



## Market Systems Development Working Group

### MINUTES

Conference Call: 13:00 UTC/GMT Tues 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020

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**Chair:** Susi Thiard-Laforet (ADA)

#### Members present

Alex Kucharski (CDC)  
Anders Aero (ITC)  
Andrea Inglin (SDC)  
Arjun Bhoopal (Gatsby Africa)  
Devi Ramkissoon (USAID)  
Elisabet Montgomery (Sida)  
Gun Eriksson Skoog (ILO)  
Janna Post (GIZ)  
Karen Eeuwens (FCDO)  
Kristin O'Planick (USAID)  
Maciej Drozd (World Bank)  
Nafis Muntasir (Mastercard Foundation)  
Naho Aizu (JICA)  
Rana Fakhoury (UNIDO)  
Steve Hartrich (ILO)

Susanne Thiard-Laforet (ADA)  
Takafumi Ueda (JICA)

#### DCED Secretariat

Ella Duffy  
Isabelle Gore  
Jim Tanburn  
Mike Albu

#### Member apologies

Lars Radscheidt (GIZ)  
Lisbeth Jespersen (MoFA Denmark)  
Mattias Altmann (EC DEVCO)  
Tristan Armstrong (DFAT Australia)

#### AGENDA

- |   |                          |        |
|---|--------------------------|--------|
| <b>1. Opening</b>   |                          | 5 min  |
| Approval of previous minutes  | Susi                     |        |
| <b>2. Updates and/or key news from members</b>                                |                          | 10 min |
| <b>3. Review / recap of new WG outputs &amp; overall achievements in 2020</b> |                          | 10 min |
| Workstreams 1, 2 & 3:   | Mike                     |        |
| • Evidence Review 2020  |                          |        |
| • Evaluation of MSD Distance Learning course for Donors                       |                          |        |
| Workstream 4.   | Arjun, Steve, Lars, Jana |        |
| <b>4. Timetable / milestones for 2021</b>                                     | Susi                     |        |
| <b>5. Topics &amp; themes for 2021</b>  |                          | 30 min |
| Focal topics for MSD WG meetings  | Susi                     |        |
| Early ideas for MSD Workplan 2021/22 (discussion)                             | All                      |        |
| <b>6. Date for Feb 2021 meeting &amp; AOB</b>                                 |                          | 5 min  |

#### Papers

All papers can be found at: <https://sites.google.com/beamexchange.org/msdwg/dec-20>

## MINUTES

### 1. Welcome & Introductions

Susi (ADA) welcomed everyone to the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the MSD Working Group.

No corrections or other changes were proposed to the [October meeting minutes](#) which were therefore approved.

### 2. WG member updates

Steve (ILO) reminded members that (sadly) it is final week for The Lab at ILO. Final papers published include on [tackling informality](#) in MSD programmes; on the [root causes of child labour](#) and on [MSD and the environment](#). He also trailed The Lab's forthcoming synthesis of five years work: a **MSD/VCD Guide** on how to create more and better jobs. This guide will feature in a BEAM webinar on Feb 11<sup>th</sup>.

Andrea (SDC) advised members of a current evaluation of SDC's MSD portfolio due for completion in early 2021

Alex (CDC Group) briefed members on imminent launch of CDC's first two 'market-shaping' programmes in Myanmar (co-funded with [FMO](#)) and Nepal (co-funded with FMO and SDC). He described them as programmes focusing on building investment eco-systems with MSD in their DNA..

Ryan (Gatsby) announced their first paper in the [Horizon East Africa series](#) on political economy in Kenya. The series will provide in-depth analysis into the key trends likely to shape the future of Kenya, considering the impact of COVID-19 on the country's prospects for economic transformation.

### 3. Review / recap of new WG outputs & overall achievements in 2020

Mike (Secretariat) ran quickly through a [short slide presentation](#) covering the engagement statistics achieved by the BEAM Exchange; and the major outputs delivered or on-going by the MSD Working Group during the 2020 calendar year.

Susi (ADA) and Gun (ILO) both expressed their appreciation for the number and quality of outputs.

Members discussed the successful Donor Training (workstream 3.3) now completed. It was agreed that the MSD WG does not need subsidise any further iteration of the course; and demand has been well established. A [final training evaluation report](#) is available.

Steve (ILO) mentioned that the [Africa Youth employment](#) paper (Workstream 4.2) had received 800+ views. ILO wants to build on this momentum, developing a 'rough guide' complementary to the M4P Operational Guide that will dive deeper into particular aspects (e.g. sector selection) that are particular to the youth employment field. ToRs are under development.

Janna (GIZ) confirmed that workstream 4.3 are now active, with a task-team meeting on Jan 14<sup>th</sup> for the MSD / conflict / Covid-19 study.

She also reported that the Digitalisation study (workstream 4.4) was well under way, and due for completion in Jan 2021. Anders (ITC) expressed ITC's enthusiasm for continuing this theme into the new WorkPlan for 2021/22.

### 4. Timetable / milestones for 2021

On which note, Suzi and Jim (Secretariat) explained that the WG has to produce a final draft WorkPlan for 2021/2 by April. Members discussed how to prepare ideas over next few months. It was agreed to arrange separate small 'task-team' meetings to focus and refine ideas, in advance of the next full Working Group meeting in late Feb 2021.

## 5. Topics & themes for 2021

A wide ranging conversation then took place in which the following ‘themes’ or topics were identified by member as new or continuing priorities.

### Continue priorities

#### A. Youth employment

Steve (ILO), Andea (SDC), Karen (FCDO) and Nafis (MasterCard) are all interested in continuing to focus on this, with ILO’s proposal for a ‘rough guide’ to complement the M4P Operational Guide in development; and SDC making decent work a strategic priority now. This could follow up from Workstream 4.2.

#### B. Digitalisation services.

While we await the results of the existing GIZ-managed study (Workstream 4.4) there is clear interest (e.g. from Anders, ITC, Gun, ILO) for continuing to work in this topic, especially given how significant digital business models have become for SMEs during the Covid-19 epidemic.

#### C. Donors’ responses to Covid

Kristin (USAID), Elisabet (Sida) and Nafis (Mastercard) volunteered again to liaise with (Action) Mike to collate and share (privately) information about how donor’s are responding to the impact of Covid-19 on MSD programmes.

#### D. MSD in fragile & conflict-affected state

Many members (e.g. Kristin, Janna & Gun) expect to continue to be interested in this important and enduring general topic (not withstanding results of the imminent Workstream 4.3 study in early 2021).

#### E. MSD Competency framework

Mike Klassen (Secretariat) reminded members that the Secretariat is planning (in early 2021) to refresh the existing [MSD Competency Framework](#) with new material on MSD leadership. He would like (Action) ALL members to share their priorities are.

### Fresh priority options

#### E. Relationship between MSD approach & direct (impact) investment

Alex (CDC Group) was joined by Kristin (USAID), Ryan (Gatsby) and Anders (ITC) in expressing interest in the role of the MSD approach in the finance space / investment field. “We’d love to dig into this space” exploring how finance & impact investment promotion relate to the future of the MSD approach.

#### F. MSD and the Environment

Anders (ITC) was keen to examine how MSD approach can support green growth, low-carbon economy transformation. Steve (ILO) suggested this could build on [ILO’s recent brief](#). Jim (Secretariat) noted that the DCED’s Green Growth WG has an existing collaboration with the BER WG, and may be interested to collaborate with MSD WG in this space.

#### G. Learning from recent MSD portfolio reviews

Andrea (SDC) noted that a number of independent donor-focussed reviews or evaluations of their MSD or systemic change programme portfolios are now accumulating. For example: [Sida](#), [DFAT](#), [ILO](#) existing, as well as SDC and USAID forthcoming in Spring 2021. Members (e.g. Gun, ILO) agreed it might be interesting to compare and synthesise lessons for donors emerging from these reviews.

#### H. MSD and social inclusion

Devi (USAID) advised members that USAID is planning to work on the topic of intersection of social inclusion and MSD programming in 2021 and will keep members posted.

#### J. Planning for a DCED Global Seminar in 2022

Gun (ILO) made an impassioned pitch for the Secretariat to begin planning for another global MSD Seminar for donors (and implementers) when it becomes possible. This would be an event along the lines of the previous [DCED / BEAM Seminar](#) in Nairobi in 2018. Realistically we might hope to do this in spring 2022. Many members were very appreciative and there was general agreement with this aspiration. **Action Gun** to share her plan with Chairs and Secretariat.

#### 6. AOB, next steps and next meeting

Chair, Susi (SDC) proposed that the next WG meeting take place in late February. In the meantime, she asked **Action: ALL** to volunteer their interest in one or more of these topics above.

**Action All** complete this [poll of WG members](#) regarding their preferred date.

Elisabet (Sida) and Jim (Secretariat) proposed organising small meetings in advance of the main WG meeting in February so that members of potential task-teams can share ideas in more detail in a more intimate space. **Action Mike, Susi and Andrea** to organise this

Chair, Susi (ADA) thanked everyone heartily for their participation and wished them a peaceful festive break.