



TIER 2 INDICATOR TECHNICAL NOTE

NUMBERS REACHED WITH NEW OR IMPROVED SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMS (M/F)

Last updated: September 2023

Definition

Social protection comprises publicly funded initiatives that provide regular and predictable transfers to individuals, households, and communities to reduce poverty and vulnerability and foster resilience.

New or improved includes government-led social protection programs which are new within the reporting period, or where improvements linked to DFAT's support were made during the reporting period. It also includes the continuation of existing programs where DFAT's investment in the social protection program improved the quality, or created the program, in a previous year. Improved programs could include improved delivery systems, more regular and predictable payments, higher benefit amounts, more robust beneficiary identification and management systems etc. It also includes direct DFAT supported transfers, whether top ups to existing programs or the covering the full cost of these programs, which has the ability to improve adequacy, predictability, and citizens' trust in government.

Numbers of people to be captured should reflect:

1. Ongoing or new beneficiaries, where DFAT has continued a multi-year investment which improved or created the social protection program in a previous year.
2. Ongoing or new beneficiaries, where DFAT's investment within the reporting period resulted in an improvement to social protection programs.
3. Ongoing or new beneficiaries of programs who have benefited from DFAT's direct funding of the transfers (whether top ups or the regular transfers) in the reporting period.

Scope

This indicator seeks to capture the catalytic and leveraging impact of Australia's social protection investments by tracking the number of social transfer recipients who benefited from Australian-supported system strengthening and transfers through:

- Australian-funded technical advice for social protection system improvements (for example, improved delivery systems, strengthened payments systems, social protection policy reforms resulting in program adjustments or new programs, and more robust beneficiary identification and management systems); and
- Australian funded cash transfers (for example, through budget support or other funding mechanisms for top ups to existing programs and/or for new or expanded programs). It should include ODA and relevant non-ODA expenditure.

INCLUDES:

- Social protection programs and systems comprising transfers that are regular and predictable over the medium to long term.
- Shock-responsive social protection, where DFAT has supported top-ups for cash transfers through governments' or development partners' social protection systems during times of crisis (for example humanitarian), are also in scope.
- Recipients of cash transfers funded by governments or development partners where Australia supported system strengthening. For example, social protection transfers delivered by Non-

Government Organisations (NGOs) where Australia has supported the building of systems are in scope.

– Examples of such transfers include:

- cash, food and/or asset transfers directed at poor households and vulnerable individuals, such as children, people with disabilities, older people, widows etc.
- wages (both cash or in-kind) from employment on public work schemes
- school feeding and take-home rations
- vouchers (for example health vouchers to attend health check-ups)
- fee waivers (for example school fee waivers)
- wage subsidies (where this transfer supported employees to meet basic needs).

– Examples of system-strengthening technical support for government-led social protection programs include:

- technical advice for programs' beneficiary targeting and identification systems, eligibility assessment and registration systems, payment systems, behaviour change communication, grievance processes, M&E processes etc
- support for government counterparts' capacity building in relation to social protection policy, systems, and program delivery
- support for disaster risk reduction or climate-focused social protection programs tangible items or delivery infrastructure which improves systems.

EXCLUDES:

- Humanitarian cash payments delivered *outside* the social protection system and for less than six months during a conflict or humanitarian crisis (which are captured by the indicator: 'Number of vulnerable women and men provided with emergency assistance in conflict and crisis situations')
- School or health subsidy payments that go directly to schools or health care centres and are focussed on supply-side services instead of easing costs to households.

Calculations

This indicator is designed to count all women, men, girls, and boys benefitting from Australian funding under an investment.

- Where only household data is available, this should be converted to an individual basis using the number of persons per household. Ideally the conversion factor should be specific to the area covered by the investment, but if it is not available, census data on the average number of persons per household at the provincial, state, or national level can be used in that order of preference.
- The number of households should be referenced in the calculation methodology.

When an Australian investment has both directly funded cash transfers and provided technical support for system strengthening, both figures should be added together, provided this does not lead to double counting of beneficiaries.

Data sources

Key data sources will be partner government beneficiary and household survey data. Census and population data may be needed where disaggregated beneficiary data and household data is not available. Program data can also be used if available.

Sex disaggregation

Sex disaggregation is an essential part of this indicator. Efforts should be made to include sex disaggregated data based on actual figures or partner reporting, where known. Alternatively, the pro rata sex disaggregation based on population or census statistics can be used.

REPORTING

Results under this indicator may be reported by bilateral, regional, global, or multilateral programs.

WORKED EXAMPLES – SOCIAL PROTECTION MEASURES

Social transfer payments are usually made to households. For the purposes of household size and sex disaggregation, it is important to use data specific to the program parameters wherever possible.

EXAMPLE 1: COMPONENT 1: DIRECT FUNDING OF TRANSFERS, HOUSEHOLD CONVERSION

This process would be followed where the social protection program is delivered at the household not individual level, such as child grants or conditional cash transfers.

Step 1: identify the number of people receiving assistance

Number of households where DFAT funded transfers directly = 65,000.

Average household size in the provinces where the program is delivered = 7 (Data source: partner government regional data; sex disaggregated data unavailable).

Total number of individuals with increased access to transfers = $65,000 \times 7 = 455,000$.

EXAMPLE 2: COMPONENT 2: SUPPORT FOR SYSTEM STRENGTHENING AND TA

Step 1: threshold question of whether new or improved transfers would have happened without DFAT support TA?

Yes

No

DFAT's support is an add-on to what the Government implemented. Calculate DFAT's share.

Australia's contribution = AUD100,000

Total program funding (Government's data on overall transfer costs) = AUD1 million

Australia's share of funding = 10%

Number of beneficiaries in total program = 292,500

Number of beneficiaries supported by DFAT = 10% of 292,500

= 29,250

DFAT's funding leveraged Government investment that would not have happened without DFAT's engagement. DFAT can claim attribution for all beneficiaries having access to transfers or improved programs.

Number of beneficiaries in total program = 292,500

Number of beneficiaries supported by DFAT = 292,500

EXAMPLE 3: COMPONENT 2: SUPPORT FOR SYSTEM STRENGTHENING WHERE DFAT WORKED WITH OTHER PARTNERS

Step 1: threshold question of whether new or improved transfers would have happened without DFAT and other partners' support?

Yes

No

DFAT's and partners' support is an add-on to what the Government implemented. Calculate DFAT's share.

Australia's contribution = AUD100,000

World Bank Contribution = AUD900,000

Total program funding (Government's data on overall transfer costs) = AUD1 million

Australia's share of funding = 10%

Number of beneficiaries in total program = 292,500

Number of beneficiaries supported by DFAT = 10% of 292,500

= 29,250

DFAT's and partners' funding leveraged Government investment and was responsible for all beneficiaries having access to transfers or improved programs. DFAT can claim a portion of program beneficiary numbers.

Number of beneficiaries in total program = 292,500

Australia's contribution to TA = AUD100,000

FCDO's contribution to TA = AUD100,000

Australia's percentage of all development partner support = 50%

Number of beneficiaries supported by DFAT = 50% of full program beneficiary numbers

= 50% of 292,500

= 146,250

EXAMPLE 4: COMPONENTS 1 AND 2: DIRECT FUNDING OF TRANSFERS AND SUPPORT FOR SYSTEM STRENGTHENING

Step 1: calculate the beneficiary numbers of DFAT's direct funding of transfers as per Example 1

Step 2: calculate the beneficiary numbers of DFAT's funding for TA/systems strengthening as per Example 2 or 3

Step 3: calculate total persons assisted with Australian support

Direct beneficiaries + beneficiaries from system strengthening = 292,500 + 1,002,600 = 1,295,100

Partner data confirms that these two totals are from different provinces so there is no double counting. If there is double counting, then this should be removed before final reporting.

EXAMPLE 5: DIRECT SUPPORT AND/OR SUPPORT FOR SYSTEM STRENGTHENING, INDIVIDUALS, SEX DISAGGREGATED

For the reporting year, the total number of families receiving social transfers received in the program's geographic area was 83,076. The average household size in the program area is 5.6 and the female: male ratio in households in the program area = 3:2 (60 per cent female to 40 per cent male) (Source: partner government data).

Step 1: identify the number of people receiving direct cash transfers and/or system strengthening

Number of households where DFAT directly funded transfers and/or supported system strengthening = 83,076

Average household size in the provinces where the program is delivered = 5.6 (Data source: partner government regional data; sex disaggregated data unavailable)

Total number of individuals = $83,076 \times 5.6 = 465,225.6$

Step 2: sex disaggregation

- Sex disaggregation of people receiving assistance: $465,225.6 \text{ individuals} \times 0.6 = 279,135$ are female, and $465,225.6 \times 0.4 = 186,090$ (Source: partner government data)

Australian assistance provided 279,135 females and 186,090 males with social transfers under this program

***Note:** The same currency must be used when calculating the share of Australia's contribution for direct beneficiaries. If currency conversion is required, it is recommended that the exchange rate at the end of the reporting period is used (please list the exchange rate and date). In DFAT, historical weekly currency conversion rates are available at [Exchange rates - weekly \(satin.io\)](https://www.satin.io/exchange-rates-weekly)