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% 1st 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.
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of Proj.</td>
<td>443</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>518</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget (‘000 Birr)</td>
<td>452,965</td>
<td>54,030</td>
<td>585,009</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 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

The graph shows the distribution of CSO views on the conduciveness of policy and regulation, categorized into four levels: High, Above Average, Average, and Below Average. The percentages are as follows:

- High: 0%
- Above Average: 10%
- Average: 40%
- Below Average: 50%
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.
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 consortia 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.