

Working Effectively in a Consortium Structure

Consortium Management I

Session Objectives

- Review seven CRS Café Standards for improving consortium management
- Share ideas on best practices, approaches and tools that can improve the quality of consortium management
- Name three actions that participants intend to take to improve the effectiveness of consortium management

One definition of consortium

Organizations that operate in collaboration according to a formally stated agreement; usually formed to implement a specific project

Task

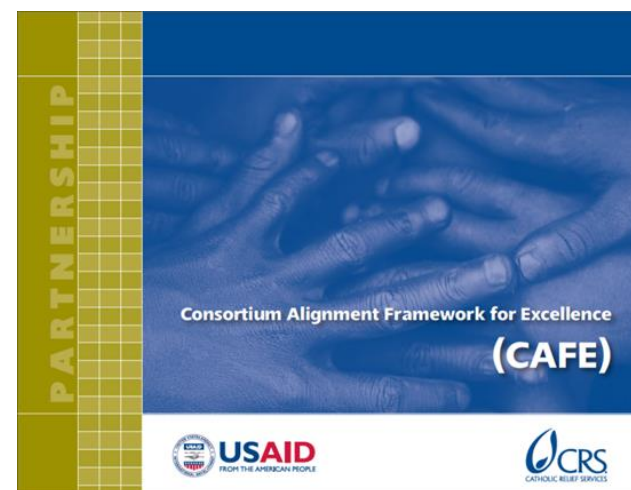
- Individually, think of ONE word that comes to mind when you hear “consortium”
- Write this on a sticky note
- Share your word with a partner
- Explain why this word came to mind

You have 3 minutes, then we will discuss answers in plenary

Consortium Alignment Framework for Excellence

CAFE assists CRS and partners to:

- form and maintain strong consortiums
- meet donor requirements
- make the managerial, financial, and administrative functions of a consortium effective, efficient, and supportive of project goals, community needs, and donor intent



CAFÉ continued

- **CAFE Standards**: Describes the **essential principles** for forming and working in an effective and efficient consortium
- **CAFE Reference Sheet**: Suggests **tools and good practices** for forming and operating a consortium
- **CAFE Implementation Guide**: Provides step-by-step **activities and tools** and best practices for pre-consortium planning and implementation
- **CAFE Glossary**: defines the terms most commonly used in consortium

CAFÉ Standards Rating Sheet

- Think about your current consortium experience or project partnership.
- **Rate these 7 management components** on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (great) against the standards listed in your handout.
- Mark the ratings on your sheet; one rating per component

You have 5 minutes, so work fast!

CAFÉ Standards Dot Voting

- Now, using dots, show your rating of each component on the flip charts.
- We will discuss trends after everyone places their dots

Small Group Task

- Appoint a facilitator, note-taker and rapporteur
1. In your experience, **what tools, best practices and/or approaches worked well** to improve consortium performance in this component?
 2. Of these, identify **one** you all agree is **MOST** effective to improving consortium performance in this component.
 3. Write answers on flipchart; prepare a **2-minute** presentation