



## Market Systems Development Working Group

### MINUTES

Conference Call: 13:00 GMT Tues 9<sup>th</sup> June 2020

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**Chair:** Susanne Thiard-Laforet (ADA)

#### WG & Secretariat present

Alex Kucharski (CDC)  
Anders Aero (ITC)  
Andrea Inglin (SDC)  
Arjun Bhoopal (Gatsby Africa)  
Catherine Masinde (World Bank)  
Daniel Taras (GIZ)  
Elisabet Montgomery (Sida)  
Gun Eriksson Skoog (ILO)  
Isabelle Gore (DCED Secretariat)  
Janna Post (GIZ)  
Jim Tanburn (DCED Secretariat)  
Kristin O'Planick (USAID)  
Lars Radscheidt (GIZ)  
Maciej Drozd (World Bank)

Matthias Altmann (EU)  
Mike Albu (DCED Secretariat)  
Nafis Muntasir (Mastercard Foundation)  
Steve Hartrich (ILO)  
Susanne Thiard-Laforet (ADA)  
Toru Homma (JICA)

#### Apologies

Ali Bardarneh (UNIDO)  
Mehraz Rafat (NORAD)  
Lisbeth Jespersen (MoFA Denmark))  
Joseph Manteit (DFAT Australia)  
Tristan Armstrong (DFAT Australia)

#### AGENDA

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Key news and Covid-19 updates
3. Brief updates from the BEAM Exchange team
4. Progress updates from the WG Task teams
5. Collaboration with the MS Symposium
6. Next steps and next meeting

#### 1. Welcome & Introductions

Suzi welcomed everyone. New WG members Alex Kucharski (CDC), Matthias Altmann (EU) and Daniel Taras (GIZ) briefly explained their objectives for joining the Working Group.

Matthias (EU), apologising for having to leave early, noted that the EU's portfolio review was completed, and he is now working on an MSD thematic guidance note for EU advisors with Mike's help.

No corrections or other changes were proposed to the March meeting minutes which were therefore approved.

## 2. Key news and Covid-19 updates

Kristin (USAID) spoke about a major current review of USAID's [local systems policy framework](#) which she expects to include a special section on market systems development.

Andrea (SDC) flagged up SDC's [upcoming webinars](#) on COVID-responses in Moldova and Bangladesh.

Gun (ILO) proposed a special MSD WG meeting to share MSD-specific programming experiences around COVID (much as BEWG did on 2<sup>nd</sup> June). Jim (DCED) said PSE WG have also been circulating a 'live' document to share updates. **Action: Mike** agreed to poll WG members on their preferences.

Catherine (World Bank) and Anders (ITC) mentioned resources available on their respective sites:

- [ITC Dashboard on Covid-19 Temporary Trade Measures](#)
- [World Bank: Investment Climate policy responses to COVID-19](#)
- [Gatsby Africa: Fortnightly briefing on COVID-19's impact on E. Africa](#)

## 3. Brief updates from the BEAM Exchange team

**Workstreams 1.1. & 1.2:** Maintenance of the BEAM Exchange

Mike (DCED) noted that Annual Progress Report to ExCo had been circulated in advance.

Isabelle (DCED) described some of the highlights, mentioning continuing increases in visitors and downloads, and recent upsurge in webinar attendance (up 200%).

**Workstream 2.1:** Evidence communications

Mike announced that the '[Story of MSD](#)' book (with photos) has been published and the Secretariat is considering promotional activities with the authors next week.

**Workstream 2.2:** BEAM Evidence Map

Mike thanks Maciej (World Bank) for his support in organising the tendering of the 2020 Evidence Map Update & Review, which is now in progress and expected to begin in July.

**Workstream 2.3:** Testing tools for measuring systemic change

Kristin (USAID) explained that the Market Systems & Partners activity procurement is expected to be completed by end of July. She also commended the relevance of a recent BEAM hosted-webinar on a '[pragmatic approach to assessing system change](#)'.

**Workstream 3.1:** MSD Competency framework

Mike (Secretariat) said that in recent months we have seen evidence of unassisted uptake of elements of the framework - by ILO and Gatsby Africa. In the year ahead, we plan to review usage statistics, update resources, facilitate an informal working group to share implementation experience, and expand framework to cover Team Leaders, COOs, and possibly Donor PSE leads.

**Workstream 3.2** Procurement practices in MSD programmes

Mike (Secretariat) reported that all four 'clinic' groups have completed meetings, and extensive input has been provided on four final outputs (each 10-15 pages). We are working on the four main topic reports, to be followed by a briefing note and a learning review (of the process). In due course we will promote the findings via a workshop for MSD WG, at a seminar in the MS Symposium and a public webinar.

Mike strongly requested WG members to volunteer to review or comment on the outputs. Paper 4 is likely to be of particular interest to the WG. **ACTION: All WG members** please let Mike know if they would contribute to the QA process on one (or more) of the four main papers during June.

- 1) **Donor procurement mechanisms** in MSD: and implications for building effective consortia
- 2) **Launching MSD programmes**: practical guidance for getting off the ground
- 3) **Internal procurement systems**: engaging operations staff to reconfigure processes
- 4) **Developing donor-implementer relationships**: a process model

#### **Workstream 3.3** MSD Distance learning for donors course

Mike (Secretariat) thanked WG members who gave their time to speak to the contractor about course design. A Course Outline and draft marketing materials have been submitted as 'Milestone 1' in the contract. The course is expected to run in September / October 2020.

## **4. Progress updates from the WG Task Teams**

#### **Workstream 4.1** Promoting economic transformation studies

Arjun (Gatsby) and Gun (ILO) discussed how the workstream on economic transformation is drawing to a conclusion with the [ET webinar \(recording\)](#) on June 11<sup>th</sup> (over 400 registrations). Gun said that members in the BE WG (led by Sida) may continue collaboration, and Arjun said that Gatsby still plan to hold a promotional event in London later this year (Covid- permitting). The activity overall has been a great success.

#### **Workstream 4.2** MSD & youth employment study

Steve (ILO) advised WG members that the report by ILO/MCF will be published this month. Some activity is still planned using resources unspent. This is likely to focus on one of three topics identified in the report:

- 1) **A deeper look into sectors** which will be more important for youth in future: linking to economic transformation, future of work, digitalisation. Aims is to understand what the key constraints and opportunities in those market systems will be.
- 2) **Unpacking labour intermediation** - or the bridge between supply and demand for future youth employment. There are few if any MSD projects doing this (outside the Western Balkans), and the research flagged this as a key constraint.
- 3) **Examining youth and working conditions.**  
Although most agree it is important, few of the projects interviewed worked beyond creating new jobs and increasing incomes. The research could look at what working conditions are perceived to be more important for youth, what the general constraints to these are, and opportunities to improve them as a means to motivate youth and/or drive business productivity.

**ACTION: All WG members** please let Steve and Nafis know if they would join the task team. This will then collectively select one theme and proceed with ToRs, consultant selection, report review, etc.

#### **Workstream 4.3** Lessons from MSD experience for post-COVID recovery

Janna (GIZ) reported that progress in tendering for the study has been held up by congestion in GIZ's procurement department due to a surge in COVID-related initiatives. The consultants identified by Mike are being contacted, and we hope to start the work before the end of July. A final webinar to disseminate findings is now expected in November.

#### Workstream 4.4 MSD & digital transformation

Lars (GIZ) thanked members of the task team [Anders (ITC), Nafis (Mastercard Foundation), Gun (ILO)] for their contributions to developing this new workstream. ToRs are being drafted, and their remit is now clearly on how to develop the market for (BDS) services that enable SMEs to adopt digital technology – for example in sectors such as food production and tourism. The regional focus will be sub-Saharan Africa. Lars said that the outputs will likely include case studies and policy briefs.

**ACTION: Lars** will share ToRs with WG members when ready.

**ACTION: Andrea** said she would put Lars in touch the relevant person at SDC.

#### Workstream 5 MSD WG Communication strategy

Susi (ADA) reported that she had drafted a communications strategy paper to share with the task team. They were looking now at how to incorporate something about Covid-19 response.

### 5. Collaboration with the MS Symposium online

Mike updated WG members on the evolution of the [Market System Symposium](#) into a series of online events during June 15 – August 30. At least two, Gun (ILO) and Kristin (USAID) confirmed they would be attending. There will be a number of points of intersection / collaboration with the BEAM Exchange, including a session about the outputs from Workstream 3.2 (Procurement practices).

Andrea announced that she had agreed to consider an MSD WG session within the MS Symposium schedule. This would be open to all WG members (registered or not) and those Symposium attendees who work for a Donor organisation. The objective is to review the main ideas and initiatives that emerge during the Symposium and ensure cross-fertilisation with our Working Group.

**ACTION: All WG members** please save Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> August in your diaries.

### 6. AOB, next steps and next meeting

Susi (ADA) proposed that the next WG meeting take place in second half of September

**Action: Mike** to poll WG members regarding their preferred date.

She thanked WG members for their contributions and for their enthusiasm for the Workplan of the year ahead.