
RiPPLE end line report

MFS II country evaluations, Civil Society component

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This report describes the findings of the end line assessment of the Research Inspired Policy and Practice Learning in Ethiopia and the Nile Region (RiPPLE) that is a partner of the WASH alliance.

The evaluation was commissioned by NWO-WOTRO, the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research in the Netherlands and is part of the programmatic evaluation of the Co-Financing System - MFS II financed by the Dutch Government, whose overall aim is to strengthen civil society in the South as a building block for structural poverty reduction. Apart from assessing impact on MDGs, the evaluation also assesses the contribution of the Dutch Co-Funding Agencies to strengthen the capacities of their Southern Partners, as well as the contribution of these partners towards building a vibrant civil society arena.

This report assesses RiPPLE's efforts towards strengthening Civil Society in Ethiopia and it used the CIVICUS analytical framework. It is a follow-up of a baseline study conducted in 2012. Key questions that are being answered comprise changes in the five CIVICUS dimensions to which RiPPLE contributed; the nature of its contribution; the relevance of the contribution made and an identification of factors that explain RiPPLE's role in civil society strengthening.

Keywords: Civil Society, CIVICUS, theory based evaluation, process-tracing



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List of abbreviations and acronyms

ADF	African development Forum
BoFED	Bureau of finance and economic development
BoWE	Bureau of water and energy
CBO	Community Based Organization
CC	Climate Change
CDI	Centre for Development Innovation, Wageningen UR
CFAs	Co-Financing Agencies
CFO	Co-Financing Organisation
CCRDA	Consortium of Christian Relief and Development Association
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CLFZ	Child Labour Free Zones
CMC	Centre Management Committee
CWP	Community WASH Plan
CRDA	Christian Relief and Development Association
CRD	Centre for Research and Dialogue
CS	Civil Society
CSO	Civil Society organization
DFID	UK Department for International Development
DWA	Dutch WASH Alliance
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority
ESPA	Ecological Sustainable Poverty Alleviation
EWA	Ethiopian WASH Alliance
FIETS	Financial, Institutional, Environmental, Technological, and Social Sustainability
FDRE	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
FLoWS	Forum for Learning on Water and Sanitation
GLoWS	Guided Learning on Water and Sanitation
GTF	Governance and Transparency Fund
GTP	Growth and transformation Plan
HCS	Hararghe Catholic Secretariat (HCS – RiPPLE)
ICCO	Interchurch organization for development cooperation
IFPRI	International food Policy Research Institute
IRC	International Water and Sanitation Centre
IVM	Institute for Environmental Studies
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
IWRM	Integrated Water Resource Management
LARS	Long Term Action Research study
LPA	Learning and Practice Alliance
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoFa	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoWR&E	Ministry of Water Resources and Energy
MFS	Dutch co-financing system
MSE	Micro and Small Enterprises
MSF	Multi Stakeholder Forum (on WASH)
MUS	Multiple Use Services
MWE	Ministry of Water and Energy
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
ODI	Overseas Development Institute
PANE	Poverty Action Network in Ethiopia

RAIN Foundation	Rain Harvesting Implementation Network
RIIPPLE	Research inspired Policy & Practice Learning in Ethiopia (and the Nile Basin)
RHCC	Rainwater Harvesting Capacity Center
RUAF	Resource Centre on Urban Agriculture and Food Security
RWH	Rain Water Harvesting
SNNPR	Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Region
SPO	Southern Partner Organisation
SSI	Semi-structured Interview
SWM	Solid Waste Management
ToC	Theory of Change
TVET	Technical Vocational Education and Training
UA	Urban Agriculture
UAP	Universal access program
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
Wageningen UR	Wageningen University & Research centre
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WSS	Water Supply and Sanitation

1 Introduction

This report presents the civil society end line findings of RiPPLE in Ethiopia which is a partner of WASTE, RAIN Foundation and ICCO under the Dutch WASH Alliance (DWA). It is a follow-up to the baseline assessment that was carried out in 2012. According to the information provided during the baseline study, RiPPLE is working on the theme/MDG 'Private Sector & Agriculture'.

The end-line assessment for RiPPLE, and in particular the implementation of the MFS II 'Linking sanitation and hygiene (urban waste management) to urban agriculture' project implemented with support of WASTE and ICCO did not take place as expected. Early 2013, WASTE and the RAIN Foundation, implementing another project with RiPPLE, decided to end their partnership with RiPPLE because of missing clarity about progress being made towards outcomes and finances. They asked for an external audit, which provided clarity on the remaining budget which was executed in the first semester of 2013.

As a consequence of the audit all WASH alliance partners seized their collaboration with RiPPLE. Only ICCO resumed its partnership with RiPPLE in the second semester of 2014.

Both internal factors within RiPPLE, such as high staff turnover including executive leaders; external factors such as the 30:70 regulation of the Ethiopian government which forced RiPPLE to considerably reduce its human resources; the mostly annual contracts with different partners of the Dutch WASH Alliance, implying high management costs, all explain the end of the partnership. Only ICCO resumed its activities with RiPPLE in the second semester of 2014.

For this reason no civil society evaluation was conducted for RiPPLE.

2 Context

The Ethiopian Government has enacted a five year Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) to implement over the period of 2011-2015.¹ Two of the major objectives of the plan are to maintain at least an average real GDP growth rate of 11%, meet the Millennium Development goals, and expand and ensure the qualities of education and health services thereby achieving the MDGs in the social sectors (FDRE, 2010). The government acknowledged that NGO's and CSO have an important role to play in the implementation of this plan: According to the preamble of the new charities and societies proclamation NO. 621/2009 of Ethiopia, civil society's role is to help and facilitate in the overall development of the country.² This is manifested in the government's approach of participatory development planning procedures. For example, NGOs established a taskforce under the umbrella of the CCRDA to take part in the formulation of the country's first Poverty Reduction Strategy paper formulation. They were a major stakeholder in the planning process of the five year GTP plan. Despite fears that the NO. 621/2009 proclamation was thought to have negative impacts on Civil Society, the number of newly registered charities and societies have increased considerably. 800 new charities and civil societies were registered between 2010/11 and 2011/12 and as of February 2012, these were implementing over 113.916 projects in different social, economic and governance related sectors. Governance related projects comprise interventions in the area of democracy and good governance, peace and security, human rights, justice, and capacity building. The charities and societies are most engaged in the health sector (19.8%), followed by child affairs (11.9%), education (9.2%), governance (8.3%) and other social issues (7.8%). These figures are more or less similar to the pre-proclamation period, and would imply that new charities or societies have replaced foreign and Ethiopian charities that are not allowed to work on sectors related to governance and human rights.³ This might indicate that there might have been some flexibility in the interpretation of some of the provisions of the proclamation.

¹ November 2010, *Growth and Transformation Plan 2011 – 2015*, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, (November 2010), Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

² February 2009, *Charities and Societies Proclamation (proc. no.621/2009)*, Federal Negarit Gazeta, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

³ UNDP, January 2014, *Civic Engagement for Effective Service Delivery in Ethiopia: Tools, Opportunities and Challenges*, UNDP Ethiopia Working Paper Series No. 2/2014

3 Description of RiPPLE and its contribution to civil society/policy changes

3.1 Background of the SPO

RiPPLE was established as a WASH research programme from 2006 to 2011 with funding from DFID and core partners including the Overseas Development Institute, IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre and several local Ethiopian organisations. As DFID funding ceased in mid-2011, RiPPLE developed several new funding partnerships including projects with members of the Dutch WASH Alliance, the Dutch Partners for Water Programme, the CGIAR Challenge Programme on Water and Food and a major new planned project with UNICEF amongst others. Since April 2012, RiPPLE became an independent NGO. A new governing body structure was established and Mister Deres Abdulkadir was appointed as the new Executive Director. Since 2012 RiPPLE has known a high turnover rate of staff and Mister Deres Abdulkadir was replaced by Mister Takele Kassa as Executive director from November 2013⁴.

RiPPLE evolved during the 2006-2012 period as a key actor and resource centre and knowledge management unit for WASH and related sectors, including rainwater harvesting and climate adaptation. The fact that RiPPLE is recognised as a key actor in the sector is reflected by the different steering committees RiPPLE sits in, in which RiPPLE represents the WASH sector (like PANE, Forum for Learning on Water & Sanitation, CCRDA's WASH Sector Forum (WSF), MoWR&E WASH inventory, DWA Steering Committee, Steering Committee of the Platform on Land & Water Management, Regional Learning & Practice Alliances, etc.).

RiPPLE's motto is:

Financing and delivery of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) that is more equitable and sustainable will improve human security and contribute significantly to pro-poor growth through linkages to assets, income and health.

Vision:

The vision of RiPPLE is "to see all Ethiopians attain sustainable water & food security and live in a clean & healthful environment".

Mission:

The mission of RiPPLE is "promote/enhance learning on water & related sectors in Ethiopia and the Nile Region through action research, networking policy practice engagement, knowledge management and capacity building" "

⁴ Interview with Takele Kassa

Strategies:

Strategically, focus themes for RiPPLE are action research, capacity development, policy and practice engagement, networking and learning & sharing in related WASH sectors. It promotes multiple use of rainwater for the following purposes⁵:

- Domestic water use which includes sanitation & hygiene in rural and urban communities;
- Agriculture: small scale irrigation (SSI) for crop production, and livestock watering;
- Environment: water conservation practices in watersheds for use by trees and vegetation cover during drier periods, the recharge of groundwater to be year round/reliable source of water for springs/streams, and the control of erosion and flood hazards and silt deposition in low lying areas;
- Water uses other than domestic purposes such as industrial, commercial and public.

The ultimate beneficiaries of RiPPLE's work are user communities. Nevertheless owing to the nature of its promotional operations, the main direct beneficiaries of its endeavours are partner organizations such as local and central governments, TVETs, Students, and CSOs/NGOs in the sector whose ultimate objective is to benefit communities in need.

According to the information made available until so far, RiPPLE operates in Oromia, SNNPR, Amhara, Tigray, Afar, Dire Dawa Administrative Council, and Somali Region. With the ongoing decentralisation process, the regional Bureaux of Water Resources and Bureaux of Health became responsible for water supply and sanitation programmes and are therefore an important focus for RiPPLE. Apart from this regional focus, it works at federal and at district level. It has offices in Oromia (Hararghe), Tigray (Mekelle), Amhara (Bahir Dar), SNNPR (Hawassa), Harar and Addis Ababa.

Apart from an ongoing collaboration with ICCO of the Dutch WASH Alliance, RiPPLE receives funding from UNICEF and USAID.⁶

3.1 MFS II interventions related to Civil Society

3.1.1 Contracts with the Dutch water Alliance

According to the information made available to CDI, RiPPLE was working with three different members of the WASH Alliance as well as with one thematic partner and managed three different contracts.

1. A tripartite contract existed between WASTE (and RUAF), ICCO and RiPPLE for the project "Productive Use of WASTE and Waste Water linking with Urban Agriculture". (July 2011 – December 2012). This project was implemented in Oromia (5 districts), Afar (1 Zone), and Dire Dawa and national level. Its objectives are:
 - Empowered communities, in particular women and girls, will demand access to and use of safe water, improved sanitation and hygienic living conditions. (CIVICUS – civic engagement)
 - Relevant service providers in the business sector, public sector and civil society will co-operate to respond to need for sustainable, accessible, affordable and demand driven WASH services. One of the activities under this objective is subcontracted with META META (no details available). (CIVICUS, perception of impact)
 - Policy makers and key actors promote and enable the sustainable realization of the right to water and sanitation through their policies, programmes and budget allocations, and are held

⁵ RHCC progress report 2011

⁶ Interview with Takele Kassa, June 2014

accountable for their achievements in WASH (CIVICUS, perception of impact = policy influence)

- A stable, complementary, effective and accountable alliance (in North and South), in which participating actors feel ownership, share knowledge and coordinate work towards sustainable integration of WASH into policies, strategies and programmes, in order to increase the access to and use of WASH facilities. (CIVICUS, level of organisation).
2. A second relation with RAIN foundation which aims at setting up a Rainwater Harvesting Capacity Centre (RHCC) during a 5 year programme (2011 – 2015). According to WASTE this project has ended in the meanwhile. Expected result areas were:
- Action research, documentation, communication and dissemination of knowledge;
 - Strengthening and initiating partnerships and networking;
 - Policy, practice engagement and capacity building;
 - Monitoring and evaluation to ensure proper implementation of RWH projects;
 - Maintain optimal level of organisational capacity for RiPPLE's role as RHCC for the year (Mar. 2011 Feb. 2015).

Apart from the last two result areas, these results contain activities in the CIVICUS dimensions of 'civic engagement', 'level of organisation' and 'perception of impact'.

3. A third contract within the WASH programme was between RUAF and RiPPLE, which was (content wise), the extension of the 1st contract (see above).

3.1.2 Focus for the Civil Society evaluation component

CDI draw a sample during the baseline of Southern Partner Organisations in 2012, according to the most frequently mentioned MDGs or themes indicated in each country. The data base for Ethiopia classified RiPPLE under MDG 1, economic development. Of the three projects implemented with the Dutch Water Alliance, the 'Linking sanitation and hygiene (urban waste management) to urban agriculture' focused most on MDG 1, whereas the other two projects are related to MDG 7c: Access to water and sanitation. In 2012, a baseline assessment was done in Dire Dawa that focussed on urban waste management project that started in July 2011 until December 2012, were prolonged without an additional budget until June 2013. In the first semester of 2013, a net three year project proposals and agreement with the government was prepared but not signed.

3.2 Basic information

Table 1

RIPPLE basic information.

Topics	Answers
Name of SPO	RIPPLE
Consortium	Dutch WASH Alliance (DWA)
CFA	WASTE, ICCO
End date of cooperation	Contract ended 31/12/2012, activities continued until June 2013
MDG/theme	Private sector and agriculture
MFS II project name 1	'Linking sanitation and hygiene (urban waste management) to urban agriculture'
Contract period	July 2011 – December 2012
Total budget	€ 147.000 (€110.000 from WASTE and € 37.000 from ICCO)
Other donors if applicable	
Estimation of % of budget for Civil Society ⁷	100%

Topics	Answers
Name of SPO	RIPPLE
Consortium	Dutch WASH Alliance (DWA)
CFA	RAIN Foundation. The WASTE contribution was paid through the WASTE-ICCO-RIPPLE contract
End date of cooperation	December 2012
MDG/theme	MDG 7 C: Sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation
MFS II project name 2	'GLOWS- Guided Learning on Water and Sanitation'
Contract period	July 2011 – December 2012
Total budget	€ 40,660
Other donors if applicable	
Estimation of % of budget for Civil Society	

Topics	Answers
Name of SPO	RIPPLE
Consortium	Dutch WASH Alliance (DWA)
CFA	RAIN Foundation
End date of cooperation	April 2013
MDG/theme	MDG 7 C: Sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation
MFS II project name 3	Rainwater Harvesting Capacity Centre
Contract period	May 1st 2011 – April 30th 2012 May 1st 2012 – April 30th 2013
Total budget RAIN Foundation	€55. 201 for the first contract and €102.641 for the second contract. €157.841 in total
Other donors if applicable	
Estimation of % of budget for Civil Society	22% (based on 5 year original programme)

⁷ Costs that relate to civil society development or policy influence are those costs that possibly contribute to the development of the CIVICUS dimensions, excluding coordination and office costs; staff costs and financial reserves.

4 Explaining factors

WASTE informed CDI in March 2014, at the start of the end-line assessment that the contracts between WASTE and RiPPLE were not renewed after December 2012 and that WASTE was in the process of rounding up all relations with RiPPLE. WASTE indicated that the evaluation process might be affected by this, since RiPPLE's motivation to cooperate could be minimal due to these developments.

The main reasons for WASTE to end their partnership with RiPPLE were unclear progress and financial reports, making it impossible to link project activities to outcomes⁸. WASTE asked for an external audit before entering into a new contract. Upon this request, the other WASH alliance members decided to postpone their contract renewals as well. Two external audits were conducted of which the first was rejected. The second external audit was carried out in 2013 and showed residual funds from the July 2011-December 2012 contract that were used to finish some of the outstanding activities for the WASTE-ICCO programme in the first semester of 2013. When the semester report of 2013 was again not up to standards according to WASTE, the CFA decided to not extend the contract. ICCO provided €30.000 to finalise ongoing activities and demanded a restructuring and reform programme in order to consider continuing the partnership.⁹ By June 2014 WASTE had already found other alternative partners in Ethiopia to run its programme.

The evaluation team was later informed that the RAIN Foundation terminated its intended five year contract regarding the Rainwater Harvesting Capacity Centre with RiPPLE as of April 2013 for similar reasons¹⁰. In the meanwhile RAIN Foundation opened its own office in Addis Ababa¹¹.

ICCO apparently entered into a new contract with RiPPLE after their restructuring efforts until the end of 2014, however CDI was not able to conduct an interview with them. RUAF, like WASTE, wanted to see some activities finalised in 2013 from the 2012 contract and did not extend their contract either.

4.1 Internal Factors

Since 2012, management turnover at RiPPLE has been high.¹² The first executive director turned RiPPLE into an independent organisation, but left very soon after its independence in 2011. Also his successor left the organisation very soon and the current director started working with RiPPLE since November 2013. As a result, oversight over the implementation of activities in relation to long-term strategies might be a problem.¹³ RiPPLE tried to tackle the problem by designing a new organisational strategy, which was scheduled to be ready by the end of March 2014 (but not finalised during a visit of CDI in June 2014).

⁸ Telephone call with Niels Lenderink (WASTE) on 17-3-2014

⁹ Interview Tekele Kassa on 25-6-2014

¹⁰ Interview with Sean Patrick (RAIN Foundation) on 24-3-2014

¹¹ Interview with Tekele Kassa on 25-6-2014

¹² Telephone call with Sean Patrick (RAIN Foundation) on 24-3-2014

¹³ Idem

The high staff turnover of executive leadership went together with highly professional staff leaving the organisation causing problems in terms of organisational capacity and financial oversight¹⁴¹⁵ . Managing three contracts with the WASH Alliance, the longest covering one and a half year, possibly also might have added to the missing financial oversight¹⁶ .

4.2 External Factors

RiPPLE faced problems with the government regarding the urban waste management project in Dire Dawa and East and West Hararghe, the main reason being that contracts were annual contracts. The Dutch partners (WASTE, ICCO and RUAF)¹⁷ in consequence agreed to formulate a three year programme proposal covering 2013 – 2015, which however did not materialise.

The yearly contracts also have negative implications for RiPPLE, giving it little flexibility to stick to the 30:70 regulation imposed by the government that limits administrative costs to a maximum of 30 % of project budgets. In consequence forcing RiPPLE to cut in their programme costs and to reduce the number of staff: When the new director joined RiPPLE in November 2013, RiPPLE had 42 employees, by the time of the interview in June 2014 this was only 29. This staff reduction has not been well coordinated with the donors and resulted in a delay of delivering and uncertainty about final products.¹⁸

4.3 Relations CFA-SPO

During the partner selection process, WASTE felt somewhat pressurized to act fast due to the MFS II funding deadline and because there had been staff changes in the responsibility for Ethiopia within WASTE.¹⁹ RiPPLE was chosen by WASTE as a partner because they worked on sanitation, urban waste, and agriculture. In hindsight WASTE acknowledges that RiPPLE may not have been the best partner for their programme which requires competencies in project management and to a lesser extent action research which is the core business of RiPPLE.²⁰ WASTE itself has also known high staff turnover rates in the past period, which also may have explained the difficulties arisen.

RiPPLE comments that the donors were late in showing their concerns as they could have also shared these concerns in earlier stages such as during planning or semi-annual reporting.²¹

Despite efforts made by CDI to contact ICCO Kampala to obtain other background information on their activities with RiPPLE and their relations, no answers were obtained and skype appointments were cancelled.

Similar attempts were made to establish contact with Rain Foundation, without any result.²²

¹⁴ E-mail conversation between Niels Lenderink and Takele Kassa on 19-11-2013 and 6-3-2014

¹⁵ Idem

¹⁶ Interview with Niels Lenderink (WASTE) on 7-6-2014

¹⁷ Waste Project Narrative Report January 1 – June 30, 2013.

¹⁸ Feedback from Rene van Veenhuizen (RUAF)

¹⁹ Idem

²⁰ Interview with Niels Lenderink (WASTE) on 7-6-2014

²¹ Feedback from Takele Kassa

²² In the beginning of 2014 the Rain Foundation informed the evaluation team about their concerns regarding RiPPLE which are incorporated in this report (see footnote 12).

5 Conclusion

The end-line assessment for RiPPLE, and in particular the implementation of the MFS II 'Linking sanitation and hygiene (urban waste management) to urban agriculture' project implemented with support of WASTE and ICCO did not take place as expected. Early 2013, WASTE and the RAIN Foundation, implementing another project with RiPPLE, decided to end their partnership with RiPPLE because of missing clarity about progress being made towards outcomes and finances. They asked for an external audit, which provided clarity on the remaining budget which was executed in the first semester of 2013.

As a consequence of the audit all WASH alliance partners seized their collaboration with RiPPLE. Only ICCO resumed its partnership with RiPPLE in the second semester of 2014.

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For this reason no civil society evaluation was conducted for RiPPLE.

References and resource persons

Documents by SPO

<i>Title</i>	<i>Year</i>
HCS/RiPPLE DWA Proposal on Technical and Institutional Capacity Building and Sustainable WASH in Ethiopia	2011
Dutch WASH alliance Ethiopian Program HCS-RiPPLE 2011 budget for WASTE and ICCO	2011
DWA Ethiopian Program HCS-RiPPLE 2011 Annual work plan for WASTE and ICCO	2011
Budget utilization of WASTE&ICCO July 2011-December 2012	2012
1st LPA meeting Proceeding Report: A Learning and Practice Alliance (LPA)	2012
Workshop on Waste Management and Urban Agriculture (February 2012)	2012
Financial Report July 2011-December 2012	2012
DWA finance report	unknown
Status report on Dutch WASH alliance project: evidence based approach through action research and Learning and Practice Alliance	2012
WASTE project report January – June 2013	2013
Dutch WASH Alliance report 2012: DWA activity achieved during 2011/12 project year for the Dire Dawa Waste Management, Private Sector and Urban Agriculture Project Activities	2012
Audit report July 2011-December 2012 (by external auditor)	2012
Field Mission Report by Harole Yoseph, 15 th -24 th August, 2012	2012
WASTE & ICCO project implementation 2011 and 2012 narrative financial report 2011-2012	2012
DWA project 2012 progress report January 2012 – December 2012	2012
Budget Utilization of Waste-ICCO 2011 and 2012	2012
RiPPLE RHCC budget 2012-2015	2011
RiPPLE RHCC progress report May - December 2011	2011
RiPPLE RHCC financial report May – December 2011	2011

Documents by CFA

<i>Title</i>	<i>Year</i>
Signed Contract RiPPLE-ICCO-WASTE 1 July 2011 – 31 December 2012	2011
Signed Contract RiPPLE-RAIN 1 May 2011 – 30 April 2012	2011
WASTE Diamond Approach in Urban Waste	2013
PPT Diamond General	2013

Documents by Alliance

<i>Title</i>	<i>Year</i>
CSI Country Progress Report	2013

Resource persons consulted

<i>Name of key informant</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Function in organisation</i>	<i>Contact details including e-mail.</i>
Niels Lenderink	WASTE	Program officer	Nlenderink@waste.nl
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