



Canadian NGOs Network in Ethiopia (CANGO) Code of Partnership (CoP)

Background

The Canadian Network of NGOs in Ethiopia, CANGO, is a voluntary network created in early 2006. The following are member organizations as of January 2014:

AMREF (Canada)
Canadian Feed the Children
Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB)
Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief (CPAR)
Christian Blind Mission (CBM)
Christian Children's Fund of Canada (CCFC)
Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere, Inc. (CARE - Canada)
CHF - Partners in Rural Development (CHF)
Digital Opportunity Trust (DOT)
Handicap International
Help Age International
HOPE International Development Agency (HIDA)
International Development Enterprise (IDE)
Islamic Relief Canada (IRC)
Food for the Hungry Ethiopia (FHE)
LWF Ethiopia (Canadian Lutheran World Relief)
Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)
Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA)
Micronutrient Initiative
Operation Smile
Oxfam - Canada
Right to Play
Save the Children – Canada
S.E.E.D.S
Plan International Ethiopia
VSO/CUSO
World Vision – Ethiopia

Each of these agencies is referred to collectively herein as the “Network Partners” of CANGO. Details of contact persons and addresses can be found in Appendix 1 (updated April 2013 2012). They will be updated on an annual basis and other times as required. Membership requires a presence in Ethiopia, as well as a headquarters, national office or secretariat located in Canada.

Purpose

The overall purpose of CANGO is to share information, promote cooperation and enhance collective action in areas of common interest, in an effort to address the challenges of poverty in Ethiopia, including food and livelihood security, HIV/AIDS, disaster preparedness and response,

capacity building of civil society and governance as permitted through local Ethiopian laws regarding civil society.

Specifically, the member organizations work to:

- Share information, promote coordination and avoid duplication of efforts among members;
- Engage with CIDA, regarding CIDA and broader Canadian policy in Ethiopia;
- Gather and share experiences and lessons useful to educate the Canadian public;
- Identify opportunities to secure funding from Canadian sources in consortia, as appropriate, to further their aims.

Network Structure

Each of the members has equal *rights* and *responsibilities* in the deliberation of the objective of the network. Members will delegate members' agencies to form specific purpose oriented working group as deemed necessary and appropriate to carry out assigned tasks.

There will be a Management Committee (MC) comprised of three network members in role of Chair, Vice Chair, and other MC member. Each member on the MC will serve in all three roles during their term for a total period of 18 months.

There will be a rotation every six months in which the chair will rotate off, the vice chair will become chair, the other member will become vice chair and one new member will be nominated to rotate on.

Each organization is expected to be on the MC at one point. Selection of MC members will be decided at GA meetings. Members can nominate themselves for wider group consensus.

The role of MC is to work with the Coordinator to provide guidance and input into strategic network matters and play a leadership role on CANGO initiatives and planning on behalf of the membership. They will also oversee administrative and financial matters with the Coordinator. Members are required to attend monthly MC meetings with the Coordinator.

Vision

To see the people of Ethiopia secure their full potential in a context that respects human dignity based on the constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) and international conventions.

Mission

We see CANGO as a voluntary network that collectively builds an enabling environment at all levels in which Ethiopian people are empowered to reach their full potential and have control and voice in their own development. We further see CANGO as a network that serves as an instrument in ensuring that international assistances, including our own, are effectively utilized.

Values

We see CANGO as a network that is guided by "Equality within diversity". Specifically the partnership cooperation will be governed by the following values/principles:

- Integrity
- Respect
- Accountability
- Transparency
- Participation
- Shared Responsibility

Strategic areas

CANGO is primarily a network focusing on the following areas

- Capacity building
- Advocacy – being a critical mass in striving to influence and improve development and humanitarian practices and policy¹
- Development education
- Knowledge building and information sharing among members and through strategic engagement with other relevant alliances and networks, CIDA, and the Government of Ethiopia

The network also opens up for joint initiatives among all or some of the member organizations.

Conditions for membership

Organizations that fulfill the following criteria, and that accept this ToR can be members of CANGO²:

- Have a national presence or office in Canada involved in development/humanitarian activities;
- Be a legally registered NGO operational within the area of development/humanitarian work in Ethiopia;
- Be an international NGO;
- Receive a portion of its funding from Canadian based donors (public or private);
- Represent a Canadian constituency.
- Each NGO needs to have a fully registered and clearly linked Canadian office

Expectations of participating organizations from CANGO

The member organizations are expecting that:

- the membership will give a return on investment;
- CANGO as a membership organization will help the members to be more effective in use of resources and competence;
- it will be more influential, through its actions in cooperation with other CANGO members;
- the network will build a two-way bridge between CANGO and CIDA;
- the network will do more as a group than the individual members can do individually.
- the network will be self-sustaining in the long run.

Investment of each member to CANGO

The member organizations are expected to provide:

- time (for meetings, workshops, joint initiatives)
- in-kind resources and money
- information
- commitment to consensus decision-making and agreements

It is understood that, as a membership organization, members will subscribe to and abide by the policies and procedures of CANGO

CANGO Constituency

¹ The term advocacy relates to the lobbying work which CANGO members will engage in with different counterparts and stakeholders to influence Canadian foreign aid and development policy and to raise awareness about development and humanitarian needs in Ethiopia. It can also include the work in country in which CANGO members influence and seek to improve practices of development and humanitarian actors. All members are committed to acting responsibly within the regulations and laws for Civil Society as determined by the Government of Ethiopia.

² The purpose of the network is to be inclusive and open to all INGOs – it is not necessary that an INGO be 100% Canadian funded or operated organization in order to be a member of CANGO.

The CANGO constituency is composed of the member organizations (with their individual constituencies) represented in the network. CANGO is accountable to its collective membership, which are guided by CANGO policies.

Organizational Integrity

In a network like CANGO, it is very important that the participating organizations respect the “Organizational Line”. The following functional principles apply:

- Common decisions or positions are communicated to the outside world through the lead agency or the coordinator;
- Discussions with CIDA and other partners are led by the lead agency, or a person that is delegated this authority from this organization;
- The CANGO in Canada should not take initiative, nor present any CANGO decisions/stands/viewpoints directly. CANGO Canada shall work in support of and through CANGO Ethiopia. It is CANGO Ethiopia which has ultimate responsibility for decision-making and actions.
- As currently constituted, CANGO appoints one staff, a person with the title of “CANGO Coordinator”³

Role of the Coordinator

- Together with the lead agency representative, facilitate and organize CANGO meetings;
- Be the focal point/facilitator for joint venture plans and reports;
- Identify and develop good relations with key stakeholders, particularly those actors identified by CANGO members as key partners or collaborators in lobbying for or achieving changes that will address issues identified by the network;
- Participate in discussions with CIDA and other potential donors;
- To provide progress reports as required to the CANGO against the milestones, activities or outputs agreed upon by the member agencies.

Venue for CANGO

The meetings of CANGO will be conveyed and hosted at conference room at the Ethiopian Canadian Cooperation Office (ECCO) or at the venue of the respective member organizations as required.

Frequency of CANGO Meetings

The CANGO General Assembly (all members) will meet every two months unless and otherwise the situation dictates to meet more frequently. Additionally different purpose specific meetings arranged by the network members will be held as agreed.

Legal Implication of the CANGO Code of Partnership

The CANGO Code of Partnership is a statement of intent only, outlining processes for the cooperation of network members. In no way can this document be interpreted as having a legally binding nature. CANGO members will not be legally responsible for failure to fulfill their obligations outlined under this Code of Partnership. Member organizations are free to withdraw their membership at any time, following a minimum of 5 days notice to all other members of the Network.

Membership Dues

In support of activities related to the coordination of CANGO, member organizations agree to contribute:

- \$1,000 CAD (equivalent in Ethiopian Birr on date of payment) to CANGO, annually as of January 2014⁴. This payment shall be made to the CANGO Network member holding

³Terms of Coordinator role are subject to review by Network Partners; Volunteer roles, such as Canada Focal Point is also a possibility as required

⁴Subject to review by the Network Partners in advance of 2014 fiscal year

- responsibility for the financial management of membership fees and other donor funding for CANGO. This member shall keep the money in their internal bank account and process monthly financial reports, separating donor funds from membership fees.
- The payment will be made in one installment during the month of January of each year.⁵
 - The payment is non refundable.
 - Late payment of membership fees after the first quarter of the year (after March 31st) will incur a 10% increase in fees.
 - New Network Partners will pay a prorated fee rate starting at the next closest quarter following their formal acceptance into CANGO.⁶
 - Members withdrawing from CANGO will forfeit their membership contribution.

Income/Assets of CANGO

The income and property of CANGO, however derived, shall be applied towards the promotion of the objectives set forth in this Code of Partnership. No portion of the income and property of the Network shall be paid or transferred, directly or indirectly by way of dividends, bonus or otherwise by way of profit, to the persons who at any time are or have been members of the Network or to any persons claiming through them or any of them, provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent the payment in good faith or remuneration to any member thereof or other persons in return for any service rendered to the Network.

Participation/Non-Participation in CANGO

Participation in CANGO will be open to other Canadian Organizations. A Member may also withdraw from CANGO at any time and for any reason by providing a 5 days prior written notice to the network members.

Dissolution of the Network

If, on the winding up or dissolution of the Network, there remains, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities any property whatsoever, the same shall be distributed among the members of the Network.

Review of the Code of Partnership

The members will amend the CoP from time to time. This CoP may be immediately terminated upon agreement of all members.

Amendment

This is the most recent amended version of the CANGO CoP, first approved on December 12, 2006. It has been amended previously to include new members. The amendment in January included amendments to the vision, members, network structure, the membership conditions and dues, accounting and thematic areas. Previous versions of the CoP are available with the current Coordinator and host agency.

⁵ Exceptions to this are possible upon Management Committee permission (i.e. in certain special cases members may request to pay in installments)

⁶For example if a new member joins the network in the month of May, they would pay equivalent of half the annual fees (i.e. \$500) and pay by July 1.

Endorsement of CANGO member agreeing to the terms and conditions of network membership set in this Code of Partnership

Member Organization: _____

Representative name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____