

## **Women's Economic Empowerment Working Group (WEEWG)**

Minutes of Meeting, 17 October 2017

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### **Participants**

- Sebastian Gilcher (GIZ), Chair
- Gillian Dowie (IDRC)
- Gisela Strand (Sida)
- Henriette Kolb (IFC)
- Lisanne Van Beek (RVO)
- Louise Anten (Netherlands MoFA)
- Marc Blanchette, François-Philippe Dubé (Global Affairs Canada)
- Jim Tanburn, Nick Wilson (DCED Secretariat)

### **Agency updates**

- Gisela Strand introduced **Sida's** recently formulated "global strategy on gender". This is intended to complement existing sector work on gender. Sida is also encouraging the peer reviewing of programmes on gender, and working with FSD Africa on this topic.
- Gillian Dowie gave an overview of **IDRC's** current research agenda. This has included outreach events in India, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, and the Ivory Coast. The IDRC is currently working on producing synthesis reports summarising the current evidence on: macro-economic growth (for women), childcare, barriers to women's' employment, and results measurement in WEE programmes. These may be supplemented at a later date with a piece on social norms.
- François-Philippe Dubé and Marc Blanchette spoke about **Global Affairs Canada's** work on putting the Canadian government's new feminist International economic assistance policy into practice. This has meant translating its priorities into feminist terms. The organisation is currently focussing on inclusive growth. This focus will soon result in a series of guidance documents on the topic; including a guidance note on WEE. François-Philippe Dubé also remarked that the agency is very interested in exploring the measurement of WEE.
- Louise Anten spoke about the **Netherlands MoFA's** recent work. This has been strongly influenced by the formation of a new government. The Netherlands' development programme budget will be slightly raised. The

remit of the development section will be slightly expanded, with a number of new challenges added (on migration, anti-terrorism and climate). While the issue of women's rights/gender equality is not mentioned specifically, there will be a work stream focussed on women/youth.

- Lisanne Van Beek gave an overview of the latest developments in **RVNO's** work on gender. This centred on the organisation's recently developed internal guidance. The guidance will be used to integrate gender concerns into all projects. The document includes a process framework, which will encourage programmes to use a gender lens to assess proposals and interventions. RVNO is also currently focussing on making the link to SDGs more evident in its work.
- Henriette Kolb gave an overview of a recent new **IFC** [report](#) on the topic of employer-supported childcare. The report outlines why companies should offer childcare support to their employees and what the business benefits are for doing so. She also covered the new WBR report coming out in February. The report examines the policies that incentivise childcare provision. The next step for the IFC will be utilising this report and implementing its recommendations with private sector partners. The next World Development Report from the World Bank will be on the future of work. It will focus on new technologies such as ride-sharing apps, and examine how these developments are affecting gender outcomes.
- Sebastian Gilcher gave an update on **GIZ/BMZ's** work on gender issues. He shared the outcomes from a recent workshop on gender with research from Gottingen University.

#### WEEWG introductory presentation

Nick Wilson gave an overview of a presentation that was shared with the group prior to the call. This presentation aimed to give an overview of the DCED, the current and recent work of the group, as well as a definition of WEE. The following feedback was given by group members:

- Sebastian Gilcher pointed out that more hyperlinks could be included to key documents, allowing users of the presentation to access relevant materials more quickly.
- Gisela Strand requested that the slides on the definition of WEE be adapted to provide a broader definition of what WEE consisted of.
- Lisanne Van Beek suggested that the images included in the presentation could be altered to represent more of a gender balance, as currently the images only include women. Participants agreed that it would be better to give a more gender balanced representation of WEE.

**Next steps:** Nick Wilson will update the presentation, taking into account the above points. He will then share an updated presentation with the group, so that they can contribute their latest thinking on the definition of WEE.

#### Progress on the 2017/2018 work plan

Sebastian Gilcher and other relevant participants gave an overview of the current progress towards the completion of the group's 2017/2018 work plan.

#### **1. Scoping study on WEE in Migration Contexts**

Sebastian Gilcher has been drafting the Terms of Reference for this item, and will be in a position to share a draft of the Terms of Reference with the group in the coming weeks. Participants agreed to review the value of the contract for the consultant for this work item, in order to speed up the procurement process.

#### **2. WEE practitioners workshop**

The task team have been in discussions about the best time and location to hold this meeting. A shortlist of other relevant meetings has been drawn up, which this meeting could be combined with. This would allow working group participants to combine their travel, and maximise attendance of this workshop.

#### **3. WEE and social entrepreneurship & WEE and private sector engagement**

Nathalie Wyser (SDC) has produced a short questionnaire for working group members on this topic. This will give the work item a basis for further work. This questionnaire aims to find out to assess the current work being undertaken by member agencies in these areas. The answers from this questionnaire would then provide the basis for further research. The questionnaires are undergoing finalisation and will be circulated in the coming weeks.

#### **4. Snapshot for Policy Makers of the Synthesis Report**

The contracting process for this work item has begun, and it is expected that the consultant (Sonia Jordan) will start work soon. It is hoped that this work item will be delivered in November 2017.

#### AOB

Participants agreed to liaise on the next meeting date (and whether it will be a physical meeting or teleconference) via email in the coming months.

Potential Topics for next Meeting:

- Indices and Measurement of Women's Economic Empowerment