

CALP NETWORK BOARD MEETING – 06 MARCH 2023

MEETING NOTE

With up to 13 individuals drawn from across the CALP membership, the Board brings together wide-ranging expertise and experience. The structure of the Board is designed to ensure people from the different constituencies of CALP are present, but when they meet as a Board they put organisational mandates to one side and work solely in the interests of the CALP Network.

This short update of the March 2023 Board meeting provides a summary of discussions and decisions.

WELCOME & PREVIOUS MINUTES

- Sally Abi Khalil, the Co-Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. This was the first meeting with the Co-Chair system.
- This was to be Killen Otieno's last meeting, but he was unable to join.
- The Minutes of the December 2022 meeting were approved.

PROGRESS REPORT & FINANCIAL REPORT

The Board discussed the Progress and Financial Reports, including:

- Concern around the plateauing of the growth in the use of cash (as discussed in the Scaling CVA report) and a creeping narrative that 'cash is done'. Overall, factors related to this narrative seem to be:
 - The heralding of the cash caucus as a success story and cash coordination is done
 - Some donors have mainstreamed the use of cash which may feel like a reduction in emphasis
 - To some extent the sector has "shiny new toys" to focus on.
- The next steps for the growth of CVA require multiple changes across the humanitarian system, with systemic adjustments to ways of working.
- Action taken/planned by the CALP team in relation to Turkey/Syria earthquake response:
 - Sharing lessons via a blog
 - Engaging with CWGs on a possible learning agenda, a similar approach to the Ukraine response.
 - We are also adapting training and learning materials for the context.
 - Focus on synergies between policy dialogue and operational context.

MEMBERSHIP & TAG REPRESENTATIVE APPLICATIONS

- 7 Membership applications have been received since the last Board meeting. The CALP team recommended 5 to be approved. The Board approved the recommendations as presented.
- During this TAG application round, 12 applications were received. The CALP team recommended approving 9 applicants. The Board approved the recommendations as presented.

- Questions and comments from Board all focussed on lack diversity of organisation type in both membership and TAG applications, and the same organisations always being on the TAG. Suggestions to counter these issues were made, which the CALP team will explore and action.

UPDATE ON CVA BANS IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

Mirko Tommasi, Regional Representative for West and Central Africa (WCAF), presented the issue:

- Bans on CVA in WCAF are not new. They have happened intermittently in Cameroon, Nigeria, and other places. In the past, the humanitarian community has worked with governments to develop policies for CVA which mitigate these bans.
- Burkina Faso:
 - The latest ban on CVA in some regions of Burkina Faso began in November 2022. Most of the delivery of CVA is to IDPs, which the government alleges to cause inflation in local communities. Another claim was that CVA could be diverted to armed groups.
 - The Burkina Faso CWG sought to advocate with the authorities, but no solution has been found so far. The Resident Coordinator also had to leave the country after been declared persona non grata, this has temporary weakened the capacity of the HCT to advocate with the government.
 - The government is reviewing whether to expand the ban or not. WFP and the CWG are discussing with government as to how the government can be supported e.g., putting a CVA policy in place.
 - The MEB was much higher than minimum wage, meaning the government cited tensions with host communities/ non-recipients as a supporting reason for the ban. The humanitarian community was not able to give a convincing response to authorities on this.
- Democratic Republic of Congo:
 - This ban is more specific and related to food security problems in the Kasai region. Local authorities allege that CVA recipients become lazy and do not work (in food production), resulting in lack of food supplies.
 - Outside of the Kasai region, bans are linked to fragile states and risk of armed groups. There is risk of all kinds of humanitarian aid being diverted, but bans are on CVA not in-kind aid.
- Other countries in the region are having issues with armed groups and food security, so we see potential for more bans.
- CWGs in region are working together to mitigate the risk of more bans, with more advocacy and capacity support for governments. Meetings have been held with leads and co-leads of CWGs, and with CVA experts alongside WFP.
- The Board and CALP team discussed the risks of spreading of bans in region and beyond region, and how the CALP team should be involved going forward.

ANNUAL PLAN AND BUDGET

CALP presented the Annual Plan and Budget for 2023-24 year, which the Board approved.