

Summary of day 1 of the e-discussion on the VSD typology tool

Summary of the **6 contributions** on day 1 (13.11.2018)

(1) How applicable is the VSD typology tool in the different project realities?

The question of the ultimate objective of VSD arose. VSD often has diverse long-term objectives (e.g. bringing young people into jobs, qualification of the workforce to support economic growth). The idea of the matrix of the VSD tool is to explain how to achieve these objectives and how much a single project contributes to the overall goal and national strategies in the field of VSD and employment promotion. The tool can be used for planning and coordinating purposes among donors, implementing agencies and stakeholders. It contributes to a common understanding on the main impact areas and outcomes and a better management of the VSD domain.

For projects applying the market system development (MSD) approach and having VSD as an integrative element, the tool can be helpful to identify the priorities in terms of systemic constraints to unlock and then define the best strategies and related instruments. Although being an integrative component in complex MSD interventions, VSD services should also be sustainable otherwise they may weaken the whole system. While VSD interventions implemented in Quadrant 1 might generate the strongest systemic and sustainable impact (although long-term and rather indirect), the aspects of sustainability of VSD interventions in the other quadrants where the impact is quite direct and narrowed down to a smaller group of beneficiaries (e.g. 3 and 4) should not be neglected since each of them make their contribution to the overall system development. The discussion revealed the need to have some more guidance or indicators in how to determine in which quadrant(s) to place certain interventions of a project/programme.

(2) How can the VSD typology tool help projects to validate if their portfolio of interventions is appropriate to address the needs in VET/VSD and Employment Promotion in the partner country?

The tool leads to a clear picture of the VSD landscape. It helps to identify gaps and overlaps, and gives orientation where to position new projects. Further it could provide information with whom to collaborate and what kind of coordination needs to be introduced to generate sustainable impacts that contribute towards social and economic development of a country. Visualizing the VSD intervention landscape of various projects and donors assists the alignment of development cooperation efforts to the national strategies of the partner countries. A close consultation of all players in VSD in the respective country context is necessary when applying this tool to ensure the generation of a comprehensive picture of the VSD landscape.

(3) In which parts of the Project Cycle would you recommend the application of the VSD typology tool? What is your recommended method to ensure a participatory process with all involved stakeholders?

Ideally, the tool is applied before tendering a project. Existing and planned VSD projects of all donors and government are to be included, which should allow to evaluate if a project idea makes sense, and where the idea has potential overlaps with other interventions. While certain overlaps of projects still might arise, the tool at least helps to make them visible.

M&E: Depending on the focus of a project / VSD component (e.g. quadrant 3 and 4, training to specific groups), the measurable outcomes depend (e.g. training to specific groups vs. contributions to overall VET system). Therefore, the SDC's guidelines on Common Outcome Indicators (COI) for VSD are currently being reformulated in the light of the VSD Typology Tool.

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