



Market Systems Development Working Group

MINUTES

Conference Call: 13:00 UTC/GMT Wednesday 28th April 2021

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

WG 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)
Kristin O'Planick (USAID)
Matthias Altmann (European Commission)
Nafis Muntasir (Mastercard Foundation)
Pauline Baars (CBI)
Rana Fakhoury (UNIDO)
Ryan Bourque (Gatsby Africa)

Steve Hartrich (ILO)
Susanne Thiard-laforet (ADA)
Takafumi Ueda (JICA)
Tom Sanderson (FCDO)
Urkaly Isaev (IFC)
Yan Chen (GIZ)

DCED Secretariat

Isabelle Gore, Jim Tanburn
Mike Albu, Mike Klassen

Apologies

Catherine Masinde (World Bank)
David Neven (FAO)
Lars Radscheidt (GIZ)

AGENDA

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|---|---------------------|--------|
| 1. Welcome & introductions | Susi & Andrea | 5 min |
| Approval of previous minutes | | |
| 2. Brief Updates and important news from all members | | 15 min |
| 3. Nominations for co-Chairs | Andrea | 5 min |
| 4. DCED endorsement of MSD in FCAS Guidance Notes | Janna | 5 min |
| 5. Draft WG WorkPlan for 2021/22 | | |
| Discussion & approval of workstream activities & budgets | Mike, Andrea & Susi | 45 min |
| 6. Date for July 2021 meeting & AOB | Susi & Andrea | 5 min |

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1. Welcome, Introductions

Andrea and Susi (**Chairs**) welcomed everyone to the 17th meeting of the MSD Working Group, including new member Urkaly from IFC. No changes had been proposed to the [February meeting minutes](#) which were therefore approved.

2. Brief Updates and important news from all WG members,

Susi (ADA) offered everyone the opportunity to give a brief update or announcement about their agency.

Urkaly (IFC) explained that he was joining the meeting to understand more about the WG, as IFC look for someone to replace Maciej.

Gun and Steve (ILO) mentioned three new publications: a guide on [sustainability in entrepreneurship training](#) (based on 30 years of SIYB experience), and new guides from the ILO Green Jobs units on integrating environmental issues in [sector selection / market assessment](#) and [intervention analysis / design](#). Gun also announced that ILO's internal MSD-network is planning to run an extended online event in September, and is considering having a special session open to the members of the MSD Working Group

Steve (ILO) announced that Arabic, Spanish and French translations of the [VCD Guide to Decent Work](#) are now available.

Matthias (EC) advised members that the EC's Thematic Guidance document on MSD will be published soon, and will include an accessible 2-page brief.

Ryan (Gatsby) described progress on collaboration with CDC+ and FSD to work in the forestry sector in E Africa. He also explained that the joint study (new Workstream 3.1) with CDC+ on Sector Development & Development Finance is advancing, and he asked members to comment on the ToRs and/or recommend consultants. Gatsby are also studying digitally-enabled solutions for agri-input providers, which will report in the autumn. Finally, Ryan reminded members of the newly published '[New Horizons](#)' research which examined the impact of urbanisation and demographic trends on the future of work in East Africa.

Mike (DCED Secretariat) presented some data on the usage of the BEAM Exchange platform this year illustrating strong upward trends in users, engaged users and resource downloads.

Andrea (SDC) informed members about the extensive recent external evaluation of SDC's MSD programmes in their Agriculture portfolio. This will contribute to the synthesis activity described in new Workstream 2.2

3. Nominations for co-Chairs

Andrea (SDC) explained that nominations are now open for members to replace Susi or Andrea as co-chairs.

Action all WG Members please contact the co-Chairs and/or Mike to submit a nomination. Andrea explained that they enjoy the role and are happy to continue, but would not want to stand in the way of others wishing to step up. No one volunteered. However, Anders (ITC) thanked the co-Chairs for their excellent work in managing the WG, and appreciated the way they have facilitated. Several other members echoed this sentiment in the 'chat' thread.

4. DCED endorsement of MSD in FCAS Guidance Notes

Janna (GIZ) updated WG members on the progress of the two Guidance Sheets almost finalised by consultant Karri Byrne, noting the contributions of two advisory groups representing 'donors' and 'implementers'. She particularly appreciated DCED Secretariat's help coordinating these groups, and recommended this methodology for future studies to support consultants.

The task team had expressed interest in publishing the Guidance Notes as DCED guidance; Jim Tanburn (Secretariat) noted that this would mean publication as a Working Group product, and that the whole group would therefore be taking responsibility for the guidance. It is therefore important that all members of the WG were fully in agreement with the content. In order to establish WG consensus approval, the final guidance notes have already been shared with the task-team (USAID, FCDO, Sida, ADA) and Andrea (from outside the task-team) volunteered to also review. **Action all WG Members** were requested to raise any concerns or objections within two weeks of receiving final versions, which will be shared with everyone once the task team has signed off on them.

5. Draft WG WorkPlan for 2021/22

Mike (**Secretariat**) then led WG members through a discussion of the draft WorkPlan for 2021/22. Susi (**ADA**) explained that the vision and goals of the WG are unchanged. However, the structure of the activities section has been simplified into just three sections.

Activities in Section 1 essentially cover the work of the DCED Secretariat running the BEAM Exchange platform and its related activities. In other respects there is little change from the 2020/21 workplan.

Janna (**GIZ**) and others asked Mike to explain the benefits of his planned involvement as an advisor to the Markets-in-Crises platform (**Workstream 1.4**)

Activities in Section 2 relate to the building of capabilities and evidence for the MSD community of donors and implementers.

Andrea (**SDC**) described expectations for the synthesis of lessons from donors' portfolio reviews (**Workstream 2.2**), while recognising the significant diversity in nature of these reviews.

Kristin (**USAID**) explained her expectations for collaboration with the MSP project (**Workstream 2.3**).

Members noted the planning for a possible global seminar in 2022/3 (**Workstream 2.4**). Mike also advised WG members that he is participating in the [2021 Market Systems Symposium](#) online and invited others to join him.

Activities in Section 3 cover the various studies planned by WG members that relate to current or emerging challenges for the MSD field.

Ryan (**Gatsby**) briefly summarised the ToRs for the joint (with **CDC+**) study relating to development finance (**Workstream 3.1**). He invited WG members to comment in the next two weeks, and requested **Action all WG Members** to recommend consultants to undertake the work.

Mike (**Secretariat**) regretted that there has been no further progress in tendering the follow-on study relating to Youth Employment (**Workstream 3.2**) but promised to keep working with Urkaly (**IFC**).

Yanchen (**GIZ**) summed up the plans agreed among the large task-team looking at Greening MSD (**Workstream 3.3**), which has self-divided into two parallel topics, both to be funded by GIZ. She will lead the work on applying the MSD approach to 'green growth / recovery'. Anders (**ITC**) said that his colleague Annegret would lead the other study group looking at social inclusion and environmental sustainability in the design and management of MSD programmes. **Action Yanchen** to arrange next meetings of both task-teams by Doodle poll.

Mike (**Secretariat**) asked WG members whether the proposed activity (**Workstream 3.4**) on MSD in fragile & conflict-affected settings needs to be included in the WorkPlan. Co-chair Susi (**ADA**) argued that it was not necessary if we continue to engage with the topic under Activity Section 1. The consensus therefore was to remove it from the draft WorkPlan.

6. Date for June 2021 meeting & AOB

At the co-Chairs request, Jim (**Secretariat**) explained next steps with compiling WorkPlans from all the DCED working groups, and final submission to the DCED Executive Committee in early May.

Members discussed best rough timing for the next meeting (likely in week beginning June 14th) and agreed that it should have a focus topic based on recent outputs. Either the FCAS guidance notes or the Digitalisation study could be candidates. **Action Mike & co-Chairs** to discuss and propose.

There was no other business.

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