



The Donor Committee for Enterprise Development

Women's Economic Empowerment Working Group (WEEWG)

Minutes of Meeting, teleconference, 26 March 2020

22 April 2020

Participants

- Nathalie Wyser (SDC) – Co-Chair
- Sebastian Gilcher (GIZ/BMZ) – Co-Chair
- Amy Rice (DCED Secretariat)
- Aatif Somji (ILO)
- Adriana Sierra Leal (ILO)
- Catherine Masinde (World Bank)
- Charleine Mbuyi-Lusamba (ILO)
- Gabi Ott (UNIDO)
- Müge Dolun (UNIDO)
- Gisela Strand (Sida)
- Lisanne van Beek (NL RVO)
- Nozomi Ide (FAO)
- Reneta Lambreva (Global Affairs Canada)
- Sindy Karberg-Manuel (GIZ/BMZ)
- Sophie von Wartburg (SDC)

Coronavirus updates

Members shared how their agencies are responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and discussed how women will likely be disproportionately affected. Many are currently assessing what impact the pandemic will have on their programmes and how to integrate gender into their response. Lisanne van Beek (NL RVO) shared that RVO is looking at the impact on European market demand as it has some projects aimed at promoting exports from developing countries to the European Market. In addition, she highlighted a [study by the UN Economic Commission for Africa](#) on the economic impact of COVID-19 on Africa. Gisela Strand (Sida) mentioned that Sida is working on a paper on the gender consequences of COVID-19 which she will share once complete. Charleine Mbuyi-Lusamba (ILO) noted that ILO is preparing 125 knowledge products related to COVID-19, with a paper on the gender impact due to be published at the end of April. Catherine Masinde (World Bank) informed the Group that the World Bank has set aside US\$14 billion for mitigation and recovery, of which US\$6 billion will go to IFC.

WEEWG response to coronavirus

The Group discussed creating a central repository for documents on coronavirus. It was suggested that members send documents (both from their agency and external publications) to the DCED Secretariat and the Secretariat publishes the most relevant work via an online platform. It was also suggested that a work item be included in the 2020/2021 Work Plan on COVID-19 and WEE to identify good practices in responding to pandemics.

Members noted that it is important to consider: the role of advocacy in ensuring women aren't overlooked by government response packages; opportunities for WEE emerging in the long term from this crisis; and how migrant workers and refugees are being affected. The Group discussed resources related to the impact of Ebola on WEE. Amy Rice (DCED Secretariat) informed the Group that Jim Tanburn is preparing a note for members on the DCED's response.

Recap on 2019/2020 Work Plan

Webinar series

Sebastian Gilcher (GIZ/BMZ) provided an overview of the WEEWG's webinar series. Three webinars have been organised so far and a fourth is being planned.

- [Profiting from Parity: Unlocking the Potential of Women's Businesses in Africa](#) in November featured Francisco Campos from the World Bank's Gender Innovation Lab. It had 24 webinar participants and the recording has had 81 YouTube views.
- [What Do Men Have to Do with WEE? Lessons and Challenges](#) in January featured Gary Barker from Promundo. It had 25 webinar participants and the recording has had 67 YouTube views.
- [Transformative Approaches to WEE in Practice: Case studies from Africa](#) in March featured Kerry Selvester from MUVA, Charleine Mbuyi-Lusamba and Adriana Sierra Leal from ILO, and Hania Elkady from GIZ. It had 50 webinar participants.
- Canada and Sweden's Feminist International Policies is in the pipeline for around May. Speakers from Canada and Sweden have been identified and an initial planning call is in the process of being organised.

The Group agreed that it should continue the webinar series in the 2020/2021 Work Plan. It was suggested that new presentation formats, such as a talk show style, be explored to keep the webinars engaging.

Unpaid care

Sebastian Gilcher (GIZ/BMZ) asked the Group to continue to share examples of agency projects addressing unpaid care (by emailing them to him and Amy Rice (DCED Secretariat)). He suggested that this work item continue under a broader focus on COVID-19 and WEE. Aatif Somji (ILO) provided a summary of a research brief he's working on looking at how childcare can be addressed by market systems approaches. It's hoped this work will be completed around the end of April.

Gender lens investing

Nathalie Wyser (SDC) updated the Group on the discussions of the gender lens investing (GLI) task team. They have decided to launch a study in this area, possibly exploring the

effectiveness of different GLI approaches, and propose allocating budget to this work item in the 2020/2021 Work Plan. Suggestions of suitable consultants to pursue this work are very welcome. The Group discussed how this work relates to the work of the OECD's [GenderNet](#) and it was suggested that the task team touches base with IFC as they are doing a lot on impact investing. Müge Dolun (UNIDO) shared that UNIDO is interested in developing a gender lens criteria to promote GLI, especially vis a vis various UNIDO programmes providing business coaching and investor matchmaking to promising climate & clean energy entrepreneurs in low- and middle-income countries such as PFAN (the Private Financing Advisory Network) and GCIP (Global cleantech Innovation programme) and was invited to join the task team.

Planning 2020/2021 Work Plan

As discussed earlier in the meeting, the Group decided to pursue work items on a webinar series, COVID-19 and WEE, and gender lens investing. Sindy Karberg-Manuel (GIZ/BMZ) also presented a proposal for a WEE Gateway – an interactive tool mapping a wide range of WEE approaches and tools, and providing online tutorials. Charleine Mbuyi-Lusamba (ILO) noted that the ILO has done a similar exercise and Müge Dolun (UNIDO) suggested UNIDO can also provide a set of UNIDO tools and materials to be included in the Gateway. Both Charleine and Müge agreed, tentatively, to be part of the task team for this work item.

Action item: Co-chairs Nathalie Wyser (SDC) and Sebastian Gilcher (GIZ/BMZ) will draft the 2020/2021 Work Plan and send to the Group for comment. More suggestions of work items are welcome.

AOB

Sebastian Gilcher (GIZ/BMZ) informed the Group that the [Green Growth Knowledge Platform](#) is creating an Expert Working Group on Gender and invited anyone interested in participating to let him know.

Nathalie Wyser (SDC) announced that she will be stepping down as co-chair as she is moving to a new position within SDC. Selina Haeny (SDC) will take over the position when she returns from maternity leave in June. Sebastian Gilcher (GIZ/BMZ) offered to pass on his co-chair position as he has done it for three years now. Anyone interested in being co-chair should let him know.

UNIDO will be hosting a virtual conference in July on [“Women in Industry and Innovation”](#). There is an opportunity for the WEEWG to have a slot to present. Anyone interested in being involved should contact Monica Carcò at m.carco@unido.org.

Last year the World Bank launched an advisory program on [Women, Business and the Law](#) which has so far covered six African countries with funding from Norway. They are looking to make it a multi-donor trust fund and if anyone is interested in partnering, they should contact Catherine Masinde (World Bank).

The next WEEWG meeting will take place over videoconference in June.