



The Donor Committee for Enterprise Development

Women's Enterprise Working Group (WEDWG) Minutes
Stockholm, Sweden, 9 October 2013

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Participants

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Paul Dover, SIDA
Kris Easter, USAID
Torbjörn Fredriksson, UNCTAD
Lindi Hlanze, DFID (end of meeting)
Una Murray, consultant (representing IrishAid)
Ola Nilsmo, SIDA
Thao Nguyen, consultant (end of meeting)
Virginia Rose-Losada, ILO

Marie Sicat, UNCTAD
Joni Simpson, ILO (Chair)
Love Theodossiadis, SIDA (end of meeting)
Mika Vehnämäki, Finland MfFA
David Weber, Canada DFATD
Carolina Johansson Wennerholm, SIDA
Ashley Aarons, Secretariat
Adam Kessler, Secretariat

The Annex at the end of this document summarises the main action points agreed during the meeting.

Welcome remarks, review of agenda

Paul Dover welcomed the group to SIDA, noting the success of the joint ILO, SIDA and UNCTAD seminar on WED and ICT the previous day; SIDA's WED activity; and SIDA's intention to be more active in the WG. Joni Simpson thanked SIDA for hosting the meeting and outlined the agenda.

DCED and Agency Updates

The **DCED 2013 Annual Meeting** was held in July in the Netherlands, and was well attended with most members and several non-members represented, and ITC's membership approved. The thematic focus of the event was partnerships and a new related task force is being launched. A three year strategy was approved, which focuses the DCED more on supporting agency and programme effectiveness. The WEDWG work plan was approved, with the role of the WG in engaging with UNCTAD and several non-members noted, though a larger focus on programme and agency effectiveness was suggested. The [DCED Standard for results measurement](#) was outlined, and its increasing use by programmes was noted. There have been three audits recently and more guidance developed (e.g. on challenge funds). WG members were invited to a results measurement seminar in [March 2014](#). WG members were interested in guidance currently being developed around employment, and noted relevant resources in the meeting and were invited to email Adam Kessler any further comments or resources. SIDA is organising a workshop in Rwanda in December on employment, and would be interested in seeing the draft guidance before then if possible.

SIDA is holding a workshop in Rwanda in December on how to create employment. SIDA's 2009 policy paper '[WEE: Scope for SIDA's Engagement](#)' is being updated, with a new version expected by the end of the year, and a new tool is being developed on gender perspectives in market development. Women's empowerment is a key SIDA theme; within this, SIDA is also looking at the role of men, and recently held a session on men and WED.

Canada DFATD has just launched guidelines on WEE to help its programmes conceptualise WED and consider interventions. It highlights three objectives of programming: enabling the institutional framework, increasing women's economic opportunities and strengthening women's agency. Canada MFATD has also just launched with UN Women a [new website on WEE](#), which includes many resources, supports networking and will offer training. It was noted that IDRC has also launched the [Growth and Economic Opportunities for Women](#) (GROW) Research Programme and has had a very

positive response so far.

USAID updated its gender policy last year to better support mainstreaming, programmes and measurement systems. Champions were established throughout the agency and gender specialists are now reporting directly to more senior USAID figures. An internal WED diagnostics tool has been developed to support the design of programmes that better assist women, and is currently being rolled out. USAID has also developed [indicators and questions](#) for measuring key determinants of successful women-led SMEs.

UNCTAD is preparing a publication on integrating ICTs into the ILO WED Framework, looking at the ICT implications for each framework element. It is also producing a study specifically on ICTs in WED.

Gender is a cross-cutting objective within **Finland MFA**, with WED a focus theme of its Aid for Trade Action Plan. Programmes have recently been launched with the ILO in Egypt and Tunisia as well as in Zambia with significant WED components. Many ongoing rural development and ICT/innovation programs also have significant WED contents. The Ministry has committed to doubling its contribution to UN Women, and is continuing its work with Equal Futures Partnership.

The **Netherlands MoFA** has a record in promoting WEE via grass root organisations and helping women's groups lobby for better policies. For The Netherlands PSD is becoming more important, in part as the Ministries of Foreign Trade and Development have merged, NL is taking stock of the gender-dimensions in the current PSD-programmes. Best practices of other countries are very welcome.

The **ILO** will produce a report by the end of the year on what works in WED, looking at both ILO and external cases. The ILO is also working with UNCTAD to look at the interaction between ICTs and WED. The ILO WED Framework has been updated, while the ADB has also been interested in this ICT/WED work. An event is planned in Kenya in November 2013 to share knowledge across the Women's Entrepreneurship Development and Economic Empowerment (WED-EE) project, including on use of the new WED Framework. An impact assessment on WED activity in Kenya is also being planned, particularly of the business management tool 'get ahead', with results expected in 2015/16.

DFID has started scoping work on a new challenge fund on women and businesses in North Africa and the Middle East which should be operational next year, and WG member inputs on it would be valuable. DFID is also supporting the GROW programme highlighted by Canada MFATD.

Update on the WEDWG Work plan and Next Steps

A [scoping study on agency WED activities](#) was completed in October 2012, and subsequently a [literature review on household level indicators](#) has just been completed. The next work plan item is intended to build upon this and develop guidance on how to measure impacts at the household level. A call for proposals was launched, and representatives from DCED, ILO, IFC and Canada MFATD will shortly interview the strongest candidates. The work item aims to look in depth at two programmes applying household level indicators (preferably using the DCED Standard), which programmes should be identified by the end of November. Joni Simpson will send an email to WG members asking them to volunteer projects. In particular USAID, DFID and SIDA noted they might have relevant projects. In regards to the ToR, it was noted that in practice programmes did not always use the DCED Standard universal indicators, which was accepted by auditors if a clear justification was given. There are also significant challenges in identifying one key WED indicator. As such it was suggested that the work item focus less on identifying one universal indicator, and instead provide a list of indicators that programmes could pick from, with guidance on using them. It was also noted that though the wording focused on mainstreaming, the focus was on WED projects. Potential ways noted to present the completed work included at a side-event of another international event, a webinar through the new UN Women WEE gateway and at the DCED Results Measurement Seminar planned in March 2014. The next WG meeting would potentially be held in conjunction with the presentation of this work. Joni Simpson's email to members will also include a prompt for other possible events.

Case of Applying the DCED Standard on a WED Project

The ILO project WED-EE is one of the first WED projects to work with the DCED Standard and recently undertook a pre-audit. Overall the project was partially compliant, with particular issues identified around gathering baseline data and needing to do more on capturing wider change. It was suggested that impacts at the household level could potentially be seen as part of wider change, though others suggested this was different to current thinking on systemic change. The pre-audit process was valuable and has helped the project focus on results and better understand its overall logic. The Standard was seen as particularly useful as there is little comprehensive guidance available on monitoring (as opposed to evaluation). It was noted that DFID is producing guidance on how the Standard fits with evaluation, which had been an issue for the WED-EE. Overall the Standard elements were viewed as applicable for a WED project, though more WED related guidance for the different elements would be valuable. A project knowledge sharing event in Kenya in November 2013 will have side-sessions on the project measurement system and the pre-audit, which will further clarify project experiences, while the possibility of going for a full audit will be discussed.

Annex: Summary of Action Points Agreed

	What?	By Whom?	By When?
1.	Contact WG members about potential projects to be reviewed within the household level guidance work item, and events to present the completed guidance at	Joni Simpson	Asap
2.	Share with the WG. presentation on 'Applying the DCED Standard on a WED project'	Virginia Rose-Losada	Asap
3.	Share with the WG, WED related resources and news highlighted in the meeting	WG members	Asap