

Results Measurement Working Group (RMWG)

Meeting Minutes, Vienna, Austria

12th June 2019

V. 3rd July 2019

Participants:

Aatif Somji (ILO)
Alan Lukoma (World Bank Group)
Anastasia de Santos (USAID)
Catherine Masinde (World Bank Group)
Christine Weinreich (GIZ, Teleconference)
Elizabet Montgomery (Sida)
Fabrice Leysens (Belgium FPS FA)
Guido Beltrani (SDC)
Giuseppe De Simone (UNIDO)
Henrik Vistisen (Denmark MoFA)
Iris Hauswirth (ITC)
Irma Keijzer (Netherlands MoFA)
Julia Rohe (UNIDO)
Kayte Davidson (Australia DFAT)
Laura Desmoulin (Finland MoFA)
Liliana de Sa (SECO)
Michelle McKenna Stewart (DFID)

Nafis Muntasir (MCF)
Peter Beez (SDC)
Saki Ito (JICA)
Thomas Lammar (Luxembourg MoFA)
Thuy Le (UNIDO)
Victoria Nussbaumer (UNIDO)

Presenters, others:

Rory Tews (Roots of Impact)
Bjoern Struener (Roots of Impact)
Helen Bradbury (ALCP)
Olivia Prentice (IMP, teleconference)

Secretariat:

Jim Tanburn
Adam Kessler
Nabanita Sen Bekkers

The agenda for the meeting can be found [here](#).

1. Agency Updates

All participants gave brief updates on their key focus areas and current activities. In summary:

Australia DFAT: Focused on private sector engagement work and establishing standard indicators.

Belgium FPS FA: The new Private Sector for Development team is working to identify standardised indicators to measure across portfolio; the list currently contains 22. Also interested in additionality.

DFID: Focus on encouraging private sector to work and report towards Global Goals. Want investors to report impact using a common framework that would assess what was the benefit, who benefited, by how much, contribution and risk.

Finland MoFA: Actively developing standardised indicators for aggregation, as publishing results increasingly [on-line](#). Finland takes a human-rights-based approach to development, and is interested in how this fits with existing measurement frameworks.

ILO: Uses the DCED Standard (or a simplified form) in projects. Developing a new toolkit on measuring working conditions, with a list of indicators to assess job quality.

ITC: Has defined their standardised indicators which all ITC projects need to report against. Working on how to link these indicators to SDGs.

Luxembourg MoFA: Several ongoing evaluations. Strengthened partnership with Social Performance

Taskforce, which has established standards and principles for social performance measurement, including in investment. Sponsoring African microfinance week in October, on the topic of impact.

MCF: Taking a whole labour market approach. Working towards standard indicators for youth employment, to aggregate results at country level. Starting to develop a value-for-money framework. Interested in the work of the Impact Management Programme.

SDC: Focus areas of work include private sector engagement, financial inclusion and professional education. Impact management becoming increasingly important. SDC aggregates indicators, works on payment for results, and promotes the DCED Standard. Promoting advanced results measurement course in November, to train practitioners and generate new knowledge. SDC aims to complement the DCED Standard with cost benefit analysis, producing a two-pager on links between the two approaches.

SECO: Regularly reporting to parliament on aggregated indicators. Prefer fewer indicators, focusing on outcomes and impact. Developing new Social Impact Bonds with results defined upfront and payment made against them. Interested in assessing Value for Money (VFM).

Sida: Very interested in results-based, adaptive management, and what that means for results measurement. The DCED Standard is very relevant, but Sida don't impose results frameworks on partners. Developing toolbox for results measurement, and will share when it is ready.

UNIDO: Updated integrated results performance database, using an actor-based model. Focusing on outcomes and impact rather than inputs. Using theory of change. Aggregating indicators according to standardised definitions, but need to provide good training for staff and partners.

USAID: Working towards aggregation of standard indicators, measuring full-time equivalent employment as well as income and sales.. Advocates and offers support for impact evaluations within USAID. The Administrator is bringing in high-level metrics to assess self-reliance.

World Bank Group: The [Anticipated Impact Measurement and Monitoring](#) 'AIMM' system is now in full implementation; it has helped the IFC to shift its focus to projects that are expected to have higher development impact, for example projects in fragile and conflict states. Reviewing harmonised indicators for private sector operations (current list comprises 38 indicators), adding metrics around the underserved (youth, women), climate change, and improved definitions, and how to link work to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

IFC is also launching an Evaluation Community of Practice to enhance the generation of credible evidence of development impact derived private sector operations, particularly ex ante and ex post, in 6 sectors. Focuses on theories of change, big data analysis, rapid assessment tools, gender focused measurement and substantive evaluations. Plan to officially launch in Copenhagen in October-November. Will update other groups (such as DCED) on a rolling basis.

2. Overview, Update on the DCED Standard for Results Measurement

Adam Kessler and Nabanita Sen Bekkers described the DCED Standard, summarising the key principles and its use to date. Currently around [150 projects](#) use the DCED Standard, in more than 50 countries. It is often cited in strategic documents, job descriptions and requests for proposals. In order to promote the use of the Standard, the DCED offers learning events, guidance, and access to other resources such as a [consultants marketplace](#). The Secretariat is developing an on-line tool to help with application of the Standard, more webinars, a tool on adaptive management, and field-based workshops for practitioners.

Helen Bradbury summarised her use with the DCED Standard in ALCP, a Mercy Corps project in Georgia. She explained how it helped her programme gather credible data, build trust and accountability to their donor, and develop learning products. Examples of these learning products can be found on the website, www.alcp.ge. Peter Beez also discussed the use of the DCED Standard

within SDC, emphasising the importance from the point of view of a donor of being able to confirm the credibility of results reported by programmes.

A group discussion focused on the use of the DCED Audits to improve the quality of results reporting, and the extent to which the DCED Standard enables better adaptive management from programmes.

3. Bringing the DCED Standard closer to Corporates

Rory Tews of Roots of Impact, together with Hans Posthumus, had been commissioned by the RMWG to develop options for the DCED, in order to translate its experience and expertise with the DCED Standard into the world of blended finance. A draft report had been circulated before the meeting; Rory Tews started by presenting the findings of the study, focusing on the two options [previously short-listed](#) by the WG:

Developing a Standard for Blended finance: Blended finance could mobilize significant capital investment in high impact sectors. However, there is no standardized method to assess and learn from impact. The DCED could promote the adoption and implementation of a minimum standard for blended finance. This could be with another partner such as GIIN or IFC, modifying the existing Standard in consultation with different donors, programme managers and enterprises.

Support to the Impact Management Project (IMP): IMP is a donor-funded initiative to create consensus on the way forward for impact measurement and management by the private sector. IMP has a five-point framework to align investors with potential impact. It focuses on the needs of investors and companies, but is nonetheless interested to engage more with donors. It was suggested that DCED could collaborate with IMP to understand their perspective, contribute to their documents and act as a conduit for donor perspectives into IMP processes. Olivia Prentice from IMP joined by phone, and expressed interest in working more with the DCED.

Some participants expressed strong interest in exploring further the two options presented, to work more with the blended finance and impact investing communities. It was agreed that the views of donors are underrepresented in investment discussions. On the other hand, this is now a crowded field, with many organisations and platforms active in the space; the mapping carried out as part of the study had nonetheless identified potential gaps and opportunities for DCED.

It was agreed that the consultants, Rory Tews and Hans Posthumus, will finalise their report, taking into account the comments of the WG. It will then be circulated to members of the RMWG and of the Private Sector Engagement Working Group (PSEWG), to see if there is sufficient active interest to take it forward as a DCED work item.

4. Aggregation of results across portfolios

Jim Tanburn opened the discussion, noting that the RMWG has worked extensively on the technical aspects of aggregating results across portfolios, including [short-listing harmonised indicators](#) and [documenting measurement methodologies](#) for the most popular of those. Meanwhile, interest had emerged in exploring the non-technical challenges to aggregation, notably under three headings:

Theme 1: The purpose of aggregation, and the mechanism for setting indicators

Theme 2: The means of measurement

Theme 3: Incentives for colleagues and implementers to measure and report

Four agencies presented their experience with aggregating results, to date. They faced different challenges, depending on the level of centralisation, size and complexity of the agency. Nonetheless, all had put significant efforts into aggregating results at outcome and impact levels. Other agencies shared their experience, with all agreeing that the opportunity to exchange experiences was a valuable one. To continue the conversation, it was agreed that the Secretariat would compile a short summary based on the discussion, and supplement it with input from different agencies.