THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION LAW AMENDMET ON PROJECT MONITORING AND EVALUATION PRACTICES IN ETHIOPIA; Evidence from Somali Regional State

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DECLARATION

I confirm that this research project work is my original work and has not been submitted to other institution for examination and/or an academic award.

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This research project work report has been submitted for examination with my approval as an advisor of the research work.

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This is to certify that the project work prepared by Tofik Temam, titled "The Role of Civil Society Law Amendment on Project Monitoring and Evaluation Practice in Ethiopia; Evidence from Somali Regional State" and submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Masters in Project Management complies with the regulations of the university and meets the accepted standards with respect to originality and quality.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACSO	Agency for Civil Society Organizations
BoFED	Bureau of Finance and Economic Development
ChSA	Charity and Society Agency
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
EU	European Union
FDRE	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
KII	Key Informant Interview
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEL	Monitoring Evaluation and Learning
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

ABSTRACT

In March 2019, the Government of Ethiopia adopted Civil Society Organizations' (CSO's) Proclamation No. 1113/2019 replacing the old proclamation No. 621/2009. There were continues debates on the intention and adverse impacts of the previous proclamation on CSOs' program and project contribution for socio-economic and political development of Ethiopia.

The law has been enacted to fully exercise freedom of association for any cause or purpose as stipulated in Article 31 of the Constitution of FDRE in addressing the shortcomings of the Charities and Societies Proclamation 621/2009, which was in force prior to the issuance of the Proclamation No. 1113/2019. The new CSO law is believed to contribute to better performance of CSOs in development endeavors due to the amendments and relaxations made. Thus, the role and effects of the new law on CSOs project management in general and monitoring and evaluation practices in particular have to be studied, documented and shared with relevant stakeholders for individual and organizational learning and better actions in the future.

The general objective of this study is to assess the role of the new Proclamation 1113/2019 on CSOs project monitoring and evaluation practices. The study has collected and analyzed both qualitative and quantitative data from 21 institutions/organizations. Exploratory research was employed to obtain the views, and perspectives of CSOs project stakeholders on the topic. All self-administered questionnaires (#34) and interviews (#16) were managed in face to face contact with the respondents from targeted institutions. The data collected through questionnaire and interview were organized and compiled, for quantitative data different software and formats (SPSS and Excel) were used for analysis. Data entry, coding and processing was carried out. Furthermore, data filtering and cleaning also made.

The findings of this study have shown that the major amendments made in the CSO law (proclamation No. 1113/2019) which are re-defined CSO's role, reclassification of program versus administrative expenses, easy of restriction on accessing foreign funds, NGOs engagement in diversified income generating activities and allocate the income for organizational mission accomplishment have affected the current project monitoring and evaluation practices (planning activities and budgeting, M&E structure, staff capacity building, M&E activities, methodology, approaches, and attitudinal change) at varied level. The significant changes were observed on areas of establishing or strengthening M&E structures and M&E activities in the CSOs, recruitment and deployment of a dedicated M&E staff. The effect on staff capacity building and methodology was medium whereas the change on M&E approach and attitude towards the essence of M&E are not that much significant.

This project work has also provided certain recommendations related to strengthening the CSO legal framework by enacting regulation and directives soon, structural improvement, adequate resource allocation, institutional capacity building interventions, and ensuring engagement of relevant stakeholders in all processes of legal framework development and monitoring and evaluation exercises.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Back ground of the study

Civil Society Organizations in Ethiopia play a significant role in the socio-economic and political development of the nation. In addition to this, CSOs/NGOs play an important role around crisis and poverty alleviation and engage in activities such as agriculture, food security, conflict management and displacement, HIV/AIDS, integrated rural development, heath, education, income generation, information services, refugees, street children, women issues, peace, governance, self-help and youth (Clark, 2000).

Various studies have shown that both the 1960 Civil Code of Ethiopia and Proclamation No. 621/2009; the laws that governed the legalization and operation of NGOs/CSOs Prior to March 2019 G.C were not responsive to the current realities of the sector, as they failed to consider the diversity of CSOs and their roles and contributions in Socio-economic and political development of Ethiopia requiring amendments in the legal framework, and structural changes.

Ethiopian Government has introduced a "Civil Society Organizations Proclamation" No. 1113/2019 on 12th March, and among the purposes of this law are to enact a new law to ensure freedom of association, and address the shortcomings of the Charities and Societies Proclamation 621/2009, which was in force prior to the issuance of this Proclamation. The creation of an enabling environment is also believed to be essential to enhance the role of civil society organizations in the development and democratization of the country (CSO Proclamation, 2019).

Different studies conducted in the past ten years have indicated that Proclamation 621/2009 had barriers to registration/entry (article 68 & 69), barriers to activities (human and democratic rights related actions), the restrictions on NGO resources access, administrative and operational costs of Charities and Societies (article 88) having adverse effects on program/project management in general and monitoring and evaluation practices in particular (Dr. Berhanu Denu and Ato Getachew Zewdie, 2013).

This study intends to identify the major amendments made in the Proclamation No.1113/2019 relevant to monitoring and evaluation of CSOs program/project and assess the effects of relaxed barriers related to project monitoring and evaluation practices in Ethiopia taking evidence from Somali Regional State.

1.2 Statement of the problem

This research tries to adders how CSO law amendment in Ethiopia is affecting CSO's project monitoring and evaluation practices and proposes what has to be done in monitoring and evaluation areas in order to make it effective and improve the project management practices and performance.

In March 2019, the Government of Ethiopia adopted Proclamation No. 1113/2019 replacing the previous 621/2009 proclamation which is Ethiopia's first full-fledged law governing the registration and operation of CSOs. Various studies were conducted by different researchers about the adverse effects of the previous CSO law in Ethiopia (proclamation No. 621/2009 and ChSA 30/70 guideline) on the effectiveness of NGOs project management in general and monitoring and evaluation practices in particular. These researches have indicated that the old Proclamation, among other things, had the cases of barriers to registration/entry under articles 68 & 69, restricts NGOs that receive more than 10% of their financing from foreign sources from engaging in human and democratic rights activities.

What's more, the old proclamation classifies project costs as program and administrative and at least 70% of CSOs' total cost should go to program and the remaining 30% to administrative. The problem here was the category used; the category under administrative was vague and each expense go to administrative even the monitoring and evaluation expenses. So, the challenge was not the number fixed as 70% for program and 30% for Administrative. This adversely affected the program/project management practices including monitoring and evaluation. Accordingly, the researchers have recommended for the amendment of the proclamation and the guideline among other things.

Ethiopian government has enacted a new CSO law (Proclamation No. 1113/2019) in March 2019 and has drafted a regulation and now drafting a round 32 directives are allowing more flexibility for better performance and development contributions of the CSOs in Ethiopia. Even though the "Civil Society Organizations Proclamation" No. 1113/2019 is enacted only two years ago, its effects so far and prospects in monitoring and evaluation practices have not been studied well to learn whether the intended outcome of the amendment is/going to be realized in the short run and long run periods.

Thus, this study sought to fill the gap by undertaking a research on the role of the CSO law amendment on the project monitoring and evaluation practices and identifies the realized results so far in Ethiopia. The research aims at establishing the extent to which CSO law amendment made relevant to the monitoring and evaluation exercises influence M & E practices.

1.3 Research Questions

For the purpose of this study the following questions have been addressed

- What are the amendments made in the new CSO proclamation relevant to monitoring and evaluation practices?
- How the shift in the new CSO law is affecting project monitoring and evaluation practices?
- What are the challenges faced in the application of the new law and brought changes in M&E practice areas?
- What have to be done to optimize the effects of the CSO law amendment and enhance monitoring and evaluation practices?

1.4 Objectives of the study

1.4.1 General Objectives of the study

The general objective of this study is to assess the role of Civil Society Organizations law amendment (Proclamation No. 1113/2019) on CSOs' project monitoring and evaluation practices in Ethiopia.

1.4.2 Specific Objectives of the study

This research intends to achieve the following specific objectives:

- To assess the amendments made in the CSO laws in Ethiopia relevant to project monitoring and evaluation practices.
- To examine the role of the amendments on Project monitoring and evaluation practices.
- To identify the challenges faced in the effective implementation of the new law and brought changes in M&E practices.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

CSO	A non-governmental, nonpartisan entity established at least by two or more persons on voluntary basis and registered to carry out any lawful purpose, and includes non-government organizations, professional associations, mass based societies and consortiums.
Evaluation	A periodic assessment of the efficiency, effectiveness, impact, sustainability, and relevance of a project in the context of stated objectives. It is usually undertaken as an independent examination of the background, objectives, results, activities and means deployed with a view to drawing lessons that may guide future decision-making.
Monitoring	Monitoring is the systematic and continuous collection and analysis of information about the progress of the project/program elements of implementation process, inputs activities and outputs.
Monitoring and Evaluation Practices	Set of activities/tasks done periodically or regular basis to provide information on project status and progress.
Project	A sequence of unique, complex, and connected activities that have one goal or purpose and that must be completed by a specific time, within budget, and according to specific location.
Project management	The application of knowledge, skills, tools and techniques to project activities to meet project requirements (Project Management Institute-PMI)

1.6 Significance of the study

The study tries to identify how the amendment made on the new CSO law in Ethiopia is affecting CSO's project monitoring and evaluation practices and propose solutions in addressing the gaps and make the monitoring and evaluation practices more effective. The topic is an important area of study as the value addition of the CSO law in Ethiopia has been one of the debating agenda for more than one decade. The research has employed questionnaire, interview checklists and secondary data collection and analysis in order to carry out the task. The stud will have practical significance and inform decision maker and other concerned bodies to consider the findings and recommendations in policy, proclamation, regulation, and directives enactments and amendments in the future and enhances the effectiveness of M&E practices. This will create an enabling

environment for making CSO more competent enough and contribute for the socio-economic and political development of Ethiopia.

This project work can serve as the benchmark for further studies on the role of the CSO law amendment on project M&E practices.

1.7 Scope of the study

The study is limited to assessing the effects of the new CSO law on monitoring and evaluation practices of projects managed by CSOs their head/country offices are located in either Addis Ababa city or Jigjiga town operating in Somali regional state. Thus, the information and data needed for this study were collected in Addis Ababa and Jigjiga from CSOs, development consultants and government structures (Civil Society Organization Agency, and Somali Region Bureaus of Finance and Economic Development). Due to time and financial constraints to gather information on the whole or most parts of the country, looking evidence from Somali region is preferred. The data collection was limited to these two towns; Jigjiga for the stakeholders located at regional level and Addis Ababa for NGOs whose head office is located in Addis, federal government institutions (CSOA) and the consultancy firms.

M&E practices compose a lot of tasks and activities from capacity needs assessment, baseline study to documentation and sharing of lessons learned contributing for better future programming. However, this study is limited to examining the effects of the CSO law amendment on M&E planning process (M&E activity designing and budgeting), staff capacity building, establishing/strengthening M&E structure, M&E activities implementation, methodology, approaches and attitudinal change on the necessity of M&E.

1.8 Limitation of the study

Even though maximum efforts were made to study the objectives in detail, the study was subjected to the following limitations.

- Time and financial resources constraints to gather detail information from large number of CSOs (International, and national NGOs) and other relevant stakeholders working in wide geographical areas to make it more representative.

- Since the study is a sample based and undertaken from Addis Ababa, and Jigjiga town, generalization to the entire population based on the findings of the study may have its own limitation.
- There is 15% non-response rate in the study and this might affect the general findings to some extent
- Since the sample was represented by purposive sampling, they may be biased in certain responses.

1.9 Organization of the study

This project work has five chapters. The first chapter presents background of the study, statement of the problem, basic research questions, objectives of the study, definition of terms, significance of the study, scope and limitations of the study. The second chapter deals with related literature review relevant to the topic under the study in order to increase the understanding of the subject raised here. The third chapter presents research methodology employed to collect and analyze data. The fourth chapter presents results and discussions/Data presentation, analysis and interpretation section of the project work. The fifth chapter deals with summary of findings, conclusions, recommendations and suggestions for further studies.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the theoretical literature and empirical studies. The issues covered under this chapter are review of theories, and concepts and key findings of the studies conducted by different researchers within the same field and the conceptual framework.

2.2 Basic Concepts and practices of Project Monitoring and Evaluation

2.2.1 What is monitoring?

The Projust (2013), Project Cycle Management Training Guide has defined monitoring as the systematic and continuous collection and analysis of information about the progress of a project or program over time. It is useful for identifying strengthens and weaknesses of in a project or programme and for providing the responsible people with sufficient information to make the right decision at the right time in order to improve the quality of the project (Projust, 2013).

Common types of monitoring

Literatures and development practitioners classify monitoring in different types commonly found in a project/programme monitoring system. International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Project/programme monitoring and evaluation guide has classified monitoring as follows.

Results monitoring: tracks effects and impacts. This is where monitoring merges with evaluation to determine if the project/programme is on target towards its intended results (outputs, outcomes, impact) and whether there may be any unintended impact (positive or negative).

Process (activity) monitoring: tracks the use of inputs and resources, the progress of activities and the delivery of outputs. It examines how activities are delivered – the efficiency in time and resources. It is often conducted in conjunction with compliance monitoring and feeds into the evaluation of impact.

Compliance monitoring: ensures compliance with donor regulations and expected results, grant and contract requirements, local governmental regulations and laws, and ethical standards.

Context (situation) monitoring: tracks the setting in which the project/programme operates, especially as it affects identified risks and assumptions, but also any unexpected considerations that may arise. It includes the field as well as the larger political, institutional, funding, and policy context that affect the project/programme.

Beneficiary monitoring: tracks beneficiary perceptions of a project/programme. It includes beneficiary satisfaction or complaints with the project/programme, including their participation, treatment, access to resources and their overall experience of change. Sometimes referred to as beneficiary contact monitoring (BCM), it often includes a stakeholder complaints and feedback mechanism. It should take account of different population groups, as well as the perceptions of indirect beneficiaries (e.g. community members not directly receiving a good or service).

Financial monitoring: accounts for costs by input and activity within predefined categories of expenditure. It is often conducted in conjunction with compliance and process monitoring.

Organizational monitoring: tracks the sustainability, institutional development and capacity building in the project/programme and with its partners. It is often done in conjunction with the monitoring processes of the larger, implementing organization (IFRC, 2011).

2.2.2 What is evaluation?

Evaluation measures how well the program/project activities have met expected objectives and/or the extent to which changes in outcomes can be attributed to the intervention. It is fundamentally an exercise to help decision makers understand how, and to what extent, a program/intervention is responsible for particular, measured results. The aim is to determine the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability of the development intervention. An evaluation should provide information that is credible and useful, enabling the incorporation of lessons learned into the decision-making process of both recipients and donors (Nina, F., and Anastasia, G., 2007).

Major evaluation types

There is a range of evaluation types, which can be categorized in a variety of ways. Ultimately, the approach and method used in an evaluation is determined by the audience and purpose of the evaluation. The following table summarizes key evaluation types according to three general

categories. IFRC monitoring and evaluation guide states that the categories and types of evaluation are not mutually exclusive and are often used in combination. For instance, a final external evaluation is a type of summative evaluation and may use participatory approaches.

Summary of major evaluation types [1]

According to evaluation timing	According to who conducts the evaluation	According to evaluation technicality or methodology
Formative evaluations occur during project/programme implementation to improve performance and assess compliance. **Summative evaluations** occur at the end of project/programme implementation to assess Effectiveness and impact. **Midterm evaluations** are formative in purpose and occur midway through implementation. This does not need to be independent or external, but may be according to specific assessment needs. **Final evaluations** are summative in purpose and are conducted (often externally) at the completion of project/ programme implementation to assess how well the project/ programme achieved its intended objectives.	**Internal/self-evaluations** are conducted by those responsible for implementing a project/programme. They can be less expensive than external evaluations and help build staff capacity and ownership. However, they may lack credibility with certain stakeholders, such as donors, as they are perceived as more subjective (biased or one-sided). These tend to be focused on learning lessons rather than demonstrating accountability. **External/independent evaluations** are conducted by evaluator(s) outside of the implementing team, lending it a degree of objectivity and often technical expertise. These tend to focus on accountability.	**Real-time evaluations (RTEs)** are undertaken during project/ programme implementation to provide immediate feedback for modifications to improve ongoing implementation. Emphasis is on immediate lesson learning over impact evaluation or accountability. RTEs are particularly useful during emergency operations, and are required in the first three months of secretariat emergency operations. **Meta-evaluations** are used to assess the evaluation process itself. Some key uses of meta-evaluations include: take inventory of evaluations to inform the selection of future evaluations; combine evaluation results; check compliance with evaluation policy and good practices; assess how well evaluations are disseminated and utilized for organizational learning and change, etc.

1. International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies-IFRC, 2011

2.2.3 Project Monitoring and Evaluation Practices

Practices in M&E refer to the patterns that have been identified to be efficacious in improving project performance. Such practices have been accepted by practitioners as an effective way to

implement M&E in projects (Webb and Elliot, 2000 as cited in Ernest Kissi, et al, 2019). The basic M&E practices discussed in different literatures are presented below.

Baseline Study: baseline data collection is considered as the first M&E practices gathering of basic information about a project to measure progresses and achievements later in the project life span (United States Agency for International Development-USAID, 2010).

M&E Planning: M&E plan shows how the expected results of the program relate to its goals and objectives, describes the data needed and how these data will be allocated and analyzed how this information will be used, the resources that will be needed, and how the program will be accountable to the stakeholders (Nina, F. and Anastasia, G., 2007).

M&E structural framework: is the third practice and is targeted at identifying the reasons behind performance measurement and project elements, how related they are, and their underlying fundamentals (Muzinda, 2007).

M&E budget: To ensure proper M&E, it has to be backed by adequate budget and one rule of thumb is that 5-10% of a project budget should be allocated for M&E (Nina, F. and Anastasia, G., 2007).

Scheduling: It is the determination of the timing of the activities to enable project implementers to execute the project in a timely manner. M&E must be scheduled so that it is given the required importance and it is not carried out only at the whims of the project manager (McCoy et al., 2005 as cited in Ernest Kissi, et al, 2019).

Frequency of data collection: Gyorkos (2003) stated that a clear specification should be made on how often M&E data collection should be done. The involvement of all stakeholders at this stage is very important. According to Muzinda (2007), the participatory approach to M&E is viewed as an empowerment tool for their involvement in projects.

ICT usage: this has a very important value in the process of M&E practices. In cases of data analysis, for instance, the computers and computer-aided programs are normally relied upon for data analysis (Kelly and Magongo, 2004, as cited in Ernest Kissi, et al, 2019).

Midterm and end evaluation: is the comparison of actual project impacts against the agreed strategic plans. It looks at what you set out to do, at what you have accomplished, and how you accomplished it (Projust, 2013).Midterm evaluations are formative in purpose and occur midway through implementation. Final evaluations are summative in purpose and are conducted (often

externally) at the completion of project/programme implementation to assess how well the project/ programme achieved its intended objectives (IFRC, 2011).

Based on M&E, communication and visibility plans, M&E findings have to be disseminated to the project stakeholders through the defined channels of communication.

2.2.4 The Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Cycle

National Initiative Development Organization (NIDOS's) Monitoring and Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Guide has stated that MEL is an integral part of project design implementation and completion; MEL is done at all stages within the project cycle. The Guide has made the following illustration (Figure 1) on Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Cycle.

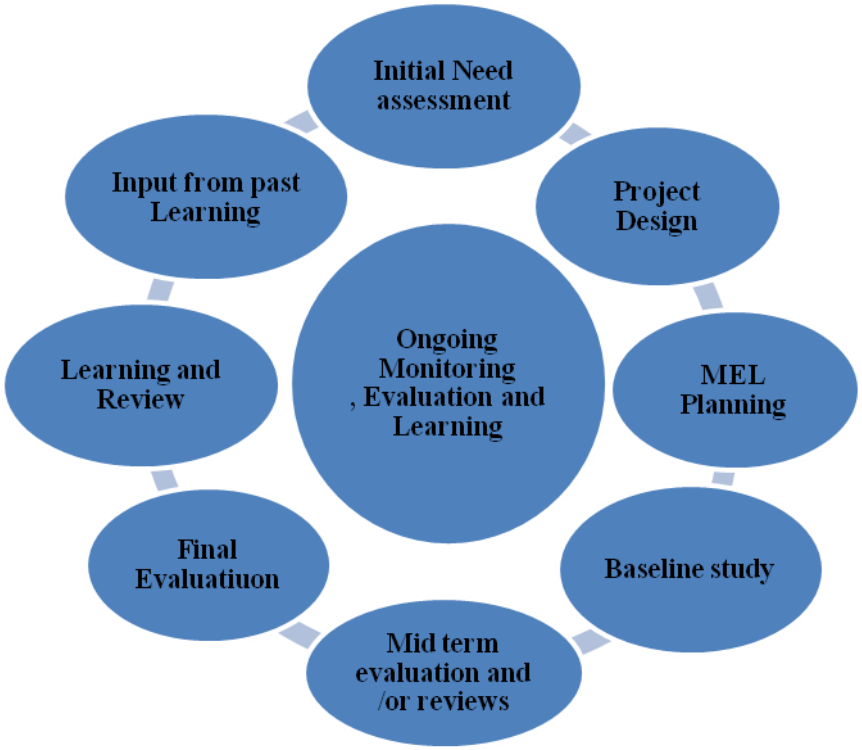


Figure2.1. The MEL cycle, adopted from NIDOS

The MEL cycle starts with initial needs assessment, this is when we identify a particular need or problem in a specific community which our organization is able to address. Having identified the needs we go for project designing and the project will be the most credible intervention to address the problem. MEL planning is a critical stage in the MEL cycle where we plan for the following activities: conducting baseline, routing monitoring, midterm and final evaluations; deciding how to go about reflecting on information and learning from it to improve project performance.

2.3 Empirical Literature Review

Since the amendment of the CSO law was made only two years ago, direct studies on the topic couldn't be found at required level to review but legal Framework for NGO Environment in Ethiopia, the methodologies, findings, recommendations, and gaps of relevant studies conducted by different researchers are presented as follows.

2.3.1 Legal Framework for CSOs Environment in Ethiopia

Users' Manual for the Charities and Societies Law prepared and printed in Addis Ababa in 2011 by Taskforce on Enabling Environment for Civil Society in Ethiopia states that the legal framework which governed the registration and regulation of the CSOs was the Civil Code enacted during the Imperial regime, 50 years ago. The law was not well-suited with the current dynamic world and developments in the CSOs environment and their needs in the last two to three decades. Since 2005 G.C, the government of Ethiopia has been disclosing its perspectives on Civil Society, their role in socio-economic and political development in the country (Hiwot Getachew, 2016).

Overview of the Old Charities and Societies Proclamation No. 621/2009

Proclamation No. 621/2009 was enacted having two major objectives; realization of citizens' right to association enshrined in the Article 31 of the constitution of the federal democratic republic of Ethiopia and aid and facilitate the role of charities and societies in the overall development of Ethiopia.

The proclamation classifies the CSOs as Ethiopian charities/societies, Ethiopian residents charities/societies, Foreign charities, and Mass-based societies. In this proclamation, intervening in human rights and democracy, equality of religions and ethnic groups, conflict resolution and strengthening of the justice system is allowed for CSOs formed by citizens and run with support from local sources. These institutions have the right to appeal to the federal high court when they aggravated by the decision of the General Director of the ChSA and the Board.

Ethiopian resident and foreign charities (getting more than 10% of their budget from foreign sources) were not allowed to engage in human rights and advocacy related interventions since they are "not the manifestation of citizens' freedom of association". They do not have the right to seek judicial review from decisions of the Agency regarding registration and operation. The attainment of the second objective of the proclamation (aid and facilitate the role of charities and societies in

the overall development) requires creating of an enabling legal framework among other things for NGOs in legalization, operation and recognizing the role and contribution of NGOs as partners in development endeavors.

Charities and Societies/Civil Society Organization Agency

The proclamation No. 621/2009 has established a government structure "Charities and Societies Agency" under the Federal Affairs Ministry (now renamed as General Attorney) with objectives to enable and encourage CSOs in developing and achieving their purpose with transparency and accountability. It has a power to legalize, and supervise CSOs in accordance with the Proclamation. This Agency now renamed as Civil Society Organization Agency and is also remained functional with similar structure and facilitation and supportive roles to play in the new CSO proclamation 1113/2019 (CSO proclamation, 2009 and 2019).

Under section two of the new CSO proclamation, detailed provisions on the following points have been stated regarding the Agency.

- Establishment of Civil Society Organization agency
- Objectives of the Agency,
- Powers and Functions of the Agency
- Organization of the Agency having Board, Director General and as may be necessary Deputy Director Generals to be appointed by the government; and the necessary staff.
- Members of the Board,
- Powers and Functions of the Board
- Term of office of the Board members shall be 3 (three) years. Members may be re-elected for one additional term of office,
- Meeting Procedures of the Board
- Powers and Functions of the Director General, and the Deputy Director General,
- The budget of the Agency
- Books of Account (CSO Proclamation, 2019).

2.3.1 Shifts in the New CSO Proclamation No. 1113/2019 relevant to project monitoring and evaluation practices

From review of the old and the new CSO law (Proclamation No. 621/2009, 1113/2019 and guidelines) and literatures, the following major shifts have been observed in the new CSO

proclamation No. 1113/2019 that might have effects on CSOs project monitoring and evaluation practices.

2.3.2.1 Redefining of CSOs role

The new law starts with a change of perspective towards the governance of CSOs in the sense that it envisions a far greater role for self-regulation in the civil society sector by creating a Council of CSOs in which all such organizations are required to assume membership.120 Unlike the previous law, The new law instructs the regulatory body, the CSOs Agency, to play a more facilitative and less controlling role (Nicky B. and, Desta G/Michael, 2020).

While it is still too early to know exactly what the impact of the new law will be on the civil society sector, the new legislation does appear to take significant strides towards the creation of an enabling environment for CSOs and towards better protection of rights to freedom of association and expression (Ibid).

One of the most important developments in the new law is that it advances the self-regulation of CSOs. The new law defines this as "a regulatory system led by a voluntary code of conduct adopted by Organizations through the Council to govern themselves". The shift to self-regulation is promising, it demonstrates a change in the way CSOs are perceived; they are no longer seen by the State as untrustworthy and self-serving, but as an important sector and best positioned to ensure CSOs are accountable, transparent, and committed to good governance and their beneficiaries"(Dina Townsend, 2019).

Tinebeb Berhane, Action aid Ethiopia country director has presented an Overview of potential Role of CSOs in Ethiopia in input gathering workshop on the CSOs Council Establishment Documents dated 12th October 2020. In her PowerPoint presentation she has discussed that CSO are considered as the Third Sector (supporter, model, right defender, catalyst, accountability, impartial, connector, knowledge house, balance, moderator, lobbyist, influential etc). Thus, they need to have the following values rather than being considering themselves as service providers.

- Engaging authorities, promoting continuous and inclusive dialogue and getting their buy-in has been central to civil society's participation
- Civil society can maintain a 'critical friend' position through communicating critical input in a neutral manner, grounded in a strong evidence base and technical expertise

- Civil society actors model by being transparent and accountable both to each other as well as to their constituency, the wider public and external actors
- Particularly in conflict-affected contexts, civil society quickly adapt strategies to mitigate risks; Courage of conviction
- Periodic gender-responsive and inclusive conflict analyses can be used to respond to changing situations – including changes in civic space – and adapt influencing strategies on security issues accordingly
- 'Watchdog' holding governments and institutions to account
- Advocate/representative raising awareness of issues, giving a voice to the marginalized and advocating for change, rootedness
- Service provider and global governance processes
- Complement government poverty alleviation programmes with community-based tailored assistance using evidence-based, innovative and sustained solutions;
- Localizing the SDGs and Agenda 2063, popularizing various charters, international legal frameworks (ILO C190) and monitoring progress, representations on regional and sun-regional blocks and international platforms
- Promote citizen-centric, collaborative governance, nation building, democratic processes
- Advocating for the people living in poverty and exclusion, including lobbying government and other stakeholders (Tinebeb Berhane, 2020).

Dina Townsend (2019) discussed that the new CSO law Proclamation takes an entirely new approach to the regulation of CSOs in Ethiopia. The proclamation explicitly provides that all organizations have the right to engage in any lawful activity to accomplish their objectives. In other words, foreign and foreign-funded CSOs are no longer prohibited from engaging in advocacy and human rights work. In fact, the new law specifically encourages CSOs to engage in advocacy and lobbying in regard to laws and policies "which have a relationship with the activities they are performing" (Dina Townsend, 2019).

2.3.2.2 CSOs income generation and use of fund for organizational mission

Article 63/ Resource Mobilization and Administration of Proclamation No 1113/2019 states that Organizations have been allowed to engage in any lawful business and investment activity in

accordance with the relevant trade and investment laws in order to raise funds for the fulfillment of its objectives. However, the profit to be obtained from such activities may not be transferred for the benefit of members. Thus, this will creates an opportunity for generating income to be used for M&E exercises and drive data and evidences for organizational learning among other benefits (Organizations of Civil Societies Proclamation, 2019).

Under article 64/ Income Generation Activities, An organization is allowed to engage in income generating activities in accordance with article 63 of the CSO proclamation by establishing a separate business organization (company), acquiring shares in an existing company, collect public collections or operating its business as a sole proprietorship. The relevant tax, commercial registration and business licensing, and investment laws shall be applicable to income generation activities under this provision.

The new proclamation has permitted the use of income and resources acquired to cover administrative and program costs of the organization generated from its income generating activities while it is forbidden to transfer or shared for the benefit of members or workers of the organization. This will help NGOs to mobilize additional resources from income generating activities and allocate for monitoring and evaluation exercises that might leads to driving evidences for individual and organizational learning and better designing of intervention and realize intended results.

2.3.2.3 Freedom of fund raising

As per the CSOs engage in human rights and advocacy related interventions were not allowed to raise more than 10% of their budget from foreign sources but now as per the article 63/ Resource Mobilization and Administration this is totally lifted. Organizations shall have the right to solicit, receive and utilize funds from any legal source in order to realize its objective (Organizations of Civil Societies Proclamation, 2019).

2.3.2.4 Administration and Program expense classification

It is decided that the Administrative cost of an organization may not exceed twenty percent of its total income. Under article 63/ Resource Mobilization and Administration, the new Proclamation No 1113/2019has defined Administrative Expense as expenses which are not related to the project activities of an organization but are necessary to ensure the continuity of an organization and related to administrative activities, and shall include: salaries and benefits of administrative

employees; purchase of consumables and fixed assets and repair and maintenance expenses related to administrative matters; office rent, parking fees, audit fees, advertisement expenses, bank service fees, fees for electricity, fax, water and internet services; postal and printing expenses; tax, purchase and repair of vehicles for administrative purposes, and procurement of oil and lubricants for the same; insurance costs, penalties and attorney fees (Organizations of Civil Societies Proclamation, 2020).

The law now defines administrative costs more precisely as including salaries of administrative employees, rent, bank fees, and attorney fees, among other things. They do not include training, research, or networking. This is a significant improvement, even though it involves continued state oversight of spending (Dina Townsend, 2018).

In nominal term, the administrative cost is reduced from 30% in the old proclamation to 20% in the new proclamation but in effective term the proportion of administrative cost is increased since from the above list of cots we observe that there is redefinition of what constitute "Administrative expense". Expenses related to monitoring and evaluation is considered as program cost now while it was under the category of administrative cost in the old proclamation.

The proclamation under article 63discloses that the Civil Society Organizations Agency may issue directives regarding organizations exempted from the application of provisions of 20% administrative expense. However, this directive is not issued yet having its own adverse effect due to lack of detailed provisions, and procedures to apply the article on the ground.

Following the amendment of the CSO law, the enactment of new Directive is expected but till now this couldn't be effective. The factors for the delay and its effects on monitoring and evaluation practices will be covered in this study.

2.3.2 The impact of the old Program and Admin expenses classification; 70/30guideline on monitoring and evaluation

Tsige Alemayehu (2014), in her research work commissioned by Development Assistance Group (DAG) members through the Tracking Trends in Ethiopia's Civil Society (TECS) project has states that as the result of the guideline, NGOs are forced to minimize their monitoring and Evaluation exercises. The study finding has shown that the following are the impacts of reducing M&E activities

- One impact of changes made is a reduction in transparency and accountability, which can lead to projects closing down

- A second impact is loss of effectiveness, which affects quality of services for beneficiaries.
- Thirdly, some services may be closed when quality and standards are no longer properly assessed.
- Fourthly, the ability to identify new solutions to community problems ('innovation') is lost (Tsige Alemayehu, 2014).

This research has significant contribution to understand to what extent the guideline was affecting NGOs Monitoring and Evaluation exercises and similarly it has provided recommendations on what has to be done by relevant stakeholders to minimize or avoid the impact. One of the limitation seen in this study is the paper didn't tell us what was the research methodology (approach, design, sampling design, data collection and analysis method) applied, except few information provided on target audiences of the study.

Dr. Berhanu Denu and Ato Getachew Zewdie (2013) have conducted a research on the impact of the Guideline (70/30 Guideline) to Determine Charities' and Societies' Operational and Administrative Costs – Phase III, REPORT 10.The study has used quantitative and qualitative research methods and analysis. The quantitative method used audited financial reports, and the qualitative method was based on interviews with CSOs, a development partner and audit firms. Interview questionnaires were employed in the data collection. Accordingly, Twenty-seven CSOs were interviewed. Most of them shared their 2012 fiscal year audited financial reports with the research team.

The study (Phase III, REPORT 10) has found that the challenges for CSOs to comply with the Guideline remain similar to those identified in the baseline study conducted by the same party. The categorization of certain costs – namely, project and program staff salary and benefits (mentioned by 75% interviewees); training costs (33.3%); monitoring and evaluation (25%); consultancy services (20.8%); transportation and per diems (16.7%) – as administrative has been most challenging in bringing the expenditure items within the ratio required by the Guideline.

The measures taken to reduce administrative costs include reducing staff salaries and benefits (mentioned by 81.8% of the CSOs). Three quarters (72.6%) have introduced measures to reduce other administration costs, for example, by purchasing materials and services of cheaper quality or at the location of beneficiaries (at higher prices) to avoid transportation costs; by reducing consumption; and by relocating their office to lower rent (Dr. Berhanu and Ato Getachew, 2013).

This research has pointed out that CSOs believe there will be many negative consequences of cost cutting measures. These include lower quality service delivery to beneficiaries; an inability to develop and effectively implement programs/projects that support the development plans of Ethiopia; and an inability to meet the expectations of donors on project design and implementation, M&E and capacity building for sustainability.

The research has explained well its objective and methodology followed andin the recommendation part it has forwarded what have to be done by the government but the study doesn't show what are expected from NGOs themselves and other relevant stakeholders to mitigate or avoid the problem under the study.

2.3.4 The Challenges and Prospects of ChSA``70/30 Guideline`` Implementation on the Performance of NGOs' in Ethiopia

NGOs were in difficulties in meeting the 70/30 requirement and they are forced to compromise on programs' deliverables quality. NGOs are sandwiched to satisfy donors' interest by achieving high quality project outputs and on the other being compliant to the guideline by reducing administrative costs. The difficult part is major activities that are required for successful project accomplishments are found in the administrative category of the guideline. Due to this, many NGOs are challenged to implement projects with major activities that are considered as administrative even if these projects have huge contributions to the development of the country (Hiwot Getachew, 2016).

This research has given details of the methodologies applied. The approach followed is a case study of Food for the Hungry/Ethiopia (FH/Ethiopia) and the then findings of the study might not be generalized to other NGOs working in Ethiopia even though the other findings discussed earlier have shown more or less similar results. Purposively selected respondents in data collection were from International NGOs and it didn't include other categories of NGOs in Ethiopia. Thus, there might be some problem on the true representation of the universe and biasness

2.4 Conceptual Framework

A conceptual framework is developed whereby areas of amendments in the CSO law (proclamation No. 113/2019) in Ethiopia are presumed to be the independent variables while changes in Projects Monitoring and Evaluation Practices are taken as the dependent variables. (See Figure 2.2).

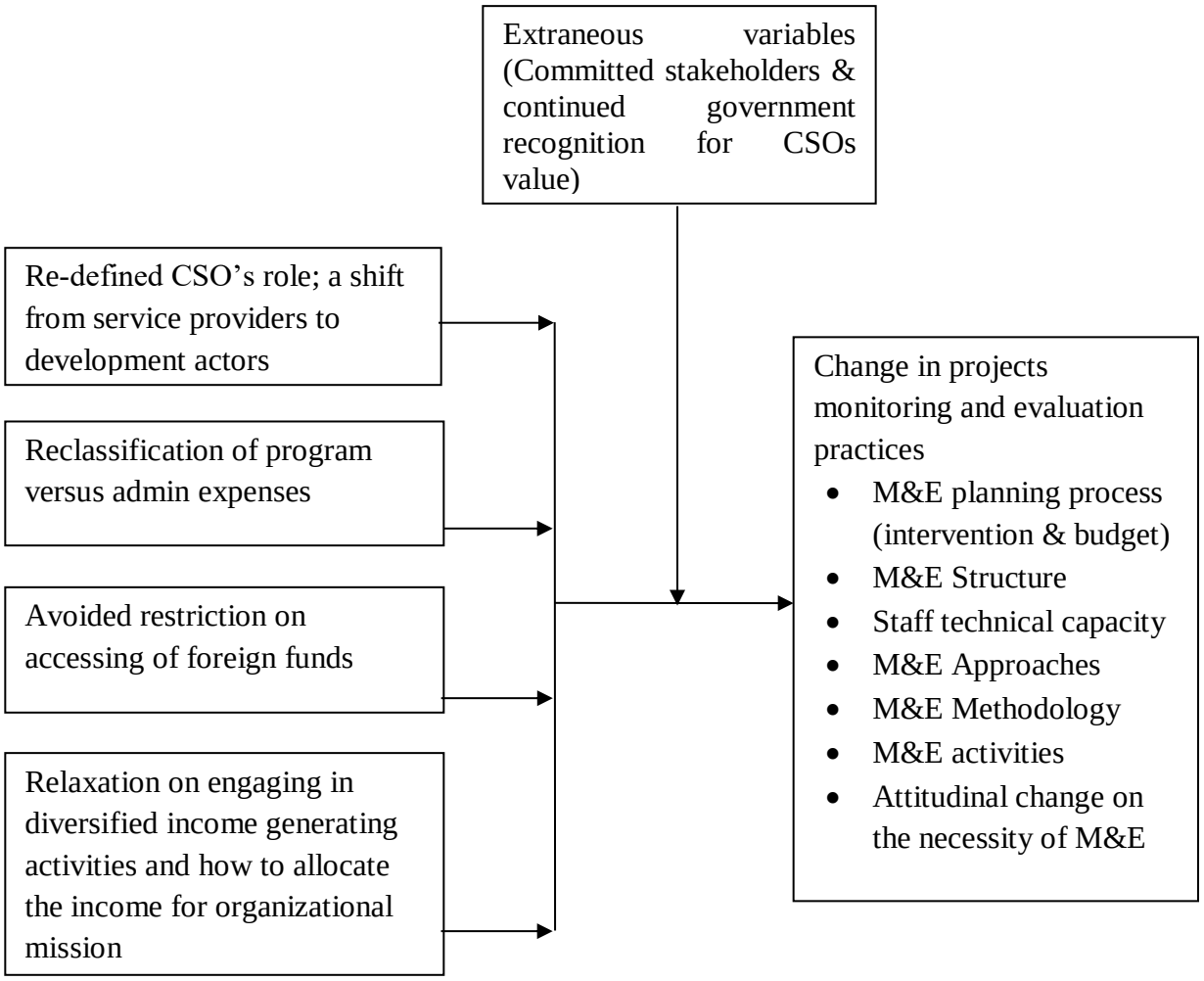


Figure 2.2. Conceptual Framework

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the research methodology discussing research approach, research design, population, sampling design, sources of data collection, research instrument, method of data collection, procedure of data collection, data analysis methods, validity and reliability and ethical considerations.

3.2 Research Approach

In order to achieve the objectives of the research, the study has collected and analyzed both qualitative and quantitative data.

3.3 Research Design

To carry out this research, exploratory research has been used. This research design is applied when there are few or no earlier research/studies to which references can be made for information. Exploratory studies are usually more appropriate in case of problem about which little research knowledge is available (Inaam Akhtar, 2016). This is a good fit with the research on how the amendments of the new CSO law (proclamation No. 1113/2019) is affecting the project monitoring and evaluation practices as there are no studies conducted on this topic in the last two years and it is considered as the recent phenomenon.

The research tries to explore the view of CSOs, government structures (Agency for Civil Society Organizations and Somali Region Finance and Economic Development) and Development consultants on the effects of CSO law amendment on project monitoring and evaluation practices in Ethiopia.

3.4 Population

The target population for this study are experts and decision makers in relevant stakeholders in CSOs project management including Program and Administrative staff at International NGOs, National NGOs, and Networks/Council of CSOs registered in Ethiopia working on different thematic areas, experts and business process owners at ACSO, and regional Bureau of Finance and

Economic Development, and private consultancy firms who have better exposure and experience on monitoring and evaluation exercises.

3.5 Sampling Design

Purposive sampling has been used in this study. Accordingly, 9 International NGOs, 8 National NGOs, and 2 CSOs networks/Council working in different thematic areas were selected as a sample. These organizations represent the different categories of NGOs registered in Ethiopia and operating in Somali regional state. In addition, 2 development consultancy firms specializing on monitoring and evaluation exercises were targeted. Somali Region Bureau of Finance and Economic Development, and Civil Society Agency (CSOA) from the government structures were included in the study. As stakeholders in project management in general and monitoring and evaluation activities in particular these institutions/organizations are believed to have profound information and opinion on the impact of the new Ethiopian CSO laws on project monitoring and evaluation practices.

Table 3.1. Sample respondents' distribution across institutions/organization

S/N	Organization	No. of institutions	No. of people interviewed	No. of people who filled the questionnaire	Total No. of people contacted	Remark
1	Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)	17	8	34	42	9 In'l NGOs, 8 National NGOs
2	CSOs network/council		2		2	
3	Agency for Civil Society Organization (ACSO)	1	2	-	2	
4	Somali Region Bureau of Finance & Economic Development (BoFED)	1	2	-	2	
5	Development consultancy firm	2	2	-	2	
Total		21	16	34	50	

A total of 34 experts and managers from sample CSOs have filled and responded for the questionnaires while 16 people from CSOs, ACSO, BoFED, and Development consultancy firms have been contacted for the interview.

3.6 Sources of Data Collection

Both primary and secondary data collection sources were employed in this study. The primary data was collected through quantitative and qualitative methods. The secondary data has been gathered from CSOs, Government organs (ACSO and Somali Region BoFED), and consultancy firms working on areas of project monitoring and evaluation.

3.7 Research Instrument

The data was collected using structured questionnaire mostly using a likert scale for collecting primary data and checklists for interview prepared in a way that address the research questions. A close and open-ended, self-administered structured questionnaire was prepared in English for the respondents in the CSO environment. Program and Finance section staff from CSOs have filled the questionnaire as they are familiar with the subject matter of the study due to their engagement in project planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation exercises

Interviews were administered for Key informant interviewee (KII) from targeted CSOs, government structure (ACSO and Somali region BoFED) and consultancy firms. The CSOA, and regional BoFED staff and decision makers who are responsible for coordinating, conducting monitoring and evaluation exercises, provide technical support and review of reports were contacted for the interview.

3.8 Method of Data Collection

All questionnaires (#34) and interviews (#16) were managed in face to face contact with the respondents from CSOs, Government structures (Somali region BoFED and CSOA), and consultancy firms working on project management specializing on monitoring and evaluation areas. In addition, reliable information obtained from the targeted audiences and well known websites have been be used as a supplement.

3.9 Procedure of Data Collection

Data mining: - using of published or available data from secondary sources such as CSOs, government structures; BoFED, and ACSO, and research institutions and universities.

Questionnaire surveying: - the researcher has started the study after seeking and obtaining go head from the research work Advisor to conduct research on the subject matter. The questionnaires are self-administered and pre testing was done before the actual data collection. The researcher has distributed them to the respondents and enlightened them how to fill the forms. During this period, the procedures/approaches stated under reliability, validity and ethical considerations of this project work have been respected and applied. Respondents have filled in answers in written form and the researcher then collected the forms with completed information. The questionnaires were collected after one week on average to ensure that answering of questionnaires have been given enough time for the respondents to give full information. Based on that compute the results and use the data for the research.

Interviewing: - reliable data were collected from CSOs, government structures (ACSO, and regional BoFED) and consultancy firms in Addis Ababa, and Jigjiga town working on project management. Reliability, validity and ethical issues were considered while carrying out this task.

Interviews were conducted with key informants from the targeted organizations. These included heads of CSOs and government structure departments, M&E experts, consultants and senior managers. This enables to triangulate data and gather additional information which may not have been captured by the questionnaire.

Precaution to take against COVID-19

Considering the spread of COVID-19 pandemic, the researcher has employed a safe programming approach to avoid the risk of COVID-19 transmission and protect the target audiences and himself.

Public health measures recommended by World Health Organization, Federal Ministry of Health and Ethiopian Public Health Institute; and Do Not Harm principles were abided in all processes of conducting the study.

3.10 Data Analysis Methods

The qualitative and quantitative data collected from primary and secondary sources have been compiled, organized and statistically analyzed.

Interview questions and responses have been recorded using a smart phone-voice recorder and then transcribed verbatim before analysis. But when it was believed that the respondents might not be comfortable or they were not willing with voice recording, notes have been taken. The data were categorized into patterns as the primary basis for organizing and reporting the research findings. The data generated in self-administered questionnaire and interview were organized, and categorized to make suitable for identifying patterns and write up of the result.

The quantitative data collected through self-administered questionnaire and interviews were organized and compiled using different software and formats (SPSS and Excel). Data entry, coding and processing were carried out. Furthermore, data filtering and cleaning also made.

3.11 Validity and reliability

3.11.1 Validity

The following measures have been taken to ensure validity of a research:

a) Appropriate time scale for the study was selected;

b) Taking into account the characteristics of this study, appropriate methodology has been chosen;

c) Suitable sample method for the study has been selected;

d) The respondents have not been pressured in any ways/means to select specific choices from the available alternative answer;

e) Data triangulation was made to verify the similarities of outcomes obtained from different sources.

3.11.2 Reliability

Reliability has been adopted in this study by ensuring that no question was answered twice by the same respondent and similarly all respondents have answered all the questions in the questionnaire and interview guide except required data on M&E budget due to lack of willingness and/or ability of many CSOs.

3.12 Ethical Considerations

In this study, ethics was handled by the researcher by applying the following points

- Respecting the right of targeted audiences to decide whether or not to participate in this research as a respondent.
- Targeted audiences were informed of all aspects of a research task and its processes. Knowing what is involved, how long it will take, and what will be done with the data.
- Keeping the answers provided strictly confidential: using only number codes to link the respondent to a questionnaire and storing the name-to-code linkage information separately from the questionnaire. Individual respondents could not be identified in the research findings; anonymous summaries, for example, in terms of tables and charts have been used.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter deals with and presents the findings of the research objectives while giving short background information on response rate and general characteristics of the respondents. The data obtained from the key informant interviews have been used simultaneously to supplement the results and discussions from the questionnaire.

4.2 Response rate

Out of 40 questionnaires distributed for respondents, 34 of them were received and used for analysis. This constitute 85% response rate and believed to be enough for analysis.

4.3 Respondents Profile

Based on the request in the questionnaire, respondents have provided their profile related to gender, age group, educational qualification, work experience in the recent organization, role in the organization and work thematic areas of their current organization.

4.3.1 Gender of the respondent

Table 4.1: Gender of the respondents

Gender of the respondents	Frequency	Percent (%)
Male	27	79.4
Female	7	20.6
Total	34	100

Source: Survey data (2021)

As the above table 4.1 indicates, majority of the respondents were male which counts about 79% and the rest were female which comprises 21%. This might shows the extent of male dominance in holding key positions in CSOs operating in Somali region. This is not unique for CSOs and the situation is the same with government institutions and private sector as well.

4.3.2 Age group of the respondents

Table 4.2: Age group of the respondents

Age group of the respondents	Frequency	Percent (%)
26 - 30	8	23.5
31-35	12	35.3
36-40	5	14.7
41-45	2	5.9
46-50	4	11.8

Above 50	3	8.8
Total	34	100

Source: Survey data (2021)

The majority (35%) of the respondents' age group lies between 31 and 35 years old with frequency of 12 people followed by age group of 26-30 years with 8 respondents. The two age groups have made a sum of 59% of the staffing indicating that most of the positions have been taken by young professionals in the CSOs. This is also helpful in ensuring the availability of competent young people that can serve the sector for a long period of time.

4.3.3 Educational qualification

Table 4.3: Educational Qualification

Educational Qualification	Frequency	Percent (%)
Undergraduate	24	70.6
Master's Degree	10	29.4
Total	34	100

Source: Survey data (2021)

The above table 4.3 shows that 24 (71%) of the respondents have stated that they are undergraduate degree holders, and the remaining 10 (29%) of them were second degree holders. This is one of the indications that the respondents were in good position to understand the subject matter under the study and can give clear responses due to their educational qualification. Similarly, they have competencies to understand the opportunities in the amendment of the CSO law and brought change in their monitoring and evaluation practices accordingly.

4.3.4 Respondents work experience in their recent organization

Table 4.4: Respondents work experience in their recent organization

Respondents work experience in their recent organization	Frequency	Percent (%)
Less than 1year	2	5.9
1-3 years	3	8.8
4-6 years	10	29.4
7-9 years	10	29.4
10-11 years	4	11.8
> 11 years	5	14.7
Total	34	100

Source: Survey data (2021)

The above table 4.4 has shown that 29 (85%) of the respondents have been working in their recent organization for more than 3 years period. Only 5 (15%) of the respondents have been working from less than or equal to 3 years period. From this, it is clear that majority of people who have participated in the study have more knowledge and exposure to the monitoring and evaluation practices in their respective organization.

4.3.5 Respondents role in the organization

Table 4.5: Respondents role in the organization

Respondents role in the organization	Frequency	Percent (%)
Program/project staff	15	44.1
M&E experts	13	38.2
Admin & finance staff	6	17.6
Total	34	100

Source: Survey data (2021)

From the total respondents of 34 CSOs staff, 15 (44%), 13 (38%) and 6 (18%) were Program/Project staff, M&E experts and Admin and finance staff, respectively. In this case the relevant experts from different units/sections of the organizations have been reached out helping to gather data from people who might have different views.

4.3.6 Thematic areas of the institution/organization

Table 4.6: Thematic areas of the institution/organization

Thematic areas of the institution/organization	Frequency	Percent (%)
Health	2	5.9
Education	3	8.8
Water	5	14.7
Natural Resource Management/Environment	6	17.6
Agriculture/Food security	3	8.8
Livelihoods development	3	8.8
Emergency response	2	5.9
Multi sector thematic areas	10	29.4
Total	34	100

Source: Survey data (2021)

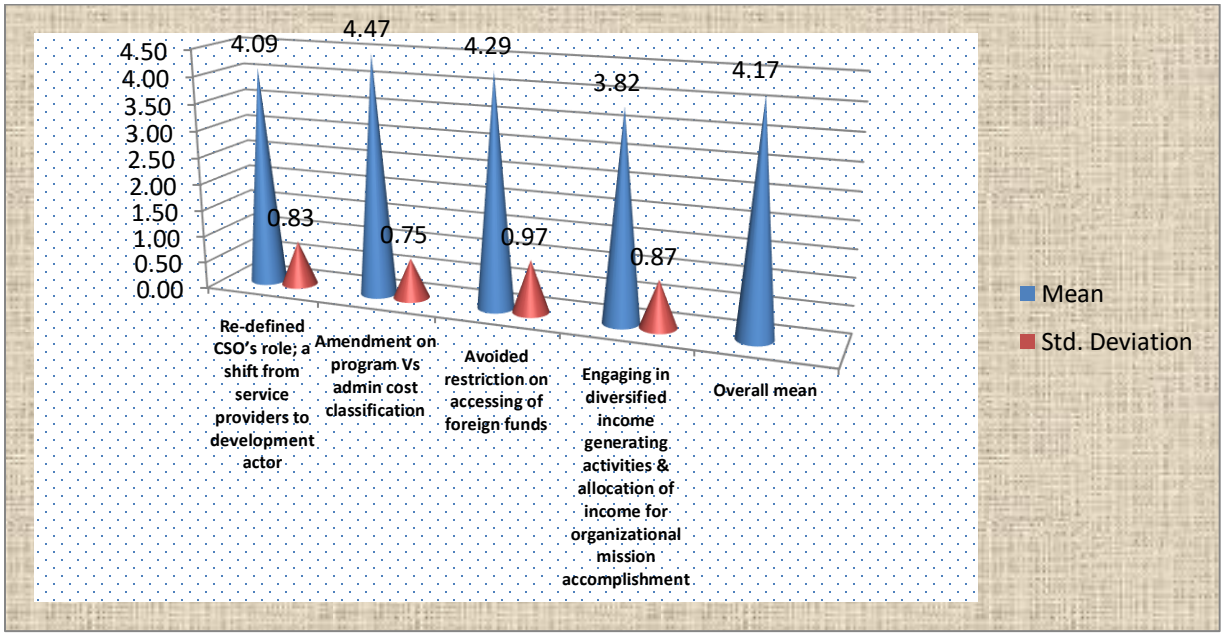
As the above table 4.6 shows, the respondents of the study have been working in organizations operating on different thematic areas including Health, Education, Water, Natural Resource Management/Environment, Agriculture/Food security, Livelihoods development, Emergency

response and multi sector intervention areas. This has enabled to observe and consider the different situations that might be vary due to the nature of interventions.

4.4 Shifts in the new CSO Proclamation No. 1113/2019

Under this subsection of the questionnaire administered, the respondents were requested to indicate their level of agreement or disagreement on CSO law amendment areas relevant to M&E practices; Re-defined CSO's role-a shift from service providers to development actors, amendment on program versus administrative cost classification, avoided restriction on accessing of foreign funds, relaxation on engaging in diversified income generating activities and how to allocate the income for organizational mission accomplishment. The responses were rated on a five point Likert scale where: 1-Strongly disagree, 2-Disagree, 3-Nuteral, 4-Agree and 5-Strongly agree.

Figure 4.1: Shifts in the new CSO Proclamation No. 1113/2019



Source: Survey data (2021)

The majority of the respondents have agreed that amendment on program versus administrative cost classification is the key change area having a direct effect on monitoring and evaluation practices with mean value of 4.47 followed by avoided restriction on accessing of foreign funds with mean value of 4.29. Re-defined CSO's role-a shift from service providers to development

actors and relaxation on engaging in diversified income generating activities and allocate the income for organizational mission accomplishment have registered 4.09 and 3.82 mean values.

Each shift area and overall mean values (4.17) reveal that the majority of the respondents have common view regarding the amendment areas that have effects on CSOs project monitoring and evaluation practices.

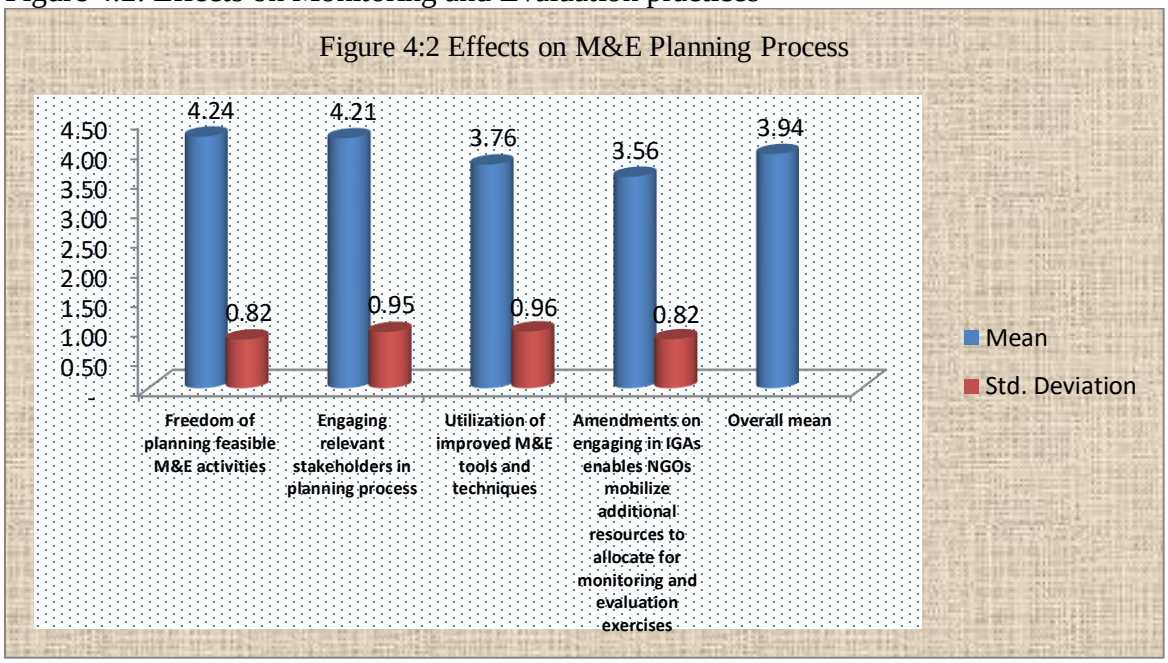
4.5 Effects of the CSO law amendment on Monitoring and Evaluation Practices

4.5.1 M&E Planning Process

Under M&E planning process, M&E activity planning and budgeting issues are covered.

4.5.1.1 M&E Activity Planning

Figure 4.2: Effects on Monitoring and Evaluation practices



Source: Survey data (2021)

As shown in the figure 4.2 above, the majority of the respondents have stated that there is freedom of planning feasible M&E activities due to the relaxations in the new CSO law (proclamation No. 1113/2019). It is the most appreciated change with a mean value of 4.24 and followed by engaging relevant stakeholders in planning process with mean value of 4.21. The effect on utilization of improved M&E tools and techniques has a mean value of 3.76 whereas amendments on engaging in IGAs enables NGOs mobilize additional resources to allocate for monitoring and evaluation

exercises has a mean score of 3.56. The overall mean value of these four issues raised under planning process is 3.94.

Table 4.7: Variation on the process of planning for M&E before and after the amendment of the CSO law

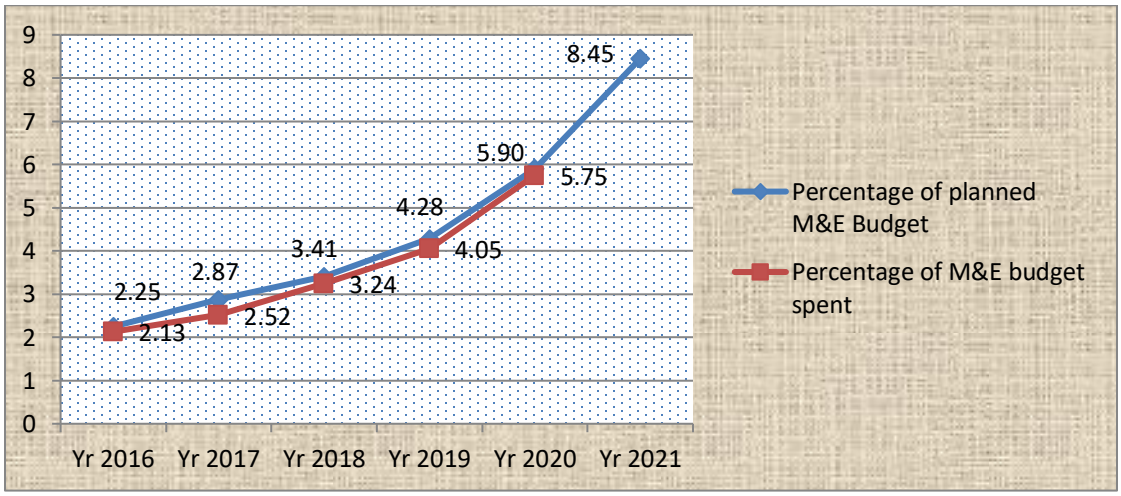
Is there variation on the process of planning for monitoring and evaluation before and after the amendment of the CSO law?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	26	76.5
No	6	17.6
Do not know	2	5.9
Total	34	100

Source: Survey data (2021)

As table 4.7 reveals, 26 (77%) of the respondents have confirmed that there is variation on the process of planning for monitoring and evaluation before and after the amendment of the CSO law while 6 (18%) have reported that there is no change on the planning process. The remaining 2 (6%) of the respondents were not sure about the nature of change in the process of planning for M&E. This shows that significant proportion of target audiences believe that CSO law amendment has contributed for better M&E process.

4.5.1.2 Monitoring and Evaluation Budget

Figure 4.3: Monitoring and Evaluation Budget



Source: Survey data (2021)

Out of the 20 CSO contacted for the this study, only six CSO were willing and able to provide data on M&E budget issues due to different factors mainly they might considered it as sensitive information and will not be exposed to other third party. For budgeting trend illustrative purpose

the researcher has preferred to use the data obtained from six CSOs even though it might not be a true representative of the whole samples.

Figure 4.3 depicts that average percentage of planned monitoring and evaluation budget has increased from 2.25% in 2016 to 4.28% in 2019 increasing at a decreasing rate whereas it has jumped from 4.28% to 8.45% between 2019 and 2021 increasing at an increasing rate. The percentage spent has also shown the same trend slightly increasing from 2.13% in 2016 to 4.05% in 2019 while the level of percentage was high in the year 2019 and 2020 increasing from 4.05% to 5.75%.

This finding shows that CSOs are getting better freedom to plan and incur more funds for their monitoring and evaluation practices after the amendment of the CSO law. Interviewed people in CSOs have mentioned that the new law is giving them an opportunity to plan and allocate more resources for M&E which is very vital for bringing changes on other M&E practices. However, the real (effective) budget increment might be determined by the then inflation rate which can offset part of the fund and this requires further analysis.

4.5.2 Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Structure

Table 4.8: Effects on M&E Structure

M&E Structure	Very low	Low	Uncertain	High	V. high	Total	Mean	Std. deviation
	%	%	%	%	%	%		
Established or strengthened existing M&E department/unit	2.9	2.9	14.7	55.9	23.5	100	3.94	0.89
Clearly written M&E role and responsibility for the department/unit	5.9	20.6	20.6	41.2	11.8	100	3.32	1.12
Increasing of a dedicated number of staff for M&E activities	0	2.9	11.8	47.1	38.2	100	4.21	0.77
Defined division of labour/specialization in M&E between the different structures	5.9	11.8	20.6	35.3	26.5	100	3.65	1.18
Overall Mean							3.78	

Source: Survey data (2021)

The above table 4.8 shows that 53%, 62% and 79% of the respondents have rated the change in clearly written M&E role and responsibility, defined division of labour/specialization in M&E and established/strengthened existing M&E department/unit as high, respectively. Increasing of a dedicated number of staff for M&E activities is the most appreciated change by 85% of the respondents getting a rate of high with mean value of 4.21 (out of the possible maximum scale of 5). From this findings it is learned that even though CSOs are able to recruit and deploy the required dedicated staff for M&E exercises, they are not giving due attention for other inputs that makes the staff more productive and achieve better results.

4.5.3 Staff technical capacity

Table 4.9: Effects on staff capacity building

Staff Capacity building	Very low	Low	Uncertain	High	Very high	Total	Mean	Std. deviation
	%	%	%	%	%	%		
Capacity building trainings for your organization staff	2.9	14.7	8.8	44.1	29.4	100	3.82	1.11
Exposure to Joint Monitoring & Evaluation exercises	29.4	14.7	8.8	35.3	11.8	100	2.85	1.48
Experience sharing events	5.9	8.8	26.5	47.1	11.8	100	3.50	1.02
Organizational M&E practical Guide/Manual development or revision	47.1	11.8	11.8	14.7	14.7	100	2.38	1.56
Overall Mean							3.14	

Source: Survey data (2021)

As depicted in the table 4.9, majority (73%) of respondents have said that the new CSO law has highly affected staff capacity building trainings provision in their organization whereas 18% of the respondents have mentioned that its effect on staff capacity building is low. The remaining 9% of the respondents have reported that the effect is uncertain. The mean value of this indicator is 3.82 which is the highest of all staff capacity building issues discussed under this study.

About 47 percent of the respondents have stated that the effect on exposure to joint monitoring and evaluation exercises is high while 44 percent of them have revealed that the effect is low. The effect is rated as uncertain by the remaining (9%) of the respondents.

The change on experience sharing events due to the CSO law amendment is rated as high by 59% of the respondents whereas only 15% mentioned that the effect is low. The remaining ¼ of the respondents (26%) have rated the effect as uncertain.

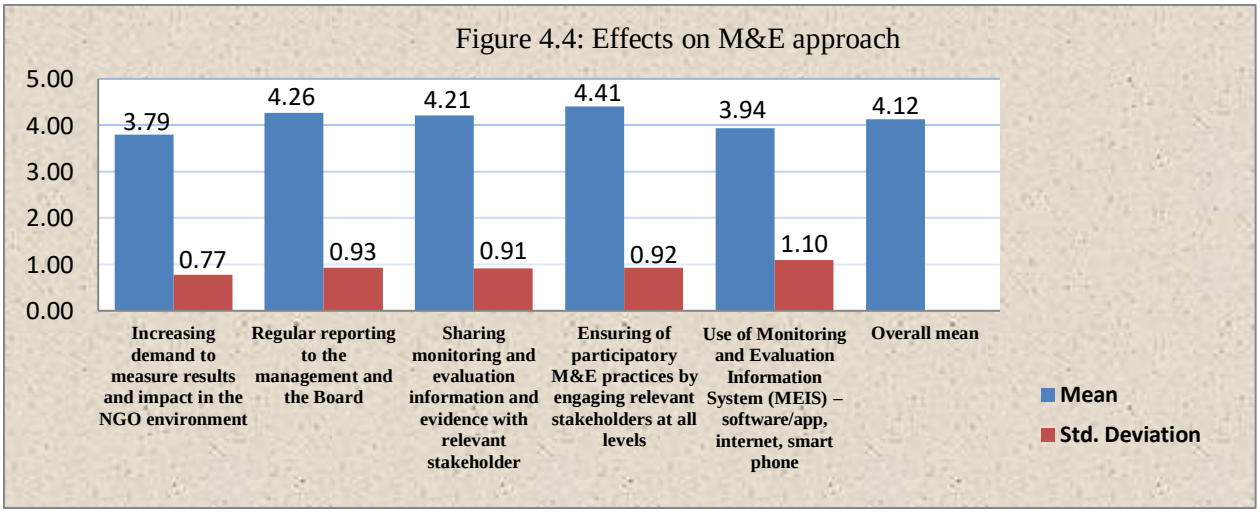
Compared to the three other indicators under staff capacity building, the change in organizational M&E practical guide/manual development or revision has got low appreciation. Only 29% of the respondents have rated it as high whilst 59% of the respondents have reported that its effect is low. The percentage of those who said that the effect is uncertain accounted 12%.

Interviewed people from CSOs have argued that the effect on staff capacity building will be huge through time and requires normal situations. They have added that their organizations were planned various staff capacity building activities following the reclassification of M&E activities under program expenses and avoided restrictions in accessing foreign fund in the new CSO proclamation. However, they couldn't execute them due to COVID-19 pandemic and volatile security situations in the last one year.

The findings discussed earlier shows that the new CSO law is affecting staff capacity building issues differently and the effect is expected to enhance though time. The effect on Organizational M&E practical guide/manual development or revision is low since most of target audiences have already developed their organizational M&E guide/manual mostly supported by CSO capacity building interventions funded by different donors (e.g.,. EU and USAID).

4.5.4 Effects on M&E approach

Figure 4.4: Effects on M&E approach



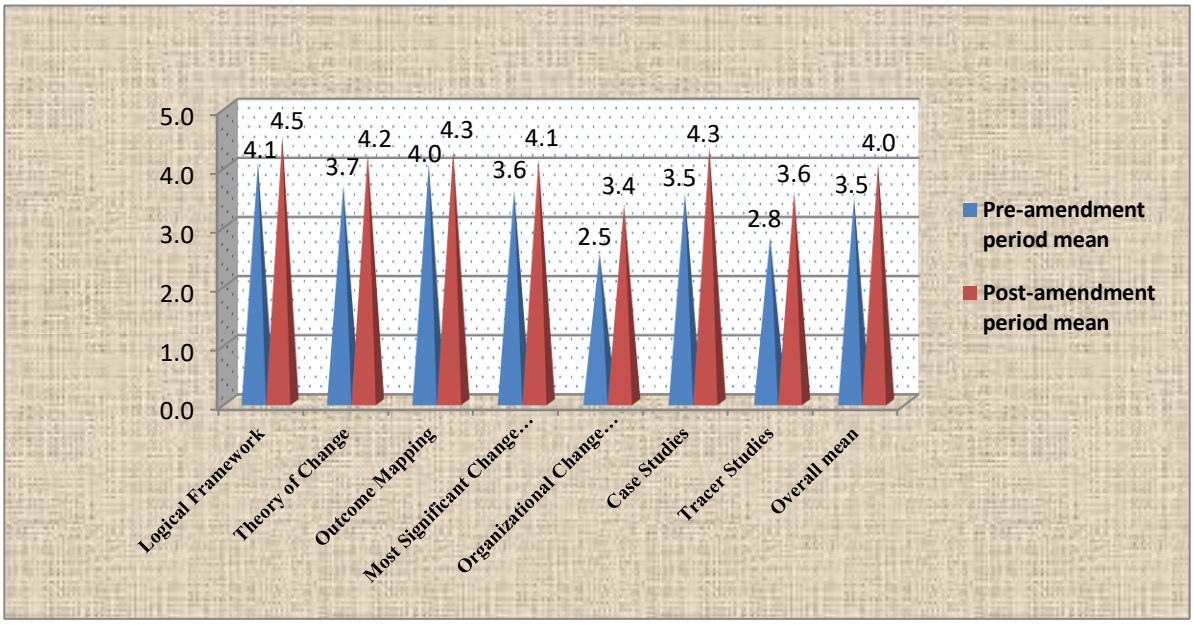
Source: Survey data (2021)

As depicted in the figure 4.4, the most appreciated change in M&E approach due to the new CSO law is ensuring of participatory M&E practices in engaging relevant stakeholders at all level with mean value of 4.41 followed by regular reporting to the management and the board having mean value of 4.26. Sharing monitoring and evaluation information and evidence, use of monitoring and evaluation information system (software/app, internet, smart phone) and the change in increased demand to measure results and impact have registered mean values of 4.21, 3.94 and 3.79, respectively. The overall mean value of the effects is 4.12.

The study finding shows that the new CSO law is creating an opportunity in making the M&E approach more participatory by engaging relevant stakeholders, collecting and sharing of information using information and communication technologies in all processes of the project cycle management. These have also contributed to increased demand for measuring progress of higher levels rather than focusing on activity and output levels and improved reporting to the management regularly.

4.5.5 Effects on M&E Methodology

Figure 4.5: Effects on M&E Methodology



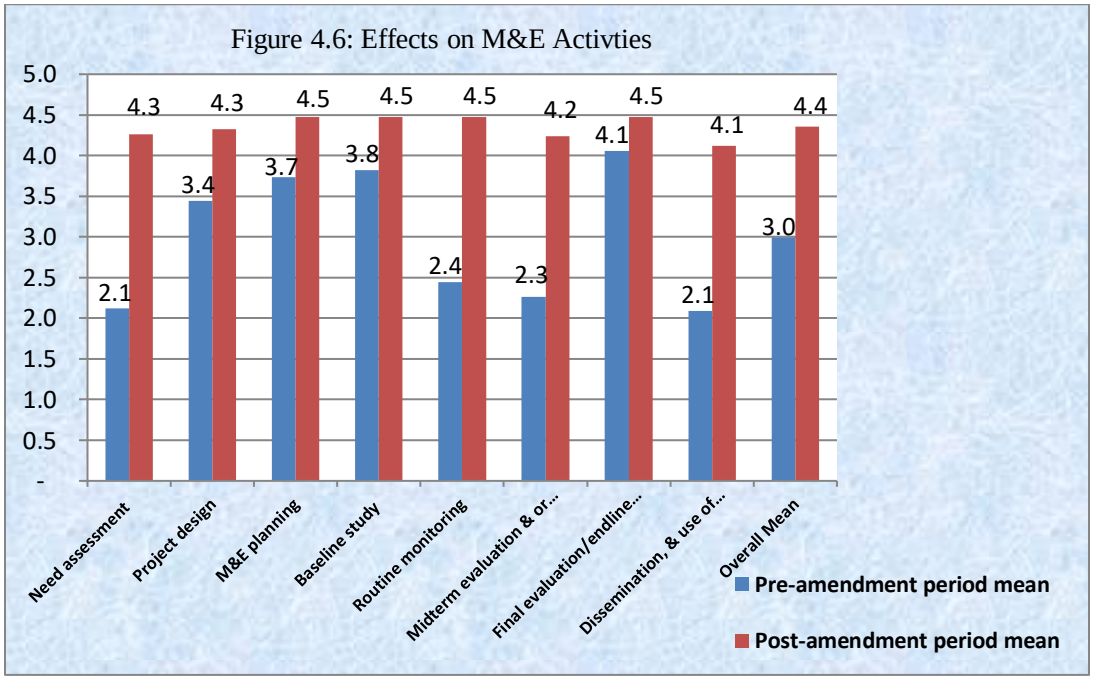
Source: Survey data (2021)

Figure 4.5 indicates that the larges difference in the mean values of M&E methodology in pre-post CSO law amendment period is on Organizational change checklist with variance value of 0.9 followed by case study application with variance of 0.8. The least differences mean values between the pre and post CSO law amendment periods is on Outcome mapping with value of 0.3 followed by logical framework with difference value of 0.4. The overall mean value difference of the application of M&E methodology in pre-post CSO amendment periods is only 0.5 (mean value 4 minus 3.5).

The study finding discussed above shows that there are no major changes on M&E methodology employed in pre-post amendments of the CSO law. Interviewed key informants have stated that the application of different M&E methodology and the choice from is affected at lesser level by resource availability and change in legal frameworks of CSOs.

4.5.6 Effects on M&E Activities

Figure 4.6 presents the findings of the changes on core M&E activities from capacity needs assessment to dissemination and use of lessons in pre-post CSO amendment periods.



Source: Survey data (2021)

Figure 4.6 depicts that the need assessment mean value has increased from 2.1 in pre CSO law amendment period to 4.3 in post CSO amendment showing the largest mean difference of 2.2

which is followed by routine monitoring mean value difference of 2.1 increasing from mean value of 2.4 to 4.5. The least mean difference between pre-post CSO amendment lies on Final evaluation /end line survey showing value of 0.4 followed by baseline study with mean values difference of 0.7. From this finding we can observe that setting baseline values and measuring projects/program performance is more or less the common M&E activities during both pre and post CSO law amendments whereas there are significant changes in the application of need assessment and conduct routine monitoring and evaluation exercises.

4.5.7 Attitudinal change on the necessity of project M&E

Table 4.10: Attitudinal change on the necessity of project M&E

Attitudinal change on the necessity of project M&E	Very low	Low	Uncertain	High	Very high	Total	Mean
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Leadership commitment; increased level of effort/time, follow up support for M&E	8.8	32.4	14.7	44.1	8.8	100	2.9
Use of M&E findings for decision making	5.9	38.2	23.5	29.4	2.9	100	2.9
Organizational learning through driving evidences from M&E exercises	26.5	26.5	23.5	23.5	0	100	2.4
Overall mean							2.7

Source: Survey data (2021)

The findings of the study on respondents' views on how the CSO law amendment has been affecting attitudinal change towards the necessity of project M&E is presented in the table 4.10 above. Leadership commitment; increased level of effort/time, follow up support for M&E is rated as high by 53% of the respondents while only 41% of the respondents have rated it as low. The remaining 15% of the respondents have been uncertain about its effects on leadership commitment.

The effect on use of M&E findings for decision making is rated as high by 32% of the respondents whereas 44% and 24% of the respondents have stated that the level of effect is low and uncertain, respectively. Only 23.5% of the respondents have agreed that the effect on Organizational learning is high whole more than half of the respondents (53%) have rated it as low.

Compared to other effects discussed in this study, attitudinal change on the necessity of project M&E due to the amendments made in the new CSO law is minimal. This shows that even though there are changing trends in M&E practices, the level of priority given to project M&E is not satisfactory yet.

4.6 Effects of the CSO law amendments areas on M&E practices

As table 4.8 below shows, 62% of the respondents have revealed that re-defined CSO's role has high effect on M&E practices (planning process, structure, capacity building, approaches, and attitudinal change) while only 3% of the respondent rated it as low. The remaining 35% of the respondents have stated that they are uncertain about the effects it has on M&E practices.

Table 4.11: Effects of CSO law amendments areas

Effects of the CSO law amendments areas	Very low	Low	Uncertain	High	Very high	Total	Mean
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Re-defined CSO's role; a shift from service providers to development actor	0	2.9	35.3	47.1	14.7	100	3.7
Amendment on program Versus admin cost classification	0	5.9	8.8	26.5	58.8	100	3.4
Avoided restriction on accessing of foreign funds	0	2.9	17.6	52.9	26.5	100	4.0
NGOs engagement in diversified income generating activities and allocate the income for organizational mission accomplishment	5.9	47.1	23.5	14.7	8.8	100	2.7
Overall mean							3.5

Source: Survey data (2021)

The findings of the study have shown that the effects of the amendment on program versus administrative cost classification on M&E practices is rated as high by the majority (85%) of the respondents whilst 6% and 9% of the respondents have stated that its effect is low and uncertain, respectively. Similar to this indicator, 79% of the respondents have agreed that avoided restriction on accessing of foreign funds is highly affecting the M&E practices in their organization with the highest mean value of 4. Only 3% and 18% of the respondents have rated the effect as low and uncertain, respectively.

CSOs engagement in diversified income generating activities and allocate the income for organizational mission accomplishment is rated as having less effect on monitoring and evaluation practices in their organization with mean value of 2.7. Only 24% of the respondents have revealed that this change might have high effect on M&E practices whereas 53% of the respondents have rated the effect as low and the remaining 24% have stated that the effect is uncertain.

NGOs engagement in diversified income generating activities and allocate the income for organizational mission accomplishment is the indicator with less appreciation from the respondents. As per the interview people, this is due to the fact that CSO engaging in income generating activities are few in number and most of them don't use the resource generated for M&E exercises as the donors have more flexibility on this.

From the findings of the study discussed earlier, we observe that reclassification of program and admin expenses is the most appreciated changes having significant effect on project M&E practices followed by avoided restriction to accessing foreign fund. This shows that in targeted organizations, increased availability of resource due to the relaxation made in the new CSO law is contributing to enhancing project monitoring and evaluation practices.

Table 4.12: Effect on project monitoring and evaluation practices

Question	Yes/No answer	Freq.	Percent (%)
Does the amendment of the CSO law has effect on your project monitoring and evaluation practices	Yes	33	97.1
	No	1	2.9
	Total	34	100

Source: Survey data (2021)

As table 4.12 shows, out of the 34 people who filled the questionnaire, 33 (97%) of the respondents have responded "yes" for the question of does the amendment of the CSO law has effect on your project monitoring and evaluation practices while only one respondent (3%) has said "No". This indicates that the people targeted in the study from different background and experiences working in various thematic areas have the same view on the role of the new CSO law on the current project monitoring and evaluation practices.

Table 4.13: The extent of the new CSO law amendment of the effect on M&E practices.

In your view, to what extent the amendment of the CSO law effects NGOs project M&E evaluation practices?	Very great		Great		Moderate		Less		Not at all		Total		Mean	Std. Deviation
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Fre.	%	Freq	%	Freq	%		
	13	38.2	15	44.1	5	14.7	0	0	1	2.9	34	100	4.1	0.89

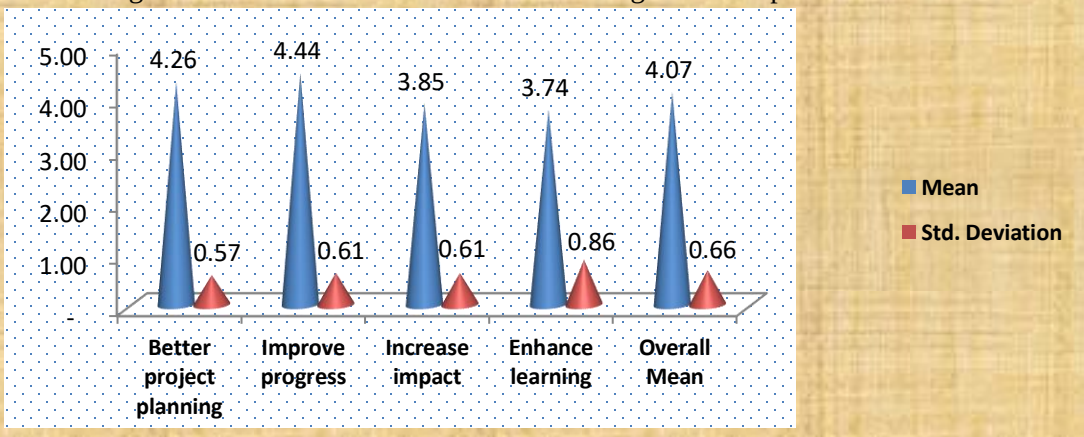
In giving response for the question to indicate the extent of the effect on project monitoring and evaluation practices, 38% and 44% of the respondents have disclosed that the effect is very great and great, respectively. Those who said the effect is moderate and not at all have counted 15% and 3%, respectively. The mean value of the rate given for this question is 4.1.

From the earlier findings discussed and the responses given here by the respondents, we can realize that the CSO law amendment has significant impact on the current projects monitoring and evaluation practices in CSOs. However, we have seen that the changes made in the law have been affecting different N&E practices under the study at various extents. The study has also indicated the gaps that need to be mitigated or avoided for better application of the new law and enhance results in M&E practices.

4.7 Results realized due to the changes in M&E Practices

This study has also tried to envisage the results realized due to the changes brought in CSOs project monitoring and evaluation practices (planning process, structure, capacity building, methodology, approaches, activities and attitudinal change).

Figure 4.7: Benefits realized due to the change in M&E practices



Source: Survey data (2021)

The findings of the study have shown that the changes in monitoring and evaluation practices is helping CSOs to plan projects in a better way showing a mean value of 4.26 out of the maximum possible value of 5 (very high). Improved progress of projects has got a mean value 4.44 which is the highest of all the remaining three indicators. In comparison enhanced learning mean value has less value of 3.74 followed by increased impact with mean value of 3.85. The overall mean value of the four indicators is 4.07. From this results and the interviewed people view, the new CSO law is contributing to better project planning, increased routine monitoring and evaluation exercises which are helping to realize better results and generate individual and organizational learning.

Interviewed people have stated that through time and application of pending regulation and directives of CSO law the benefits discussed earlier will be optimized and strong and competent CSO will be created having great contribution to national development.

4.8 Challenges faced in the effective implementation of the new CSO law and brought tangible results in project monitoring and evaluation practices.

From the interview sessions conducted with key informants of relevant stakeholders including CSOs, CSO Agency, Somali Region Bureau of Finance and Economic Development, and consultancy firms, the following major challenges and gaps were identified in the effective implementation of the new CSO law and brought tangible results in project monitoring and evaluation practices

i) Gaps in Legal framework

- Adoption of the new CSO proclamation No. 1113/2019 in avoiding the limitations in the old proclamation No. 621/2009 is a good action but it has not been supported by timely enactment of regulation and directives for detailed directions in the last two years. Thus, it has resulted in creating confusions among the stakeholders.
- Recently, regional governments/institutions in Ethiopia have been demanding more autonomous power in line with effective implementation of the federal system. However, what ought to be the relation and integration among the stakeholders at federal level (e.g., ACSO) and regional sector bureaus (e.g., Bureau of finance and economic development) was not indicated in the new CSO proclamation No. 1113/2019. If this issue is not going to be covered at least under the drafted regulation it might create challenges in the CSOs projects/program monitoring and evaluation exercises on the ground.

ii) St**ructural challenges**

- CSO Agency could not establish its structure at regional level yet and this has resulted in poor communication and collaboration with CSOs and communities at grass root level.
- There is lack of separated but integrated roles and responsibilities among CSO Agency, regional bureau of finance and economic development and relevant regional sector bureaus (e.g. agriculture, water resource, disaster risk reduction depending the nature of projects) in coordinating CSOs interventions and providing close follow up support.

iii) In adequate resource allocation

- Regional sector bureaus M&E team is usually dependent on the hosting CSO to cover the trip expenses (perdiem, accommodation, and vehicle). This might leads to biasedness in the findings of the M&E mission.

iv) Institutional capacity gaps

- Regional Bureau of Finance and Economic Development coordinates the government sector bureaus monitoring and evaluation exercises on CSOs interventions. However, the business process owners have stated that the bureau lacks adequate and qualified experts and logistics in order to provide quality services contributing to effective M&E practices in CSOs.
- Even though there are increasing efforts at CSO Agency to wide use of ICT but still there are lack of advanced computerized system and the business process has been running in labour intensive way.
- In adequate knowledge and awareness on the new CSO law among the relevant regional sector bureaus (BoFED, and task force platforms in the regional level). This has resulted in gaps in creating common understanding and shared objectives among the stakeholders.

v) Poor Stakeholders engagement

- Most of interviewed people from CSOs and regional BoFED have mentioned that as stakeholders they were not consulted at required level during the development process of the CSO law. CSO Agency has agreed to some extent on this concern mentioning that efforts have been made to make the process participatory but it was not satisfactory.
- The new CSO law gives more space for CSOs to operate freely and work in self-regulatory way. Nevertheless, sometimes this might result in challenges related to

ensuring accountability to stakeholders (projects target groups, government and donors) and transparency. One indication of this is designing of interventions without considering the needs of the target community while focusing on emergency response and soft components rather than giving priority for long term development interventions and ensuring of participatory M&E exercises.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the summary of the key findings of the project work, conclusion, recommendations and forward suggestions for further study under the topic.

5.2 SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

The findings of the study have shown that the major amendments made in the CSO law (proclamation No. 1113/2019) which are re-defined CSO's role, reclassification of program versus administrative expenses, easy of restriction on accessing foreign funds, NGOs engagement in diversified income generating activities and allocate the income for organizational mission accomplishment have affected the current project monitoring and evaluation practices (planning activities and budgeting, M&E structure, staff capacity building, approaches, methodologies, M&E activities, and attitudinal change). The significant changes were observed on areas of establishing or strengthening M&E structures and M&E activities in the CSOs, recruitment and deployment of a dedicated staff. The role on staff capacity building and methodology was medium whereas the change on M&E approach and attitude towards the essence of M&E are not that much significant.

The understanding on the new CSO law varies in government structures from federal to regional level and within the same relevant sector bureaus/agency. The same is true for CSOs; the knowledge on the new CSO law varies from one CSO to another and among staff within the same CSO. This creates challenge in the effective use of the law and brought results in the M&E.

The study findings have revealed that the changes in M&E practices due to the amendments of the CSO law is slightly enhancing program/project planning trend, better trucking of progress, increase impact, and enhance learning. As per the respondents, the result on these areas will be higher through time and increasing of institutional capacity reaping the opportunities in the new CSO law in Ethiopia.

Poor structure, institutional capacity and lack of strong coordination among the CSO agency, and regional Bureau of finance and economic development are the key challenges faced in the full

application of the new proclamation and brought significant changes on CSO project M&E practices. As government entity established to catalyze and coordinate the development interventions working with relevant development stakeholders, the institutions have to build their institutional capacity in order to provide technical and follow up support to CSOs.

5.3 CONCLUSION

From the findings and discussions of the study, it is observed that the changes made in the new CSO law (proclamation No. 1113/2019); re-defined CSOs role, reclassification of program and administrative expenses, avoided restriction on accessing of foreign funds, and relaxation on engaging in diversified income generating activities and allocate the income for organizational mission have a positive effect on project monitoring and evaluation practices in Ethiopia at varied level. The study have also shown us that even though there are promising progresses in monitoring and evaluation practices due to the amendments in the new CSO law still there are gaps related to legal framework, structural challenge, in adequate resource allocation, institutional capacity, and poor stakeholders engagement. Thus, in order to optimize the opportunity in the amendments of the new CSO law and increase the effectiveness of CSOs monitoring and evaluation practices, the actions suggested under the recommendation section have to be implemented by the relevant stakeholders.

5.4 RECOMMENDATION

The researcher has provided the following recommendations for effective use of the new proclamation and create conducive environment to brought significant changes in the monitoring and evaluation practices.

- CSO Agency has to arrange awareness creation trainings and orientation on the new CSO law to relevant regional sector bureaus (Bureau of finance & economic development, and CSOs task force platforms in the regions). This helps to create common understanding and shared objectives thereby contributing to informed decision making and provide technical and follow up support.
- The ongoing drafting and enactment process of the regulation and directives for the new law has to be accomplished as soon as possible and ensure close follow up support for their effective utilization.

- All relevant government structures including CSO Agency and regional Bureau of finance and economic development have to strengthen their institutional capacities (qualified staff, logistics, wide use ICT and business process) in order to provide quality services contributing to effective M&E practices in CSOs.
- There should be separated but integrated authorities (roles and responsibilities) among CSO Agency, regional bureau of finance and economic development and relevant regional sector bureaus (e.g.,. agriculture, water resource, disaster risk reduction depending the nature of projects) in coordinating CSOs interventions and providing close follow up support.
- The Stakeholders role at federal level (e.g., CSOA) and regional level (e.g., Bureau of finance and economic development) has to be clearly defined in considering the essence of federalism as the regional governments/institutions are demanding more autonomous power.
- Any law enactment process should be more participatory in order to create belongingness and enhance commitment for effective application.
- CSO agency has to closely work with CSO networks/council and donor agencies in establishing platforms where CSOs can share their experiences acquired new knowledge and skills on areas of project/program management including M&E and leanings.
- Even though the new CSO law has reclassified M&E expenses as program, CSO have to be accountable and transparent in planning and implementation of result oriented interventions while ensuring wise use of resources.
- CSOs managements have to give due attention for M&E practices not because it is one of the requirements of the donors but they need to believe that it enhances organizational learning and performance.
- Giant donor agencies need to strengthen their support to capacitate the relevant stakeholders in project management in general and M&E practices in particular.

5.5 SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

The findings and recommendations of this study are related to CSOs Projects implemented in Somali Regional State. The M&E practices focused on are limited to staff capacity building, M&E structure, methodologies, approaches, M&E activities, and attitudinal change. Thus, the researcher suggests the need to conduct further and deep studies by allocating adequate budget, expertise and time in covering wide geographic areas, and incorporating additional variables in changing areas in the new CSO proclamation, and M&E practices and project management and overall CSOs performance. The ACSO and CSOs council/consortium need to play their role in this regard. This helps to come up with better representative findings on the role and impacts of the new proclamation on M&E in particular and project management and CSOs performance in general.

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Appendix

Appendix I

Questionnaire

This questionnaire is developed for the purpose of conducting a thesis on the title "The Role of CSO law amendment on project monitoring and evaluation practices in Ethiopia: Evidence from Somali regional state" to be submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of the Degree of Master of Arts in Project Management, Addis Ababa University. The questionnaire is designed to collect data that will help achieve the objectives of the study. I am kindly requesting you to participate in this study by responding to all the questions as precisely as possible. Your collaboration is highly appreciated and all information provided will be treated with confidentiality and will be used purely for academic consumption.

SECTION A: Respondents' profile

1. Gender of the respondent

a) Male ( ) b) Female ( )

2. What is your age group?

a) Below 26 years ( ) b) 26 - 30 years ( )

c) 31-35 years ( ) d) 36 – 40 years ( )

e) 41-45 years ( ) f) 46 – 50 ( )

g) Above 50 ( )

3. What is your educational qualification?

a) Tertiary/College ( ) b) Undergraduate ( )

c) MastersDegree ( ) d) PhD ( )

4. How long have you worked at your organization in Ethiopia?

a) Less than 1year ( ) b) 1-3 years ( )

c) 4-6 years ( ) d) 7-9 years ( )

e) 9 -11 years ( ) f) > 11 years ( )

5. Which of the below categories best describe your role in the organization

a) Program/project staff ( ) b) M&E experts ( ) c) Admin & finance staff d) Others ( )

6. Thematic areas of the institution/organization you work in

a) Health ( ) b) Education ( ) c) Water ( ) d) Natural Resource Mgt/Environment( )

e) Agriculture/Food security ( )f) Livelihoods development ( )

g) Emergency response ( ) h) Multi sector thematic areas ( )

SECTION B: Amendments in the new CSO Proclamation No. 1113/2019

1. Using the following a five point scale, tick appropriately to show your level of agreement or disagreement on CSO law amendment areas relevant to M&E practices

   Use 1-Strongly disagree, 2-Disagree, 3-Nuteral, 4-Agree and 5-Strongly agree

S/N	CSO law amendment areas	Strongly disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Neutral (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly agree (5)
i	Re-defined CSO's role; a shift from service providers to development actor					
ii	Amendment on program Vs admin cost classification					
iii	Avoided restriction on accessing of foreign funds					
iv	Relaxation on engaging in diversified income generating activities and how to allocate the income for organizational mission accomplishment					

SECTION C: Effects of the CSO law amendment on Monitoring and Evaluation Practices

1. Effects on M&E planning process

1.1 M&E activity planning

Using the following a five point scale, tick appropriately to show your view on effects of the CSO amendments on M&E planning process, use 1-Very low, 2-Low, 3-Uncertain, 4-High and 5-Very high

S/N	M&E planning process	Very low(1)	Low (2)	Uncertain (3)	High (4)	Very high(5)
i	Freedom of planning feasible M&E activities					
ii	Engaging relevant stakeholders in planning process					
iii	Utilization of improved M&E tools and techniques					
iv	Amendments on engaging in IGAs enables NGOs mobilize additional resources to allocate for monitoring and evaluation exercises					

v. Is there variation on the process of planning for monitoring and evaluation before and after the amendment of the CSO law?

Yes ( )

No ( )

Do not know ( )

If yes, How

_____

_____

_____

1.2 Allocated M&E budget

1. Please indicate the amount and percentage (from the total cost) of M&E budget in ETB allocated for M&E exercises in your organization

M&E Budget	Pre CSO law amendment period, year			Post CSO law amendment period, year		
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Amount of total M&E approved budget in ETB						
Percentage of M&E budget spent from the total program/projects cost- M&E expenditure/TC (100%)						

1. Effects on Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Structure

1.1 The following are statements on effects of the new CSO law on Organizational M& E structure indicate your perspective in each by using 1-Very low, 2-Low, 3-Uncertain, 4-High and 5-Very high

S/N	M&E Structure	Very low (1)	Low (2)	Uncertain (3)	High (4)	Very high (5)
i	Established or strengthened existing M&E department/unit					
ii	Clearly written M&E role and responsibility for the department/unit					
iii	Increasing of a dedicated number of staff for M&E activities					
iv	Defined division of labour/specialization in M&E between the different structures?					

2. Effects on Staff technical capacity

2.1 Please rate your level of view on the effects of the CSO law amendment on staff technical capacity building, use 1-Very low, 2-Low, 3-Uncertain, 4-High and 5-Very high

S/N	Staff technical capacity	Very low (1)	Low (2)	Uncertain (3)	High (4)	Very high (5)
i	Capacity building trainings for your organization staff					
ii	Exposure to Joint Monitoring & Evaluation exercises					
iii	Experience sharing events					
iv	Organizational M&E practical Guide/Manual development or revision					

3. Effects on M&E Approaches

3.1 Approaches

1. What is your views on how the CSO law amendment is changing the monitoring and evaluation approaches, use 1-Very low, 2-Low, 3-Uncertain, 4-High and 5-Very high

S/N	M&E Approaches	Very low (1)	Low (2)	Uncertain (3)	High (4)	Very high (5)
i.	Increasing demand to measure results and impact in the NGO environment					
ii.	Regular reporting to the management and the Board					
iii.	Sharing monitoring and evaluation information and evidence with relevant stakeholder					
iv.	Ensuring of participatory M&E practices by engaging relevant stakeholders at all levels					
v.	Use of Monitoring and Evaluation Information System (MEIS) – software/app, internet, smart phone					

4.2 Methodologies

1. Please tick appropriately to show the level of application of the following M&E methodologies in pre-post CSO law amendment periods at your organization, use 1-Very low, 2-Low, 3-Uncertain, 4-High and 5-Very high

S/N	M&E Methodologies	Pre-CSO law amendment period	Post-CSO law amendment period
i.	Logical Framework		
ii.	Theory of Change		
iii.	Outcome Mapping		
iv.	Most Significant Change (MSC)		
v.	Organizational Change Checklist		
vi.	Case studies		
vii.	Tracer Studies		
viii.	Other: Please specify		

4.3 M&E Activities

1. Please tick appropriately to show the level of M&E activities implementation in pre-post CSO law amendment periods at your organization, use 1-Very low, 2-Low, 3-Uncertain, 4-High &5-Very high

S/N	M&E Activity	Pre-CSO law amendment period	Post-CSO law amendment period
i.	Need assessment		
ii.	Project design		
iii.	M&E planning		
iv.	Baseline study		
v.	Routine monitoring (e.g. field visit)		
vi.	Midterm evaluation & or review		
vii.	Final evaluation/endline survey		
viii.	Dissemination, & use of lessons		

5 Attitudinal change on the necessity of project M&E

1. What is your views on how the CSO law amendment can affect attitudinal change towards the necessity of project M&E, use 1-Very low, 2-Low, 3-Uncertain, 4-High and 5-Very high

S/N	Attitudinal change	Very low (1)	Low (2)	Uncertain (3)	High (4)	Very high (5)
i	Leadership commitment; increased level of effort/time, follow up support for M&E					
ii	Use of M&E findings for decision making					
iii	Organizational learning through driving evidences from M&E exercises					

6 Please rate your level of view on the effects of theCSO law amendments areas on M&E practices (planning process, structure, capacity building, approaches, activities and attitudinal change) using the following a five point scale.

S/N	Amendment areas	Very low (1)	Low (2)	Uncertain (3)	High (4)	Very high (5)
i	Re-defined CSO's role; a shift from service providers to development actor					
ii	Amendment on program versus admin cost classification					
iii	Avoided restriction on accessing of foreign funds					
iv	NGOs engagement in diversified income generating activities and allocate the income for organizational mission accomplishment					

7 Does the amendment of the CSO law has effect on your project monitoring and evaluation practices

a) Yes ( ) b) No ( )

8 In your view, to what extent the amendment of the CSO law (proclamation No. 1113/2019) effects NGOs project monitoring and evaluation practices?

Very great ( ) Great ( )
Moderate ( ) Less ( )
Not at all ( )

9 By ticking in the space provided, indicate your opinion on the extents to which changes in M&E practices affect the effectiveness of your interventions.

S/N	Effectiveness of Monitoring and Evaluation	Very low (1)	Low (2)	Uncertain (3)	High (4)	Very high (5)
a)	Better program/project planning					
b)	Improve progress					
c)	Increase impact					
d)	Enhance learning					

10 What recommendations would you provide to help improve the M&E practices due to the amendments of the new CSO law (Proclamation No. 1113/2019)

_____

Any additional information/points you would like to raise

_____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR RESPONSE!

Appendix II

Interview Guide for CSOs

1. What were the major challenges and problems you faced in the monitoring and evaluation practices due to the previous proclamation (# 621/2009) and ChSA``70/30 Guideline?
2. Do you think that NGOs were forced to minimize their monitoring and Evaluation exercises due to the restrictions in the previous CSO law (proclamation # 621/2009 & 30/70 Guideline)

   If yes, what were the major impacts of reducing project/program M&E activities?
3. Do you believe that your expectations for CSO law amendment on areas of M&E have been met in the Proclamation No.1113/2019?
4. Do you think that the new CSO proclamation No. 1113/2019 can addresses the shortcomings of the old ChSA proclamation No. 621/2009 in M&E areas of M&E? How?
5. What do you think of the major amendments made in the new CSO law in Ethiopia which are relevant to monitoring and evaluation practices?
6. What is your assessment of the monitoring and evaluation practices of your organization in pre-post modification of the CSO law? Is there any variation and why?
7. What type of monitoring and evaluation does your organization currently use and how frequently? Is there any variation from your experience in the pre CSO law amendment period
8. What were the planned and allocated M&E exercises budget in ETB in the last six years in your organization

M&E Budget	Pre CSO law amendment period, year			Post CSO law amendment period, year		
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Percentage of M&E approved budget in ETB from the total projects budget						
Percentage of M&E budget spent from the total program/projects cost						

9. What are changing in your organization's M&E planning process, structure, capacity building, approach and attitude towards monitoring and evaluation in the last two years due to the amendments of the CSO law
10. What are the tangible results you have already realized as the result of the changes you made due to relaxation in the new CSO proclamation

11. What would you envisage about the likely long run effects of the new CSO proclamation No. 1113/2019 on project monitoring and evaluation in Ethiopia
12. What do you think of the challenges and problems faced in the actual implementation of the proclamation in the last two years? How?
13. Do you think that still there are issues not addressed well in the amendment made in the new CSO law? What are they
14. What action should be taken to avoid or mitigate the adverse effects of the challenges?
15. What should be done by relevant stakeholders for the effective application of the proclamation and bring change in Monitoring and Evaluation practices?
    - Stakeholders; Government, CSOs, Donors, Others specify

Interview Guide for CSO Agency and Bureau of Finance and Economic Cooperation

1. What was the intention of making amendment in the CSO law in Ethiopia?
2. What were the processes followed in the enactment of the new CSO proclamation?
3. What are the major changes made in the proclamation No. 1113/2019 having implication on CSOs project monitoring and Evaluation Practices?
4. Do you agree that the changes/amendments made in the CSO law will have direct effect on Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning? How
5. What specific results in Monitoring and Evaluation have been realized so far due to the amendment/relaxation made?
6. What would you anticipate about the future effects of the new CSO law on Monitoring and Evaluation practices in Ethiopia?
7. What do you think of the challenges and problems faced in the application of the proclamation in the last two years? How?
8. Do you think that still there are issues not addressed well in the amendments made in the new CSO law? What are they?
9. What should be done by relevant stakeholders for the effective application of the proclamation and bring change in Monitoring and Evaluation practices?
    - Stakeholders; Government, CSOs, Donors, Others specify

Interview Guide for Development Consultancy Firms

1. What were your observation on the major challenges and problems NGOs faced in the monitoring and evaluation practices due to the previous proclamation (# 621/2009) and ChSA``70/30 Guideline?
2. Do you agree that your monitoring and evaluation consultancy services provided to NGOs have been reduced due to the restrictions in the previous CSO law (proclamation # 621/2009 & 30/70 Guideline)

   If yes, what were the major impacts of reducing project/program M&E activities?
3. What do you think of the major amendments made in the new CSO law in Ethiopia which are relevant to monitoring and evaluation practices?
4. What is your assessment of the monitoring and evaluation practices of NGOs in pre-post amendment of the CSO law? Is there any variation and why?
5. Which specific services you have provided for strengthening the monitoring and evaluation practices of NGOs due to the relaxation in the new CSO law (Proclamation No. 1113/.2019)
6. What changes and results have been realized due to these efforts made to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation activities? What are they?
7. What is changing in NGOs approach to monitoring and evaluation as the result of the relaxations made in the new CSO law in Ethiopia?
8. What type of evaluation does NGOs have been currently using? Is there any variation from CSOs experience in the pre CSO law amendment period
9. What are the tangible changes/outcomes that can be realized as the result of the relaxation in the new proclamation
10. Do you think there is a growing demand to measure results and impact in the NGO environment as the relaxation made by the new CSO law? How?