**Minutes Reconstruction Tender Working Group**

* 31 January 2014

**Present**

Marlies Stappers Impunity Watch

Teyo van der Schoot Hivos

Anthony Gonzalez SPARK

Sofie Dreef VNG International

Will Bennett Saferworld

Goossen Hoenders Save the Children

Chris van Hemert VNG International

Heleen Schrooyen NIMD

Manon Tiessink THIGJ

Kees van der Broek PAX

Floor Leeftink MFA – DSH

Emma Boekee MFA – DSH/HO

Patrick Krens Oxfam Novib

Lina Titulaar Clingendael/CRU

Pascal Richard GPPAC

Gabrielle Solanet SFCG

Corita Corbijn ZOA

Berlinda Nolles CARE (Minutes)

**Update on Knowledge Platform**

* 2 proposals developed by the working groups ‘Employment for Stability’ and ‘Justice, Politics and Power’ have been sent through to NWO/WOTRO to be developed into calls for proposals. The call(s) will most probably be announced during the Knowledge Platform Conference on the 27th of February. Please register for the conference here: [www.conferenceknowledgeplatform.eventbrite.nl](http://www.conferenceknowledgeplatform.eventbrite.nl)
* An online debate has been launched based on the IOB evaluation of the Dutch international development cooperation policy on fragile states. The debate can be found here: <http://www.kpsrl.org/online-debate>
* A new head of office of the Knowledge Platform has been appointed– Anna Gouwenberg
* The main findings of the online debate are being tracked by The Broker and CRU and will inform the themes of the conference.

**Minutes**

The minutes of the last meeting were approved without any comments.

**Presentation of the Scoping study – by Marco Lankhorst**

Technically it’s not a study, but only a report. A lot more time went into the collection of information than was anticipated (10 days instead of 5). There are unfortunately 2 mayor shortcomings of the database:

* The use of email forms to feed the database is cumbersome. When the forms were not filled out correctly, the information was not automatically integrated, which lead to more manual work. In the future this would not be a very efficient way to make changes to the database.
* The database is only accessible to Marco Lankhorst at the moment. Copies could be made for all the organizations involved, but there would then no longer be one version.
* It is recommended that the database is placed on the KPSRL website, so that the individual organizations can make changes to their information themselves (after confirmation by a database manager) and one up to date version is maintained.

42 queries were made of 19 (of the 29)projects. Two other organizations also submitted their info (bringing the amount to 21), but unfortunately their info was not readable (all their outcomes/outputs were placed in one and the same box).

The report suggests 4 reasons why we need to focus on Theories of Change:

1. To understand how to analyze problems related to security, peace, conflict and development.
2. To understand and learn from the interventions designed to address these problems.
3. To determine the complementarity of these problems and intervention strategies.
4. To determine the effectiveness of similar intervention strategies.

**Recommendations:**

1. **Place the database on the website and keep it up to date**

It was decided that the database would indeed be placed on the KPRSL website with access limited to the working group only. It was not yet foreseen that an update of the information would be necessary.

1. **Organizations need to formulate their ToC first before we can proceed**

Although certain organizations proposed to start by clustering the projects based on different families of ToC already developed by different orgs and donors ( eg USAID, DFID), it was decided eventually that each organization would first try to formulate its ToC in the **IF….THEN** format. This step was deemed necessary because without a good understanding of the ToC of the individual projects it would be very difficult to make comparisons and to start discussions about the theory and practice of ToC. Suggestions were also made about comparing underlying assumptions and indicators and aligning evaluation methods. It was concluded that it would indeed be helpful to make these comparisons, but that we would not try to come up with new indicators and make rigorous changes to the present reporting and M&E practices in the projects/programmes. A follow up meeting should be devoted to the subject of M&E practices.

Four reasons were mentioned why it is important to formulate a ToC:

1. To determine whether the individual orgs intuitively build their programmes on ToC
2. To determine if we can reconstruct our programmes using a ToC
3. To determine how we can develop programmes better the next time around
4. To determine how the MFA can develop better tenders using ToC

We should have two horizons in mind:

1. Improvement of the present projects (learning and effectiveness)
2. Improvement of future MFA tenders (structures and policies)

**Planning for the ToC Meeting in April**

The following agenda was suggested:

1. General introduction to ToC
* Why is it important, what are the different definitions?
1. Mapping the projects and making clusters based on existing families of ToC
2. Exchange/learning between organizations within a cluster
3. Plenary presentations of findings

It was later decided that to save time the clustering would be done beforehand by a small group of members based on the ToC formulated by all organizations.

The meeting will only be relevant to working group members. A few resource people should be brought in to give presentations or facilitate sessions.

The following people volunteered or were suggested to facilitate/help out with the meeting:

* Ralph Sprenkels - NIMD (facilitator)
* Marsika van Begnum - CRU (facilitator)
* Someone from the field - Saferworld (resource person)
* Corita Corbijn - ZOA (planning)
* Gabrielle Solanet - SFCG (planning)
* Berlinda Nolles – CARE (lead)

The meeting is to take place on **Friday the 11th of April** at **THIGJ**.

If possible and necessary the working group members will get together to discuss the proceedings of the April meeting during the KPRSL conference on the 27th of February.

**Other remarks**

Several organizations working in South Sudan thought it was a good idea to meet up with peers and discuss the situation there and the consequences for the reconstruction programmes. A CRU person is doing an assessment of the situation at the moment and might be a valuable resource person for such a meeting.