

Market Systems Development Working Group

MINUTES

Conference Call: 13:00 UTC/GMT Friday 26th February 2021

Chairs: Susi Thiard-Laforet (ADA) & Andrea Inglin (SDC)

Members invited

Alex Kucharski (CDC)	Rana Fakhoury (UNIDO)
Andrea Inglin (SDC)	Ryan Bourque (Gatsby Africa)
Annegret Brauss (ITC)	Steve Hartrich (ILO)
Arjun Bhoopal (Gatsby Africa)	Susanne Thiard-laforet (ADA)
David Neven (FAO)	Takafumi Ueda (JICA)
Devi Ramkissoon (USAID)	Tom Sanderson (FCDO)
Elisabet Montgomery (Sida)	Tristan Armstrong (Australian DFAT)
Gun Eriksson Skoog (ILO)	Yan Chen (GIZ)
Hideki Kemmotsu (JICA)	
Janna Post (GIZ)	DCED Secretariat
Kristin O'Planick (USAID)	Jim Tanburn, Mike Albu, Isabelle Gore
Maciej Drozd (World Bank)	Apologies
Margot Lobbezoo (CBI)	Anders Aero (ITC)
Matthias Altmann (EU)	Lars Radscheidt (GIZ)
Mehraz Rafat (NORAD)	Lisbeth Jespersen (Danish MoFA)
Nafis Muntasir (Mastercard Foundation)	Rens Twijnstra (Dutch MoFA)
Pauline Baars (CBI)	

AGENDA

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|---|---------------|
| 1. Welcome & introductions to new members | Susi & Andrea |
| Approval of previous minutes | |
| 2. Brief Updates and important news from all members, including | |
| Evidence Review | Mike |
| USAID MSP & Market Systems Resilience community | Kristin |
| MSD & Social Inclusion | Devi |
| SDC Review & MSD learning synthesis | Andrea |
| Communications activities | Susi |
| 3. Markets in Crises Advisory Committee | Mike |
| 4. Status of current workstream activities | |
| [4.2] Rough Guide to Youth Employment manual | Nafis / Steve |
| [4.3] Lesson for Covid Recovery study | Janna |
| [4.4] Digitalisation services for SMEs study | Lars |
| 5. New Topic for 2021/2: MSD & Impact Investment / Dev Finance | Alex & Arjun |
| 6. New Topic for 2021/2: MSD & Green Growth | Janna & Mike |
| 7. Date for April 2021 meeting & AOB | Susi & Andrea |

MINUTES

1. Welcome, Introductions

Andrea (SDC) welcomed everyone to the 16th meeting of the MSD Working Group.

No corrections / changes were proposed to the [December meeting minutes](#) which were therefore approved.

2. Brief Updates and important news from all members,

Given the high attendance, including several new faces, Andrea asked all present to introduce themselves and if relevant offer a brief update or announcement about their agency.

Andrea (SDC) informed that she received the draft evaluation report looking at SDC's MSD in agriculture portfolio and she is looking forward to working on a learning synthesis from MSD portfolio reviews done by different donors

Elisabet (Sida) advised members about recent initiatives at Sida, including MSD training provided to a large number of Sida staff.

Kristin and Devi (USAID) spoke about the launch on Feb 18th of a new community of practice for Markets Systems Resilience, linked to the [Market Systems & Partnership](#) programme. Devi explained that her team are still working up ideas on MSD & Social Inclusion (proposed topic D) so she withdrew this for now from our MSD WG agenda.

Janna (GIZ) (who looks after the Lessons for Covid study 4.3 workstream) introduced her new colleague Yan Chen (GIZ) who will lead on the Green Recovery topic.

Gun and Steve (ILO) mentioned an important review of the ILO's MSD portfolio underway currently, and reminded members of the newly published [Value Chain Development for Decent Work](#) which was subject of the most recent BEAM webinar.

Nafis (MCF) spoke about incorporation of the MSD approach into new MCF Country Strategies in Ghana, Senegal, Kenya and Nigeria, with more robust measurement framework. Also noted a recent collaboration with ILO on market system analysis in Ghana.

Arjun and Ryan (Gatsby) advised members about a current review of their sector transformation measurement framework. They also highlighted two new studies just starting. The first on resilience and how to build resilient sectors. The second looking at the many digital platforms aiming or claiming to support agricultural productivity.

New member Annegret (ITC) explained her role in ITC on environmental issues. She advised members that ITC will be launching a new Strategic Plan in 2021, and expects MSD to be an important aspect of this.

Maciej (World Bank) explained his main role as an Economist in the Bank, and also as an agent for DCED's Trust Fund (dispensing funds for MSD WG activities). He noted that MSD is an aspect of many initiatives in the Bank which don't necessarily get labelled as such e.g. IFC's Strategy (Creating Markets) and country-level initiatives such as 'Changing Health Systems in Nigeria' that was MSD inspired.

Mehraz (Norad) described the private sector engagement work of Norad's Strategic Partnership scheme which provides grants in Agriculture, Fish and ITC sectors.

Matthias (EC) acknowledged the Commission is relatively new to the MSD approach, but work is underway to introduce rules and capacities that enable EC partners to apply the approach. In January, MSD was on the agenda of the PSD expert group from EU member states.

Takafumi and Hideki (JICA) noted that MSD is not yet talked about much at JICA, but he and his colleagues are keen to know more so they can advise their PSD and Agriculture teams. They mentioned a recent award of grants for African start-up firms who won a challenge-fund competition.

New member David (**FAO**) explained his background in agri value-chain development in Food Systems and Safety unit in FAO. He mentioned three MSD-relevant initiatives under his purview: [3ADI+](#) a joint FAO-UNIDO programme; [AgrInvest](#) to promote investment in agri-food systems, and [Fish4ACP](#) a 10 country programme (funded by EU).

New member Tom (**FCDO**) explained his role as Head of Profession for PSD in the newly merged (Foreign Office & DFID) department. FCDO is trying to do 'more with less' now, so MSD is going to be more important. This year, the G7 & [CoP 26 meeting](#) in November is key for the UK, so green financing and food systems are going to be really important.

Alex (**CDC**) reminded members that CDC is the UK's Dev Finance Institution, and noted his interest in bring the two worlds of DFIs and Donor programming closer together. For example he mentioned two new initiatives launched in Nepal and Myanmar recently. He expressed enthusiasm about working with Gatsby on Forestry sector proposals.

New members Margot and Pauline (**CBI**) explained about [CBI](#)'s role in the Dutch government promoting imports to EU with 35 – 50 programmes in LDCs around the world. Margot noted that Dutch MoFA gives much attention to 'systemic change' in its strategy, and recently so does CBI. They already have two programmes in the IT sector in Egypt and Jordan using the MSD approach; and plan to train more colleagues in the MSD approach.

Jim, Ella, Isabelle and Mike (**DCED Secretariat team**) introduced themselves and said how much they appreciate the large attendance. Mike explained that a final draft of the Evidence Review (Workstream 2.2) has been submitted and will be published by end March.

Susi (**ADA**) introduced herself as co-Chair with Andrea (**SDC**). She updated members on Communications Strategy (Workstream 5) noting several recent opportunities used to promote the Working Group (Practitioners' Network Webinar on MSD and COVID 19, EU Expert Group Meeting).

She then thanked all WG members for their introductions and explained the importance of regular attendance to the WG meetings, as the group's work depends on the ideas and contributions of its members. She also mentioned that there is room for variation in the intensity of the engagement, but that it was important to have one main representative for each organisation in the group.

3. Markets in Crises Advisory Committee

Mike explained that he has been invited to join the Advisory Committee of the [Markets-in-Crises](#) platform and community of practice. [Terms of Reference](#) have been circulated, which include a commitment of 8 days a year from Mike's time with the Secretariat.

Maciej asked Mike to clarify the objectives of his engagement, and Gun commented on the potential value of Mike's bridging role. Members showed their approval for this activity by raising their hands. There were no objections.

4. Status of current workstream activities

[Workstream 4.2] Rough Guide to Youth Employment manual

Nafis (**MCF**) and Steve (**ILO**) noted that the ToRs for this study were ready in December, but procurement has been held-up in the WBG administrative process. Maciej (**World Bank**) assured members he is doing his utmost to identify and remove the obstacle.

[Workstream 4.3] Lesson for Covid Recovery study

Janna (**GIZ**) updated members on great progress since January by the consultant doing this study, supported by the Secretariat. She expects a draft output by the end of April (in time for next WG meeting).

[Workstream.4.4] Digitalisation services for SMEs study

Janna (**GIZ**) updated members that consultant's first draft of the digitalisation study is almost ready, and the final will be completed in March in time for the next WG meeting. Margot (**CBI**) said her organisation would be particularly keen to learn from the results.

BREAKOUT ROOMS

At this point, the WG meeting divided for approx. 15 minutes into two breakout rooms to extend conversations previously started by the two respective task-teams.

5. New Topic for 2021/2: MSD & Impact Investment / Dev Finance

Mike drew members' attention to the [summary of ideas](#) already tabled by task team members.

The group explored the proposals being discussed by Alex (CDC) and Arjun (Gatsby) that aim to encourage productive conversation between key players in the development finance space and donors/development practitioners on how the two could work better together.

6. New Topic for 2021/2: MSD & Green Growth

Mike drew members' attention to the [summary of ideas](#) already tabled by task team members.

The group discussed whether to do something on mainstreaming Green issues in existing MSD programmes, or seek to promote systemic thinking & MSD approach in the emerging areas of Green Growth / Circular Economy. It was generally agreed that more time is needed to share ideas.

7. Date for April 2021 meeting & AOB

Susi (ADA) wrapped up the meeting, thanking members for their enthusiastic participation.

She asked **Action Mike** to schedule two meetings as soon as possible to continue agenda items 5 & 6.

Action Mike also agreed to circulate a poll to identify the best date for the next WG meeting in late April, where a final draft work plan for 2021/22 will be presented by the chairs and Mike for approval by the WG.