



eiMail Dezember 2014

Dear members and partner of the e+i network

This eiMail provides you with the current news of the e+i network. If you have questions or remarks, we would appreciate to hear from you (see contact addresses at the end of the eiMail).

Enjoy the lecture!

Focal Point employment and income (e+i)

[VSD](#) [PSD](#) [FSD](#) [General e+i news](#)

Who's who in the e+i network?



Sally YACOUB

Country: Egypt

Organisation: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)

Function: Senior National Programme Officer (Gender and Quality Assurance).

Working in current position: for more than two years

What do you love about your work, what is special about it? Working in a complex context such as Egypt is quite interesting and challenging. Our programme entails private and financial sector development components, when it comes to economic development, and strives to continuously mainstream gender, as a main issue in the Egyptian context. Representing both SDC and SECO provides an opportunity to build on the strengths and expertise areas of each actor and to achieve synergies and seek complementarities.

Which are your favorite instrument(s)? Context analysis instruments/tools such as the MLRY and stakeholders analysis coupled with risk analysis tools provide us with the opportunity to revisit underlying assumptions, to get a clear understanding of the power dynamics, and how we can be best positioned. This should provide a solid basis for building programmes.

Your message for your e+i colleagues: Being critically reflective is crucial as it allows us to have a 'helicopter view', to critically analyse our contexts and programme as well as our strengths and weaknesses, and most importantly ensures that we, as individuals and organizations, continuously develop and learn.



Zayasaikhan DUGEREE

Country: Mongolia

Organisation: SDC Mongolia

Function: Senior National Programme Officer (NPO).

Working in current position: since 2011

What do you love about your work, what is special about it? The VET domain contributes to the improving hard skills, through the formal vocational education and skills trainings, and soft skills, through the life skills education. It requires the involvement in many sectors such as labour & employment, education and health.

What are the key challenge in the program? Most of projects interventions are new to Mongolia and consequently target primarily the meso and micro levels. If the projects don't have a direct influence at the policy macro level, it is a challenge to up-stream the interventions in the environment of an absent strategic vision.

Which are your favorite instrument(s)? The definition of Common Outcome Indicators is one of the useful tools. Specifically in our case – having different implementing organisations (UN, GIZ and mandates) with diverse tools and definitions, it is very important to have a common understanding of the project terminologies. (>> [see Common Outcome Indicators](#))

Your message for your e+i colleagues: A critical reflection from available experiences is always beneficial for “young” domains such as ours. We would appreciate the wider sharing the lessons learned (what worked well and what not) from the experiences of SDC and its partners, starting from the regional level.

General e+i news

Support by external experts: SDC e+i network members can use various experts up to one day of work (no bureaucracy, just inform us). If you need more time, ask ahead, maybe it is of general interest for the

network. >> [Support PSD/FSD](#) >> [Support VSD](#)

Ueli Mauderli, Tanzania: *"The advice of the external expert in the formulation of Terms of References for the Key positions of the new multi-donor trust AMDT (Agricultural Markets Development Trust) that we registered in August 2014 in Tanzania was very useful."*

Shareweb: In the coming months all the sharewebs of SDC will be migrated to a new platform, including our own [e+i shareweb](#). While we hope that everything will work out smoothly, we are well aware that there might be some glitches during the process. Please bear with us meanwhile and don't hesitate to contact us directly if there is a problem. We are looking forward to meeting you on our new platform, and will send you more information in due time.

Members, focal point and backstoppers: A list of the e+i network members and the profiles of the focal point and the backstoppers is available on the Shareweb >> [Focal Point Team and Members of the e+i network](#)

Resource boxes: The resource boxes for PSD and VSD aim at sharing useful tools and good practices along the project cycle. In order to be most valuable for practitioners, they need your contributions! Please send your practical tools, working papers, guidelines, etc. to maja.rueegg@helvetas.org or bieberschulte@kek.ch

Save the date: F2F of the e+i Network

27. – 30. April 2015 in Thun, Switzerland

Our quarterly spotlight

Katalyst wins OECD DAC Prize 2014: Taking Innovations to Scale

The market development project [Katalyst](#) from Bangladesh won the OECD DAC Prize 2014 for "Taking Innovations to Scale". The winner shows how very simple business ideas can have a big impact on poor people's lives. The Katalyst concept is based on inspiring companies to provide high-quality seeds in mini-packets to low-income farmers as a means of helping to increase their income. Over three seasons, the number of beneficiaries doubled and 14 million dollars' worth of additional vegetables were produced. This success has encouraged more seed companies to introduce mini-packets. Katalyst is co-financed by SDC, DFID and DANIDA and implemented by Swisscontact under the Bangladesh Ministry of Commerce. [Description of the Seed Minipacks](#) [Read about the prize on the OECD site](#) [Visit Katalyst on facebook](#)

Vocational Skills Development (VSD)

News from e+i projects and programmes

- **Albania:** After 20 years of Swiss VET support to Albania, a Capitalization of Experiences (CAPEX) was conducted in order to analyze results, traces and footprints, and to come up with suggestions how to pursue the road. The learnings can be beneficial for other contexts as well. >> [See CAPEX Synthesis](#)
- **Cambodia:** The tender for the program on Skills Development for rural poor was won by GFA. The first phase will start in 2015. >> [See SDC in Cambodia](#)
- **Azerbaijan:** The tender for the vocational skills development program on Agriculture was won by HEKS in cooperation with HAFL. The project started in December 2014. >> [See SDC in South Caucasus](#)
- **Switzerland:** The Federal Council took note of a report that aims at strengthening the international cooperation in vocational training as well as at ensuring the internal government coordination and coherence in this field >>[more \(in German\)](#)
- **National Qualification Frameworks (NQFs):** During an e+i net on 12.11.2014, Stephanie Allais, one of the most prominent researchers on the implementation of NQFs, talked about *NQFs: What is in for the poor? Opportunities, Risks and Lessons Learned from South Africa* and raised awareness on potential challenges of NQF in developing countries >>[more](#). In Switzerland, the legal ordinance on the national qualifications framework (NQF) of qualifications for VET entered into force on October 1, 2014. It serves as an instrument for a comparison and provides the basis for the classification of all formal vocational qualifications as well as for the development of certificate and diploma supplements. >>[more](#)

Training Opportunities and Events

- 19. December 2014: Thematic panel of the GIZ Competence Centre Vocational Education and Training and Labour Market on Cooperation with the Private Sector : "Ohne Wirtschaft geht nichts! Gemeinsame Gestaltung von Berufsbildung in der Internationalen Zusammenarbeit". The event is held in German. More information can be requested (julia.becker@giz.de).
- 30.November - 4.December 2015 in Zurich: VET between Poverty Alleviation and Economic Development, Nadel ETH Zurich. More Information will be available at the end of June on www.nadel.ethz.ch

Publications



The KOF Youth Labour Market Index: The index shows various dimensions of the youth labour market situation in 178 countries around the globe between 1991 and 2012 (if data available). Up to four countries or regions can be compared and the development of the youth labour

market situation can be followed over time.



[Berufsbildung in der Schweiz](#). Formen, Strukturen, Akteure by Emil Wettstein, Evi Schmid, Philipp Gonon, 2014. This is the most recent and comprehensive description on the Swiss VET system, unfortunately available only in German.

Private Sector Development (PSD)

News from e+i projects and programmes

- **Georgia:** New website of the [Alliances Lesser Caucasus Program](#) (ALCP), funded by SDC and implemented by Mercy Corps. It is of very good quality providing updated information on the program interventions at different outcome levels and in general program related trends and developments in Georgia, as well as offers access to all the publications, market surveys, reports undertaken by the project.
- **Latin America and Caribbean:** Regional Workshop on systemic changes in market development took place end of October in Peru, organized by ASOCAM in collaboration with the e+i network. Nine examples of M4P projects were presented and debated among more than 40 participants. Conclusions, success factors and challenges were identified for different steps of the project cycle.
- **Mozambique:** SDC awarded a mandate to IFPRI to carry out a 3 years impact evaluation of a flagship market development project in Agriculture (INOVAGRO) in Mozambique. The objective is to assess the linkages between the market system development approach operationalized by INOVAGRO and the increase in household revenue of participating farmers.
- **Social Entrepreneurship:** Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to an Ashoka fellow for his efforts to struggle for the right of all children to an education and against the suppression of young people. An example that shows what can be reached with Social Entrepreneurship and more inclusive business. >> [more](#)
- **Inclusive Business Action Network:** At a three day event mid-November in Berlin, BMZ and GIZ launched the Inclusive Business Action Network which aims to serve as a single entry point for information, connection and collaboration in this area. >> [more](#)

Training Opportunities and Events

- 10 December 2014 BEAM Webinar : “[Adaptive Management](#)” in Aid Programmes.

- 2-6 February 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand; [Training on Results Measurement for Sustainable Private Sector Development](#).
- 2-6 March 2015 in Zurich, Switzerland: [M4P training at NADEL](#) (ETHZ) with facilitators from Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation and Swisscontact is fully booked. NADEL will repeat the training in autumn 2015. Dates will be announced ASAP in the eiMail and on the [e+i shareweb](#).
- 2-3 March 2015 in Lusaka, Zambia: [Cracking the Nut. Expanding Rural and Agricultural Markets Amid Climate Change](#).

Publications



[The Operational Guide for the M4P Approach](#). This second edition of the M4P Guide aims to help practitioners put the market systems development approach into practice. It provides an accessible resource and explains the key principles and frameworks; published by Springfield Center.



[Multiplying impact: Supporting the replication of inclusive business models](#), by Endeava for BMZ, August 2014: This report provides guidance on how to support the replication of inclusive business models, e.g. by addressing knowledge gaps, the lack of finance and the difficulty of finding implementing partners.



[Assessment of the business service and training market in Myanmar](#), Gemunu Wijesena and Roel Hakemulder, ILO, November 2014: Report of an assessment of the market for business services for micro and small enterprises (MSEs) with the objective to inform programme design. The focus is on non-financial services, start-up and management training.



[Evaluating Value Chain Interventions. A recent review of the evidence](#), ILRI, September 2014: This paper discusses approaches and benchmarks for future design of value chain impact evaluations, based on a review of twenty evaluations. Summaries of the findings of each evaluation can be found in the annex.

Financial Sector Development (FSD)

News from e+i projects and programmes

- The [SCBF](#) is SDC's major public-private development partnership with the Swiss financial sector to promote financial inclusion in the South.

Activities under management since inception

[Product Up-scaling Intervention](#): Approved interventions: 45/ Overall volume: CHF 9.5 mio.
Approved SCBF contributions: CHF 6 mio. / Self-contribution by partner financial intermediaries and third parties: CHF 3.5 mio (27%)

[Feasibility Studies](#): Approved studies: 10 / Overall volume: CHF 1.5 mio. / Approved SCBF contributions: CHF 1.1 mio. / Self-contribution by partner financial intermediaries and third parties: CHF 0.4 mio. (29%)

[Financial Education Campaigns](#): Approved campaigns: 7/ Overall volume: CHF 1.7 mio / Approved SCBF contributions: CHF 0.9 mio / Self-contribution by partner financial intermediaries and third parties: CHF 0.8 mio (52%)

Highlights since the last newsletter

Approval of four product up-scaling interventions in [El Salvador](#), [Rwanda](#) and [Tunisia](#) and two financial education campaigns in [Rwanda](#) and [Tunisia](#).

Completion of two product up-scaling interventions in [Haiti](#) and [Pakistan](#).

Training Opportunities and Events

The Center of Microfinance of the University of Zurich, in collaboration and with and support of SDC, is organizing different courses:

- 29 June, 2015 in Zurich. [Introduction to Microfinance](#) (English), a one-day course that offers a very intensive overview of microfinance, including a short introduction to microinsurance.

- 30 June - 1 July 2015 in Zurich. [Microfinance – State of the Art](#) (English), two-day course that covers on the first day in-depth key microfinance aspects like financial and social performance, risk management, funding strategies, and selected case studies at the level of microfinance institutions. The second day covers financial and social performance as well as risk management at the level of microfinance investment vehicles.
- July 2 - 3 2015 in Zurich, [Microinsurance](#): Two-day course that offers a computerised simulation model on how to refine and up-scale a micro insurance product while demonstrating the interdependencies of the key micro insurance performance indicators promoted by the MicroInsurance Network. The course will also offer presentations on agriculture and health insurance.

Publications / Websites



A very interesting website we recently came across is [Financial Access Initiative](#) (NYU Wagner). Please feel free to explore- it is good fun and very informative. e. g. discover how the Central Bank of Bangladesh now allows [street children to open a savings account](#). (scroll down to no. 2)



Recently, CGAP has put a stronger focus on [understanding the needs of smallholder farmers](#) in Sub-Saharan Africa in terms of financial services. Different studies and diaries look at the diversity of smallholder farms and their respective use and needs for financial services.



This Focus Note by CGAP shows the potential and limitations of digital finance to serve small farmers: [Serving Smallholder Farmers: Recent Developments in Digital Finance](#)

