



The Donor Committee for Enterprise Development

Results Measurement Working Group

Meeting Minutes

Thursday 14th March 2013, ILO, Geneva, Switzerland

8th April 2013

Participants:

Markus Pilgrim, Virginia Rose Losada, Eva Majurin, ILO
Margareta de Goys, UNIDO
Mónica Peiró Vallejo, EC
Henk van Trigt, NL MoFA

Hans Ramm, SDC
Jim Tanburn, DCED Secretariat
Claudio Volonte, IFC, WBG
Apologies: Merten Sievers, ILO
Simon Calvert, DFID

Via Phone:
Birgit Seibel, GIZ
Ben Fowler, BFCI

A list of action items agreed can be found in the [Annex](#).

Welcome (Markus Pilgrim, DCED Chair)

Markus Pilgrim (ILO, DCED Chair) welcomed participants and summarized the meetings of the previous two days, of the Business Environment Working Group (BEWG) (12 March) and jointly of the BEWG and RMWG (13 March). He emphasized that the business environment is a challenging area with regard to results measurement. The previous two days had focused on various aspects of this, and featured a presentation on Trade Mark East Africa, which is working to apply the Standard; a presentation by the World Bank on a project on impact assessment on investment climate reform; and a presentation by Simon White on how to apply the DCED Standard in the area of business environment reform.

He then presented the agenda of the current meeting, focusing on two main elements: a general overview of progress with the Standard (by Jim Tanburn) and an update on the consultancy which will increase the Secretariat capacity (by Claudio Volonte).

Update on the roll-out of the Standard, and issues arising (Jim Tanburn, DCED Secretariat)

Jim Tanburn reminded the group that an ambitious workplan had been adopted in relation to the Standard at the 2012 Annual Meeting, which includes the revision of the Standard, promoting the use of the Standard in other types of PSD, and the launch of a tender to stimulate supply, among others. He then proceeded to provide an update on progress. Key recent developments with respect to the Standard include:

- The publication of Version VI of the Standard (January 2013)
- The redesign of the Standard section of the website, including referencing the case studies
- The publication of new DCED Guides on Results Chains, Choice of Indicators, Attribution, etc.
- The development of a guide to using the Standard in conflict affected settings by the WG on CAEs
- Instances of others (e.g. TMEA, SEEP, GEMS) referencing and/or building on the Standard
- Presentations on the Standard at events organized by DFID, CTA, CGAP, SEEP, Sida, etc.
- The completion of a second Katalyst audit and planning for 10 further audits (e.g. CAVAC Cambodia (AusAID); Enterprise Challenge Fund, multi-country (AusAID); Samarth NMDP Nepal (DFID); Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund (multi-donor) etc.)

The growing interest in the Standard and demand for audits means that more auditors will be needed in addition to the current cadre. This is being addressed by pairing potential new auditors with existing auditors in conducting audits – which also contributes to consistency in scoring. Where possible, programmes are paying for two auditors to carry out the audit. In some cases, however,

programmes are too small to be able to do this, and it was agreed that some of the funds generated by DCED events on results measurement could be used to cover additional auditing costs, if needed for training and to achieve consistency (and as provided for in the current annual Work Plan and Budget).

The discussion following the presentation also focused on the following topics:

- The profile of the new auditors and application procedure. Questions were raised on the geographical diversity and gender balance within the auditor pool, as well as on the mechanism through which auditors are selected; JT confirmed that the current pool of auditors includes both women and men, from both developing and developed countries, and that auditors are added to the roster following recommendation from existing auditors. It was also pointed out that projects often face difficulties finding auditors due to the limited pool, especially in non-Anglophone countries, combined with the restriction that persons having supported a project cannot audit the project.
- Whether it is possible to expand the 'offer' of the DCED beyond the formal audit. Members wondered whether relating the Standard to other frameworks, such as the Guidelines of the UN Evaluation Group, or with frameworks of institutions with capacity and extensive experience such as IFC, might open up new and intermediate opportunities for compliance. GIZ, for example, is considering how its new monitoring framework relates to the Standard. IFC proposed to prepare a comparison of the DCED Standard to its own procedures. On the other hand, there are advantages in using the Standard as it stands, in that it ensures greater rigour in monitoring processes, and, for decentralized agencies, enables greater oversight in terms of field office activities.

Presentation of the work plan and schedule for the newly-recruited consultants (Claudio Volonte, IFC, and Ben Fowler, BFCI)

Claudio Volonte, from IFC and Task Team Leader for the Child Trust Fund for the DCED RM WG, provided an update on the tender launched in October in order to expand on what the current Secretariat is able to deliver. A number of high quality proposals had been received, and following panel interviews (in which Merten Sievers took part as RMWG member), Ben Fowler Consulting Inc (BFCI) was selected to undertake the 5-month consultancy.

Ben Fowler joined the meeting via phone, and presented the BFCI team and provided an overview of the proposal in terms of key action areas and the indicative workplan. The consultancy team is composed of four members with expertise in the areas of private sector development, value chain development, results measurement and M&E, including the DCED Standard, among others. While the rest of the team is based in Canada/the US, one team member is based in Cambridge, which will facilitate interaction with the DCED Secretariat. The proposal is based on three key areas of work, as follows:

- Expanding technical capacity in the Standard: increasing the supply of expertise in the Standard by adding the DCED Standard to the service offering of existing training providers, helping to link potential users to trainers, developing training materials, as well as assessing the viability of certifying trainers for quality.
- Further deepening the application of the Standard: identifying unmet needs for information and tools to deepen application in existing sectors (e.g. VCD or Market development) as well as to expand to new fields of PSD (sectors with greatest potential) and developing materials for these.
- Active marketing of the Standard: developing a marketing strategy (reviewing existing efforts, identifying targets), approaching NGO leaders and North American donors, developing marketing materials and participating in appropriate events.

Following the presentation of the key work items and provisional workplan, questions and discussions focused on the following issues:

- Focus areas: as the Secretariat is already working actively in the field of marketing, there was agreement that it would be useful for the assignment to focus on the other two work areas presented (expanding technical capacity and deepening application), although support in reaching out to North American donors and agencies would be welcome.
- Alignment with Secretariat work: as there is a close relation between the work of BFCI and the Secretariat, it will be important to define BFCI deliverables that do not overlap so that BFCI will complement the work of the Secretariat as effectively as possible.
- Timeframe: the timeframe could perhaps be more spread out, to allow for inputs over the medium term.

It was agreed that BFCI will prepare a draft workplan, to be shared with the RMWG by the end of March.

AoB/ Member updates/Date of Next Meeting

The meeting concluded with a general discussion on the extent to which the RMWG should focus on promoting the Standard as its flagship product, or whether expansion to other areas could be envisaged. In this respect, there was agreement that work on indicator framework harmonization (currently carried out by the World Bank Group) could usefully complement the RMWG's current work; initially this could focus on a few sectors that are common to all or most members (e.g. agricultural value chain development and agri-business development), given the breadth of enterprise development overall. This would, however, require additional funding. Claudio Volonte may table a proposal at the next meeting on how to take this idea forward.

Before the closing of the meeting, the following upcoming events were introduced by Members:

- A conference on impact evaluation will be held in Wageningen, the Netherlands, back-to-back with a course for ACP countries, organized by CDI 25-27 March (Henk van Trigt, MoFA-NL)
- A conference on the use of results measurement in PSD will be organized by IFC and the Gates Foundation on 15 April (Claudio Volonte, IFC)
- The Evaluation Unit of the European Commission will present the recently-concluded evaluation of its PSD programmes, 22 April; an invitation will be shared with members (Mónica Peiró, EC)
- An EvalNet meeting on evaluation in PSD will be held 18 June, Paris, organised by OECD and IEG.

It was suggested that the next face-to-face meeting of the RMWG should take place before the next Annual Meeting in the Netherlands (i.e. 2nd July). However, the group will need to develop a work plan for July 2013-June 2014 by end-May, for inclusion in the DCED Work Plan, so will need to have a conference call at that time. Jim Tanburn will therefore consult with members on availability via email and share the date once confirmed.

Annex: Action Items Agreed

What?	Who?	By when?
Develop draft work plan and timetable, taking into account comments of the group; circulate to group	Ben Fowler / Claudio Volonte	31 March
Share information on up-coming events	Claudio Volonte / Mónica Peiró	
Develop draft work plan 2013-14 for the group, organise conference call to discuss	Secretariat	End-May