



Safety Nets and Livelihoods Thematic Group

Mandate & Organisation

Together, the CANGO Network Partners intervene in most regions of Ethiopia, giving CANGO a wide access to information and support infrastructure throughout the country. Numerous member organisations have a strong programming focus on food security. Other CANGO members have specialised expertise in the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA).

NGOs, including most members of the Canadian NGO Network in Ethiopia (CANGO), have been working at a community level with the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) to implement the country's poverty reduction strategy: the New Coalition for Food Security. But with the launch of the GoE's Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) in 2005, it has become apparent that new and innovative coordinating and implementation mechanisms are needed, coordinating with the PSNP, if chronically food insecure households are to be elevated to the threshold necessary to enjoy self-resilient and sustainable livelihoods.

Within CANGO, the Thematic Group on Safety Nets and Livelihoods (SN&L) provides a necessary forum within which members can communicate their experiences, in programming and in research. The SN&L members are dedicated to sharing best practices and new developments within the Ethiopian context.

A- "Mandate"

i - Name of Thematic Group:

This thematic group is named: "***Safety Nets and Livelihoods***". Within CANGO, this thematic group agrees to consider issues that fall among this theme, including but not limited to food insecurity in the country, livelihood specific characteristics of food insecurity, capacity constraints to food security programming and best practices in food security services delivery.

ii - Thematic Group Vision:

To see that Ethiopian people have secured their full potential in a context that respects dignity and human rights, based on international conventions.

iii - Thematic Group Mission:

CANGO is a voluntary network that seeks to collectively build 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 the CANGO Safety Nets and Livelihoods Thematic Group as a network that serves as an instrument in ensuring that international assistances, including our own, are effectively utilised for the betterment of safety nets and livelihood programming in Ethiopia.

Whenever a Working Group is established among the Thematic Group members, these are required to set the terms of their formation. In these terms, they will define the criteria for membership in their working group and their relations with the Thematic Group. Unless this is done, membership to a Working Group will remain open.

iv - Strategic objectives:

- ◇ To become a strong Information-sharing network;
- ◇ To improve the coordination of members' programming;
- ◇ To secure joint funding.
- ◇ Conduct relevant research on safety nets and livelihoods

v - Activities for the first year:

- ◇ Develop an action plan to meet the strategic objectives
- ◇ Produce and disseminate a minimum of one (1) concept paper for a joint project.
- ◇ Explore options for the use of the Self-Resiliency Study

B- Thematic Group Organisation / Procedures

vi - Thematic Lead person's responsibilities:

The Thematic Lead role is held by a person, rather than by an organisation. With the provision that they can be represented by another from their organisation when need arises. The Thematic Lead is charged with the following responsibilities:

- ◇ To call thematic group meetings.
- ◇ To circulate a preliminary agenda prior to each meeting, to negotiate the date of these meetings and to chair the proceedings.
- ◇ To follow up with thematic group members on any actions to be taken as a result of group decisions.
- ◇ To facilitate experience sharing and reflection events.
- ◇ To represent the Thematic Group in the CANGO Management Committee.
- ◇ To report to CANGO on the activities and achievements of the thematic group, through the General Assembly, the Management Committee and the Coordinator.

vii - Selection and Term Duration of Thematic Lead:

The Thematic Lead is appointed by the members of the Thematic Group for the duration of one (1) year. This appointment will be rotational among the members and is conditional on the willingness of the designated party. Selection of the lead person will be made by nomination and majority support of the group.

viii - Role of the Coordinator concerning Group meetings/activities:

The CANGO Coordinator, in pursuance with his/her contract, will help the Thematic Lead and identify areas of potential action for the Thematic Group. They will also ensure linkages among Thematic Group members and other CANGO Network Partners.

The exact terms of the Coordinator's role are defined in both their job description and the "CANGO Roles and Responsibilities" document.

ix - Members:

The following organisations are members of the CANGO Safety Nets and Livelihoods Thematic Group:

- ◇ Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB)
- ◇ Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief (CPAR)
- ◇ CARE - Ethiopia
- ◇ CHF – Partners in Rural Development
- ◇ Christian Children's Fund of Canada (CCFC)
- ◇ Food for the Hungry International – Ethiopia (FHI/E)
- ◇ Oxfam Canada
- ◇ Plan International – Ethiopia
- ◇ Save the Children Canada
- ◇ World Vision – Ethiopia (WV/E)

It is to be recalled that the members are defined as organisations. This definition offers particular opportunities for cooperation, resource provision and expertise sharing. It also raises challenges related to competing interests, levels of contribution to the group's activities and knowledge transfer within member organisations. The following terms of membership partly address these issues.

The members acknowledge that other CANGO Network Partners may still show an interest to join this thematic group. Criteria for acceptance are the same as those defined in the "CANGO Code of Partnership". All members of this thematic group must be members of CANGO.

Any member organisation can withdraw its membership from this group. This can be done at any time, where there are no other agreements with the group members. Such agreements could include partnership within an active working group contained within the Thematic Group area. As CANGO Network Partners are required to belong to a minimum of one thematic group, withdrawal from the Safety Nets and Livelihoods group requires membership with at least one other CANGO Thematic Group.

x - Terms of membership:

The Safety Nets and Livelihoods Thematic Group members agree to:

- ◇ Meet a minimum of once every quarter (three (3) months).

- ◇ Attend thematic group meetings whenever possible. Where the usual representative of a member organisation cannot attend, they will endeavour for another informed representative to be sent in their stead.
- ◇ Inform their own colleagues, within their respective organisations, of the progress of work within this thematic group. More specifically members agree to keep one other member of their organisation fully briefed on the proceedings of CANGO and of this thematic group.
- ◇ Host thematic group meetings, in rotation.
- ◇ Hosts of Thematic Group meetings will arrange to produce a Meeting Summary and Action Points for distribution to the thematic membership.
- ◇ Contribute their experience and expertise to the projects undertaken by the thematic group.
- ◇ Share relevant information, uncovered individually, with other group members.
- ◇ Contribute resources to any thematic group projects, as needed.

xi - Meetings:

The Thematic Group will meet a minimum of once every quarter (three (3) months). This meeting will not be held in the same month as the CANGO General Assembly. Other meetings may be called as needed by the Thematic Lead.

Thematic Group members will all host Thematic Group meetings on a rotational basis. When hosting, the members will provide the needed accommodations and refreshments. They will also be responsible for drawing up a Meeting Summary and Action Points for distribution to the members.

xii - Decisions

Whenever possible, decisions will be made by consensus. In cases of particular disagreement, decisions will be made by a majority vote. The Coordinator will make the deciding vote in the case of an even split among group members.

Where members are absent from a meeting, they forfeit their right to vote on decisions made therein. They may however express their preferences or observations by communicating these prior to the meeting, either to the Thematic Lead or to the Coordinator.

Decisions concerning resource commitment and legal responsibility require the consultation of all Thematic Group members. All members must be given the opportunity to provide their comments on such decisions and may reserve the right to abstain from entering such agreements agreed to by other members. When resource allocation/distribution agreements are made among the Thematic Group members, the CANGO General Assembly must be presented with the intentions of the group and be given a reasonable time to consider its comments.

xiii – External communications

Unless otherwise empowered, members will not act on behalf of the Thematic Group in relations with outside stakeholders. Only the Thematic Lead is empowered to do so. Group members agree to report opportunities and information back to the Thematic Group so that it may decide on actions to be taken.

xiv – Progress evaluation

The members of the Safety Nets and Livelihoods Thematic Group agree to conduct a full activity review once every year, starting in April 2008.

xv – Mandate review

The present document will be reviewed on the occasion of each annual activity review, taking into account any changes required by the members. This will be done in April of each year.

xvi – Reporting

The Thematic Lead person is charged with reporting on the Thematic Group's progress on the occasion of any CANGO General Assembly. They are expected to provide the CANGO Coordinator with a short report of the group's activities no later than one week prior to a CANGO General Assembly.