



Market Systems Development Working Group

MINUTES

Conference Call: 13:00 GMT Friday 2nd October 2020

Chair: Andrea Inglin (SDC)

WG & Secretariat present

Alex Kucharski (CDC)
Ali Bardarneh (UNIDO)
Andrea Inglin (SDC)
Arjun Bhoopal (Gatsby Africa)
Devi Ramkissooon (USAID)
Elisabet Montgomery (Sida)
Gun Eriksson Skoog (ILO)
Hideki Kemmotsu (JICA)
Janna Post (GIZ)
Jim Tanburn (DCED Secretariat)
Karen Eeuwens (FCDO)
Kristin O'Planick (USAID)
Lars Radscheidt (GIZ)
Maciej Drozd (World Bank)
Matthias Altmann (EC)

Mike Albu (DCED Secretariat)
Nafis Muntasir (Mastercard Foundation)
Naho Aizu (JICA)
Rana Fakhoury (UNIDO)
Steve Hartrich (ILO)
Susanne Thiard-Laforet (ADA)
Takafumi Ueda (JICA)
Toru Homma (JICA)

Apologies

Anders Aeroe (ITC)
Mehraz Rafat (NORAD)
Lisbeth Jespersen (MoFA Denmark)
Joseph Manteit (DFAT Australia)
Tristan Armstrong (DFAT Australia)

AGENDA

1. Opening and welcome to new members
2. Updates and/or key news from WG members
3. Brief announcements from BEAM team
Workstreams 1 - 3
4. Progress from the WG Task Teams
Workstream 4 & 5.
5. Donors' adjustments to COVID-19
An open discussion about whether members are interested in looking systematically at how donors are adjusting to the Coronavirus pandemic.
6. Next steps / Date for December 2020 Call
Any other business

1. Welcome & Introductions

Andrea (SDC) welcomed everyone to the 14th meeting of the MSD Working Group.

Introductions were made by or on behalf of new WG members Devi Ramkisson (USAID), Rana Fakhoury (UNIDO), Karen Eeuwens (FCDO) and Takafumi Ueda (JICA). Many thanks to Ali Bardarneh (UNIDO) and Toru Homma (JICA) for their contributions as they step back from the Working Group.

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

2. Key news and WG member updates

Steve (ILO) explained The Lab has recently published various briefs with practical insights on topics such as [BMOs](#), navigating [rules & regulations](#) for decent work; markets for [child care services](#); the study on [youth employment](#). Forthcoming publications look at a value-chain development guide using MSD approach, and a study on MSD and the environment. The Lab formally ends December 2020, and ILO is looking at future options for research on decent work.

Matthias (EC) said they are making steady progress on raising awareness of the approach. They have completed a 'thematic review' of MSD, and already used this as basis for internal training for 70 EC colleagues: a first step to promoting uptake of MSD in EU programme design.

Kristin (USAID) confirmed that USAID have (end June) awarded their Market Systems & Partnerships contract: a \$65 million 'buy-in mechanism' for missions to fund work that supports MSD or private sector engagement programming. USAID and contractor are currently building a new learning agenda, and hope to interact closely with BEAM Exchange and all MSD WG members'. USAID feel there is much to learn from the global MSD portfolio, and Kristin hopes the MS&P will engage many of the members present.

Ryan (Gatsby Africa) briefed members on two new studies. One reports on inclusive business in the [Rwandan tea sector](#) (looking at farmer joint ownership schemes); and a second looks at prospects for post-Covid economic transformation in Kenya (themes such as technology, future of work, politics and climate change).

Nafis (Mastercard Foundation) announced MCF have published a new [Impact Strategy](#) which has greater focus on market systems, systems change and economic transformation than before. It indicates the Foundation is moving in the direction the WG is advocating, and Nafis would be happy to talk to other members about opportunities this raises.

Alex (CDC Group) announced launch of two new programmes in Myanmar and Nepal. First investor-led blended-finance market systems programmes, which very much have the MSD approach in their DNA. Also have published a report on how to provide [technical assistance to Finance Institutions](#) which could be valuable for MSD programmes.

3. Brief updates from the BEAM Exchange team

[Workstreams 1.1. & 1.2](#): Maintenance of the BEAM Exchange

Mike (DCED Secretariat) updated members on the site analytic data for BEAM. He noted dips in users numbers and resource downloads during the summer, but encouragingly that these picked back up to pre-Covid levels in September.

Mike also briefed members about the series of BEAM webinars being planned during Oct – Dec 2020, starting with the [MSD Procurement papers series on Oct 22nd](#).

Workstream 2.2: BEAM Evidence Map

Mike (DCED Secretariat) confirmed that the consultant contracted (with support from Maciej) by IFC/World Bank has started updating the BEAM Evidence Map, has identified the target number of new documents which are being uploaded to BEAM, and will begin the Evidence Review shortly.

Workstream 2.3: Testing tools for measuring systemic change

Kristin (USAID) reiterated that the Market Systems & Partners (MS&P) activity has begun. It is early days, but once workplan approved, she proposed having a specific meeting to discuss collaboration with MSD Working Group members. **ACTION: Kristin** to let Mike know when to follow up.

Jim (DCED Secretariat) noted that the new '[pragmatic approach to measuring systemic change](#)' guidance and briefed members on discussions about up-dating the DCED Standard guidance in this area

Workstream 3.1: MSD Competency framework

Mike (DCED Secretariat) advised members that the BEAM team (led by Mike Klassen) would be taking up this topic again shortly, and they have new materials to incorporate in the Competency Framework that addresses interest in MSD team building and guidance on [diversity & inclusion](#).

Workstream 3.2 Procurement practices in MSD programmes

Mike (DCED Secretariat) reminded members that all four MSD Procurement papers are now published. The BEAM Team have also produced a short [policy briefing / overview](#) document to promote the series, and will have a [webinar on Oct 22nd](#). Gun (ILO) praised the outputs and wondering how best to promote within agencies (e.g. create a training).

ACTION: All Members Mike requested members please publicise the webinar within agencies.

Workstream 3.3 MSD Distance Learning for Donors course

Mike (DCED Secretariat) confirmed the first course by Agora Global with 30 participants from multiple agencies will begin on Oct 12th. Demand was high and many applicants were unable to join this first cohort. Some members expressed frustration with the process by which participants were selected from within their agency.

Members discussed the prospects for a second and further courses in 2021, and were glad that the WG's initial investment seems on track to create a market for this training. Members agreed it would probably not be desirable (nor administratively feasible) to subsidise a further cohort in 2020/21.

Finally, members asked (**Action**) Mike to ensure that the first cohort is encouraged to give thorough and detailed feedback to the course organisers.

4. Progress updates from the WG Task Teams

Workstream 4.2 MSD & youth employment study

Steve (ILO) and Nafis (MCF) said the task team (Nafis, Karen & Alex) are now looking at selecting one of the four initiatives (recommended) from previously [published Africa study](#). A meeting is planned later in October, with the ultimate deliverable expected by June 2021.

Workstream 4.3 Lessons from MSD experience for post-COVID recovery

Janna (GIZ) apologised to members that the activity was significantly delayed by over-loading in GIZ's procurement department since April this year. A well-qualified consultant (Karri Byrne) has been

contracted but she will only be able to start now in January 2021. Karen (FCDO) has joined the task team overseeing this work.

Workstream 4.4 MSD & digital transformation

Lars (GIZ) advised members that a well-qualified consultant has been selected and will be contracted shortly. They expect the study to be completed by January 2021.

Workstream 5 MSD WG Communication strategy

Susi (ADA) apologised to members that due to Covid's disruption of agencies' communications & strategic focus she has not been able to move forward with the strategy.

5. Donor strategy adjustments to Covid-19

Mike (Secretariat) reported some interest from members in response his earlier email about questions such as:

- How are target groups, sectors, partners, instruments, time frames and budgets changing?
- Are these adjustments consistent with MSD principles?
- Are there innovations / success stories that might help MSD programmes to facilitate recovery?

Steve (ILO) mentioned the shift to 'remote system analysis & sector selection' in his agency.

Kristin (USAID) asked if the group is interested in general lessons or ones specific to MSD programming? She also emphasised that internal USAID conversations are now about a new 'Covid-altered' normal in future (at least for 3 – 5 years until vaccine widely available in LDCs).

Mike clarified that the initial question (e.g. from DFAT) was about whether MSD principles are still consistent or need reviewing. Kristin (USAID), Gun (ILO) and Andrea (SDC) all expressed interest in this conversation. Andrea said sharing operational insights would also be valuable.

Mike asked members how to take the conversation forward. Andrea (ADA) suggested an initial rapid survey leading to a specific meeting to discuss ideas raised. Jim (DCED) mentioned the success of open discussion among members of Private Sector Engagement WG. Nafis (MCF), Elisabet (Sida) and Kristin (USAID) volunteered to have an initial conversation with (Action) Mike to organise

6. AOB, next steps and next meeting

Chair, Andrea (SDC) proposed that the next WG meeting take place in December

Action: ALL to complete the poll of WG members regarding their preferred date.

Gun (ILO) brought up the longer term aspiration to hold another physical face-to-face BEAM Exchange / DCED MSD WG conference / global seminar type event in the year 2021 / 22.

Chair, Susi (ADA) thanked everyone for their participation.