



Market Systems Development Working Group

MINUTES

Conference Call: 14:00 GMT Thurs 26th March 2020

v. 24th April 2020

Chair: Andrea Inglin (SDC)

Members & Secretariat present

Alex Kucharski (CDC)	Lars Radscheidt (GIZ)
Anders Aero (ITC)	Maciej Drozd (W)
Andrea Inglin (SDC)	Matthias Altmann (EU)
Arjun Bhoopal (Gatsby Africa)	Mike Albu (Secretariat)
Elisabet Montgomery (Sida)	Nafis Muntasir (Mastercard Foundation)
Gun Eriksson Skoog (ILO)	Ryan Bourque (Gatsby Africa)
Isabelle Gore (Secretariat)	Steve Hartrich (ILO)
Kristin O'Planick (USAID)	Susanne Thiard-Laforet (ADA)

Apologies

Ali Bardarneh (UNIDO)	Mehraz Rafat (NORAD)
Georgiana Pop (World Bank / IFC)	Ole Dahl Rasmussen (Danida)
Julie Delforce (DFAT)	Toru Homma (JICA)

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Check-in
2. Covid-19 implications for MSD WG & BEAM Exchange
3. Member Updates
4. Progress Announcements
5. Update re MSD WG Workplan 2020 / 21
6. Next steps and next meeting

1. Welcome & Introductions

Andrea welcomed everyone, and particularly new members Maciej Drozd for World Bank, Lars Radscheidt for GIZ and Alex Kucharski from CDC (observing). Matthias Altmann for EU also joined us for the first time.

No corrections or other changes have been proposed to the [February meeting minutes](#) which were therefore approved.

2. Covid-19 implications for MSD WG & BEAM Exchange

Members began by discussing news and implications related to the Covid-19 pandemic & shutdowns

a. DCED Annual Mtg postponement

Andrea (SDC) confirmed that DCED's annual meeting in Bern is postponed. The essential business of the DCED ExCo AGM will be conducted online on Thur June 4th.

b. MSS Symposium 2020 online in June

Mike reported that the [Market System Symposium](#) for 2020 has also moved online, and its dates will be June 1st – 5th. He encouraged WG members and colleagues to register.

c. Upcoming BEAM Webinars in the pipeline

BEAM has a number of [webinars](#) in the pipeline for next three months which may be of interest to WG members and colleagues who have been grounded.

d. Potential BEAM Exchange responses to Covid-19 lockdowns

Members briefly discussed ways in which the BEAM Exchange might create an opportunity out of the impact of Covid-19 shutdown on MSD practitioners and donors. Some people may have more time for reflection, learning and knowledge sharing in the weeks ahead. Conversations have already started with some e.g. the ODI Humanitarian Policy Group and the Markets in Crises (MiC) forum.

Please also see the [BEAM Conversations](#) board for live updates from the field.

Action: Mike agreed to quickly reach out to consult members, their colleagues and the wider BEAM Exchange audience through our BEAM Update (next week) and a follow up survey.

3. MSD WG Member Updates

Members shared very brief updates on the impact / situation in their agencies.

CDC receive investment funds from DFID. The objective is to do projects for more inclusive business practices. Investing in markets. Alex has joined the WG as an observer

ITC have a 130 project portfolio and are trying to identify how to proceed. Identifying needs e.g. face masks. They are looking at managing risk and how to adjust. There's an amazing atmosphere of innovation and coming together.

SDC are busy identifying what's working and what's not in projects. Any guidance and practice and initiatives from BEAM / DCED would be welcome.

Gatsby Africa is reviewing AOPs for next year in light of Covid-19 and what they can and can't do. Seeing this now as a period of reflection, research, learning and professional development for staff.

Sida is discussing with implementing partners and how to change and adapt in the long-term.

USAID Overseas missions report about one third of foreign staff are returning to US. Trying to work out how to work it out!

GIZ Lars said GIZ are experiencing 'similar issues to what everyone else is saying'

World Bank: the entire organisation working remotely, so business continues. WB and IFC Boards approved \$14bn COVID response package on March 17. Covid projects are fast-tracked. Additional funding (up to \$150bn) available for next 15 months following IBRD capital increase and IDA replenishment. We called for debt relief of IDA countries at G20. PSD work focused for now on credit and other measures to support liquidity, but we develop other lines of response.

EU Commission: 30,000 people have had to move to tele-working, so upgrading their system. Currently DG DEVCO is looking to rapidly reorient and redirect funding to help partner countries in crisis cope with immediate health issues and also in medium-term economic & social impacts from Covid-19

Mastercard Foundation: All offices in Africa also working from home. Challenging because of nature of work with partners. Wants to hear how others are coping. They were already moving a lot of their partnerships towards MSD and will carry on thinking about that. Foundation restructure means they have a lot of offices in Africa.

ILO: Steve is happy to be part of response discussions. ILO have lots of research ongoing that they have more time to get finished now e.g. Study on intergrowth / MSD in policy. He asked if has anyone has case studies to contribute to fresh publication on MSD and women's unpaid care work.

ADA: Susi explained that ADA are re-organising priorities.

4. Progress Announcements

Mike explained that a quarterly BEAM Exchange Progress Report for the DCEC ExCo will be submitted at the end of March, with all the regular data about the site performance / usage.

a. EU Commission and MSD programming update

Matthias (EU) described the EU Commission's initiative to review a selection of their existing programme portfolio through the perspective of an MSD 'lens'. He asked members to recommend an experienced MSD consultant to help undertake this work. *(Note, Matthias has since informed us that a suitable consultant has been identified)*

b. Economic Transformation Synthesis Brief

Arjun (Gatsby) reported on his extensive work to collate and integrate numerous comments and edits on the draft DCED Brief from members (particularly in the BE WG).

This work is almost complete & final version will be confirmed with the original authors before publication in April. **Action:** Secretariat to format and publish final version; and plan future webinar.

c. GIZ tender for study on MSD in Fragile & Conflict Affected

Janna (GIZ) had recently advised Mike that a good number of experienced consultants had expressed interest in the GIZ tender for this study. Lars (GIZ) apologised for not having any further information yet. **Action: Mike / Lars** to follow up with Janna.

d. MSD Distance Learning course

Mike thanked Maciej, Georgiana and colleagues at the World Bank for their efficient work to competitively procure the MSD Distance Learning course. A contract was recently signed with Agora Global Ltd. Members agreed that a window in September/October 2020 still looks like the best time to conduct the course.

e. Publishing edited version of the “Story of MSD” book

Mike reported that the 12 chapter ‘Story of MSD’ book has been thoroughly copy-edited (reducing it 20% in length, and improving language). He expects it to be published by BEAM in April, to support the [‘Making the Case for MSD’ slide decks](#) and notes.

f. Outputs from the Procurement & Contracting Clinics

The four groups of MSD practitioners in BEAM’s ‘knowledge clinics’ have met online three or four times each now, facilitated by the Secretariat. Mike said he has been very encouraged by the work, with 19 active participants meeting 15 times and over 75% attendance. An interim summary of issues, materials and likely knowledge outputs has been compiled for the WG. Clinics will be completed in April and outputs published by June 2020.

g. Tender for Evidence Map for 2020

Mike explained that the tender for the Evidence Map update and review will have to be conducted through the IFC Trust Fund this year. **Action: Mike:** to update and share ToRs with the Working Group’s TTL (Georgiana) at IFC in April.

5. Update re MSD WG Workplan 2020 / 21

Andrea reported that after the initial discussions in Geneva in February, work continues to draft the Work Plan for 2020/21, prior to full consultation with WG members. Meanwhile, decisions needed regarding some of the existing workstreams and fresh ideas that emerged in Geneva ([Feb meeting](#)).

- **ET Economic Transformation Brief (4.1)**

Members discussed what to do beyond the existing DCED Brief. BEAM will organise a webinar to promote it, and Gatsby Africa plan an in-person meeting in the autumn.

Gun (ILO) argued that there had been a ‘huge response’ to the synthesis. Therefore follow-up money would be good: for example to conduct a deeper study on one particular aspect. Arjun (Gatsby) said it is still on their research agenda. His colleagues

have more time to progress research now with Covid-19 shut-down of field activities, and could add their budget to DCED's.

Other members argued that we need a clear focus and one that is directly relevant to the MSD field. Andrea (SDC) felt that the most important issue was whether there is a committed task-team within the WG to take initiative forward.

- **MSD for Youth Employment (4.2)**

This workstream is likely to continue into 2020/21. Nafis (Mastercard) thanked members for great feedback, saying lots of data collected. Georgie & Aatif's initial report should be ready at end of April. Mastercard would like to do further work in the area and welcomes feedback and thoughts. Steve (ILO) suggested areas that could be developed included:

- Programme set-up
- Sector selection
- Lessons on implementation

Members discussed how best to define the Workplan activity in 2020/21 before completion of the study. They agreed to include a budget line and narrow down the topic(s) later. Nafis said Mastercard are committed to this area of work. **Action: Andrea & Susi** to speak further with Nafis and Steve (ILO)

- **MSD in Fragile & Conflict Affected (4.3)**

This workstream is certain to continue. As Janna was not present the Chairs agreed to speak later with her.

- **MSD in Digital Age / Digitalisation**

This is a topic that was mentioned in the recent DCED Member Survey and Lars (GIZ) spoke about its relevance to MSD WG. He said GIZ are developing a toolbox related to digital tools/marketing/organising remote working for SMEs that are struggling.

Andrea (SDC) asked how this links specifically to the MSD approach.

Gun & Lars suggested one might consider how MSD approach might be applied to the market for digital services, for example. Lars said we can also look at how to support business development services to go online to strengthen their resilience. Mike speculated that digital solutions for MSEs may be what emerges from the response to Covid-19.. Can we get people together, digitally, to discuss market solutions?

Susie (ADA) suggested this is a topic to be thought more about, and asked members to let Mike and Chairs know in the next two weeks. **(Action: ALL)** We will put something in workplan as an option to hear what people have to say.

- **MSD and a more systemic approach to Private Sector Engagement**

Matthias (EU) reported on interesting conversations in Helsinki with members of the PSE Working Group about 'how partnerships with the private sector can become more systemic?' i.e. moving beyond individual partnerships to system change. He noted that a future joint working item with the PSE WG might be productive. **Action: Susi (ADA)** agreed to take this up with Gunter, and Andrea (SDC) with Lars.

6. AOB, next steps and next meeting

Andrea said the Chairs would follow up with individual members on specific Workplan points before drafting for others to comment.

Andrea (SDC) thanked members for their contributions. She proposed that the next WG meeting take place in second week of June (e.g. June 9th), after the MSS Symposium and the DCED Business AGM. **Action: Mike** to confirm date