



The Donor Committee for Enterprise Development

Business Environment Working Group

Meeting (Teleconference)

Meeting Minutes

15 June 2022

Approved by email 1 July 2022

PRESENT

Sylvia Solf (WBG, BEWG co-Chair)	Brigitte Bruhin (SECO)
Moussa Traore (USAID, BEWG co-Chair)	Nathalie Straker (FCDO)
Severine Deboos (ILO)	Beata Plonka (EC)
Tania Ghossein (WBG)	Julian Sievers (Sida)
Anastasia de Santos (USAID)	Nicoletta Kolovou (EC)
Toru Homma (JICA)	Jim Tanburn (DCED Secretariat)
Yuka Asakawa (JICA)	Ella Duffy (DCED Secretariat)
Steffen Felix (BMZ/GIZ)	Simon White (Consultant to BEWG)
Siobhan Kelly (FAO)	

APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

1 Welcome

At 14:00 CET, Sylvia (USAID, BEWG co-Chair) opened the meeting and welcomed all participants.

2 Introductions and confirmation of the agenda

The meeting agenda was confirmed.

3 Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the BEWG Meeting of 20 April 2022 had been previously approved and were confirmed.

4 Comments from DCED Annual Meeting participants

BEWG members who attended the Annual Meeting shared their views on the meeting. All expressed pleasure at the experience of seeing everyone again and being able to participate in the various sessions, including the Thematic Day at which the BEWG provided a presentation.

5 Current Work Item Updates

5.1 BER and Informality

Tania Ghossein (WBG) provided a brief update on this work item. The research explores existing evidence of studies on the informal sector in fragile contexts and further examines the ways donor and development agencies, and their programme partners, deal with informality in fragile contexts. Particular attention is being given to the use of incentives for the formalisation of small, informal units.

The consultant (Nancy Benjamin) has been commissioned and has produced a first draft, which has been reviewed and is being revised. The next draft is due in July 2022.

The Task Team welcomes any comments or leads from BEWG members of people (i.e., donor agency or program staff) with experience in BER in informality in fragile and conflict settings.

Siobhan Kelly (FAO) asked whether the FAO representative (Ileana Grandelis) was on the Task Team. Tania agreed to follow up.

Task Team: WBG (lead) FCDO, EU, BMZ/GIZ, ILO, IDRC, SIDA, FAO, and USAID.

AGREED

The second draft will be submitted and circulated for comment.

TIME FRAME

Second draft is due July 2022.

5.2 Role of the business environment in Global Value Chains (GVCs)

Tania Ghossein provided a brief update on this work item. The research seeks to better understand how BER can support integration into GVCs. A consultant has been commissioned (Stacy Fredrick) and work is underway with the TOR revised and agreed by task group members. The first draft is due by 25 August 2022.

Task Team: BMZ/GIZ; FAO; JICA UNIDO; WBG

AGREED

The Task Team will review the first draft. The second draft will be shared with the BEWG when it is received.

TIME FRAME

The first draft is due by 25 August 2022.

5.3 Legal identification for women

Anastasia de Santos (USAID) provided a brief update on this work item. The work item seeks to survey the evidence on economic benefits of improved gender equality in legal identification, as well as on what has worked for different approaches to improve their legal identification. It endeavours to understand the links between different forms of identification for women and women's empowerment.

The consultant (Sophie Romana) has been commissioned and has commenced her work. She provided a presentation on the scope and approach to her research. See Attachment 1.

The proposed methodology:

- Desk research
 - Secondary data: research reports and case studies

- Findex Data, GSMA, ID4D 2018 Dataset
- Key Informant interviews
 - ID4D, G2PX
 - Caribou Digital, Omidyar Networks, Private sector
 - Women's professional associations, savings groups
- Size the problem
 - Use sex-disaggregated databases available: MSMEs, informal sector
 - Synthesize best practices and recommendations

Proposed case studies:

- Fragile context/Cross border: Ukraine, Syria, Afghanistan
- Digital success: Rwanda, Nigeria, Egypt, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana
- Highest gender gap: Pakistan, Mali

Task Team: USAID; WBG, BMZ/GIZ

AGREED

BEWG Members will provide comments on the proposed approach and identify and link up with any relevant key informants that the consultant can reach out to. See Attachment 1.

Ella Duffy will reach out to the Women's Economic Empowerment Working Group for their feedback.

TIME FRAME

Please provide comments before **COB Thursday, 30 June 2022.**

5.4 Role of social dialogue

Severine Deboos (ILO) provided a brief update on this work item, which seeks to examine the role of social dialogue and inclusion of a workers' perspective in business environment reforms and to identify lessons learned about how to improve reform processes.

The consultant (Alexandre Kateb) has submitted a second draft and he presented the highlights and findings of his research. There was insufficient time to discuss the draft, but comments are welcome.

Severine suggested the report was an initial exploration into this topic and may not be the final product.

AGREED

BEWG members are invited to provide comments on the draft report in writing to Simon White.

TIME FRAME

Please provide comments before **COB Thursday, 30 June 2022.**

5.5 Proposed webinars

Simon White presented proposals for three webinars to commence after the northern summer break.

- Week beginning 25 September 2022: Measuring BER
- Week beginning 23 October 2022: Role of Social Dialogue
- Week beginning 21 November 2022: Informality in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Settings

While the authors of the respective reports will present their reports, it is necessary to identify any relevant other speakers. These might be a donor representative who can respond to the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the respective reports, or a

relevant donor-funded BER project or program (i.e., case study) to illustrate the issues and challenges.

AGREED

BEWG members will send their ideas for speakers for the above webinars.

TIME FRAME

Please email Simon before **COB Thursday, 30 June 2022**.

Annual Work Plan and Budget 2022-23

The DCED Annual Meeting approved the BEWG Work Plan and Budget for 2022-23 as a part of its overall work plan. Thus, work can commence on the approved work items.

AGREED

Simon will contact all Task Teams with a view to sharpening up the scope of work for each work item.

TIME FRAME

It is anticipated that all Task Teams will have revised their scope of work by around the end of August or early September 2022.

Any other business

Results of the Quick BEWG Members Survey

The survey identified several issues relating to how the group builds on its research findings and finds ways to ensure its products have a greater impact. This could be achieved using stories, workshops and formulating more “digestible” program and policy messages. These issues will be included for discussion at the next BEWG meeting.

World Bank BEE Indicators

Sylvia indicated she could reach out to the BEE Team in the World Bank Group to organise an internal briefing with the BEWG on the emerging BEE indicators.

AGREED

The next BEWG meeting will include a discussion on developing a more strategic vision for the development and use of BEWG knowledge products.

Sylvia to explore an internal BEWG meeting on the emerging BEE Indicators.

TIME FRAME

Next BEWG meeting: see below

BEE Indicators Briefing: October 2022

Next meeting

Proposal: Next BEWG Meeting: Wednesday, 21 September 2022, 14:00 CET. Please indicate if this is acceptable.

Close of Meeting

Moussa Traore summarised the outcomes of the meeting and then closed at 15:35.

END.

Attachment 1: Legal Identification for Women; Update and Proposed Approach