

Results Measurement Working Group (RMWG)

Draft Minutes of meeting, Online, 8th April 2024

v. 26th April 2024

Participants (15):

- Rens Twijnstra (NL MoFA) *Working Group Chair*
- Mads Mayerhofer (DANIDA)
- Na Eun Mun (ILO)
- Nic Van Der Jagt (IKEA Foundation)
- Peter Beez (SDC)
- Artur Pokrikyan (SDC)
- Jonas Bolzen (GIZ)
- Angela Van Den broek (RVO)
- Lea Richard (ILO)

DCED Secretariat

- Harald Bekkers (DCED Secretariat)
- Melina Heinrich-Fernandes (DCED Secretariat)
- Nabanita Sen Bekkers (DCED Secretariat)
- Muneeb Zulfiqar (DCED Secretariat)

External

- Adam Kessler (DevLearn) – Presenter
- Rory Tews (RM Consultant)

Welcome & Introductions

Rens welcomed participants to the meeting, inviting all participants to briefly introduce themselves.

Implications of using artificial intelligence (AI) for Results Measurement

Adam started this session by checking participants' experience in using AI. Most participants have had some experience, especially using large language models like ChatGPT.

Adam shared a presentation on current applications of AI chatbots and their potential future use for donors and results measurement (RM) practitioners. He explained how while Chatbots can be used to conduct specific Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) tasks such as designing questionnaires, analysing data, writing reports, and copy editing copy, the quality of outputs varies considerably. This is because AI is still unable to understand contexts if not provided. It cannot be fully integrated into office environments like human employees and may generate incorrect or misleading information, a phenomenon referred to as "hallucinating." He explained the importance of crafting precise and thoughtful prompts to significantly improve the performance and quality of AI outputs and recommended opting for paid chatbot services to benefit from enhanced data privacy and a superior product.

During the Q&A, WG members discussed how to integrate AI into RM practices, ethical considerations for work, and how to use it as an aid rather than a human replacement.

Update on the tentative RMWG work plan for Fiscal year 2024-25

Rens and Nabanita proposed ideas for three work items for 2024-25 and got feedback from members on these items and ideas for other new themes. See suggestions & feedback in annex below. The following items were discussed for the work plan:

1. **Dissemination of the DCED Standard for RM:** The secretariat will continue promoting the uptake of the DCED Standard. This would include organizing short, in-person or online, seminars/workshops for donors and their implementing partners. The secretariat will develop a one-pager offering on how they can support member agencies and their implementing partners if they want to apply the DCED Standard. Interested working group members will continue to share ideas on how to encourage dissemination of the Standard within their agencies and seek support from the secretariat as needed. Peter emphasized how it was useful to do refresher sessions on the Standard within SDC.
2. **Measuring Systems Change:** The current work item on this for fiscal year 2023-24 has been updated based on bilateral discussions with member agencies. A TOR will be developed to commission a desk research to identify good case examples of programmes which may be working towards creating systems change in the current fiscal year. The working group will request additional funds from the Trust Fund for 2024-25 to do further research in these identified cases (including primary research) to measure the results on systems change. Working group members remain very interested in this topic, particularly to have good case examples of systems change and how it is measured so that the learning can be circulated with the wider community. Peter suggested to also liaise with SNV on this work item as they are currently working on a similar theme.
3. **Defining Indicators for Green Growth:** A new work item was proposed on developing guidance on what to measure and how to measure impact of programmes working with a green PSD focus. Collaboration with the DCED Green Growth Working Group was also discussed as a means to leverage mutual goals and expertise. The working group members expressed that donor interest in green growth metrics, especially at the output and outcome levels, is increasing. Nic suggested to also liaise with Ikea Foundation on their work in integrating green accelerators from East Africa. The working group will request funds from the Trust Fund on this work item.

In addition to these work items, if members have other suggestions they have decided to propose this to the chair and the secretariat.

Member updates on Results Measurement

Participants shared updates on their work in results measurement.

- **Jonas (GIZ)** shared that GIZ has adopted a new approach involving AI-powered portfolio analysis. This development was in response to a query from the ministry regarding activities in specific fields. GIZ is now utilizing a large language model to enhance understanding of their projects, not limited to Results Measurement (RM) but also extending to data-related aspects. The model requires further training to better represent GIZ's diverse projects.
- **Nic (IKEA Foundation)** discussed IKEA's initial attempt to implement a similar AI approach as GIZ in their grant-making portfolio. However, the initiative was discontinued due to the AI's slow learning pace and security concerns. IKEA has since shifted to manual processes and is now utilizing outcome harvesting for verification. Additionally, they are exploring new methods for combining evaluation techniques for impact evaluations, moving away from randomized controlled trials (RCTs) to quasi-experimental designs (QED) with contribution analysis, referencing Dean Karlan's work on the subject (to discuss at the DCED Annual meeting in June 2023 in Washington DC)
- **Na Eun (ILO)** updated the group on the SCORE program (PSD), which ILO has been implementing for the past 14 years. An ex-post evaluation is currently underway, tracking results three years post-implementation. This long-term evaluation is notably backed by donor funding, and initial findings are promising.

- **Lea (ILO)** reported that ILO is focusing on aggregating measures of job quality across various programs. Different programs have different metrics for assessing job quality, and consolidated results are still pending.
- **Angela (RVO)** introduced the concept of reflexive monitoring, which RVO has started piloting and is now expanding. She noted the tool's effectiveness and expressed a desire to share results once they are available.

AOB

The Annual Meeting will take place from 3-6 June in Washington DC. The RM Working Group is currently scheduled to meet on 3rd June in the first half of the day. Arrangements will be made so that members who are unable to join in-person can connect remotely. Dean Karlan from USAID will join part of the meeting. Rens will gather input from members on topics they would like to discuss with Dean during this meeting.

Annex: responses by participants to annual work plan items:

Promoting the DCED Standard for Results Measurement

Very important, needs to be repeated regularly, in fact yearly because of rotation

Info sessions, before-after case studies

Train an AI model to help people learn about it... :-)

Can we take a role in this ourselves? And maybe use some communication material made by the Secretariat?

None, the Standard is not so relevant for our funding practice

Important to maintain focus on social inclusion/poverty reduction/LNOB as systems transformation approaches tend to leave the poor/LDCs somewhat behind...



Work piece: how donor agencies monitor systems change

Very good and clear and useful

Very interesting! Please know that RVO is now using societal challenges as a way to talk about system change at portfolio level. Let me know if you want to know more about this.

Very relevant. Would suggest to connect with the Governance colleagues inside the agencies. Within SDC, nobody feels in charge, i.e. the political economy not only to measure system change, but make it

Please know that SNV has a dedicated MEL specialist working on this

Very interesting, also the monitoring of behavioral changes is quite important

Systemic investing is a really hot topic in the private investing space.

SDC: Can link with our ongoing activities on inclusive green economy, i.e. our external consultants and maybe mobilize colleagues, cannot promise, though.



Indicators for Green Growth

I think this would be quite useful. More donors are requesting this area to be part of project proposals.	Yes strong appetite, we have a portfolio of solid waste management and circular businesses with measurement challenges	If I am not mistaken SDC is working on orientation paper on inclusive green economy, might be helpful if relevant	Happy to help build a session for Nairobi with our partner KCIC
in person?	Washington yes, Nairobi, maybe.	Experience with cost-benefit analysis, or more precisely: ex-ante economic and financial analysis.	

