



PSD in a changing global aid context: Navigating fragility, trade and reconstruction



**DCED Annual Meeting
2025**
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Hosted by ITC, ILO, SDC and SECO

Thematic Day Provisional Agenda

18 June at ILO

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Time (tentative)	Agenda item
7:45 – 8:45	Registration and coffee
8:45 – 9:15	Opening remarks and keynote address <p>The opening session will set the scene for the day by exploring key parameters of the changing global aid context. On the one hand, development partners face changing needs and realities on the ground in light of growing fragility and increasingly protracted situations of displacement globally. On the other hand, ODA cuts and the need to demonstrate domestic (trade) benefits domestically are among the political trends and constraints that increasingly define the framework in which donors are operating in.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Rie Vejs-Kjeldgaard, Director of the Sustainable Enterprises, Productivity and Just Transition Department, ILO→ Elisabet Montgomery, DCED Co-chair/ Sida→ Mark Miller, ODI
9:15 – 10:30	Session I Sustainable economic inclusion for forcibly displaced people: Lessons from recent experience



Over the past decade, the number of forcibly displaced people (FDPs) has continued to rise year on year, to about 122 million by mid 2024. Other forms of displacement, linked to climate change and natural disasters, are also on the rise. In both cases, people increasingly live in protracted, long-term displacement situations (including an estimated [75% of FDPs](#)). It is therefore critical to provide them with sustainable livelihoods where they stay to avert long-term dependence on humanitarian aid and reduce pressures to move on to third countries.

This session will explore the lessons from a growing body of experience that systemic approaches are effective in empowering and including forcibly displaced people in local economies.

- Kahin Ismail, UNHCR
- Luana Ayala ILO, on promoting sustainable economic opportunities among FDPs in a complex urban environment in Lebanon
- ITC, on digital tools for creating economic opportunities for FDPs/ case example of promoting integration into the online freelancing sector in Kenya (tbc)
- Doing business in refugee camps – the case of a *poultry entrepreneur* in Ethiopia supported by the [SHARPE programme](#)
- Moderator: Harald Bekkers, DCED Secretariat

10:30 –
11:00

Coffee

11:00 –
12:15

Session II (3 break-outs)

II-A and II-B: Additional perspectives on making the humanitarian-peace-development (HDP) nexus work in practice

II-A Finance and (peace) investment in fragile contexts: What does it take?

Mobilising private finance is imperative to achieve SDGs, in particular in fragile situations and in the wider context of declining ODA budgets. While efforts have been growing to mobilise finance and investment, including in ways that do no harm or have a positive effect on peace, widespread success still remains elusive. This session explores practical examples and experiences by leading actors in this space to reflect on 'what works' as well as structural barriers that need to be addressed to unlock finance and investment in fragile contexts.

II-B Enhancing synergies between humanitarian and economic development actors – Organisational obstacles and ways to overcome them

In fragile and conflict affected settings humanitarian aid and systemic development are often both needed: one provides an essential first safety net while the other helps to reduce long-term dependence on the same. This session shares lessons learned from organisations and programs who have invested in approaches, local teams and management processes to successfully deliver both and create sustainable development outcomes in the harshest of conditions.



- Justin Sykes, Innovest, on experiences in supporting investments into funds and SMEs in fragile contexts
- Kristen Petillon, PeaceNexus Foundation, on lessons from acting as long-term advisory partner to companies and funds as well as impact investor
- Michel Botzung, IFC, on IFC's and UNHCR's Joint Initiative in forced displacement settings
- Rosalind Tan, FMO
- Moderator: Luca Etter, SDC
- Alison Hemberger, Mercy Corps, on experiences in making the humanitarian-peace development nexus work in practice
- Jennifer Weatherall, Catholic Relief Services
- Nadia Nutz, ILO, on lessons from the PROSPECTS initiative -a global partnership that aims to improve the access of host communities and forcibly displaced people to education, social protection and decent work.
- Norwegian Refugee Council and ITC Iraq (tbc)
- Moderator: Harald Bekkers, DCED Secretariat

II-C: Q&A and small group discussion on the US (aid) context

- With US counterpart

12:15 –
13:30

Lunch

13:30 –
14:45

Session III

PSD and Trade: Defining effective practice under changing parameters

Outline to follow

- Julie Spies, ITC, on the impact of US tariffs and changing global trade regimes on developing countries and implications for PSD
- Rens Twijnstra, Netherlands MoFA and Sida on donor agency perspectives on balancing aid and trade objectives in PSD, against the background of the shift towards a more interest-based development paradigm in donor countries
- Tobias Leeg, GlZ, with perspectives on mutually beneficial green investment and trade agenda for donor and developing countries

14:45–
15:15

Coffee

15:15 –
16:45

Session IV

PSD experiences in Ukraine: Real talk on priorities, pitfalls and prospects going forward



Ukraine is a special case in PSD efforts globally, situated at the intersection of donor governments' humanitarian, development, security, geopolitical and trade interests. Nevertheless, it also represents an example of wider trends in the global aid context, including a shift towards middle-income countries, a greater integration of aid and national (trade) interests, and greater focus on resilience in situations of conflict and other economic shocks. This session will provide an opportunity for frank exchange among DCED members and practitioners on their support to PSD in Ukraine and both the unique and transferable lessons emerging from their work.

- Pablo Io Moro, Helvetas, on Helvetas' experiences in addressing PSD opportunities arising from Ukraine's unique economic resilience as well as specific PSD challenges related to the war's effect on land, labour and capital
- Armen Zargaryan, ITC, on ITC experiences in addressing Ukraine's economic challenges as well as reflections on practical tensions arising in the context of integrated approaches to trade and aid
- Phyllis Papadavid, ODI, on the direct and indirect trade-related and economic impacts of the Ukraine war on Africa, with a particular focus on gender dimensions
- Irene Frei, SECO, on SECO's partnerships approach with Swiss companies in Ukraine
- Camilla Otto, EBRD
- Ukrainian business membership organization representative (tbc)
- Moderator: Holger Grundel, DCED Secretariat

16:45 – **Session V**

17:30 **Conclusion and outlook: How (PSD) donors need to work differently in a changing global aid context**

- Patrick Egli, Head of Economic Cooperation and Education, SDC
- Former USAID counterpart, in personal capacity
- Sara Casadevall Belles, Center for Global Development, on organisational structures, processes and capabilities needed by donor agencies to remain effective and resilient in a changing global aid context
- Moderator: Merten Sievers, ILO

17:30 **Closing remarks**

18:30 – **Cocktail Dinner** (hosted by SDC, 10-minutes' walk from ILO), with welcome remarks by
21:30 Christian Frutiger, Assistant Director General and Head of Thematic Cooperation, SDC

