

**Results Measurement Working Group Meeting**  
Draft Minutes of meeting, Online, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023

*v. 26 October 2023*

**Participants (13):**

- Andrew Nelson (USAID)
- Christian Lokhorst (NL MOFA)
- Jim Tanburn (DCED Secretariat)
- Jonas Bolzen (GIZ)
- Lea Richard (ILO)
- Lis Ostergaard (RVO)
- Angela van den Broek (RVO)
- Dani Bender (RVO)
- Melina Heinrich-Fernandes (DCED Secretariat)
- Merten Sievers (ILO)
- Milena Mihajlovic (SECO)
- Muneeb Zulfiqar (DCED Secretariat)
- Nabanita Sen Bekkers (DCED Secretariat)
- Rens Twijnstra (NL MoFA)
- Zenda Ofir, (Mastercard Foundation)

**Agenda for the meeting**

This was the first meeting led by the RMWG chair Rens and had the following items on its agenda:

- Member updates on key focus areas and current activities related to results measurement
- Secretariat updates on RM work
- Update on assessing systems change at portfolio level.
- Member interest in measuring job quality

**1. Member Updates**

- **ILO:** Through the Jobtech Alliance, ILO with Mercy Corps and other international NGOs is working to establish the Jobtech Learning Lab, a collaborative research initiative to explore emerging themes in Jobtech – the use of digital technology to support people to access and deliver quality work. This includes youth-led research to better understand youth perspectives on what ‘good work’ looks like in jobtech, and using this to create a tool to measure quality of work on jobtech platforms.

ILO has recently conducted impact measurements with Gig economy actors in Nigeria and Kenya, to assess the type of jobs and worries that people in the sector face and will be publishing these results by the end of the year.

From ILO’s systems change - a practical guide to measure job quality in projects is being developed. This will be a short guide that will reflect on: Why it is important to measure job quality? When job quality is a business case? How does it contribute to alleviate poverty? Etc. This will take elements on the DCED Standard’s guidance on measurement.

ILO will follow up with RMWG members to see if measuring job quality is a priority and if they would be willing to contribute to this.

- **USAID:** USAID has recently appointed Professor Dean Karlan as the new Chief Economist for the agency. In this role, he will serve as USAID's principal economist and top expert on economic policy and analysis. With this comes a dedicated department with staff that also have a focus on more rigorous impact evaluations for projects across USAID. Internally, they are reaching out to projects to see where they can conduct such evaluations with RCTs. They are also setting up a new policy to make such evaluations embedded in their work.

USAID will share developments in this space with RMWG members.

- **GIZ:** To aggregate development results across themes and countries in order to present them to the public, GIZ developed a list of standard results measurement indicators in the latter half of 2022. This consists of around 40 indicators. This year, they have captured the first results for this.

GIZ will share the results against the standard indicators with member groups.

- **RVO:** There has been a shift towards a more 'reflexive monitoring' approach (see: [Reflexive monitoring & evaluations](#)). This means looking at how short-term output results compare with long-term outcome results and how it fits with the ministry's reporting requirement where they want quantitative data and numbers. Together with the NL MoFA, RVO is looking at how they can involve policy officers so instead of number counting there is a more strategic way of monitoring and reporting that can fit the ministry's ambitions with regard to systemic change.

RVO will share updates on how this work is progressing.

- **Mastercard Foundation:** The Foundation is undertaking a study to measure and understand their contribution towards dignified and fulfilling jobs and whether the envisioned impact on jobs through systems change is realistic.

The Foundation's portfolio approach has outlined seven key outcomes that their portfolio of programs needs to work towards to create the enabling entrepreneurship eco-system which leads to creating dignified and fulfilling jobs. For each of these seven outcomes, impact on individuals, institutions and systems is traced to detect signals of systems change. The Foundation is looking to understand how system changes happen over time to explain if they are on the right track instead of only measuring when changes have happened.

The guidance of measuring systems change was developed two years ago. At country level, they have been doing retrospective baselines to understand pathway to dignified jobs. This has been insightful in terms of reaching elite young people and creating jobs through them instead of more marginalized individuals.

They are also launching a much bigger initiative on adaptive management and the ongoing evidence base to test out hypothesis on their way to transformation and creating dignified jobs.

- **NL MOFA:** MOFA are conducting a pilot on collecting end-user feedback about job quality, working with CBI and the Challenge Fund for Youth Employment (CYFE). For this, they have contracted *60 decibels* to explore the qualitative aspects of jobs created in their programmes in Egypt. The results of this will be available by the end of the year.

As part of their learning agenda, the NL MoFA is looking to identify knowledge gaps in their thematic ToC. A set of learning questions that they would use for new and existing programmes has been finalized. The knowledge products from these learning questions will be published. They are working on setting up a platform for this. There will be an update on this by the end of the year.

- **SECO:** There is nothing new to report on right now in terms of results measurement but is keen to follow other member updates.

## 2. Secretariat updates on RM work

The Secretariat recently organized a webinar with SDC regarding their experience of implementing the Standard. They also organized an online training “Using data to tell a story” led by Adam Kessler and was well received. This had 60 participants, who got a chance to work on an exercise for data analysis and presenting findings. The feedback has been positive, and some participants have asked for more of such trainings/workshops. The Secretariat is thinking of launching a series of such small trainings in the future, on topics such as developing a good results chain/ToC or defining and measuring indicators. For this, the Secretariat has reached out to the consultants on the DCED RM marketplace and have organized a call with them by the end of October 2023 to see what more can be done.

The Secretariat is also facilitating the Advanced RM training in Bangkok in October 2023. The reflections from participants which includes RM practitioners from the workshop will be shared with the RMWG.

## 3. Update on assessing systems change at portfolio level.

Rens provided an update on the discussion started by the NLMoFA and RVO at the DCED annual meeting in June this year. After this session, the RMWG formed a small task team of Andrew (USAID), Jonas (GIZ), Atsuko (MCF), Rens (NLMoFA), and Nabanita (Secretariat) to explore what the assignment for assessing systems change at a portfolio level should focus on.

A quick poll was conducted to re-affirm the group’s interest in the proposed assignment (see attached). Rens and Nabanita then proposed that the Secretariat (Nabanita and Muneeb) can set up a few bilateral follow-up calls with interested RMWG members that will help formulate a terms of reference for the assignment. A draft list of questions to gauge the importance and interest in this topic has been developed.

Mertens (ILO) expressed that the scope for this should be narrower to make it more relevant for members and get more meaningful responses. E.g., making it specific to measuring systems change at a portfolio level for PSD programs. We would want to get to a series of guiding principles but not towards a standard for measuring at a portfolio level.

Dani (RVO) mentioned that it would be important to include how systems change is defined as part of the assignment, before we look at aggregation of results. As different agencies define systems change differently, it will be useful to define this as part of the scope of this assignment.

The DCED Secretariat will follow up with members to check-in how the ToR for this assignment should be drafted.

## 4. Next steps

- Members share relevant documents from their agencies with the RMWG.
- DCED Secretariat follows up with RMWG members individually to get their feedback on the assignment for assessing systems change at a portfolio level.
- DCED Secretariat follows up with RMWG to check on interest in contributing to ILO’s work of measuring job quality.
- The next RMWG meeting will be scheduled in the next quarter.