**Working Group Reconstruction Tender**

Minutes of meeting

THIGJ, 15 October 2013

Participants

Wim Stellingwerf, Save the Children

Anna Gouwenberg, (new) secretary of Knowledge Platform

Manon Tiessink, THIGJ

Pascal Richard, GPPAC

Lina Titulaer, Clingendael CRU

Theo Schoot, Hivos

Kees van den Broek, IKV Pax Christi

Berlinda Nolles, CARE

Via Skype:

Corita Corbijn, ZOA

Nic van der Jagt, SPARK

Gabrielle Solanet, SFCG

Fleur Scheele, SOMO

1. Minutes

Minutes previous meeting (18sept 13): no comments

1. Database revision

Marco is travelling and so he is not able to give us an update at this stage. However, an email went out about 1,5 weeks ago to all the organisations asking for input to the Database. Of the organisations present only 4 can affirm that they received the email (ZOA, CARE, SPARK and GPPAC). Others are not sure. Manon will check with colleague Zainab to see to whom the invitation for additional information has been sent and will update the email list accordingly. Marco needs more info than just the output, the most interesting part is the underlying assumptions. The invitations will be resent by Manon. The information needs to be in English.

1. Planning of brainstorm / strategy meeting on Theory of Change (ToC) in December (17th)

In reference to the draft agenda /suggestions for set-up, the following points were discussed:

* The meeting will focus on the clusters of ToC identified, the recommendations of the scoping study and the planning of the further research process and the conference in April. Nic comments on the report of IOB on the MFA’s fragile states policy, where IOB criticises the lack of a ToC underlying the policy. This underlines the importance of identifying our Theories of Change.
* Participants in the December meeting will be from the WG RT. Based on the participants of this meeting, we will have 16 participants at least. Nic suggests that it would be valuable if not only programme people participate, but also M&E people . MFA is not present today, but their participation would be much valued.
* We need to make sure that the agenda and time span of the brainstorm meeting will be shared at the soonest. During this December meeting we will determine the themes to be chosen for the April conference, and subsequently we might think about external speakers / experts to invite for the April conference.
* Marco is supposed to provide the results of the scoping study by 15 November, as a basis for the brainstorm meeting on 17 December (Marco’s ToR as ‘consultant’ was sent around in June and will be shared with us by Pascal again).
* CARE / THIGJ / Clingendael can host the December meeting if there are no more than 20 participants: they will coordinate among themselves.
* Gabrielle and Corita (not present in first two weeks of December) offer support with regards to facilitation and content of the meeting . Berlinda will contact these two to form the core group.
* There is no budget connected to the December meeting, it is to be organised and facilitated by ourselves.
1. Partos platform for Fragile States

Berlinda clarifies: the platform was set up about 1½ years ago, partly continuing the legacy of PSO in terms of learning on fragile states. Main theme identified back then: ‘new deal’- how can we as NGO’s feed into the New Deal. Follow-up has been minimal, but Partos has now appointed a coordinator for the entire platform, Heinz Grein, who will be trying to breathe new life into this platform. Difference with this WG RT: no involvement of MFA, as it is a Partos platform. Heinz is now working on a document about how NGO’s could feed into the New Deal process, role of NGO’s, underlying assumptions. Organisations that were initially interested in this platform are: CARE, SOMO and Cordaid. Other Partos members have not been contacted yet. Question is what the comparative advantage of this WG is vis-à-vis the Partos platform. Difference: 1) NGO’s that may participate in the platform would not necessarily implement projects under the reconstruction tender, 2) the aim would be to influence international policy processes such as the New Deal.

Most participants agree that they don’t have the capacity to be part of two knowledge platforms and that they wish to prevent overlap. Their would be a possibility to extend the aim of the RT WG to include influencing international policy processes. However, we do have to be careful not to overburden ourselves and tackle the ToC and M&E issues first. Berlinda will send the paragraph on the subject (written last year) to this WG and will get in contact with Heinz Grein to give him the feedback.

1. Needs of the WG related to the kpsrl website

Corita: There is a need for practical info, such as:

- who does what, where and who is the contact person? (some of us already gave the info for the database),

- all documentation around the work of our WG (an archive),

- a forum for exchange amongst us, so we can ask and share info (e.g. info on good consultants).

Nic adds: documents around the programmes of members of the WG, plus useful background literature.

Manon asks all organisations to please register on the website first!! Next to that, she explains that there are already facilities for sharing info (including a map with the who, what, where), hold online discussions and for uploading documents. When people register Manon will assign them to the WG part of the website .

Lina comments that MFA has a rather up-to-date list of who-what-where. Berlinda will ask Fardau to share that list and will put it on the website.

1. General strategy of the WG

Several members are looking forward to more content focused meetings and emphasise that they wish to feed into the tendering procedures of the MFA. Lina explains that MFA indeed wants the NGO’s to give input for the content of tenders regarding:

* Underlying assumptions / ToC
* M&E system

The December meeting will be the first meeting in which we will focus more on the content. Berlinda suggests that all organisations give a short presentation on their underlying assumptions during the meeting in December. This will be taken into consideration during the planning of the meeting.

1. Date and time next meeting

Marco’s deadline for the scoping study is 15 November (**Note: During the meeting we mentioned the 30th as final date, but this is not correct.** Berlinda will discuss with Marco to extend his deadline to the 30th to accommodate one more WG meeting in November) In preparation for the December 17th meeting, one extra meeting of the WG will take place on Friday 22 November, 10h00 at THIGJ (and Skype). This will give members time to study Marco’s report and react upon it, and gives Marco the time to include the comments in his final report .