



Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development

MINUTES

BOARD MEETING

DATE: 07 DECEMBER 2022

PARTICIPANTS

Board Members:

- Tristan Armstrong, Australia (Co-Chair)
- Conrad Rein, European Commission (Co-Chair)
- Jan Brix, Germany
- Sanna-Liisa Taivalmaa, Finland
- Manon Bellon, France
- Ammad Bahalim, Gates Foundation
- Fabrizio Moscatelli, Gates Foundation
- Boris Buechler, GIZ (observer)
- Ron Hartman, IFAD
- Federica de Gaetano, Italy
- Chris de Nie, The Netherlands
- Bruce Campbell, Switzerland
- Christina Connolly, United Kingdom

- Sung Lee, United States

Guests:

- Carin Smaller, Shamba Centre
- Oshani Perera, Shamba Centre
- Francine Picard, Shamba Centre
- Lysiane Lefebvre, Shamba Centre

GDPRD Secretariat:

- Maurizio Navarra
- Michelle Tang
- Alessandro Cordova
- Natalie Zaffiro
- Jim Woodhill
- Mandakini D. Surie

AGENDA

Issue	Item	Details
1.	Welcome and Introduction	Co-Chairs/Secretariat
2.	Presentation of a proposal on a workstream for financing	Shamba Centre
3.	Progress report on country-level donor coordination workstream	Jim Woodhill, Mandakini D. Surie
4.	Updates from the Co-Chairs and the Secretariat <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Update from the Zero Hunger Coalition and proposal for a Platform liaison mechanism- Data event 2023 (with EC, IFAD)- Duke University event on financing- Summary of 2022 member contributions	Co-Chairs/Secretariat
5.	AOB and closing	Co-Chairs

KEY HIGHLIGHTS/ISSUES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The new Board member from Germany (BMZ), Mr Jan Brix, was introduced to the Board.

2. PRESENTATION OF A PROPOSAL FOR A WORKSTREAM ON FINANCING

Purpose of section:

The Shamba Centre for Food and Climate, a think-tank recently founded by Carin Smaller, Oshani Perera, and Francine Picard, gave a presentation on a proposal for a workstream on financing, offering an overview of innovative financing strategies that can be implemented to increase and improve development funding to better achieve SDG2, Zero Hunger. [PowerPoint shared with the Board]

Issues discussed:

- Recent reports (in particular, the Ceres2030 report) have concluded that there is a need for an additional US\$14 billion a year for public development finance to achieve SDG2. Although there has been an increase in ODA funding for agriculture and food systems in the wake of the food crises triggered by the Russian invasion into Ukraine, it is clear the existing funding is not sufficient.
- The workstream is proposed to begin in January 2023 and will explore three areas: **(1)** looking towards avenues in which to improve the effectiveness of the existing funding, **(2)** identifying how to link ODA that is provided for agriculture and food security much more strongly with other sources of development finance that are either new, emerging or increasing i.e., climate change, biodiversity, gender equality, ultimately looking for ways to link emergency food assistance with longer-term development goals; and **(3)** exploring innovative, blended finance mechanisms, which aim to locate strategies to better utilize public money to mobilize sources of private finance.
- For the purpose of this study, the terms “innovative finance” and “blended finance” are used interchangeably. Blended finance may offer the most potential in raising more money, particularly investigating how the public sector and governments use their resources as a basis for mobilizing private finance, from both domestic and foreign investors. The pot of blended finance includes both concessional lending (ODA and governmental actions) and commercial rate financing (institutional investors, banks and citizens).
- The Shamba Centre will engage donors in a series of interviews to discuss the complexities that they observe in granting to achieve SDG2, as well as conversing with those working on thematic ODA. They hope to better understand and harness the increasing innovation within ODA, including on how donors provide grants on a performance basis, as well as exploring nascent technologies that have not yet been commercialized. Lastly, the Shamba Centre hopes to engaged blended finance vehicles, such as the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund, the new Food Security Fund, several philanthropic funds and institutional investors.
- The workstream will collate findings and recommendations to be discussed with donors for feedback and concerns, and then curated into a brief report to be shared by September 2023 in which donors can debate on and explore further ideas. **[Shamba Centre]**
- Some Board members inquired on what the added value of the GDPRD would be in setting up this new workstream, and asked to clarify what their particular positioning within the GDPRD would be in influencing and fostering new, innovative discussions, activities and mechanisms around financing. As key stakeholders, donors would offer insight and entry points into unblocking the challenges of development financing, ensuring that food security and agriculture are prioritized in financing and visible in climate change negotiations and agendas. **[France, Italy, Switzerland]**
- The scope of the workstream was discussed, questioning which different innovative financing

tools to utilize, which thematic areas to engage in and how exactly to integrate a multi-sectoral response to encapsulate a wider range of stakeholders and challenges, as using ODA for single objectives is no longer working. Suggestions included locating existing mechanisms that have been achieved in other countries, taking stock of efforts that have already been made across the development space, ultimately linking processes with these discussions to capture greater effectiveness and harnessing a larger breadth of knowledge and therefore impact. **[France, Shamba Centre, USA]**

- There is much more exploration to be done on the dimension of public sector engagement, as private finance poses challenges for funding shallow markets and requires greater risk-management and ethical considerations. There were concerns about the pool of funding derived from foundations as not being large enough to make an impact, emphasizing the need for a blended, diverse approach to financing for development. **[Australia, Switzerland, Shamba Centre]**

Action Points:

- In addition to the comments made during this Board meeting, the Secretariat will welcome written responses to the concept note shared by the Shamba Centre, within two weeks of the Board meeting date (i.e. **no later than 23 December 2022**).
- The Secretariat and Shamba Centre committed to develop a comprehensive and detailed workplan and time frame, with deliverables and clear outputs.

3. PROGRESS REPORT ON COUNTRY-LEVEL DONOR COORDINATION WORKSTREAM

Purpose of section:

A brief synopsis of the recent events dedicated to country-level donor coordination was given, illuminating the key themes and lessons that emerged from the first seminar held on 22 November 2022, as well as looking towards future seminars.

Issues discussed:

- Interviews with board members and senior managers will continue to be conducted, leading into the remaining three seminars:
 - (1) held in late January focused on key issues and challenges in countries in Africa;
 - (2) one held in early March focused on countries in Asia; and
 - (3) a final reflective seminar held in June.
- These seminars will collate into a report which will feed in the 2023 AGA. To supplement these seminars, there is also a discussion about pulling together a directory that identifies some of the key donor initiatives and platforms around the agri-food space. **[Mandakini D. Surie]**
- The recent seminar “From Rhetoric to Reality: The emerging needs and opportunities for a coordinated donor response to food systems transformation in difficult times” held on 22 November 2022, emphasized how although donor coordination and alignment are more important now than ever before, as the current context is much more complicated and nuanced, coordination has also become increasingly challenging. Yet, there remains opportunities if the GDPRD can support an alignment of donor investments in a proactive, focused manner by specifying exactly what coordination mechanisms are needed, at what scale and around which areas, opening up a possible new agenda for the platform to be taken forward in the next Annual General Assembly (AGA).
- It is vital to balance crisis responses with long-term development, as well as identify and utilize actual practical mechanisms that go beyond the rhetoric of coordination.
- Donor coordination can be viewed as the other side of the coin of the finance discussion, as the two workstreams are related and must therefore be in close alignment as they both develop. **[Jim Woodhill]**
- Case selections have been made to look into national coordination systems in line with the

national pathways, including Ethiopia and Tanzania, as well as Lao and Myanmar. The remaining seminars will focus on these four countries, and in the lead up to these seminars, the workstream plans to talk with the UN Resident Coordinators, IFAD Country Directors and senior government representatives, to unpack the various mechanisms occurring within these countries to further explore in the seminars and in individual interviews. **[Germany, France, Jim Woodhill]**

- The inclusion of looking at the challenges around coordination mechanisms for the Sahel Region was mentioned, with interest from members to look into what exists within this region and what works and what does not. The West African-Sahelian Club at the OECD was given as a possible connection and expert within the region. Another example was the case of Niger with the 3N initiative, which roughly translates to “Nigerians Feed Nigerians”. This organization is a visionary, cross-ministerial entity responsible for food security and nutrition within the Nigerian government. They are looking to set up a sectorial fund for donors, which they have done for education successfully, linking with the Great Green Wall Initiative. **[France]**

Action points:

- Brainstorm case study work around collaborative country-level programming.
- Looking further into possible engagement with and inclusion of the Sahel Region if interest from members.
- Board members to receive email request from the Secretariat to facilitate connection with their in-country staff and the donor-coordination workstream.

4. UPDATES FROM THE CO-CHAIRS AND THE SECRETARIAT

Purpose of section:

Recent updates from the Secretariat were given, outlining the various upcoming initiatives and events that the GDPRD has planned for the upcoming year, as well as looking back towards the achievements and events of the previous year.

Issues discussed:

- **Linkages GDPRD/Zero Hunger Coalition.** In October, during the CFS, Conrad and the Secretariat staff met with the team from the Zero Hunger Coalition (Shamba Centre, Guenter Hemrich of FAO), where they proposed an informal liaison mechanism, whereby the European Commission would represent the GDPRD in the Zero Hunger Coalition. This agreement is meant to ease and facilitate communications, as well as strengthen the role of the GDPRD within the Coalition and can serve as pioneer for similar mechanisms with, for example, the 50x2030 Initiative. Member input is greatly welcomed prior to Coalition meetings, as this will be a transparent relationship. This proposal was approved by the attending Board members. **[European Commission, Maurizio Navarra]**
- **Data event in 2023.** The Secretariat is putting together an event on data in 2023, in collaboration with the EC and IFAD that was supported at the Senior Managers Meeting in October 2022. The tentative title is “Taking stock, a decade after the food data quantum leap: New pathways and options for the donor community.” The event aims to bring together some key representatives of the donor community and others from key data initiatives that have emerged over the last years.
 - On one hand, the event will offer an opportunity for the data initiatives that will be presented and discussed, to report on implementation progress and the achievement of long-term expected objectives, as well as challenges being faced. It will also allow the community to investigate possible synergies and options for collaboration. On the other hand, it will provide the occasion for donors to be fully briefed on some of the key existing data initiatives and further streamline and optimize their future investments in the data arena, in line with their current investment strategies and goals.

- The proposed date is back-to-back with the IFAD GC and a physical Board Meeting in February (either 13 or 16 February 2023), but possible options and venues are still being considered. We are putting together the concept and making the arrangements, we will soon reach out with the invitations. **[Maurizio Navarra]**
- **Event with Duke University.** The GDPRD is planning to co-sponsor a roundtable in January that Duke University is organizing with Open Consultants, the Center for Policy Impact in Global Health and Gates Foundation. The event will be on “Reforming the Global Financing Architecture for Food Security in Response to a Food Crisis” and will focus on “How do bi- and multilateral funders respond to the current food crisis, and which additional reforms to the global financing architecture are required to make the ongoing crisis response more effective? How can we leverage the response to the crisis to implement longer-term systemic reforms?”
 - It will take place back-to-back with the GFFA in Berlin, on 18 January. We are still solidifying the date and venue, so we will keep you posted. **[post-Board meeting update: meeting will be postponed to February or March, since attendance by donors does not guarantee we have the critical mass that is needed for the meeting]**
 - The last similar convening was held in Bellagio in 2018, and led by Chatham House and ECDPM. The fundamental idea is to allow experts time and space to be able to provide guidance to donors, and others that are acting in response to the food crisis, to be a bit more thoughtful and strategic. **[Maurizio Navarra, Gates Foundation]**
- The Secretariat has reached out to Spain, Ireland and Sweden this year, continuing our outreach for increased membership in the Board, but also for consolidating the existing members, which cannot be taken for granted. We also met recently with the Islamic Organization on Food Security (IOFS).
- A summary of member contributions in 2022 was given, the table was shared via email with the meeting invite. For member’s with blank contributions, these will be coming in by the end of the year or early next. **[Maurizio Navarra]**

6. AOB AND CLOSING

- This has been an extraordinarily unprecedented year, and the GDPRD has clearly played an important role and will continue to in the upcoming year. The Co-Chairs look forward to working with everyone in the new year. **[European Commission]**