

Social Accountability Coalition (SAC)

Strategic Plan 2025-2027 Validation

Workshop Report

Held at

Yaden Hotel, Bishetu

on

19TH March, 2025

Table of Contents

Title	Page
1. Introduction.....	3
2. Session I.....	3
2.1. Welcoming Remarks and Opening Remarks	3
a) Preliminaries	3
b) Welcoming remarks by the Executive Director	4
c) Opening Remarks by the Director of FDRE Authority for Civil Society Organizations (ACSO).....	5
2.2. Objectives of the Workshop.....	6
3. Session II: Presentations	6
3.1. Presentation of NaSAC Journey	6
3.2. Presentation of Localization Humanitarian Action.....	7
3.3. Presentation of SAC Strategic Plan	8
4. Session III: Plenary	10
4.1. Issues/observations raised.....	10
4.2. Attempted Answers by presenters for the questions and comments	12
5. Way Forward & Closing Remarks.....	13
5.1. Way forward	13
5.2. Closing Remarks	14
a. Participants’ representative remarks	14
b. Representatives from ECSOC.....	15
c. Representatives from ACSO.....	16
6. Vote of Thanks.....	17
APPENDICES	18

1. Introduction

This report highlights the key points of the Validation Workshop Report for the Social Accountability Coalition's (SAC) Strategic Plan 2025-2027. The main objective of the workshop was to ensure the strategic plan's effectiveness by testing its alignment with the agreed-upon MoU

2. Session I

2.1. Welcoming Remarks and Opening Remarks

a) Preliminaries

Mr. Endris Yesuf, Project Management, and Partnership Team Leader kicked off the Validation workshop at 4:00 a.m., welcoming participants and handing over the program to Mrs. Yeshembet, VNG Representative and the day's leader. Mrs. Yeshembet suggested that the participants introduce themselves, stating the name of the institution they represented.



Mr. Endris Yesuf making his introduction of the event



Mrs. Yeshembet Aynie running the program

b) Welcoming remarks by the Executive Director

Dr. Mekuriaw, Executive Director, expresses his delight at seeing so many participants eager to contribute to the network's future and adds that the workshop will be a key step forward in the NaSAC and INGOs' journeys.

Dr. Mekuriaw emphasizes that "we are assembled here for two primary reasons. The first is to seek shared aims in the areas of social accountability (SA) between two national CSOs: NaSAC and ECSOC formed a coalition with seven foreign NGOs. Thus, we're here to validate this coalition's strategic direction and guarantee it aligns with the vision and goals of our respective organizations." In keeping with his remark, he emphasized that the participants' contributions and engagement were critical to the success of this workshop and, eventually, the consortium.



Dr. Mekuriaw delivered a welcoming speech

c) Opening Remarks by the Director of FDRE Authority for Civil Society Organizations (ACSO)

Mr. Samson Biratu, General Director, welcomed the workshop participants and mentioned that the National Social Accountability Consortium (NaSAC) has achieved great success in social accountability within its legal jurisdiction in a short period since its establishment. He notes that its existence is acknowledged by major stakeholders such as ACSO and INGOs, indicating its future potential for enhancing accountability throughout the country. The General Director boldly stated that ACSO will do its best to strengthen NaSAC following the proclamation 1113/2019. Today's validation session could be interpreted as an indication of such promises. Of course, he added that NaSAC was sponsored by ACSO from its origin to its formal establishment. In this light, the General Director informed the participants that, in consultation with donors such as the World Bank, the Agency had decided to assist NaSAC in a long-term fashion so that NaSAC's program is community-based and provides citizens with equal access to

basic social

services.



Mr. Samson Biratu making his opening remarks

2.2. Objectives of the Workshop

Mr. Endris Yesuf, ACSO's Project Management and Partnership team leader, highlighted the workshop objectives as follows:

- To consolidate NaSAC for the implementation of its program
- To create an enabling opportunity for the signatory parties of SA Coalition for the validation of their strategic plan 2025-2027.
- To engage stakeholders in giving comments and feedback on the reviewed strategic plan and the journey of NaSAC

3. Session II: Presentations

3.1. Presentation of NaSAC Journey

The Executive Director highlighted NaSAC's profile from its initiation to its establishment and accomplished major activities. He stressed that NaSAC is a network of 25 CSOs in Ethiopia and is focusing on Social Accountability and governance, initiated on December 29, 2023, and accorded its legal personality on June 24, 2024, with a vision to see a society in which all citizens have equal access to quality and inclusive basic social services that enables them to develop their capacity and actively participate in national development. NaSAC is not

created within an empty bottle. Rather, it is a network and a successor that will perpetuate Ethiopia's Social Accountability initiative, which has been executed in three phases since 2006 and is owned by the Ministry of Finance but guided by the Management Agency. Thus, NaSAC is motivated not only by the unique approach of its founding members but also by the lessons and experiences gained from ESAP3 and other stakeholders. The Director further stated that NaSAC can make an impact through its ranking system, its prominent member CSOs, the Marching system, and its succeeding 417 WSA Committee (Woreda Social Accountability Committee). Since its establishment, NaSAC carried out key activities attached in the appendices.

3.2.Presentation of Localization Humanitarian Action

Mr. Nigussie Tefera, CCRDA NGO Humanitarian Forum Coordinator GF HIV Grant Coordinator, presented the research titled “ASSESSMENT ON THE PROGRESS OF LOCALIZATION PRACTICES, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN ETHIOPIA”. He highlighted the historical and current trends in localization, as well as the study findings and recommendable remedies. More crucially, he briefly discusses the intertwined pillars of localization links, which are Local Ownership, Capacity Building, Contextualization: Inclusivity, Transparency, and Partnership.



Mr Nigussie addressing his presentation

3.3.Presentation of SAC Strategic Plan

Mr. Sisay Getachew, former VNG Int Capacity Building team leader and current volunteer Technical Strategic Advisor to NaSAC, delivered a paper titled "The Coalition's Role in Addressing the Effects of Funding Challenges on SA and Service Delivery". Mr. Sisay recounted the history of ESAP3, which has grown into a movement in Ethiopia, owing mostly to the three phases of the ESAP, all of which were designed to develop SA systems and mechanisms-platforms for citizen interaction aimed at improving service delivery at the local level. Finally, he left storming questions for debate.



Mr. Sisay addressing his presentation

Session III: Presentation of Strategic Plan

Mr. Betsegaw Botamo, Accountability Manager of Concern Worldwide in Ethiopia, delivered a paper titled "Strategic Plan for Social Accountability Coalition". He clearly stated that effective relationships between foreign non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and local NGOs are critical to the successful delivery of humanitarian aid and development support. Creating a Social accountability coalition with INGOs is vital for local CSOs like NaSAC and ECSOC to pool resources, share expertise, amplify their collective voice, and leverage diverse perspectives

to address complex social issues more effectively, ultimately enhancing their impact and influence. In consonance with this, today's validation workshop on the SA Coalition Strategic Plan ensures the joint effort of INGOs and Local CSOs.



Mr. Betsegaw in delivering his presentation

Presentation of Strategic Plan: Continued by Dr Mekuriaw

Dr. Mekuriaw addressed the SA Coalition's past and present status. He added that the Transitional Task Force (TTF) was formed as an advisory committee after consulting with the signatories. Finally, the TTF developed the outcome framework, which has been finished by anticipating that each signatory body will align its organization's annual and strategic plans with the described main activities.



4. Session III: Plenary

This session was moderated by Mrs. Yeshemebet. The plenary focused on the three presentations but more focused on the strategic plan of SAC, questions from the participants and their comments.

4.1. Issues/observations raised

- ✓ Local NGOs should focus on local market prospects to earn cash instead of relying on donors.
- ✓ ACSO should support the movement of IGA, promote volunteerism, and develop a mechanism for CSOs to thrive in the social kingdom.
- ✓ The need to align the strategic plan 2025-2027 with the requirements of the NaSAC members;
- ✓ Why did not the signatories of the Grand Bargain and Localization Commitments fulfill their promises?
- ✓ The strategy plan drafted by seven international organizations and two national CSOs is well-prepared and seems like based on their organizational interests, making it feasible for implementation.
- ✓ The strategic plan clearly articulates its basic values, vision, goals, and objectives.
- ✓ The study on localization offers new ideas and should continue to be shared as part of capacity building for civil society organizations.

- ✓ The initiative called *the intelligence stand committee* releases updates on localization. Thus, we can learn about localization patterns from such a platform.
- ✓ At a global level, what looks like participation in a coalition, alliance, and network?
- ✓ To ensure sustainability, we must shift from a single polar fund to a multi-diversification fund and work together to mitigate risks.
- ✓ The FDRE government's localization policy offers opportunities to support CSOs through collaboration with working groups and platforms, including the Humanitarian CSOs Forum.
- ✓ The Ministry of Revenue has a regulation that states those CSOs supporting the community on a volunteer base are free from tax-exempted
- ✓ When you formed such SA Coalition (SAC) what was your context analysis?
- ✓ How to address the root causes of social accountability in Ethiopia
- ✓ How is donor mapping designed when you establish the coalition?
- ✓ In what way do our communities be engaged in such a SA Coalition
- ✓ Currently our financial system from the donor perspective is at risk and we need to think in a stable and saturated manner.
- ✓ The government should take some lessons from neighboring countries like Kenya where everybody has the right to get a license to engage any IGA without ups and downs.
- ✓ In today's global competitiveness, CSOs must consider localization and survival strategies against major donors such as USAID that withdraw from humanitarian and development aid programs.
- ✓ We have to consider PESTL and SWOT analysis when we prepare such a Coalition strategic plan
- ✓ The activity implemented should be recognized by the network members and other key stakeholders, in this regard preparing such a validation workshop takes paramount importance.
- ✓ As a coalition we have not only thought about social accountability, but we have also thought with the perspective of Nexus with peace.
- ✓ Although there was a rumor of a tax exemption for CSOs at the practical stage, it had not yet been implemented.
- ✓ The SAC strategic plan is fascinating. The three speakers should be congratulated for their exact and straightforward approach, as well as their dedication of time and skill.
- ✓ We have to work on the capacity of IGA for CSOs
- ✓ We have to get solutions on how to own their building office
- ✓ We have to work hand in hand to get common solutions
- ✓ The NaSAC should keep up with such strength



Key Notes were given by Mr. Teshome Worku, ACSO's Monitoring, Evaluation, & Inspection Lead Executive, pictorial

4.2. Attempted Answers by presenters for the questions and comments

The four presenters in line with their paper accepted all the comments and gave their brief answers to the questions.



5. Way Forward & Closing Remarks

5.1. Way forward

I. The rapporteur documented all participants' remarks.

II. The Transitional Task Force (TTF) and NaSAC management will review feedback and submit the Strategic Plan for approval by the Board and SAC signatory bodies.

III. The approved Strategic Plan shall be communicated with stakeholders via NaSAC's website and other signatory parties.

IV. The FDRE ACSO will closely monitor and support both the SA coalition and NaSAC by Proclamation 1113/2019.



Mrs. Yeshembet expressing her way forward

5.2. Closing Remarks

For about 15 minutes before the closing remark, high-ranking officials such as Mr. Fassikaw (Deputy Director of ACSO), Mr. Messfen (Deputy Director of ACSO), Mr. Ahmed (President of ECSOC), and Mr. Terefe (Executive Director of ECSOC) attended the workshop, and the participants warmly welcomed them. Mrs. Meseret Azage (Executive Director and Founder of MHO and Chair Person of NaSAC) was also part of the event.



Mrs. Meseret, chairperson of NaSAC GA, and ACSO Officials attending the event

a. Participants’ representative remarks

One of the key participants, Founder and Executive of Maedot, as well as founding Member of NaSAC, Mrs. Genet Mengistu thanked all the participants for their attendance, the organizing committee of the workshop, and the deputy directors who came from ACSO.



Mrs. Genet expressing her positive remark of the workshop

b. Representatives from ECSOC

Mr. Terefe, Executive Director of ECSOC, expressed his happiness about the establishment of SAC as well as being present at the validation workshop which is a pillar for the signatory bodies to impact social accountability. He expressed that this SA Coalition (SAC) is due to the effort of Dr Mekuriaw and so many thanks and blessings should be given to him. Such working culture, collaboration, and support should be appreciated and ECSOC will keep up its commitment to support the coalition and to keep up firmly as a member of the coalition.



c. Representatives from ACSO

Mr. Fasikaw, remarks on the following points as a closing speech: -

- ✓ The agency trying its best to support CSOs
- ✓ From the start, the initiation of the establishment of NaSAC was made by ACSO together with VNG Int. Thus, ACSO should strengthen NaSAC till it stands on its fit. Today's workshop is one of the signs of this collaboration as the workshop is financed by ACSO.
- ✓ As CSOs, we have to think out of the window and find a way how sustain ourselves in the long term and help the community at the grassroots level.
- ✓ The office of ACSO is always open to support such SA Coalitions in different menses.
- ✓ We have to focus on IGA since the financial aid flow in the world is uncertain
- ✓ Mr. Fasikaw thanked the participants for attending the Workshop.



Mr. Fasikaw making his closing remarks

Finally, the Executive Director of NaSAC pointed out that all the comments/issues raised by participants will be considered during the finalization of the final copy of the Strategic Plan.

6. Vote of Thanks

The Facilitator, Mrs. Yeshembet expressed her thanks to all of the attendees and the workshop ended with some announcements

APPENDICES

Appendix I: ED of NaSAC and Coordinator of SAC Address

Appendix II: Chairman's Talking Points

Appendix III: List of Stakeholders

Appendix IV: Schedule for the Day

Appendix V: Presentations in PPT

Appendix I

Welcoming Speech

General Director of ACSO, Mr. Samson Biratu

Members of NaSAC;

Representatives of INGOs

Distinguished guests;

"Good morning, everyone, and a very warm welcome to Bisheftu and to this Strategic Validation Workshop!

It's a pleasure to see so many of you here today, ready to contribute to the future of our network. I believe this workshop will be a significant step forward in our journey.

Today, we are gathered here for two basic reasons, the first one is to pursue shared goals in the areas of social accountability (SA), NaSAC and ECSOC established a coalition with 7 international NGOs. Thus, we're here to validate the strategic direction of this coalition to ensure its alignment with our respective organization's vision and goal. Your input and engagement are invaluable to the success of this workshop and, ultimately, our consortium.

The second point is for tomorrow, the session will be most probably the general assembly meeting in which every founding member has the presentation and discussion of the annual report and plan, covering the previous year's performance and outlining the next year's objectives and strategies. Thus, I encourage you to actively participate in the discussions for the development of our network.

Finally, I'd like to thank ACSO for sponsoring THIS WORK SHOP. I also want to thank everyone including representatives of the 7INGOs or Signatory parties and invited guests. I would not forget to thank our volunteers, and AEID.

Let's make this event a success by inviting our guest speaker, Mr. Samson Biratu to open the workshop officially.

Appendix II

Chairman's Talking Points

- The rapporteur documented all participants' remarks.
- The Transitional Task Force (TTF) and NaSAC management will review feedback and submit the Strategic Plan for approval by the Board and SAC signatory bodies.
- The approved Strategic Plan shall be communicated with stakeholders via NaSAC's website and other signatory parties.
- The FDRE ACSO will closely monitor and support both the SA coalition and NaSAC by Proclamation 1113/2019.

Appendix III

List of Stakeholders

S. No.	Name	Organization (in Short)	Telephone	Remark
1	Amare Demissie	PIN	0915766999	
2	Yeshemebet Ayene	NaSAC	0918053875	
3	Demisew Akalu	NaSAC	0920759085	
4	Sisay Getachew	NaSAC	0911001893	
5	Bezunehe Geinore	NAHD	0930303877	
6	Tariku Kotie	NaSAC	0911357671	
7	Seid Mendis	FCSC	0921385406	
8	Berkie Basha	AUDIT	0920635253	CBE:1000455222722
9	Nigussie Tefera	CCRDA	0911902205	1000034606629
10	Amelework Getenet	NaSAC	0911383474	
11	Alemtsehay Bekele	Bethsaida	0969588131	
12	Eteneshe W/Agegehu	Berhan Lehetsanat	25115544814	
13	Nuuf Bekela	Biftu Bira	0916125787	
14	Dano kipata	EFDA	0932585913	
15	Hailegebriel Belay	Water Action	0913-258435	
16	Huluageresh Tazez	EWDO	0918710639	CBE: 1000142504182
17	Meseret Azage	MHO	0930034036	CBE:1000226977647
18	Sheibru Sika	Konso	0911269944	
19	Shimeta Ezezew	AEID	0911862695	
20	Eshetu Desta	EDI	0913755350	
21	Teshale Tolera	PADet	0927430199	
22	Tigist Ayele	Miraf Hulegeb	0911605018	

23	Endale Assefa	Love for Children	0911318001	
24	Genet Mengistu	MAEDOT	0911211667	
25	Laikun Getaneh	PHO	0903619745	
26	Amare Demissie	PIN	0915766999	
27	Betsegaw Botamo	Concern World Wide	0912187266	
28	Mesfin Ayeta	AMREF	0911068298	
29	Terefe Degeti	ECSOC	0911128689	
30	Mekuriaw Chanie	NaSAC	0965754848	1000007851344
31	Denbo Petros	VNG	0923252556	
32	Kebede Wolde	Ministry of Finance		
33	Abebe kassa	Ministry of Finance		
34	Solomon Lengereh	Ministry of Finance		
35	Kidest Gebre mariam	Ministry of Finance		
36	Endalkachew Kebede	Ministry of Finance		
37	Negussie Ayele	Ministry of Finance		



Some of the participants during the validation workshop



Government Officials and representatives with Some of SA Coalition signatory Bodies Pictorial

SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY COALITION (SAC)



Appendix IV

Schedule for the Day

Inception Workshop on the Validation of Social Accountability Coalition from 19 to 20 March 2024 at Yaden Hotel, Bisheftu

S. N	Activities	Time		Facilitator	Responsible person	Remarks
DAY ONE	Registration of participants	9:00-9:15 AM		Endris& Yeshembet	ACSO	
	Opening speech	9:15-9:30 AM			Mr. Samson Biratu	
	Introduction of signatory organizations	9:30-10:30 AM			Each Coalition member	
	Tea Break	10:30-11:00 AM			By ACSO at Yaden Hotel	
	Presentation Localization Assessment	11:00-11:45 AM			Mr. Nigussie	
	Reflection	11:45-12:30 AM			participants	
	Capturing group Photo	6:30 AM		Cameraman	By the participants	
	Lunch	12:30 AM		NaSAC	By ACSO	
	Presentation on Strategic and Annual Plan	2:00-2:45 PM		Yeshembet	By Dr Mekuriaw & Mr Betsegaw	
	Discussion	2:45-9:45 PM		Yeshembet	Participants	
	Refreshment	3:45-4:15 PM		NaSAC	ACSO	
	Official Launching of SA Coalition	4:15-4:35PM		Yeshembet	SA Coalition Members	
	Closing Remark	4:35-4:50		Dr Mekuriaw	Mr Fassikaw Molla	

Appendix V

Presentations in PPT

Attached