



## Market Systems Development Working Group

# MINUTES

**Conference Call:** 13:00 UTC/GMT Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022

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

### WG Members present

Alex Kucharski (CDC / BII)  
 Anders Aeroe (ITC)  
 Andrea Inglin (SDC)  
 David Neven (FAO)  
 Elisabet Montgomery (Sida)  
 Gun Eriksson Skoog (Sida)  
 Isaac Cowen (ILO)  
 Kristin O'Planick (USAID)  
 Matthias Altmann (EC)  
 Merten Sievers (ILO)  
 Nafis Muntasir (Mastercard Foundation)  
 Pascal Fabing (LuxDev)  
 Pauline Baars (CBI)  
 Ryan Bourque (Gatsby Africa)

Susanne Thiard-Laforet (ADA)  
 Takafumi Ueda (JICA)  
 Theresa Stattel (USAID)  
 Tom Sanderson (FCDO)  
 Yan Chen (GIZ)

### DCED Secretariat

Isabelle Gore, Jim Tanburn,  
 Mike Albu, Mike Klassen, Ella Duffy

### Apologies

Steve Hartrich (ILO)  
 Rana Fakhoury (UNIDO)

## AGENDA

- |   |                |        |
|---|----------------|--------|
| <b>1. Welcome &amp; introductions</b>   | Susi           | 5 min  |
| Welcome to new members; approval of previous minutes  |                |        |
| <b>2. Brief Updates</b> and important news from <b>all</b> members (incl.)  | <b>Andrea</b>  | 30 min |
| Youth Employment & MSD guide activity   | Isaac / Mike A |        |
| Greening MSD ToRs approval  | Yan            |        |
| Team Leaders' competencies activity   | Mike K         |        |
| PSD-Development Finance study   | Ryan / Arjun   |        |
| MSP / BEAM Tool Library   | Kristin        |        |
| Markets-in-Crises website   | Mike A         |        |
| <b>Updates from other members</b>   | <b>ALL</b>     |        |
| <b>3. Market Systems Symposium (MSS 2022)</b>   | Mike A         | 5 min  |
| <b>4. DCED Timetable &amp; Annual Meeting plans</b> for June 2022   | Susi           | 5 min  |
| <b>5. Questions about evolution of the MSD approach</b>   | Mike           | 5 min  |
| <b>6. MSD WG Work Plan (July 2022 – June 2023) proposals</b>  | <b>ALL</b>     | 30 min |
| Tabling and discussing new ideas & proposals for<br>Workstream Activities to be included in next year's Work Plan |                |        |
| <b>7. DCED AGM Thematic Day ideas</b>   | Jim            | 5 min  |
| <b>8. Date</b> for next WG meeting (6 April) & AOB  | Susi & Andrea  | 5 min  |

## 1. Welcome, introductions & farewells

The co-Chair Susi (**ADA**) welcomed all to the 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the MSD Working Group. No changes were proposed to the [December meeting minutes](#) which were therefore approved.

Two new members were welcomed: Pascal Fabing (**LuxDev**) and Theresa Stattel (**USAID**). Two departing WG members Matthias Altmann (**EC**) and Ryan Bourque (**Gatsby**) were thanked for their generous contributions to WG activities.

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

- Co-chair Andrea (**SDC**) offered everyone the opportunity to give a brief update about their agency.
- Matthias (**EC**) brief members on the publication of the [EC's Due Diligence legislation](#) regarding human rights and environmental protections which he predicted will have 'systemic' impact on international supply chains to the EU.
- Mike A (**DCED**) speaking on behalf of Steve (**ILO**), announced that Justin van Rhyn has now been contracted to develop the guide to MSD & Youth Employment (Workstream 3.2). New WG members (Pascal from **LuxDev**, Laila from **Dutch MoFA**) volunteered to join the task team steering this assignment.
- Isaac (**ILO**) shared information about a new ILO publication on using the MSD approach for [Occupational Safety & Health](#).
- Yan (**GIZ**) explained that the process of procuring a consultant to develop guidance on 'Greening MSD' (Workstream 3.3) is now finally underway, with a shortlist of six candidates. The ToRs were shared previously. A key change is to focus on agricultural sector only. **ACTION: WG members** with final comments were asked to submit these by 4<sup>th</sup> March latest.
- Mike K (**DCED**) briefed members on pleasing outputs from the 'learning group' that is helping DCED develop new material on MSD competencies of team leaders for the [BEAM Competency Framework](#) (Workstream 1.3)
- Ryan (**Gatsby Africa**) explained that the final report 'Bridging the Gap' on the intersection of PSD and development finance is complete, has been shared privately with members. Alex (**CDC / BII**) informed members that a variety of dissemination events for different organisations and audiences has already been organised, including with MarketLinks, BEAM Exchange, FCDO, USAID, Sida. Tom (**FCDO**) suggested that the WG discuss further steps during the June meeting.
- Kristin (**USAID**) updated members on progress with the MSD Tool Library (Workstream 2.3). 337 tool submissions from 87 entities / individuals were received and are now being curated. A 'beta' version is planned to go live on Apr 4<sup>th</sup>, so MSP team can begin gathering feedback.
- Mike A (**DCED Secretariat**) briefed everyone on developments in the Markets in Crises community. After the sudden closure of SEEP Network, the planned platform host, a new grant from USAID to a consortium led by IRC looks like enabling the plans for a consolidated MiC website to continue.
- Kristin (**USAID**) mentioned that a new home is also now needed for the 'Job Aid' resource for MSD practitioners which SEEP hosted.

## 3. Market Systems Symposium (MSS 2022)

Mike A (**DCED Secretariat**) briefed members about an offer from the Vikara Institute who are organising the online [Market System Symposium](#) during 9<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022. That web page shows the main topics. Vikara have invited the Working Group to host a session at Symposium, to share priorities and interests with a view to greater collaboration.

Several members expressed interest in this proposal, including Kristin (**USAID**), David (**FAO**), Isaac and Merten (**ILO**), Susi (**ADA**), Andrea (**SDC**), Pauline (**CBI**), Elisabet (**Sida**), Alex (**CDC / BII**), Nafis (**Mastercard**) and Takafumi (**JICA**). **Action: Mike** to liaise further with Vikara.

#### 4. DCED Timetable & Annual Meeting plans for June 2022

Susi (**ADA**) and Jim (**DCED Secretariat**) explained the timetable for production of the new DCED Work Plan (for 2022/23) leading to the DCED AGM in the week of June 6 – 9<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully WG can meet face-to-face in Cambridge on 8<sup>th</sup> June.

The preceding WG meeting will be on Apr 6<sup>th</sup> where the draft Work Plan needs to be finalised in time to be forwarded to the DCED ExCo.

#### 5. Questions about evolution of the MSD approach

Mike A (**DCED**) reminded members of the WG's vision and mission statement, and raised a question about whether this was something we'd like to re-visit bearing mind how the MSD landscape has changed in past decade.

To this end, Mike shared a simple schema (Venn diagram) that captures three distinctive features of the MSD approach. He used this to highlight interesting spaces on the periphery of 'conventional' MSD programmes that might be relevant to the Working Group – and posed four questions for **ACTION: members** to reflect upon.

- In what ways will the MSD approach continue to be relevant and contribute to the goals of development cooperation in future?
- Are the WG aims and vision still relevant?
- Where do sensible boundaries for the scope of Working Group activities lie?
- Where should our priorities lie in future?

Various members then gave quick and mostly enthusiastic feedback on Mike's thesis, and it was agreed that this will be a very useful conversation to continue face-to-face in Cambridge in June.

#### 6. MSD WG Work Plan (July 2022 – June 2023) proposals

Susi (**ADA**) talked members through an annotated version of the MSD Work Plan 2021/2 so members could appreciate which current workstreams will be carried over to the new year. These include:

- Workstream 1.1: Engagement with the MSD community (BEAM Exchange)
- Workstream 1.2: Provision of information to MSD community (BEAM Exchange)
- Workstream 1.3: Additions to the MSD competency framework continued...
- Workstream 1.4: Markets-in-Crises advisory committee
- Workstream 2.1: New BEAM Evidence Review in 2023
- Workstream 2.3: Collaboration with MSP / Tool Library continued...
- Workstream 2.4: Planning for a DCED Global seminar in 2023
- Workstream 3.2: MSD & Youth Employment continued..
- Workstream 3.3: Greening MSD continued..

Members brainstormed other issues and themes that may be candidates for the new Plan.

Ryan (**Gatsby Africa**) advocated further investment to follow up on some of the recommendations in the PSD-Dev Finance study / deepen the WG's engagement in these issues.

Kristin (**USAID**) suggested keeping a placeholder for following up on the synthesis of donor evaluations.

Gun (**Sida**) asked to put or keep three ideas on the table:

- a) continued focus on MSD in fragile & conflict-affected setting (this was seconded by Kristin (**USAID**))
- b) the whole area of applying MSD approach to skills-development;
- c) looking at [PDIA tools / experience](#) for addressing 'rules' in market systems work.

Andrea (**SDC**) expressed her support for this final point.

Takafumi (**JICA**) suggested something further on MSD and Digital transformation

Yan Chen (**GIZ**) advocated for strengthening the effort put into dissemination of WG products so that they have more influence on practice in the field. She emphasised the opportunity with many programmes starting in the green economy / environmental sustainability space.

Merten (**ILO**) agreed that practical approaches are needed in future, not more 'top-down' instruction. Elisabet (**Sida**) and Ryan (**Gatsby**) supported this too. Ryan suggested DCED could put more emphasis on being a vehicle for fostering connections between organisations and convening relevant conversations.

Andrea, Susi and Mike then discussed next steps.

**Action Mike A:** to prepare a preliminary draft of the 2022/23 Work Plan for sharing and for enrolling members who are interested to be involved. The crucial requirement is that a 'task team' is convened who (briefly) define and take ownership of each proposed Workstream.

**Action: All Members** to respond to draft with commitments to the proposed topics that they are willing to play a role in taking forward.

## 7. DCED AGM Thematic Day ideas

Most DCED members are keen on a face-to-face AGM this year, although many do not yet have explicit permission to travel. Therefore the ExCo are proposing to have the AGM in Cambridge with both in person and with online participation.

Jim (**Secretariat**) explained that many members feel the different Working Groups could benefit from more understanding and interaction with each other. So we're proposing that the 'Thematic Day' at this year's AGM will involve an opportunity for each WG to present the most interesting /popular /actionable products and perhaps also say something about how the WG operates.

Each Working Group will have one hour. **Action: Mike & co-Chairs** to consider our response.

## 8. Date for next WG meeting (6 April) & AOB

Susi announced that the next WG meeting will need to take place on **Weds 6<sup>th</sup> April, at 13:00 GMT**.

As there was no other business Andrea and Susi wrapped up the meeting, thanking members for their interesting contributions.