

**Assessment of Civil Society  
Contributions  
to the WATSAN Sector in  
Ethiopia  
[2002 – 2006]**

February, 2008

# Topics to be Covered

- 1 Background and Introduction
- 2 CSO WATSAN Contributions
- 3 Views on CSO WATSAN Operations
- 4 Key Issues and Recommendations

# Background

- Civil society organisation (CSO) in the context of this study refers to international and indigenous NGOs, CBOs and professional associations organized and operating at federal and regional levels.
- The CRDA WWG had identified the need for an assessment to be carried out on the contributions of the civil society **in the WATSAN Sector** in Ethiopia

# Objectives of the Study/Assessment

- To provide an updated and common understanding of civil society contributions to the WATSAN Sector (over 2002-06).
- In addition, the assessment was expected to analyze
  - the strengths and weaknesses of civil society involvement in the sector,
  - challenges to greater civil society effective participation in the sector
  - as well as opportunities for civil society in the current WATSAN Sector environment
- The assessment was also expected to put forward a set of recommendations that can help strengthen contributions of CSOs to the WATSAN Sector.

# Methodology for the Study

1. Documents Review
2. Secondary Data Collection
3. Conventional Survey Method/Questionnaires
4. Discussions with selected CSOs and GOs

## Challenges:

- Identification and physical Location of WATSAN CSOs
- Poor cooperation to provide data by some CSOs and GOs
- Poor documentation of CSO work/contributions
- The challenges had limited the number of CSOs covered by the study

# Regions, CSOs and GOs Covered by the Study

- All but three regions covered
  - Gambella: due to limited contribution and resources
  - Harari: No reported region based CSO operating in the WATSAN sector
  - AA: Data not available from AA based WATSAN CSOs
- 49 CSO offices covered
  - 27 indigenous and 22 international
  - 21 federal (AA) and 28 region based
  - 48 NGOs and 1 CBO
- 964 regular staff employed by the CSOs covered
  - 60% technical and 40% admin. and support
  - 49% dip. and above, and 25% 1<sup>st</sup> degree and above
- There were also 17 WATSAN related regional and federal GOs covered

# CSO WATSAN Contributions

## Facilities Built and Beneficiaries

- 267 projects under implementation in 2002-06
  - Of these 252 were completed by 2006
- 4,688 w. s. schemes built by the 267 projects
  - >80% reported operating at the time of the study
  - 52% pumped
  - 71% hand dug wells and springs
  - Surface water development least in number
- 486 existing water supply schemes maintained, rehabilitated and/or expanded
- 44,567 HH latrines built for demonstration purposes
- About 4 million people reported to have benefited from completed projects
  - This constitutes about 5.3% of the 2006 Eth. pop. 7

# CSO WATSAN Expenditure, [2002-06]

- **Total expenditure**
  - Birr 286,017,771 [About USD 34 million]
  - Birr 277,816,509 on new projects
  - Birr 8,201,262 on maintenance, rehabilitation and expansion of existing schemes
- **Additional contributions**
  - 5% of project budget by beneficiary communities
  - 1% by partner GOs
  - Mostly in-kind form
- **Other forms of contribution:** Innovation, advocacy, networking, training, research

# CSO Five Years Project Plans

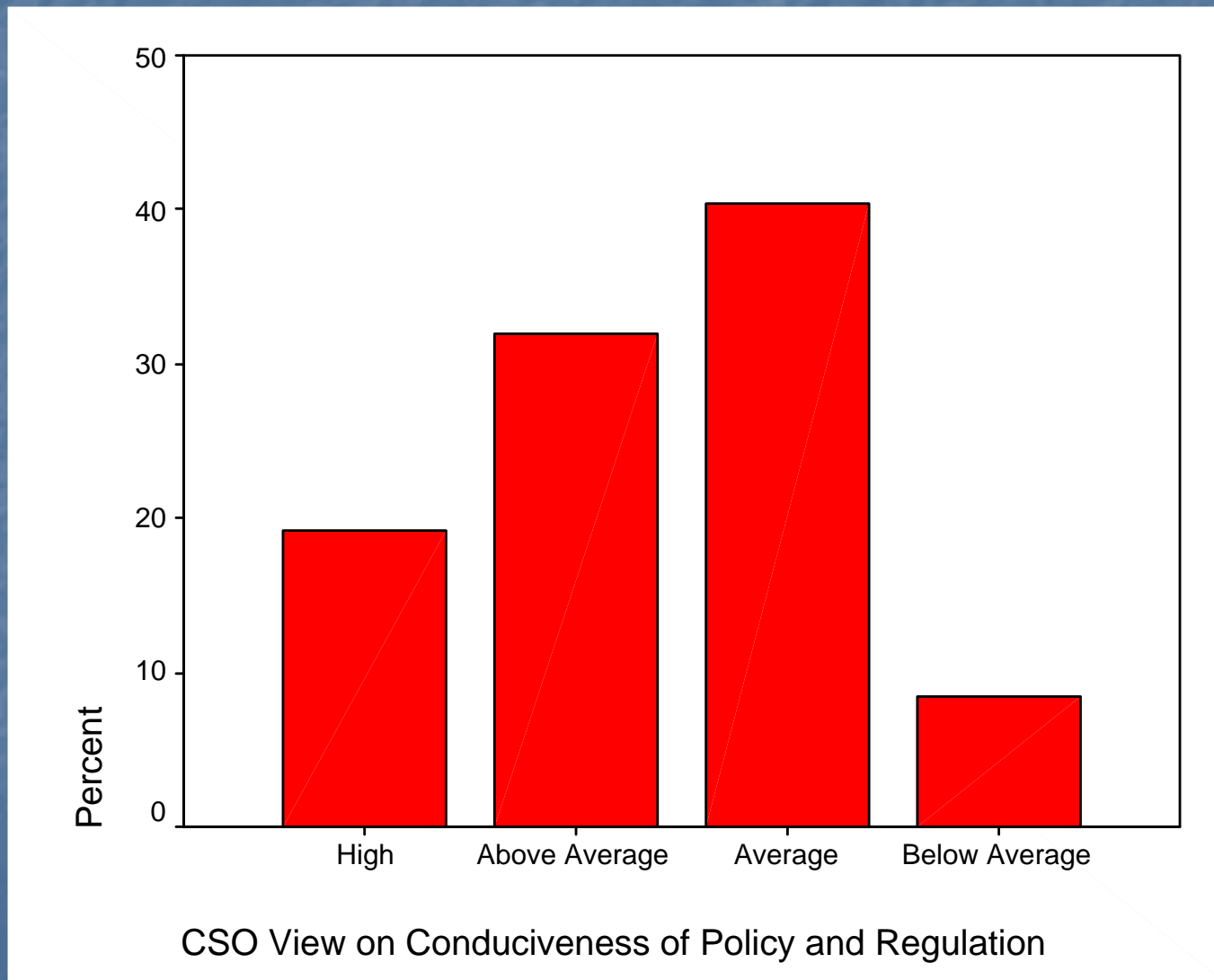
Item	Rural	Urban	Total
No. of Proj.	443	71	518
Budget (‘000 Birr)	452,965	54,030	585,009

-CSO operations generally focus on rural communities

-Will CSOs/NGOs be able to meet the expectations of the UAP? Birr 1 billion over 7 years?

-A difficult question to answer, but the indications are that they have to struggle both in FR, and in the planning & implementation of increasingly remote projects.

# CSO View on Conduciveness of Policy and Regulation



## CSO Views on Conduciveness of Policy and Regulation

- WATSAN policies considered conducive
  - Also considered as an opportunity
- Reservations
  - Nearly no participation during policy formulation
  - UAP considered very ambitious
  - UAP did not treat RWH adequately
  - Policies need to support the private sector better
  - Limited knowledge of policies, strategies, legislations/regulations, plans/programs both by GO and NGO staff
    - All not well disseminated
    - Need for orientation/training of both CSO & GO staff

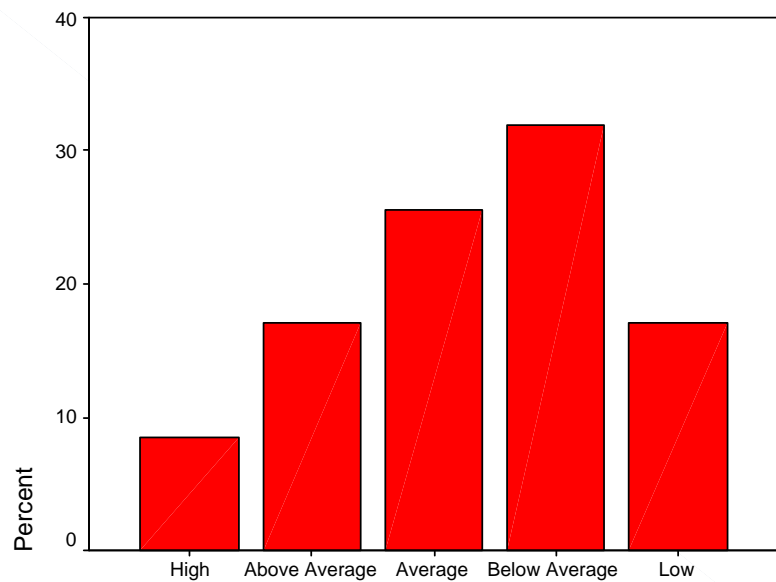
# CSO Views on GO Support to WATSAN CSOS

- Reasonable level of support and cooperation
  - Improving from time to time
  - There is however regional variation
- Discussions with CSOs & GOs show that
  - GOs collaborate with CSOs mainly through secondment of staff to their projects.
  - project agreements take long and bureaucratic processes for appraisal and approval
  - Safety net project payments adversely affected community participation and free labour contribution

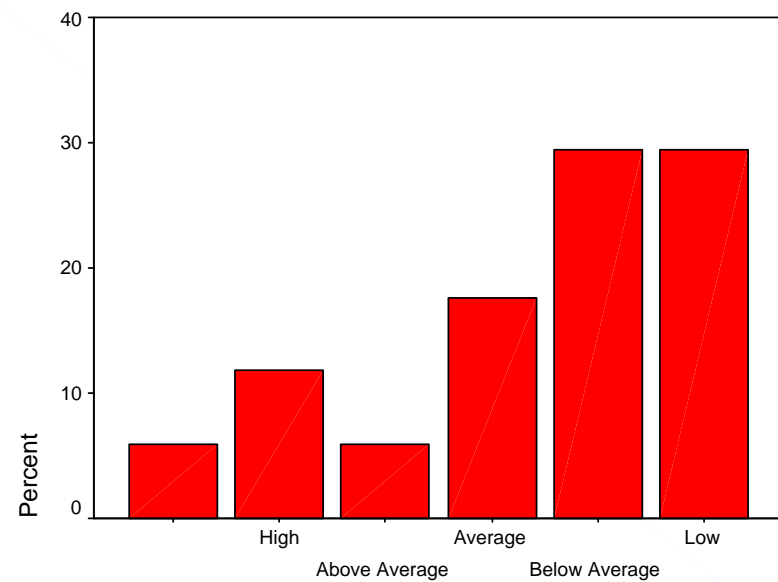
# Views on CSO Coordination and Collaboration with Government

- CSO rating average and above
- GO rating mixed, implying regional variation
- GOs reported
  - Poor and delayed reporting by CSOs
  - Deteriorating communication once project agreements are signed

# Views on Coordination among/within CSOs



CSO View on Coordination Among CSOs



GO View on Coordination Among CSOs

# Views on Coordination within CSO & with donors

- Overall CSO and GO view on coordination within CSO, including that of federal based CSOs, is not very encouraging
- Coordination and collaboration with GOs is better than that existing within the CSOs themselves.
- This has resulted in duplication and sometimes even conflicting situations, and in differing project approaches and strategies.
- The study has found this issue needs immediate attention by the CSOs themselves.
- The relative rating also indicates that CSOs have to do more in respect of strengthening their relations with international funding partners and vice versa

# Recommendations

- The study had confirmed that CSOs had made a significant and commendable contribution to WATSAN in Ethiopia
- The recommendations given here only focus on those areas that need improvement

## M&E of CSO Contribution to WATSAN

- CSO contribution to development in general and to the WATSAN sector in particular have not been reasonably and regularly assessed and documented, with an entity assuming the responsibility, and an M&E and data base system put in place.
- The study had reaffirmed that data availability and other survey related problems have been constraining such efforts.
- It is therefore important that the WATAN CSO sector assumes a joint responsibility for the purpose.
  - In this regard, the CRDA Water Working group (WWG) is considered to be an ideal existing forum to consider the proposal provided here, and to assume/facilitate the recommended joint responsibility.

# Recommendations

## Networking and Coordination

- One of the main reported strengths of CSOs is the participatory nature of their work
- But networking and coordination within CSOs was the most lacking and most expressed weakness.
- Again here, the CRDA WWG is considered to be best positioned to facilitate WATSAN CSO networking and coordination.
- The CRDA WWG is also recommended to play additional coordination/facilitation roles in
  - WATSAN CSO capacity building/training, advocacy, fundraising and research activities.

# Recommendations

## Integration within WATSAN and with other Sectors

- The study shows that CSOs generally integrate water supply with sanitation and hygiene
  - However the integration needs to be improved further.
  - In compliance with the Hygiene and Sanitation Protocol issued by MoH, communities need to be encouraged to build their own latrine facilities (without subsidies).
  - In relation with this, it would be useful to adopt the “total sanitation” approach and to promote the simpler, cheaper and more sustainable traditional household pit latrines.
- WATSAN should further be integrated with rural/community roads to address the increasingly remote rural operations;
  - and also with a number of other cross cutting issues to make the interventions more holistic.

# Recommendations:

## Fund Raising and Project Financing

- CSOs play a considerable role in fundraising, financing and implementing WATSAN projects
  - Difficulty in raising funds has been reported to be one of the main threats/challenges faced by CSOs - particularly indigenous NGOs.
  - The CRDA WWG is considered to be able to assist individual CSOs in this respect.
  - Additional advocacy is needed (with GOs and donors) to provide more financial support to indigenous WATSAN CSOs.
- Replacing the existing mainly piecemeal project planning/funding approach by an area based program approach where a number of interrelated components are holistically integrated, and a package of coherent projects (reinforcing one another) are planned and implemented over a longer period of time is strongly recommended.
  - In this regard the coordination/creation of consortiums of partner donors (of each individual CSO) would be useful, as this allows better coordination of efforts over extended projects' life spans for a more effective and sustained work.

# Recommendations

## Advocacy

- Many CSOs are known to have been engaged in advocacy and related activities
- CSO WATSAN advocacy however was reported to be fragmented and unilateral, limiting the extent of its efficiency, coherence and effectiveness.
- CSOs would therefore need to coordinate their efforts (federal to woreda levels) in this respect.
- The CRDA WWG is best positioned to play a vital coordination/facilitation role in this regard.

# Recommendations

## CSO and GO Relations

- Historically, there has been a sense of mistrust between CSOs and GOs
- The present study has however revealed that relations are improving between WATSAN CSOs and GOs.
- Nevertheless, it would be necessary to note that the overall climate is not yet to the full satisfaction of both sides
- There are still measures that need to be taken by both sides to build more confidence and trust.
  - The creation of forums (federal to woreda) to discuss and resolve issues hindering healthier GO-CSO relationship would be helpful.
  - It would be useful to note that improvement of relations is a process and not a fortnight project
  - It would also be necessary to bear in mind that there is no other way out (if GOs & WATSAN CSOs are sought to work together effectively) apart from improving relations, and enhancing better coordination and collaboration.