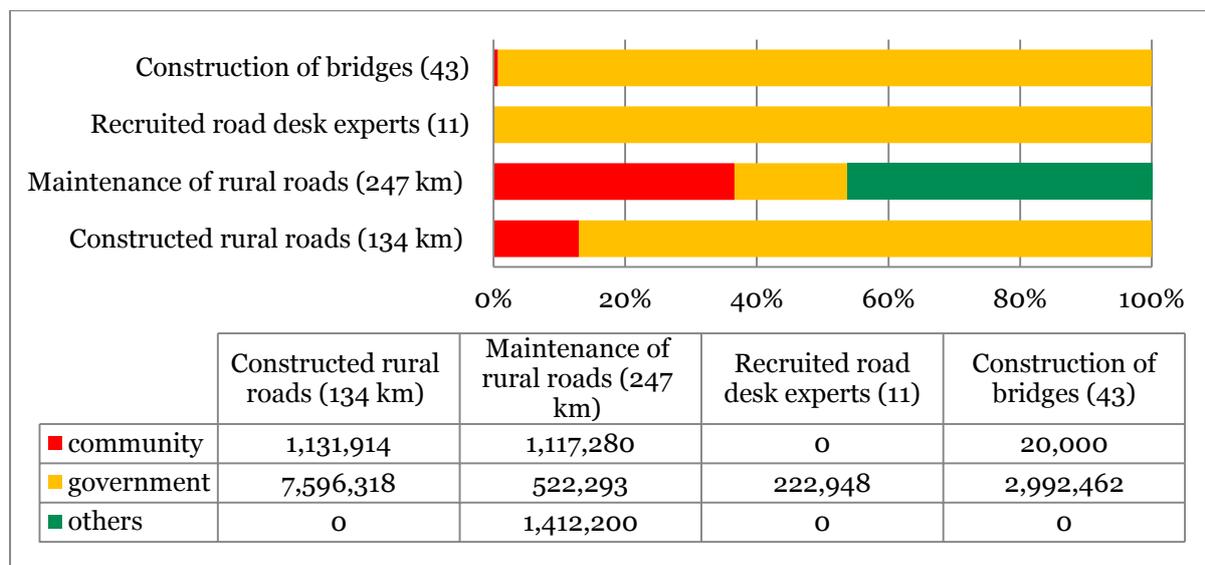


## ESAP2 – RESULTS, FINDINGS AND JOINT ACTIONS: RURAL ROADS SECTOR

The Ethiopia Social Accountability Program 2 has seen 18 social accountability implementing partners realising rural roads sector interventions in 31 woredas across Ethiopia. This summary presents the most interesting results and investments, the main findings about sector performance, and the key joint actions that were undertaken by communities, service providers and local governments.

### Service Improvement Results and Investment

Social Accountability projects facilitated joint actions among community, government and others (e.g. NGOs and private sector) that led to investments that achieved the following service improvement results by March 2015:



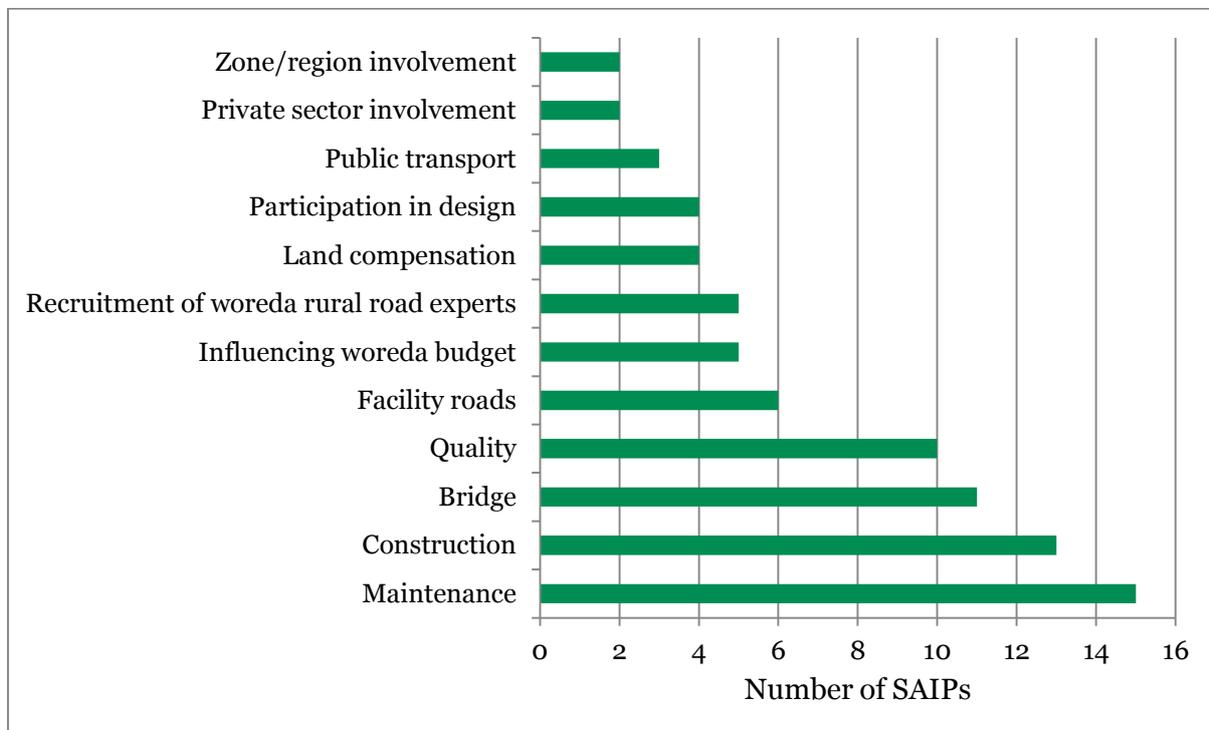
### Key findings about sector performance

- Bringing roads to appropriate standards - The social accountability projects facilitated the identification of problems with rural roads, and also contributed to solving these problems. In many cases, rural roads were maintained - sometimes after years in which such community demands were not met.
- Constructing new roads & bridges - Delays in construction and the failure to consult the local community about the conditions of the land in the rainy season, causes many undue inconveniences for communities. New rural roads and bridges were constructed as per community needs expressed during the SA process. In one case, the Woreda engineers also designed community roads – to connect villages to the rural road.
- Budget awareness and functioning of Woreda rural roads desk - SA projects found that many Woreda Roads Desks were not functioning well due to understaffing or lack of connections with zone and regional level offices. While URRAP unifies rural road interventions under one umbrella at woreda level, in practice woredas need to engage zonal and regional authorities to achieve construction objectives. Communities make a substantial contribution, and when works are poor, lack of transparency about resources at woreda level may lead them to become suspicious of leakage.

- Community participation for effective rural roads investments - SA projects showed that at woreda level “participation” is understood in a very narrow sense: contributing money and labor. SA interventions enabled participation in the design, construction and maintenance of rural roads, which solved long standing right of way issues, and more generally contributes to the long term effectiveness of rural roads investments.
- Private sector engagement - There is specific evidence that SA had a positive effect on the quality of construction and honesty of contractors hired for rural roads construction.
- Affordable public transport – In at least 3 cases, SA interventions enabled communities and woreda officials to realise more reasonable transportation costs.

### Joint actions to solve rural roads problems

Communities, service providers and local governments agreed on and implemented the following joint actions to overcome problems in the rural roads sector:



*“We asked the contractor selected by the region to submit a road project plan, and to sign an agreement at Woreda level in the presence of community representatives. Contractors used to receive payments by written recommendation of a regional expert. The community and the Woreda Roads Desk had no information: who checks the construction, how is the payment made to the contractor? In the social accountability reform agenda we agreed that the Woreda Roads Desk is responsible to check whether construction proceeds as per the standard, and writes a recommendation letter for the contractor’s payment. In addition to creating a sense of community ownership and strengthening the power of Woreda service providers, this has improved the relationship between the Woreda (where construction is conducted) and the Region (where the finance comes from).”*

Ato Gezehagn Adiraro, Anderacha Woreda Rural Road Chairman