



## Market Systems Development Working Group

### MINUTES OF TELECONFERENCE

Mon 27th March 2023 at 13:00 UK / 12:00 UCT

#### Retiring Chairs

Andrea Inglin (SDC)

Susanne Thiard-laforet (ADA)

#### New Chairs

Margot Lobbezoo (CBI)

Pauline Baars (CBI)

#### Members present

Alex Kucharski (BII)

Arjun Bhoopal (Gatsby Africa)

David Neven (FAO)

Elisabet Montgomery (Sida)

Gun Eriksson Skoog (Sida)

Kristin O'Planick (USAID)

Pascal Fabing (LuxDev)

Rana Fakhoury (UNIDO)

Rob Skidmore (ITC)

Steve Hartrich (ILO)

Yan Chen (GIZ)

#### DCED Secretariat

Mike Albu, Isabelle Gore,  
Mike Klassen, Jim Tanburn,  
Ella Duffy

#### Apologies in advance

Naho Aizu (JICA)

Urkaly Isaev (IFC)

Merten Sievers (ILO)

Theresa Stattel (USAID)

## AGENDA

1. **Welcome & introductions** Chairs  
Welcome to members; approval of previous minutes
2. **Rotating of the Chairs** Chairs  
Ratification of Margot & Pauline (CBI) as new WG chairs
3. **Agency updates** ALL  
All members are welcome to brief colleagues on latest news
4. **Workstream activity update**
  - 1.3 Team Leader competencies knowledge clinics Mike K
  - 3.1 Bridging the Gap (PSD & Dev Finance) Arjun
  - 3.2 Youth Employment Pascal
  - 3.3 Greening MSD Yan
  - 3.4 MSD in Fragile & Conflict-affected Settings Gun
5. **Discussion of Workstream activities for 2023/24 WorkPlan** Chairs  
facilitated by 'jamboards'
6. **Arrangements for the next WG Meeting** Chairs  
Discussion of agenda and arrangements for next meeting in Geneva on June 20th

## 1. Welcome & introductions

The co-Chairs Susi (**ADA**) and Andrea (**SDC**) welcomed all to the 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the MSD Working Group. No changes were proposed to the [February meeting minutes](#) which were therefore approved.

## 2. Rotating the Chairs

Susi and Andrea formally handed over the Chairing responsibilities to Margot Lobbezoo and Pauline Baars (**CBI**). Mike (**Secretariat**) and all the members present thanked Susi and Andrea, raising a cheer for their stalwart service over five years since the formation of the MSD Working Group. A proper celebration was promised in Geneva in June. Margot introduced herself and Pauline to members.

## 3. Agency updates

Rana (**UNIDO**) advised members about the launch in Doha LDC5 of major joint UNIDO-FAO programme called ASTA ([Agrifood Systems Transformation Accelerator](#)), which focuses on food systems using a value-chain approach. The methodology is systemic and 'MSD-like' in implementation, and has been validated in Suriname, Zambia, Tanzania & Nigeria. They are now in the phase of scaling up.

Yan (**GIZ**) said BMZ is shifting its strategy to have a strong policy focus – with a restructuring from micro projects to high-level policy reforms. Looking for transformative approach as the macro level. This will have a big impact on GIZ's portfolio.

Elisabet (**Sida**) had just returned from a large Sida global network gathering in Lusaka. The main themes were inclusive and sustainable economic transformation including green transformation, where systems approaches are important. There is still some uncertainty Gun (Sida) explained, but it looks like the emerging policy priorities of the new Swedish government will be trade, private sector engagement and mobilising private capital investment.

Kristin (**USAID**) advised that MSP activity is starting to put together a basic toolkit on 'market systems analysis', due to requests from the field. Also she is excited about some knowledge clinics MSP have been running on M&E for MSD activities. Three short papers are in the pipeline as a result.

Arjun (**Gatsby**) described workshops Gatsby are running in Kenya and Tanzania for donors, to discuss how donors can support African governments to develop economic transformation strategy including industrial policy.

Andrea (**SDC**) noted that SDC are planning an annual meeting in 2024 of all SDC's PSD advisors.

Pascal (**LuxDev**) explained that LuxDev is pursuing their agenda to introduce MSD topics & approaches throughout the institution. He thanked Sida for recent support to deliver internal workshops. He mentioned studies in the pipeline in Senegal and some small initiatives in Niger.

Alex (**BII+**) said BII+ is now in second year of a new investment strategy, which focuses on climate and economic inclusion (addressing inequality within and between countries). A systems-approach project in Nepal is well underway, working on ecosystems around financial institutions. A new initiative in Ghana will transform access to 'small ticket' investment for SMEs, and may be replicated in Zambia. He also mentioned BII's collaboration with other DFIs through the [ARIA Invest platform](#) for underserved markets such as Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso.

David (**FAO**) noted that FAO Food Systems & Food Safety Division has a new Director (Corinna Hawkes), who is keen to promote and mainstream a market systems approach within FAO. David also mentioned that the [Fish4ACP](#) EU-funded project which uses systems approaches is revising its M&E methodologies. This is motivating FAO to link lessons to other key initiatives such as [One Country One Priority Product](#).

Margot (**CBI**) said systems approaches are attracting increasing attention in the Netherlands MoFA and among participating NGOs. There is a strong demand for materials and guidance in French for their francophone Africa countries.

## 4. Workstream activity update

### 1.3 Team Leader competencies knowledge clinics

Mike K (**Secretariat**) briefed members about progress in the clinic workshops with more than forty participating donors and practitioners. He included some of the key issues emerging in conversations, as potential topics for policy or learning briefs.

Margot (**CBI**) mentioned how glad she is to be one of the participants.

### 3.1 Bridging the Gap (PSD & Dev Finance)

Arjun (**Gatsby Africa**) updated members on developments following recommendations in the [Bridging the Gap](#) report. A consultant (ISI Advisors) has been contracted to provide technical assistance to partners, and a launch meeting will happen in April. The first stage will be treated as action research of the approach with a few sample programmes, leading to a synthesis of lessons for future work. Both Sida and FCDO have some programmes in mind.

### 3.2 MSD for Youth Employment

Pascal (**LuxDev**) explained that we are continuing to disseminate the '[Rough Guide](#)'; with the consultant providing tailored workshops for LuxDev, SDC and CBI planned. Mike A (**Secretariat**) added the promotional video animation is also nearly complete.

### 3.3 Greening MSD

Yan (**GIZ**) advised members that the consultants' technical study submitted in January will be completed soon, as a provisional output. She also explained that the WG task-team looking at options for a restructured guidance document to be extracted from these detailed materials – along similar lines to the 'Rough Guide' above. Mike A (**Secretariat**) added that the task-team will convene to decide who to use, and noted that it could be completed by July.

### 3.4 MSD in Fragile & Conflict-affected Settings

Gun (**Sida**) explained that the interactive process to support adoption of our [MSD in FCAS policy briefs](#) with ILO, Sida and USAID teams is on-going. The process depends on each organisation, and is proceeding at different paces with a variety of issues. Within Sida, they have had two internal meetings so far, and a webinar activity planned this week. They are treating it as a peer-to-peer learning process to support and influence practice, rather than having defined outputs.

## 5. Discussion of Workstream activities for 2023/24 WorkPlan

Margot (**Chair / CBI**) asked members to use the jamboard to share ideas and facilitate the conversation about new workstreams being proposed for the 2023/24 Work Plan.

### Proposed Workstream (A) – re MSD for Skills Development / TVET (linked to 3.2)

This topic represents a nexus of systems thinking, TVET and youth employment. Andrea (**SDC**) noted interest in collaborating with an emerging group being created by several MSD implementors and donors. This might mean an in-person event in 2024.

Mike K (**Secretariat**) clarified the group (which includes Sida, Swisscontact, Mercy Corps) is planning to launch a community of practice in May / June. There's a lot of momentum. Rana (**UNIDO**) said colleagues from [LKDF forum](#) could be interested.

Margot (**Chair / CBI**) asked interested members to work on clarifying the scope of the workstream. One question: should it be an evolution of the existing Youth Employment workstream, or something additional / new? **ACTION Mikes A/K** (**Secretariat**) agreed to convene a task-team meeting next week.

### Proposed Workstream (B) – re MSD for Trade

Margot (**Chair / CBI**) noted that is potentially a very wide topic. Rob (**ITC**) explained that it would be interesting to focus on issues shown on the jamboard that involve international trade / cross-border systems. Elisabet (**Sida**) said there might be interest in Sida.

**ACTION Mikes A/K** (**Secretariat**) agreed to convene a task-team meeting for this topic next week.

#### Proposed Workstream (C) – re Support for Donors in System Change

Margot (**Chair / CBI**) noted that there are various ideas on the jamboard, clustering around concepts of system thinking in PSD, and how MSD is evolving on the one hand, and also around how donors in the MSD space could provide practical support to each other.

**ACTION Mike A (Secretariat)** agreed to convene a task-team meeting for this topic among members who are interested to explore these issues

#### Proposed Workstream (D) – re Innovative Methods for Learning & Influencing

Margot (**Chair / CBI**) noted the various ideas posted on the jamboard about the experiences we have gained in recently times from the Knowledge Clinics and other innovative methods of disseminating and guidance. She asked **ACTION Mike A (Secretariat)** to convene a task-team meeting for this topic among members who are interested to explore these issues

#### Workstream 2.4 – re Global Seminar

Gun (**Sida**) reminded members of the WG's long-standing interest in organising a DCED/BEAM global seminar event in 2024. Andrea (**SDC**) suggested that the Youth Employment / Skills Development / TVET topic could be a popular theme, building on Workstream 3.2/A. She also suggested SDC may be able to support financially.

Margot (**Chair / CBI**) asked **ACTION Mike A (Secretariat)** to convene a task-team meeting for members who are interested to explore this idea in more detail. Budget issues would be a priority.

### **6. Arrangements for the next WG Meeting**

Margot (**Chair / CBI**) asked members to indicate who may be able to join the next meeting in person in Geneva in June – there were at least nine hands. The plan is to have a full day meeting on Tues 20<sup>th</sup>. She proposed at least one session that is open for other DCED WG members. Jim (**DCED**) asked all participants to let the Secretariat ([admin@enterprise-development.org](mailto:admin@enterprise-development.org)) know if they planned to come to Geneva in person, or wanted to join the WG meeting on-line (if they have not done so already). More information on the Annual Meeting programme is available [here](#).

Agenda items on the jamboard included 'exploring the rationale for and themes for a Global Seminar', 'the future of MSD' and having breakouts for each of the different task-teams. Kristin (**USAID**) and Steve (**ILO**) showed appreciation for these plans.

Margot (**Chair / CBI**) said she would work with the Secretariat to develop an agenda for 20<sup>th</sup> June and think about how to make this an interactive and engaging day. She looks forward to meeting members in Geneva. Meanwhile if any WG members would like to meet her and Pauline one-to-one, she would be pleased to hear from you.

Margot thanked members and the meeting closed at 14:30 UK time.