

# CHRISTIAN RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

**Rapid Assessment Report on:**  
*The Implications of the New Charities & Societies Legislation on  
NGOS and CSOs & Possible Coping Mechanisms*

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Addis Ababa



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# Outline of the Presentation

- *INTRODUCTION*
- *OBJECTIVES*
- *METHODOLOGY*
- *SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY*
- *RESULT AND DISCUSSION*
- *SUMMARY AND COPING POINTERS*



# 1-Introduction

- *CRDA → an indigenous non-profit umbrella organization with 351 member agencies the first legally registered association of NGOs/CSOs*
- *engaged in → relief and rehabilitation developmental activities*
- *focusing on → poverty alleviation, policy advocacy, lobbying*
- *serves as → a forum for collective vision and action*



*The CSP*

*was approved on January 6, 2009*

*MOJ issued CSP*

*This legislation*

*is expected to regulate all NGOs/CSOs*

*CRDA is*

*part of NGOs/CSOs,*

*multisectoral integrated development oriented engagements*

*will be directly affected by the legislation*



*There had been made a series of discussions by CRDA:*

*-among the representatives of CSOs/NGOs*

*-Prime Minister Melese Zenawi*

*-the MOJ so as to make readjustment mechanisms*

 *the ad hoc taskforce on network CSO/NGOs*

*\*\**

*As CRDA is membership based and its members are NGOs/CSOs, any implications that the legislation might have on CSOs/NGOs will definitely reflect on the CRDA's operation.*



## 2-Objectives

The main objectives of this study were

- To identify the implications of the new Charities and Societies Proclamation on the sustainability, constituent composition and overall functioning of CRDA
- To propose possible coping mechanisms



## 3-Methodology

*both primary and secondary data were collected*

*Primary data were collected from CRDA member organizations*

*semi-structured questionnaire was administered*

*during the 2008 General Assembly of CRDA and via email*

*127 member organizations filled and returned back the questioner*



*secondary sources of data included :*

*-published and unpublished documents  
in libraries, electronic library and interne*

*-the CSP*

*SPSS for windows (version-15) was used to analyze the collected data*



## 4-Scope and Limitations of the study

*the implications of the new Charities & Societies Legislation on NGOs and CSOs & Possible Coping Mechanisms for CRDA member organizations*

*However, due to time and resource limitation this study didn't an in depth study and based on the DCSP*

*Besides, the study didn't cover the entire civil society organizations related issues.*



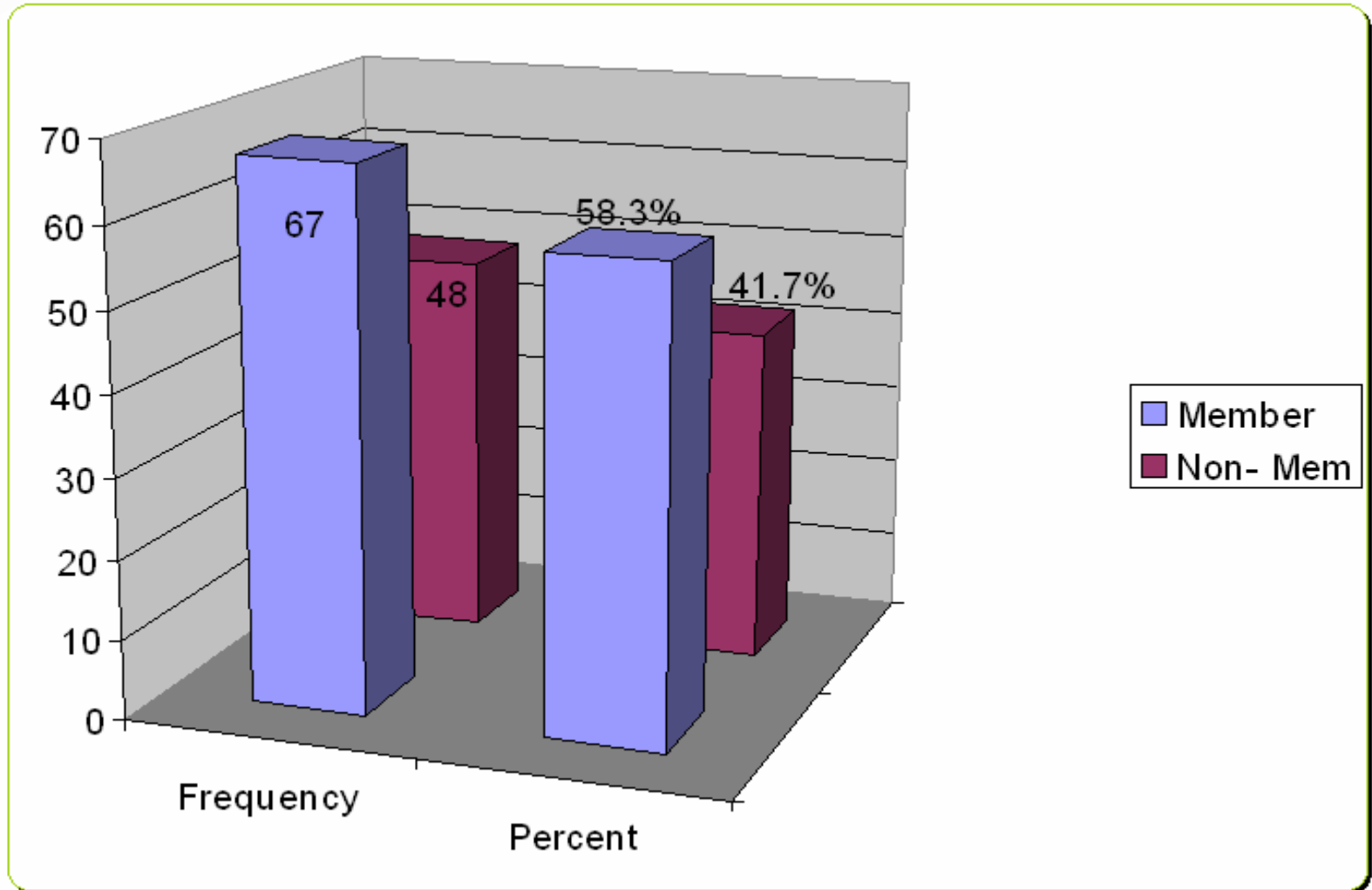
*In this study organization level data on :*

*the organizations operating regional areas → Article 3 sub.a 1(a)  
organizational engagement area (s), → Article 2 Sub A. 3  
budget and the sources of fund → Article 2 Sub A. 3  
intended new categorical entity registration of the organizations  
→ Article 15 Sub A. 1  
the implications of CSP on the organizations  
→ Article 88  
and coping mechanisms.*

*However, all CRDA member organizations didn't return  
the questionnaire; thus, the study was limited to 127 respondents*

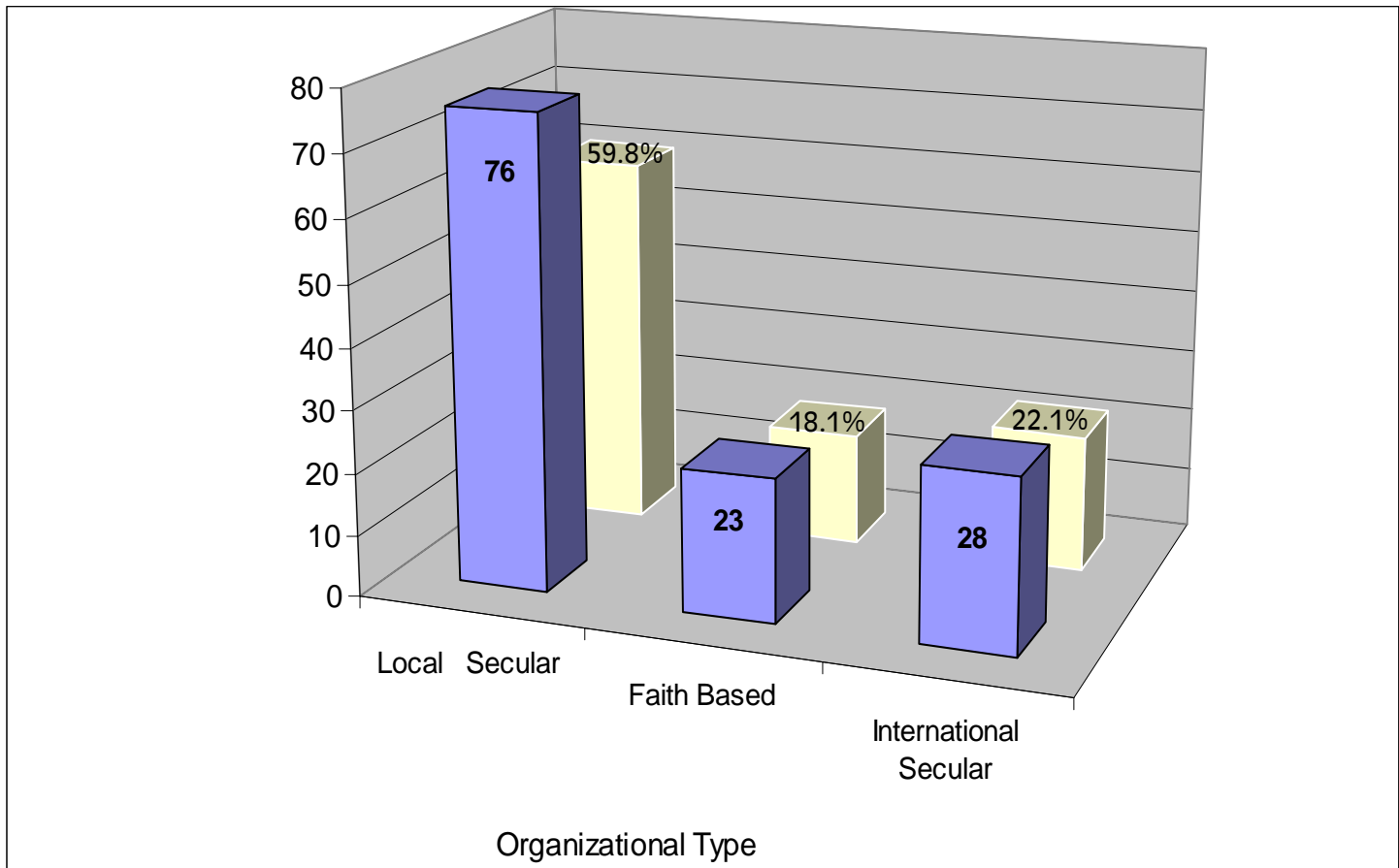


## RDF Member Org.s' Membership States with CRDA





## 5-Result and Discussion





## 6.1 Respondent Organizations Operating Regional Areas (Article 3 sub.a 1(a) )

The respondent organizations operating regional areas

Attributes	Number of Organizations	Percentage of Orgs.
One	38	29.92
Three	27	21.26
Two	25	19.69
More than Five	19	14.96
Four	12	9.45
Five	6	4.72
<b>Total</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>100</b>



## *6.2 Organizational Engagement area(s), Budget and the Sources of Fund*

See Table 2: The respondent organizations engagement area(s)

**(Article 2 Sub A. 3)**

The organizational engagement area	The organization Engagement	
	yes	No
	Percentage of Orgs.	Percentage of Orgs.
Health	64.5	36.3
Education	58.1	41.9
Capacity building	48.4	51.6
Community empowerment	46	54
Water and Sanitation	45.2	54.8
Children development	45.2	54.8
Agriculture (crop production, animal husbandry, irrigation, watershed mng't)	38.7	63.3
Gender and development	34.7	65.3
Cooperatives promotion	25.8	74.2
Promotion of equality of gender	25	75
Micro-finance	24.2	75.8
Emergency relief	23.4	76.6
Promotion of rights of the children	20.2	79.8
Support to people with physical disabilities	17.7	82.3
Promotion of good governance	12.1	87.9
Productive safety net	9.7	90.3
Housing development	9.7	90.3
Promotion of rights of the disabled	8.9	91.1
Advancement of human and democratic rights	8.9	91.1
Promotion of conflict resolution and reconciliation	5.6	94.4
Promotion of equality of religion	4.8	95.2

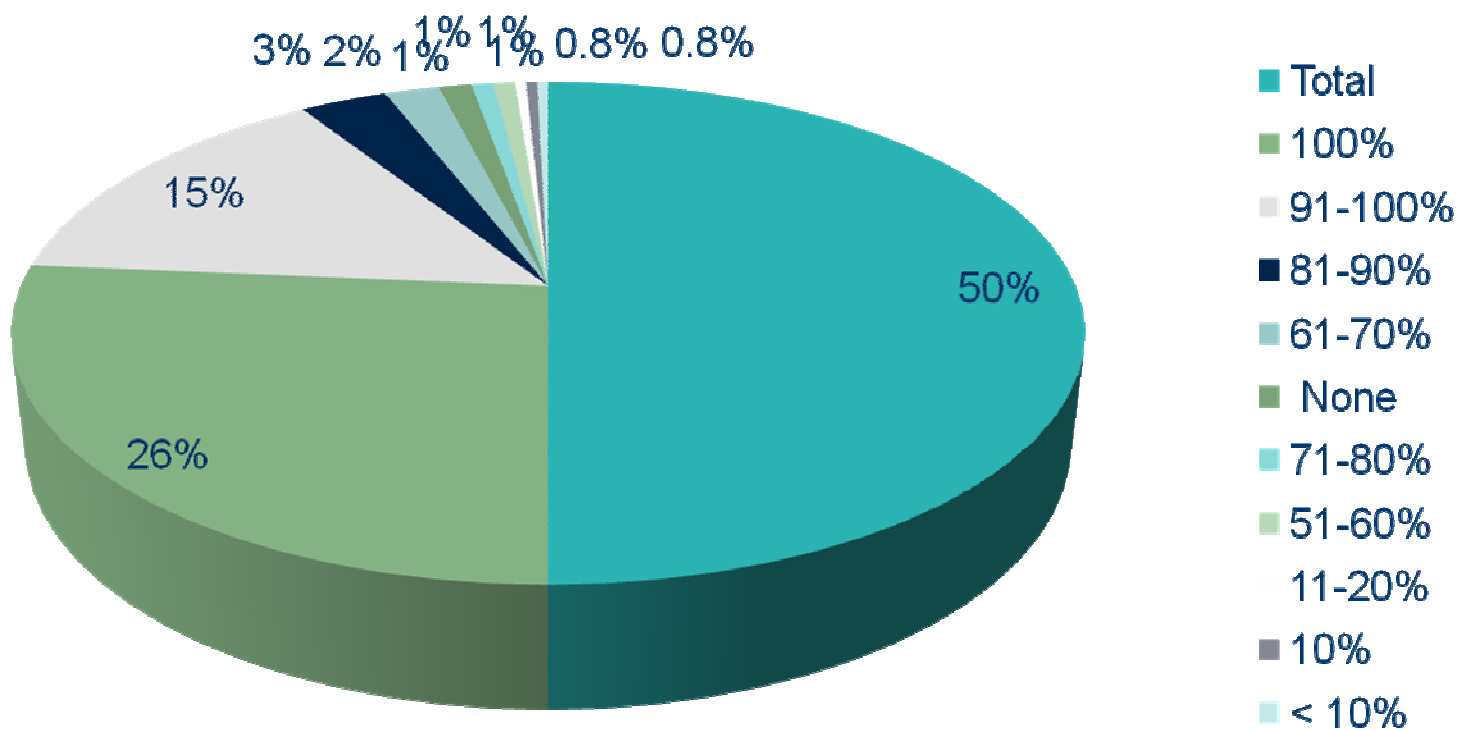


Table 3: Organizations foreign country sources of fund (**Article 2 Sub A. 3**)

Attributes	Number of Organizations	Percentage of Orgs
100%	67	52.76
91-100%	37	29.13
81-90%	8	6.30
61-70%	5	3.94
None	3	2.36
71-80%	2	1.57
51-60%	2	1.57
11-20%	1	0.79
10%	1	0.79
< 10%	1	0.79
Total	127	100



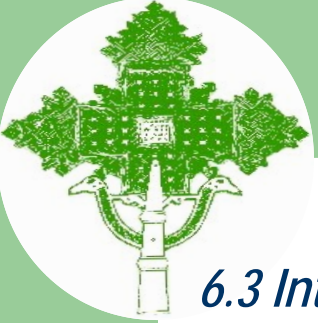
Figure 2: The respondent organizations external source of fund



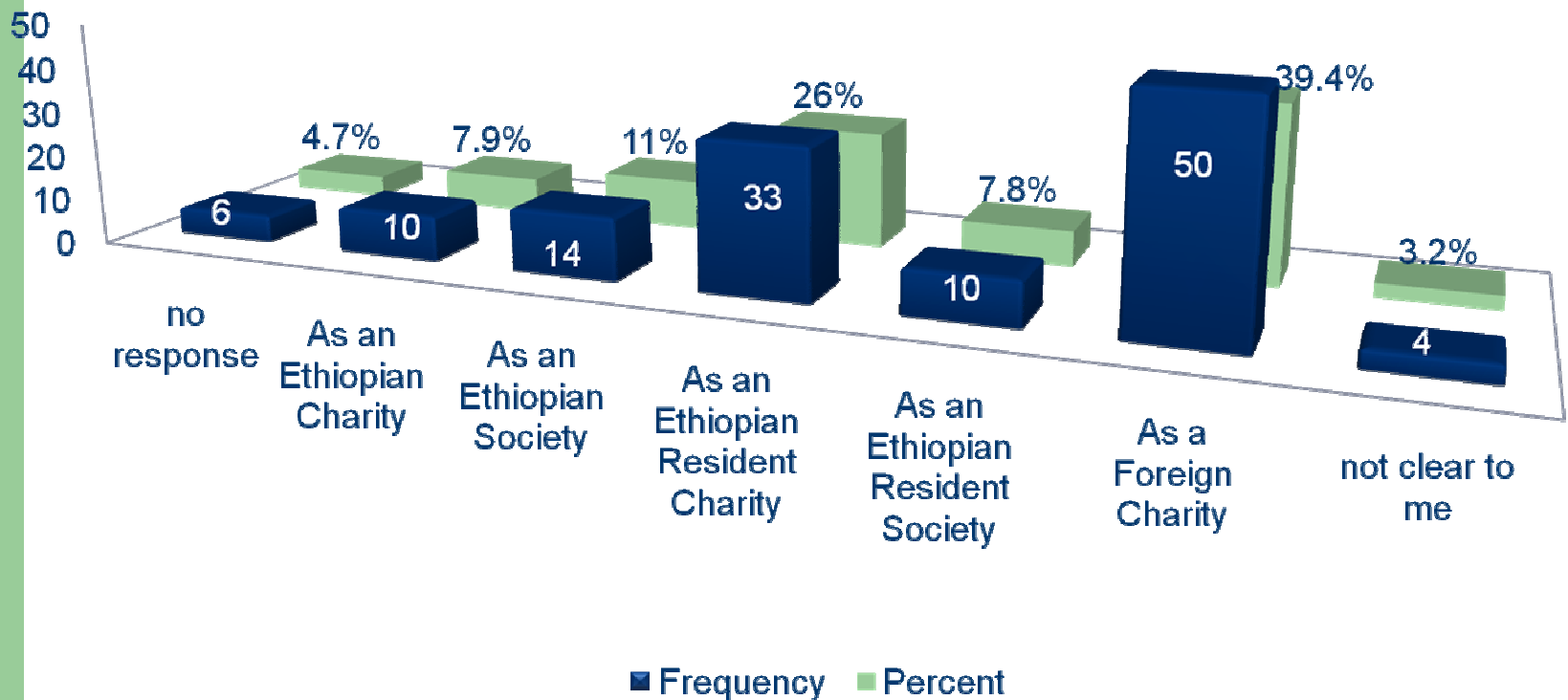
Source: The survey data

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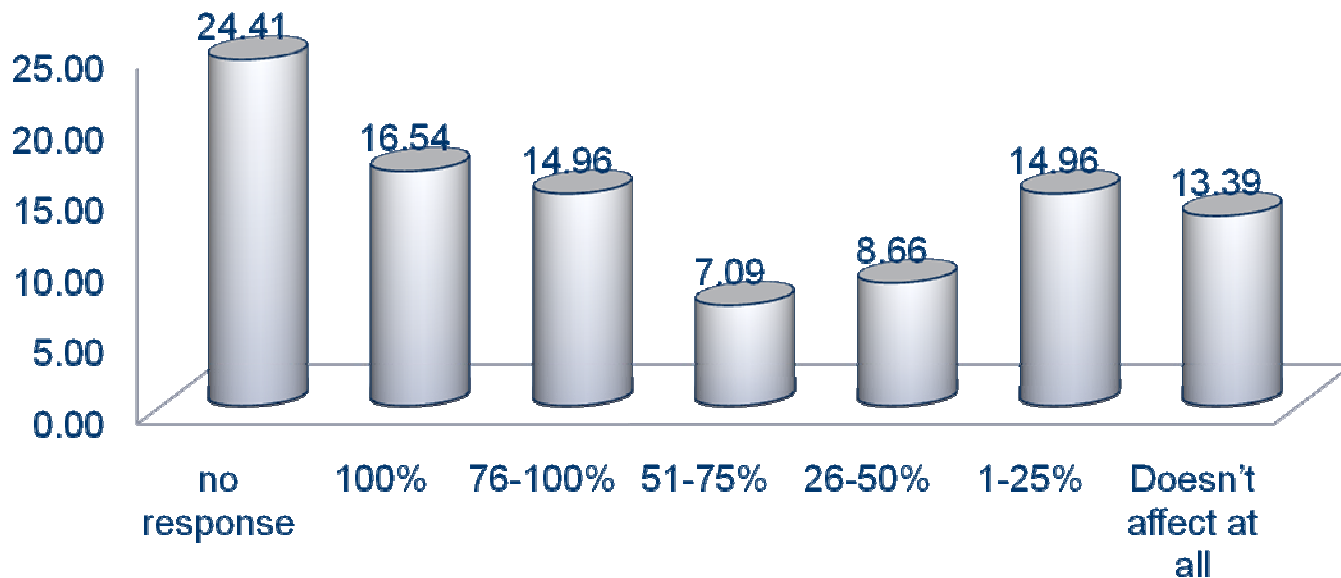
### 6.3 Intended new categorical entity registration of the organizations (Article 15 Sub A. 1)





## 6.4 The Implications of CSP on the local secular organizations (Article 88 => 70/30)

Program/project that might be affected due to the legislation in Percentages





## 6.5 The Respondent Organizations Planned Coping Mechanisms

Attributes	Number of Orgs	Percentage of Orgs
No response	56	44.09
Don't have any copying mechanisms	16	12.60
Working with new strategy	11	8.66
Moblize and generet resources from the local	8	6.30
Limit to few particular dev't activites	7	5.51
Intend to change our program	5	3.94
We are not affected at present	4	3.15
Need the revision of the law in relation to social and economic contributions of CSOs	2	1.57
Shift to service delivery Approach	2	1.57
Revisit our strategic plan	2	1.57
Working with GOs at all level	2	1.57
Expecting from CRDA	2	1.57
Ready to regester as a foreigner or as an ethiopian	1	0.79



The sampled local secular organizations suggested the following issues for CRDA's further activity on the subject of CSP, these were,

- Lobby and further discussions with the relevant government bodies,
- Help member organizations in local fund raising and income generation activities
- Work together with member organizations so as to search an alternative solutions



## *I – Conclusions and recommendations*

- **Member organizations should make important evaluation and revisiting their establishment document, area of intervention, and make readjustment on their mandate in accordance with the new proclamation and should conduct non prohibited activities such as policy analysis and research, engage in participatory action research, sectoral advocacy etc.**
- **Member organizations better to follow service delivery approach**
- **Member organizations better to give special attention on the capacity development issues and develop specific strategies in collaboration with relevant stakeholders and partners**



- Member organizations better to give emphasize on current issues such as HIV/AIDS, climate change and adaptation of agriculture related issues
- Member organizations should be able to mobilize and generate resources from the local sources
- Member organizations should clearly understand and internalize the new charity categories so as to re-register in one of the new categories



## *II - As a secretariat :*

- Be wise and go for series of further discussion and lobbying with the agency so as to strengthening and create harmonic relationship among all stockholders, government bodies, partners and foreign donors
- Lobby with relevant government bodies so that the implementation of the new proclamation can be unproblematic



- Help member organizations in local fund raising and income generation activities as per the legislation
- Better to establish ad hoc task force that can develop better copying mechanisms and specific strategies in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, partners and foreign donors



### *III - From the international experience point of view:*

➤ Discuss with other countries umbrella organizations and share their experience. As CSOs/NGOs of other countries like Russia, India and Zimbabwe, CRDA should apply user-friendly and diplomatic languages as much as possible during lobbying and discussion with the relevant government bodies so that it can be easily convince the relevant government bodies.



➤As Namibia did, CRDA better to establish development of a partnership policy between the government and CSOs/NGOs so that there might be a room for review of the current laws and regulations.



➤ CRDA needs to harmonize and consolidate existing laws regulating civic organizations and should play an important role for the formulation of a transparent registration process, enhance transparency and accountability, and improve coordination among its member organizations.



➤ In most instances, it is not the legislation itself that is causing the greatest difficulties but actually the implementation of the legislation. Thus, CRDA should necessity to convince and make discussion of alternatives with the Agency.



➤ There is the need for certain specific standards for the laws dealing with supervision and monitoring of NGO activity through audits, management, reporting requirements and other disclosure. Thus CRDA should play an important role so as to make simple and easy to adhere the legislation.





**THANK YOU**