



Market Systems Development Working Group

MINUTES

Conference Call: 12:00 UTC/GMT Wednesday 6th October 2021

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

WG Members present

Alex Kucharski (CDC)
Anders Aero (ITC)
Andrea Inglin (SDC)
Arjun Bhoopal (Gatsby Africa)
Elisabet Montgomery (Sida)
Kristin O'Planick (USAID)
Matthias Altmann (EC)
Mikio Miyazoe (JICA)
Naho Aizu (JICA)
Pauline Baars (CBI)
Steve Hartrich (ILO)

Susanne Thiard-Laforet (ADA)
Tom Sanderson (FCDO)
Yan Chen (GIZ)

DCED Secretariat

Isabelle Gore, Jim Tanburn
Mike Albu, Mike Klassen

Apologies

Devi Ramkisson (USAID)
David Neven (FAO)
Gun Eriksson Skoog (Sida)
Ryan Bourque (Gatsby Africa)

AGENDA

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|--|---------------|--------|
| 1. Welcome & introductions | Susi & Andrea | 5 min |
| Approval of previous minutes | | |
| 2. Brief Updates and important news from all members (incl.) | | 20 min |
| PSD & Development Finance study | Alex | |
| Youth Employment study | Steve | |
| Outcomes of the Procurement Papers / Clinics | Mike K | |
| Markets-in-Crises website launch | Mike A | |
| 3. Workstream 1.3: Team Leader Competencies | | |
| Workstream activity proposal | Mike K | 15 min |
| 4. Workstream 2.1: Evidence Review | | |
| Presentation of final report | Mike A | 20 min |
| 5. Workstream 2.3: MSD Tool Library collaboration | | |
| Proposal for collaboration with USAID's MSP | Kristin | 20 min |
| 6. Workstream 3.3 Greening MSD | | |
| Draft ToRs for part 1 study | Yan | 15 min |
| 7. Dates for Dec 2021 meeting & AOB | Susi & Andrea | 5 min |

1. Welcome, introductions & farewells

The co-Chairs Andrea (SDC) and Susi (ADA) welcomed all to the 19th meeting of the MSD Working Group. No changes were proposed to the [June meeting minutes](#) which were therefore approved.

2. Brief Updates and important news from all WG members

Susi (ADA) offered everyone the opportunity to give a brief update about their agency.

Alex (**CDC+**) updated members on progress of the on-going study on Sector Development / MSD and Development Finance (Workstream 3.1). CDC & Gatsby will provide members with a briefing of findings after report finalised in mid-November.

Mike K (**DCED**) spoke about publication of a short (3 page) [follow-up briefing](#) about the outcomes and influence achieved by the [BEAM Procurement Paper series](#). These outcomes included the integration of content into MSD training curricula and organisations re-thinking the relationships between technical and finance/procurement teams. Kristin (**USAID**) also reported encouraging degree of curiosity about the papers from the head of USAID's Professional Development & Training Unit.

Steve (**ILO**) updated members that the process of procuring a consultant for the 'rough guide' to youth employment (Workstream 3.2) is now underway at last, with outputs anticipated in early 2022. He also flagged up two new ILO publications: a forthcoming 'How To?' guide on adaptive management, and a new brief about [How to measure job quality](#).

Mike A (**DCED**) briefed members on the recent ILO internal MSD Network three-day online workshop, and among other things noted the interest of a senior ILO procurement officer in tackling the adaptive management challenges familiar from the Procurement Papers. Steve (**ILO**) agreed that momentum for systemic approach in ILO is growing.

Mike A also mentioned his involvement with and support to the new [Markets-in-Crises](#) website platform is due to be launched in November.

Isabelle (**DCED**) gave members a quick update about the continued impressive growth of traffic, usage of & downloads from the [BEAM Exchange](#) website (up by 22 - 24% on same Quarter in 2020).

Elisabet (**Sida**) sent greetings in absentia from Gun, who will continue to be active in the MSD Working Group now that she has returned to Sida from her three-year secondment to ILO.

Andrea (**SDC**) explained that her PSD unit joins a new Education & Economics department as part of an SDC restructure that puts more focus on thematic expertise. Also the [Independent Evaluation of SDC's MSD agriculture portfolio \(2013 – 2019\)](#) has been published. Main findings included a strong encouragement for SDC's continued engagement with the MSD field including the BEAM Exchange. Here is a [one page summary](#).

Anders (**ITC**) said ITC are busy finalising their new 4 year strategic plan, and he is focusing on how to understand systemic change from a trade and SME perspective: which systems can or should ITC aim to influence. He also described ITC's collaboration with Sida and OECD on the 'Global Deal' for better jobs / decent work.

Matthias (**EC**) said he is still busy on EU's new human-rights and environmental [due diligence legislation](#). He is working, alongside ITC, on the accompanying support measures for EU companies and their global supply chains so as to avoid unintended consequences. They are producing a guidance document for EU program managers which tries 'between the lines' to adopt a systems approach. Matthias would be interested in learning about others' experiences of applying systems approach across global supply chains that span different geographies and legislative regimes.

Susi (**ADA**) mentioned a recent ADA annual conference in which colleagues reported that systemic perspectives, gender and climate change concerns are also seen as increasingly important.

Kristin (**USAID**) flagged up a much awaited and newly completed '[ex-post](#)' evaluation of the Uganda CPM activity. The headlines were great: showing both 'sustainability' and 'spill-over'.

In this regard, Andrea (**SDC**) also flagged that she'd recently persuaded two new SDC programmes to budget for ex-post evaluations which will happen four years after they close.

Tom (**FCDO**) highlighted that FCDO has a new Minister, and is busy preparing for the CoP26 in November, while dealing with fallout from regime-collapse in Afghanistan. He is interested in whether an MSD perspective might be useful for generating innovative ways to disrupt the opium industry.

3. Workstream 1.3: Team Leader Competencies

Mike Klassen (**Secretariat**) presented a short proposal for Secretariat work over next weeks to extend the scope and content of BEAM's MSD Competency Framework. The idea, brewing for a year or more, is to develop new material focussed on the role and competencies of MSD team leaders.

Mike explained the rationale for this investment of time (estimated as 28 days), and described the process planned for engaging WG members and other stakeholders with expertise in the subject. In response to a question from Yan (**GIZ**), he confirmed that the strengthen of the new material would be its specific focus on MSD leadership. He asked members to volunteer for a task-team to run with this activity.

Elisabet (**Sida**) said that this initiative sounded very relevant for Sida, and would be very helpful. Her colleague Gun is keen to join the task team. Ryan (**Gatsby**) echoed the view that this is a worthwhile initiative, especially important to help cultivate local national talent in country.

Kristin (**USAID**) was very supportive of this proposal, noting the weakness of the pipeline for team leaders. She cited recent [Canopy Lab research](#). A key question is 'how do we rigorously evaluate the softer, but more important competencies?'. She also questioned if 28 days would turn out to be sufficient: 'this work will mushroom'.

ACTION: Andrea (**SDC**) said she will nominate someone from an SDC field office, and asked other members to contact Mike directly.

4. Workstream 2.1: Evidence Review

Mike A (**Secretariat**) explained that there will be a formal presentation of the [2021 Evidence Review](#) at a [BEAM Webinar on Oct 19th](#). The review is now published on the BEAM website. He said he hoped members would appreciate reading the short three page executive summary.

5. Workstream 2.3: MSD Tool Library collaboration

Kristin (**USAID**) talked about the previously circulated Tool Library proposal. She explained the rationale, and willingness of the [USAID MSP activity](#) to fund its creation and curation, and the desire for it to be hosted within the BEAM Exchange. Part of this is a forward-looking commitment by the MSD Working Group to refresh the library every two years from 2023.

Anders (**ITC**) said it is an excellent initiative and fully supported it. Thanked Kristin for funding it.

In response to a question from Susi (**ADA**), Kristin (**USAID**) explained that the MSP team will reach out to 'everybody and anybody' to share their content, capturing as much as possible through a public survey and also getting feedback on the utility of different tools proposed.

ACTION All members: The Chairs asked members who have any objections to raise them by Oct 15th latest.

6. Workstream 3.3: Greening MSD

Yan Chen (**GIZ**) reminded members of the two strands proposed: 1) guidance on 'mainstreaming environmental considerations' in MSD programming; 2) how the MSD approach can contribute more broadly to the success of Green Economy initiatives. Previously the MSD WG agreed to move forward with the first item initially. This has now been captured in the draft ToRs circulated. Unfortunately GIZ will probably not be able to complete contracting processes until early 2022.

Meanwhile, two open questions remaining for WG members are:

a) should the scope be focussed on one sector (Agriculture, including forestry and livestock) or take a wider perspective?

b) nature of the final deliverable (would an interactive slide-deck be useful)?

Yan Chen (**GIZ**) asked members present and absent to share their thoughts. There was a brief discussion of the nature the driving motivation for this guidance (mitigation or adaptation) and their relevance for programmes working with poor farmers. **ACTION:** Yan (**GIZ**) and Mike (**Secretariat**) to

reconvene the task-team who expressed interest in this topic [Steve (ILO), Elisabet (Sida), Annegret (ITC)] to resolve these remaining questions.

In response to a request for help finding a suitable MSD expert consultant, **ACTION: Mike (Secretariat)** offered to help shake the tree.

7. Date for December 2021 meeting & AOB

Action Mike (Secretariat) agreed to poll members for a new meeting date in early December.

Action All: The Chairs asked members to propose topics as candidates for a deeper focussed discussion at the next meeting (for example the Dev Finance & PSD study due by December might be one).

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