

Market Systems Development Working Group

MINUTES

Online by Zoom: Wednesday 8th October 2022; 12:00 UTC

WG Members present

Chairs

Andrea Inglin (SDC)

Susanne Thiard-laforet (ADA)

Members

Alex Kucharski (BII)

Arjun Bhoopal (Gatsby Africa)

Elisabet Montgomery (Sida)

Ellie Horrocks (Gatsby Africa)

Kristin O'Planick (USAID)

Merten Sievers (ILO)

Pascal Fabing (LuxDev)

Robert Skidmore (ITC)

Steve Hartrich (ILO)

Theresa Stattel (USAID)

Yan Chen (GIZ)

Yannic Burstert (GIZ)

DCED Secretariat

Mike Albu, Mike Klassen, Jim Tanburn, Ella Duffy

Apologies

David Neven (FAO)

Gun Eriksson Skoog (Sida)

Isabelle Gore (DCED)

AGENDA

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|--|--------|--------|
| 1. Welcome & introductions | Chairs | 5 min |
| Welcome to members; approval of previous minutes | | |
| 2. Brief updates and important news from all members | ALL | 20 min |
| 3. Update re MSD Workstream activities | | 20 min |
| 4. Formal approval of ToRs for Workstreams 3.2 & 3.4 | Merten | 5 min |
| 5. Greening MSD activity report (Workstream 3.3) | | |
| Highlights from draft report of consultants' team (?) | Yan | 20 min |
| 6. Rotating the Chair | | |
| Discussion / invitation to members to consider taking the WG Chair | Chairs | 10 min |
| 7. Date for next WG meeting & AOB | Susi | 5 min |

1. Welcome & introductions

The co-Chair Susi (ADA) welcomed all to the 24th meeting of the MSD Working Group.

Three new members – Rob (ITC), Ellie (Gatsby) & Yannic (GIZ) took the opportunity introduce themselves & explain their motivations for joining the Working Group

No changes were proposed to the June meeting minutes which were therefore approved.

2. Brief updates and important news from all members

Andrea (SDC) briefed members about the recent re-organisation at SDC headquarter which unites the two former thematic units “inclusive economic development” (incl. private sector development and MSD) and Education.. The new unit is called Economy & Education (E+E).

Steve (ILO) announced a new ILO brief on [MSD & Skills Development](#). Also a new guide about [gender-sensitive value-chain development](#) that takes a systemic approach.

Merten (**ILO**) also advised members about new work to see how or why ILO projects move (or do not move) from using systemic lens in analysis (which is increasingly common) to using a systems approach in implementation (which is still rare).

There were no other member updates.

3. Update re MSD Workstream activities

Workstreams 1.1/1.2 (BEAM Exchange): Mike A (**DCED Secretariat**) showed members recently-analysed data on visits to and resource downloads from the BEAM Exchange website. The continued growth in these numbers is encouraging.

Workstream 1.3 (Team Leaders' competencies): Mike K (**DCED Secretariat**) briefed members on the excellent progress of this activity as described in this recent [blog post](#), thanks to great support from Gun (**Sida**) and Kristin (**USAID**). A [call for participants](#) in the new knowledge clinics was broadcast recently and already generated many applications. More involvement would be desirable from donor staff so **ACTION: All members** to suggest colleagues with experience in selecting or supervising Team Leaders who might be willing to participate.

Workstream 1.4 (Markets-in-Crises, short MiC): Mike A (**DCED Secretariat**) updated members on developments among the humanitarian community involved with market-based-programming. Thanks to support from USAID, IRC have taken over from SEEP Network to temporarily host the new MiC Website; and the MiC Advisory Committee recently selected consultants act as facilitators of the [MiC community space](#) (currently on D-Groups).

Workstream 2.3 (Collaboration with MSP): Kristin (**USAID**) announced that the new [MSD Tool Library](#) has been launched on BEAM. She said USAID are delighted with the functionality and the large number of initial views (8700 visits to date).

Workstream 2.4 (Planning for next DCED Global Seminar): Mike A (**DCED Secretariat**) explained that with the current DCEC Secretariat contract up for re-tendering in 2023, we are now thinking of scheduling early 2024 for an in-person Seminar (probably in Asia).

Mike also reported on-going conversations with the Vikara Institute about how BEAM & the MSD WG might participate in the next Market Systems Symposium 2023 (November) in Cape Town.

Workstream 3.1 (Bridging the Gap): Arjun (**Gatsby Africa**) and Alex (**BII**) reminded members about the next phase of WG support for collaboration between donors and investors, following recommendations in the [Bridging the Gap report](#). ToRs are complete. They have shortlisted consultancy firms to deliver on-call technical support, but also **ACTION ALL** asked members to recommend other candidates.

4. Formal approval of ToRs (for Workstreams 3.2 & 3.4)

Andrea (**Chair**) invited Steve and Merten (**ILO**) to remind members of the purpose of the two short-term consultancy assignments which the Chairs will submit to IFC for contracting this week.

Susi (**ADA / Chair**) expressed her appreciation that the focus of both new pieces of work is squarely on communication and dissemination of the WG's knowledge outputs. Mike K (**Secretariat**) also noted how timely and relevant the [Rough Guide](#) is right now for many implementers.

After briefing, the two ToRs were formally approved by members with no objections.

ACTION: Mike A to submit ToRs and recommended consultants to IFC.

5. Greening MSD activity report (Workstream 3.3)

Yan (**GIZ**) advised members that the consultant team is making great progress on the first phase of the Greening MSD work following numerous interviews with key informants, with first draft expected by 17 October.

She briefed members on some of the main messages emerging from their analysis. These include important discussions about the trade-offs between climate & environment goals and ambitions for scale and sustainability in poverty reduction. One issue that came up repeatedly was different informants' interpretations of the MSD principles.

Members discussed a revised timetable and format for garnering feedback on the final draft guideline. First, Susi (**ADA**) suggested that informants should have a chance to see final draft. Second, Merten (**ILO**) proposed a live online session (e.g. on Zoom) which Kristin (**USAID**) suggested should be invitation-only in late Oct / early November. Mike A (**Secretariat**) offered to support **ACTION Yan (GIZ)** to organise this / suggest invitations.

Finally, the Secretariat will organise a dissemination BEAM webinar in New Year 2023.

Conversation turned to the second phase of Greening MSD workstream. Yan (**GIZ**) explained that it makes sense to delay contracting into GIZ's next financial year (starting March). The task team will need to draft the new ToRs during Nov / December. Mike A (**Secretariat**) advised that an important issue will be to delineate the respective scopes of the two outputs: e.g. some material from the first consultant team's draft may prove more salient for the second output.

6. Rotating the Chair

Susi (**ADA/Chair**) announced that she will have to stand-down as Co-Chair (in principle at a WG meeting planned in January 2023). She hoped that an in-person event may be possible. Andrea (**SDC/Chair**) also explained she is looking to step down, although later in 2023, allowing for a smooth hand-over. She emphasised that the role is not overwhelming, given the strong support from the Secretariat.

ACTION All members were invited to consider nominating themselves for these Co-Chairs role. Mike A (Secretariat) and the Chairs would be happy to talk to anyone about what the role requires. Many members expressed their gratitude for the long and productive contribution that Susi and Andrea have made to the operation of the Working Group.

7. Date for next WG meeting & AOB

ACTION Mike A (Secretariat) agreed to send a poll for the next meeting in late Nov / early Dec.

Susi (**ADA/Chair**) also proposed that we look into the possibility of holding an in-person WG meeting in early 2023. Central Europe seems most feasible (e.g. Switzerland at a venue organised by SDC, ITC or ILO). Several of those present expressed an interest in this happening / a will to travel.

There was no other business, so Susi (**Chair**) closed the meeting at 13:30 UTC