The Role of Civil Society Organizations in Poverty Reduction and Development Promotion in the Case Oromia Region of West Shoa Zone

Zenebe Gilo Gayesa

Master of Arts (Public Administration)

Indira Gandhi National Open University

National Open University

November, 2017

The Role of Civil Society Organizations in Poverty Reduction and Development Promotion in the Case Oromia Region of West Shoa Zone

Zenebe Gilo Gayesa

Enrolment No: ID1117367

Supervised by

Dr. Elias Birhanu

Master of Arts (Public Administrations)

Indira Gandhi National Open University

National Open University

November, 2017

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the dissertation entitled THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN POVERTY REDUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT PROMOTION IN THE CASE OROMIA REGION OF WEST SHOA ZONE submitted by me for the partial fulfillment of the MPA to Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi is my own original work and has not been submitted earlier either to IGNOU or to any other institutions for the fulfillment of the requirement for any other program of study. I also declare that no chapter of this manuscript in the whole or in part is listed and incorporated in this report from any earlier work done by me or others.

Place: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Date: November, 2017

Signature _____

Enrolment No: ID: ID1117367

Name: Zenebe Gilo Gayesa

Address: Addis Ababa

CERTIFICATE BY THE ACADEMIC SUPERVISOR

Certificate

Certified that the Dissertation entitled The Role of Civil Society Organizations in Poverty Reduction and Development Promotion in The Case Oromia Region of West ShoaZone submitted by Zenebe Gilo Gayesa is his own work and has been done under my supervision. It is recommended that this dissertation be placed before the examiner for evaluation

(Signature of the Academic Supervisor)

Name: Dr. Elias Birhanu

Study Center:Saint Mary's University

Study Center Code: 8105

Regional Center: 34

Date: November 2017

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is a great pleasure to me to thank the many people who, in different ways, have supported me and contributed to the process of writing this paper. Primarily, I would like to thank my advisor, Dr. EliasBirhanu for all the wise and insightful comments, support and direction he gave me. Secondly, I would like to thank and acknowledge all the employees of Civil Society /NGO/ and Concern Ethiopia for their accommodation. Lastly, I acknowledge all my families my wife Dagittu Dinsa my children Nuf, Yerosan Zenebe Baby Dagitu and friends who have been encouraging me on regular basis and given me inspiration throughout the process of writing this thesis.

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to investigate the impact of the different programs and projects planned and executed by both civil society /NGO/ and Concern Oromia in the wellbeing of the beneficiaries in particular and the contribution they made to the poverty reduction efforts of the country. In light of this, secondary data collected from different documents with data collected through questionnaire administered and interview conducted were used to make the paper sound. Simple random sampling design was employed to select the sample respondents from the total population. The collected data has been analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively using statements, tables, figures and percentage. The study result shows that the poverty reduction programs executed by both organizations have brought significant change in the poverty status of the program beneficiaries. The researcher concludes that there is immense contribution made by civil society /NGO/ and Concern Oromia in the poverty reduction efforts of the country. Moreover, this paper highlights the major problems both organizations have faced in their program implementation period.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AAI-E	Action Aid Ethiopia
AOED	Agriculture and Environment Cooperation Division
BoFED	Bureau of Finance and Economic Development
CDF	Comprehensive Development Framework
CRDA	Christian Relief and Development Association
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DPPC	Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission
EPRDF	Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Democratic Front
ERC	Ethiopian Resident Charity
FC	Foreign Charity
GDI	Gender-related Development Index
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GBVMG	Gender Based Violence Monitoring Group
GO	Governmental Organization
GOE	Government of Ethiopia
HDI	Human Development Index
HPI	Human Poverty Index
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MoFED	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
NBE	National Bank of Ethiopia
NGO	Non-governmental Organizations
OLF	Oromo Liberation Front
OVC	Other Vulnerable Children's
PANE	Poverty Action Network in Ethiopia
PASDEP	Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
SACCs (A)	Saving and Credit Cooperatives (Associations)
SAP	Structural Adjustment Program
SDPRP	Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Program
TLH	Timret Le Hiwot
TPLF	Tigrayan People's Liberation Front
UN	United Nations
WDR	World Development Report

TABLE OF CONTENT

LIST OF TABLES

CHAPTER 1

1.1. Introduction

In this preliminary chapter issues such as the background to the study, statement of the problem, objectives, study areas , methods of data collection, methods of analysis, significance of the study, and organization of the paper are discussed briefly.

1.2. Background to the Study

In Ethiopia, since the imperial regime, despite efforts of governments and the market sector, poverty has been increasing to an alarming and unbearable state. In this respect, the World Bank (1992:1) has estimated that about half of the population lives in poverty. The chronically poor make up about 60 percent of the total poor in the country. Seven years after this report, the official Ethiopian Government report indicated that, "In Ethiopia, 30% of the population was living in absolute poverty" (MEDAC, 2010). In the face of this increasing state of poverty Ethiopian Governments in power have been reporting the growth or development of the economy. But researchers recently warned that, if the trend of poverty in the country continues unabated, it may eventually threaten the very survival of the country itself. In this respect, Aklilu and Dessalegn (2000:8) have stated that, We believe that poverty, with all its attendant ills, is the most pressing problem facing this country, and what is therefore urgently required is a sound and integrated poverty reduction strategy with a firm and abiding commitment by the government to ensure its successful implementation. If we fail to address this deep rooted problem, and poverty continue to grow through society, as we believe it is doing at present, it may lead to profound social dislocation and unrest, and may eventually threaten the survival of the country itself.

During of the current government, though significant progress has been reported due to reforms made, the most important goal of sustainable growth and of reducing poverty has not been achieved (Abrar and Samira, 1999:24). In this connection, Ato Mekonen Manyazewal, former Vice Minister of MEDaC, and Ato Abebe Shimelis have concluded that economic growth does not necessarily lead to poverty reduction as the Ethiopian data might show (Ethiopia Economic Association, 2008). In a similar vein, Seitz (1995:9-21) has demonstrated that neither the government nor the market alone can be relied on to help citizens to alleviate their poverty and

to achieve development. Also, in the case of Africa Joycox (in Serageldin etal. 1994:4) has noted that though economic growth is necessary it is not sufficient to bring about improvements in human well-being.

As the result, the emerging alternative is a civil society approach, according to this approach civil society organizations / NGOs, etc. can mobilize local initiatives and resources in order to obtain reliable, fair, balanced and sustainable poverty alleviation, change and development. In line with this framework, the purpose of this research is to explore and examine isolated and joint efforts of civil society organizations in collaboration with governmental and nongovernmental organizations in Oromia west Shoa zone. In this respect, since the starting point should be understanding the indigenous civil society, an attempt has been made to study their historical development, experience and current status in the overall context, and eventually their contributions and problems in poverty reduction, change and development.

1.3. Statement of the problem

The civil society approach (Seitz, 1995:18) point out that while it may be promising, it can be insignificant compared to the resources of the state and the market. For instance, even the admirable Grameen Bank of Bangladesh provides only about 0.1 percent of the credit in the country. On the other hand, while the lives of millions of the people throughout the world have been "transformed" by successful projects of NGOs, it was observed that beneficiaries still remain poor. Also, efforts at the grassroots level, which was directed toward community managed economic development, often fail due to various internal and external problems.

Besides, hostile and oppressive political and economic powers can block the efforts of civil society organizations. As far as the status of civil society in the African context is concerned, Teketel (1999:4) has noted that, it was often argued that civil society in Africa is a weak and highly fragile construct, partly due to co-optation and repression by authoritarian regimes and partly because of the general socio-economic underdevelopment of the continent. Obviously, not only CSOs but also government of developing countries are heavily dependent on external funding for their development or other programs and activities. This context of serious external dependence on donor funding affects not only the sustainability of CSOs, but also their very existence, autonomy and self-definition is under-question. As a result, through capacity-building

and various supports and inputs, donors reproduce and create their own images, priorities, structures and shapes (Howell, 2000:17).

A very high level of aid dependency makes CSOs of poor developing countries seriously vulnerable. Alan Fowler has indicated that, according to the insiders' estimates 95% of NGOs will collapse if aid is stopped. This fact clearly indicates the gravity of the problem. The problem is not limited to financial and material dependency, but also there is perhaps a serious problem of intellectual dependency. The direct impact of lack of resources of NGOs and CSOs, and their dependency on foreign aid has been among very debilitating factors. Particularly poverty reduction and sustainable development efforts have been seriously hampered.

Regarding the limitations of NGOs in poverty alleviation efforts, Riddel and Robinson (1995:4) have asserted that, in general while NGO projects reach poor people, they tend not to reach down to the very poorest. Furthermore, as NGO projects tend to be small scale, the total number assisted are also small. It is also rare for NGO projects to be financially sufficient. At times too, the NGO's concern to keep costs down to the minimum has meant that the level and quality of the benefits have been adversely affected.

Since the 1960s the involvement of indigenous civil society in poverty alleviation or social welfare activities and sustainable community development efforts have exhibited complex and perplexing problems. In this regard Kebebew (1978:23-24) has noted that, civil society have administrative problems which can be complex at times. Embezzlement, non-execution of official decisions, power struggle among the leadership, mishandling of civil society property, etc, could be identified as some of the problems. There are also some members who make attempts to utilize the benefits of indigenous civil society when they are not eligible for such services.

Furthermore, Kebebew has added that numerous institutional and structural limitations have hampered positive contributions of indigenous civil society in development programs. In this regard Ottaway (1976:38) has commented on the problems of indigenous civil society in their urban development endeavors in the 1970s as follows, In the first place, in the early 1970s indigenous civil society like Eddirs were only beginning the transition from funeral societies to agencies of development. They lacked experience in carrying out Development projects, and

they were short of funds. The idea of mobilizing the resources of the community to solve its own problems was accepted in theory, but the resource to do it in practice were scant. In the second place, the effectiveness of indigenous, was severely limited by the vested interests of both within and outside organizations.

The role and importance of local community based voluntary associations such as Iddirs and their studies in development have been underlined by different authors. In this regard, Fowler (1992:39-40) have asserted that, "community based voluntary organizations (CBOs) with traditional roots are more effective in realizing sustainable development." And ". . . to work with traditional CBOs would be worth a detailed study of its own". Similarly, Gardner and Lewis (1996:94) have argued that "Projects are often most successful when they work through preexisting social structures and institutions." In the case of Ethiopia, Tegegn (2000:50) has underlined the total absence of research in the area in the following manner. Although these local NGOs (i.e. Iddirs) could serve as important intermediaries in development, almost no effort has been made both by the Ethiopian government, national and international NGOs on how to tap their grassroots, voluntary and participatory potentials for development at the local level. Their potential roles in the overall political and economic decision making process and in creating partnership with national and international NGOs have not been recognized with sufficient consciousness and seriousness.

1.4. Objectives

1.4.1. Main Objectives

The main objectives of the study is exhaustive assessment of the role of CSOs/NGOs to the development effort of the country in addressing the social and economic problems of the marginalized sections of the population; and illustration of geographic and sectorial spread of programmers and size of the resource outlay.

1.4.2. Specific objectives

To conduct an assessment of the role of CSOs/NGOs to the development effort of the country

To document the magnitude of CSO/NGO's role in addressing the social and economic problems of the marginalized sections of the population

To compile the distribution of CSO/NGO programs/projects across the zone, disaggregated into sect oral programs/projects, beneficiaries, and the corresponding budgets allocated for undertaking these programs/projects

To examine the efficiency and effectiveness of civil society organization.

To investigate the problem and prospects of civil society organizations in Oromia.

1.5. Research Questions

The following questions are from the objective of the study with analysis of review literature for data collection and analysis at all.

1. What are the current number of diversity of CVOs/NGOs in Oromia state?
2. Is there internal networking between CVOS/NGOS and interaction with government?
3. What are the problems and prospects of civil society organization toward promotion of democracy, good governance and development?
4. How civil society/NGOS and government coordinate with each other?
5. What are the contribution of CVOs/Ngo socio-economic sector?
6. Is there ethics and code of conduct of NGO?
7. The contribution of NGO in capacity building?
8. What are Efficiency and effectiveness of civil society organization in the region

1.6. Research Area

Research is carried out Oromia regional state of west Shoa zone.

1.6.1. Oromia State

The settlement of the Oromo people covers a large area of the country. In the West and South, it stretches into Kenya and the Sudan, in the East into Somalia and Djibouti, internally it goes North up to Raya. Though it was always a cause of dispute, local resources being the main grounds, attempts were made to fix the boundaries by the House of Federation and in Article 2/1 of the Oromia State Revised Constitution of 2001. While this state is the most populous state with 27,158,471 (37% of the total population) the land area is also the largest in the country covering 353, 632 square kilometer (32% of the total area of the country). Afaan Oromo, Oromiffa(a) (and sometimes in other languages by variant spellings of these names; Oromic,

Afan Oromo, etc.), is an Afro-Asiatic language. It is the most widely spoken tongue in the family's Cushitic branch, as presently written with Latin characters, is an official state language. Afaan Oromo is spoken by some 83.5% of the people who live in the state (CSA, 2007). Currently the state has a revised constitution enforced by Proclamation No. 46/2001. The previous constitution which was proclaimed on 22 June 1995 was revised to make the separation of power and accountability of the state organs clear and enable them to render effective services. This is the document that delivered the essence and practices of decentralization. There are 304 districts and towns that have the status of district (268 and 36 respectively) and 6,500 gandas as of mid 2011. But these figures always fluctuate as the demand for the creation of new districts and the enforcement for a merger and split of gandas is always there (Oromia, 2007). Despite the high population and its large area there are several characters that explain this state. It is a state with high potential, from where electric power, export products, livestock and mines come. On the other hand, it is one among the most disadvantaged states with poor infrastructure and other socio - economic services. About 40% of regions in the state, particularly the low land area where pastoralists live, more than seven zones are drought-prone zones (ReliefWeb, 2009).

1.6.2. West Shoa Zone

From one of the five Italian built artery tarmac roads, if one takes the west outlet, this goes directly to the boundary of the Sudan, about 700 kilometers. There is no other tarmac road that branches left or right. Travelling through breathtaking chains of mountains on the left and right, Ambo, the capital of West Shoa is found at 109 kilometers. It is one of the biggest zones in the state, with 21,552 square kilometers width. The population, according to CSA (2007) is 2,329,250. This was 2,072,485 in the 1994 census, a significant increase. The zone has 18 districts - most of them with very poor road access - and one town with district status.

It is not a secret to everybody that this zone and most parts of the west wing of the country are disadvantaged and marginalized in respect of roads and other communication networks. It took five years to rebuild the Italian built road that goes to Ambo, making connections very difficult. It was taking us three to four hours' drive only for the 100 kilometers distance. Such disadvantages are not only limited to this area. Sometime ago, I heard of a farmer, in a place 300 kilometers west of Finfinne who had brought 100 kg of maize to sell, but because no one wanted to buy his product, he scattered it in the market and went home with his empty sacks. We can

see from this how infrastructure matters to motivate producers and increase products. On the other hand we can also compare this situation with the other parts of the country that suffers extreme food shortage. The zone Administration is housed in 'a history teller' Italian built office. Both first language by more than 30 million Oromos in Ethiopia, parts of northern Kenya and Somalia. It is a language with [most expansive] reach in East Africa, being used by various ethnic groups as a second language (Wikipedia).the land line and mobile telephone connection are very poor as is the internet. Only a few years back this was a resort area for its hot spring and pleasant weather.

Topographically, the West Shoa zone is endowed with mountains like Tullumara, Gorfoo, Wanchi, and rivers like Muger, Awash, Dabus and Ghibe. The zone has three major drainage basins, Abay (the Blue Nile), Ghibe and Awash rivers. They drain not only water, but the rich top soil and the lives of the upper-stream people. The West Shoa is a zone where remnants of indigenous tree forests like Chilimo, Gedo and Jibat State forests are found. Dendi Lake, known as one of the source to one of the tributaries of Abay (the Blue Nile) is also located in this zone. This zone is characterized by its potential resource of mines including gold and other minerals, gypsum, agricultural land with high potential for irrigation, indigenous wild game and large livestock populations

1.7. Significance of the Study

This study will be significant in providing new findings for practical and academic purposes, in helping to reconsider earlier assumptions and arguments, and in giving insights into Problems and limitation of civil society organizations in poverty alleviation, and sustainable development, and in indicating remedial measures to be taken by all concerned stakeholders.

1.8. Organization of the Study

The first chapter's deals with the introduction and the background of the study .The next chapter review literature that deals with conceptual and theoretical definitions, frameworks and perspectives. The third chapter deals with the research methodology. The Fourth chapter analysis of the research findings on its own and in relation to the earlier definitions, arguments, assumptions. The final chapter presents a brief discussion on the summary and conclusions.

1.9. Study Limitations

This study considered NGO participation in the PRSP processes rather than the NGOs' own-initiated projects that focus on poverty. This is because the researcher's interest was on NGO participation in official poverty reduction programmes. Therefore, the results of this study may not adequately explain the roles and interests of NGOs in the entire development process of Oromia.

Second, the study is not concerned with measuring NGO failures and successes. It is a behavioral qualitative study focused on relational aspects to understand NGO roles and interests in poverty reduction and their implications for social inclusion of the poor.

Third, the study focuses on policy analysis. It looks at both policymaking and implementation processes and the role of NGOs therein. It thus does not analyze what the poor themselves are doing to change their situations.

Fourth, the study concerns intermediary NGOs; therefore, it may not explain what happens with Community Based Organizations (CBOs) or any other non-governmental organizations like professional groups of lawyers and teachers, whose work may have a direct relationship with the official poverty reduction programmes and exclusion of the poor.

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW
CONCEPTUAL AND THEORETICAL DEFINITIONS, FRAME WORKS AND PERSPECTIVES

2.1. Introduction

This chapter begins with definitions and features of civil society organizations, and the use of a civil society approach as a recent paradigm in development. The chapter considers why Iddirs' involvement in development is required. Issues such as joint partnership in development, community empowerment and participation, social capital have been discussed as theoretical perspectives and frameworks for the analysis of issues in the thesis.

2.2. Civil Society Organizations: - definitions and features

Rooy (1998:1) has stated that, various definitions describe civil society as the whole of humanity left over once government and profit firms are excised, covering all those organizations that fill in the space between the family and the state and the market. Major categories of civil society organizations comprise NGOs at international, national and local levels; church organizations, grassroots or people's organizations. This latter category consists of residential area-based associations, professional associations, burial associations, producers and consumers associations, credit associations, trade unions, gender and age based organizations and various interest groups.

Most recently a new sub-field in anthropology which studies of civil societies cross culturally has emerged. This sub-field is known as civil anthropology. Though westerners conceived civil society as formal, legally registered, modern and strongly structured organizations as a universal feature of civil society organizations, civil anthropologists on the basis of their ethnographic studies argue that western Universalist definition is ethnocentric.

Proponents of civil anthropology argue that civil society is multi-cultural, historical and culture specific (Hann and Dunn, 1996: 14-15). Indeed they recognize the existence of common features. Anyhow recently, both formal and informal organizations such as Iddirs are defined as a civil society organizations of developing countries such as Ethiopia (Pankhurst, 2001; Getinet, 1999; Teketel, 2000).

2.3. The Civil Society approach in development

Since the 1980s a recognition of the essential role of civil society has emerged as a change in the development paradigm. This has been the result of the failure of the state and market in bringing about improvement in the lives of citizens of poor countries such as Ethiopia.

In reaction to failures of state and market approaches, citizens were forced to undertake self-help activities. Despite its inherent limitations and problems, a civil society approach enables citizens to take charge of their own destinies and realize their full potential through organizations that either represent them, or can reach them more reliably than can government and market approaches. Through this approach, it is believed that the poorest can be reached more effectively, at less cost, and more innovatively to effect equitable, fair and sustainable development. A civil society approach enables tactful mobilization of internal and external resources to alleviate poverty, and to promote change and development (Seitz, 1995 and Rooy 1998).

Regarding the role of the state or government in power, the emphasis has been changing at the global level. Earlier as it had been the case in Ethiopia, governments in power were assumed to have a dominant development role. Then state controlled development has been envisaged to be replaced by market controlled development. Recently, as stated earlier the emerging development paradigm is one which envisions a greater role for civil society organizations in development. In this respect, one of the problems observed in Ethiopia is that there is no favorable policy which encourage autonomous community based organizations such as Iddirs in the development process (Zerihun, 2001). Through their own organizations and efforts citizens should be enabled to be objects and subjects of their development. If policy and legal environment is facilitated and necessary support are provided by all concerned, people have the capacity to help themselves. Cases presented in this paper shows the scale of self-initiated efforts. As Curtis (1991) has asserted beyond government there exists a large area of human organization and activity through which people collectively advance their well-being and prosperity.

2.4. Rationale reduction, and development promotion for involving indigenous voluntary associations in poverty

Generally human life and progress have been, among other things, functions of human

organizations. Voluntary association is one of human organizations, which has been used as a coping mechanism. The importance and role of organizations in human life has been stated by Freeman (1989:5) as follows, Creating and operating organizations has always been central concern of human beings who have recognized, for thousands of years, that they must make permanent arrangements to secure and collectively manage what they could not obtain individually

The progress of people in diverse arrays of cultures has always depend on how they have organized their collective lives. Furthermore, for modern development, it has been well-recognized that "organizational resources are at least as scarce and valuable as capital, land and technical knowledge" (Freeman, 1989:229). At this juncture, the challenging problem is how we can obtain organizational resource required. There are two alternatives. These are either to organize new organizations or to use the already existing old organizations for the new purpose. Both alternatives could be viable solutions depending on the objective conditions of the society. But in societies such as Ethiopia, it has been observed that alien and modern organizations were not accepted by the society for they are artificial to their culture and imposed on them from outside. This kind of organizations invade the culture of society. As a result, they are resisted by the society and hence, could not penetrate into the society and bring about fundamental change. Therefore the more viable approach is to use pre-existing organizations, which are already part and parcel of the culture. The advantage of using already existing organizations is that, they are valued, respected and internalized by the community. In economic terms, they are cost - effective. But they have their own limitations. They lack modern elements and capacity. To fill this gap, one needs to integrate them with modern and improved expertise. This makes indigenous associations more appropriate and sustainable.

Many authors argue that "projects are often most successful when they work through preexisting social structures and institutions" (Gardner and Lewis, 1996:94). But in Ethiopia, since 1975 Iddirs were undermined due to the socialist ideology of the Derg regime. Earlier in the 1950s and up to the mid-1960s due to dominant modernization theory, these organizations were considered to be backward and ineffective in the development effort. Hence, in both regimes traditional people's organization were undermined. In this line, Freeman (1989:240) commented on similar measures by saying that: "In the name of progress and development, precious local

organizational resources have been neglected, circumvented, weakened, and destroyed. They have been in the shadows of planners' consciousness". As the result, the then Ethiopian Socialist oriented military regime was criticized for its failure to consider the people's history and cultural heritage, indigenous knowledge and experience as practiced by traditional institutions which might have been useful for the fundamental transformation of society (Tirfe, 1995).

Indeed, traditional and indigenous local organizations are part and parcel of the coping mechanisms and survival strategies of people. Since these organizations are embedded into the way of life and culture of the local people, as stated earlier they are respected, valued and internalized by the people. Hence, these organizations can serve as tools to ensure more participation of people and to come up with more effective outcomes compared to modern organizations, which are artificial and imposed on the people and their culture from alien sources.

Members are strategizing to make the best use of their indigenous civil society organizational facility, resource and power to solve their problems. Tirfe (1995) has indicated many case studies that show the expansion of Iddir and the tendency to engage in business activities since different formal organizational systems so far tried by central governments have failed to provide poor people with any security of life. In this connection, it has to be noted that traditional and indigenous local organizations cannot be considered as a panacea for all problems of society.

But, they could be essential and beneficial to integrate traditional and modern methods of work and organizational structures. In other words, traditional and modern organizational structures and methods of work may complement and supplement each other to create sustainable social organizations and institutions for sustainable development of the community.

In this respect, Hailu (1987:89-107) has argued that indigenous local organizations can be viable vehicle for community involvement and participation in the project design and implementation, when appropriate and timely guidance and encouragement are provided. In this regard, it goes without saying that joint civil and NGOs projects could serve as an exemplary experiment in the collaboration with development actors and partners in breaking the poverty cycle and in promoting the take-off into sustainable development.

In this regard, Fowler (1992:39) has argued that "CBOs such as indigenous civil society with

traditional roots are more effective in realizing sustainable development". Hailu also has strongly emphasized the need to mobilize the available community and organizational resources, which has a great potential to be exploited for further development purpose. Similarly, Tegegn (2000:50) has indicated the need to make use of indigenous organization in creating partnerships with national and international NGOs.

2.5. Civil Society in Ethiopia

Ethiopia is composed of a vast array of people. The population of Ethiopia is approximately 102.4 million people. Sixty percent of the population is Christian, while nearly one-third is Muslim. The ethnic makeup is also broad with over eighty ethnic groups, of which two-thirds are Oromo and Amhara (Abegaz Berhanu,199). Since the collapse of the Derg in 1991, the emergence of civil society in Ethiopia has proven fruitful, given that prior to this time formation of such groups were virtually prohibited. During the Derg's tenure, from 1974-1991, the people of Ethiopia suffered immense poverty, as thousands were barely surviving. An estimated 200,000[i] more people perished in the 1973-1974 famines. Furthermore, large numbers of people were displaced by conflict, which compounded the dismal economic state of the country without the assistance of the Christian Relief and Development Association (CRDA) during the 1973-1974 famine, more people would have undoubtedly perished. The CRDA was the first umbrella Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) in Ethiopia, which began with merely thirteen-member NGOs. Today their membership exceeds over 140 organizations, of which half are indigenous groups (ClarkJeffrey, 200).

The development of the CRDA led to the emergence of a partnership with the government in the form of the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission, in 1974. Today this commission is known as the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC). This partnership demonstrates that the state and civil society can work together. Given their expanded member base, the CRDA has transitioned into new roles, which we will examine, in the *Contemporary Civil Society* section.

Unfortunately, another key period for the development of NGOs in Ethiopia was the 1984-1985 famine, which corresponded with conflicts.[ii] The relief efforts taking place in "Derg" controlled areas were composed primarily of International Non-Governmental Organizations (Clark Jeffrey, 2000). These NGOs had plenty of funding, and used locals primarily in subordinate

roles. In the "Derg" territory, the NGOs instituted the traditional north-south NGO power paradigm, where the national and or local NGO is only a handmaiden to the larger international organization. This paradigm was precipitated by the international donors channeling funds only through NGOs since they viewed the Mengistu regime as corrupt. Moreover, the NGOs reflected western ideology, but also a desperately needed lifeline because without their presence more lives would have been lost to famine.

In non-Derg controlled areas locals played a startlingly different role. This role can undoubtedly be characterized as more instrumental, because locals were serving the most terrible, famine-ridden areas. Local organizations such as the Relief Society of Tigray (REST), Eritrean Relief Association (ERA) and the Oromo Relief Association (ORA) ensured that food and emergency goods reached the hardest hit areas. The relief work conducted by these three organizations wa at a grass-roots level, without the assistance of the big NGOs.

These local relief efforts formed bonds that cannot be learned or achieved via capacity building workshops and technical assistance programs alone. First hand contact with the people who were suffering coupled with the independence from outsiders led to these national NGOs being highly regarded, specifically for REST(Clark Jeffery,200).

Proceeding the downfall of the Derg in 1991, civil society overall in Ethiopia was weak. Except for those previously mentioned, most local NGOs were not strong since they had functioned primarily in the shadow of NGOs. This meant that directly after the fall of the Derg, it was difficult for the new local NGO community to establish themselves since they had a limited sphere of power, and thus influence. Jeffery Clark, with the NGO Civil Society Unit, Social Development Department at the World Bank characterized this new community as a group "with few resources, untrained staff, and limited exposure to the nonprofit world, many demonstrated minimal comprehension of their proper role. Despite sometimes marginal effectiveness, however, the new NGOs were led by honest men and women sincere in their efforts to address the vast social needs of the country'' (Clark Jeffrey, 200).

Due to the lack of professional expertise on the part of the local NGOs, the donors continued to reinforce the traditional north-south NGO division of labor. This meant that the power and capacity was not transferred to local (southern) NGOs from (northern) NGOs. Those local NGOs that developed and thrived were successful under the guise of political, social and ethnic tension. These power dynamics serve to further bifurcate the local NGOs and are compounded by the

NGOs lack of commitment to forging partnerships with the local NGOs. The local NGOs were weak in the area of accounting, thus transcends into weak accountability. These dynamics between the NGOs, local NGOs and donors are in direct contrast to the solidarity paradigms, which we will discuss later as a means to reduce tension.

As the NGOs became increasingly imperative to maintain the livelihood of Ethiopians, the government began to question their strategy of operation. That is, were the NGOs simply propagating western ideology and welfare handouts to mitigate famines or did they have long-term visions for the people of Ethiopia? This crossroad led to a 1994 government survey of NGOs (Clark Jeffrey, 200). Shortly thereafter the government instituted the *Guidelines for NGO Operations* in 1995, which requires NGOs to register and uphold government guidelines for development. The areas that the Ethiopian government sought fit for NGO operations include agriculture, education, health, gender, and famine relief when necessary, to name a few. Although, in 1995, the NGO communities working in Ethiopia were opposed to such rules, this move by the government is now seen as innovative. The ERPDF government sought to move the development agenda and international aid donors along a directed course, instead of allowing it to weave its own irrational path.

The downfall of the *Guidelines for NGO Operations* is the registration process is arduous. NGOs in Ethiopia now fall under the Ministry of Justice, but the day-to-day conduct is overseen by the Disaster Prevention Preparedness Commission (DPPC) and the Bureaus for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness (BDPP). There is much unnecessary bureaucracy within each of the three departments. In addition, each NGO must continue to seek approval of every project with the ministry in the respective regional government. Thus, what started out as an innovative concept has turned into a huge hindrance. The few resources that the state and NGOs have are now being used to push paper through a bureaucracy. This time and energy could be better spent doing hands-on work. However, without the government processes there is little or no way of assuring that the NGOs would adhere to the government's development agenda**.**

2.5.1. Civil society Role in Community Empowerment and Participation for Sustainable Development

The concept of empowerment emerged during the 1980sas the result of a change from a top-down approach towards a bottom-up alternative development model. Many authors have defined

the concept of community empowerment. Gardner and Lewis (1996:116) adopted a definition which described empowerment as being nurturing, liberating, even energizing to the un-affluent and the un-powerful. The concept of empowerment, among other things, emerged from a theory of poverty which views it not simply as the absence of material or other resources, but as a form of social, political and psychological disempowerment. As noted by Singh and Titi (1995:14).

Empowerments as a strategy for poverty alleviation and sustainable development has to be multifaceted, multidimensional process involving the mobilization of resources and people's capacities to enter the transition towards sustainable development. In this sense, empowerment then becomes a tool for reversal of impoverishment processes rather than a theoretical construct. Empowerment eventually entails the taking of power at the individual and social levels. Besides, the concept of empowerment comprises political power, legal power, social influence and personal control. Indeed, economic power is also equally important. Empowerment of the community implies disempowerment of the government structure (Graig and Mayo, 1995:5)

The concept of participation as a key prerequisite for sustainability of development strikes at the heart of previous developmental paradigms by suggesting that development should come from the bottom-up instead of through top-down policies and the agency of the state (Gardner and Lewis, 1996:112). The real process of participation entails empowerment of the participants. The people's own initiatives are the only true forms participation for they are not imposed from outside (Gardner and Lewis, 1996:11)

In this connection, there is a challenging question regarding the role of the government in power in realizing genuine popular participation. Midgley et al. (1986) have asserted that, while some believe that the state should encourage and sponsor community participation, others reject state involvement on the ground that it dilute a participatory ideals. Many critics argued that the idea of participation is drawn from radical roots and served only to "soften" top-downism.

2.5.2. The Role of Civil Society Organizations in Democratization, Poverty reduction and Sustainable Development

Civil society organizations are considered as a precondition to promote and facilitate democratization process in political sphere, and poverty alleviation and sustainable development in the economic sphere. Both sides of development are considered as inseparable and mutually

reinforcing. Civil society organizations create a favorable environment in which democracy flourishes. Indeed, democracy should not be narrowly defined as a way of government only. It should be seen as a way of life and as a means to learn civility, i.e., the way citizens treat each other with respect and tolerance. Furthermore, civil society organizations may perform particularly important roles such as articulating a broad range of interests, meeting local needs, making demands on government, developing political skills of their members and the community at large, stimulating political participation, and in their watchdog roles they serve as checks on the relentless tendency of the state to centralize its power and to evade civil accountability and control (Korten, 1990: 99).

Civil society organizations have the potential capacity to work for realization of government, which emanates from popular choice, consultation, negotiation and consensus politics. It is believed by donors that in order to deepen democratic process and to consolidate effective and democratic institutions of governments, civil society organizations need to be strengthened. The existence of a broad civil society is what is needed for long-term and sustainable democratic change (Rooy, 1998:49).

As far as the role of civil society organizations in poverty alleviation and take-off into sustainable development is concerned, since the 1980s, they have been considered as viable and promising alternative in comparison to the failed efforts of the state and market approach, particularly in developing countries such as Ethiopia. As a result, people have been forced to alleviate their problem on their own initiatives. In this respect, Seitz (1995:17) has noted that, "People have responded to the failures of the market and the state by undertaking self-help activities".

A civil society approach enables citizens to take charge of their own destinies and realize their full potential by utilizing their social capital, which includes people's mutual trust, the skill, cultural norms and rules, social networks, organizational facilities and the like. In other words, a civil society approach avails the people with the opportunity for self-improvement and sustainable development. Besides, it enables to assist the poorest through organizations that either represent them, or can reach them more reliably than can government and market approach. In addition, the poorest can be reached more effectively, at less cost, and more innovatively than official donors or even home governments. Also, it can bring about equitable,

fair, effective and sustainable social, political and economic development policies and their implementation (Rooy, 1998: 33-39).

In this respect, Dejene and Getinet (1998) argued that a civil society approach can be used to mobilize the community more effectively in its bottom-up development to address mass poverty. Also, Seitz (1995:19) has argued that, "the civil society approach presents a new participant in development and new motivations. By focusing on the benefits that occur when people exercise local initiative and function as a community". Similarly, an Oxfam poverty report (1995:11) has concluded that, "ultimately, real progress towards poverty reduction will depend upon local communities coming together to act as catalyst for change".

Furthermore, advocates of a civil society approach (Seitz, 1995: 16-18) argue that both market and government development approaches in many developing countries have failed to make people's lives better and to help citizens obtain their basic needs. It is even easy to show example where they have made the peoples' lives worse. In reaction to this desperate situation, voluntary efforts are flourishing to raise the low level of living standards in many developing countries. Besides, the spread of democracy around the world is a favorable ground for civil society and its approach to flourish. In this connection, Van Rooy (1998:38) has concluded that "the creation, strengthening, and further development of such institutions of the so called civil society is an essential pre-requisite for an efficient and socially sustainable functioning of a market economy".

CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1. Methods of Data Collection and Sources of Data

As methods and sources of data, I have included,

1. **Interviews: -** Through the method of semi structured interview with my informants, who had close access to the information required.

2. **Participant observation: -** Through participant observation method, I have participated in relevant workshops, meetings, discussion forums and training courses programme beneficiaries.

3. **Focus Group discussions: -** I managed to organize and conduct four group discussions in West Shoa zone with beneficiaries and community leaders.

4. **Archival Documents: -** I had the access to collect data from archives of relevant offices in West Shoa the Zone administration and dead files of oromia regional state.

5. **Document Review and analysis: -** I have attempted to review and analyze documents that were available to me on related issues.

3.2. Methods of Analysis

Situational analysis in comparative and holistic contexts has been employed. Since the research is qualitative research, qualitative data analysis method has been employed. All relevant conceptual and theoretical definitions, frameworks, and perspectives were employed to analyze the collected data and issues under discussion.

CHAPTER 4: DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION

4.1. Introduction

There is a dominant view among development theorists and practitioners that for development to take place in any country requires the effective and efficient operation of the tri-sector model consisting of the state, the private sector and civil society. Understanding the role of each of these sectors in development intervention is therefore critical. It's argued elsewhere that the trisector model is not working because of the psychological distance between the three sectors with differences in interest and ideology manifesting in different motivations, approaches and experiences. For instance, while the public sector is motivated to provide service, the private sector is motivated by profit while the major pre-occupation of civil society organizations is the protection of the poor and vulnerable. Similarly, while the approach of the public sector is influenced by bureaucracy (with its Weberian principles) and political considerations, the approach of the private sector is influenced by economics and market forces while civil society targets the poor and advocates for grants and subsidies. We have documented that poverty is the major development challenge of our time. To address the challenge of poverty requires the combined effort of the three sectors: the state, the private sector and civil society.

In this analysis, we examine the role of the state and civil society in poverty alleviation/eradication. But first, we explicate the concepts of the state, civil society, poverty and poverty alleviation/eradication

4.2. Analysis of the main role of civil society organizations

As one of the contentions in the literature is that donor preferences are pushing civil society groups away from direct service provision and towards advocacy and other forms of policy engagement, the survey groups were also asked about the division of their work between the provision of services and an advocacy role (Table *4-1*). Most Oromia groups have multiple functions with service provision (79% of groups) and advocacy (71% of groups) being the most important. The number of groups engaged in service provision is 17% higher in the Oromia sample compared to the Addis Ababa sample, while the number of groups engaged in research is significantly lower in the Oromia sample 10% compared to 21%. Of the CSOs whose main role is service delivery, most are primarily engaged in care and support (28%), health care (19%) and training/education (17%). The high priority given to both Care and support and to health

care are probably a product of the AIDS pandemic and the availability of donor funds in this area. It is notable that in a country with such stark problems of poverty and hunger only 9% of service delivery activities relates directly to income generation and only 4% to food security.

Table 4-1 West Shoa zone–main role of civil society organizations

	No of groups engaged in function	Percent of groups (268)
Service delivery	212	79%
Advocacy	190	71%
Organizing/empowerment	109	41%
Research	28	10%
Other	21	8%
Total		N= 268

*Group could indicate more than one activity

Table 4-2 West Shoa zone -CSOs service delivery area

	No of groups engages in given category of service	Percent (of those groups engaged in service provision)
Care and support	59	28%
Health care	40	19%
Training/education	37	17%
Income generation	20	9%
Relief/rehabilitation	12	6%
Food security	8	4%
Other	36	17%
Total	212	N=212

The most important areas of advocacy work currently engaged in by CSOs in west Shoa zone are HIV/AIDS, 'which made up 37% of those involved in advocacy and 26% of the total sample. Gender violence combined with women empowerment comprises the second key area of advocacy in which 32% (22% of the total sample) of the CSOs are involved. The next key area of advocacy is children's rights, which is being promoted by about 14% (10% of the total

sample). While Table *4-2* sets out the sectors within which CSOs provide services, Table *4-3* , on advocacy is a useful addition given the high degree of overlap in service and advocacy functions, it gives a good indication of the policy areas in which CSOs concentrate, within the sectors set out in Table *4-2***.**

Issues of gender/ women's rights have featured relatively strongly in CSOs role and engagement in west Shoa zone. There was a strong women's movement in the Derge era which saw the establishment of network of women associations in the country. Given that these associations were mainly formed within the prevailing ideology at the time, many collapsed following the change of government in. It is very likely, however they have laid roots for the emergence of active advocacy on women issues in more favorable conditions. With improved operational environment for civil society under the government, a number of associations have come to life at different levels to promote gender and women issues. The Oromia Lawyers Association and the Coalition of Women's Groups are examples operating successfully at the national level. The emphasis given to the issue by donors must have contributed to the prominent featuring of gender/ women's rights in Oromia. This can also be seen in the fact that the Government has also issued a Women's Policy and established a national level institutional structure to implement the policy.

Table 4-3 west Shoa zone - area of advocacy work undertaken by CSOs

	No of groups	Percent (of groups engaged in advocacy)	Percent of full sample
HIV/AIDS	70	37%	26
Women	60	32%	22
Children right	27	14%	10
Good governance and democracy	14	7%	5
Environmental advocacy	9	5%	3
Quality of education	7	4%	3
Microfinance	7	4%	3
Anti-discrimination	6	3%	2
Old aged support	6	3%	2
Access to justice	4	2%	1

	No of groups	Percent (of groups engaged in advocacy)	Percent of full sample
Sanitation and clean water	4	2%	1
Poverty/social problems	4	2%	1
Other issues	34	18%	13
Total	190	N=190	N=268

When the advocacy category 'women' is broken down, the most important advocacy category is gender based violence accounting for nearly one third of all groups. Given the priority this topic has been given in donor agendas recently it suggests that civil society's advocacy priorities are being influenced by donor funding. That is not to say that this is not a significant area for action, but that the resources for campaigning are being made available for those areas in which donors have an interest and are not perhaps being defined by the domestic priorities of indigenous women's groups.

Those CSOs engaged in advocacy were also asked who the main targets of their advocacy were, groups had multiple targets but the most frequently mentioned was local government (nearly 80% of the advocacy sample and 60% of the total survey). In comparison national government was the least mentioned target of advocacy being engaged with by less than half of the advocacy sample and only 28% of the total number of groups surveyed. Oromia civil society and NGOs received a similar degree of attention just ahead of the numbers engaged in advocacy with donors What is meant by advocacy when directed at local government compared with that directed at donors is likely to be different, with the advocacy directed at donors likely to involve searching for funds and trying to engage donor interest in specific problems.

Given the priority this topic has been given in donor agendas recently it suggests that civil society's advocacy priorities are being influenced by donor funding. That is not to say that this is not a significant area for action, but that the resources for campaigning are being, made available for those areas in which donors have an interest and are not perhaps being defined by the domestic priorities of indigenous women's groups.

Those CSOs engaged in advocacy were also asked who the main targets of their advocacy were. Group's had multiple targets but the most frequently mentioned was local government (nearly

80% of the advocacy sample and 60% of the total survey), in comparison national government was the least mentioned target of advocacy being engaged with by less than half of the advocacy sample and only 28% of the total number of groups surveyed. Oromia civil society and NGOs received a similar degree of attention just ahead of the numbers engaged in advocacy with donors. What is meant by advocacy when directed at local government compared with that directed at donors is likely to be different, with the advocacy directed at donors likely to involve searching for funds and trying to engage donor interest in specific problems.

Operating environment and space for CSOs Overall, CSOs believe that there has been an improvement in the operating environment for CSOs in Oromia over the past five years. More than half of the respondents in this study have indicated that the operating environment for CSOs has become somewhat more open during the last five years. About one third of the respondents who have said the operating environment either has remained the same or became less and much less open.

Table 4-4 Trends in operating environment for CSOs in the last five years

	Frequency	Percent
Much more open	25	9.3
Somewhat more open	152	56.7
Stayed the same	44	16.4
Become less open	25	9.3
Been much less open	22	8.2
Total	268	100

About 19% of the respondents in this study have indicated that CSOs have an excellent space to interact with the Government. An additional 22% have said the space currently is very good. Those that say the space is satisfactory comprise 41 percent which is equal to those that say the space is either excellent or very good. The proportion of respondents that indicated the space CSOs have to interact with the Government is poor or very poor is 19%.

Table 4-5 Space CSOs have to interact with the government

	Frequency	Percent
Excellent	50	18.7
Very good	58	21.6
Satisfactory	110	41
Poor	44	16.4
Very poor	5	1.9
Nor reply	1	0.4
Total	267	99.6
	268	100

CSOs were also asked to rank in order of importance the actors who were most significant in enabling them to fulfill their function. These results are summarized in Table *4-5* these rankings reflect to some extent the relative importance of the actor as a target of advocacy for the groups in that NGOs, local government, donors and Oromia civic society are all relatively important and national government is relatively unimportant. In first preference rankings, NGOs and donors are overwhelmingly the most important. However when second and third place rankings are included local government emerges on a par with the NGOs and is seen as a significant enabler. Even when including third ranked categories, only 15% of all groups in the survey list national government as an enabling actor for civil society.

Table 4-6 actors which are most important in enabling CSOs- CSO perceptions

Actor	Most important	Second most important	Third most important	Total No. of mentions 1st 2nd or 3rd rank	Percentage (of 268) ranking actor 1st 2nd or 3rd
NGOs	67	29	28	124	46%
Local government	6	47	69	122	45%
Donors	46	41	23	110	41%
Other civil society groups	6	21	58	85	32%
National government	7	15	17	39	15%
					N=268

Civil society organizations were asked, what the key external constraints that prevent them from achieving their goals more effectively were. Overwhelmingly, groups cited a lack of funding.(81.3%) followed by lack access to resources and training (62.7%) and lack of access to key policy-makers (52.6%) as the key constraints they face. It is interesting to note that although national government has not been seen as a significant enabler or target of advocacy, neither is it seen as a major barrier compared to other constraints, as only 21.6% cited too much government control as a constraint and only 32.8% cited legislative or political barriers. Nearly as many groups listed competing organizations as an obstacle as listed the government.

Table 4-7 Main external constraints that prevent CSOs from achieving their goals

	Frequency	Percent
Lack of funding	218	81.3
Lack of training and access to resources such as computers, books, reports	168	62.7
Lack of access to key policy-makers/shapers	141	52.6
Legislative or political barriers	88	32.8
Competing organizations	59	22.0
Too much government control	58	21.6
Too much donor control	28	10.4
		N=268

Finally in addition to asking CSOs about their current role, they were asked what roles were appropriate for civil society. The range of roles is wide - both service delivery and advocacy were mentioned by over 80% of those surveyed. Involvement in policy formulation was mentioned by nearly two thirds, while holding the government accountable was supported by nearly half. These aspirational roles for CSOs are certainly in line with current donor thinking. The numbers of CSOs who think civil society ought to be involved in policy and accountability work is also significantly high.

Table 4-8 Appropriate roles for civil society organization

	Frequency	Percent
Advocacy	220	82.1
Service delivery	216	80.6
Being involved in the policy formulation process	167	62.3
Holding government accountable for expenditure and action	127	47.4
Cooperating with international organizations, such as the WB	114	42.5
Confronting international organizations, such as the W.B.	52	19.4

4.3. Analysis of Civil Society's Relationship to Donors and NGOs

As one of the purposes of the case study was to assess the level of donor dependence of civil society, the groups were asked a number of questions about their financial relationship with donors and NGOs. A high percentage of the groups (52%) refused to answer these questions, or said they could not get that information. Of those that did reply, a considerable number could not or would not break down their finances between NGOs and Official Donors Of the groups answering this question, only 5% do not get any finance from Donors or NGOs. At the other extreme, excluding those who did not respond, about 12 percent of the CSOs are 100% dependent on external groups for their financial resources. 35 percent of the CSOs depend on donors/NGOs for more than 80% of their financial sources.

Table 4-9 Proportion of CSOs income that comes from Donors and NGOs

	Frequency	Percent	Percent of those replaying
Zero	6	2.2	4.7
1% to 20%	30	11.2	23.4
21% to 40%	23	8.6	18.0
41% to 80%	24	9.0	18.8
81% to 99%	30	11.2	23.4
100	15	5.6	11.7
Total	128	47.8	
No response	140	52.2	
	268	100	N=128

When asked to list the types of organization that were funding them, NGOs were listed by the largest number of CSOs, closely followed by bilateral donors 'embassies'. Very few groups are being funded by the IFIs, and a relatively small proportion by the UN agencies.

Table 4-10 Organizations that are currently financing CSOs

	Frequency	Percent
NGOs	151	56%
"Embassies"/Bilateral/Governments	125	47%

	Frequency	Percent
UN Organizations	29	11%
International financial institutions	9	3%
European union	6	2%
		N=268

The majority of CSO groups surveyed claim to have very good relations with NGOs and Donors. Interestingly, apart from a slightly higher percentage who did not answer, the opinions expressed on the pattern of relationships with official donors and NGOs is very similar, perhaps indicating that NGOs are perceived, by local CSOs to be more like official donors, than would be anticipated by the literature.

Groups were then asked to charace4rise their relationships with donors and NGOs. Overwhelmingly groups who responded to the question claimed to have cooperative or complimentary relationships with NGOs- 92% of those who responded to this question (81%) of the total sample. The figure for official donors was similar to 93% of those replaying. There was however a minority of CSOs who saw relationships as confilicutal or duplicative – 5.6% referring to NGOs and 4.5% referring to official donors.

Table 4-11 CSO's opinions on relations with donors and NGOs

	Official donors		NGOs	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Excellent	50	18.7	44	16.4
Very good	74	27.6	66	24.6
Good	42	15.7	49	18.3
Neutral	29	10.8	27	10.1
Poor	19	7.1	17	6.3
Very poor	19	7.1	23	8.6
Relations broken down	12	4.5	1	0.4
Total	246	91.4	227	84.7
No response	23	8.6	41	15.3

When the type of cooperation with NGO and Donors is examined in more detail it is at quite a low level, being primarily 'information sharing' and 'consultation'. For deeper forms of co-operation such as policy formulation or even joint implementation of the numbers involved are very small.

4.4. Analysis of Civil society's relationship to government

A greater number of CSOs interact with government at regional and local levels than national movie, reflecting both the diversity of civil society organizations and also the federal system within which they operate. The scale of local and regional CSO-state interaction shows that civil society engagement happens throughout the political system.

Table 4-12 at what level do CSOs interact with the government

		Frequency	Percent
Zone		67	25.0
Wereda/district		148	55.2
Kebele		128	47.8
Community		133	49.6
			N= 268

*multiple answer allowed

15% to those CSOs interviewed did not express a view on government civil society relations Declining to answer this question, could be taken as either an indication of fear of criticism or it could be that the groups in question do not see the national government has having a significant relationship with civil society as they experience it. 45% of the survey sample had a positive view of the relationship between civil society and national government, 17% where neutral, and 23% had a negative assessment.

Table 4-13 CSO's opinions on relations with national government

	Frequency	Percent
Excellent	18	6.7
Very good	45	16.8
Good	57	21.3

	Frequency	Percent
Neutral	45	16.8
Poor	23	8.6
Very poor	11	4.1
Broken	28	10.4
Total	227	84.7
No response	41	15.3
Total	268	100

Only a third of groups define civil society/government relations as either 'cooperative' or complimentary'. When asked about the type of engagement with national government, only 29% of groups said that the government engaged in information sharing with civil society and only 24% said that it 'consulted' civil society. With regard to policy debates, 10% of groups said that the government engaged with civil society in policy formulation and 11 % said that they engaged with civil society with regard to policy implementation. When CSOs were asked about the type of interactions they had with central government information sharing and 'consultation' were I; if most common - about 30% each. Less than 10% described their interactions as being about policy formulation.

Civil society - local government relations are seen in a much more positive light with 77% of GSOs describing them as co-operative. However, the fact that only 25% of groups also defined them as complimentary indicates that, perhaps, civil society sees itself as working apart from, rather than in co-ordination with, local government in most cases even if its view of local government is relatively benign. 64% of groups described their relationship with local government as involving information sharing, while half see it involving consultation, substantially higher than the figures for national government above. 11% of groups regard the relationship with local government as involving policy formulation and 17% say that the relationship involves policy implementation. Just over half of the CSOs surveyed said that of civil society interactions with local government happen at the instigation of the civil society group while only a quarter met local government at the request of officials or politicians.

The views of the surveyed groups on what the relationship between government and civil society

should be were quite mixed. 40% of groups believed that government did not engage with civil society enough, while 20% thought that there was too much government influence, on civil society. 32% believed that the government marginalized or ignored civil society while 23% thought that government/civic society relations were good.

Table *4-14*, below, shows the range of ways in which civil society believe that government could facilitate its work. What is striking about this Table *4-14* in the relative evenness of the spread of groups between a wide range of responses, indicating a Lack of consensus on how the government should respond to CSOs. Capacity building was the option that received the most support, mentioned by 25% of the survey sample; increased funding is prioritized by 22% of the sample as is the idea that the government should share experience and give encouragement to civil society, while the creation of a policy framework for active participation in supported by 20%. Only 9% mentioned Government listening to CSOs.

Table 4-14 Opinions of CSOs on how the government could facilitate their work

	Frequency	Percent
Giving capacity building support	69	25.7
By making funds/credit available	60	22.4
By sharing experience/encouragement	59	22.0
Creating conductive policy framework/allowing their active participation	53	19.8
By giving land/license facilitation/reducing bureaucracy	49	18.3
Technical cooperation/operational agreement	36	13.4
Hearing the voice of CSOs	24	9.0
Providing access to the media	10	3.7
		N=268

CSOs wore asked what they has taken from their interactions with government. This was asked in an open way and coded afterwards. Again opinions were divided with 32% of groups stating that getting information on government policy and priorities was the more useful aspect. Nearly a quarter said engagements showed the government to be supportive, while 16% say engagement left them with negative attitudes.

Table 4-15 lessons learnt in engagement with the government   .

	Frequency	Percent
Good source of information and perspective	86	32.1
Government considers and supports CSOs	66	24.6
Lack of commitment/negative attitude on the part of the government	44	16.4
Need for networking/avoiding duplication	33	12.3
Dealing with a huge bureaucracy	29	10.8
		N=268

This was an open question coded after interviews

4.5. Analysis of the PRSP Process and CSOs Participation

CSO involvement in the first PRSP process in west Shoa zone, leading to *Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Program* (SDPRP) was at a much lower level than in the other country cases in this research project. This reflects the lower level of civil society development and its fraught relationship with government. It also reflects the limited opportunities for involvement. The second PRSP process *Plan to Accelerate Sustainable Development and End Poverty (PASDEP)* took place after the interviews were conducted, and while there was certainly a somewhat greater degree of engagement with CSOs in west Shoa zone the experience of the first process is still the reality of CSO engagement for most groups.

The majority of civil society groups in Oromia (76.5 %) were not involved in the first PRSP process in any way. The great majority of respondents, 94% do not believe that civil society made any substantial impact on either policy outcome or policy processes in the PRSP process in west Shoa zone. Of the 15 groups that do believe civil society had an impact only 4 mention an increase in networking and cooperation amongst civil society, the rest refer to diverse specific policy areas and none mention an increased space for civil society or a shift in civil society government relations. When specifically asked if the PRSP process had opened a new space for civil networking only 63 groups answered the question, of those the majority 34 said no, and only 29 groups said yes. Only 11% of those surveyed believed that the PRSP process had created a new networking space for civil society. Negative as that result is, the survey was even more negative with regard to the impact of the PRSP process on the policy space for dialogue between

civil society and government. Of the 63 groups that answered this question 51 thought that no new space had emerged and only 12 groups took a positive view. This means that only 4% of the groups surveyed overall thought that the PRSP process has had a positive impact on the capacity of civil society to engage in policy dialogue with national government.

CSOs were then asked how they perceived CSO involvement in PRSP - whether they were personally involved or simply reflecting the experiences of others CSOs they had contact with

Table 4-16 The nature of civil society organizations' involvement in the PRSP

	Frequency	Percent
Given information	39	30.5
Consulted	23	18
Involved in carrying out the consultations	18	14.1
Made written submissions	16	12.5
Allowed active participation	29	22.7
Via NGO PRSP task force	3	2.3
Total	128	100

A high percentage of CSOs surveyed did not respond to this question, reflecting the low number of CSOs who were engaged at any level - even via the shared experiences of others. Note that only about half the interviewees who provided an opinion in Table 4-16 were directly involved in the process. The others are reflecting their perceptions of CSO engagement, that they were not personally or organizationally involved in. Half of all CSOs could not comment on civil society engagement in PRSP at all.

Groups based in Oromia who had more experience of policy engagement, and had access via networks to some information on what went on in other countries, describe the process as 'not participatory', but also felt that civil society was not sufficiently organized to participate. Some parallel meetings were held by groups such as the *Forum for Social Studies* and the *Inter-Africa Group.* A group of CSOs involved In CRDA formed a 'PRSP task force" and ran five regional consultation meetings. This task force later became the Poverty Action Network of Civil Society in Oromia (PANE), with some ongoing activities in this area, supported by a range of donors i

he government's official consultations were organized nationally, mainly through party structures in over 100 districts involving about 6000 people[17], but a constrained timescale left little opportunity for CSOs to organize autonomously or to have any real inputs.

Those groups that were involved in the PRSP process were asked to assess the impact of civil society on the final document. Less than a quarter of the groups involved in the PRSP believe that civil society had a substantial impact on the final Abebe Gabriel 2002. *The PRSP process in Oromia.* Oromia: UN Economic Commission for Africa. Document, nearly half believe they had some impact and over a fifth that they had no impact.

All the groups in the survey were asked their opinion on the degree of unity amongst civil society organizations engaged in the PRSP process (See Table *4-17* below). Only a quarter believed civil society was unified, while nearly one third saw them as fragmented.

Table 4-17 Civil society engagement with the government in the PRSP process

	Frequency	Percent
Very unified	17	6.5
Quit unified	50	19
Unified on some issues, and divided on others	110	41.4
Fragmented	58	22.1
Very fragmented	28	10.6
Total	268	100

This lack of engagement with PRSP and the lack of any consensus of what CSO impact might have been is both a reflection of, and reflected in the weak level of CSO networking in Oromia. 42.5% of the CSOs surveyed for this study were members of a network - overwhelmingly the CRDA (Christian Relief and Development Association) and the Oromia Chamber of Commerce for business oriented organizations. 20% of CSOs said they were part of an international network. CSOs were asked if they thought the PRSP process had created new opportunities for either networking among CSOs or in opening new policy spaces and nearly 76% could not reply - indicating that the process did not even alert most CSOs to missed opportunities or barriers to involvement (as in Oromia for example).

Civil society relations among themselves are in fact not much different in terms of the most common forms of cooperation, to those they have with other stakeholders. In fact, they cooperate less among themselves in terms of policy formulation and implementation processes than the level they cooperate with other stakeholders.

Table 4-18 The effectiveness of other civil society engagements with government

	Frequency	% of responses	% of sample
Very effective	21	20.0	7.8
Effective	51	48.6	19.0
Difficult to assess impact	28	26.7	10.4
Ineffective	5	4.8	1.9
Total	105	N=105	N=268

From the data level of engagement between civil society organizations is primarily restricted to information sharing (mentioned by 76% of CSOs) and consultation (mentioned by 43%). Only 7% of CSOs mentioned cooperation on policy implementation, and only 6% cooperation on policy formulation. This is significant, as groups gain advocacy strength and build capacity, through networks. In terms of playing a 'watchdog' role, less than half of all groups surveyed see this as an appropriate role for civil society. The fact that society at large remains divided along ethnic and political views also makes building national networks more difficult. Previous donor attempts to push this issue have had limited success, but neither has there been sustained donor interest. Regional and local networking is however also very weak, where political divisions are not always a problem and greater support could be provided for networking at that level.

The areas in which civil society works appear to be skewed by donor agendas, with 48% of CSOs engaged in advocacy work on either HIV or women's issues, and only 15% engaged in service provision in the areas of 'income generation', 'relief and 'food security'. Of the groups engaged in advocacy on women's issues, one third are working on 'gender based violence', currently a key area of donor interest. This means that 7% of the entire sample (a sample made up of a very diverse range of groups) were engaged in advocacy on 'gender based violence'. If the groups engaged on advocacy on 'harmful traditional practices', included by some under 'gender based

violence', are added then 10% of the entire survey group are active in this area. This point is not intended to undermine the importance of advocacy on this issue, it is intended to stress that if Oromia civil society was setting its own agenda, and it is unlikely that such a high percentage of groups would be clustered in this relatively narrow area of advocacy.

Civil society engagement in the PRS was at a very low level. Only 22% of groups responded to the question on the impact of civil society engagement in the PRS process, and only 16% thought civil society had any impact on the final document. Only 10% of groups were willing to suggest what the nature of that impact was. Given the first PRS process in Oromia was very rushed, this situation may improve, but the outlook for this is relatively pessimistic given the overall negative attitude of Oromia civil society to policy engagement with the national government outside the PRS process.

The problem with this low level of engagement with the national government is currently compounded by the political situation. In most countries it would be expected that high capacity CSOs engaged in advocacy with the national government would be located in the capital city. In Oromia, as discussed earlier, opposition parties have very high levels of support in Oromia and the government's support base is higher in rural areas. Given the high level of ethnic division in Oromia and the mobilization of these divisions along party-political lines it is likely that Oromia civil society groups will continue to have difficulty engaging with the government.

In various questions in the survey CSOs expressed similarly positive views of both official donors and NGOs. Although CSOs had a slightly higher opinion of their relationship with donors, they engaged in slightly more information sharing and consultation with NGOs and also met them slightly more frequently. The figure of 80% wanting to be funded directly, rather than through NGOs needs to be treated with some caution. 81% of groups listed lack of funding as a major constraint on their capacity, the preference for direct funding could reflect a desire for a reliable funding source rather than a balanced judgment against NGOs as compared to state development agencies. In addition NGOs are very heavily involved in service delivery and food security programmers in Oromia, which in some respects, is seen by local CSOs as denying them opportunities for service provision funding.

Although in Oromia CSOs appear to lack capacity, there is a strong associational and communal

life at local level. 60% of CSOs targeted advocacy effort at local and regional government, compared to 28% who targeted national government. When groups were asked the slightly different question, of what level of government they interacted with, only 25% listed national government, while over a half listed regional government and nearly half listed wereda and community. This indicates that in the current situation in Oromia, it would be fruitful to focus civil society funding at the regional and sub-regional levels and not solely fund national level NGOs. At local level it is almost inevitable that CSOs will have an ethnic complexion or party political affinities - in the sense that their members will be drawn from an area where a particular party is dominant. This should not be viewed as a barrier to funding groups who have local legitimacy and whose aims are focused on a pro-poor and prodemocracy agenda.

4.6. Analysis of Contributions to Agricultural and Rural Development

Agriculture plays a significant and decisive role in the social and economic development of the country. Over 80% of the country's population earn their living from agriculture and reside in rural areas. Besides, agriculture remains one of the most important sources of export earning, and compared to many other countries, Oromia still have adequate and conducive soil, water and agro-ecological resources for boosting agricultural development. Because of these factors, the national policies and strategies for growth and poverty reduction, rightly, focus on agriculture and rural development.

On the other hand the agriculture sector is still intertwined by multitude of challenges that hinder unleashing of available potentials for attaining national socio-economic development goals. Despite substantial efforts in the past, agricultural production has barely keep in up with population growth. The predominance of small-scale subsistence farming, matched with recurrent and adverse climatic variability and high population growth has resulted into a context where significant proportion of the agricultural and rural population are unable to produce and/or buy adequate food for themselves.

The rural and agricultural population despite its sheer size is also disadvantaged from lack of institutions that promote and protect its interests. For example, in marketing capacities for negotiation and generating fair income remained weak to the extent of creating disincentives to enhanced production because of price fluctuation. Moreover, potential transformation in

agriculture is also affected by the absence of credible institutions that facilitate innovation and risk-taking. Access to finance, information and skills remained additional challenges to improving agricultural productivity as well as facilitating the diversification of livelihoods by promoting off-farm options.

The EPRDF-led government all along and still maintains policy directions and strategies mat attach high priority to promoting agricultural development and addressing rural poverty. In the current multi-year poverty reduction programme (PASDEP) Rural Development and Food Security is one of the broad thematic priorities where the various associated endeavors are envisaged to attain the goal of *enhanced food* security through improvement in employment generation, private sector involvement in agricultural production and better natural resources management. The key outputs and the corresponding activity areas to be promoted during the programme life are outlined below.

In terms of resource need, the PASDEP projected that a total of 222.1 million Birr is required to implement the various components of the agricultural and rural development sector (including food security) during the plan period (2005/06-2009/10). Of the above total amount, 119.9 million Birr (90%) was envisaged to be financed by resources allocated by the Government through the budget framework (from the treasury and external assistance and loans), and the remaining 2.2 million Birr (10%) was assumed to be generated from the private/ sector and non-government organization as well as from the communities in the form of cash, material and labor.

The analysis of NGO/CSO contribution to agriculture and rural development should be framed up on the above contexts. Accordingly, the study focused on identification and elaboration of key processes, participations and important results that shed light and reveal the fact that NGO/CSO engagements have managed to produce some results for addressing the key challenges of the agriculture and rural development sector.

To start with, the overall picture of how the NGO/CSO community organized it-self and participated in the sector (Agriculture and rural development) is provided in the next section. This is envisaged to show the level inputs or resources and commitments. The second pan highlights the key areas where NGO/CSO participation has produced visible results.

Agriculture and rural development is the oldest, yet still the most important area of NGO/CSO participation. The following bullet points highlight the level of relevance attached to the sector by the NGO/CSO community.

The majority of operational NGOs have rural and agriculture focused objectives and operations. More specifically, the relative concentration of NGOs in food insecure and drought-prone parts of the country shows the sectors resolve to addressing food insecurity and livelihood vulnerability challenges of this country,

There are numerous rural and agriculture focused NGO forums or taskforces, both at federal and regional-levels, engaged in promoting shared learning, dialogue with government and other stakeholders for addressing the key challenges of the sector.

In line with the national policy and global lessons, the NGO community have adjusted its roles and approaches of the core business from one of relief and welfare-orientation to that of supporting and facilitating longer-term, participatory and sustainable development. Role of the sector in mobilizing and administering emergency relief (particularly food) for the rural population is not any more significant, and rather is invisible.

The study verified that the size of resource invested by NGOs for agriculture and rural development is highly significant by all accounts. According to the EC NSA mapping report (discussed in earlier sections), during the period 2004 - 2008 NGOs have invested about 10 Million Birr (or about 1 million USD) for their various development projects and programmes in regions. Of this amount, about 3.8 million (40%) was allotted to programmes identified as: integrated rural development, food security; water supply and sanitation; environment and natural resources management; the promotion of specific husbandries and other non- agricultural rural-based livelihoods (Refer Table *4-8*). Much of the balance (that is at least 50% of the 6.2 million) reserved for education, health, child development and others is likely to have been invested in rural areas. Nevertheless, even the 3.8 million Birr injected between 2004 - 2008 is by 1.6 million Birr more than the aggregate amount (2.2 million) assumed to be generated from the private sector, NGOs and communities for implementing the agricultural and rural development components the PASDEP (2005 - 2009/10). Table *4-10*, as a specific case is presented to show the relative allocation of resources for agriculture and rural development by

AAE in one of the emerging regions.

Contrary to the misinformed view of ordinary citizens', NGO projects and programmes are implemented under a thorough scrutiny and guidance of regional and local governments. No project is implemented without entering a project agreement with relevant governmental offices. The geographic area of operation, sector and implementation strategies, target groups and systems of reporting and interactions, and others are all negotiated and indicated in agreements. Moreover, with advances in woreda decentralization process, NGO programmes are implemented in a /more collaborative and integrated manner with local level governmental plans and programme.

The absence of social economy institutions that promote and protect the interests of the agricultural and rural population is one of the factors contributing to the perpetuation of poverty and under-development. During the Derg regime there used to be 'Farmers Associations' and 'producer cooperatives' organized under the socialist ideology. These institutions primarily served as arms of the state structure, and they were not seen as institutions owned and working for maximizing benefits of farmers. The management practice suffered from political interventions; thus accountability deteriorated and inefficiency- corruption and mistrust by members paved the way for the collapse of the socialist forms of cooperatives together with the regime.

Because of die above bad experiences, it was very important that cautious and innovative approaches are promoted to revive interest and confidence of farmers after the fall of the socialist regime. The government maintained cooperative bureaus in regions, but both capacity and identity (reputation) limited its role in facilitating the revival of the cooperative movement. It can be said that Oromia NGOs have played pivotal role in reviving the cooperative movement and supporting it to attain the current level of prominence it has. The following are key NGO participation and contribution areas:

Provision of training in practical approaches to organizing and strengthening business oriented cooperatives targeting regional cooperative promotion bureau staff. For example, the ACE of ACDI/VOCA provided training to 1000 personnel which was found to be instrumental in

improving the staff ability to inspire farmers to restructure their cooperatives and to establish unions and then to manage both cooperatives and unions as successful business enterprises.

Provision of specialized training related to the products they are most active in buying (grain, coffee, etc) has been provided to both cooperatives and unions, and as cooperatives and unions start to diversify into non-core areas, training in new products (like hides and skins) as also been provided. Unions are now providing training in some of the following areas: agricultural marketing, market information, price stabilization, consumer goods supply, and warehouse management.

Market linkages were established with Oromia processors and traders for such products as wheat, *niger*-seed, sugarcane, haricot beans and pulses. As a result of these linkages farmers have obtained higher prices and guaranteed market for their products. Such linkages and the corresponding agreements have led to quality improvements which should continue to increase future prices to farmers.

International market linkages were established and some Unions are engaged in directly exporting products, including coffee, honey and bee products (Refer Box _ for the case on Coffee export).

Capacity building for take-of, particularly for specialized primary cooperatives is often provided by NGOs. In some instances acquisition of full-time technical staff and office equipment is provided. In others, the support extends as far as the construction of stores, offices and marketing Outlets (shops). For example; in Benishnngul, AAE provided the capacity building support for Asossa Woreda Farmers' Cooperative while OXFAM/GB constructed the building where an Oil mill is to be installed. With such a coordinated support the cooperative will start supplying edible oil to the market and gain from reduced transport cost.

NGOs also promote appropriate technologies for product diversification and improving market-orientation. The edible oil production scheme mentioned above as well as an ongoing Mango Processing initiative (by World Vision) in Benishangul Gumuz; and the Money packaging in Kaffa and Amhara (by SOS Sahel) are some of the examples.

In addition to the above, NGOs played lead roles in strengthening cooperatives focusing on fruit

and vegetable production and marketing, dairy and small ruminants production. NGOs also took the lead role in piloting the grain bank approach where the social safety net is strongly incorporated. There are now over 200 grain banks established by HUNDFR and its NGO partners in the country as a whole. The grain banks have expanded their activities and now provide farm products to small-scale processing and agro-industries.

The recent growth and prominence of cooperatives is one of the important achievements towards addressing the outstanding challenges of having strong rural institutions. According to the Cooperatives Promotion Agency, there were over 19,147 cooperatives nation-wide engaged in various sectoral activities (Refer Table *4-11*). By then, these cooperatives had about 4.62 million members and about 4.2 million Birr capital. There were also 12 unions which had 2,303 basic cooperatives as members. The unions are involved in agriculture, coffee marketing, fruit and vegetable production, saving & credit, dairy farming, cattle rearing, etc.

Information from the Federal Cooperative Agency show that with a capital of Birr 154,238,01 and loan services from financial institutions, these unions are engaged in significant trade activities by way of purchasing of agricultural products from member associations and others and selling of same at national and international levels.

It can be said that the revived cooperative movement has already demonstrated its effectiveness in representing and protecting benefits of the rural population. After the various initial revival and capacity strengthening supports, the government and donor partners have scaled-up their participation in the cooperative movement. The government constituted me Cooperatives Commission (now Agency) in 2002, and prepared National Cooperative Policy in 2004. The Rural Financial Intermediation Programme co-financed by IFAD and the African Development Bank represent a massive scaling up of the rural saving and Credit Cooperatives approach successfully piloted by the ACDI/VOCA.

In major regions, Cooperatives have become viable and visible institutions promoting and protecting interests of the rural population (Amhara about 1.88 million people (64% of the rural house-holds) are members of the various agricultural cooperatives. As can be seen from the ACDI/VOCA experience, negotiation capacity of the cooperatives, and the corresponding market returns for products has improved income of households. Much more work is needed to

maintain and upgrade the momentum created.

As explained above, NGOs have been the key and lead-actors in the revival process, and their participation deserves to be counted as one of the important contribution of the sector over the last nearly two-decades.

Saving and Credit Cooperatives and Microfinance Institutions Access to affordable credit or finance improves conditions for the poor to participate in economic activities that can improve their wellbeing and security. In the case of Oromia, until the 1990s', such services were not available both for the rural and urban poor.

At present there are two distinct types of institutions providing small scale financial services for the rural and urban poor. Savings and Credits Cooperatives (SACCOs) are the less formal and relatively older service providers, whereas, Microfinance Institutions (MF1) are the more formal and recent additions to the institutional frameworks for providing financial services.

Savings and Credits Cooperatives (SACCOs) are- the major financial institutions primarily serving the poor and less served segments of society. By 2007, there were 5,400 SAC COs nationwide, and this represents a big leap from where it was. The SACCOs provide financial services to over 381,000 people whose saving capital is around a Million Birr.

According to the Association of Oromia Microfinance Institutions (EAMFI), there are 27 active and legally registered MFI in the country (2008). The overall portfolio these 27 MFIs is about 2.9 Million Birr and the number of clients has reached 1.76 million. They also mobilize almost 1.9 Million ETB in savings. There has been incremental growth in number of microfinance institutions in the last 20 years. Table *4-13* shows the portfolio and outreach of microfinance institution.

Microfinance institutions are represented at national level by the AEMFI which is a registered entity since 1999. AEMFI mission is to create an institutional structure that serves as national/industry forum and network to microfinance institutions. According to the AEMFI, the following are key contributions of MFIs to the country's development effort:

More precisely, the increased income generated by credit provision has had a positive impact primarily on household food supply, and on educational, as well as which provision of clothing,

hygiene and other basic needs for the children;

Trading activities increased in scale and women were particularly able to take on trading activities which had previously been inaccessible for them;

All the evaluations show that the vast majority (more than 97%) of those who have received credit have increased their income.

The explained progresses towards improving access to credit by the rural population represent a promising move in the right direction. Different actors have contributed to the gains registered. However, this study claims that the Oromia NGO sector has made the most visible contribution at all stages of the evolvement processes of the SACCOs and MFls in the country. The following are evidences supporting the generalization made;

NGOs as part of their poverty alleviation programmes experimented and developed the system that enabled the delivery of financial services to the poor. In other words, through these activities they have developed a "financial technology" (product, organizational models, technical tools, participatory practices, etc.) which is legalized and scaled-up.

The stronger and bigger MFls were initiated and supported by NGOs. Examples: **ACS1,** Bussa Gonofa, DECSI, Wisdom, Meket, Meklit, Gasha, etc. Besides, Amhara Credit and Saving Institution (ACSI) and Dedebit Credit and Saving Institution (DECSI), which stand as two of the largest microfinance institutions in Africa, were founded and strengthened by NGOs.

Donations and grants as seed money (mainly for start-up costs) or fund for expansion is still provided by the 'mother' NGOs for some of the MFls.

Some NGOs still support MFls to have access to loans from the formal banking sector by providing loan guarantees. For example, with a 75% loan guarantee from an NGO a MFI could access loans from Commercial Bank of Oromia at 5.25% interest rate. Through such cooperation and support of NGOs, for example in 7006 MFls loans from banks have increased to 301 million Birr (about 33 million USD) accounting for about 15% of the MFls loan capital.

In addition to social economy institutions, NGOs have also contributed to the emergence and

strengthening of grassroots based self-help and social institutions of the rural population. Some specific examples and cases are outlined below.

NGOs have facilitated and supported the emergence and growth of rural Associations, Boards or Committees for managing community services, like, potable water and educational centers. The case of Dalocha Women Water Development Association, in OROMIA region is presented under Section 8.3.5 (Box). In Tigray, TDA has been implementing programme, focusing on community-government partnership in basic education services covering about 400 primary schools, and a PTA capacity building initiative in! 50 schools.

This productive potential of much of the agricultural land resources of Oromia is affected by severe degradation that has been taking place over the last many decades. Poor land use practices complemented by rainfall and topographic patterns resulted in massive erosion of top soils; thus decreasing crop yields. With population growth and corresponding demand for agricultural land human settlement and farming increasingly encroached into conservation reserves (forests and water catchments) and other fragile ecologies. The uncontrolled destruction of forests and bushes for farming as well as for construction and domestic fuel further exacerbated degradation, erosion and damages from flooding. Subsequently, crop yields declined and the results of the downward spiral are the chronic food insecurities experienced by the significant proportion of the rural population at present.

During the last seventeen years of EPRDF government, apart from the rhetoric, less attention was given to the task of rehabilitating and protecting the agricultural and natural resources base of the country. The down-sizing of the responsible divisions for forestry and, soil and water conservation, under the ministry of agriculture and rural development, both in portfolio and resources can be counted as a case in point. The situation in regions has not been different either. Because of this context some worrying trends (like extensive forest tires, uncontrolled cutting of endangered indigenous tree reserves, and encroachment of settlements into wild-life sanctuaries, destructive flooding and unsustainable fishing) have been building-up. Some of these challenges are further exacerbated by variability's introduced due to climate change.

In the absence of strong governmental support for guiding rural communities to cope with environmental management demands, Oromia NGOs have attempted their level best to respond

to the needs of both the environment and thereby promoting sustainable development. The following are supportive evidences to this effect. NGO/CNOs from the different typologies and make-ups are involved in promoting the environmental agenda, in their respective areas of comparative advantage. As a matter of fact, environmental agenda is one of the cross-cutting issues mainstreamed into programmes of all NGOs operating in rural areas. On the field, the various activities included in main environmental programmes include: construction of physical soil conservation measures, both on agricultural and degraded lands, production and distribution of different types of forest and forage seedlings, gully rehabilitation, establishing grass strips, planting on bunds, area closure and establishment of communal plantation for conservation and construction purposes, o The most: important achievement brought about by NGOs through awareness creation and demonstration is the attitudinal changes of the farming communities towards conserving their environment. Promoting conservation based sustainable agriculture. One of the areas where NGOs have had a visible contribution relates to the collective participation in agricultural intensification. A study commissioned by CRDA and world vision

The beneficiary communities from these progammes have increasingly become suppliers of high value agricultural produce (fruits and vegetables). In summary, selected NGOs in Amhara have demonstrated the approaches to agricultural intensification and market based production which is adopted and being scaled up by government at the moment.

On the basis of their project based lessons, NGOs advocated for the incorporation of water harvesting in the initial national poverty strategy as a means of agricultural intensification and limit dependency on rain. As explained above, REST and other food security focused NGOs innovated and demonstrated effectiveness of watershed based agricultural development approaches; water harvesting possibilities; the appropriateness of treadle pumps for water lifting and drip irrigation by small scale farmers. Convinced by the approaches demonstrated, the government launched an extensive national programme of water harvesting as part of the extension system. Implementation of the programme has produced mixed-results. But, because of the collective effort done, adequate momentum is already created towards maximising water harvesting and use for agricultural intensification and thereby better income for the rural population.

Promotion of fruits and vegetables production is another area where the prolonged NGO participation has registered visible result. The irrigation development work has always been accompanied by supports for vegetable and fruit production. The same is true with women support and nutrition improvement initiatives.

Most rural-based NGO projects have either own fruit and tree seedling multiplication sites and/or support governmental, community and institution-based nurseries (like in schools, churches and mosques). Some NGOs introduced seedlings of fruits like Mangos and avocados from other parts of the country to their project areas. Moreover, some NGOs introduced improved varieties of fruits and vegetables, and thereby contributed to better production and return.

The role played by the development wing of Oromia Kale Heywot Church in piloting the production of Apple in Chencha/Gamo Gofa zone of OROMIA stands as one of the outstanding contribution of the NGO community. Communities who benefited from the EKHCDP are now supplying fresh-products to the Oromia market. The project outcome in addition to improving the livelihood of the rural population has contributed to the saving of scarce foreign exchange that used to be spent for importing apples. Over the last one decade many other NGOs have participated in the replication of Apple production by small scale farmers in major regions of the country.

Following successful replication and recognition of the benefits realized the government now have incorporated Apple production in its menu of extension package. Again, such lessons provide strong grounds to generalize that NGOs in agriculture have demonstrated approaches to agricultural intensification and market-based production.

It can be said that the innovative small scale piloting efforts of some national and international NGOs and FBOs in the area of alternative livelihoods promotion have reached a level where some visible and appreciated results are registered. The SOS Sahel's Apiculture Development Programme in Amhara can be a case in point. An except from terminal evaluation report (August 2006) illustrates how the progamme improved incomes of farmers from apiculture through the introduction of systems and technologies for production, processing and marketing of products. As a matter of fact SOS Sahel has played lead role in the design of the regional apiculture

extension package.

As indicated elsewhere, most of the NGO programmes are concentrated in the drought prone and food insecure parts of the country. Because of this, much of environmental rehabilitation as well as agricultural support programmes explained in earlier sections are implemented in the food insecure parts of the country. The diversified approaches and technologies promoted by NGOs have provided expanded models and insights for the government to shape its national programme direction. Besides, some NGOs are still involved in the implementation of components of the national programme for addressing food insecurity.

The Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) is a multi-donor large scale programme that has been under implementation since 2005. Providing transfers to food insecure population in chronically food insecure woredas, in a way that prevents asset depletion at the household level and creates assets at the community level, is the core purpose. As it stands now, some 5.7 million people from over 200 chronically food insecure woredas are beneficiaries of the programme.

The programme has its origins in earlier NGO piloted catchments-based conservation works where poor households get food or cash transfers to bridge months of critical food deficit. For example; in Kindo Koysha Woreda of Wolaita Zone (OROMIA) SOS Sahel in the mid-1990s' implemented an innovative project that created seasonal employment for the vulnerable to enable asset protection by poor households and deliver environmental protection works and feeder roads (230 kms constructed).

In the ongoing PSNP NGOs are still playing significant role in sourcing and implementing projects in various woredas across regions. CARE Oromia, WVE, REST, SCF/UK, SC7 US A, CRS and FHI are directly involved in coordinating implementation of the PSNP with financial support from the USAID.

During 200.3 and 2006, the above NGOs delivered transfers to about 2.85 million beneficiaries nation-wide (Refer Box 6). In terms results, the PSNP is already praised for assuring effective targeting and supporting the poor. Evaluations indicate where NGOs coordinated PSNP the impact orientation is high due to enhanced community participation and innovation. Some of the acknowledged progresses are the following:

Households are linked to sources of ideas or technologies related to capitalizing on opportunities for rural income diversification through off from activities;

Community based savings and credit groups are established to provide capital sources to the members on a revolving basis; and

For example, in parts of harage market linkage nodes are established in key areas and as a result, exchange of information, experiences and interests amongst farmers, suppliers, traders and wholesalers in product marketing process is facilitated.

Cognizant of the vital relevance of safe water supply to the wellbeing and improved life of rural communities many NGOs have been involved in the sectoral activity of water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion. Water development has been and is an important component of most NGO's programmes. According to the EC NSA mapping (2008) report NGOs have invested about 575 million birr in the Water supply and sanitation since 2004. Of this amount projects worth about 274, 131 and 125 million were implemented in Oromia, Arnhara and OROMIA regions.

The water supply and sanitation participation of NGOs has produced visible results in developing large scale and low-cost gravity schemes and strong community institutions that have taken lead role in managing these services. It has also demonstrated practical approaches for empowering women who otherwise are traditionally overburdened because of their role in domestic water collection. Generally the task of unlocking challenges affecting agricultural productivity and rural development in Oromia is still so enormous, and much more sustained and consorted effort is needed to make a difference. During the last nearly two decades a number of encouraging developments have happened in the rural and agriculture sectors of Oromia. The government deserves the due credit for the emphasis attached and investments made in expansion of infrastructures for basic services (health, education, travel and transport, among others).
There are also some positive moves in relation to the emergence of rural institutions for facilitating access to finance, market, potable water supply and the likes. In addition, some starts in transforming agricultural practices; towards intensification, diversification and market-orientation, are in motion. The various cases and evidences presented in this document justify concluding that NGOs have indeed visibly contributed to these key progress areas of agricultural

and rural development.

The path collectively followed by the civil society community towards producing and contributing these key results to the overall rural transformation process has not been straight and smooth. Some civil society approaches and initiatives unintentionally might have contributed to the opposite end. At individual agency-level some may have operated with hidden and self-serving objectives. Civil society efforts of promoting the various (presently) successful initiatives have passed-through testing moments of disagreement and discouragements with counter-part governmental officials. As an advocacy process, this cannot be avoided, and it will remain so even in the future. There are lots of ongoing innovations that are going to be confronted with same temporary disagreements.

The field work of this study verified that NGO/CSO roles and contributions in the agriculture and rural development area are accorded with due recognition and commensurate appreciation at regional and local levels. Relatively better systems and NGO/CSO contributions to human development.

In this section we shall examine the involvement and contributions of CSOs/NGOs in the area of social services or human development as it is sometimes called. We shall use both these terms interchangeably in the pages that follow. Included in this category here are health (including H1V/AIDS), education, child welfare and protection, and water and sanitation. One important area of NGO engagement that is often ignored mainly because of the difficulty of putting a monetary or resource value on it is institution building and empowerment. We shall look at this later and try to show its significance to the lives of the poor. This too is part of what we call human development

Let us look at the subject first from a broader picture, namely, the flow of CSO/NGO resources and their contributions to the progress achieved in the area of human development. We shall then examine briefly the contributions in each of the individual sectors and (lie significance of these to the development effort in the country.

A good indication of the development priorities identified both by government and the voluntary sector is evidenced by the flow of resources and investment across projects and sectors. All the

available evidence indicates that over the last decade basic social services, or human development, in particular health, education and water/sanitation, have attracted the largest share of investment by the voluntary sector. This is true both in terms of gross investment over the decade as well as investment on a yearly basis, and holds true also, in many cases at least, across Regions. The investment data is frequently obtained from records of government agencies responsible for monitoring NGO activities and reveals information with regard to organizations which have submitted project plans and budgets to the agency in question. The information is thus not complete because there may be a few organizations (admittedly a small minority) which either have not signed project agreements or have failed to submit the necessary information.

Moreover, it is important to raise a note of caution here. The classification of CSO/NGO project activities employed by different sources and agencies varies, and the breakdown of project spending shown in one source is often different from that of another. This makes comparative analysis over time and across Regions difficult. Moreover, it is not always clear whether breakdowns used in the sources all refer to the same sectors in all cases. For instance, the category "integrated development" employed in some of the sources is a composite of many sectors. Furthermore, these classifications are not harmonized with those employed by the government in PASDEP posing further difficulties.

Despite the difficulties, however, it is possible to show in broad terms the magnitude of investments across projects and the priorities that these indicate. According to the recent DC mapping study, investment in the broad area of social services topped 5.1 million Birr and made up 54 percent all project investment by NGOs in the country in the period 2004 to 2007 (see Table *4-7* in Section above). Individually, the higher priority given to health is indicated by the greater resources that were devoted to it, attracting the largest investment in almost all Regions outside of investments in "integrated development".

A similar picture emerges, if we look at the evidence on Regional investment patterns provided by other sources. Table *4-17* below shows the sectoral breakdown of investments by NGOs working in OROMIA. More than 61 percent of investment in the Region in 7006/07 went to social services, of which investment in the health sector (including HlV/AIDs) was the highest, accounting for nearly a quarter of all spending in that year. Table *4-19* poverty reduction

financing and NGO contribution

Table 4-19 Source: west Shoa zone social affairs office

Sector	Total fund needed (Bn Birr for 5 Yrs)	From govt and donors (%)	From NGOs, private and communities (%)
Education	53.7	67	33
Health	34.9	44	56
HIV/AIDS	6.2	23	77
Water/sanitation	15.6	77	23

While the figures in the last column do not show the precise resource contributions of each of the actors involved, they nevertheless provide an indicative scale of magnitude. A close reading of the plan document suggests that here the main source of financing are NGOs. In all the sectors, the contributions of communities are taken to be mainly in kind, that is, in the form of labor and local materials. The private sector's role is mainly in the education and health sectors: it has only a minimal presence in the other sectors. Moreover, due to a variety of reasons, some donors have reduced or suspended their direct budget support (DBS) programs to the government, and hence some of the sector development programs, especially education (ESDP 111) and health (HSDP 111) may be faced with a shortfall of funds(see World Bank 2007; OXFAM and BEA 2006). This will probably mean greater reliance on the contributions of NGOs and other non-state actors in order to meet PASDEP's goals.

It may be useful here to briefly note the broad framework of priorities set by PASDEP for the social service sectors in order to place NGO interventions in context. In terms progress in education, health and water and sanitation services, the government has set its site on meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) within the time frame set by the United Nations. The most significant priority in the education sector in this regard is primary education for all by the year 2015. Other goals include improving the quality of education in order to produce a highly trained workforce, ensuring equity in education, and upgrading the competence and efficiency of school systems and teachers. In the health sector, strong emphasis has been placed on rapid expansion of primary health services and Its coverage, and greatly increasing the health extension program in order to provide an effective system of prevention and control of

communicable diseases such as malaria, Tfi, sexually transmitted infections (STI), diarrheal diseases, and HIV/AIDS. In the water and sanitation sector, PASDEP's main goal is to provide access to potable water for all the population (especially in the rural areas), expansion of irrigation schemes, and greater improved sanitation services.

The engagement of the voluntary sector in the social service sectors complements and supports the broad priorities set by the government in its PASDEP document. In terms of resource distribution within the social service sector, the government plans to allocate a much higher budget to Education all through the PASADEP period, followed by Health and Water. NGOs on the other hand have invested much greater resources in Health than in the other social sectors, although the data provided in me EC mapping document indicates that "Child Development" has received more NGO resources than Health. The important point here is that the voluntary sector has given high priority and allocated greater resources to human development.

An indication of the extent of engagement of CSOs/NGOs in the country's development effort, and more particularly in the area of human development is shown by the diversity of projects run by the organizations in the country as a whole and the resources invested on them in the years 2004 -2007 (Table *4-7* above). The number of on-going projects shown in the table does not provide the whole picture for reasons noted above nevertheless the figures indicate a broad overview of how CSO/NGO resources are distributed across a wide spectrum of program interventions.

One area of NGO investment which has not often been given sufficient attention is capacity building of government bodies with which NGOs work closely. Table *4-7* does not clearly indicate the scale of projects and investment related to this issue. NGOs do also invest resources in building the capacity of the poor, and the beneficiaries of their programs, out this is separate from capacity building of public agencies. In the latter case, the undertakings involve upgrading the skills of public officials through training and awareness raising, constructing offices and the work environment, and providing office furniture, equipment and supplies to enable officials to carry out their duties; in a number of occasions the organizations may also help defray the costs of workshops, field visits, training programs and preparation of manuals or guidelines undertaken by the offices concerned ns part of their activities. That such support has had a

significant role in improving the competence of government agencies and civil servants and building capacity has been acknowledge by a number of public officials we talked to during our short field work for this study. Officials in Oromia (including senior men in the Office of Social Affairs and Public Mobilization, police officers both in Adama/Nazret), senior court and police officials in OROMIA, and officials in the Regional Presidents secretariat iii Benishangul were unanimous in their appreciation of the support provided by NGOs to their respective agencies and the improvements such support has brought about. Many of them acknowledged that without the support provided by the organizations, their work would have suffered and they would have been unable to carry out their duties properly.

Since the llrst round of poverty reduction programs launched in 2002, the country has made notable progress, particularly in a number of human development sectors. There has been considerable expansion of education at all levels and more significantly in primary education. The number of children of school age now attending school has increased significantly, and the government believes it will be able to meet the MDGs' goal of achieving primary education for all by 2015. There has been increased coverage of primary health care, and significant reductions in child and infant mortality. Though on a smaller scale, increases in coverage of clean water supply have also been achieved.

These successes may be attributed to many factors of which increases in public spending on health, education and water supply have played a significant role. But credit must also be given and this has been acknowledged by many public agencies- to the active involvement of and huge resource outlays by CSOs/NGOs in these and other sectors over the last ten years. As has been noted in the preceding discussion and the tables shown above, the large-scale investment by these organizations and the diversity of the areas of engagement are aimed at poverty reduction and complement and enhance the role played by public agencies. Official documents from the Regions obtained for this study as well as the interviews conducted among public officials by the Study Team confirm that the contribution of the voluntary sector to the successes achieved in these years has been significant. (See oromia 2006, 2007; EC 2008: list of persons interviewed). At the Regional and lower levels, officials recognize that part of the credit for progress that the country has made, particularly in the area of human development, should go to the active role played by not-for-profit organizations.

In the pages that follow we shall look at CSO/NGO contributions in the main sectors of human development. We will present a summary of the areas of their involvement but our main focus will be to highlight the important innovations introduced and piloted by the organizations and what this has meant in terms of impact on program management, poverty reduction and broadly the empowerment of the poor.

4.7. Analysis of civil society Contributions in the Health Sector

There are two main ways in which NGOs run health programs: they are either managed separately as health programs by organizations which are primarily engaged in health service delivery, or managed as part of other programs run by the same organization (part, in other words of integrated programs). Overall, NGOs are involved in almost all areas of health care and service delivery and also contribute to capacity building of the health sector both at the community level as well as at the level of the woreda and above. The following are among the important activity areas of NGOs:

Primary health care. Provision of basic services through health-facility approach (i.e through clinics, health posts, etc) or through outreach programs. Greater effort to enhance community-based and home based approaches. The services provide a wide variety of treatments, referrals and information and awareness raising services. Also treatment of diarrhea, intestinal diseases, and pneumonia. Beneficiaries are community residents, in particular women, mothers, and children.

Reproductive health and family planning services. These include care and counseling during pregnancy, child birth, pre- and post-natal services; adolescent reproductive health issues and services to the young. Information about and provision of appropriate contraceptive options and technology. Also support, guidance and follow-up services.

Prevention and control of communicable and other diseases. Services for and information about malaria, TB, ST1, as well as HIV/A1DS. Also control, treatment and immunization against infections and diseases common in different environmental settings. Information and mobilization of community for VCT, and control and treatment of epidemic diseases.

Promotion of Environmental hygiene and sanitation. Control of disease bearing rodents, insects

and other vectors. Awareness raising about services on basic hygiene and environmental sanitation issues. Treatment for contagious health hazards, including eye and skin diseases

Emergency care service. This includes lifesaving nutritional services and care especially for the children and vulnerable women.

Capacity building. Training of health personnel both for the government and for communities; construction and repair of health facilities for communities and the government (clinics, hospitals, health posts, etc); provision of drugs, vaccines and medical equipment and supplies to the public health sector.

NGOs were: in the forefront of the effort to contain the HIV/AIDS pandemic in this country, and have continued to provide support and care to people living with the disease (PLHA). There were a considerable number of organizations engaged in this area even at the time when the government was reluctant to acknowledge the spread of the disease in the country. It was sometime later when the pandemic had spread widely among the urban and rural populations that public agencies began to make greater effort to contain it. This active effort was supported by considerable financial and technical assistance from the donor community.

At present, according to data provided by HAPCO, the prevalence rate of the epidemic in the country in 2005 was 3.2 percent, with the urban areas having a much higher rate than the rural areas. Moreover, there were over 744,000 AIDS orphans in the country. As a result of concerted effort and greater public awareness raising, the pandemic appears to be stabilizing at the moment, and there is even slow but gradual decline in the urban areas (MoH and HAPCO).

HAPCO H the main coordinating body responsible for bringing together multi-sectoral agencies to engage in the fight to control and reduce the pandemic. Its main partners are government bodies, CSOs/NGOs (including Associations of PLWHAs) and donor organizations. Broadly, there two forms of involvement in the control and mitigation of 1 UV/AIDS by CSOs/NGOs: one is by organizations specializing on HIV/AIDS work, the other by organizations which employ an integrated approach, i.e. they work with affected populations as part of other development work.

According to information from HAPCO there are at present over 200 CSOs/NGOs working in

the area of control and prevention of the disease and care for the affected populations. HAPCO is financing more than 80 of these at federal level, and about 40 percent of its resources goes to finance the work of these organizations. HAPCO recognizes the important work these organizations are doing and that the success that has been achieved is partly due to their strong involvement.

Some of die activities in which CSOs/NGOs are involved are the following: Voluntary counseling and testing centers (VCT), blood banks, prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) and antiretroviral treatment (ART); care and support of orphaned and vulnerable children (OVCs); programs on sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and HIV prevention; *A* training of community youth, religious leaders to play active roles in HIV prevention; support and care of young people and adults with HIV; and An establishment of service centers where young people can access information relevant to them and to protection against the disease.

It is clear from the available evidence that NGOs have given much greater attention to reproductive health, and more recently to family planning than has government and other actors. This has been due to a good extent to the growing commitment to gender and women's empowerment on the part of an increasing number of organizations. On the other hand, the increasing concern with adolescent reproductive health that has emerged among NGOs, due in part to the greater prevalence of HIV/AIDS among the young, is also a new venture not fully replicated by the public sector.

But the more important contribution of NGOs lies in the establishment of *community hosed health agents*, CBHAs (particularly reproductive health agents CBRHAs) and their active deployment among beneficiary communities. These agents provide services to the community as well as information and education on health care and basic hygiene inclu referrals. They mobilize the community for health intervention programs such as HIV/AIDS arid malaria prevention, immunization, and environmental hygiene. CBHAs were actively engaged well before the government initiated the program of *health extension service.* Indeed, the extension program may be considered in part as an expanded version of the CBHA approach. These agents live in the community and closely interact with community residents. This innovative measure has made it possible to bring health care to the community, and indeed to the homestead- an

important step on the road to community-based or home-based health service program. The work of these agents has contributed in expanding community access to basic health services and health information. CBHAs now work closely with the government's health extension agents.

4.8. Analysis of civil society Contributions in the Education Sector

The voluntary sector has been engaged in diverse activities in the education sector for quite a long lime. During the current decade, the emphasis of the organizations engaged in the education sector has been broadly to help the country meet the MDG goals of primary education for all, and to bring about a much greater measure of equity and quality in education. They have given particular attention to and invested on access to education by girl-children and improving the opportunities of such children to continue with their education. This has meant programs to protect female students from a variety of hazards and risks they face such abductions, early marriage, sexual abuse, etc.

The following presents the main areas of investment and support provided by CSOs/NG( )s in the education sector:

Construction, expansion and renovation of pre-schools, primary and secondary schools, technical 'and vocational training institutions, facilities for teachers, libraries, sanitation facilities, and school administration offices v Provision *of needed materials and supplies to school systems.* These include furniture and school desks, classroom equipment, teaching aids, and sports equipment and facilities

Managing regular, *specialized and technical and vocational schools.* Several NGOs also run special schools for children with disabilities or special needs.

Establishing and managing non-formal, or alternative educational institutions and systems. This is one area where the voluntary sector has introduced innovative ideas (see below)

Capacity building. Improving the quality of education through training and financial support to teachers and other school personnel also improving educational efficiency by upgrading the competence of school administrative staff. Some NGOs even provide support to Regional Education Bureaus

A paper prepared by the Education Bureau for the fourth workshop organized by the GO- NGO Forum of OROMIA in September 2007 states that the number of "NGOs partners working on Education Sector has increased through time. And their contributions to the improvement of Educational Access, Quality and Efficiency is fundamental." This kind of recognition of the part played by CSOs/NGOs in the progress made in the education sector is commonly made by other Regional and woreda officials. in an interview conducted in zone for this study, the head of the Social Affairs and Mobilization office stated that more 5200 children were able to attend school through the support of NGOs and CSOs working in the town. Without this kind of support these children would have ended up as vagrants and street children. According to the EC mapping study there are over 300 regular schools run by NGOs providing education more than 100.000 children throughout the country. Moreover, some of the vocational schools set up by NGOs have produced qualified and competent technicians and skilled craftsmen, employable skills that are sorely needed in the country. The recent urban youth program introduced by the government, in which the young and unemployed are given skill training and organized into cooperatives is a replication of the idea piloted by the voluntary sector.

While the financial and material support provided to the educational effort of the country has had a positive outcome, the lasting effect of NGO contributions will in the long run be measured in their innovative approaches to non-formal education. NGOs have introduced and piloted non-formal or alternate education approaches to meet the needs of children who cannot attend regular schools because of their marginalized life conditions, due to poverty, or because the schools are too distant from their homes. The population of children in ibis condition in the country is quite large and if the nation is to meet the goals of universal primary education, these children's educational needs have to be met.

A good number of NGOs have set up alternate and specialized education centers throughout the country precisely for this purpose. These centers are located in most cases close to the children's community, and have adopted a flexible teaching and learning environment based on the needs of the children and their parents. In some cases, and where poverty is the main cause preventing children from attending school, there are programs of income generation for the parents of the children. There has also been attempt to introduce a school-feeding program in some areas to address the problems of poverty and insufficient food for children going to school. Such schemes

help not only to keep children in school (and reduce the drop-out rate) but also relieve the children from the pressures of income earning to help the family. In some cases, the marginalized communities are provided with basic services, particularly access to water which removes the burden of fetching water for girl-children so that they can attend school. Students who attend these alternative schools are subsequently integrated into the regular school system with the approval of the officials of the local public system. These alternate education schemes have been adopted by many Regional Education bureaus and scaled up to reach a larger number of children from poor and marginalized communities.

4.9. Child Protection and Welfare

Non-state organizations working with children may be divided into two broad areas:
Hose engaged to promote the welfare of disadvantaged children, and hose whose main objective is the protection of children against abuse, sexual and physical exploitation. On occasions die same organizations may be engaged in both activities at one and the same time. Many organizations, here have an exclusive child-focus, while in some cases organizations may combine child focused work with other programs. As concluded there are a large number of projects in the area of child welfare and protection, and the resource outlay is also considerable.

There are a wide diversity of social, economic, health and environmental problems that impact on children. As noted above, the spread of HIV/AIDS has produced a large population of orphaned children, and while the pandemic may be stabilizing at the moment it will continue to take a heavy toll socially and economically. There will in other words be more HIV/AIDS-orphaned children in the years to come. Further, periodic social and economic crisis, such as hunger and food shortages, environmental shocks, and civil disturbances will bring hardships and suffering to children in particular. The evidence available indicates that due to acute poverty, the abuse and exploitation of children is rampant and may be on the increase. It is now becoming apparent due partly to the work of the voluntary sector that sexual abuse of children, frequently by parents or close relations is widespread.

The main activities pertaining to children's welfare are the following:

Support and fostering orphaned and destitute children *through various schemes.*

Providing shelter, safe homes and rehabilitation *to children in distress*

Managing specialized children's villages. These are centers for children without parents, and children in distress.

Providing health, education and material support to children from very poor families or destitute children

Working with street children to improve their life conditions. Sponsorship programs to enable such children to attend school or vocational training institutions

Working with juvenile delinquents, and children with anti-social behavior *Managing special youth homes* and supporting and preparing youngsters for employment opportunities *Child-family reunification programs*

Daycare programs for needy parents; children feeding centers, and outreach programs

Capacity building for communities, relevant government bodies to enable them to support children in difficult circumstances. Training and sensitization programs also included.

The work of protection of children from abuse and exploitation depends largely on advocacy work and public awareness of the rights of children. This means raising awareness among communities, law enforcement agencies, school administrations and health care providers. CSOs/NGOs work closely with many government bodies, in particular with the Police, the Courts, the Prosecutors office, schools, and government bodies such as Social Affairs and Women's Affairs agencies, and others concerned with children's protection. Very often they provide training to staff of these institutions, capacity building, material and financial support. They also work with *iddirs*, CBOs, informal neighborhood community groups, youth groups, school children and kebelies. In many urban areas, child rights organizations and their partners in the community support a large number of iddirs.

The main objective in this endeavor is to promote child rights and the protection of children from abuse, exploitation and risks and dangers that may be posed by harmful traditional practices and beliefs. This involves undertaking awareness programs based on the Federal and Regional Constitutions and laws, international conventions and agreements approved by the Oromia

government, as well as training and support.

CSOs/NGOs were instrumental in bringing about change in two areas: a) the inclusion of the subject of children's rights and child protection in the curriculum of training institutions for the police and judges, including in the Federal and Oromia Police Training Colleges; and b) the establishment of Child Protection Departments in each Killil and in each worecia in the country.

The following is a case study of an innovative reform to promote child protection, which is being piloted in Adama/Nazret. The scheme has been initiated and supported by a number of CSOs/NGOs working there including FSCE, Lawyers Association for Human Rights (LAHR), VISION, ARAYA Yemelkam Zega Association, EWLA, and Ellilta Women at Risk Project and others. The reform is also being tried out in Oromia.. The first task was the establishment of the Child Protection Unit.

Generally the voluntary sector has maintained that its priority concern is fighting poverty and uplifting the livelihood of the poor, the disadvantaged and marginalized. Its development projects and welfare and social protection programs have been designed to benefit these population groups. The aim has been to improve their income, to provide them access to basic services, and to reinforce their resilience against social, economic and environmental shocks. CSOs/NGOs learnt through experience that without enabling communities to enhance their social awareness and their competence to manage community-based development and service delivery programs the effort to achieve these goals would not have lasting results and any short term gains would not be sustained. The need therefore for building institutions that serve the poor was recognized to be critical and to require increased attention. Over the years, CSOs/NGOs have helped their beneficiaries build a diversity of self- managed organizations both in the rural and urban areas. These include: farmers organizations, youth and women's associations, savings and credit societies, cooperatives, water users associations, grazing societies, cereal bank groups, micro- finance organizations, and school-based environmental groups. Moreover, CSOs/NGOs have also provided financial and resource assistance and capacity building support to iddirs and community based organizations (CBOs). It was the CSOs/NGOs which first recognized that some of the informal customary organizations found in many rural and urban communities, iddirs in particular, could play an important role in

community development.

In this connection, it is worth noting that NGOs have also provided financial and other support to what are called "mass-based organizations". These are organizations that are sponsored by the government and which are claimed to represent the interests of broad population groups. They include Women's Association and Youth Associations. In some cases, the support provided by NGOs is substantial, such that the organizations would find it difficult to sustain their activities if it was discontinued.

It is impossible to put a monetary value or numerical figure to the organizational endeavor of NGOs but it is quite clear from all the evidence available that the achievements in this area are very significant. NGOs were the first to organize poor people's savings and credit associations as well as micro-finance schemes in this country. Almost all of these were poor people's organizations and intended to serve the needs of the poor. Indeed, in the great majority of cases, the organizations were set up for poor women and specifically tailored to address their needs.

Nearly all of the existing formal local CSOs in Oromia secure their full or substantial part of budget from foreign sources and would fall under "foreign" CSOs as per the definition of the draft proclamation. Considering the financial capacity of the Oromia citizens and the lack culture of voluntarism and practice of funding formal CSOs among the public, it would be very difficult for local CSOs to raise more than 90% of their funding locally. As a result, if the draft proclamation comes into force as it is, most CSOs/NGOs (international NCOs as a whole and almost all of the formal local CSOs) will be excluded from engaging in the promotion of good governance, democracy, human rights and peace.

Reducing the effectiveness of CSOs/NGOs interventions in development: There has been a wide and growing consensus among development actors around the globe as to the existence of close links between development and governance, which is also recognized by the Oromia government as reflected in various policy documents including the PASDEP. Poverty is not merely a state of low income but a human condition caused by deprivation of the capabilities, choice and power necessary for the enjoyment of fundamental rights. Accordingly, effective strategies to address poverty or enhance development need to be multi- secnral, multi-ievel and holistic approaches that target structures and social arrangements that breed or sustain exclusion, marginalization, and

vulnerability.

Contrary to other policy documents, the draft proclamation attempts to make a separation between development and governance/human rights interventions. Concerning CSOs defined as "foreign", the draft proclamation allows them to engage in poverty reduction and other development interventions, but prohibits them from engaging in governance/human rights issues. Apart from the obvious difficulty to separate development and governance interventions, this will prevent CSOs/NGOs from making effective and sustainable development interventions by addressing the root causes of poverty, which are usually related to problems in governance. For instance, a CSO working to increase educational coverage cannot achieve its objective only by constructing schools unless it also engage in creating awareness among the public about the rights of boys and girls to education.

In practice, the most important contributions of CSOs/NGOs with respect to rural and human development have been achieved through combining direct development works with policy advocacy interventions. The important contribution of CSOs/NGOs in the area of education through piloting alternative basic education (AE5E) and then influencing the government to adopt ABE in its policies and programs or the success achieved in addressing the plight of coffee farmers through influencing the legal framework to allow cooperatives to engage in export are some of the prime examples. The draft proclamation, by excluding most of the CSOs/NGOs from engaging in governance or policy advocacy, will practically limit their development intervention to relief and service provision and will profoundly affect their effective and sustainable engagement in the development process of the country.

Hampering the growth and development of the civil society sector: The draft proclamation gives much expanded regulatory power for the Agency and allows it to interfere with the operation of CSOs/NGOs beyond the acceptable standards.

This lack of acceptable degree of operational freedom will affect both the development of the sector and the effectiveness of its interventions. Other effects of the draft proclamation that will hamper the growth and development of the civil society sector include:

It will make CSOs/NGOs highly insecure and unsure of their role and future prospects. The

exclusion of most CSOs/NGOs from engaging in governance and human rights issues under the proclamation will discourage donors from supporting them

CHAPTER 5 : Summary, Conclusion and Recommendation

5.1. Summary

We have argued earlier that the role of civil society especially when utilizing the rights based approach is to create awareness and raise consciousness; build the capacity of rights holders; organize and mobilize rights holders; advocate for pro-poor policies and provide alternatives. The point must be made that it is not the primary responsibility to design and implement policies and programmes to eradicate poverty. Whenever services are provided by civil society, it should be to serve as entry points to model what is possible to eradicate poverty. Several reports and surveys have confirmed this position. It has been pointed out that the role of civil society to effectively participate in the design, formulation, implementation and monitoring of anti-poverty programmes. Similarly, a survey of roles of civil society in poverty eradication showed that the principal activities by civil society are capacity building and training; advocacy; project management and microfinance. It also argued that the civil society has a dual role of collaborating with and facilitating the government sector in the development management process and yet constituting a watchdog for diligence of the governance function.

Due to the restrictive nature of the government that limited the space for civil society, the roles and contributions made by civil society are limited in Oromia. However, after the occurrences of the two devastating famines in the country, the roles and contributions of civil society significantly increased in different sectors. Identified major contributions made by civil society since their establishment in Oromia are listed below.

Credible roles in saving the life of famine victims in food insecure parts of the country through emergency relief support of civil society. Civil society involvements in the area of food security are increasing through times because of the recorded achievements in last couple of decades.

Remarkable contributions in improving the health and education of the society through constructing and made operational health centers and schools.

Considerable achievements in uplifting the capacity and skill of the rural people through constructing training centers and intensive trainings on skill acquisition capacity building.

Improved infrastructures developed by civil society enabled millions of people to have access to

health, education and market services.

Remarkable achievements in increasing the income of the rural poor through creating local credit and saving institutions.

Civil society, being the strongest part of civil society in Oromia, contributed much to the poverty reduction efforts in different ways. However, in their involvements NGOs faced various external and internal challenges. The major external challenges are associated to the government policies and laws enforced with regard to civil society. The major external challenges that limited the contribution of NGOs are listed below.

Categorizing civil society as an alliance to opposition parties that restrict roles of NGOs in the country. The civil society roles in the area of advocacy on human-rights are highly scrutinize by the government.

Formation of civil society that only promote the policies of the ruling party rather than mobilizing the society to development.

Lengthy and less transparent processes to establish and operate NGOs reduced the influx of civil society in the country.

Law is expected to be enacted in the near future and may ban international civil society from involving on advocacy programs, including on human-rights, conflict resolution and development advocacy. Under article 2 sub-article 4(J-N) international civil society are prohibited to operate on any advocacy work. Local civil society groups will be considered if their annual financial supports exceed 10% from outside sources. There are many articles in the draft law that can scare civil society operation in Oromia. The ever increasing negative attitude of government towards civil society and unfriendly relations that is being observed between government and civil society demonstrates that government is resistant to recognize and accept the significance and contribution of civil society for the country's development. The objective of charity and society law is not clear whether to maintain public trust, promote compliance, enhance accountability, strengthen and provide autonomy for civil society involvement or to repress and scrutiny their involvements in Oromia. The major internal challenges that encountered civil society and limited their contribution towards development are listed below.

Shortage of skilled power, financial and material resources has limited the roles and significance of civil society in Oromia.

The freedom to run activities and effectiveness of civil society has limited by the interests of external donors.

Lack of clear accountability by civil society exposed for corruption and made less effective in their destined goals.

Lack of structured networking and communications among civil society limited the available resources as they compete for resources to execute similar interests and projects

5.2. Conclusions

This was an exploratory study whose main intention was to trigger debate and rekindle interest in the work of civil society in west Shoa zone that primarily focuses on poverty reduction. It was felt by the researcher that most of the work in this arena had become sterile and needed innovation and rejuvenation. The stated position of this research was one of policy even though there are many levels at which poverty could be tackled. Nonetheless, the position was also influenced by an understanding that proactive policy that is backed by effective programmatic interventions would have far-reaching ramifications than for instance the setting up of soup kitchens for poor people. Furthermore, it was felt that government was having an unnecessary monopoly of the policy domain.

From the foregoing debates, it is suggested here that poverty reduction on the part of civil society cannot operate in a socio-political and economic void. Taking this position into account would mean that we treat the initiatives of civil society in this issue as interlinked to those of government. For this research, it is a matter of the existing policy environment and the manner in which the government operationalizes such policies to dovetail its efforts and those of civil society, in poverty reduction. Finally, this research cannot be deemed as exhaustive but hopes to generate further research in this area in order to cement the assumptions and conclusions here.

It will discourage citizens to organize and establish new CSOs/NGOs, It will reduce the size of the sector, since almost all of the advocacy CSOs/NGOs will be forced to completely cease their operation and most of the development CSOs. NGOs will be forced to terminate the advocacy/governance component of their intervention. Not only are levels of engagement with government low - which could be a consequence of government attitudes, but the level of inter-group networking is also low. The level of engagement between civil society organizations is primarily restricted to information sharing (mentioned by of CSOs) and consultation (mentioned by. Only of CSOs mentioned cooperation on policy implementation, and only cooperation on policy formulation. This is significant, as groups gain advocacy strength and builds capacity, through networks. In terms of playing a 'watchdog' role, less than half of all groups surveyed see this as an appropriate role for civil society. The fact that society at large remains divided along ethnic and political views also makes building national networks more difficult. Previous donor attempts to push this issue have had limited success, but neither has there been sustained

donor interest. Regional and local networking is however also very weak, where political divisions are not always a problem and greater support could be provided for networking at that level.

The areas in which civil society works appear to be skewed by donor agendas, with 48% of CSOs engaged in advocacy work on either HIV or women's issues, and only 15% engaged in service provision in the areas of 'income generation', 'relief and 'food security'. Of the groups engaged in advocacy on women's issues, one third are working on 'gender based violence', currently a key area of donor interest. This means that 7% of the entire sample (a sample made up of a very diverse range of groups) were engaged in advocacy on 'gender based violence'. If the groups engaged on advocacy on 'harmful traditional practices', included by some under 'gender based violence', are added then of the entire survey group are active in this area. This point is not intended to undermine the importance of advocacy on this issue, it is intended to stress that if Oromia civil society was setting its own agenda, and it is unlikely that such a high percentage of groups would be clustered in this relatively narrow area of advocacy.

Civil society engagement in the PRS was at a very low level. Only of groups responded to the question on the impact of civil society engagement in the PRS process, and only thought civil society had any impact on the final document. Only of groups were willing to suggest what the nature of that impact was. Given the first PRS process in Oromia was very rushed, this situation may improve, but the outlook for this is relatively pessimistic given the overall negative attitude of Oromia civil society to policy engagement with the national government outside the PRS process.

The problem with this low level of engagement with the national government is currently compounded by the political situation. In most countries it would be expected that high capacity CSOs engaged in advocacy with the national government would be located in the capital city. In Oromia, as discussed earlier, opposition parties have very high levels of support in Oromia and the government's support base is higher in rural areas. Given the high level of ethnic division in Oromia and the mobilization of these divisions along party-political lines it is likely that Oromia civil society groups will continue to have difficulty engaging with the government.

In various questions in the survey CSOs expressed similarly positive views of both official

donors and NGOs. Although CSOs had a slightly higher opinion of their relationship with donors, they engaged in slightly more information sharing and consultation with NGOs and also met them slightly more frequently. The figure of 80% wanting to be funded directly, rather than through NGOs needs to be treated with some caution. Groups listed lack of funding as a major constraint on their capacity, the preference for direct funding could reflect a desire for a reliable funding source rather than a balanced judgment against NGOs as compared to state development agencies. In addition NGOs are very heavily involved in service delivery and food security programmers in Oromia, which in some respects, is seen by local CSOs as denying them opportunities for service provision funding.

Although in Oromia CSOs appear to lack capacity, there is a strong associational and communal life at local level. Of CSOs targeted advocacy effort at local and regional government, compared to who targeted national government. When groups were asked the slightly different question, of what level of government they interacted with, only listed national government, while over a half listed regional government and nearly half listed wereda and community. This indicates that in the current situation in Oromia, it would be fruitful to focus civil society funding at the regional and sub-regional levels and not solely fund national level NGOs. At local level it is almost inevitable that CSOs will have an ethnic complexion or party political affinities - in the sense that their members will be drawn from an area where a particular party is dominant. This should not be viewed as a barrier to funding groups who have local legitimacy and whose aims are focused on a pro-poor and prodemocracy agenda.

5.3. Recommendations

In addition to scarcity, inconsistency of data and information between the different institutions at federal level and between the federal and regional structures has been one of the challenges faced by this exercise. At individual agency-levels, to a large extent, the organizational culture of compiling and maintaining consolidated data and information is undeveloped. In the absence of such materials the task of constructing overall picture of contributions will remain a challenging enterprise. Hence, it is recommended that efforts of enhancing documentation at individual agency levels, at geographic and sectoral clusters are strengthened. Capacity building for coordinating governmental offices at different levels for compiling and maintaining updated information is equally important. Moreover, it is also recommended that NGO/CSOs strive to

increasingly work with higher learning and research organizations in the area of analyzing impacts and compiling lessons learnt.

It is strongly recommended that the starts in territorial and thematic networking amongst NGOs/CSOs, particularly at regional and local levels, are supported so that internal shared learning and external interactions with government at different levels are facilitated.

In light of overall intents of the draft Charities and Societies Proclamation, it is high time that the CSO/NGQ community makes some more coordinated and discernible move inwards enhancing self-coordination. The starts made for upgrading, promoting and enforcing the Code of Conduct has to be expedited.

Despite the various remarkable contributions illustrated, the study notes that many in society are still maintaining unfavorable view or opinion on the NGO sector at large. Some actors deliberately fuel the perpetuation of the unfavorable view by over emphasizing limitations and denying credit for the important contributions. Indeed, the CSO/NGO community has made some starts aimed at better informing the public on the evolving roles and contributions made. The marking of 'NGO Day' and the participations in expositions are examples in this regard. However, in light of the prevailing challenges a more aggressive and intensive external relations work is needed so that the sectors pursuit of more enabling operational space is strongly supported by society at large. Thus, it is recommended that print and electronic media is used to disseminate information on roles, modes or terms of participation and contributions of the sector. It is also recommended that NGO/CSOs facilitate for their partners and target-groups to air their views on roles and contributions. It is recommended that regional NGO/CSO groupings are supported to produce and then update regional reports on profiles and contributions.

There is need for investment in organizational development Processes that gradually prove the various components of CSOs as well as the Government's various arms and at all levels. This should not be a one off training programme but a long-term process of capacity building that empowers those involved to play the roles expected of them.

In supporting organizational strengthening and institutional development processes, donors need to ware of the structural outlay of the CSOs, the context, and spread the support at all necessary

levels.

It will be critical to support mechanisms to ensure that CSOs are accountable, not only to the donors but also to the constituents.

Development partners, in their relationship with our Governments need to aim at collaboration where empowerment and capacity building is key, an objective in itself, not only of Government as the direct partner but also of the CSOs to engage meaningfully, so that the relationship slowly moves into long term partnerships, i.e. look at the both the supply side and the demand side.

In providing financial support to CSOs, it is important to be more flexible, to allow room for innovations as well as strategic thinking. Greater focus in a more programme type of support as opposed to the project type would go a long way in enhancing the role of CSOs in poverty reduction.

There is need for investment in career development for people in civil society so that there is an incentive for active and intelligent people to remain in civil society and have opportunity to make a contribution from there.

More investment is needed in dialogue that fosters a strong relationship between Civil Society and government but without compromising the independence of civil society.

There is need for more dialogue between donors and civil society to enhance donors' understanding of the specific dynamics of civil in each country. This understanding would assist in better targeted support to civil society strengthening.

References

ACORD; (1998). The Role of Indigenous Organizationsin Development, paper presented at the workshop organized by ESSWA, Oromia.

Aklilu Kidanu and Dessalegn Rahmato (2000). Listening to the Poor; A study Based on Selected rural and urban sites. Forum for social studies, Oromia. Almayehu Seifu, (1968). "Eder in Oromia: A Sociological Study", in Oromia Observer(1968) edited by Richard and Rita Pankhurst, Vol. 12.

Alock, Pete; (1993). Understanding poverty, Pete Alcock, The MacMillan Press LTD, London.

Barrett, A. Richard; (1984). Culture and conduct - An excursion in Anthropology; Wadsworth publishing company, Belmont, California.

Befekadu Degefe and Berhanu Nega; (eds) (1999/2000). Annual Report on the Oromia Economy Vol. 1, Oromia Economic Association, Oromia, Oromia.

Bekalu Mola, (1997). Collaboration For Development Between Non-Governmental Organizations and Community Based Organizations: An Analysis of Case Studies in Oromia. Society For Participatory Development in Oromia June 1997, Oromia.

Brokesha, David; (eds.) (1980). Indigenous knowledge systems and Development, University Press of America. Printed in U.S.A.

Clark, John (1990). Democratizing Development - The role of Voluntary Organizations, John Clark, Kumarian Press, inc., U.S.A.

Craig, Gary and Marjorie Mayo; (eds), (1995). Community Empowerment, A reader in Participation and Development, Individual Contributors, CRDA, (1998). Siever Jubilee Anniversary issue, Oromia, Oromia.

CRDA; (1997). Urban Development Strategies optionsto the urban poor, compilation of papers presented at workshop organized by CRDA.

Curtis, Donald; (1991). Beyond Government, Organizations for common Benefit, Development Studies, Donald Curtis, Macmillan Education LTD.

Dejene Aredo and Getinet Assefa; (1998). Civil Society Organizations in Development: Indigenous Institutions in the Cheha Woreda of Gurage Zone, A paper presented at the workshop organized by ESSWA.

Dejene Aredo; (1993). The Informal and Semi-Informal Financial Sectors in Oromia A Case

Study of Iqub, Iddir, Saving and credit Cooperatives, Africans Economic Research consortium. Research paper 21, Nairobi ; (1998). The Iddir: Theory and practice, A paper submitted to a workshop organized by ESSWA, Oromia ; (2001A). Iddir: A Look At A Form of Social Capital, paper presented at a work shop organized by ACORD, Oromia. ; (2001B). NGOs, and Self-help Organizations in Oromia: The case of Iddir, A paper submitted to the conference on self-help initiatives in Oromia.

Oromia Economic Association; (1999). Economic Focus: Poverty in Oromia., Vol. 2 No. 5, Oct-Nov 1999.

Eade, Deborah; (1997). Capacity Building: An Approach to people centered Development, Oxfam (U.N. and Ireland)

Escobar, Artur; (1997). Anthropology and Development - Anthropology - issues and perspectives II - in International Social Science Journal - 154, Blackwell publishers /UNESCO.

ESSWA, (1998). The Role of Indigenous Associations and Institutions in Development, Abstracts; Oromia.

Fantahun Melles; (2000). Informal Financial Institutions: Impact Analysis of ACORD's credit Intervention Through Iddirs in Dire Dawa, MA Thesis submitted to school of Graduate Studies of Oromia University.

Feleke Tadele; (1998). Iddirs in Urban Areas: Retrospect and prospects, A paper presented at a workshop organized by ESSWA, A.A.U.

Fowler, Alan; (1992). Institutional Development and NGOs in Africa: Policy perspectives for European Development Agencies. INTRAC, NOVIB.

Fowler, Alan; (1997). Striking a Balance - A Guide to Enhancing the effectiveness of Non - Governmental organizations in International Development, Alan Fowler, earthscan publications Ltd, London.

Freeman, M.David; (1989). Local organizations for social Development, Concepts and cases of Irrigation Organization, Westview press inc.

Gardner, katy and David Lewis; (1996). Anthropology, Development and The Modern Challenge, Anthropology, Culture and Society, Pluto Press, Printed in Great Britain.

Geoulet, Demis; (1989). Incentives For Development: The Key to Equity; Helen Studies, University of Notre Dame New York, New Horizens Press.

Getahun Tafesse, (1999). Poverty and Poverty Reduction in Oromia, in Tegegn Gebre Egziabher et al. (eds) Aspects of Development Issues in Oromia, November, 1989, I.D.R, Oromia University.

Getinet Assefa, (1999). A Study on Indigenous Institutions and Local Development Initiatives. Case studies from selected Gurage Areas of Oromia; Oromia University, school of Graduate Studies, Regional and Local Development Studies.

Getinet Assefa; (2000). Report of Research on CBOs umbrella organization, ACORD -

Oromia, Oromia CBOs support programme.

Grillo, R.D and Stirrat, R.L; (1997). Discourses of Development: Anthropological Perspectives, R.D. Grillo and R.L.

Haile Gebriel Dagne; (2000). Traditional community Based Organizations in the Service of Rural Development, A paper prepared for the XIV International Conference on Oromia Studies.

Hailu Abatena, (1987). The Potential Contributionof Indigenous Self-help and Mutual Aid organizations to the Socio-economic Developmentof Oromia, LaData, New Orleans Louisiana.

Hamer, H. John, (1967); Voluntary Associations As Structures of change Among the

Sidamo of South Eastern Oromia. In Marina Ottaway (ed.), Urbanization in Oromia, a text with integrated readings, A.A.U. 1976

Hann, Chris and Dunn, Elizabeth; (eds.) (1996). Civil Society - Challenging Western

Models, Routledge, London, USA & Canada Hobart, Mark; (ed.) (1993). An Anthropological Critique of Development, The Growth of Ignorance, E-I-D-O-S., Routledge, London and New York.

Howell, Jude (2000). "Making civil Society from the outside Challenges for Donors," in

the European Journal of Development Research, edited by Christian Lund, Vol. 12. No. 1 June 2000, A Franck Lass Journal.

Jones, F. John and Toshihiro Yogo; (1994). New Training Design for Local Social Development, The Single system Design in Competency - based Training, Vol. 1, Development of Training Curriculum, UNC - RD, Textbook Series No.1

Kebebew Daka, (1978). The Cooperative Movement inOromia(Unpublished Paper), A.A.U.
        Applied Sociology Department.

Koehn, Peter and S.R. Waldron; (1976). Urban Linkage Associations in Harar, Oromia, in
        Marina Ottaway, Urbanization in Oromia, a textwith integrated readings, A.A.U.
        1976 Korten, C. David; (1990). Getting to the 21stCentury, Voluntary Action and
        the Global Agendas; People - centered Development Forum, Kumarian Press.

Levine, Donald. (1972). Wax and Gold: Tradition and Innovation in Oromia Culture, University
        of Chicago Press.

Lewis, S. Herbert; (1975). "Neighbors, Friends, and Kinsmen: Principles of social organization
        Among the Cushtic - speaking peoples of Oromia," in the Proceedings of the First
        United States Conference on Oromia Studiesedited by Marcus, G. Harold (ed.)
        (1975) Michigan State University, U.S.A..

Maina, Wachira; (1998). Kenya: The State, Donors and the Politics of Democratization, in civil
        society and AID Industry, edited by Van Rooy, Alison; (1998) earths can U.K
        Publication Limited, Published in the UK.

Mathur, H. Mohan; (1989). Anthropology Development in Traditional Socities, Hari

Mohan Mathur, Vikas Publishing House Pvt. Ltd.

Matovu, Fred and Kaija, Darlison, (1999). The Roleof Non-Governmental Organizations
        (NGOs) in Rural Development in Uganda. The case of Vision Teso Rural
        Development organization, OSSREA.

McMichael, Philip; (1996). Development and Social Change - A Global Perspective, Pin

Forge Press, London, New Delhe

Mekuria Bulcha, (1973). Eder: Its Roles in Development and Social Change in Oromia,
        Unpublished Senior Essay, Oromia University.

Mekuria Bulcha, (1973). The Social and Cultural Background of Edir, in Marina Ottaway, (ed.)
        (1976) Urbanization in Oromia, a text with integrated readings, A.A.U. 1976

Mesfin Bantayehu and Social Beyene; (2000). A Preliminary Study on Iddir Institution in Addis
        baba, A final report, City Government of Oromia, Oromia.

Midgley, James, et al (1986). Community Participation, Social Development and the State,
        James Midgley, U.S.A.

Minas Hiruy; (2001). Enabling Environment for self-help iniatives, A paper presented on

conference of self-help initiatives organized by National self-help committee of Oromia.

Miszlivertz, Ference and Katalin Ertsey. (1998) Hungary: Civil Society in the post Socialist World, in civil society and Aid Industry, edited by Van Roy, A lision (1998) Earth Scan Publication limited, published in the UK.

Morehouse, Ward; (ed.) Building Sustainable Communities, Tools and Concept for selfreliant Economic Change; A Toes Book.

Mullenback, H. James; (1976). Akaki Besetka: Urban Processes in an Oromia Industrial Town, Ph.D Dissertation

Mulunesh Tenagashaw, (1973). A Study of the Changing Role of Entoto Woreda Eddir Associations. Unpublished Senior Essay in Applied Sociology, Oromia University.

Niehoff, H. Arthur; (ed.) (1966). Casebook of social change, Aldine publishing company, Chicago.

Ottaway, Marina, (ed.), (1976). Urbanization in Oromia: A Text with Integrated Readings, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, A.A.U. Sociology and Anthropology, A.A.U.

OXFAM, (1995). The Oxfam Poverty Report, An Oxfam Publication; Oxfam (UK and Ireland)

Padaki, Vijay; (ed.) (1995). Development Intervention and Programme Evaluation, Concepts and Cases, Government of India, New Delhi.

Pankhurst R. and Endreas Eshete; (1958). Self-help in Oromia, Oromia Observer. Vol.II, No. 11 pp. 354-364.

Pankhurst, Alula; (1998). Towards an understanding of Associative Society, Characteristics, Potentials, Constraints, A concept paper for the workshop ESSWA, Pankhurst, Alula; (2001). The Role and Space for Iddirsto participate in the Development of Oromia. A paper presented to A workshop prepared by ACORD, Oromia..

Patnam, O. Robert, (1993). Making Democracy Wrok-Civic Traditions in Modern Italy, Princeton University press, Princeton, New Jersey, United Kingdom.

Patron, Pepi; (1998) Peru: civil society and the Autocratic challenge in civil society and AID Industry, edited by Van Rooy, Alison (1998) earth scan Publications limited, Published in the U.K.

Pratten, T. David; (1997). "Local Institutional Development and Relief in Oromia:" A Kire-based seed Distribution Programme in North Wollo, in Disasters; The Journal of Disaster Studies, Policy and Management, Volume 21, Number 2, June 1997, PP. 138 - 154.

Princen, Thomas and Finger Mathias; (1994). Environmental NGOs in World oliticslinking the local and the global; Routledge London and New York.

Riddell, C. Roger; (1995). Non - Governmental Organizations and Rural Poverty Alleviation, Overseas Development Institute, Oxford University Press inc. New York, U.S.A.

Rooy, Van Alison; (ed.) (1998). Civil Society and the Ad Industry, Earth scan Publications limited, U.N. Copyright Alision Van Roy.

Sahley, Caroline, (1995). Strengthening the capacity of NGOs: Cases of Small enterprises Development Agencies in Africa. INTRAC.

Schmit, Leo; (1996). The Deployment of Civil Energy in Indonesia Assessment of an Authentic Solution, in Civil society-challenging western models, edited by Hann and Dunn (1996), Routledge.

Seifu Ruga, (1970); Moulding Traditional Self help Societies of Meet Modern Demands: A Case Study, in Marina Ottaway (ed.) (1976), Urbanization in Oromia, a text with integrated readings. A.A.U., 1976.

Seitz, L. John, (1995). Global Issues An Introduction; Joh L. Seitz, Blackwell publishers Inc. Cambridge, Massachusetts. Sengupta, Arjun; (2000). "Realizing the Right to Development," in Development and ChangeJournal, Blackwell Publishers.

Serageldin, Ismail and Taboroff, June; (eds.) (1994). Culture and Development in Africa; proceedings of an international conference held at the World Bank, Washington D.C.

Shiferaw W/Michael; (1997). Legal Situations for NGOs in Oromia, in CRDA, principles and Laws Regulating NGOs, Oromia, March 1997. Singh, Moresh and Titi, Vangile; (eds) (1995). Empowerment: Towards Sustainable Development. IISD, Fenwood Publishing LTD, Zed Books.

Tadele Bogale; (2000). Coping Strategies with the costs of illness Among Rural Households in Goma District of Jima Zone, Southwest Oromia; MPH Thesis, Faculty of Medicine, A.A.U.

Tegegn Teka, (1994). International Non - Governmental organizations in Rural evelopment in Oromia: The Case of Wolatia province; ph.D. Dissertation, Tegegn Teka; (2000). International Non-Governmental organizations in Rural Development in Oromia:- Rhetoric and Practice; European University Studies, Peter Lang.

Teigist Lemma Dessalegn; (2000). Economic Analysis of Social Networks: Empirical study on Selected Women Iddir in Oromia. MA thesis, School of Graduate Studies, Oromia University.

Teketel Abebe; (1999). Cvivil Society: Some Theoretical and Conceptual Issues, APaper Presented at the 9thAnnual Conference of EEA.

Tennyson, ROS (1998) Managing partnership - Tools for mobilizing the public sector and civil society as partners in Development.

Tilahun Teshome, (ed.); Good Practices and Recommendations on the Legal Framework for NGOs in Oromia., CRDA,

Tirfe Mamo; (1995). Meeting the challenges of Poverty Focus on Oromia. The Role of Indigenous knowledge, traditional practices and local Institutions, Uppsala, Department of Sociology.

Uphoff, Norman; (1992). Local Institutions and Participation for Sustainable Development, Gatekeepers Series No. 31. IIED.

Verhagen, Koenoad; (1987). Self-help promotion: A challenge to the NGO Community, EBEMO/Royal Tropical Institute, The Netherlands, Amsterdam/Cebemo, Oegstgeest.

Verhelst, G. Thierry; (1987). No Life Without Roots: Culture and Development, Translated by Bob Cumming, Zed Books Ltd, London and New Jersey, Weisband, Edward; (ed.) (1989). Poverty Amidst Plenty: World Political Economy and Distributive Justice; West view Press, Printed in U.S.A.

Wellard, Kate and James G. Capestake, (ed.); Non-governmental Organizations and The State in Africa: Overseas Development Institute, Routledge, U.S.A and Canada.

Wolfe, Marshal; (1996) Elusive Development, Marshal Wolfe, ZED Books LTD, London and New Jersey, UNRISD, Geneva.

World Bank; (1992). Oromia: Towards Poverty Alleviation and Social Action Program, preliminary Mission Conclusion, Oromia.

Yeshiwas Assefa; (1995). Rural Institutions in Meket Woreda of North Wollo, paper presented at the SOS-Sahel Workshop on "NGOs and CBOs in Oromia".

Yigremew Adal; (2000). "Rural Organizations and Rural Development in Oromia," in

Issues in Rural Development edited by Zenebework Taddesse, forum for social studies, Oromia.

Zerihun Alemayehu; (2001). Government policies and Grassroots participation, A paper presented to a workshop organized by ACORD,

Appendix I

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am undertaking research on "The role of NGOs in poverty reduction in West Shoa zone" as a partial fulfillment of the requirement for the masters of arts degree in public administration of the Indira Gandhi National Open University. Accordingly, I would like to collect relevant information from resourceful persons like you. I believe the result of the study would contribute to better understanding of the roles NGOs in poverty reduction.

The information to be provided by you would be kept confidential and used for academic and academic purpose only. Hence, please feel free in all your responses. Multiple answers are possible where needed. In answer to scale questions, the value of alternatives is given as follows. Strongly agree/ usually= 5, agree/sometimes= 4, not sure= 3, disagree/rarely=2 and strongly disagree/ never = 1.

Questionnaire for NGO coordinators/managers

Questionnaire Guide: for each of the following questions, you are requested to provide true responses voluntarily with tick marks, ranking order or short answer. Multiple responses are possible.

Data collector: _____   Date _____

Part I. Characteristics of respondents

1. Respondent's position _____
2. Respondent's sex (☑)   A. male ☐   B. female ☐
3. Respondent's educational level (☑)
4. Respondent's educational level (☑)

    A. PhD ☐   B. master's degree ☐   C. 1st degree ☐

    D. college diploma ☐   E. certificate ☐   F. high school complete ☐

    G. not completed high school ☐

5. Respondent's work experience (☑)

    A. 0-2 yrs ☐ B. 3-5 yrs ☐ c. 6-10 yrs ☐ d. above 10 yrs ☐

Part II. Particulars the NGOs

1. Name of the NGO _____
2. Typology of NGO (☑)

       A. International NGO ☐   B. local (national and regional) NGO ☐

       C. other (specify) _____

3. Level of registration (☑) a. federal b. regional c. other (specify) _____
4. Year of establishment _____
5. Year started service in west showa zone _____
6. Location (operational kebeles):   A. no in wereda   b. no in west arsi zone
7. What is your average annual budget in birr? _____
8. Main role of civil society organizations.

Table 1

	Community engaged	%
Agricultural and rural development		
Social sector development		
Service delivery		
Advocacy		
Total		

Table 2: The area of CSOS in service delivery

	Community engaged	%
Agricultural and rural development		
Health care		
Training and education		
Water and sanitation		
Food security		

Table 3: Advocacy undertaken by CSOS

	No of groups	% of groups	% of sample
Poverty			
Social problems			
HIV/AIDS			
Environment			
Sanitation and clean water			
Income generation			
Education Women empowerment Reproductive health			
Total			

Part III: Interviews

1. How CSOS organization have to interact with government

	Frequency	%
Excellent		
Very good		
Satisfactory		
Poor		
Very poor		
Not replay		
Total		

2. Actors which are the most important for achievement of SOS goal

No		1st rank	2nd rank	3rd rank	Total	%
1	Federal government					
2	Regional government					
3	Local government					
4	International NGOs					
5	Community					
6	Others					

3. The main challenges of CSO's to achieve their goals appropriately

No		Frequency	%
1	Too much government intervention		
2	Too much donor intervention		
3	Lack of funding		
4	Political barriers		
5	Cultural barriers		
6	Lack of equipment and material		
	Lack of training		

Questionnaire for NGO community development workers

Questionnaire guide: for each of the following questions, you are requested to provide true responses voluntarily with tick marks, ranking order or short answer.

Multiple responses are possible.

Data collector: _____ Date: _____

Part I. Characteristics of respondents

1. Respondent's position in the NGO _____

2. Respondent's sex (☑): A. male ☐ B. female ☐

3. Respondent's educational level (☑)

   a. PhD ☐   b. Master's degree ☐   c. 1st degree ☐

   d. college diploma ☐   e. certificate ☐   f. high school complete ☐

   g. not completed high school ☐

4. Respondent's work experience (☑)

   a. 0-2 yrs ☐ b. 3-5 yrs ☐ c. 6-10 yrs ☐ d. above 10 yrs

1. Trends in poverty reductions for CSoS with government and community? Tick (✓) all that apply

   a. Much more transparent

   b. Somewhat transparent

   c. Stayed the name

   d. Become least transparent

   e. Been much less open

   f. Others

2. The nature of your organization involvement in poverty reduction

   a. Giving fund

   b. Giving consulting

   c. Actively engaging in project work

   d. Giving information

   e. Income generation

3. How do you evaluate, your CSoS project

   a. With CSos managers

   b. With government officials

    c.   With donors

    d.   With community leaders

    e.   With beneficiaries

4. Have you got lessons/experience during your engagement with government?

    Yes, why _____

    _____

    _____

    No, why _____

    _____

    _____

5. The level of the community participating in project activities

S. No.	Level of participation	Always	Occasional	Never	Rarely	Not sure
	Project planning identification					
	Project planning					
	Project planning and approval					
	Project implementation					
	Project monitoring and evaluation					
	Others (specify)					

6. What are the challenges/threats that face to contribute to the zone poverty reduction plan? _____

    _____

    _____

    _____

Focus group discussion (FGD) questions for NGO beneficiaries

Focus group discussion guide: for each of the following questions, you are requested to provide true responses voluntarily. Multiple responses are possible.

Discussion #: _____, started: _____, ended: _____, date: _, location: ____, mediator: ___ _____

Part I: Characteristics of respondents

1. Respondent's sex(#) a. male ☐ b. female ☐ c. total ☐
2. Respondent's educational level (☑)
   a. PhD b. masters degree c. 1st degree d. college diploma e. certificate f. high school complete g. not completed high school

Part II. Questions

1. To what extent do Cuos contribute to the poverty reduction of the area?
   a. To greatest extent
   b. To moderate extent
   c. To low extent
   d. Not sure

2. How do you evaluate the governance character of CUOS

S. No	Character	Very high	High	Medium	Low	Not sure
A	Transparency					
B	Accountability					
C	Effectiveness					
D	Failesss					
E	Responsiveness					

3. Area of sector CUOs contribution in poverty reduction

Agricultural development	1st rank	2nd rank	3rd rank	Total
Health care				
Training and education				

Agricultural development	1st rank	2nd rank	3rd rank	Total
Income generation				
Water and sanitation				
Food security				

3. Do you satisfied with contribution of CUOS in poverty reduction

Yes, why _____

_____

_____

No, why _____

_____

_____

Interview questions for government officials (MoFED, DPPC, and woreda administration)

Interview guide: for each of the following questions, you are requested to provide true responses voluntarily. Multiple responses are possible.

Interview #: _, started: _____, ended: _____, date: _ and location: _ mediator: _____

Part I: Characteristics of respondents

1. Respondent's position _____
2. Respondent's sex (☑) a. male ☐ b. female ☐
3. Respondent's educational level (☑)
   a. Masters degree and above b. 1st degree c. college diploma d. other (specify)
4. Respondent's work experience (☑)
   a. 0-2 yrs ☐ b. 3-5 yrs ☐ c. 6-10 yrs ☐ d. above 10 yrs ☐
1. Appropriate roles for civil society organizations

	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Advocacy					

	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Service delivery					
Quality of education					
Health and sanitation					
Agricultural and rural development					
Social development					

2. Government officials opinion in relation with CSoS (zone and wereda)
   1. Excellent
   2. Very good
   3. Neutral
   4. Poor
   5. Very poor
   6. Broken relationships

3. The effectiveness of civil society engagement in poverty reduction
   1. Very effective
   2. Effective
   3. Difficult to assess impact
   4. In effective

4. The impact of CSoS on poverty reduction rank

No		1st rank	2nd rank	3rd rank
	Agricultural and rural development			
	Social sector development			
	Income generation			
	Clean water and sanitation			
	Food security			
	Resource mobilization			
	Women empowerment			
	Health care financing			

No		1ˢᵗ rank	2ⁿᵈ rank	3ʳᵈ rank
	Environmental issues			
	Addressing social problems			

5. How should government could facilitate the project of CSoS _____

_____

_____

_____

6. How do you address the nature of civil society organization's involvement in poverty reduction _____

_____

_____

7. What are the constraints of CSoS in the implementation of poverty reduction _____

_____

_____