

CALP NETWORK BOARD MEETING SUMMARY 05 MARCH 2024

WELCOME

- Welcome by Anissa Toscano (Co-chair).
- Minutes from last meeting were approved.

TAG UPDATE

The update from the Technical Advisory Group's (TAG's) last meeting was given by Clara Setiawan, ICRC, and included:

- Anticipatory action - the TAG discussed “what’s next” and challenges, including pre-crisis market assessments and how to identify actors and task groups on this topic to work together.
- Implications of humanitarian funding cuts – coupled with slow of CVA growth. TAG reps (including BHA and WFP) discussed impacts on their agencies. Emphasis on cost efficiency from donors. Extent to which CVA becoming mainstreamed within organisations/into other teams. Also discussed how to increase cluster support of CVA.
- SOWC 2023 priority actions and how to increase uptake – each CALP technical advisor has allotted priority actions from the SOWC report and how TAG Reps may contribute. One example was presenting on the actions to agencies.
- The question of “should CVA have common standards” was discussed – TAG does not believe useful/possible at this time.

PROGRESS REPORT

Progress report highlights presented by Karen Peachey (Director):

- Funding outlook
- State of the World's Cash (SOWC) uptake
- Policy dialogue – roundtables are ongoing have progressed with different groups. Final roundtable took place late February. Next step is to consolidate and synthesise results. We will then decide how to bring back to community. Aim to wrap up process around June/July.
- Cash 101 – webpages now launched providing simple explanations re CVA.
- Private sector - engagement continues to increase following recruitment of a technical advisor focused on Data and Digitalisation.

Discussion points, based on highlights and the report overall:

- Cash coordination. A discussion of the issues and approaches to ensuring effective engagement of local actors in the CAG.
- Grand Bargain. A discussion of how the Policy dialogue links to CVA specific anticipatory action which is also included in Grand Bargain 3.0 and how CALP is engaging with the GB secretariat.
- Cash related fraud in the media. A discussion of media stories, noting these have been seen before and the need to constantly put fraud issues into perspective generally, and in relation to other modalities. Noted that, increasing some of our messaging is “back to basics” on risk.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

3 applications were approved for membership and 1 rejected. Once the related processes are completed, the new members will be announced.

3 were deferred to the next round pending engagement with relevant regional teams.

DISCUSSION ON THE INCREASING RISKS FOR CVA

Risks for CVA framed in terms of:

- Reduced humanitarian funding presents a general risk
- Organisations becoming more inward-looking
- Difficulties advancing collective agendas currently, not just cash
- Specific CVA risks
 - Often easier/faster to downscale CVA than in-kind (just as its easier to scale when more funding)
 - Some agencies have flagged reduced focus and the need to re-institutionalise cash
 - Some cash teams being disbursed -> reduced focus in some organisations
 - Specific risks re MPC given it can be a political football

In response to these risks, CALP is:

- Raising awareness of risks
- Highlighting efficiency arguments
- Focusing on priority agendas for collective action

The Board discussed the following questions:

1. Do these risks resonate?
2. What else should we be doing?
3. Opportunities to reach senior leaders?

Conclusion:

- Risks are present but also opportunities.
- Need to project positive stories of cash and continue to find new ways of making the case.
- Lean into opportunities linked to different financing mechanisms.

FINANCIAL REPORT, ANNUAL PLAN, BUDGET AND FUNDING OUTLOOK

- The financial report to December 2023 was presented, showing expenditure is on track against plans.
- The budget for 2024/25 was discussed and approved, subject to securing funds
- The funding outlook for 2025/26 was discussed, notably current funding gap.
- The annual plan will be published on the CALP website following final updates.

REVISION OF CODE OF CONDUCT

The revised Code of Conduct approved and will be posted on the website.

DIRECTOR RECRUITMENT

An update on progress was provided, it was noted that:

- More applications were received than in the 1st round and the profile of applicants was different.
- 6 people had been selected for interview.

- Appreciation given to those involved in the process.

CO-CHAIR CHANGE

As planned, Anissa stepped down from the co-chair position. She will continue as a Board member until the Director recruitment process is completed. Much appreciation was shared by the Board and the Director for the way Anissa has led the Board.

AOB & DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:

- Wednesday 5 June 2024 - start time 12:00 UTC
- Thursday 5 September 2024 - start time 12:00 UTC
- Thursday 5 December 2024 - start time 13:00 UTC