

Tracking the geographical reach of transboundary benefits in TOSSD

TOSSD Task Force Issues Paper¹ - Agenda item 5
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I. Background

1. At the 16th TOSSD Task Force meeting, members discussed and agreed on the proposal to create a new “global” code in the TOSSD recipient list, recognising that many activities captured do not have developing countries as direct recipients (e.g. provider countries’ domestic expenditures, multilateral organisations’ global functions). At the same time, it was noted that such a code would designate the reach of the benefits of an activity rather than the destination of the flow. This new dimension – reach of benefits – may therefore be more appropriately captured in a new data field. In addition, there could be cases where the reach of benefits is not necessarily global, and could be limited to specific regions.
2. This paper follows up on members’ discussion on the relevance and the way to track the reach of benefits in TOSSD.

II. Tracking the geographical reach of transboundary benefits in TOSSD

3. In TOSSD the recipient field is defined as “the country receiving the TOSSD cross-border flow”, i.e. the destination of the flow. Expenditures in TOSSD pillar II do not constitute cross-border flows to developing countries and therefore do not have a cross-border recipient. In terms of geographical location or destination of flows, pillar II includes in particular:
 - Provider countries’ domestic expenditures (e.g. domestic funding for COVID-19 R&D).
 - Expenditures related to multilateral organisations’ global functions (where there is no specific recipient).
 - Cross-border flows to countries not included in the list of TOSSD recipients (e.g. support to climate mitigation activities). Although these constitute cross-border flows, they cannot be reported as such because they are not eligible to be included in pillar I.
4. The geographical reach of benefits of TOSSD activities is a different piece of information from the location of the activity/destination of flow captured in the recipient field. In order to appropriately track the reach of benefits of TOSSD activities the Task Force is invited to discuss the relevance of two options:

¹ Jointly drafted by the TOSSD Task Force Secretariat.

- **Option 1 - Amend the definition of “TOSSD recipient”** as follows: “In pillar I: unique code identifying the country receiving the TOSSD cross-border flow; each TOSSD recipient has its own code. In Pillar II: unique code identifying the geographical area expected to benefit from the activity”².
 - In practice, since there are no cross-border recipients in pillar II, the recipient field is already used to indicate the geographical area expected to benefit from the activity. For example, a research project in the provider country on regionally-specific diseases³ or agriculture would be reported with the corresponding regional recipient code.
 - The advantage of such an option would be that it would involve little changes to the current reporting.
 - However, it would not allow to fully track the reach of benefits of TOSSD activities because it would not be applicable to cross-border flows in pillar I and to some regional activities in pillar II. Cross-border support for pandemic preparedness in a TOSSD recipient country (pillar I) would need to be reported with the code of the recipient while the benefits could be considered global. Similarly, regional surveillance activities of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (pillar II) would need to be reported with the “Africa” recipient code while the benefits may be considered global.
- **Option 2 - Create a new field on the “geographical reach of transboundary benefits”** to be used both in pillar I and pillar II. The new field could be defined as follows: “Geographical reach of transboundary benefits: Unique code identifying the regional or global reach of the benefits that the activity is expected to generate.” Reporting on the new field could be based on the regional and multi-regional codes already used in the recipient list, in addition to the new global code (see Table 1).
 - The advantage of such an option would be that:
 - It would allow to clearly distinguish between the geographical focus of an activity and the geographical reach of its benefits.

² The current definition reads as follows: “Unique code identifying the country receiving the TOSSD cross-border flow. Each TOSSD-eligible country has its own code.”

³ For example, malaria research might benefit mostly people in Africa, which represents 95% of malaria cases and 96% of malaria deaths globally. See <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/malaria#:~:text=In%202020%2C%20there%20were%20an,and%2096%25%20of%20malaria%20deaths.>

- It would allow a more comprehensive tracking of the geographical reach of transboundary benefits, as it could also be applicable to pillar I. This would allow the presentation of total TOSSD contributions to IPGs and global challenges and respond to demands for data on activities carried out in TOSSD recipient countries that support international public goods (IPGs) and challenges.⁴
- o However, creating a new field may involve an additional complexity in TOSSD reporting. Therefore it would be important for members to discuss the cost-benefit and feasibility of this proposal.

Table 1. Proposed values and codes for the “geographical reach of transboundary benefits”

Code	Geographical reach of the benefits
89	Europe, regional
189	North of Sahara, regional
289	South of Sahara, regional
298	Africa, regional
389	Caribbean & Central America, regional
489	South America, regional
498	America, regional
589	Middle East, regional
619	Central Asia, regional
679	South Asia, regional
689	South & Central Asia, regional
789	Far East Asia, regional
798	Asia, regional
889	Oceania, regional
999	Global
1027	Eastern Africa, regional
1028	Middle Africa, regional
1029	Southern Africa, regional
1030	Western Africa, regional
1031	Caribbean, regional
1032	Central America, regional
1033	Melanesia, regional
1034	Micronesia, regional
1035	Polynesia, regional

⁴ A recent example is a paper prepared by Norad on “how much Norwegian foreign aid is channelled towards international public goods”. The relevance of tracking support to IPGs in pillar I was also previously discussed by the Task Force.



5. To facilitate reporting under the potential new field the Task Force could consider the development of a table flagging linkages between this new field and other TOSSD fields, see illustration in Annex 1 below.⁵ It should be noted that the table does not define what is eligible to TOSSD. For example, specific eligibility criteria apply to peace and security expenditures, and the treatment of support to pandemic preparedness and response in provider countries has not yet been agreed by the Task Force.

Issues for discussion

- **Task Force members are invited to provide their feedback on the pertinence and feasibility of the two options proposed to track the geographical reach of transboundary benefits in TOSSD.**
- **Would members be interested in developing an indicative list of themes and activities which might be reported as having global or regional benefits (as suggested by the Secretariat in Annex 1)? Are there any other suggestions of themes and activities that can be included in/deleted from this list?**

⁵ The Annex could build on literature that has attempted to estimate the share of development co-operation targeting international public goods or global challenges. See for example the 2004 paper by the OECD Development Centre on "[Financing Global and Regional Public Goods through ODA: Analysis and Evidence from the OECD Creditor Reporting System](#)" and the 2016 paper of Development Initiatives on "[Measuring aid to global public goods \(GPGs\)](#)".



Annex 1. Geographical reach of transboundary benefits: Indicative list of themes and activities which might be reported as having global or regional benefits

Code - geographical reach of the benefits	Themes	Possible way to identify the activities in TOSSD
Global benefits	Climate mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keyword #Climate mitigation
	Pandemic preparedness and response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sector code COVID-19 control (12264) • Sector code Infectious disease control (12250) • Sector code STD control including HIV/AIDS (13040)
	R&D on global issues (e.g. global diseases such as HIV or cancer, renewable energy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All research sector codes⁶ when reported with “global” or “developing countries, unspecified” as recipients
	International peace and security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International crime prevention, including the following sectors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Non-agricultural alternative development (43050) ○ Agricultural alternative development (31165) ○ Narcotics control (16063) ○ Fight against transnational organised crime (1513010) ○ Countering violent extremism (1513020) • Disarmament of Weapons of Mass Destruction (1520010) • International criminal justice (1516020)

⁶ TOSSD research sectors include: Educational research, Medical research, Research for prevention and control of NCDs, Energy research, Agricultural research, Forestry research, Fishery research, Technological research and development, Environmental research and Research/scientific institutions.



	Global norms and standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parts of multilateral expenditures related to their global normative functions (e.g. section of the UN Regular Budget related to the “General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management”)
	Support to refugees/protected persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modalities on support to refugees / protected persons (I01, I02, I05)
	Administrative costs of development agencies in provider countries or at the level of multilateral institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modality administrative costs (G01) when reported with the recipient code "developing countries, unspecified"
	Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sector Bio-diversity (41030)
Regional benefits	R&D on regionally-specific issues (e.g. diseases specific to some regions, food crop cultivars).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All research sectors when reported with regional recipient codes
	Control of regionally-specific diseases (e.g. malaria, tuberculosis, etc.).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sector Malaria control (12262) Sector Tuberculosis control (12263)
	Regional peace and security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International peace operations
	Administrative costs of development agencies' regional offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modality administrative costs when reported with regional recipient codes.
	Regional infrastructure (regional transportation networks, transboundary water management, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sector Transport & storage when reported with regional codes Sector River basins development (14040) when reported with regional recipient codes
	Regional norms and standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section of the UN Regular Budget related to the UN regional commissions.