Tracking Trends in Ethiopia’s Civil Society Sector

CSOs in Ethiopia: Case Studies of the Impact on Beneficiaries

Desk Review

REPORT 4

A research conducted through the partnership between Forum for Social Studies (FSS) and Atos Consulting

June 2012
The Development Assistance Group (DAG) was established in 2001 to foster information sharing, policy dialogue and harmonise donor support to Ethiopia in order to enable the country to meet the targets set in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). DAG also assists in the preparation, monitoring and evaluation of the country’s Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS). DAG currently comprises 26 donor agencies providing development assistance to Ethiopia within the Paris Declaration principles of aid effectiveness and harmonization.

Disclaimer: This paper was commissioned by DAG members through the Tracking Trends in Ethiopia’s Civil Society (TECS) project. The views presented in this paper are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of DAG members.
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Acronyms and abbreviations

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<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABE</td>
<td>Alternative Basic Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABEC</td>
<td>Alternative Basic Education Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADS</td>
<td>Alternative Dispute Resolution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANC</td>
<td>Antenatal Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>ATR</td>
<td>Antiretroviral treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BG</td>
<td>Buusaa Gonofa</td>
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<tr>
<td>CANGIO</td>
<td>Canadian network of CSOs</td>
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<tr>
<td>CBO</td>
<td>Community Based Organisation</td>
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<td>CTC</td>
<td>Community Based Therapeutic Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>CfW</td>
<td>Cash for work</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHBAs</td>
<td>Community Based Health Agents</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRS</td>
<td>Christian Relief Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRDA:</td>
<td>Consortium Christian Relief and Development Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMC</td>
<td>Crisis Management Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COOPI</td>
<td>Cooperazione Internazionale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>Civil society organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>DAI</td>
<td>Development Alternative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPPC</td>
<td>Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DFID</td>
<td>Department for International Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>EAMFI</td>
<td>Ethiopian Association of Micro – Finance Institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC</td>
<td>European Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMPOWER</td>
<td>Ethiopian Management of Participatory Opportunities for women in ext.&amp; research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EOSA</td>
<td>Ethio – organic seed action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPRDF</td>
<td>Ethiopian People Revolutionary Democratic Front</td>
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<tr>
<td>FHI</td>
<td>Food for the hunger</td>
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<tr>
<td>HEP</td>
<td>Health Extension Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>HSDP-I</td>
<td>Health Sector Development program</td>
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<tr>
<td>HNG</td>
<td>Household nutrition garden</td>
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<tr>
<td>HH</td>
<td>Households</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAO</td>
<td>Isitututo agronomico d’ Oltremare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IGA</td>
<td>Income Generating Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IIAA</td>
<td>Associazione itternazionale volontari laici</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSG:</td>
<td>Mother Control Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>MoE</td>
<td>Ministry of Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>MFI</td>
<td>Micro Finance Institution</td>
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<tr>
<td>MM</td>
<td>Mother mentors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MP</td>
<td>Member of Parliament</td>
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<tr>
<td>MWA</td>
<td>Millennium Water Alliance</td>
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<tr>
<td>NASA</td>
<td>Non state actors</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-Governmental Organization</td>
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<td>NBE</td>
<td>National Bank of Ethiopia</td>
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<td>OFDA</td>
<td>Office for Disaster Assistance</td>
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<tr>
<td>OVC</td>
<td>Orphans and vulnerable children</td>
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<tr>
<td>ORRA</td>
<td>Oromia Rural Road Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>PASDEP</td>
<td>Accelerated and sustainable development to end poverty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acronym</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<td>------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>PCAE</td>
<td>Pastoralist concern association Ethiopia</td>
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<tr>
<td>PIA</td>
<td>Participatory Impact Assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLWHA</td>
<td>People living with HIV / AIDS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMTCT</td>
<td>Prevention of mother to child transmission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PFM</td>
<td>Participatory Forest Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSNP</td>
<td>Productive Safety Net Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>REST</td>
<td>Relief Emergency society for Tigray</td>
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<tr>
<td>SNNPR</td>
<td>Southern Nations, Nationalities, and People's Regions</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCF</td>
<td>Save the Children</td>
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<tr>
<td>SACCO</td>
<td>Savings and Credit Cooperatives</td>
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<tr>
<td>TVET</td>
<td>Technical Vocational Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>United Nation Population Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNOPS</td>
<td>United Nations Office for project services</td>
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<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene</td>
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Executive Summary

Introduction

The civil society sector clearly plays an important role in development in Ethiopia. One of the most recent and comprehensive attempts to assess the impact of CSOs on beneficiaries in Ethiopia found: “in the period 1997 – 2001, CSOs in Ethiopia have served almost 17 million people’ - out of which 10,50 million men and 6,32 million females - with 10,000 jobs created during the same period “(CRDA/DPPC Information Package, 2004). However, data on the sector as a whole is not readily available.

The present review was commissioned by the DAG members and the Government of Ethiopia to shed light on the impact of CSOs on their beneficiaries in Ethiopia. The review is based on case studies of evaluations of CSO programmes. Although case studies can provide examples of evidence of impact, they cannot demonstrate a statistically significant assessment of the impact of all CSO interventions on beneficiaries. To do this, a much more detailed and long term evaluation exercise aimed at elucidating the full contribution of CSOs to the overall development of the country would be required.

Information was collected by analyzing secondary sources: mainly articles, publications, and evaluation/appraisal reports. The sources included charity and society libraries and resource centres; charity and society impact evaluation documents available in CSO archives; bilateral development cooperation resource centres; multilateral development organisations resource centres. These were supplemented by documents in the public domain, for example those available on the web, and by informal contacts with some Government officials and CSO staff.

CSO contribution to overall national development

Data from the Charities and Societies database show that a significant majority of CSO projects lie in human development (health, education, and child welfare). Whereas the 1970s and 1980s witnessed CSO activities focused in humanitarian sectors, in recent times CSOs have aligned themselves more closely with GoE development priorities, which emphasise among others the need for CSO partners to support social services, especially health and education.

Limitations of the desk review

This study is only a desk review of existing external evaluations; data contained in these reports has therefore not been verified with key informants and beneficiaries. There are, however, few independent evaluations of CSO operations, which assess the impact of projects on beneficiaries. Additionally, it is difficult at times to access the independent external evaluations.

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1 17 million people in 2001 signified approximately 25% of the whole population at the time.
To our knowledge, only one sector attempts to collate information on the contribution of CSOs to development. CCRDA’s Water and Sanitation Forum has begun to feed information into the annual reports produced by the National WASH Coordination Office. The Forum’s 2010 report found that 41 CSOs had constructed or rehabilitated 1,572 water supply schemes, which provided safe clean water to 1,664,807 beneficiaries.

**Overall findings**

The key finding is a positive one: the evaluations in these case studies show positive and tangible impact from CSO projects. CSO programmes are having a demonstrable impact on beneficiaries.

However, the CSO landscape is so wide ranging, and programmes within different sectors are so varied, that even with the sort of tangible impact identified by independent evaluations, it is not possible to extrapolate impact on a national level.

**Findings from case studies**

Twenty-six case studies were analysed, based on evaluations of CSO projects in the following sectors: health, water, education, agriculture, rural development, micro-finance, environment, humanitarian/emergency, governance, democracy and women’s empowerment.

Each case study gives precise data on numbers of direct beneficiaries, which may be individuals, communities or community or savings groups, depending on the type of project. Additionally, the “added value” of CSOs is that their small-scale initiatives are designed and carried out in order to achieve a far wider impact. Examples of this wider impact are given below.

CSOs by their very nature are in a position to be innovative and pilot new practices at community level. If initial pilot projects prove successful, there is scope for the Government to take over and scale up successful CSO experience. Some examples are detailed in the case studies: the pedestrian bridges in Oromia; the gully rehabilitation in Arsi Zone (Oromia) and Mother Support Groups (MSG) in health.

CSO are able to fill gaps from the Government and private sector side. Case studies often revealed that CSOs work in remote or difficult areas where Government services may be lacking, and with hard to reach groups. Despite the scarcity of the data, it appears that CSOs are filling gaps in drought management and social service delivery in the drought prone areas of Ethiopia such as South Oromia (Borana zone) East Hararghe (Gursum, Babile, Fedis), Gambella and in the whole Afar and Somali regions.

CSO projects demonstrate effective cooperation between Government and CSOs. This is especially true at local levels.

Women’s empowerment projects have been able to influence policy and democratic practices, as well as directly benefiting women beneficiaries. A project on the prevention of female genital mutilation achieved legislative change. A project to empower women
elected representatives and male colleagues resulted in one Ministry being obliged to re-submit its annual plan to ensure it reflected gender issues.

Many CSO projects are, in turn, aligned with existing government policy. Agriculture projects have supported the production of durum wheat production to international, export standards, as well as improving the livelihoods of local farmers. Projects in support of women’s empowerment are in line with Government policy on gender mainstreaming and women’s empowerment.

In Education, CSO contributions are highly valued by the Ministry of Education: “the number of CSOs partners working on the Education sector has increased over time. And their contribution to the Educational Access, Quality and Equity is fundamental” (paper prepared by the Education Bureau for a workshop organized in SNNPR in September 2007). CSO projects in support of alternative basic education have been mainstreamed into Ministry of Education policy for all regions.

In Health, the training of Community-Based Health Agents (CHBAs) has proved to be one of the most important achievements of the CSOs working in health in Ethiopia. CSOs contributed to the growth of Community-Based Health Care that gradually led to the creation of the Government Health Extension Program (HEP), which is regarded as the single most important contribution of CSOs in the sector.

In the water sector, case studies illustrate how CSO initiatives can improve the prospects of sustainability as well as providing immediate and direct benefits to community members. The provision of low cost technology combined with knowledge and skills and community participation has led to better maintenance and management of water facilities.

Challenges and ways forward

There is limited, systematic reliable evidence of CSO impact on beneficiaries in Ethiopia. This is the case despite the fact that both internationally and within Ethiopia in the early 2000s, concerns have been raised about the lack of sound evaluation data, and despite the fact that significant amounts of external developmental resources are channelled into Ethiopia through CSOs.

There are some attempts to coordinate information on CSO operations at sector level. This is now occurring in the water and sanitation sector through the establishment of a WASH forum, and a similar forum for health sector partners is about to launched at the request of the Federal Ministry of Health, in order to facilitate coordination and information sharing. This could lead to pooling of information on impact.

This review identified several reasons why evidence is rarely available at the level of CSO programmes and projects, including the diversity of CSO activities in a given programme, the use of objectives which are difficult to measure, and the lack of baseline data and monitoring systems.

There is also poor knowledge management, which means that even when evaluations are carried out, it is difficult to access them. If true assessment of impact of CSOs in
Ethiopia’s national development is to be made, then much more impact evaluation needs to be undertaken and shared.

It is not within the remit of this desk study to suggest what steps could be taken to remedy this situation. We note, however, that the establishment of sector based forum whose objectives include the gathering of information on all CSO activities in a given sector, are a useful approach to ensuring better information is available on impact on beneficiaries.

CCRDA’s Water and Sanitation (WASH) Forum reported in 2010 on the contributions of CSO interventions in the water and sanitation sector in Ethiopia. Some information on impact on beneficiaries is included, though this is based on self-reporting by CSOs. In introducing their Annual Joint CSO Report on WASH, they noted that this was “the first of its kind”. The report was produced with a view to being incorporated in the National WASH Report, which is produced by the National WASH Coordination Office.

We have also learned that as a result of much debate between the Federal Ministry of Health, CSOs and donors, a health forum is being established, to coordinate and share experience and information. This forum similarly has the potential to collate information on a regular basis of CSO contributions and impact within the sector.
1. Introduction

The civil society sector plays an important role in development in Ethiopia. One of the most recent and comprehensive attempts to assess the impact of CSOs on beneficiaries in Ethiopia found: “in the period 1997 – 2001, CSOs in Ethiopia have served almost 17 million people” - out of which 10, 50 million men and 6,32 million females - with 10,000 jobs created during the same period “(CRDA/DPPC Information Package, 2004). However, widespread data on the sector as a whole is not readily available. This is discussed during the sections below, and key recommendations are made to remedy the situation.

This review was commissioned by the DAG members and the Government of Ethiopia to shed light on the impact of CSOs on their beneficiaries in Ethiopia. The review is based on case studies of evaluations of CSO programmes. Although case studies can provide examples of evidence of impact, they cannot demonstrate a statistically significant assessment of the impact of all CSO interventions on beneficiaries. A much more detailed and long term evaluation exercise aimed at elucidating the full contribution of CSOs to the overall development of the country would be required to do so. Terms of Reference for this study are attached in Appendix 3.

Both terms “civil society organisations” (CSOs) and “charities and societies” are used in this report, given the latter has only emerged as a sub-set of CSOs since the Proclamation came into effect in 2009.

1.1. Approach and Methodology

As a desk review, information has been collected by analysing secondary sources - mainly articles, publications, and evaluation/appraisal reports. The sources included:

1. Charity and society libraries and resource centres,
2. Charity and society impact evaluation documents available in CSO archives,
3. Bilateral development cooperation resource centres,
4. Multilateral development organisations resource centres

These were supplemented by documents in the public domain, for example available on the web, and by informal contacts with some Government and CSO officials who were able to supply independent evaluations.

The documents used for this review are all external evaluations or other official reports and studies. They are listed in Appendix 1. Documents marked as draft (not yet for quotation) were not used.

The case studies have been selected by taking into account the following criteria:

1. Availability of an independent evaluation (a key criteria, given internal evaluations may be liable to bias),

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2 17 million people in 2001 signified approximately 25% of the whole population at the time.
2. Availability of information on tangible results or impact at beneficiary level e.g. number of farmers trained or hectares of land rehabilitated – though this was not always available,
3. Evidence of actual social change following a CSOs intervention, and
4. Relevance of the development issue presented and significance of the challenges.

The purpose of the case studies is to give examples of contexts where, following a CSO intervention, there have been concrete enhancements to peoples’ lives and livelihoods. These snapshot stories, despite being anecdotes, provide examples of how CSOs can trigger significant social changes and bring benefits to target populations.

As a short desk study, it was important not to duplicate wider information on the civil society sector, which is readily available elsewhere. Data and analysis of financial resource flows into the voluntary sector are reported in several studies, including the EC mapping study of 2008 (covering the period 2004-2007), and in Government of Ethiopia statistics, including the National Bank of Ethiopia, Ministry of Justice (for the period prior to the Proclamation) and the Charities and Societies Agency (since the Proclamation).

Similarly, the Charities and Societies Sector Working Group (CSSWG) recently commissioned a study of charities and societies and their contribution to the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP). The CSSWG study focuses on the approach of CSOs and the wide range of activities they engage in, within the GTP pillars. To avoid any duplication, this study does not explore the approaches and full range of CSO activities in Ethiopia.

1.2. Limitations of the study

The main issue regarding the methodology has been the limited availability of target case studies, namely independent evaluations, which focus on impact on beneficiaries. Most donor agency funded external evaluations of civil society funds and programmes do not include much scrutiny of impact at the level of communities and individual beneficiaries. CSOs themselves rarely commission external evaluations. The reason for this lack of suitable evaluation material is discussed below in section 2.1. In some sectors, we were only able to identify 2 suitable case studies, rather than 3 as indicated in the TORs.

1.3. Report structure

The rest of this review is structured as follows:

- **Section 2**: outlines CSO resource use and distribution, and the status of CSO evaluations and information gathering.
- **Section 3**: sets out findings from the 24 case studies in 10 sectors (based on the spread of charity and society operations in the ChSA database).

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3 Most of the case studies selected met all these criteria, although some did not have all the information. However, criteria n.3, existence of external evaluation has been applied for all.
- **Section 4:** contains concluding comments on the state of CSO evaluations and how this could be further enhanced.
2. Understanding CSO contributions

2.1. CSO resource use and distribution

Over the last two decades there has been a dramatic growth in the number of CSOs involved in development aid in Ethiopia. The ChSA’s database shows a total of 2,482 charities and societies were registered at October 2011. Chart 2 below shows the distribution of CSO resources to each major sector in the country according to CSO projects registered at the ChSA (which totaled 4,904 in October 2011):

*Chart n.1 – CSOs involvement by sector in number of projects*

The chart shows that a significant majority of CSO projects lie in human development (health, education, and child welfare). This demonstrates a paradigm shift of CSOs in terms of sector coverage in recent years. During the 1970s and 1980s, most CSOs focused on humanitarian sectors. Recently, the Government has opened avenues for CSO involvement in development areas. There is evidence that CSOs have now aligned themselves more closely with GoE development priorities, which emphasise, among others, the need for CSO
partners to support social services, especially health and education. The EC (EC NASA, 2008) states the following:

“The traditional role of CSOs in emergency resource administration appears to have declined over the last five years…. Most of the newly emerging CSOs no longer focus on rural and agricultural interventions, but instead concentrate on specialized areas such as HIV/AIDS (IEC, care and support, including ARV drugs, OVC support and nutrition); child adoption; rural and urban environment/ecology; promotion of rights of socially disadvantaged and excluded groups (children, women, People With Disabilities (PWDs), etc.); and, socio-economic researching” (EC NASA 2008).

However, CSOs remain involved in emergency activities in some drought - prone areas of the country where government institutions face more challenges in delivering basic services to rural populations. There are 758 projects in the more drought prone areas of Somali, Harari and Afar Regions, according to Chart 3 below, which shows the geographical spread of projects.

*Chart n. 2 – CSO distribution by Region – numbers of projects*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CSOs projects distribution by Region</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSO number of project</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REGIONS IN ETHIOPIA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Addis Ababa</td>
<td>1113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oromia</td>
<td>856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNNPR</td>
<td>621</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amhara</td>
<td>610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tigray</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afar</td>
<td>283</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dire Dawa</td>
<td>267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benishangul</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harari</td>
<td>238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somali</td>
<td>237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gambela</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Agency data base – October 2011*

The study on CSOs and their contribution to the Growth and Transformation Plan has found that CSO projects are aligned in their support to GTP priorities. It notes: “Beyond their direct

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4 Recent weather forecast reports (FAO, WFP) agree that the cycle of the drought in East Africa has shortened in a way that the likelihood of having to face a drought season occurs on average every three years.
participation and contribution in the implementation of the GTP, charities and societies also add significant values to the success of the Plan by bringing innovation, cost effective model projects which can be scaled up, expertise, financial resources, etc".

2.2. The status of CSO evaluation

In spite of growing interest in evaluation and a steady demand from the Government and donor agencies to be given evidence of progress, there is still a lack of reliable evidence on the impact of CSO development projects on peoples' livelihood.

The first systematic study aimed at obtaining knowledge of CSO impact on beneficiaries in Ethiopia was carried out jointly by CRDA and the DPPC in 2004. It covered CSO operations during the period 1997 – 2001. The two institutions encountered the same information and data limitations as were found during this study. The study concluded:

“This exercise did not attempt to assess the impacts of the NGO contributions, especially that of the capital assets created, means of production supplied, capacity enhanced at the individual and organizational level, to the resource poor and vulnerable households in the rural and urban locations across the country. How did these outputs/results change the well-being of the recipients? Have they been sustained? In the event of wobbling sustainability, what could be causing it? There is no systematically recorded information, save a few ex-post project evaluations here and there, capable of providing answers to impact/sustainability related questions. Needless to state that this constitutes an important challenge for the effort to establish a strong database on the roles of the NGO sector.”

Since then, there has been as far as we can discover one initiative to collate information on CSO operations beyond the level of a single project. CCRDA’s Water and Sanitation (WASH) Forum reported in 2010 on the contributions of CSO interventions in the water and sanitation sector in Ethiopia. Some information on impact on beneficiaries is included, though this is based on self-reporting by CSOs. In introducing their Annual Joint CSO Report on WASH, they noted that this was “the first of its kind”. The report was produced with a view to being incorporated in the National WASH Report, which is produced by the National WASH Coordination Office.

We have also learned that as a result of much debate between the Federal Ministry of Health, CSOs and donors, a health forum is being established, to coordinate and share experience and information. This forum similarly has the potential to collate information on a regular basis of CSO contributions and impact within the sector.

Specific issues, which hinder a systematic assessment of CSO impact include:

5 The role of charity and society organisations in realising the GTP as part of civil society’, DRAFT 2, prepared by the CSSWG Technical Team, February 2012, page 5.
6 CORE Group Quarterly Newsletter, volume III, issue V, October–December 2011
• **Interest in impact is relatively recent**: Attempts to measure outcomes or impact of activities both in the voluntary and public sectors are quite recent. Prior to this, initiatives and programmes were measured according to outputs (activities carried out). In recent years, the measurement of outcomes/impact has been encouraged, and this has resulted in many countries’ ministries, departments and agencies (including aid agencies) adopting a “Results Based Management” approach to assessing performance. However, a results approach has only emerged in the last five years or so among international charities.

• **Diversity of activities and sectors makes it difficult to measure impact**: The majority of larger charities tend to execute projects which cover a wide range of development activities, across a number of sectors. This may make the task of comparing and aggregating performance information more difficult. It can also lead to “cross counting” as projects typically can be classified into several sectors (e.g. women – agriculture – capacity building – governance).

• **It is difficult to measure impact of some objectives**: The achievements of many development objectives, such as empowerment, institutional strengthening and the development of civil society, are difficult to define in advance, can be difficult to interpret, and can often only be measured in the long term. This is a problem if measurability is emphasized, as seems to be the case of many evaluations.

• **The absence of baseline information and good monitoring systems means it is impossible to compare the before/after effect of projects**: In almost all cases when a CSO starts operating in an area, there is no baseline survey conducted at the very outset. This is mainly because no funds were allocated by the donor organization to a baseline or insufficient time was available to carry it out. This makes it almost impossible to carry out an evaluation, in its classic sense (comparing pre-project to post-project).

• **There is poor knowledge management**: It is very likely that many more independent evaluations have been undertaken than could be traced by this study. The issue may be as much to do with poor knowledge management in CSOs and in donor organizations and the lack of a single point where such evaluations are retained, as the lack of evaluations themselves.

In a review of the state of CSO evaluation worldwide, Fowler has argued that the "limitations of the instruments that CSOs use to monitor, evaluate and review" are one reason why CSOs have not been able to substantiate their achievements" (Fowler, 2004). The problem is not new. Riddel's study "Searching for Impact and Methods: NGO Evaluation Synthesis Study" is one of the most comprehensive overviews of CSO impact, and impact evaluation methods. Riddel examined evidence from 60 separate reports of 240 projects undertaken in 26 developing countries. The author found: "A first, overarching, conclusion - confirmed by data and interviews in all the different case study countries - is that in spite of growing interest in evaluation, there is still a lack of reliable evidence on the impact of NGO development projects and program." (Riddel 1997).

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7 For instance, a finding which shows an increased number of complaints could either indicate better governance because there is a complaints system in place due to the project OR an indication of a deteriorating service.
3. Case Studies

This section provides a summary of 26 projects located in nine sectors. For each sector, there is a short outline of the context, the types of projects carried out, and examples of impact. A full list of all case studies is given in Appendix 2.

3.1. Health sector

CSOs are actively involved in many different areas of health ranging from public health issues, and the provision of actual health facilities through to health education and prevention of disease. Alemu (2009) provides a broad picture of the sectors in terms of actors involved: “There are as many as 10 multilaterals, 22 bilateral, and more than 50 international NGOs /CSOs) providing aid to the health sector” and the Agency database (October 2011) lists 1,626 health projects. An EC evaluation (NASA 2008) found that 7% of all health facilities are managed by CSOs, many of which are located in remote rural areas.

The Government HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Office has established fruitful working relations with about 200 CSOs that work on HIV prevention. Much CSO support goes to providing assistance to adults in prevention, counselling and awareness, and antiretroviral treatment (ARV). The training of Community-Based Health Based Agents (CHBAs) has proved to be one of the most important achievements of the CSOs in the health sector and resulted in the creation of the Government’s Health Extension Program (HEP).

CSO endeavours clearly complement the Government’s own efforts, plans and priorities in the expansion of the provision of health services and the prevention of disease, and directly contribute towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goals 3,4,5 and 6. The three case studies – all focused on Government priorities for the prevention of HIV and harmful traditional practices - demonstrate positive impacts on direct beneficiaries as well as many significant indirect benefits. However, all three evaluations lack quantitative evidence of the impacts on beneficiaries, and one evaluator particularly noted the absence of a baseline survey and quantitative data to form the basis for setting targets and accurately measuring outputs and impact.

**Birhan Integrated Community Development Organisation: HIV prevention in Addis Alem, Oromia Region.**

This three year project was funded by UNFPA-Norad. It aimed to curb the spread of HIV in a rapidly expanding small town in West Shoa through education and behavioural change. No Government services were available in this area. The project supported peer groups and HIV clubs and the development of community care for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in Addis Alem and 12 peasant associations in surrounding rural woreda. The target audiences were PLWHA, especially vulnerable and hard to reach groups such as commercial sex workers, out of school youth, orphans and vulnerable children and their carers.

Key evaluation findings included: a youth centre in the town centre equipped with video and written information materials and visited by an average of 115 youth a day; 18,000 information materials distributed; 30 peer educators trained to deliver education to various target groups; distribution of 30,000 free condoms and 24 health workers trained to provide...
outreach to the rural areas. Information on HIV prevention reached an estimated 80,890 people.

An indirect benefit of all three projects was the capacity building aspect aimed at teachers, health workers and community workers, in addition to support to direct beneficiaries. Whilst all three projects were relatively small scale and short term, aspects of the work will have been sustainable: the training and information materials created, the capacity built among Government workers and the education received by ordinary members of the public and school children.

**Intrahealth: work with HIV positive pregnant women to prevent HIV transmission**

Intrahealth ran a two year project funded by USAID. The project aimed to increase the use of Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS services by working with local health workers to create mothers’ support groups (MSGs) in 84 sites throughout Ethiopia. The MSG provided psycho/social counselling and home visits to HIV positive pregnant women, support during antenatal care and advice and information about medication (ARV), family planning and use of condoms.

The evaluation team visited 12 sites, where it focused on gathering qualitative evidence which showed that the project had greatly improved the lives of the beneficiary members of the 84 MSGs. Health workers, mentors trained to offer counselling and the MSG members themselves reported a reduction in stigma associated with HIV, as well as improved adherence to drug regimes and use of PMTCT services.

This project and the one shown below also demonstrate advocacy for policy change to make long term changes. The evaluator for the project working with HIV positive pregnant women noted the potential for Mothers’ Support Groups to become part of national HIV preventative work and the need to advocate for this within the Ministry of Health, while the project on the prevention of female genital mutilation worked directly with elected representatives and achieved actual legislative change. Both of these are good examples of how small scale interventions linked with advocacy can provide innovation and contribute to improving national policy.

**Ethiopian Goji Lemadawi Dergitoch Aswojag Mahiber (EGLDAM): prevention of female genital mutilation**

Harmful traditional practices are prevalent in three quarters of the ethnic groups in Ethiopia. This three year project funded by UNFPA-Norad aimed to educate and campaign against harmful traditional practices, in particular female genital mutilation which also contributes to the spread of HIV. The target audiences for the project were school children in 32 secondary schools in different parts of Ethiopia, who received education and information, and the local decision makers and opinion formers in those communities who were mobilised to lead behavioural change against female genital mutilation and other practices. A total of 1,352 students and 150 teachers were reached through the project and workshops held with local decision makers and MPs. A key result of this project was the development of a new penal code against harmful traditional practice.
3.2. Water and sanitation sector

The EC evaluation (2008) showed that between 2004 and 2007, 575 million birr was invested by CSOs in water development projects, almost half of which was spent in Oromia. Generally, CSOs have favoured small scale water development schemes such as hand dug wells, spring development, gravity schemes and rain water harvesting e.g. roof harvesting.

The CCRDA Water and Sanitation Forum Report for 2010 reported on the contributions of 41 CSOs in water and sanitation, representing around 40% of the active CSOs in the sector. It found that 1,572 water supply schemes constructed or rehabilitated provided safe clean water to 1,318,573 rural beneficiaries and 346,234 urban beneficiaries. Sanitation and hygiene work served a total of 535,629 beneficiaries. ⁸

The case study below demonstrates how projects try to build capacity in terms of the knowledge and skills needed to maintain and manage water facilities, alongside the introduction of low cost, low maintenance and appropriate technology. This project was sited in two drought prone areas, both much in need of interventions. The case studies show how CSOs can respond to locally identified needs and how their presence works to mobilise and motivate the communities to engage in their own development. The provision of water and sanitation is crucial to poverty reduction and survival but also to improved social conditions.

Food security pastoral project: Somali (Guradhamole Woreda) and Oromia Region (Negelle area)

The project focused on the construction and rehabilitation of water supply schemes such as pond, traditional wells and roof water harvesting to increase the supply of water for people and livestock.

The evaluation findings included: 40 shallow wells dug; 7 water committees trained; a workshop for spare parts opened in Negelle and 50 local water operators trained.

The project impact included: employment created during construction and for maintenance; capacity built in terms of skills and knowledge and health improvement through the prevention of water borne diseases.

Longer term benefits were also assessed: improved supply of water for livestock improved food security and the provision of water closer to communities reduced the amount of time spent in collecting water. Research shows that building water sources close to communities can have a significant impact on attendance rates at school, most particularly for girls who are traditionally the carriers of water.

Pastoral Concern Association in Ethiopia (PCAE) and Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI), funded by EU, 2008-2009

The larger scale project described below demonstrates how provision of improved water and sanitation facilities has an important impact on gender and education. Girls often drop

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out from school because of the lack of separate toilet facilities. The Government’s own priorities stress gender equality, particularly in education and the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 3.

**Water and sanitation project (WASH): CSO partnership between: Food for the Hungry International; Water Partnership and Water Aid**

The WASH project linked the provision of water and sanitation in 30 woredas in Amhara Region and SNNPR with the aim of making greater impact on health and food security. The project had an impact on improving girls’ education. However, the evaluation noted that one of the objectives of the project, to match improved sanitation with hygiene education, had not been fully achieved because it takes more than two years to change behaviour. The number of beneficiaries of key project activities are given in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Number of beneficiaries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Construction of water facilities</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>178,284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water facilities rehabilitated</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>47,833</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School toilets constructed</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>65,284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communal latrines VIP</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5,182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TPL latrines</td>
<td>14,613</td>
<td>75,114</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*I am at school regularly because of the private toilets we girls have. The boys do not come to our side… and we are not afraid to use our toilets at any time of the day.* (13 year old girl pupil, Danbola School, Amhara)

**Save the Children USA Emergency Water and Sanitation project** funded by USAID

An extensive evaluation was carried out of this SCF-USA project, which was launched in response to the Crisis Management Committee of the Afar Regional State after the Afar drought of 2004, which affected around 300,000 people. The project aimed to provide clean water and sanitation facilities in 4 woredas. The evaluation established a base line and results were measured against control populations where there had been no intervention. The impact is shown in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Before project</th>
<th>After project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improved access to safe water</td>
<td>2% sample</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily water consumption: 15 litres a day</td>
<td>2% sample</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical access: walking time</td>
<td>4 hours</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child morbidity: % children with diarrhoea</td>
<td>83.3% of sample</td>
<td>13.3% of sample</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The evaluation noted that this project addressed a priority problem of the local population and illustrated how CSOs and Governments can co-operate to address urgent local needs. It also noted the complex and complicated context for implementation and the fact that the project responded to extremely needy people living in remote areas. The skill of the NGO in implementing water supply schemes in an efficient and timely manner earned the respect of the Afar Government and the community.

![Negelle workshop for water supply spare parts](image)

### 3.3. Education sector

CSOs are engaged in a large variety of educational projects that support the Government’s education sector development plans and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals on ensuring universal primary education and gender equality in education. There are many examples of how CSO projects complement Government responsibility for the provision of mainstream education at primary, secondary and tertiary levels by addressing issues of access, quality and equity. These examples include:

- Interventions to encourage girls’ enrolment and prevent drop out.
- School feeding programmes linked to education to address extreme poverty and encourage attendance within mainstream provision.
- Provision of technical and vocational training to meet the demands of the labour market for skills and which create employment.
- Non-formal education to provide for people whose life style does not allow attendance at mainstream schools and colleges, for example pastoralists.
- Non-formal education for children who live in extreme social situations, for example, education for street children.
- Provision of education for children with special needs, such as disabilities.

Alternative Basic Education (ABE) is an excellent example of how CSO interventions have influenced Government thinking and policy on how to encourage access. A variety of groups are not able to use mainstream services because of remoteness or their social situation, for example, extreme poverty or because they live a nomadic lifestyle. Teach 1, the ABE project described below, was managed by PACT and funded by USAID. This project and similar interventions have resulted in formal inclusion of ABE in Ministry of Education policy as an equivalent for cycle 1 primary education in all regions.

**Teach 1**

PACT - Ethiopia was the key CSO involved in organising the project through co-operation with 27 community based organisations (CBOs). The project operated in 8 areas of Ethiopia between 2004 and 2006, providing education to adults and children via mobile centres.
Over this period 500 centres were created increasing educational access for 150,000 children and 50,000 adults. In addition, 63 woreda officials were trained to manage the new system of ABE and literacy programmes. The project illustrates how CSOs can provide innovative approaches to tackling problems, which have the potential for scaling up and becoming mainstream policy.

Another important aspect of education is technical and vocational education and training institutions (TVET) and adult education. TVET centres run by CSOs such as SELAM, Hope Enterprises and a number of faith based organisations have produced highly competent mid-level technicians who are employed by the public and private sectors. A national programme regards CSOs as partners in implementation, and a system of Government accreditation exists to oversee standards. CSO TVET centres focus on both urban and rural youth and often target disadvantaged groups, such as orphans and vulnerable children. Currently 74 TVET centres are run by CSOs mostly in remote kebeles and regions but also in some major towns. A variety of subjects are taught including: wood and metal work, automotive technology, secretarial services, nursing services, design and crafts and agricultural technology. TVET centres address skill shortages in the labour market but also create jobs and the potential for self-employment.

The Behane Hewan project described below illustrates innovation to tackle issues of discriminatory culture and inequality, which impact on the health and education of girls. Amhara region has one of the highest rates of child marriage. A survey in 2007 showed that 25% of girls were married by the age of 15 compared with a national rate of 13%. School enrolment, retention and completion rates show large gender gaps with only 44% of girls enrolling for grade 5-8 and only 41% of these completing grade 8. Early marriage also impacts on girls’ health increasing the risk of maternal mortality, complications in pregnancy and delivery and resulting in major health problems such as fistula. This project set out to reduce child marriage and increase girls’ education.

**Behane Hewan: a pilot programme to promote education and prevent early marriage in Mosebe, Amhara Region;** Population Council in collaboration with Amhara regional Youth Bureau, funded by UNFPA between 2004 and 2006

The project included mobilisation of adolescent girls between the ages of 10-19 into groups led by female mentors to encourage support to girls remaining in school, and a series of ‘community conversation’ meetings within the community to encourage collective decisions to end the practice. Other activities included non-formal education, including family planning/health education, and livelihood skills for girls who had dropped out. The evaluation methodology included a control area and the use of a base line survey conducted at the start and a final survey two years after the programme end. The graph below shows the impact on age of marriage of the activities.

**The impact of the programme on adolescent girls**
Girls in Mosebo (project area) aged 10-14 were three times more likely to be in school and 90% less likely to be married than girls in the control area. Girls in the project site also showed improved knowledge on HIV and sexually transmitted disease and family planning.

The most positive and wider impact of the project has been the decision to scale up the programme in East and West Gojam and target 200,000 adolescent girls over the next 5 years. This new project, funded by DFID, will be in partnership with the Ministry of Women and Children and Youth Affairs and aims to provide a robust model which can be applied across Ethiopia.

3.4. Agriculture

In Ethiopia more than 80% of the population live in rural areas and draw their means of living from agriculture and livestock. PASDEP attached a great importance to “agricultural and rural development by employment generation, private sector involvement and better resources management” (PASDEP 2005).

CSOs in Ethiopia contributed approximately 3 billion Birr to agriculture and rural development with 336 programs, in the period 2004 – 2007. CSOs are participating in various fields of food security and rural development, including farmers’ training, support to production and marketing cooperatives, nursery development and establishment of irrigation schemes. These activities are, in most cases, executed in closed collaboration with Government institutions.

**Agriculture development in Bale: Oromia region, 2005- 2008, EOSA and Slow Food**

This case study highlights a coffee project in the Harena forest in Bale, Oromia region, implemented by Ethio Organic Seed Action (EOSA) in collaboration with the Italian Producers Association “Slow Food”, funded by the Italian Development Cooperation. The overall objective of the project was to improve the capacity of coffee producers, extension staff, traders, decision/policy makers, and other stakeholders in coffee development in the Dello Mena area. The project goal was to promote the wild coffee from Bale and exploit its particular and exclusive flavour to seek market niches both in Ethiopia and in Italy.

The evaluation found:
- 60 model farmers trained in coffee drying, packing and storing.
- 5 Agriculture bureau officials trained.
- 20 drying beds built.
- Study tour for farmers to Sidama Coffee Union in Yirgalem.
- Contacts with European and Ethiopian coffee buyers created.

Potential longer-term impacts:
- An extension of production for market for more than 2,000 farmers organized in cooperatives.
- Given the financial incentives, the possibility of expanding the area for coffee production in Bale involving more farmers making use of the 5,000 hectares of the Harenna forest.
- Boosting an agriculture sector in a cash crop area, providing to farmers an incentive to produce for an international market and reap consistent financial returns.

### Reintroduction of durum wheat in Arsi and Bale Zones, EOSA and Slow Food

This project reintroduced durum wheat (used for making pasta), which had previously been grown three decades ago, in the area of Bale, where good soil and sufficient rain supports high value crops. The objective was to create export opportunities for farmers and was thereby in line with the Government's plan for agricultural led industrialisation: namely, creating value added to agricultural products and boosting exports.

All planting activities were implemented along with training for Woreda officials and participating farmers. At the time when this study was written, the Italian Institute of Research IAO (Institute Agronomic d'Oltremare) recognised that the durum wheat produced in Bale was suitable for making good pasta.

The evaluation found:
- 2,000 farmers in Bale were trained on durum wheat production.
- 50 technical people from Bale Government offices were trained.
- Contacts between local pasta producers and farmers in Bale were established.
- The Sinana Research centre was supplied with equipment suitable for agricultural genetic research and the overall capacity of the Centre enhanced.
The third case study demonstrates how a watershed management project can provide benefits in terms of improving food security.

### Achieving food security through watershed management

The Christian Relief Service (CRS) began its Integrated Watershed Management Programme in 2001 to address the problem of pervasive food insecurity and degraded livelihoods in areas of Amhara, Tigray and Dire Dawa. The external evaluation covered a period of 4 years, from 2005 to 2009.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of watershed</th>
<th>Region and Zone</th>
<th>District / Woreda</th>
<th>No. of beneficiaries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adidaero</td>
<td>Tigray - Southern Zone</td>
<td>Enderta</td>
<td>1,172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harbu</td>
<td>Ahmara – South Wollo</td>
<td>Kallu</td>
<td>570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legedini</td>
<td>Dire Dawa Council</td>
<td>“</td>
<td>840</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The evaluators found:

“For each watershed there has been some increase in the number of households with a full 12 months of food available, with a significant increase in Adidaero and Legedini. However, the most significant effect has been in reducing the number of households who have less than six months of food available from their own production. The most dramatic change occurred in Legedini, where this percentage dropped from 86.9% to 44.5.”

### 3.5. Rural development

The term rural development is broad and encompasses a range of interventions from agricultural development and infrastructure improvements to income generation and social...
development projects. This broad range of activities is illustrated here by three case studies on: income generation in Oromia and Somalia; the building of bridges in Bale to reduce rural isolation and projects in Oromia, Tigray and Amhara to improve food security by providing inputs to improve production and link poor farmers with markets in order to increase the potential value of agricultural products (value chains).

The first case study on income generating activities (IGA) shows how the intervention can increase people’s incomes, improve their livelihoods and impact on other human development outcomes, such as improved health and education.

### Income generating activities in Oromia and Somali Regions

The project was a co-operation between Islamic Relief and Pastoralists Concern Association Ethiopia (PCAE). The project aimed to increase IGA among cooperatives established between 2008 and 2009, to complement agricultural production and provide a buffer against possible food shocks.

The evaluation found:

- 12 cooperatives were successful in supporting members through IGA on resins and gum processing and trade.
- 14 cooperatives supported small scale irrigation and agricultural product marketing.
- 655 beekeepers were assisted through IGA.
- 9 cooperatives were supported through IGA to improve milk quality, availability, processing and commercialisation.

The evaluator noted that some IGAs would take longer than two years to come to fruition. For instance, while most co-operatives had begun to generate income this had not always had an impact at the individual household level.

### Building pedestrian bridges in Arsi and Bale Zones Oromia Region

Helvetas, the CSO, worked with Oromia Rural Road Authority and the local communities between 2007 and 2008 to construct two suspension bridges. The main objective of building the bridges was to end social isolation or remote communities by providing access to health and education services and markets, to mobilise the community to participate in the activity and also to give local technicians the skills and know how to make further constructions. Each community was asked to contribute to the construction with a symbolic 8,000 Birr per bridge.

The evaluation found:

- Two out of the three planned bridges were completed in Workesa in Arsi and Worga in Bale. The third was not constructed due to problems in reaching agreement with the
The Workesa Bridge is 65 meters long and gives access to social services and markets to 8,000 rural people, saving several hours of walking.

The Worga bridge is 45 meters long and serves 5,000 rural people saving at least 2 hours of daily walking.

Government technicians in both sites are able to make repairs.

Local committees are responsible for the maintenance.

The project demonstrates the ability of CSOs to respond to the local situation and act as a catalyst for social mobilisation, bringing together communities and the Government to pursue locally agreed objectives. The potential savings for the people of these remote communities are considerable, given that walking time can be used for farming and other socially and economically productive activities.

The third case study shows how support to the agricultural value chain results in improved food security and has the potential to realise greater benefits over time, especially if emphasis is given to assessing demand and marketing.

**Linking poor households to micro finance and markets: Oromia, Tigray and Amhara 2008 - 2010**

This project falls under the national Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) and aimed to link poor households to markets, through the development of different types of commodity value chains. The evaluation covered the work of three CSOs: CARE, REST and SCF UK.

The evaluation in East Hararghe found:
• 500 households were supported under the honey value chain, 1,600 under cereals and 1,800 under white pea beans.
• Households received assets, including modern bee hives, and support for production.

The evaluation noted that there needs to be a longer time span for impact to be fully realised from the value chains and that the emphasis has to shift from production to assessing demand and marketing. It also noted that food security had increased as a result of the project but that greater benefits would probably be realised over time.

3.6. Micro-finance sector

Micro-finance is a key means of improving incomes and lies at the heart of many anti-poverty strategies. CSOs were the first organizations to experiment in this form of financial service provision and are responsible for having initiated the practice in Ethiopia. Whilst in some countries micro-finance is increasingly being provided by the private sector, in Ethiopia it remains largely a CSO initiative. Micro-finance can take several forms, for instance: revolving funds, credit in kind, provision of loans in cash, loans with subsidized interest rates. CSOs laid the foundation for the MFI legal framework and the Proclamation on Micro-Finance 2001 and it continues to be a major CSO activity. Research in Ethiopia shows that those who accessed loans were able to increase their income in more than 90% of the cases (Desalegn, 2012). Micro-finance works in several ways:

• Loans for agricultural production and building household assets - e.g. livestock - increase incomes.
• Loans are provided to build small businesses.
• Savings, which can be kept safely, are a buffer against major economic shocks.
• Women can access loans for trading and other activities – women have traditionally found it difficult to access credit because of their lack of collateral.
• Access to finance improves access to education and health.

The two case studies below show how CSOs are able to focus on groups that private or government loans facilities would not serve. Their clients are the most vulnerable and money is used to support the livelihood strategies of the poor. Both CSOs focus on women, to promote improved family wellbeing. The specific targeting of women also supports the current Government policy of emphasising women’s economic empowerment in the strategy for economic growth. The methodology, adapted from earlier models like Grameen Bank to suit Ethiopia, show innovation, organisation and commitment in reaching the poor.

Buusaa Gonofaa HUNDEE: small loans for poor people

Buusaa Gonofaa (BG) was founded by HUNDEE, in May 1999 to provide flexible and efficient microfinance services through a network of 14 branches located in towns in Oromia Region. It targets the most vulnerable: women, landless youth and small scale poor farmers, living in rural and peri-urban areas and encourages the use of loans to help them diversify the sources of family income. BG offers the lowest rate of loan in Ethiopia and
uses a group methodology to encourage repayment; each member of the group is a guarantor for fellow members.

The evaluation of 2007 found:

- 26,200 active borrowers (73% are female), a total outstanding loan of 18.3 million Birr and savings deposits of 3.2 million Birr.
- Clients use BG loans to stabilize or increase their income, to maintain an even level of consumption during lean (hungry) periods, to build their asset base and improve living conditions e.g. better housing or clothing.
- The impact on clients includes: acquiring key inputs for agriculture e.g. seeds, lease of land, livestock; start up or increase working capital in very small businesses, e.g. purchasing firewood, flour, fruit etc; diversify activities eg start trade in livestock.

**Poverty Eradication and Community Empowerment Micro Finance Institution (PEACE MFI)**

Like BG, PEACE offers group loans through a network of 16 branches in Amhara, Oromia and SNNPR.

The 2007 evaluation found PEACE has 19,794 active clients and a total loan outstanding of 42.5 million Birr and a savings reserve of 11,044,510 million Birr. Over 80% of PEACE’s clients are women and the organisation has a specific policy of trying to loan to women in sectors that are traditionally male oriented. The graph below shows that compared with another MFI organisation, Meklit, PEACE is successful in offering loans to women in the male dominated areas of agriculture and livestock.

**PEACE % of women clients in various sectors compared with Meklit, 2007**

![PEACE Percentage of women clients out of the total](image)

3.7. Environment sector

"Food security depends on a stable landscape. Small scale agriculture practice should take this into account at all times." This comment by Bakker 2011, best describes the aims of CSOs working in environmental rehabilitation.

The problems facing Ethiopia are well documented: a rapidly increasing population largely engaged in subsistence agriculture coupled with climatic problems puts huge pressure on
the use of land. Overuse of land results in deforestation, exhausted and depleted soils and subsequent decreased crop yields. The Government has initiated programmes, such as the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP), which supports area enclosure and afforestation on a large scale. These ventures are complemented by CSO projects some of which have been in existence for some years. REST in Tigray has been engaged for many years in the development of enclosed areas and afforestation together with soil and water conservation in badly affected communities. Others, like Farm Africa, are working on environmental rehabilitation especially in gully rehabilitation and soil conservation. Further initiatives include agro-forestry, establishment of nurseries and schemes which, like the participatory forest management intervention described below, try to address some of the social issues which lie behind environmental degradation. CSO work in this sector both contributes to the achievement of Government strategy and Millennium Development Goal 7 on environmental sustainability.

The Participatory Farm Management project, funded by DFID between 2002 and 2008, was a collaboration between Farm Africa and SOS Sahel and took place in particularly badly affected woredas in two regions of SNNPR and Oromia. A key aim of the project was to shift the management of forest areas from the Government to the communities to promote local responsibility and ensure long-term environmental stability of the forest area.

The number of beneficiaries in the total area of 464,000 hectares was 134,000. The project directly improved the livelihoods of the populations by introducing participatory forest conservation and encouraging responsible use of the land for farm activities. These included: bee keeping, vegetable production, poultry farming, planting of fruit trees and development of forage and livestock.

The evaluators noted: *Forest committees are empowered and actively protecting the forest. Illegal logging and wild fire are reduced and communities are making modest livelihood gains from the forest. The community development funding for a micro-credit system ...has been well received by local partners and mostly invested in commercial livestock fattening and petty trade." (LTS International, August 2007)*

In the above case, important lessons were learned which have direct implications for policy: the need to link conservation initiatives with the private sector to encourage business development services such as micro finance, processing and marketing; the importance of addressing issues of farmers’ tenure to ensure long term conservation and the need to pay attention to issues of equity, such as gender, in participatory management.

A gully rehabilitation and watershed management project in a particularly degraded area of Arsi Zone of Oromia in Etosa Woreda illustrates collaborative work between the technical department of GTZ and a local CSO, FANA. It was started in response to requests from woreda officials and demonstrates how a relatively small scale effort not only benefits the community but also builds the capacity of Government personnel, in this case woreda technical staff, enabling the initiative to be scaled up locally: techniques used in one woreda were replicated in 16 other woredas in Arsi and Bale zones.

**Gully rehabilitation and watershed management (2005-2009)**

The evaluation found:

- Special kinds of grass, supplied by GTZ, were used to stabilise the soil and
rehabilitate the gully.

- 100 hectares of land was rehabilitated helping 300 households.
- The gully was extended to prevent the loss of a further 200 hectares.
- 16 officials (one per woreda) were trained in watershed management.
- A training manual was developed that was used to train staff in neighbouring woredas.
- The techniques in gully rehabilitation and prevention of soil erosion were replicated in 16 woredas, impacting on 800 farmers.

This case study illustrates again how CSOs are able to respond to locally identified needs.

The agro-pastoral community living in Mio woreda in Oromia approached the woreda officials who in turn contacted the CSO LIVA that was already working in the area on an EU funded food security programme. The local community identified the need for rangeland management in order to rehabilitate the area to feed their livestock. Drought and overgrazing had seriously degraded the land with the resulting loss of livestock. Grazing land was rehabilitated by replanting grass and more efficient livestock management prevented overgrazing. The work was carried out by CSO and Government working together with farmers who were engaged in a food for work programme.

**Improving livelihoods in Mio woreda: Jan- April 2008**

- 30 hectares of rangeland rehabilitated for livestock feeding.
5 communities – 3,000 beneficiaries.
Community livelihoods improved due to better management of livestock and land.
Techniques understood by community – will contribute to longer term sustainability.

The benefits for Wako Boro, pastoralists and members of Mio peasant association:
- Not having to travel long distances to feed cattle and goats – being able to use the enclosed grazing land for weak animals eg calves and old cows.
- Since rehabilitation of the lands no livestock have died – previously livestock reduced by over half because of lack of fodder.
- A willingness to protect the land because they can see the benefits.

3.8. Humanitarian and emergency sector

The development of the civil society sector in Ethiopia stemmed from the work done by CSOs in humanitarian and emergency relief, following the famines in Wollo and Tigray in the 1970s and 1980s. Despite the expansion of CSOs into other sectors, their contribution in coping with natural disasters and emergency situations is still very important. Large international CSOs are able to respond quickly and mobilise supplies and personnel, and make public appeals abroad for money to fund their interventions.

Both the case studies illustrate how CSOs, whilst responding to emergency situations with food, medicine and other supplies, are also able to put in place interventions that seek to rebuild lost assets and livelihoods and rehabilitate communities affected by natural disasters.

The first case study shows how an innovative programme, demonstrating effective partnership between Government and CSOs, resulted in more permanent strategies being put in place to cope with emergency situations: cash for work and the productive safety net programme.

**Cash for relief: 2003 -2004: rebuilding assets**

Drought in 2002 affected several regions of Ethiopia. This intervention took place in Oromia, Tigray, SNNPR and Amhara, The Disaster Prevention Preparedness Commission issued an international appeal for emergency food assistance. Over $50 million was provided by USAID which was channelled through a consortium of five CSOs (Care, SCF UK, World
Vision, Ethiopian Orthodox Church and REST). In addition to the emergency food aid, over $4 million was distributed by the partner CSOs in Cash for Relief payments in the year following the drought. These small grants were provided over a three month period to rebuild household assets.

The evaluation report notes how these funds were used:

- Overall 220,303 individuals benefited with 32,397 households receiving an average cash payment of $73.25.
- Improvement in diet and nutrition.
- Replacement of livestock.
- Improvements to houses such as replacing roofs and doors.
- Some grants were used to fund small businesses, for example, one woman bought a sewing machine and produced clothes for her community.

The evaluator commented: “the impact of the cash for relief programme was multifaceted and powerful. Most fundamentally it saved lives and reduced suffering of the most vulnerable members of the communities… after living on the edge of survival …owning livestock again gave people a personal pride, as did being able to buy a clean new dress … so their children could go to school.”

In 2008 the rains failed once more and drought again threatened the lives of many Ethiopians. The UN and the Government launched an appeal stating that 2.18 million people were in need of emergency food aid and nutritional support. A second case study was a project arising out of Canadian CSOs responding to this situation in West Haranghe and East Shewa, and putting together a consortium of CSOs led by CARE Ethiopia. The case demonstrates the ability of CSOs to mobilise quickly in the face of disaster and to put in place structures and measures which guard against future shocks.

### Community based Therapeutic Care (CTC) and related activities

The project built on the Government’s own strategy of developing community health services and training health extension workers by providing Community-Based Therapeutic Care (CTC). The aim of the intervention was to prevent deterioration in the nutritional status of children in the drought affected areas.

The evaluation main findings were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intervention</th>
<th>Number of beneficiaries</th>
<th>Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Created and equipped community based centres which provided medical care and food for mothers alongside training for health workers, volunteer nutrition workers</td>
<td>3956 children under 5</td>
<td>Children admitted to the programme recovered their nutritional status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Health institutions sustained – became a model</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional supplies and medicine</td>
<td></td>
<td>Malnourished children with</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9 The evaluation excluded REST
delivered to sites on a regular basis | complications treated
---|---
Training of health personnel in CTC practice and nutritional screening | 139 | Centres run by qualified staff
Training for Community Nutrition Volunteers | 520 | Volunteers able to detect nutrition problems and to follow up cases
Information dissemination to mothers/carers on nutrition, child care practice, hygiene and sanitation | 3956 mothers and carers | Improved child rearing

### 3.9. Good governance, democracy and women’s empowerment

Proclamation 621/2009 prohibits Foreign and Ethiopian Resident charities and societies from operating in the area of democracy, governance and human rights, however, prior to 2009, these subjects were the focus of a number of organisations. A few Ethiopian charities and societies are continuing to work on these issues but evaluations of past or recent work are not readily available. Until the recent legislation, projects within this broad umbrella included such diverse activities as: election education and training for women candidates; work on disability rights; legal aid and representation, work on violence against women; support for minority ethnic or marginalised groups, increasing access to justice, for example in training of judges and other justice sector workers; women’s empowerment projects, conflict prevention and peace promotion and children’s rights. Many projects that in practice focused on other issues, for instance HIV prevention or girls’ education, did so through the prism of a rights-based approach. There is, therefore, considerable overlap with other sectors.

It is difficult to draw conclusions across such a diverse set of activities and there is a particular dearth of externally evaluated projects, which is to be regretted but may in part be due to the perceived difficulties of assessing and measuring concepts like empowerment and raising awareness of rights.

**Gender and women’s empowerment**

Research shows that women are much more likely to be poor than men: deeply embedded discrimination which entails that women have reduced access to financial and physical resources, education and employment but also bear the double burden of caring responsibilities alongside participation in economic activity underline women’s vulnerability to poverty. Prevalence of harmful practices such as female genital mutilation and child marriage compounds women’s poverty. The overall commitment of CSOs, from their various focal points, is to poverty reduction and therefore it is not surprising that many focus on the lack of women’s rights and the need to empower women. The CSO commitment to women is mirrored in the Government’s own gender policies. Both PASDEP and the GTP recognise the importance of pursuing gender equality and mainstreaming gender in all activities and this is echoed in CSO activity.
One of the women’s projects actually focuses on economic and food security but through the wider perspective of empowerment. Its impact was to both increase sustainable incomes and enable women to grow in community esteem and participate in wider community events.

**Women’s empowerment: literacy and livelihoods 2004-2006**

The objectives of the PACT Women’s empowerment: literacy and livelihoods were two fold: to increase women’s literacy and their ability to sustain a living and to empower women to participate in the community.

The evaluation found:

- More than 9,000 women organised in 400 groups in hard to reach environments in 15 woredas in Amhara, SNNPR and Oromia, benefited.
- The literacy materials focused on livelihoods topics so that as the women learned to read, they also learned how to run a business thereby circumventing the usual problem that projects aimed at business development exclude many women because they are illiterate.
- The project worked through local CBOs and self-help groups were developed to generate savings and group lending. The evaluators note that only one third developed literacy skills (others used their children to read to them) but there was a major impact on increased incomes through the business lessons.
- Women grew in community esteem and participated in wider community events.

A second women’s empowerment project illustrates a different approach to addressing gender and development. A UK NGO in collaboration with the British Council, has worked on empowerment of women through building the capacity of women elected representatives. The Government recognises that having equal representation of women in Parliaments at all levels is important as a principle but also to pursue an effective gender and development policy. Women representatives can take forward gender issues in Parliament and are important as role models for girls and women. In the 2005 and 2010 elections, EPRDF pursued a policy of affirmative action for one third of all representatives to be female.

**Enhancing gender awareness and the effectiveness of women elected representatives, 2011**

A training programme and mentoring scheme was launched to build the capacity of the 152 women elected representatives to participate fully in Parliament, and to increase male Parliamentarians’ awareness of gender issues by offering gender training to male MPs. A core group of MPs were trained as trainers and carried out a series of workshops for all women MPs and 100 male MPs. Surveys conducted before and after training revealed increased levels of confidence among the women and increased knowledge and skills. Male MPs reported improved understanding of gender and gender mainstreaming.

“I can now argue any subject in public - I learned the art of public speaking” (Woman MP).

“I feel more empowered (woman MP) – it gave me full wings”.

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“We were able to make one ministry re-submit its annual plan so that it reflects gender issue. The Minister acknowledged the “gender oversight” and apologized to Parliament” (Male MP).

Governance

Like women’s empowerment, governance is a broad topic that covers many areas of operation. Here, two projects illustrate CSO efforts to improve local accountability and reduce conflict. Both of these projects were funded by the European Commission Civil Society Fund. They illustrate how CSOs work with traditional practices and the basic structures which exist in communities to build capacity for peace and maximise the sustainability of their inputs. The cases also illustrate innovative, cost effective processes to deal with locally perceived problems and issues, which could have wider application.

Alternative Dispute Resolution: strengthening good governance through an improved system of Guraghe traditional law 2007 – 2009

The project was carried out by the Guraghe People’s Self Help Development Organisation (GPSDO) in 10 woredas in Guraghe Zone. It aimed to contribute to a lasting and inclusive political culture in the area and a reduction in the number of conflicts by promoting alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms. In fostering ADR, the project built upon the traditional Guraghe approach ‘kitcha’ which runs alongside the formal law. Training in ADR was offered to traditional leaders, members of women’s associations, religious leaders and selected community representatives.

The evaluator found:

- A significant change in attitude and thinking among justice sector officials towards the alternative conflict resolution indigenous approach… officials have begun referring some conflict cases to traditional negotiators.
- Contribution to long term improved governance: transparency between government bodies and GPSDO and enhanced community participation to sustain the model; ADR included in the government strategic plan and promotion of women’s participation in decision making through involvement of the women’s associations.
- Comments were also made about some challenges: the kitcha is in some cases contradictory to formal law and the absence of clear demarcation lines between formal and customary law.

The second case involved Initiative Africa working in partnership with Beza Vision Ethiopia Aid Association to mount a training and capacity building project in two areas where local conflicts are prevalent: SNNPR and Benishangul.

Building capacity for conflict prevention: 2007-2010

The aim was to strengthen local capacity to take action before violence breaks out and promote human rights as enshrined in the Ethiopian Constitution and the UN Declaration on Human Rights.
The project put in place conflict observatory centres, trained local NGOs and CBOs to participate in conflict prevention and carried out visits between woredas to create networks and exchange experiences.

The evaluator noted: “apart from the two identified NGOs which host the observatory centres in preventing conflict through co-ordination, facilitation and monitoring… the project has produced and distributed a series of manuals and guides, trained activists and information collectors and …. operationalized the structures at grass roots level”. The project was too short to test whether it could actually prevent conflict but for the future the evaluator recommended focusing on mobilising volunteers, the government and faith based organisations to support the actions of the observatories. As one senior local government official observed: “the donor can take a great deal of satisfaction in catalysing a process that will ultimately benefit many communities and people”.
4. Major findings and conclusions

4.1. Introduction

The key finding is a positive one. The evaluations in these case studies show positive and tangible impact from CSO projects. CSO programmes are having a demonstrable impact on beneficiaries.

However, the CSO landscape is so wide ranging, and programmes within different sectors are so varied, that even with the sort of tangible impact identified by independent evaluations, it is not possible to extrapolate impact on a national level.

This is compounded by the relative lack of independent external evaluations of CSO projects and programmes. Only a very small number have been subject to more rigorous impact evaluation, which has then been made widely available. If true assessment of impact of CSOs in Ethiopia’s national development is to be made, then much more impact evaluation needs to be undertaken and shared.

4.2. Findings

As noted above, the case studies sited in this review show that CSO programmes are having tangible and beneficial impacts on both urban and rural populations in Ethiopia. The case studies provide information on the immediate impact on beneficiaries. However, in addition to this, they demonstrate longer term impact in terms of encouraging the expansion and sustainability of their programmes, and influencing government policy. These include:

1. **CSOs are innovative and are able to pilot new practices at community level for Government to scale up.** An effective partnership with Government institutions can ideally allow the Government to take over and scale up successful CSO experiences. There are many thematic areas where this has been done. Pedestrian bridges in Oromia and gully rehabilitation in Arsi Zone (Oromia) are good examples of this. In Health, Mother Support Groups (MSG) are a valuable model for disease prevention and child care.

2. **CSO initiatives improve the prospects of sustainability.** In the water sector, the provision of low cost technology combined with knowledge and skills and community participation has led to better maintenance and management of water facilities.

3. **CSO projects demonstrate effective cooperation between Government and CSOs.** This is so especially at local levels.

4. **CSOs can be rapid and flexible in execution of development plans.** Once the funds have been secured, practical experience suggests that projects can operationalize rapidly and flexibly. This is particularly important in the case of humanitarian assistance.

5. **CSO participation in national development, particularly at regional level, has improved and shows positive trends.** In addition to the traditional basic services and social welfare oriented projects like health and education, CSOs take part in sectoral and regional planning. Increasing support is provided to institutional building initiatives (social capital), support to action researches, and facilitation of social dialogue around various issues related to poverty and vulnerability.
6. **CSO projects can influence policy:** In education, Alternative Basic Education developed by CSOs has now been mainstreamed in Ministry of Education policy for all regions. A project on the prevention of female genital mutilation achieved legislative change. A project to empower women elected representatives and male colleagues resulted in one Ministry being obliged to re-submit its annual plan to ensure it reflected gender issues.

7. **CSO projects are aligned with existing policy.** Agriculture projects have supported the production of durum wheat production to international, export standards, as well as improving the livelihoods of local farmers. Projects in support of women’s empowerment (empowering women elected representatives and increasing women’s livelihoods) both benefit the women themselves and have a wider community effect or improve democracy.

8. **CSOs fill government gaps.** The development and relief/humanitarian demands in Ethiopia are many and diverse. CSOs and Government appear to be working hand-in-hand to address the core critical needs. Despite the scarcity of the data, it seems apparent that CSOs’ role in drought management and social service delivery in the arid areas of Ethiopia such as South Oromia (Borana zone) East Hararghe (Gursum, Bable, Fedis), Gambella and in the whole Afar and Somali region is effective and commendable.

### 4.3. Challenges

Even though a significant amount of resources which support development in Ethiopia are channelled through CSOs, there is limited reliable and systematic evidence of CSOs’ impact on beneficiaries in Ethiopia. This is the case despite the fact that both internationally and within Ethiopia in the early 2000s, concerns have been raised about the lack of sound evaluation data.

This review identified several reasons why this evidence is rarely available at the level of CSO programmes and projects. These include the absence of baseline and adequate monitoring information, the fact that certain objectives may be difficult to measure and weak knowledge management.

### 4.4. Way forward

There is a clear gap in the availability of regular and systematic information on the impact of CSO operations on beneficiaries. It is not within the remit of this desk study to suggest what steps could be taken to remedy this situation. We note, however, that the establishment of sector based forum whose objectives include the gathering of information on all CSO activities in a given sector, are a useful approach to ensuring better information is available on impact on beneficiaries. CCRDA’s Water and Sanitation Forum and the new Health Forum are cited in the report. Government, CSO and donor stakeholders may wish to consider how they could promote similar forum in other sectors.
Appendix one – Case studies

The table n. 4 below shows the case studies divided by CSOs, thematic area and location

**Table n. 4 – Case studies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Implementing CSOs</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Years of project implementation</th>
<th>Time of evaluation</th>
<th>Name of evaluators and donor agency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Health</td>
<td>INTRAHEALTH</td>
<td>Amhara, Tigray, SNNPR, Oromia</td>
<td>2007 – 2009</td>
<td>December 2009</td>
<td>Qued Group USAID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Health</td>
<td>EGLDAM</td>
<td>Whole country</td>
<td>2003 – 2006</td>
<td>May 2007</td>
<td>Evaluation carried out by UNFA NORAD as donor agencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Health</td>
<td>Birhan Integrated Community</td>
<td>Oromia Region</td>
<td>2003 - 2006</td>
<td>May 2007</td>
<td>Evaluation carried out by UNFA NORAD as donor agencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Water supply</td>
<td>COOPI - PCAE</td>
<td>Oromia</td>
<td>2008 – 2009</td>
<td>June 2009</td>
<td>Taye Tadeta European Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Water supply</td>
<td>CRS, FHI, WATER AID, WATER PARTNERSHIP</td>
<td>Amhara Region</td>
<td>2005 – 2008</td>
<td>December 2008</td>
<td>Mitchell Group USAID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Water supply</td>
<td>SCF - USA</td>
<td>Afar</td>
<td>2004 – 2007</td>
<td>December 2008</td>
<td>Mohamed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Sector</td>
<td>Implementing CSOs</td>
<td>Region</td>
<td>Years of project implementation</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>PACT AND OTHERS 17 local CSOs</td>
<td>Somali, Afar</td>
<td>2004 – 2006</td>
<td>July 2007</td>
<td>Annabel Erulkar, Eunice Muthenga UNFPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Agricultural – Food production</td>
<td>EOSA</td>
<td>Oromia</td>
<td>2007 – 2008</td>
<td>March 2008</td>
<td>Aguirre Division of JBS International USAID</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Evaluation carried out by the Italian Development Cooperation</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Agricultural – Food production</td>
<td>EOSA SLOW FOOD</td>
<td>Oromia</td>
<td>2005 - 2008</td>
<td>March 2008</td>
<td>Carried out by the Italian Development Cooperation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No:</th>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Implementing CSOs</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Years of project implementation</th>
<th>Time of evaluation</th>
<th>Name of evaluators and donor agency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Rural Development</td>
<td>HELVETAS</td>
<td>Oromia</td>
<td>2007 – 2008</td>
<td>March 2008</td>
<td>Carried out by the UNOPS and Italian Development Cooperation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Environment - afforestation</td>
<td>FANA</td>
<td>Oromia</td>
<td>2007 - 2008</td>
<td>May 2008</td>
<td>Evaluation carried out by the Italian Development Cooperation and UNOPS as donor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>Category</td>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Implementer</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Environment - afforestation</td>
<td>LVIA</td>
<td>Oromia</td>
<td>2008 - 2009</td>
<td>June 2009</td>
<td>Taye Yadeta European Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Women’s empowerment</td>
<td>British Council and Active Learning Centre</td>
<td>Addis Ababa</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>March 2012</td>
<td>Zewdi Abadi DFID</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix two – references

1. Annable S. Erulkan and Eunice Muthenga, (2007), Evaluation of Berhane Hewane, – A pilot Program to promote Education and Daily Marriage in Rural Ethiopia,
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Appendix three – Terms of reference

Research on CSOs impact on beneficiaries (Desk Review)

Background to the TECS Project

At the High Level Forum between the Government and donor representatives, it was agreed that joint periodic reviews of the impact of the Federal Proclamation on Charities and Societies (PCS) 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 Sector Group (CSSG) of the Development Assistant Group (DAG) to be the basis for the Tracking Trends in Ethiopia’s Civil Society (TECS) project.

A key concern was that, depending on how the Proclamation is interpreted and applied, whether it will foster the expected enabling environment which would allow a constructive role of civil society organizations (CSOs) in the Government’s recently developed Growth and Transformation plan (GTP), poverty reduction, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and democratization processes. Hence, the purpose of TECS is to create a conducive and enabling environment through supporting research, dialogue and publication on emerging issues and trends in Ethiopian civil society sector, including those arising from the implementation of the Proclamation on Charities and Societies.

Atos Consulting was contracted to implement the TECS project for a two year period, from December 2010 to December 2012. TECS has recently completed evidence based research on civil society and income generation, and the experience of mass based societies in Ethiopia, which are being disseminated to government, civil society and development partner stakeholders. FSS is a research partner to atos consulting in the TECS project.

Background to this review

The Government of Ethiopia through the forums and meetings at the Charities and Societies Sector Working Group (CSSWG) and Civil Society Sector Group (CSSG) has requested the TECS project to provide evidence on the impact of CSOs on beneficiaries. This request was welcome by the CSSG which instructed the TECS project to conduct the study. This is an opportunity to assess and analyse the real impact of CSOs and their ability to change the lives of beneficiaries. This is crucial for Government and donors to be able to appreciate the contribution made by CSOs to economic and social development.

FSS is non-governmental think-tank registered at the charities and societies agency. It engages in research and evidence based dialogue with government and other stakeholders.
Objectives:

The main objective is to assess the impact of CSOs working in a range of sectors on their beneficiaries.

The study is to be conducted through a desk review of existing evaluation reports and impact assessments.

The specific objectives are:

1. To review available impact evaluation reports by different donors, CSOs and CSO networks to assess impact on beneficiaries.

2. To identify and collate examples of impact, where available, or examples of outcomes. Impact is normally assessed against the specific objectives of a particular project. The impact from several projects cannot therefore be collated in any coherent way and thus a case study approach has to be adopted for this time limited and summary research study.

3. To compile information on impact, including (but not exclusively) the following types of assessments:
   - Improvements in economic circumstances and livelihoods
   - Extensions in the provision of water, sanitation and other infrastructure developments
   - Improvements in health and educational outcomes
   - Greater understanding awareness of democracy and improvements in accountability
   - Environmental and conservation improvements
   - Greater awareness and achievements in gender equality and women’s empowerment
   - Improvements in the spread of information and knowledge
   - CSO innovation in recognising and addressing needs and new models of service delivery

4. The major sectors on which the documents will be collected are listed on the following table (under remarks possible case studies are suggested). The researchers should aim to identify an average of three case studies per sector and it is suggested that different types of projects should be selected to illustrate the diversity and variety of CSO work. The researchers should also note that TECS research projects assessing CSO’s work on women’s economic empowerment and people with disabilities and the elderly are already underway and therefore should be excluded from this study.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Remark</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Water supply</td>
<td>Gravity water projects such water aid’s Hetosa water supply</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Education
   Primary education, adult education, TVET

3. Microfinance

4. Democracy / Governance
   EU CS fund and CSCF

5. Agriculture / food production and animal husbandry
   Sasakawa global 2000

6. Emergency/humanitarian works
   1984 drought and engagements against famine and food aid

7. Health / fistula / HIV/AIDS

8. Environment / afforestation
   Afforestation, water and soil conservation, climate change/ carbon trading

9. Rural development

10. Women’s Empowerment
    Excluding economic empowerment and work with other vulnerable groups (TECS research underway)

5. To deliver a short inception report at the end of week one (2 pages maximum) identifying sources, potential case studies and any obstacles.

6. To deliver a research report of not more than 30 pages (excluding annexes) but including an executive summary.

**Approach and Methods**

The research will rely on analysis of secondary data: evaluation reports and impact assessments. Such documents are available online in few cases and in the archives of resource centres of networks such CCRDA; CSOs themselves and donor organisations.

The consultants will be required to review key available documents prepared over the last five years, i.e. since year 2006. In the case of humanitarian assistance the consultant can take into account documents available after the major Ethiopian famines of 1984 and the recent past.

The paper should include all relevant factors that could illuminate CSOs role and should be written in plain English. It is expected that the researchers will summarise the information contained within the case studies to enable comparisons between sectors and different projects. A suggested format is included in an annex.
Sources of information and documents

There are four sources for this information:

5. CSOs libraries and resource centres eg CCRDA, BINGOs, Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, HINGOs, CANGOs.
6. CSOs impact evaluation documents available in the archives of the CSOs.
7. Bilateral development cooperation resource centres such as USAID; DFID.
8. Multilateral development organisations resource centres such as: UN, EU and The World Bank.

Work Plan

The main stages of the research are set out in the work plan below, including the key activities.

Profile of research team

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Days of input (work days)</th>
<th>Remark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Lead researcher</td>
<td>30</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Assistant researcher / data collector</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The role and profile of the team members:

- Team Leader: S/he should have a background in civil society, understanding of Government policy and the regulation of civil society and experience in evaluation and impact assessment. The team leader will be responsible for the analysis and writing of the report and any presentations to donors or other stakeholders.
- Assistant researcher / data collector: S/he should have an NGO background, understanding of the role of civil society and experience in evaluation and impact assessment. The role of the assistant will be to work with the team leader in the collection and analysis of material.

Time table for the work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>Remark</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Data collection: consortia, donors, CSOs</td>
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<td>Work to commence 6 April</td>
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<td>Inception note due: 20 April</td>
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<td>Completion of data collection</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
II  Data compilation
III  Analysis
IV  Write up of the report

V  Delivery deadlines
   Draft report: 18 May
   Presentation: 21 May
   Final report: 30 May

**Research Team and Key Competencies**

Members of the research team shall have higher level education in the social sciences – preferably in sociology. At least one of the members of the team shall have a post graduate degree in her/his discipline and the other researcher a minimum of a first degree. Experience in evaluation and impact assessment within the CSO sector is, however, the most important qualification.

Data gathering, documentation and analytical skills, as well as fluency in English are essential. All of the researchers must have proven track records in undertaking complex social investigation.