

Preface

The Tracking Trends in Ethiopia's Civil Society Project (TECS) is an initiative of the Civil Society Sub Group of the Development Assistance Group. It began in early 2011, and completed in November 2014.

TECS came about as a result of the Federal Law: the Proclamation on Charities and Societies which was published on February 13th 2009. It established a new legal framework for the registration and monitoring of specific categories of civil society organisations. A new Charities and Societies Agency was set up as a result, and was tasked with taking forward implementation of the Proclamation on Charities and Societies. The Agency has responsibility for registering and supervising charities, societies, charitable endowments and charitable trusts.

The Development Assistance Group and other stakeholders initially expressed concerns on the Proclamation. These were communicated to high level officials within the Government of Ethiopia – including at the High Level Forum between The Government and donor representatives. A key concern was that, depending on how the Proclamation was interpreted and applied, it might or might not foster the expected enabling environment which would allow a constructive role for civil society organisations in the Government's recently developed Growth and Transformation plan, or for them to contribute to poverty reduction, achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and to democratization processes.

At the High Level Forum, it was agreed that joint periodic reviews of the impact of the law should take place. In order to establish a robust evidence based and constructive dialogue, it was decided to develop a project that will follow on the developments of the sector and enhance Implementation of the Proclamation. As a result, a Joint Project Memorandum was prepared by the Civil Society Sub Group to be the basis for the TECS project.

This publication marks the completion of the TECS project, and sets out the range of information bulletins and policy briefs which were the output from TECS research and information gathering activities over the life of the project. Since the TECS project started in 2011, several guidelines and rules have been enacted which set out in more detail how the law should be implemented. As a result, much of the research has focused on the impact of guidelines and rules on the civil society environment.

This publication has been issued and distributed to a range of stakeholders in Ethiopia, so that the information and evidence collected by TECS can be made available even after the project has ended, to continue the dialogue to enhance the civil society environment to contribute further to Ethiopia's development.

Claire Howard
TECS Project Director



Kingdom of the Netherlands



Introduction

What did we do?

The TECS project produced a total of 12 substantial research reports, 16 policy briefs, 11 information bulletins and 6 information updates over a 4 year period.

During the course of the project, TECS saw the need to diversify the type of information and research products it generated. The original design of the project had suggested a model of *long research projects* on civil society, with a view to understanding and monitoring the impact of the Proclamation on charities and societies. It later became clear that a further two types of products would be useful:

Rapid research and analyses, which involved less in-depth research but which had the scope to suggest new or emerging issues and challenges and suggest how various stakeholders may be affected and may be advised to engage in dialogue. These provided more scope to support evidence based policy and the main product was often just a short policy brief.

Information bulletins and updates, which provided a quick update or analysis of an event or report, the aim of which was to raise awareness of changes in civil society – for instance, analysis of the ChSA's own reports, information about which charities and societies had received warning letters, new emerging rules (which have not yet become official guidelines).

How did we decide what to research and gather information on?

We solicited views from our key stakeholders, which are the DAG and (at the request of the DAG) civil society organizations. We did this through various means – specific consultation exercises (at inception stage and mid-project), through meetings with individual organizations and CSO networks and through short questionnaires administered during some research dissemination events. After the initial inception round of consultations, we worked with our partner, the Forum for Social Studies, to produce a design for each research study.

We also proposed research ourselves based on our analysis of trends (for instance in funding and registration) and the findings of earlier research (for instance, analysis of the 70/30 guideline suggested scope for exploring how it impacted on specific project activities, such as monitoring and evaluation).

How did we carry out the research?

We ourselves are a small team, most of whom are part time. Our approach was to work in partnership with Ethiopian research organizations and individuals. For many of the longer research pieces, we worked in partnership with the Forum for Social Studies, a research thinktank, which is itself registered as a resident charity. We also worked with individual academics from the University of Addis Ababa for many of the shorter research pieces and a member of the CCRDA in our study on consortia (given this is one of the largest consortia). As a result of a suggestion from one INGO, we worked in partnership with Tearfund and its partners to carry out research on a community based organization called Self Help Groups. And we worked with one of the Civil Society funds – the Ethiopian Social Accountability Programme (ESAP2) – to carry out a case study of the Programme's Social Accountability Implementing Partners (most of which are resident charities).

We developed a 'knowledge hub' of civil society

Over the course of the project and through the various research and information products, we have built up a comprehensive picture of the civil society environment in Ethiopia from four main perspectives (see diagram below):

- We analysed the key guidelines and how they impacted on the range of registered civil society organizations (foreign, resident, Ethiopian and consortia). This type of analysis was regulatory impact assessment.

We studied the following 5 guidelines and rules: 70/30 (Guideline on Administrative and Operational Costs), CSO Income Generation Activities (IGA), Consortia, Asset Clearance Transfer and Liquidation (ACT&L) and Cost Recovery guidelines. The cash and cheque management rule.

- We took particular sectors and researched how different CSO partners were able to operate under the new regulatory regime. The aim here was to identify avenues for dialogue through sector ministries and agencies.

We studied CSOs operating in health, agriculture, the social sector (children, people with disabilities, and the elderly); those seeking to prevent gender based violence; and others working in partnership with the private sector. Our research topics covered 77% of all charity and society sector operations according to the database of the Charities and Societies Agency in October 2011¹.

- We examined particular categories of CSOs and how they have been affected through both restrictions and enhanced authority under the new regulatory regime.

These studies analysed mass based societies (MBS), intermediary charities, consortia, Ethiopian resident societies and professional societies.

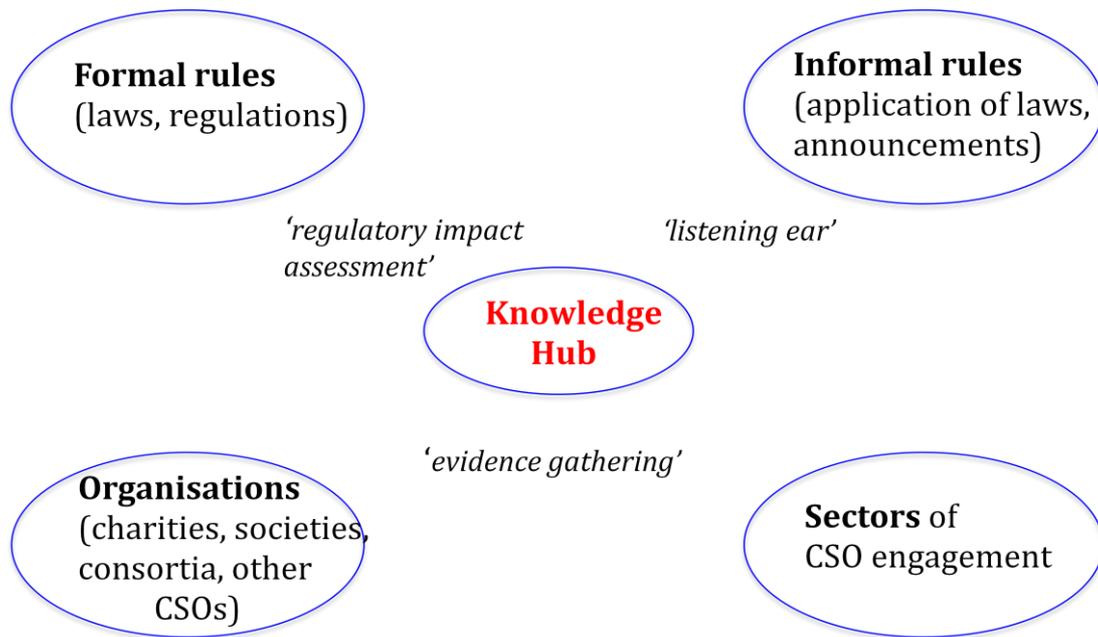
- We learned about the informal rules underpinning the legal framework for charities and societies, through information gathering.

The understanding gained informed our analysis and recommendations of the studies mentioned above.

Finally, we studied other issues and areas as and when they emerged as significant. These included studies on Self Help Group, social accountability, funding of the CSO sector, licence renewal, evaluations (impact on beneficiaries), and exposure visits for ChSA staff to meet and understand the work of charities.

¹ The database was set up with the support of TECS. The figure of 77% may be an underestimate given one category is 'capacity building', which may cross over with other sectors which TECS covered. The only sector we did not cover was education, which was covered indirectly in our research on the cost sharing directive.

Diagram showing TECS Knowledge Hub



Our quality assurance involved a two or three level process: the TECS team edited and carried out quality assurance; there was also quality assurance provided by the Forum for Social Studies, Tearfund and ESAP2 (where research was carried out in partnership with these organisations); and this was followed by a review process from members of the DAG Civil Society Sub Group.

How were the findings disseminated?

The findings were disseminated at seminars and workshops. Publications were disseminated as hard and soft copies. Selected policy briefs are also included in Amharic. Several publications – mainly the full long reports on which policy briefs and information bulletins are based – can also be found on the DAG website (www.dagethiopia.org - see TECS page).

By the end of year 3, drawing on our widespread knowledge of the sector, we held seminars for key stakeholders in which we set out our analysis of the sector, trends, and scenarios of the likelihood of a more or less enabling environment for civil society based on research and information.

How was the research and information used?

The research and information aimed to support evidence based dialogue, which we did mainly through the DAG Civil Society Sub Group. Where possible, we also worked with CSOs to support them in dialogue, but the CSOs themselves were usually reluctant to engage in advocacy with respect to the enabling environment.

The project also provided more detailed case studies in support of dialogue on particular issues, for instance on the IGA and cost recovery guidelines.

Acknowledgements

The TECS team would like to thank the CSSG, who have supported and reviewed TECS research and information products. We would also like to thank our various partners in research, in particular the Forum for Social Studies, whose widespread social science understanding of Ethiopian civil society enriched our research analysis and findings.

The following individuals include everyone involved in TECS research as either researchers, editors and research directors.

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Disclaimer

All publications include the disclaimer stating that they are based on research commissioned by the DAG through TECS and that the views presented are those of the authors and Atos Consulting, and do not necessarily represent the views of DAG members.

Cover page: *Sisters on road to Adwa* by Ann Condy

Where can you find TECS end of project publications?

Research Reports - this volume containing the research reports can be found in some university libraries and charity libraries (including FSS and CCRDA). It is also available on CD from CSSG members. Some reports will be found on the DAG website.

Policy Briefs, Information Bulletins and Updates – are contained another volume and on a CD, obtainable from CSSG members and FSS and CCRDA libraries. Some are available on the DAG website. Selected policy briefs are also included in Amharic in the CD version.



The image shows five handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature on the top left is 'Gil Long'. The second signature on the top right is 'Claire Howard'. The third signature on the bottom left is 'Yeraswork Admassie'. The fourth signature on the bottom middle is 'Ann Condy'. The fifth signature on the bottom right is 'Gemechu Desta'.

The TECS Team (Claire Howard, Ann Condy, Gemechu Desta, Gil Long and Yeraswork Admassie)

This CD contains the following TECS publications:

RESEARCH REPORTS	Report 1 CSOs and Income Generation Activities (Guideline 07/2004 EC), February 2012
	Report 2 Mass Based Societies in Ethiopia: Prospects and Challenges, March 2012
	Report 3 Potential Impact of the Guideline to Determine Charities and Societies Operational and Administrative Costs (70/30 Guideline 2/2003 EC): Summary of Challenges and Issues, March 2012
	Report 4 CSO in Ethiopia: Case Studies of the Impact on Beneficiaries (desk review), June 2012
	Report 5 CSOs Supporting Women's Economic Empowerment In Ethiopia: Mapping and Case Studies, October 2012
	Report 6 CSO Support To People Living With Disabilities And The Elderly, April 2013
	Report 7 Early Evidence of the Impact of the 70/30 Guideline to Determine Operational and Administrative Costs, (Guideline 2/2003 EC) Phase II, April 2013
	Report 8 Impact of the Proclamation and Guidelines on Consortia (Networks), August 2013
	Report 9 Assessment of the Asset Clearing, Transfer and Liquidation System (Guideline 6/2011), September 2013
	Report 10 Impact of the 70/30 Guideline (2/2003EC) Phase III, September 2013
	Report 11 Self Help Groups in Ethiopia: Activities, Opportunities and Constraints, July 2014
	Report 12 The Work of ChSOs in Promoting Social Accountability, October 2014
POLICY BRIEFS	Policy Brief 1 CSO and Income Generation Activities (Guideline 07/2004 EC), February 2012
	Policy Brief 2 Mass Based Societies in Ethiopia: Prospects and Challenges, March 2012
	Policy Brief 3 CSOs Supporting Women's Economic Empowerment In Ethiopia: Mapping and Case Studies, October 2012
	Policy Brief 4 CSO Support To People Living With Disabilities And The Elderly, April 2013
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	Policy Brief 6 Impact of the Proclamation and Guidelines on Consortia (Networks), August 2013

	<p>Policy Brief 7 Assessment of the Asset Clearing, Transfer and Liquidation System (Guideline 6/2011), September 2013</p>
	<p>Policy Brief 8 Impact of the 70/30 Guideline (2/2003 EC) Phase III, September 2013</p>
	<p>Policy Brief 9 Impact of Charities and Societies Proclamation and Guidelines on ChSOs operating in Agriculture, March 2014</p>
	<p>Policy Brief 10 Impact of the 70/30 Guideline on Monitoring and Evaluation, June 2014</p>
	<p>Policy Brief 11 The Cost Sharing Directive (1/2006 EC), June 2014</p>
	<p>Policy Brief 12 Intermediary INGOs and the Operation of the 70/30 Guideline, June 2014</p>
	<p>Policy Brief 13 Charities Working with Children, August 2014</p>
	<p>Policy Brief 14 ChSOs engaging with the Private Sector, August 2014</p>
	<p>Policy Brief 15 Self Help Groups in Ethiopia: Regulatory Issues and Constraints, September 2014</p>
	<p>Policy Brief 16 The work of ChSOs in promoting social accountability, October 2014</p>
INFORMATION BULLETINS	<p>Information Bulletin 1 Intermediary INGO Operations and the 70/30 Guideline, Feb 2013</p>
	<p>Information Bulletin 2 The Impact of Charities' Operations on Beneficiaries, April 2013</p>
	<p>Information Bulletin 3 On ChSOs Cash and Cheque Management, May 2013</p>
	<p>Information Bulletin 4 ChSA's Staff Exposure Visit to Charities' Projects in Ziway, Hawassa and Dire Dawa Harar Areas, July 2013</p>
	<p>Information Bulletin 5 The Impact of The Charities and Societies Proclamation on CSOs Working on Gender Based Violence, July 2013</p>
	<p>Information Bulletin 6 ChSA's Staff Exposure Visits to Charities' Projects in Bahidar, Gondar, Michew, Dessie and Debre Brehan areas, August 2013</p>
	<p>Information Bulletin 7 Trends In Donor Funding To The Civil Society Sector, September 2013 updated March 2014</p>
	<p>Information Bulletin 8 The Charities and Societies Agency Staff Exposure Visits Debriefing Workshop, September 2013</p>
	<p>Information Bulletin 9 On Ethiopian Resident Societies Licence Renewal Issues, November 2013</p>
	<p>Information Bulletin 10 ChSOs Engaged In The Health Sector, January 2014</p>
	<p>Information Bulletin 11 The Cost Sharing Special Directive 1/2013 (1/2006 EC), February 2014</p>
INFORMATION UPDATES	<p>Information Update 1 Renewal of Charities and Societies' Working Licences, February</p>

	2013
	Information Update 2 Analysis from the Report of the CHSA 2013, May 2013
	Information Update 3 Media Skills Training for Charities ,September 2013
	Information Update 4 Issues and Challenges of Ethiopian Professional Societies in Renewing their Licences at the CHSA, January 2014
	Information Update 5 Information Update on Trends in registration, licence renewal and closing of ChSOs since February 2010, October 2014
	Information Update 6 Information on 2014 Exposure Visits, October 2014