

## **MDF vehicles**

The Secretariat will be providing support to members to organize events. These events can be done using any of the vehicles listed below.

### ***General Discussion Events***

General Discussion Events (GDE) have been successful activities of the MDF for various reasons. They allow the members to learn and share about new topics and themes in the development sector, network with different professionals of different organizations and also they give members the chance to meet on a regular basis. The GDEs are divided in internal events open only to members and external events open to members and non-members. Workshops, conferences, trainings, seminars and even informal discussion/presentation session in your office space can be arranged under GDE.

*Internal events* –These events allow the member to network with the resource person for the respective topic, gain valuable technical insights, and also give them the chance to pursue personal interests and look for new ideas for their own work.

*External events* – Past experience has shown that sometimes it is important to discuss issues with the wider stakeholders that include other development agencies, private sector, government etc. In such cases, the MDF will coordinate the activities that any of its member organization(s) carries forward and invite external stakeholders. Normally, the external discussion events are more elaborate than the internal ones.

### ***Field Trips***

The MDF has found that orientation on the field level projects including field visits by the members of different organizations is important for creating understanding on what activities are going on in the field potentially leading to a better coordination between organizations that are active in the same region. Field level people would also benefit from the interaction with people of various member organizations.

The purpose of the field trips will be to orient members on different projects.

### ***Thematic Working Groups***

Thematic Working Groups (TWG) are formed based on a specific theme or issue brought up by a member that requires continuous discussions combined with inputs by different organizations or external resource person and possibly complemented by studies or pilots. Programs and schedules of any working group event will be decided by the respective working group members. For any specialized event by the working groups, the respective working group members will sponsor the event or find alternative sources of funds.

Each of these thematic groups is requested to come up with publications and organize one event for the general members. These events could be either internal or could be organized in broader perspectives as external GDEs.

### ***Technical Committees for specific issues***

Many MDF members are working in the same sectors where they are confronted with specific technical issues and difficulties. Technical Committees (TC) for specific issues are a place for members to engage in detailed discussions on technical issues and come up with coordinated solutions, e.g. standardized procedures, guidelines or technical standards. MDF will facilitate the meetings and monitor the performance of the group against pre-set targets. The group will also include non-MDF organizations that are important to address the issues. The MDF secretariat will coordinate contacts with other relevant stakeholders.

Based on the request and need, MDF can operate 2-3 TCs.

### ***Local Learning Groups***

Local Learning Groups (LLG) have the potential to become important vehicles for exchanging knowledge and experience between practitioners in Bangladesh and international practitioner fora like the MaFI. In the year 2010, the MDF has organized a LLG discussing the MaFI topic 'Working with Lead Firms' and produced an input paper for a subsequent discussion on the online platform of the MaFI.

Based on the success of the MDF LLG with MaFI, MDF will organize some learning groups discussing issues brought forward by the members. The groups' topic, activity plans, publications etc. will have to be decided by the organizing member organizations. The

organizing member will propose topics, create learning group, document the learning and develop tangible results (tools, publications etc.) to be shared with other members. The general process is that the member can propose a topic for the LLG. A desk study on the practical implementation can be done, and then a discussion with the MDF members will be done. Following this, further questions will be posted on the MaFI platform. The results of the discussion will be synthesized and then a workshop with MDF members can take place. The outcomes of the LLG's are learning documents (primarily tools in solving implementation problems) and will have the option to be piloted with support of the MDF.

LLGs can be organized both on national level but also by the local MDF chapters in the regions.

### ***Platform for Policy Advocacy***

Members of MDF often need to voice their concern on specific issues to wider stakeholders and especially the government. They need also a space to assemble stakeholders in an impartial manner where people can share their ideas without exposing their individual organization. To address this, MDF will work to coordinate events which accommodate large number of stakeholders to be address specific issues impartially, i.e. under the MDF brand.

The external discussion events or seminar will be targeted to address wider development stakeholders. In this category, with the discussion topics will address specific issues that the members have worked on and would like to advocate for specific changes in policies. The ownership of the event will remain solely to MDF to ensure impartiality.

It is the role of the MDF secretariat to support the members also after such events in following up the policy issues with the targeted stakeholders.