



ODA gender equality and disability inclusion policy marker factsheet

Purpose of this factsheet

This factsheet presents statistics on the proportion of FCDO official development assistance (ODA) projects in 2024 and 2025 that are marked as addressing gender equality or disability inclusion. This is in accordance with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) policy markers¹. The statistics in this factsheet are based on project counts rather than ODA spending; information on the rationale for this can be found in the notes section.

This factsheet is published as [official statistics in development](#). This is the first publication of OECD DAC policy marker information within [Statistics on International Development \(SID\)](#). The scope and presentation of these statistics will be kept under review as part of the ongoing development of SID. Future developments may include publication of additional policy markers and policy marker data reported by other government departments.

We welcome feedback on this factsheet and on the future development of SID. Please contact statistics@fcdo.gov.uk or join the new "International Statistics" group on [StatsUserNetwork](#). We will be reviewing the format and content of SID publications for 2027 onwards and will provide opportunities for users to share their views through the SID page on GOV.UK and StatsUserNetwork.

Introduction to policy markers

Policy markers are used by the OECD DAC as a way of tracking ODA activities that contribute to specific, cross-cutting policy objectives.

FCDO programme teams apply the policy markers to ODA programme data in accordance with OECD DAC guidelines. The data are quality assured by the relevant policy teams before being submitted as part of the UK's OECD DAC Creditor Reporting System (CRS) return.

Gender equality marker: scores programmes according to whether they include explicit and deliberate activities that target gender equality.²

Disability inclusion marker: scores programmes according to whether they include explicit and deliberate activities that target disability inclusion or support the ratification, implementation and / or monitoring of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).³

¹ See Annex 19 in the Reporting Directives for more information: [https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD/DAC\(2026\)14/ADD2/FINAL/en/pdf](https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD/DAC(2026)14/ADD2/FINAL/en/pdf)

² See the handbook on the OECD DAC gender equality policy marker for more information: [https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD/DAC/GEN\(2025\)2/en/pdf](https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD/DAC/GEN(2025)2/en/pdf)

³ See the handbook on the OECD DAC disability inclusion policy marker for more information: [https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD/DAC/STAT\(2026\)1/FINAL/en/pdf](https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD/DAC/STAT(2026)1/FINAL/en/pdf)

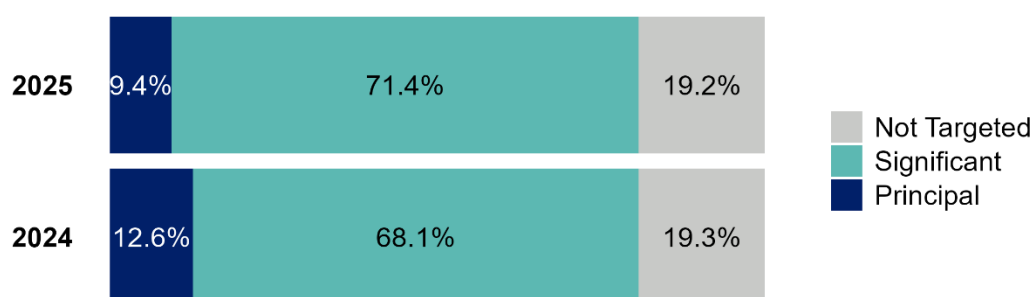
Marker scoring

All bilateral (including those delivered through a multilateral partner) programmes should be scored in one of the following groups. Programmes should be scored for each policy marker separately and can have a different score for each marker.

- **Principal:** The relevant policy is the primary objective of the programme and is fundamental to its design and implementation. The programme would not have been undertaken without the activities that address gender equality and / or disability inclusion.
- **Significant:** The relevant policy area is an important and deliberate objective but not the main reason for undertaking the programme. The programme would still have been undertaken, albeit with different outcomes, without the activities that address gender equality and / or disability inclusion.
- **Not targeting the relevant policy area:** This includes programmes that do not have deliberate activities to address gender equality or disability inclusion even if they meet the 'do not harm' principle.

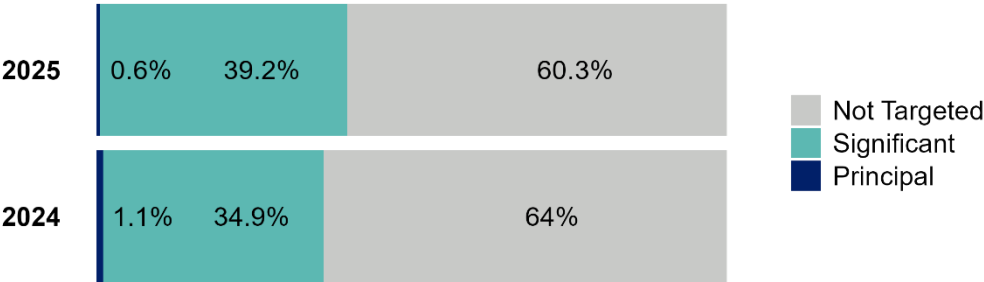
Results

Figure 1: Proportion of FCDO bilateral ODA projects by gender equality policy marker, 2024 and 2025



- Almost 81 per cent of all bilateral ODA projects for each of 2024 and 2025 were marked as addressing gender equality. Both years met the 2030 target of 80 per cent set in the [FCDO International women and girls strategy 2023 to 2030](#). The [UK international strategic framework on women and girls](#), published in 2026, sets out the UK Government's raised commitment of 90 per cent of bilateral ODA programmes contributing to gender equality by 2030. The gender equality marker will be the primary way of reporting against this target.
- A total of 9.4 per cent were marked as principal in 2025, meaning gender equality is the main objective and fundamental in the design and expected results of almost one in ten projects. The remaining 71.4 per cent are marked as significant indicating gender equality is an important and deliberate objective, but not the principal reason for undertaking the project.
- Between 2024 and 2025, there was a rise in the proportion of projects marked significant (68.1 per cent to 71.4 per cent) and a fall in the proportion of marked principal (12.6 per cent to 9.4 per cent). These changes could indicate an increase in mainstreaming of work to support gender equality as a response to the women and girls strategy alongside a decrease in targeted gender work.

Figure 2: Proportion of FCDO bilateral ODA projects by disability inclusion policy marker, 2024 and 2025



- Fewer programmes are marked as addressing disability inclusion in comparison to those addressing gender equality, with 0.6 per cent meeting the requirements for principal and 39.2 per cent for significant.
- The longer history of institutionalising gender equality within development organisations, in comparison with disability inclusion, could explain this pattern. This is reflected in earlier donor accountability mechanismsⁱ, more mature data systemsⁱⁱ, and ongoing efforts by international organisations to build disability inclusion capacityⁱⁱⁱ.
- The proportion of programmes that are disability inclusive (principal and significant combined) has increased from 36.0 per cent in 2024 to 39.7 per cent in 2025 which may indicate progress in mainstreaming disability across FCDO’s ODA portfolio.

Table 1: Crosstabulation of the proportion of FCDO bilateral ODA projects by gender equality and disability inclusion policy markers, 2025

		Gender		
		Not targeted	Significant	Principal
Disability	Not targeted	17.0%	40.9%	2.4%
	Significant	2.3%	30.3%	6.6%
	Principal	<0.1%	0.1%	0.4%

- Although bilateral ODA projects are more likely to address gender equality than disability inclusion, almost 37.5 per cent of projects include activities to support both areas.
- It is relatively unusual for projects to work on disability inclusion but not gender equality – only 2.3 per cent of all projects are in this category.
- As noted above, gender mainstreaming has a longer history than disability mainstreaming. It is likely that, in most cases, disability activities have been added to existing gender-responsive approaches rather than being introduced as entirely separate strands of work. Evidence supporting this includes the move within the development sector from GESI (gender, equality and social inclusion) analysis to GEDSI (gender, equality, disability and social inclusion) analysis along with the introduction of intersectional approaches that encourage practitioners to consider the needs of people with disabilities alongside other characteristics.^{iv}
- Around 83 per cent of FCDO projects in 2025 undertook some activities to address at least one of gender equality or disability inclusion. This has been driven by commitments made to

mainstream inclusion in the [International women and girls](#) and [Disability inclusion and rights](#) strategies.

Notes on interpretation and methodology

Data source and data quality

Policy marker data are recorded by FCDO programme teams when programmes are first entered onto FCDO's Aid Management Platform (AMP). Markers are assigned in accordance with OECD DAC guidance and handbooks, supplemented by guidance in the FCDO Programme Operating Framework.

Quality assurance is undertaken annually before submission of the UK's Creditor Reporting System (CRS) return. This includes checks of programme titles, descriptions and marker scores, with follow-up enquiries to programme teams where potential inconsistencies are identified. More detailed reviews are undertaken for all programmes scored as *principal*.

The OECD DAC disability inclusion marker handbook was revised in 2026 to introduce a new set of minimum standards. The disability inclusion marker data presented in this factsheet were assigned using the guidance in place at the time of reporting and have not been reassessed against the revised standards. Future application of the revised guidance may affect the distribution of marker scores and limit comparability with the results presented here.

Project and programme classifications

Policy markers are assigned at programme level in AMP whereas SID data are marked at project level. To align these datasets, programme level marker scores are applied to all associated projects. The policy marker classifications presented in SID therefore reflect programme level assessments and may not capture variation between individual projects within a programme.

Projects may be marked for both gender equality and disability inclusion. Figures for the two markers should therefore not be combined as this would result in double counting. Table 1 shows the relationship between the two markers.

Relationship between project counts and ODA spending

The statistics in this factsheet are based on project counts rather than ODA spending. This is because marker scores identify whether a project supports gender equality and/or disability inclusion objectives, but do not indicate the proportion of expenditure directed towards those objectives. While all expenditure in projects scored as *principal* supports the relevant objective, the proportion of expenditure contributing to that objective cannot be determined for projects scored as *significant*. This approach is consistent with OECD DAC guidance.

The gender equality and disability inclusion markers have been included in the data underlying SID for the first time this year.

ⁱ Gender mainstreaming was endorsed as part of the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 and the OECD-DAC gender equality policy marker was introduced in 1997. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRDP), which guides how people with disabilities should be included in both domestic and development policies, was adopted in 2006 and the OECD DAC disability inclusion policy marker was introduced in 2018.

ⁱⁱ Sex-disaggregated data have been collected as standard in censuses and surveys for several decades. Standardised approaches to collecting disability-disaggregated data have been introduced more recently, for instance the short set of Washington Group questions was adopted in 2006. However, disability data are still not collected as standard.

ⁱⁱⁱ For instance, the development of the first [UN Disability Inclusion Strategy](#) (UNDIS) in 2020, the recent movement from gender, equality and social inclusion (GESI) analysis towards gender, equality, disability and inclusion (GEDSI) analysis, and the launch of the [Minimum standards and guidance on disability inclusion mainstreaming in UN joint programmes](#) in 2026.

^{iv} For instance, UN Women established a global task team on disability inclusion and intersectionality in 2017 to improve intersectional approaches in the UN; the [General Recommendation of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination of Women no. 18](#) notes that women with disabilities are doubly marginalised and calls on States parties to ensure the participation of women and girls with disabilities in all areas of social and cultural life; and explicit references to the intersection between disability and gender in documents such as the [UK international strategic framework on women and girls 2026](#) and [Australia's international gender equality strategy](#).