throughout this chapter, all references to ODA relate to bilateral ODA unless otherwise stated. (Definition : bilateral ODA is ODA provided by an individual development partner government (or the EU). For the purposes of this analysis, bilateral ODA covers all ODA spending **except** core contributions to multilateral agencies (e.g. the World Bank, UNICEF). Core contributions are contributions that can be pooled and used according to the multilateral agency's own priorities. Core contributions contrast with 'earmarked' contributions, where development partner governments provide ODA to multilateral agencies but this ODA must be used to implement specific projects. Earmarked projects are counted as bilateral ODA for the purposes of this analysis, since it is individual development partners, not multilateral agencies, who specify how the money is to be spent. For more information, see OECD, Frequently asked questions: Official Development Assistance, section on 'Donors and flows'.)

12 For details on the methodology for calculating the numbers in this paragraph, please refer to the methodology section below.

Methodology

The analysis in this chapter is based on ODA commitments data downloaded from the OECD-DAC Creditor Reporting System database (date of download: November 2022).[13] Data on 2020 was downloaded, as this was the most recent available data at the time when the analysis was undertaken. The data includes projects from all 30 members of the OECD-DAC, [14] and all projects where Nepal was reported as the main 'recipient'. All spending totals are stated in 2020 prices. Conversions from USD to NPR have been done using foreign exchange data for 30 June 2020 from the Nepal Rastra Bank.

How much ODA spending in Nepal was reported to be disability-inclusive?

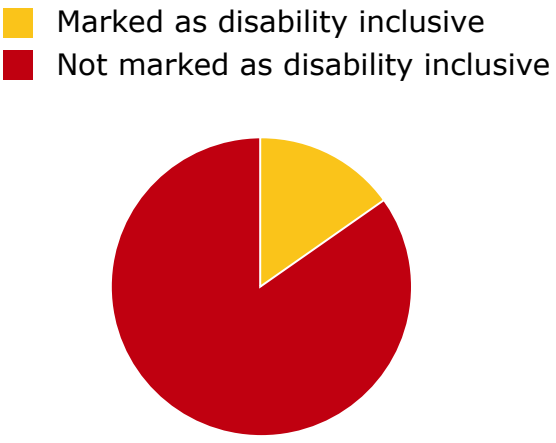
Data from the OECD-DAC disability marker shows that, out of the 465 million USD of ODA spent in Nepal in 2020, around 70 million USD was reported as being disability-inclusive: (i.e. inclusion of persons with disabilities was either a principal objective, or a significant objective). This is the equivalent of around 8.4 billion NPR.

In percentage terms, this means that around 15% of all ODA in Nepal in 2020 was reported to be disability-inclusive (Figure 1).

Looking at the OECD-DAC marker data for the remaining 85% of ODA, there is no evidence that the inclusion of persons with disabilities was taken into account. Either the marker was used, but projects were reported as not being disability-inclusive; or the marker was not used at all.

This is worrying, as the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) requires that international cooperation should consistently be inclusive of, and accessible to, persons with disabilities. [15] The CRPD also requires that appropriate statistics and data should be collected and disseminated to enable the CRPD to be implemented effectively. [16]

Figure 1: percentage of ODA in Nepal that was reported as disability-inclusive in 2020



The pie chart shows that a big part of the funding was marked as not disability inclusive.

13 For more information on how to download the data from the database, see Meeks/Center for Inclusive Policy, 2020, Getting the data: how much does aid money support inclusion of persons with disabilities?

14 For a list of OECD-DAC members, see the OECD-DAC home page. Lithuania joined the OECD-DAC in 2022, so it was not included in our analysis of the data for 2020.

15 UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, e.g. Article 32.

16 UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, e.g. Article 31.

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How do different development partners in Nepal perform, in terms of the share of ODA reported as disability-inclusive?

There is considerable variation in the share of ODA reported as disability-inclusive by different development partners in Nepal (Figure 2).

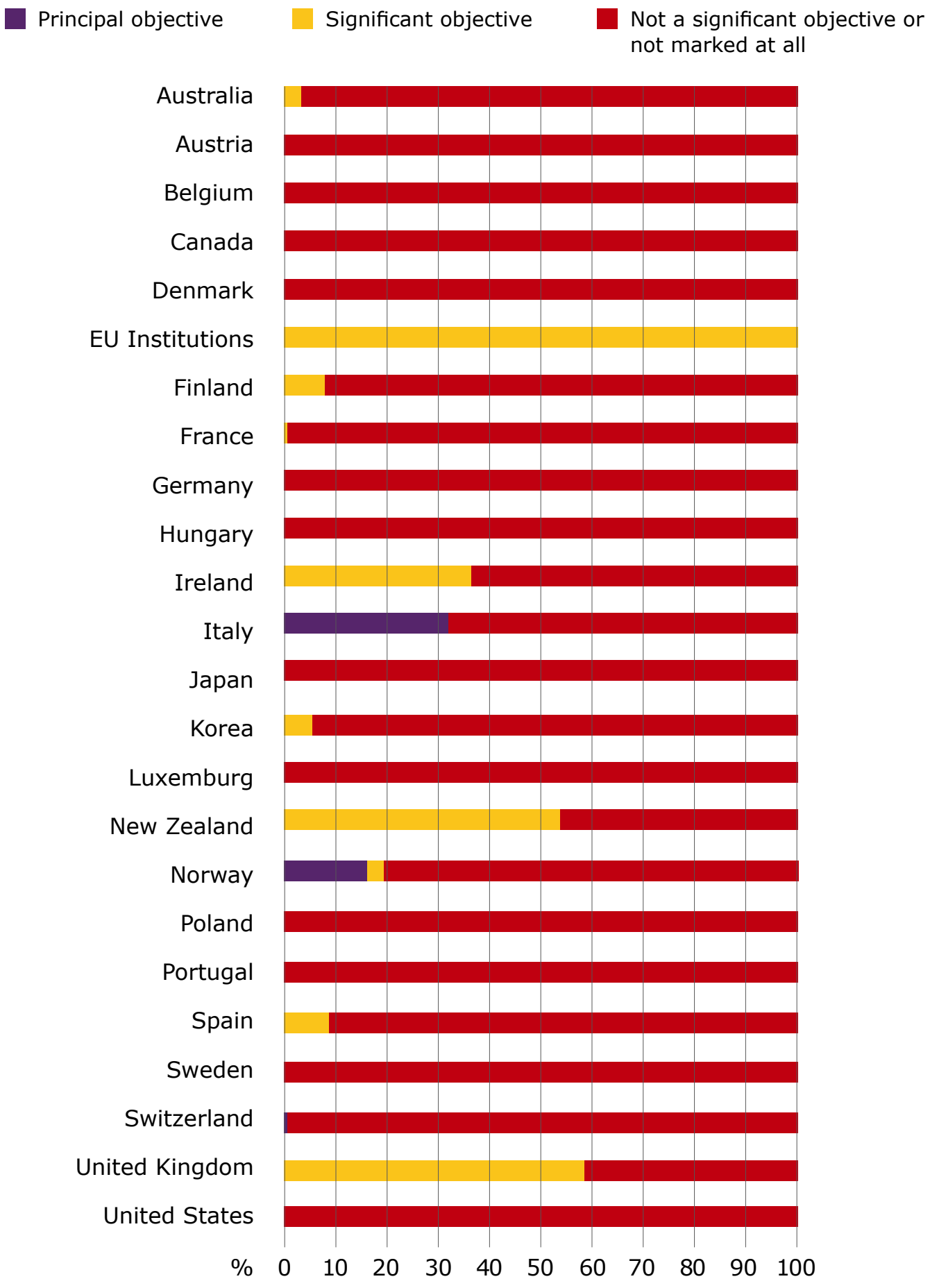
On the one hand, some development partners such as the USA and Germany do not use the OECD-DAC disability marker at all. The USA spent the most ODA of any OECD-DAC member in Nepal in 2020, and Germany spent the third most. Yet, based on the OECD-DAC marker data, there is no evidence that any of this ODA was disability-inclusive.

Several other development partners only reported a very low share of their spending as being disability-inclusive. Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, France, Japan, Poland and Switzerland all reported less than 5% of their ODA spending in Nepal as disability-inclusive.

On the other hand, some development partners reported a much higher share of their ODA as disability-inclusive. The European Union reported 100% of its ODA in Nepal (amounting to one single large project) as disability-inclusive. Ireland, Italy, New Zealand and the UK all reported over 30% of their ODA spending as disability-inclusive.

This variation suggests that there could be opportunities for some of the worst-performing development partners to learn from those development partners that are reporting a higher share of their ODA as disability-inclusive. However, some caution is needed when making comparisons: development partners self-report their marker scores, so it is possible that not all development partners interpret the OECD-DAC's scoring criteria in exactly the same way.

Figure 2: Percentage of ODA in Nepal with objectives on disability inclusion, from different OECD-DAC members



Note: the OECD-DAC disability marker has a three-point scoring system: development partners can report that disability inclusion is the principal objective of a project; that it is a significant objective of a project (alongside other objectives); or that disability inclusion is not a significant objective at all. For each project development partners also have the option of not using the marker at all.

The bar graph on the previous page shows an overview of 24 countries and how they have marked their projects. The 24 countries are Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, EU institutions, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States. The majority trend from the bar graph is that many of them have not marked a disability inclusive significant objective, or marked at all their projects for disability inclusion. EU institutions, Australia, Spain, New Zealand, Ireland and Korea highlight how some of their projects have marked as their significant objective as being disability inclusive. Norway and Italy have marked principal objective for some of their projects.

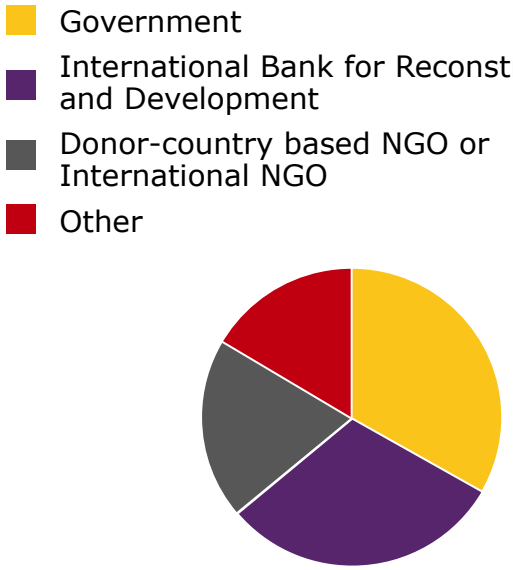
What are the main channels through which disability-inclusive ODA is spent in Nepal?

"Channels" describe the organisations to whom development partners transfer ODA in order to implement projects. [17] Some examples of channels include: the government of the country where ODA is spent, UN entities, non-governmental organisations, and private sector companies.

The large majority of ODA that was reported as being disability-inclusive in Nepal in 2020 was spent through just a few channels (Figure 3). The top two channels were : the Nepalese government; [18] and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (part of the World Bank Group). These channels each had one large project that was reported to be disability-inclusive. Apart from those two large projects, channels involving international or "donor-country" NGOs played a particularly important role in disability-inclusive ODA in Nepal in 2020: together these two types of NGOs accounted for around 19% of all ODA that was reported as disability-inclusive.

In contrast for many spending channels, very little ODA was reported as disability-inclusive. For example, around 10% of all ODA spending in Nepal went through two private sector channels: "private sector in provider country" and "private sector in recipient country". But **none** of this ODA was reported as disability-inclusive.

Figure 3: Percentage of disability-inclusive ODA in Nepal reported through different channels in 2020 [19]



This pie chart has 4 colours. Yellow colour means government, purple to mean international bank for reconstruction and development, grey to mean donor country-based NGO or International NGO and red to mean other. The pie chart shows that the main channels were government and international bank for reconstruction and development. They have the biggest portions of the pie. The smaller portions go to donor country based NGO or International NGO or other.

17 Channels were analysed using the "Channel of delivery name" in the Creditor Reporting System database.

18 Reported in the data as part of the "central government" code.

19 The total for "central government" code also includes one project that was channelled through the central government of the development partner country, rather than the central government of Nepal. However, the value of this project was very low, so it does not affect the overall patterns shown in the chart.

Future plans for analysis and advocacy

As far as we know, this is the first time that focused analysis has been done on the OECD-DAC disability marker data for Nepal. The analysis in this chapter is just a first step. CBM Global Nepal plans to continue the analysis to see how spending patterns develop over time. CBM Global Nepal also plans to share the findings with development partners and other stakeholders in Nepal, to advocate for more disability-inclusive ODA spending.

CBM Global Nepal would also like to expand the analysis to include multilateral organisations. However, these organisations do not currently use the OECD-DAC disability marker for their reporting. So in the short term, we will instead be advocating for these organisations to improve the transparency of their reporting on disability-inclusive spending.

Conclusion and recommendations

The OECD-DAC disability marker provides important new information on how far ODA in Nepal aims to be inclusive of persons with disabilities. The findings are worrying: for around 85% of ODA, there is no evidence that the inclusion of persons with disabilities was taken into account.

We recommend that:

- All OECD-DAC members should use the disability marker to report on their ODA spending in Nepal. Multilateral organisations should also adopt the disability marker.
- OECD-DAC members should rapidly increase the percentage of their ODA spending in Nepal that aims to be inclusive of persons with disabilities.
- OECD-DAC members should use results from the disability marker as a basis for peer learning, as the results give clues on where there may be good practices.
- OECD-DAC members should work to make sure that all channels of ODA spending are inclusive of persons with disabilities.

NIGERIA CASE STUDY

OECD-DAC disability marker analysis of ODA in Nigeria (2019 to 2021)

Dr Adebukola Adebayo (member of the Nigeria Association of the Blind, writing in a personal capacity).

With thanks for research assistance from Ibrahim Al-Ameen (University of Ahmadu Bello); and for generous advice from Ursula Grant (CBM UK) and Ekaete Umoh (CBM Nigeria).

The opinions in this chapter are the sole responsibility of the author. Editing and fact checking are the joint responsibility of the author and of Polly Meeks (who edited the case studies).

Introduction

The history of disability rights protection, inclusion, and service provision in Nigeria can not be written about without significant reference to the philanthropic support of overseas governments and NGOs. Before Nigeria's independence in 1960, the first disability rehabilitation and vocational skills training centers, primary schools, and other service provision institutions for persons with disabilities were established and funded by overseas Christian missionaries and international development NGOs. However, the enactment of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2006, and the adoption of the rights-based and development approaches to disability inclusion by multilateral and bilateral organizations and INGOs have influenced an appreciable increase in the volume of resources devoted to disability inclusion by these overseas organisations in Nigeria. [20]

Notwithstanding the observed increase in overseas support for disability inclusion in development programs in Nigeria, it is argued that disability inclusion remains underrepresented in the amount of official development assistance (ODA) flowing into Nigeria. Accordingly, this report presents quantitative analysis of disability inclusion in the ODA flow into Nigeria from five OECD countries (Australia, France, Germany, Sweden and the United Kingdom) between 2019 and 2021 using the OECD DAC disability marker. The five countries were selected based on the evidence provided by the Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities (JONAPWD), which is the federation of all organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) in Nigeria, with regards to the Association's experience and records of participation in development programs/projects supported by OECD countries.

20 Based on author's observations of overseas organisations' support for the Nigerian disability movement and its advocacy programmes.

Objective

The main objective of this analysis is to generate evidence on the level of disability inclusion in ODA flows into Nigeria from OECD countries for the purpose of using the same to advocate for more disability inclusion.

Methodology

The analysis in this chapter is based on secondary quantitative data generated from ODA commitments data downloaded from the OECD-DAC Creditor Reporting System database. [21] The data includes all projects where Nigeria was reported as the main 'recipient'. [22] All spending totals are stated in constant 2020 prices.

Data for each year is presented and analysed using pivot tables in line with guidelines provided by the Center for Inclusive Policy. Analysis for disability inclusion is presented to indicate:

- A general outlook of disability inclusion across the five OECD countries;
- Disability inclusion in two key sectors of education and health;
- A simple comparison of general disability inclusion among the five OECD countries.

21 OECD-DAC

22 Except projects channelled as core support to multilateral organisations, as these projects involve funding that is pooled and cannot be traced back to individual OECD-DAC member countries.

Overall spending patterns 2019 to 2021

A total of 362 individual ODA commitments were made to Nigeria in 2019; 290 commitments were implemented in 2020; and 298 commitments were implemented in 2021. The total value of commitments by the 5 countries was USD 1.24 billion in 2019; USD 774 million in 2020; and USD 406 million in 2021. Overall, France was the largest donor in 2019 and 2020, contributing a total of $798.3 million and $542.8 million respectively; Germany was the largest donor in 2021, contributing a total of $169.1 million.

Disability marker results: 2019

Based on the disability markers 0, 1, 2 and "blank":

- 0: Four of the five countries (United Kingdom, Australia, Sweden, and France) contributed a total ODA value of $81.96 million.
- 1: Two of the five countries (the United Kingdom and Australia) contributed a total ODA value of $128.22 million.
- 2: One of the five countries (France) contributed a total ODA value of $.59 million.
- "Blank": Three of the five countries (France, Germany and the United Kingdom) contributed a total ODA value of $1032.17 million. Germany marked **all** of its commitments as "blank".

Disability marker results: 2020

Based on the disability markers 0, 1, 2 and "blank":

- 0: Four of the five countries (United Kingdom, Australia, Sweden, and France) contributed a total ODA value of $73.1 million.
- 1: One of the five countries (the United Kingdom) contributed a total ODA value of $24.5 million.
- 2: None of the five countries made any ODA contributions under this scale of the DAC disability marker.
- "Blank": All five countries made ODA contributions under this scale of the DAC disability marker, amounting to a total ODA value of $676.1 million. Germany marked **all** of its commitments as "blank".

Disability marker results: 2021

Based on the disability markers 0, 1, 2 and "blank":

- 0: Four of the five countries (United Kingdom, Australia, Sweden, and France) contributed a total ODA value of $58.7 million.
- 1: Three of the five countries (France,[23] Sweden and the United Kingdom) contributed a total ODA value of $67.0 million.
- 2: One of the five countries (the UK) contributed a total ODA value of $0.2 million.
- "Blank": Four out of five countries (France, Germany, Sweden and the United Kingdom) made ODA contributions under this scale of the DAC disability marker, amounting to a total ODA value of $279.8 million. Germany marked **all** of its commitments as "blank".

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23 France contributed a total of $0.002 million, so this does not show up in the table due to rounding.

ODA for disability inclusion, 2019 to 2021: focus on education

Value of ODA commitments for education-related purposes, broken down by disability marker score, for each of the five OECD members, in 2019, 2020 and 2021.

The analysis in this section focuses in on ODA commitments for education-related purposes by the five countries, and breaks down how far these commitments were reported to be disability inclusive. Education-related purposes were identified judgementally from the OECD-DAC's total list of ODA purpose codes. The total value of commitments for education-related purposes was $116.8 million in 2019, $91.6 million in 2020, and $72.0 million in 2021.

Disability marker results: 2019

Based on the disability markers 0, 1, 2 and "blank":

- 0: Four of the five countries (United Kingdom,[24] Australia, Sweden, and France) contributed a total ODA value of $3.32 million.
- 1: One of the five countries (The United Kingdom) contributed a total ODA value of $4.23 million.
- 2: None of the five countries made any ODA contributions under this scale of the DAC disability marker.
- "Blank": Three of the five countries (France, Germany and the United Kingdom) contributed a total ODA value of $109.28 million. Germany marked **all** of its commitments as "blank".

Disability marker results: 2020

Based on the disability markers 0, 1, 2 and "blank":

- 0: Two of the five countries (Australia and France) contributed a total ODA value of $4.61 million.
- 1: One of the five countries (The United Kingdom) contributed a total ODA value of $6.17 million.
- 2: None of the five countries made any ODA contributions under this scale of the DAC disability marker.
- "Blank": All five countries made ODA contributions under this scale of the DAC disability marker, amounting to a total ODA value of $80.86 million. Germany and Sweden marked **all** of their education-related commitments as "blank".

24 The value contributed by the United Kingdom was $0.007 million, so it does not show in the table due to rounding.

Disability marker results: 2021

Based on the disability markers 0, 1, 2 and "blank":

- 0: Four of the five countries (Australia, Sweden, United Kingdom and France) contributed a total ODA value of $7.9 million.
- 1: One of the five countries (The United Kingdom) contributed a total ODA value of $6.4 million.
- 2: None of the five countries made any ODA contributions under this scale of the DAC disability marker.
- "Blank": Three out of the five countries (France, Germany, Sweden) made ODA contributions under this scale of the DAC disability marker, amounting to a total ODA value of $57.7 million. Germany marked **all** of its commitments as "blank".

ODA for disability inclusion, 2019 to 2021: focus on health

The analysis in this section looks at the value of ODA commitments for health-related purposes, broken down by disability marker score, for each of the five OECD members, in 2019, 2020 and 2021.

Disability marker results: 2019

Four out of the five sampled countries (Australia, France, Germany, United Kingdom) reported health-related ODA commitments in 2019.

Based on the disability markers 0, 1, 2 and "blank":

- 0: Three of the four countries (United Kingdom, Australia, [25] and France) contributed a total ODA value of $12.3 million.
- 1: One of the four countries (United Kingdom) contributed a total ODA value of $3.2 million.
- 2: None of the four countries made any ODA contributions under this scale of the DAC disability marker.
- "Blank": Two out of the four countries (Germany, United Kingdom) made ODA contributions under this scale of the DAC disability marker, amounting to a total ODA value of $36.5 million. Germany marked **all** of its commitments as "blank".

25 The value contributed by Australia was $0.02 million, so this does not show in the table due to rounding.

Disability marker results: 2020

Four out of the five sampled countries (France, Germany, Sweden, United Kingdom) reported health-related ODA commitments in 2020.

Based on the disability markers 0, 1, 2 and "blank":

- 0: Two of the four countries (France [26] and United Kingdom) contributed a total ODA value of $29.2 million.
- 1: One of the four countries (United Kingdom) contributed a total ODA value of $12.0 million
- 2: None of the four countries made any ODA contributions under this scale of the DAC disability marker
- "Blank": All of the four countries (France, Germany, Sweden, United Kingdom) made ODA contributions under this scale of the DAC disability marker, amounting to a total ODA value of $20.4 million. Germany and Sweden marked **all** of their health-related commitments as "blank".

Disability marker results: 2021

Four out of the five sampled countries (Australia, France, Germany, United Kingdom) reported health-related ODA commitments in 2021.

Based on the disability markers 0, 1, 2 and "blank":

- 0: Three of the four countries (United Kingdom, France and Australia) contributed a total ODA value of $10.4 million.
- 1: One of the four countries (France) contributed a total ODA value of $0.001 million (this value is too low to show up in the table above).
- 2: One of the four countries (United Kingdom) contributed a total ODA value of $0.2 million.
- "Blank": Two out of the four countries (France, Germany) made ODA contributions under this scale of the DAC disability marker, amounting to a total ODA value of $2.1 million. Germany marked **all** of its commitments as "blank".

26 The value contributed by France was $0.02 million, so this does not show in the table due to rounding.

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Discussion of findings

Overall spending patterns

As shown in the above tables, the flow of ODA into Nigeria from the five OECD countries between 2019 and 2021 has witnessed a rapid decrease. This is summarised as follows:

Table 1: Total ODA commitments targeting Nigeria from the five OECD countries, 2019 to 2021 [27]

This table shows that there has been a decrease between 2019 to 2021, from 1.24 billion in 2019 to 406 million in 2021.

Year	Total ODA commitments	Value (in USD)
2019	362	1.24 billion
2020	290	774 million
2021	298	406 million

In 2020, the total number of ODA commitments decreased by 20% with a corresponding decrease of 38% in the total ODA value. In 2021, total ODA commitments increased marginally by 3%, but the total ODA value decreased by 48%. Accordingly, between 2019 and 2021, the decrease in total ODA commitments stood at 18% with a corresponding decrease of 67% in the total ODA value.

However, despite the rapid year-on-year decrease in the general flow of ODA to Nigeria, there was a mixed-bag of increases and decreases in the distribution of ODA commitments across key themes including education and health. These are summarized as follows:

Table 2: Total ODA commitments by sector/theme from the five OECD countries, 2019-2021 [28]

This table shows that there have been fluctuations in education and health with the figures for 2021 being the lowest.

Year	Education (USD value)	Health (USD value)
2019	116.8 million	52.0 million
2020	91.6 million	61.6 million
2021	72.0 million	12.7 million

27 Excludes core contributions to multilateral agencies, as explained in footnote to the methodology.

28 Excludes core contributions to multilateral agencies, as explained in footnote to the methodology.

Disability inclusion

Generally, there is a disproportionately low level of disability inclusion in the flow of ODA into Nigeria from the five OECD countries. Evidence from the DAC disability marker scale 0, 1,2 and "blank" between 2019 and 2021 indicates that, from these five OECD countries: [29]

- **By far the largest value of ODA (around 82%) is left "blank" on the disability marker scale.** This means that, for the majority of ODA analysed for this research, it is impossible to determine how far those ODA commitments aimed to include persons with disabilities.

Out of the 18% of ODA commitments that are **not** left blank.

- Around 49% (by value) is rated on the "0" disability marker scale. **These ODA commitments are making at best only very marginal contributions to disability inclusion in Nigeria.** Projects receiving a score of "0" on the disability inclusion marker need not have any objectives or activities that target disability inclusion. [30]
- **Just over 50% (by value) are rated "1"** on the disability marker. This indicates an appreciable concentration of ODA by some of the OECD countries on mainstreaming disability inclusion into their development programs and projects.
- As shown on the scale "2" of the disability marker, ODA contributions in USD value represented less than 0.2%. [31] This indicates that a **very large volume of ODA from the five countries are not tailored to address disability-specific inclusion.**

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29 Analysis excludes core contributions to multilateral agencies, as explained in footnote to the methodology.

30 OECD-DAC, 2020, The OECD-DAC policy marker on the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities: handbook for data reporters and users, pages 13 and 14.

31 Percentages in these bullet points do not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Recommendations and next steps

In view of the findings listed above, the following recommendations are proposed:

- OECD-DAC countries should **increase their ODA contributions towards disability inclusion**, and should give particular priority to scaling up funding for disability-specific development programs/projects (i.e. score 2 on the disability marker scale).
- There is a need to **improve the DAC disability marker tool with qualitative analytical tools** that can be used to generate qualitative evidence especially with regards to the rationale for variations in the levels of disability inclusion as indicated in the DAC disability marker scale.
- Based on consultations with JONAPWD during the writing of this report, it is observed that **OPDs in Nigeria require more awareness and the technical capacity to understand and use the DAC disability marker tool.** As such, OECD-DAC countries should support OPDs to learn how to use the tool.

To achieve the above recommendations:

- It will be appropriate for OPDs to **engage relevant overseas governmental and non-governmental development agencies** for the purpose of disseminating the findings of this analysis and conducting advocacy respectively.
- To conduct the dissemination and advocacy, **OPDs will be able to take advantage of the engagement platform provided by the newly established Nigeria Partnership for Disability-Inclusive Development (NIPDID)** which comprises of multilateral and bilateral organisations, international non-governmental development organisations, OPDs and other disability-focused CSOs, as well as a few relevant Ministries and Agencies of the Nigerian government.

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CASE STUDY

Could the OECD-DAC disability marker be a tool for Global Disability Summit monitoring?

By Polly Meeks

I am grateful for very valuable discussions with José Viera (International Disability Alliance), Ina Lykke Jensen (Disabled People's Organisations Denmark), and Dr Mary Keogh and Dr Elizabeth Lockwood (CBM Global Disability Inclusion). **The opinions in this chapter are the sole responsibility of the author.**

Introduction

The first Global Disability Summit (GDS) in 2018 culminated in 968 individual commitments to promote rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities. At the second GDS in 2022 a further 1412 new commitments were added. [32] This included many commitments from government international cooperation agencies, from multilateral bodies, and from philanthropic organisations that use the OECD-DAC Creditor Reporting System to report on their international cooperation activities. [33]

A well-established process exists to track progress against GDS commitments, including regular progress reports. [34] However, the most recent report notes that more information is needed on the funding that organisations devote to implementing their commitments. [35]

This chapter explores how far data in the OECD-DAC's Creditor Reporting System database – particularly the disability marker – could help to fill this gap.

What the database can tell us

The data in the Creditor Reporting System can potentially contribute to GDS monitoring in at least two ways. First, data from the disability marker can contribute to tracking headline patterns in organisations' commitment to disability inclusion. Second, the database's more detailed project-by-project records can also be used for GDS accountability.

32 International Disability Alliance, Global Disability Summit report 2022, page 16.

33 For more detail on the range of organisations that made commitments, see International Disability Alliance, Global Disability Summit report 2022, page 16 and International Disability Alliance, Global Disability Summit – one year on: accountability report 2019, Table 2 on page 22.

34 For more background, see International Disability Alliance, Global Disability Summit report 2022, page 14.

35 International Disability Alliance, Global Disability Summit report 2022, e.g. section on page 37 on "how we track investments".

Background: the diversity of GDS commitments on international cooperation

GDS commitments on international cooperation cover a very wide range of interventions. They include:

- **Commitments relating to advocacy towards, or coordination with, other international cooperation actors.** For example, at the 2022 GDS, the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs committed to "join the Global Action on Disability (GLAD) to support multi-stakeholder coordination and to strengthen the knowledgebase across the Danish MFA and in Danish development cooperation." [36]
- **Commitments to enhance organisation-wide or sector-specific policies and processes** for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in international cooperation. For example, at the 2018 GDS, the UK Department for International Development committed to "publish a new Disability Framework … setting out how we will put disability at the heart of our work." [37]
- **Commitments to fund specific projects or organisations.** For example, at the 2018 GDS, the Australian Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade committed to fund the Pacific Disability Forum to undertake an analysis on the situation of deaf and hard of hearing people in the Pacific. [38]

These different types of commitments may require different monitoring approaches. The first type – on advocacy and coordination – may often be a small part of a much broader budget line, so would not necessarily show up in the Creditor Reporting System, and other monitoring approaches are likely to be more suitable.

But the Creditor Reporting System could potentially contribute to monitoring the second and third types of commitments on policies/processes, and on funds to specific projects/organisations, albeit in different ways. The following paragraphs set this out in more detail.

Using headline disability marker results for monitoring policies and processes

The disability marker is potentially a useful tool to help gauge progress against GDS commitments on policies or processes for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in international cooperation. In principle, the marker makes it easy to track headline trends on whether, in the years that follow their GDS commitments, organisations start to report more projects, and a higher amount of spending, as disability-inclusive.

Table 1 draws on marker data from six OECD-DAC members that made commitments to strengthen their policies or processes on disability inclusion at the 2018 GDS. It presents the share of allocable [39] Official Development Assistance projects reported as disability-inclusive by these OECD-DAC members (as a percentage of all their allocable ODA projects) in the three years that followed the GDS.

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36 Source: Global Disability Summit commitments portal

37 Source: Global Disability Summit commitments portal

38 Source: Global Disability Summit commitments portal

39 Allocable Official Development Assistance comprises seven types of Official Development Assistance that the OECD-DAC deems more relevant to marker analysis. For more background, please see Meeks/Center for Inclusive Policy Getting the data: how much does aid money support inclusion of persons with disabilities?, pages 10 and 11. If the analysis had considered all types of Official Development Assistance, not only those types deemed 'allocable', it is likely that the percentages in Table 1 would be lower.

Table 1: percentage of allocable Official Development Assistance projects reported as disability-inclusive in the three years following the 2018 GDS, for six OECD-DAC members

This table lists the 6 members from OECD-DAC: Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Finland, Sweden, United Kingdom. The 3 year period is 2018 to 2021 and over the three years it shows a variation in each country's record but also collectively. For example, UK and Finland had the highest number and Australia, Sweden, Canada and Aotearoa New Zealand all had similar scores below 12.

Country	2019	2020	2021
Aotearoa New Zealand	5	12	8
Australia	3	6	6
Canada	7	6	9
Finland	6	17	25
Sweden	5	5	8
United Kingdom	15	20	17

Source: author's analysis of OECD-DAC Creditor Reporting System data on allocable ODA commitments (data downloaded in February 2023). Negative commitments were excluded from the analysis. Please note that the percentages relate to the number of projects, not the value of spending on those projects. Projects 'reported as disability-inclusive' means projects that were given a score of 1 or 2 on the disability marker.

As the disability marker is a new marker and OECD-DAC members are still building their capacity in marker reporting, headline scores such as those in Table 1 need to be treated with some caution. It would at this stage be spurious to read too much into the details: this is discussed further in the section on limitations below. Still, the data can be useful as a first, quick, warning sign: [40] if OECD-DAC marker results suggested that attention to disability inclusion was declining, while GDS commitments suggested that attention to disability inclusion should be increasing, this would indicate that there could be a problem in translating the commitments to action. Encouragingly, this does not seem to be the case for the data on any of the six OECD-DAC members in Table 1.

As the quality of reporting improves and as longer time series become available, it would also be possible to apply the same approach to sector-specific data. For example, if an organisation has committed, at the GDS, to strengthen its policies on disability inclusion in humanitarian action, the data in the Creditor Reporting System could be filtered to focus just on humanitarian projects, to see if the commitment to stronger policies is matched by a commensurate increase in projects reported as being disability-inclusive.

40 With thanks to **Hannah Loryman** (Sightsavers) for discussions on this point.

Using detailed item-by-item records for monitoring the funding of projects and organisations

The project-by-project records in the Creditor Reporting System database can offer further insights into the implementation of GDS commitments at a more detailed level.

For example, if an organisation has committed to fund a particular project or organisation, it should often be possible to check that this funding is subsequently listed in the Creditor Reporting System. (However, this will not always be the case, as if the funding is amalgamated with other initiatives under the umbrella of a larger project, then it will not show up in the database – so as above, caution should be used in drawing firm conclusions).

Or to take another example, if an organisation has committed to prioritise a particular under-represented population of persons with disabilities, a word-search of the database may help to identify whether this commitment is reflected in the kinds of projects that the organisation supports. [41] (Again, though, caution is needed, as the findings from such an analysis may depend on the level of detail that organisations include within their project descriptions).

Limitations and opportunities for the future

As the above discussion shows, data in the Creditor Reporting System database can already be a useful complement to other GDS monitoring tools, as it offers clues on the extent to which organisations' project level funding choices follow some of their GDS commitments.

However, such analysis is currently limited by the quality of data reported through the Creditor Reporting System. In particular, the quality of reporting against the disability marker is not yet thought to be fully reliable, such that comparisons between different years and between different organisations need to be treated with considerable caution. (Please see other chapters of this report for some further discussion on data quality issues). In addition, many organisations that report through the Creditor Reporting System have not yet adopted the disability marker – or have only adopted it for a small share of their projects. In 2021, the most recent year for which data are available, no multilateral organisations, [42] and only two philanthropic organisations, used the disability marker in their Creditor Reporting System data. [43] A number of bilateral members of the OECD-DAC, including the USA and Germany which have two of the largest Official Development Assistance budgets, also do not use the marker. [44]

More fundamentally, the disability marker and the data in the Creditor Reporting System will never, on their own, be able to paint an exhaustive picture of progress against GDS commitments. This is partly because disability marker eligibility criteria are relatively basic and cannot necessarily be interpreted as representing full compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (see also discussion in the overview chapter at

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41 For an example using a word-search methodology to identify projects that aim to be inclusive of persons with intellectual disabilities, please see Inclusion International, Excluded from the excluded : people with intellectual disabilities in (and out of) Official Development Assistance, pages 5 to 11.

42 For the purposes of this analysis, the EU counts as a bilateral organisation, as - like bilateral governments - it is a member of the OECD-DAC.

43 Atlas Alliance, 2023, Tracking disability-inclusive development: making the most of the OECD-DAC disability policy marker to promote equality and inclusion in international development and humanitarian assistance, page 10.

44 Source: author's analysis of Creditor Reporting System data.

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the start of this report). It is also because disability marker data is usually reported at an early stage in the project cycle, so the marker tells us more about projects' objectives than their actual results.

As such, marker data will always need to be complemented with other sources of data for comprehensive GDS monitoring. For example, using marker data alone, it is not possible to gain a complete understanding of the outcomes of GDS commitments for organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) – such as, whether OPDs are meaningfully engaged in new GDS projects; whether GDS commitments result in more and better support for the work of OPDs in their activities, etc. To form a complete assessment on these kinds of questions would require additional qualitative data, including crucially feedback from OPDs themselves. Nevertheless, if, over time, some of the current gaps in the use and quality of Creditor Reporting System disability marker data are addressed, then opportunities to use the data for GDS accountability will rapidly multiply. In particular, as data quality improves, it will be possible to put more faith in the detailed evidence on trends over time, and to develop more granular analysis covering trends in cross-cutting thematic areas such as gender and disability, or trends in detailed sectoral areas such as social protection.

It is hoped that OECD-DAC members and other organisations that use the Creditor Reporting System will take rapid steps to increase the volume and quality of disability marker data, so that the marker delivers on its full potential as a GDS accountability tool.

CASE STUDY

What kinds of projects are reported as disability-inclusive? Towards a methodology for scrutinising project data

By Lilia Angelova-Mladenova (European Network on Independent Living) and Polly Meeks

With many thanks to Nadia Hadad (European Network on Independent Living), Anne Sofie Hagen Herskind (Disabled Peoples' Organisations Denmark) and Salvatore Nocerino Telleria (CONCORD Europe). Thanks also for valuable past discussions on some of these issues with Hannah Loryman (Sightsavers) and Katariina Sario (independent consultant, formerly at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland). **All opinions, and any errors, are the authors' sole responsibility.**

Overview

Underlying the headline statistics on the OECD-DAC disability marker, there is a range of more detailed data on the individual projects that were reported as disability-inclusive.

This chapter describes our first steps towards developing a methodology for doing more in-depth work on this detailed data, to get further insights into (I) the quality of reporting using the disability marker and (II) the quality of the marker's design. The chapter also describes our attempt to pilot the methodology on a sample of projects reported by the European Union (EU).

A copy of the evaluation checklist that we developed is available in Annex 1. While this checklist is only a prototype, we hope it can be a useful starting point for OPDs who would like to begin to investigate how far development partners' projects live up to their reported marker scores for disability inclusion.

Background and objectives

The importance of the OECD-DAC's project level disability marker data

One of the strong points of the OECD-DAC disability marker is that data is not just available in summary form (for example, data on the total value of spending reported as disability-inclusive): users of the data are also able to drill down into project-by-project records, so that we can see in detail exactly which projects have been given positive scores for disability inclusion.

This project level data is valuable in many ways. For example, if an organisation of persons with disabilities (OPD) is researching a particular development partner's policies for promoting the rights of persons with disabilities, project level disability marker data can help build up a more detailed understanding of how such policies are put into practice, and can give some clues about where there may be strengths or gaps in that development partner's approach. Or if an OPD is hoping to enter into a collaboration with development partners, project level data can help identify which development partners have engaged in similar collaborations in the past.

In addition, project level data can be valuable for scrutinising the quality and reliability of the marker scores that development partners report. Such scrutiny is the focus for the rest of this chapter.

The importance of scrutinising disability marker data quality

Disability marker data is self-reported by development partners, and the OECD-DAC does not carry out extensive quality assurance. [45] This means there is a risk that not all development partners will interpret the OECD-DAC guidance in an entirely comparable way. [46]

Research on the quality of disability marker data has so far been limited, but a recent evaluation on disability inclusion in Norwegian Official Development Assistance noted that the evaluation team had found some disability marker scores needed to be revised downwards. [47] Research on the OECD-DAC gender marker, which is designed in a similar way to the disability marker, gives further evidence that development partners sometimes tend to be overly generous in their approach to marker scoring. [48]

These doubts over data quality do not prevent the disability marker from being a valuable tool, provided that its limitations are understood. As the analysis elsewhere in this report shows, marker data already offers great potential for learning and accountability: even without extensive quality assurance, the data can give important clues on areas where development partners need to strengthen their work on the inclusion of persons with disabilities, as well as helping to pinpoint potential examples

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45 OECD-DAC, 2020, The OECD-DAC policy marker on the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities : handbook for data reporters and users, page 22.

46 For more discussion on this point, see Atlas Alliance, 2023, 'Tracking inclusion: making the most of the OECD-DAC disability inclusion policy marker to promote equality and inclusion in international development and humanitarian assistance', pages 16 to 18.

47 Watkins, Christopolos and others/NIDAS, 2022, Evaluation of persons with disabilities in development cooperation, page 22. Further indicative evidence comes from Development Initiatives, 2020, Disability-inclusive ODA: aid data on donors, channels, recipients, section titled 'Findings from the DAC marker'.

48 See for example Grabowski and Essick/Oxfam, 2020, Are they really gender equality projects? An examination of donors' gender-mainstreamed and gender equality-focused projects to assess the quality of gender-marked projects

of better practices. Conversely, no matter how reliable marker data becomes, it will still only be a blunt instrument for gauging how far Official Development Assistance spending is designed to comply with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as intrinsic limitations in the design of the marker means it does not give us enough information to form a complete judgement (see for example the further discussion in the overview section at the start of this report).

Still, it is important to strive for the data to be as accurate as possible. The more reliable the data gets, the more detailed and concrete the resulting insights will become. Quality assurance of marker data can thus play an important role in decision making on disability inclusion better informed.

The potential for OPDs to get involved in scrutinising marker data quality

Primary responsibility for quality assuring disability marker data should lie with individual development partners and with the OECD-DAC. But there is potentially an important complementary role for OPDs to play, by bringing an independent expert view on whether marker projects reported to be disability inclusive are really meeting basic inclusion standards in practice.

So far as we know, before we did this work, OPDs had not had the chance to undertake systematic scrutiny work on the quality of development partners' reported disability marker data. We wanted to explore what scrutiny might be possible, using the OECD-DAC's project level disability marker records, and comparing these records to other project data in the public domain.

Our work had two main steps : (I) developing a prototype evaluation checklist that could be used to scrutinise projects reported as disability-inclusive ; and (II) attempting to pilot the checklist on a small sample of projects that had been reported as disability-inclusive by the European Union.

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Development of the evaluation checklist

Approach

Our aim in developing this checklist was to identify a suggested set of standard questions that could be used to assess any project reported as disability-inclusive using the OECD-DAC disability marker, drawing solely from documentation available online. This approach was inspired by Oxfam's work to assess the reliability of reporting using the OECD-DAC gender marker. [49]

The checklist is divided into two sections. The first section contains a set of basic questions based on the criteria set out in the OECD-DAC handbook on the disability marker. [50]

However, the OECD-DAC's criteria for the disability marker are very brief – more so than the criteria for the OECD-DAC's gender marker. [51] We therefore added a second section to the checklist, with additional questions based on the gender marker criteria, [52] and on the fundamental obligation to ensure full and meaningful engagement of OPDs in all international cooperation activities. [53] Adding these additional questions also ensures that our prototype checklist reflects key recommendations on design and implementation of the marker made by the International Disability Alliance, International Disability and Development Consortium, European Disability Forum and allies. [54]

The OECD-DAC disability marker offers two possible scores for disability inclusive projects (score 2 – disability inclusion is the principal objective; and score 1 – disability inclusion is a significant objective), so where applicable throughout the checklist, the questions are differentiated to match the slightly different definitions for these alternative scores.

The full checklist is presented in Annex 1.

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49 Grabowski and Essick, 2020, Are they really gender equality projects?, particularly pages 11 and 12.

50 OECD-DAC, 2020, The OECD-DAC policy marker on the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities: handbook for data reporters and users, pages 10, 11, 14 and 15.

51 For more analysis on the gaps between the disability marker and gender marker criteria, see Atlas Alliance, 2023, 'Tracking inclusion: making the most of the OECD-DAC disability inclusion policy marker to promote equality and inclusion in international development and humanitarian assistance', pages 19 to 24.

52 OECD-DAC, 2016, Handbook on the OECD-DAC gender equality policy marker, pages 10 and 11.

53 UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, e.g. Article 4 (3).

54 International Disability Alliance, European Disability Forum, International Disability and Development Consortium and Global Action on Disability Network (2019), Call to action on implementation of the disability DAC marker; International Disability and Development Consortium and International Disability Alliance (2018), IDDC and IDA submission on the proposal for the introduction of a policy marker to track development finance in support of persons with disabilities in the CRS (point 2.5).

Limitations

To finalise a checklist for this purpose would require extensive expert consultation – particularly consultation with OPDs. Within the scope of this project, such a large-scale consultation was not possible, so two important limitations of the checklist should be borne in mind.

First, in view of the limited opportunities for consultation, we deliberately scoped the checklist in a cautious way. **The checklist is in no way intended to be a full list of the criteria that projects would need to meet in order to comply fully with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**. Rather, the questions simply seek to highlight any clear gaps where projects do not appear to meet the basic criteria expected by the OECD-DAC in its marker guidance (for the disability or gender markers), as well as the fundamental requirement that OPDs should be meaningfully engaged.

Second, even allowing for the above caution, **the checklist presented here should not be treated as a final definitive version, but rather as a prototype to be refined through wider consultation in future**.

More broadly, our overall approach also has the limitation that it is based solely on published project documentation. This is deliberate, as we wanted to use methods that would be available to advocates anywhere in the world (provided they have an internet connection), without needing to have any special contacts. To get a complete picture of the extent to which projects are disability inclusive would require additional sources of evidence. Such sources of evidence would include interviews with OPDs in the project locality (if the OPD advocates undertaking the research are based elsewhere); and potentially also site visits, review of unpublished documentation, and interviews with implementers. Still, relying on publicly available documents should give some good basic indications on the extent to which disability inclusion has been considered in basic project planning and monitoring processes.

Despite the various limitations in our approach, we hope the prototype checklist can be a useful starting point for other OPDs who would like to begin to investigate how far development partners' projects live up to their reported marker scores for disability inclusion.

Addendum, April 2023

Interestingly, since we completed the substantive work to design and test the checklist during winter 2022-23, the European Commission has published its own briefing note on the application of the OECD-DAC disability marker. [55] Like our checklist, the European Commission's briefing includes some additional elements that are not present in the OECD-DAC's guidance on the marker. For example, both the European Commission's briefing and our checklist include the concept of an assessment of barriers facing persons with disabilities/ an analysis of the situation of persons with disabilities [56] – a concept that is not present in the OECD-DAC's scoring criteria for its disability marker, but is adapted from the OECD-DAC's recommended minimum criteria for its **gender** marker.

It was beyond the scope of our current work to complete a full review of the European Commission's briefing note on the disability marker. We note that some elements from our checklist, such as a requirement that – even for projects marked 1 – OPDs must always participate effectively in decision making and be meaningfully involved throughout all stages of the project, are not fully included in the European Commission's marker briefing note. [57] In future it would be valuable to undertake a more complete assessment of the European Commission's briefing note, and to explore whether it could be expanded further. In any case, the European Commission's briefing illustrates that there are opportunities to strengthen the OECD-DAC's current specification of the disability marker, a point highlighted further in our recommendations below.

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55 Lipponen/European Commission, 2023, Guidance note: leaving no-one behind – disability inclusion in EU external action, Annex 3, pages 39 to 43.

56 Lipponen/European Commission, 2023, Guidance note : leaving no-one behind – disability inclusion in EU external action, Annex 3, page 41. (However, the EU briefing note on the disability marker only applies the concept of disability analysis to marker scores of 1 and above: unlike the OECD-DAC's minimum criteria on the gender marker, it does not say that an analysis of the situation of persons with disabilities should be conducted even for projects that are scored 0. Source: Lipponen/European Commission, 2023, Guidance note : leaving no-one behind – disability inclusion in EU external action, Annex 3, pages 41 to 43; OECD-DAC, 2016, Handbook on the OECD-DAC gender policy marker, page 10).

57 Some recommendations on consultation with persons with disabilities and OPDs are included in the European Commission's wider guidance note on disability inclusion in EU External Action, but specifically in the context of the European Commission's **briefing note on the disability marker**, the requirements on consultation are limited. Consultation with persons with disabilities is a mandatory requirement for projects scored 2, but is only listed as one of several alternative options – **not a requirement** – for a project to qualify for a score of 1. (Source: Lipponen/European Commission, 2023, Guidance note : leaving no-one behind – disability inclusion in EU external action, pages 18 and 19 and Annex 3, pages 41 to 43). What is more, it is not clear how extensive and meaningful such consultation would be (for a brief snapshot of some dimensions that affect the meaningfulness of consultation, see International Disability Alliance, Increasingly consulted, not yet participating: IDA global survey on participation of organisations of persons with disabilities in development programmes and policies, 2020, section on 'What we understand by participation of OPDs', page 20).

Selection of projects for analysis

As a first step, we obtained a list of all EU-funded projects, marked 1 or 2 using the OECD-DAC disability marker though the Creditor Reporting System database of the OECD-DAC. In November 2022, when the search was carried out, there was information available for years 2018, 2019 and 2020. Data were downloaded on a commitments basis, and only 'allocable' projects were considered. [58] The table below provides a summary of the results in terms of number of projects and disability marker score.

This table shows the majority of EU funded projects from 2018 to 2020 - the majority were marked with score 0, projects marked with score 1 increased between 2018 to 2020 and projects marked score 2 fluctuated between 2018 to 2020 with the highest scored 2 in 2019.

Year	Score 0	Score 1	Score 2
2018 [59]	1070	5	14
2019 [60]	1132	71	30
2020 [61]	1124	199	7

We used the following criteria to select a smaller sample of project for analysis:

- **Overall purpose:** projects in areas such as human rights, employment, education, social protection, and civil society. These are areas in which the European Network on Independent Living has relevant knowledge and experience and is able to better assess the use of the marker.
- **Channel of implementation:** projects implemented by public institutions at national level, including national or local authorities or other public body. We chose to focus on domestic public institutions rather than on international organisations and institutions (e.g. multilateral organisations, UN bodies, NGOs) in order to learn more about how the EU interacts with national governments in the field of disability.

A list of 16 projects which satisfied both criteria was made. Due to time and resource constraints, we further narrowed down the list and selected 6 projects for a more detailed review. We sought to achieve a diversity of the sample in terms of regions, years, purpose and score.

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58 Allocable Official Development Assistance comprises seven types of Official Development Assistance that the OECD-DAC deems more relevant to marker analysis. For more background, please see Meeks/Center for Inclusive Policy Getting the data: how much does aid money support inclusion of persons with disabilities?, pages 10 and 11. If the analysis had considered all types of Official Development Assistance, not only those types deemed 'allocable', the proportion of projects scored 0 would probably have been higher, since in general it is rarer for non-allocable ODA to attract positive disability marker scores.

59 In addition, a further 194 allocable EU projects were not given any marker score in 2018.

60 In addition, a further 53 allocable EU projects were not given any marker score in 2019.

61 In addition, a further 79 allocable EU projects were not given any marker score in 2020.

Attempts to find project data and challenges encountered

Applying the evaluation checklist to the selected projects required examining detailed project level evidence, such as project plans, result-chain indicators, etc.

Initially, two main channels were used to search for detailed information about the selected projects:

- the EU Aid Explorer database, which contains data about the development assistance provided by the EU and its Member States, and
- the International Aid Transparency Initiative (ITAI) database, d-portal covering a wider range of stakeholders, including but not limited to the EU.

We found that some information about the projects was available on both databases. However, it was too brief and general – for example, project start/end date, funding amount, relevant policy markers, participants, and a one-sentence project description. Although the EU Aid Explorer database had a dedicated section for project-related documents, no documents were made available there.

Unable to obtain project related evidence through the databases, we looked for any information that might be available in the public domain. We used the following sources:

- Capacity4Dev website – the EC's knowledge sharing platform for International Cooperation and Development, which has a group on disability.
- The webpages of the EU Delegations in some of the countries.

We were still not able to find data about the selected projects. While there was some information about EU-funded initiatives on the Capacity4Dev website, it mostly concerned the Bridging the Gap project, a flagship initiative of the European Union for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in development cooperation, and sought to promote good examples. The websites of the EU Delegations also did not contain relevant project information.

Overall, the challenges we faced with finding publicly available specific project information did not allow us to get an adequate understanding of the projects and to carry out the planned analysis of the relevance of the DAC score.

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Recommendations

Based on the experience from the research, **the following recommendations can be made to the EU:**

- **More information should be made available** about the basis on which the specific OECD-DAC disability marker score has been given, a justification for the score.
- **Transparency could be improved by making publicly available** more specific project information, such as project plans and result-chain frameworks.

The following recommendations are made to the OECD-DAC :

- **To strengthen the design of the marker** by adding additional criteria related to disability analysis, to doing no harm, and to involvement of persons with disabilities in the project design, implementation and monitoring.
- **To strengthen the scoring** by referring to the presence of disability dimension in emphasising the link between goals, activities and indicators.

DENMARK CASE STUDY

Disability-inclusive ODA projects reported by Denmark, a review of quantitative and qualitative data

By Anne Sofie Hagen Herskind (Disabled People's Organisations Denmark) (DPOD)

With thanks for inputs from Ina Lykke Jensen (Disabled People's Organisations Denmark). **The opinions in this chapter are the sole responsibility of the author.** Editing and fact checking were the joint responsibility of the author and of Polly Meeks (who edited the case studies).

Introduction

This chapter presents findings from a review of quantitative and qualitative data on the projects that the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported as disability-inclusive using the OECD-DAC marker in 2020. The review examines: (i) the headline amounts of spending reported to be disability inclusive; and (ii) the evidence available – both in the Creditor Reporting System (CRS) database and in a range of other publicly available sources – to justify positive disability marker scores.

Methods

For the quantitative part of the analysis, the data was downloaded from OECD-DAC's CRS database. [62] All of the numbers are based on the 2020 data – the most recent year for which data was available when the analysis was done.

The data from the CRS database was filtered by country to show only the Danish data, and by the value given in the column showing the scores in the disability marker to reflect those that had been given either 1 or 2. The aim with

62 For more details on the detailed approach to downloading and preparing the data, please see Meeks/Center for Inclusive Policy, 2020, Getting the data: how much does aid money support inclusion of persons with disabilities?. Data were downloaded on a commitments basis, in constant 2020 prices.

this initial overview was both to gain a sense of Denmark's priorities in terms of disability and the development agenda, but also to provide background to dive deeper into the existing descriptions of the projects.

For the analysis, the handbook on the disability marker and the evaluation checklist developed by one of the other research teams on this DAC project, colleagues from the European Network on Independent Living was used (see Annex 1 for the checklist).

The descriptions for each project in CRS were scanned for explicit mentions of disability, since this is an important part of evaluating the reporting entity's transparency on the area.

To find documentation for the projects, a systematic search was conducted using OpenAid Denmark, the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) registry, and simple Google searches, as well as a run-through of meeting agendas and reports available from the website of the Danish Council for Development Policy. In the cases where no documentation was found publicly available by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, or where the available documentation was not clear on specific measures taken to justify the positive score on the disability marker in the CRS database, an effort was made to draw connections from the Danish contribution to the actual projects through triangulation between the different databases and registries, documents from the organisations responsible for the implementation of the projects, and, where relevant, project descriptions on national government websites.

To evaluate the saliency of the disability objective in the available documentation, a systematic search of the following terms was conducted: "disab*" (in order to find both "disability", "disabilities", and "disabled"), "inclus*" (to find both "inclusion" and "inclusive"), and "accessi*" (to find both "accessible" and "accessibility"). The given context was then evaluated to decide whether the focus was indeed disability.

In some cases, the documentation was not searchable in the available software, and in these cases, the documents have been manually skimmed for the same terms as described above.

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Comments on the findings

In 2020, Denmark had ten ODA projects that had disability as a significant objective, and four that had disability as a principal focus.

Out of Denmark's allocable [63] ODA spending of 1,563.17 million USD (10,403.4 million DKK) in 2020, 69.88 million USD, or **4.5%, was spent on projects that had given a positive score in the disability marker**. 50.62 million USD, or 3.2%, went to those that marked it a significant objective, and 19.26 million USD, or 1.2%, to those that marked it as a principal objective. Of the last number, the DH - Pool Grant, which is administered by DPOD, constitutes 6.65 million USD, or about one third of the 19.26 million.

In terms of reporting on the disability marker, Denmark reported on commitments corresponding to almost 1.4 billion USD. This reporting rate corresponds to around 90% of the standards set by the OECD-DAC. [64]

Projects that were scored 1 or 2

Looking more closely at the projects themselves, a few things are noteworthy.

Of the ten projects that have been given the score of 1, only one project makes specific reference to initiatives related to disability in the form of a *"centre for special education, which offers care and education for children and adolescents with special needs."* On the surface, it looks doubtful whether this project is promoting the right to **inclusive** education as enshrined in Article 24 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; [65] however, more detailed information on the project's objectives and activities would be needed in order to make a firm judgement.

Of the four projects that were scored as 2 in the marker, only two make explicit reference to disability initiatives in the project description on CRS. The first of these projects was conducted in cooperation with the Danish Association of the Physically Disabled (DHF). The second project is the Disability Fund, administered by DPOD. [66]

In terms of the search for project documentation, there were challenges as well, mainly in actually locating relevant documents that made connections between the Danish funding and the specific projects. Here, an example will be presented to illustrate these challenges.

Two of the projects that have been scored as 2 in the marker were carried out by UNICEF and were funded by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Both of them are titled "UNICEF Agreement 2018-2021" in the CRS, and in the long descriptions, it is clarified that one of

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63 Allocable ODA comprises seven types of ODA that the OECD-DAC deems more relevant to marker analysis. For more background, please see Meeks/Center for Inclusive Policy, as above, pages 10 and 11. If the analysis had considered all types of Official Development Assistance, not only those types deemed 'allocable', it is likely that the percentages in this paragraph would be lower.

64 The OECD-DAC measures marker coverage relative to the total of all allocable ODA spending: if Denmark had applied the marker to all allocable ODA projects, then Denmark could be taken to meet 100% of the OECD-DAC's standard.

65 UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Article 24.

66 Please note that as DPOD received this funding, we have scoped it out of the search for documentation and subsequent analysis.

them is aimed at the UNICEF Innovation Fund, and one of them supports several thematic funds administered by UNICEF in the areas of child protection, education, and health. Aside from the score of 2 in the disability marker, both projects are scored as 1 in the gender equality marker.

The documentation that was available for these projects consisted of information from OpenAid Denmark, [67] as well as a paper detailing Denmark's strategy for engagement with UNICEF in the period.

The first noteworthy point is that the engagement period in these documents runs from 2018 to 2022, and not 2021, as it is reported in the CRS. This caused slight confusion in the search for documentation and required several detours to the IATI registry in order to be certain that the information did in fact pertain to the entry in the CRS database.

The information from OpenAid Denmark includes results frameworks for each project: these list output statements that are derived mainly from UNICEF's own result frameworks from 2022-2025. [68]

None of the included output statements for any of the UNICEF projects include any explicit mention of disability. Output statements on gender equality, on the other hand, are prominent and fairly detailed. Similarly, in the report on Denmark's strategic engagement with UNICEF, the focus on gender equality is far more pronounced and includes far greater detail than the disability objective. In some cases, the objective may be visible.

In other words, **there seems to be a mismatch between the marker scores stated in CRS and what is actually reflected in the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affair's written materials.**

In UNICEF's result frameworks for 2022-2025, the focus on disability is much more salient and includes details about the collection of disaggregated data on the topic, as well as specific measures that will be taken to ensure inclusion of persons with disabilities. These considerations were not included in DMFA's materials, even though they could have been sourced just as easily as the output statements on gender equality.

This is fairly illustrative of the available documentation for the rest of the projects. In cases where documentation could be found, it often includes no information about or explicit mention of disability, or the focus on the topic is very sparse and remains on a general level without details about specific measures and initiatives. This is the case for both contributions to smaller projects, but also for funding to larger organisations that are known to include considerations about disability in their general work, such as UNDP, the World Bank (through the Energy Sector Management Assistance Program), and MSI Choice.

67 UNICEF Agreement 2018-2022

68 Integrated Results and Resources Framework of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs should take the following steps to enhance the transparency of its reporting and the disability-inclusiveness of its programming:

- **Put in place a process to quality assure data reported using the OECD-DAC disability policy marker.** This could include, for example, using membership of the Global Action on Disability (GLAD) network and/or close collaboration with the other Nordic donors to collate and share lessons on common errors to avoid. Some key issues to cover in such quality assurance include: ensuring consistency in the use of the marker, and that projects marked as disability-inclusive meet basic criteria on disability inclusion; ensuring that the use of the score "0" is not used as a default score; and ensuring that evidence to justify disability policy marker scores is of a similar quality of evidence to justify other marker scores, e.g. the gender policy marker.
- **Ensure accountability** by making project level data (including project plans and results frameworks) publicly available, including through the International Aid Transparency Initiative interface. This makes it possible for organisations of persons with disabilities and other stakeholders to verify that documentation for marker scores 1 and 2 is available and in line with guidelines.
- **In line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and also with other frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals,** significantly increase the proportion of the Official Development Assistance spending which is inclusive of, and accessible to, persons with disabilities.

CASE STUDY

How far do OECD-DAC members consider the overlap between disability inclusion and other cross-cutting priorities?

Analysing intersections with the OECD-DAC's eleven other markers

By Anne Sofie Hagen Herskind [69] (Disabled People's Organisations Denmark) (DOPD) and Polly Meeks [70].

We are grateful for very valuable discussions with Ina Lykke Jensen (DPOD) and Dr Mary Keogh (CBM Global). **The content of this chapter is the sole responsibility of the authors.**

Introduction

The OECD-DAC disability marker is part of a wider system of markers which are used to track other cross-cutting policy themes in the OECD-DAC's Creditor Reporting System database. There are eleven other markers, which cover :

- Gender equality
- Reproductive, maternal, newborn & child health
- Climate adaptation
- Climate mitigation
- Environment
- Desertification
- Biodiversity
- Trade development
- Nutrition
- Disaster risk reduction
- Participatory development and good governance

69 Responsible for all data analysis and identification of key findings.

70 Who edited the case studies.

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The markers all work in a similar way to the disability marker, with a scoring system from 0 to 2: [71]

- Score 2 means that it is the project's principal objective to address the cross-cutting policy theme in question
- Score 1 means that addressing this cross-cutting policy theme is a significant objective of the project (among other objectives)
- Score 0 means that the project does not aim to address the cross-cutting policy theme in any significant way
- Finally, a blank score can be given if a project has not been screened against the marker in question.

As the markers cover cross-cutting policies, more than one marker can be applied to a single project. This means that it is possible not only to analyse the disability marker in isolation, but also its overlaps with other markers. This gives insights into how far OECD-DAC members are considering disability inclusion in their work on other cross-cutting themes.

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71 In the past, the marker for reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health used a five-point scoring system. The scoring system has now been amended to align with the system used for the other markers. (Source: OECD-DAC, 2020, Assessing the policy objectives of development cooperation activities : review of the reporting status, use and relevance of Rio and policy markers, DCD/DAC/STAT(2020)27, pages 10 and 11).

Methodology

Data on ODA commitments was downloaded from OECD-DAC's Creditor Reporting System database, in October 2022. [72] 2020 data was used, as this was the most recent year for which data was available when the analysis was done. Data covers all 31 bilateral countries in the OECD-DAC. [73] The analysis focused on 'allocable' types of Official Development Assistance (ODA), for consistency with the OECD-DAC's own approach. [74]

A series of pivot tables were then produced for each intersection between the disability marker and the other markers respectively, to analyse overlaps.

Illustrated example for checking disability marker and gender marker

The following sequence of steps illustrates in more detail how we undertook the analysis, using the gender marker as an example.

- Step 1: Add up the **total number of projects with a score of 1 or 2 under the gender marker**. This will give you a **full number of projects with either gender as a principal component or a significant component**.
- Step 2: Working with a subset of the data: **Within this group of gender 1 and 2 marker projects, analyse how many of them also has a disability score of 1 or 2**. This gives four possible permutations (gender 1, disability 1; gender 2, disability 1; gender 1, disability 2; gender 2, disability 2). This will give you a **subset of where disability and gender intersect**.
- Step 3: **Compare the subset of where disability and gender intersect with the total number of projects with objectives on gender equality** to gauge how far projects promoting gender equality also sought to promote disability inclusion.

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72 For the detailed methodology used to download and prepare the data, please see Meeks/Center for Inclusive Policy, 2020, Getting the data: how much does aid money support inclusion of persons with disabilities?

73 The analysis does not cover spending by the European Union institutions such as the European Commission. For some recent analysis of overlaps between the disability and gender markers in European Commission Official Development Assistance, see European Disability Forum, 2022, Annual report – EC spending on disability inclusion in global actions 2018-2020: analysis of data from the OECD-DAC disability policy marker, page 10.

74 For more background on allocable ODA, please see Meeks/Center for Inclusive Policy, 2020, Getting the data: how much does aid money support inclusion of persons with disabilities?, pages 10 and 11.

Findings

Finding 1: across all eleven cross-cutting marker themes, attention to disability inclusion is low.

Out of the total number of projects reported as having objectives on each of the respective marker themes, the share of projects that **also** had objectives on disability inclusion is consistently low. Looking in turn at the total number of allocable ODA projects given positive scores on any one of the eleven markers, the share of projects that **also** had positive scores for disability inclusion was never more than 13%. [75] In other words, no matter which of the eleven cross-cutting themes you look at, **over eighty per cent of allocable ODA projects addressing that theme were not reported to have objectives on disability inclusion**. Either these projects were given a marker score of zero, or the disability marker was not used at all. This is a very worrying result, and it suggests that OECD-DAC members still have a long way to go to fulfil their obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. [76]

Finding 2: there is more attention to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in some thematic marker areas than others.

Figure 1 shows the percentage of allocable ODA projects given positive scores for disability inclusion, out of the total number of projects given positive scores on each of the other markers respectively. The percentage is highest for disaster risk reduction (12.9%), and lowest for climate change mitigation (4.9%). The results in Figure 1 are alarming. For example, despite the urgency of tackling intersectional discrimination against women with disabilities, **only 9.1% of allocable ODA projects with objectives on gender equality also had objectives on disability inclusion**. And despite the severe impacts of climate change on persons wih disabilities, [77] **only 5.8% of allocable ODA projects with objectives on climate change adaptation had objectives on disability inclusion**.

The amounts of money involved are also very low, when compared with total spending on the respective cross-cutting themes. For example, around 4.5 billion USD [78] of allocable ODA was reported to have objectives on both gender equality and disability inclusion. This equates to only around 9% of allocable ODA spending on gender equality.

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75 This analysis is based on the total number of projects, as opposed to the value of money involved.

76 UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. See in particular Article 32 on international cooperation. See also Article 11 on situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, and Article 31 on statistics and data collection.

77 See for example Pacific Disability Forum, 2022, Disability and climate change in the Pacific : findings from Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu, pages 17 to 28 ; CBM Global, 2022, Missing in climate action: stories of persons with disabilities from the Global South.

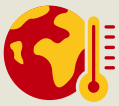
78 Data on spending is stated in constant 2020 prices.

ONLY 12.9%

of allocable ODA projects with **objectives on disaster risk reduction** also had objectives on disability inclusion.

ONLY 9.1%

of allocable ODA projects with **objectives on gender equality** also had objectives on disability inclusion.



ONLY 5.8%

of allocable ODA projects with **objectives on climate change adaptation** also had objectives on disability inclusion.

ONLY 4.9%

of allocable ODA projects with **objectives on climate change mitigation** also had objectives on disability inclusion.

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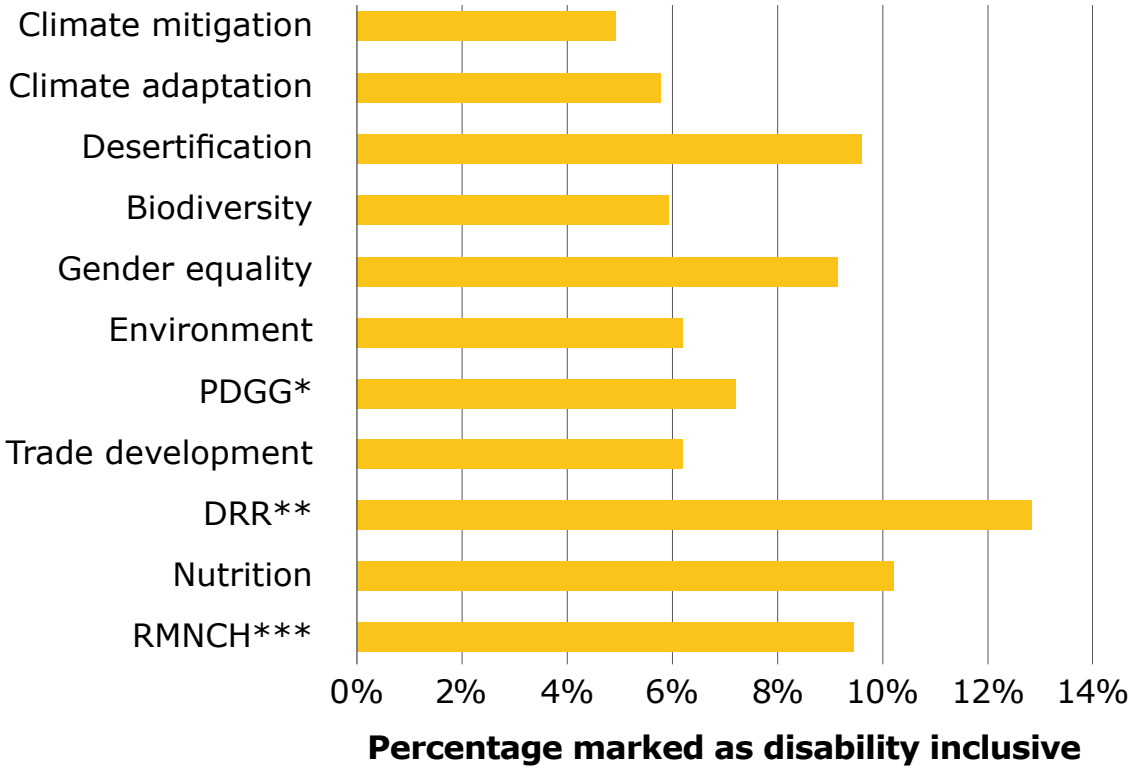
Some observers might argue that the inclusion of persons with disabilities may be less relevant to certain cross-cutting marker themes, in particular biodiversity and desertification, since activities under these themes may not be people-specific : for example, carrying out a biodiversity assessment does not directly affect people (other than the few scientists who do the assessment). However, a look at the detailed definitions for the biodiversity and desertification markers confirms that they have a wide scope. [79] Many eligible activities **would** be people-specific – for example, support for migration policies to reduce pressure on land in areas prone to desertification; or promoting sustainable agricultural practices. So even when looking at these markers, there should be a strong presumption that the inclusion of persons with disabilities must be deliberately considered. The fact that such a low share of projects in these thematic areas actually included objectives on disability inclusion is a serious cause for concern.

79 The detailed marker definitions are available in OECD-DAC, 2021, Converged Statistical Reporting Directives for the Creditor Reporting System (CRS) and the annual DAC questionnaire: modules D and E, DCD/DAC/STAT(2020)/44/ADD2/FINAL, pages 69, 70 and 73.

Figure 1: Allocable ODA projects given a positive score on the disability marker, as a percentage of allocable ODA projects given a positive score on each of the other markers

Please note the chart zooms in on the very lowest part of the horizontal axis, and the scale only goes up to 14% - not to 100%. Even the highest bar on the chart only implies that 12.9% of relevant projects had reported objectives on disability inclusion, and the remaining 87.1% did not.

This bar graph shows the percentage of cross thematic markers which are disability inclusive. The cross thematic markers are climate mitigation, climate adaptation, desertification, biodiversity, gender equality, environment, Good governance (PDGG), trade development, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Nutrition, Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (RMNCH). The marker that scored highest for intersecting with disability inclusion was DRR, Desertification, followed by Nutrition, Reproductive, Maternal, Gender Equality, Newborn and Child Health, Good Governance, Environment, Biodiversity, climate adaptation, climate mitigation.



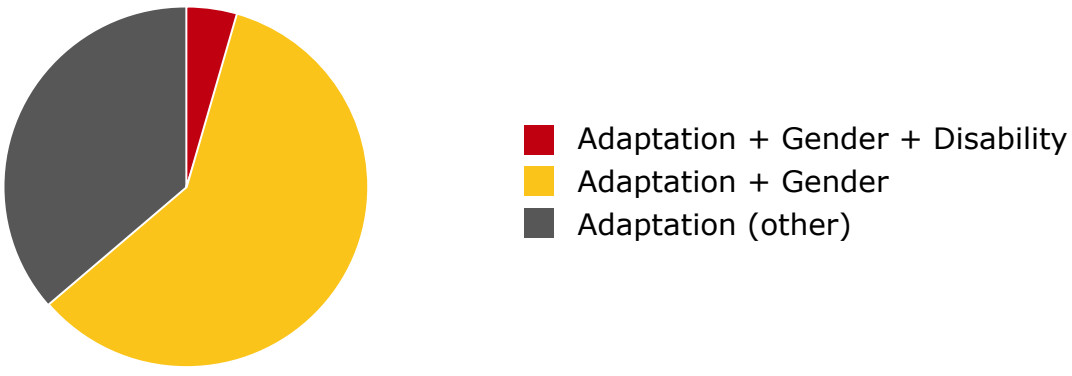
Source: authors' analysis of OECD-DAC Creditor Reporting System data on allocable ODA projects reported by 29 OECD-DAC members in 2020, as per the methodology section above. Each bar represents the number of projects given a positive score on the disability marker, as a percentage of the total number of projects given a positive score on the other marker in question (e.g. the climate mitigation marker, the desertification marker, etc.). * PDGG = participatory development and good governance. ** DRR = disaster risk reduction. *** RMNCH = reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health.

Exploring the overlaps between three markers simultaneously

Since multiple markers can be applied to a single project, it is also possible to examine how the disability marker overlaps with not just one, but two or more other markers simultaneously. This can help give insights into efforts to include persons with disabilities in activities at the intersection of several policy areas. Within the scope of this piece of research, it was not possible to look at all three-way combinations of markers. But Figure 2 gives an example, looking at how the disability marker and the gender marker overlap with the climate adaptation marker. In total, 13,361 allocable ODA projects were reported to have objectives on climate change adaptation. Of these, 8531 (around 64%) also had objectives on gender equality. However, the number of projects with objectives on climate change adaptation **and** gender equality **and** disabilty inclusion was only 629 – less than 5% of the total.

Figure 2: Share of allocable ODA projects with reported objectives on climate adaptation, which also had objectives on (a) gender equality, and (b) gender equality AND disability inclusion

The pie chart shows the share of allocable ODA projects with reported objectives on climate adaptation, which also had objectives on (a) gender equality, and (b) gender equality and disability inclusion. The main share of the pie chart is for climate adaptation and gender. The smallest portion of the pie representing projects with adaptation and gender and disability.



Source : authors' analysis of OECD-DAC Creditor Reporting System data on allocable ODA projects reported by 29 OECD-DAC members in 2020, as per the methodology section above. The full circle represents the total number of allocable ODA projects reported to have objectives on climate change adaptation.

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Conclusion and recommendations

The findings presented in this document give a taste of the kinds of insights that emerge from an analysis of the overlaps between the OECD-DAC disability marker, and other markers on cross-cutting priority areas. Unfortunately, the findings paint a worrying picture. While the OECD-DAC's cross-cutting markers cover themes of crucial importance for persons with disabilities, attention to disability inclusion across these themes is consistently very low. Out of the total number of allocable ODA projects [80] given positive scores on one of the eleven markers (taking each marker in turn), the share of projects that **also** had positive scores for disability inclusion was never more than 13%.

Our overarching recommendation is that OECD-DAC members **should urgently look to increase the attention that they pay to the inclusion of persons with disabilities, throughout all cross-cutting priority areas** covered by the other markers. They should consult and actively involve representative organisations of persons with disabilities to advise them on how best to do this in a way that complies with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

80 From the 29 bilateral countries in the OECD-DAC in 2020, based on ODA commitments data.

In addition, **we recommend that organisations of persons with disabilities and other researchers should continue to analyse data on the overlaps between the disability marker and the OECD-DAC's other markers.** For example, we suggest that the following questions could offer further useful insights on OECD-DAC members' efforts to include persons with disabilties in work on other cross-cutting themes.

- Looking at different OECD-DAC members **individually**, how far do their ODA projects in different cross-cutting thematic areas target disability inclusion? Do projects in the overlaps between disability and other cross-cutting themes disproportionately originate with just a few OECD-DAC members?
- What patterns emerge if we look at overlaps between thematic markers in different years? For example, is there any indication that attention to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in climate change adaptation is growing over time?
- What can be learned from more three-way analyses of several different markers in combination (similar to Figure 2)?
- If we drill down into detailed data on the individual projects in the overlap between the disability marker and other markers, what more can we learn from these projects' more detailed descriptions? Are there patterns in the kinds of specific issues that are being addressed from a disability-inclusive perspective, within these broad thematic areas? Do the descriptions suggest that OECD-DAC members are accurately interpreting the guidance for the different markers?
- Finally, it was observed that some projects had been reported to have several **"principal"** objectives (i.e. marker score 2) simultaneously. While, as noted above, it is entirely possible for projects to have multiple cross-cutting objectives, it would normally be expected that most of these objectives would be scored "1" (significant objective) – i.e. it would normally be expected that at most one or two of these objectives would be scored "2" (principal objective), and that most of the other objectives would be scored "1" (significant objective). Multiple scores of "2" (principal objective) are harder to interpret. It would be interesting to look into a sample of such projects in more detail, to see whether they really did meet the criteria for a score of 2 across multiple different markers, or whether some of these projects' scores have been over-reported and should be revised.

Annex 1: Evaluation of EU ODA projects marked "1" or "2" using the disability DAC marker: suggested evaluation checklist [81]

Part 1: Basic criteria as specified for the disability DAC marker

Evaluation question 1A

If the project has been scored 2: Do project documents* explicitly mention that disability inclusion** is the principal objective of the project? (I.e. the project would not have been undertaken without the disability objective).

Rationale / reference / notes

OECD DAC handbook on the marker page 14.

Evaluation question 1B

If the project has ben scored 1: Do project documents* explicitly mention that disability inclusion** is an important and deliberate objective of the project (albeit not the principal one)? (I.e. the project would not have been undertaken in the same way without the disability objective).

Rationale / reference / notes

OECD DAC handbook on the marker page 14.

Evaluation question 2

For both score 1 and score 2: Does project documention* mention specific measures*** that will be taken to promote the disability inclusion objective?

Rationale / reference / notes

OECD DAC handbook on the marker pages 11 and 14.

81 Checklist developed by Lilia Angelova and Polly Meeks. Insights from Nadia Hadad (European Network on Independent Living), Anne Sofie Hagen Herskind (Disabled Peoples' Organisations Denmark), Hannah Loryman (Sightsavers) and Katariina Sario (independent consultant, formerly at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland) are gratefully acknowledged.

* “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 some other document that provides sufficient level of detail to assess the objectives of the action. OECD DAC handbook on the marker, pp.14-15.

** For the purposes of the OECD-DAC marker, activities are considered to be disability inclusive 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. OECD DAC handbook on the marker, p. 10.

*** Such measures should: 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) ; AND/OR 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 ; AND/OR 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. OECD DAC handbook on the marker, p.11.

Part 2: Additional criteria to fill gaps in the OECD-DAC disability marker criteria

The following questions apply both to projects scored 2, and to projects scored 1.

Evaluation question 3

Does project documentation discuss how OPDs will effectively participate in decision making and be meaningfully involved throughout all stages of the project, from design, through implementation, to monitoring and evaluation?

Rationale / reference / notes

Fundamental requirement of the CRPD, e.g. Article 4 (3).

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Evaluation question 4

Is there evidence that an assessment of barriers facing persons with disabilities has been undertaken? (E.g. assessment is part of a publicly available document, or is referred to in a publicly available document).

Rationale / reference / notes

Corresponds to the OECD-DAC gender equality marker's requirement that a gender analysis should be undertaken (pages 10 and 11).

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Evaluation question 4A

Does project documentation discuss how the assessment of barriers facing persons with disabilities has informed the design of the project?

Rationale / reference / notes

Corresponds to the OECD-DAC gender equality marker's requirement that the design of the project should be informed by the gender analysis (pages 10 and 11).

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Evaluation question 5

Does project documentation say how the project will take a "do no harm" approach to persons with disabilities?

Rationale / reference / notes

Corresponds to the OECD-DAC gender equality marker's requirement that projects should take a 'do no harm' approach (pages 10 and 11).

Evaluation question 5A

Specifically, do the project documents give assurance that planned activities **do not go against** the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (e.g. support for residential institutions or for forced medical treatment)?

Rationale / reference / notes

Amplifies the OECD-DAC gender equality marker's requirement that projects should take a 'do no harm' approach (pages 10 and 11) by highlighting a key risk of harm in relation to public spending on disability. [82]

Some parts of the following question are different depending on whether a project has been scored 2 or scored 1.

Evaluation question 6A

If the project has been scored 2: Is there a clear logical link between the indicators in the project results framework and the project's overall objective on disability inclusion*? (For example, the results framework would generally refer to the specific measures that are being taken to promote the disability inclusion objective, per Q2 above).

Rationale / reference / notes

Corresponds to the OECD-DAC gender equality marker's requirement that projects should have gender-specific indicator(s) (page 11) and to recommendations on the design and application of the disability marker, made by the International Disability and Development Consortium and International Disability Alliance (point 2.5).

Evaluation question 6B

If the project has been scored 1: Does the project results framework include specific indicator(s) to track progress against the project's objective on disability inclusion*? (Such indicator(s) would generally refer to the specific measures that are being taken to promote the disability inclusion objective, per Q2 above).

Rationale / reference / notes

Corresponds to the OECD-DAC gender equality marker's requirement that projects should have gender-specific indicator(s) (page 10) and to recommendations on the design and application of the disability marker, made by the International Disability and Development Consortium and International Disability Alliance (point 2.5).

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82 The importance of doing no harm in the context of OECD-DAC members' spending on disability is highlighted in, for example, the Call to action on implementation of the disability DAC marker (2019), issued by the International Disability Alliance, the European Disability Forum, the International Disability and Development Consortium and the Global Action on Disability Network. For more on the risk of funding activities that go against the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, see for example Cote and Balasubramanian, 2020, The new normal: getting governments to spend more and better for inclusion of all persons with disabilities, pages 10 to 12.

Evaluation question 6C

For projects scored 1 or 2: Do the indicator(s) on disability inclusion* involve collection of qualitative as well as quantitative data, including data on people who may be left out of the Washington Group questions? [83]

Rationale / reference / notes

Small supplement to the OECD-DAC gender equality marker requirements, to reflect the specific concern in CRPD Committee General Comment 7 paragraph 91, that the Washington Group questions do not give a complete picture of inclusion.

* See OECD-DAC marker definition of 'disability inclusive' above.

Evaluation question 6D

For projects scored 1 **or** 2: If any data on the indicator(s) on disability inclusion* have already been reported, what were the results?

Rationale / reference / notes

This question allows the evaluation to take into account available data not only on projects' intentions, but also on their results so far.

The following questions apply both to projects scored 2, and to projects scored 1.

Evaluation question 7

Are all people-based [84] project indicators disaggregated by disability?

Rationale / reference / notes

Corresponds to the OECD-DAC gender equality marker's requirement that applicable data and indicators should be disaggregated by sex (pages 10 and 11).

Evaluation question 7A

If any disaggregated indicators have already been reported, what are the results?

Rationale / reference / notes

This question allows the evaluation to take into account available data not only on projects' intentions, but also on their results so far.

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83 For more discussion on potential gaps in the Washington Group questions, see for example UK House of Commons International Development Committee, Oral evidence: DfID's work on disability, HC 1880, Q42, response by Professor Tom Shakespeare (covering psychosocial disability and albinism). This is a nuanced issue, and it is beyond the scope of this evaluation checklist to get into details of potential gaps in Washington Group questions' coverage in different project contexts. Rather, the aim in Q7a is simply to establish whether project monitoring processes recognise that the Washington Group questions may not always identify every person with disability, and whether such monitoring processes have put in place complementary methods to try to cover any gaps.

84 I.e. indicators based on the number or percentage of people affected.

Evaluation question 8

Does project documentation include plans to evaluate the project's outcomes and impact for persons with disabilities?

Rationale / reference / notes

Corresponds to the OECD-DAC gender equality marker's requirement that projects monitor and report on gender equality results in the evaluation phase (pages 10 and 11).

Evaluation question 8A

If any evaluations have already been undertaken, what were the key findings in relation to persons with disabilities?

Rationale / reference / notes

This question allows the evaluation to take into account available data not only on projects' intentions, but also on any evaluations to-date.