



Women's Economic Empowerment Working Group (WEEWG)

Minutes of Teleconference, 28th March 2017

Participants

- Sebastian Gilcher (GIZ) , Chair
- Stefanie Springorum (GIZ)
- Wade Channell (USAID)
- Jim Tanburn (DCED Secretariat)
- Nicholas Wilson (DCED Secretariat)
- Apologies: Gisela Strand, Sida

Brief updates of member agencies' past and upcoming activities.

Wade Channell gave an overview of USAID's recent work in WEE. He highlighted an upcoming USAID workshop in South Africa, on April 10-12, focusing on women's economic empowerment and equality (WE3). The event will focus on the solutions to known obstacles to WE3, seeking to identify and discuss proven guidance on the topic. He also discussed an upcoming SEEP event: "Women's Economic Empowerment Global Learning Forum", which will be held May 23-25, in Bangkok, Thailand. The agenda of the Forum will focus on three themes: The Rural Poor, Enterprise Development and Job Creation, and Women's Financial Inclusion.

Sebastian Gilcher highlighted a recent report that has been produced by GIZ on [women's pathways in the digital sector](#). This report was produced within the framework of the G20, which Germany currently holds the presidency of. Stefanie Springorum also gave an overview of the Business Environment Reform guidance on gender, which was carried out by the BEWG in 2016; a short paper for policymakers is now being drafted until May, as well as detailed case studies on financial inclusion and informality. They will be shared with the WEEWG for comments. GIZ has also been in contact with DFID about work items on "BER and customary law" as well as an enterprise survey scoping study. Draft Terms of Reference and draft reports have been commented on by the BEWG and are available to the WEEWG upon request (or one final).

Update in writing from Sida:

Sida has held several workshops on WEE the last six months for Embassy /Sida staff and partners in the field including 1) the linkages environment/climate and gender equality in Maputo in Dec; 2) Agricultural Value chains and WEE in Ouagadougou in February and 3) Conflict perspective and WEE in Maputo in March. Upcoming in September is a workshop with Embassy/Sida staff in Dar-es-Salaam on WEE related to PSD and in October in Dar-es-Salaam on WEE related to FSD. Sida continues increasing the proportion of its aid portfolio in productive sectors with contributions having Gender Equality/WEE as a principal objective. WEE related to resilience/climate change, WEE related to financial inclusion and WEE related to sustainable energy are thematic priorities in Sida's Gender Action plan for 2017. Sida will participate in the SEEP- event on " Women's Economic Empowerment Global Learning Forum" in Bangkok between 23 and 25 May.

A discussion of potential new work items of the WEEWG for the 2017/2018 Work Plan.

Sebastian Gilcher gave a brief overview of two potential work items that he would be interested in exploring. The first is WEE in the context of migration. The second is the interface between WEE and the digital sector. He agreed to draft a work plan incorporating these two items, and share with the Working Group by mid-April. Members are then able to comment on the Work Plan and planned activities and may also suggest and will ask for their comments and any additional work items that they are keen to pursue in 2017/2018 with a deadline end-April.

Discussion of the draft version of the Synthesis Report 'Proven Guidance on delivering and measuring Women Economic Empowerment using the DCED Standard'

This item was discussed briefly, as several members of the Working Group had already supplied detailed comments via email. In light of those comments, it was reiterated that the DCED Secretariat will be editing and formatting the report before it is made public.