# Interviews with a range of people on the Community and its History since late 2002 in Dinki *gott*, Hagere Selam kebele, Ankober wereda, N Shewa, Amhara

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## Spatial and social map

There are three neighbourhoods in Dinki ‘gott’ – Alela Ager, Meri Ager and Dinki (two sub neighbourhoods Lay (literally upper) Dinki and Tach (literally lower) Dinki.

The comparison is put in the following table.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sub-Community** | **Good** | **Bad** | **Wealth Comparison** |
| Dinki (*Lay* and *Tach* Dinki) | Water available for irrigation and for household use including drinking water  It is relatively nearer to the Market (Aliyu Amba) as compared to Meri Ager. Same with Alela Ager. | Because water is available Dinki is malaria prone, especially *Tach* Dinki, *Lay* Dinki is better unless there is malaria outbreak. There is malaria in Alela Ager but it affects only part of it.  The river is taking the land of some people | Dinki is relatively better in terms of development and wealth. This is because Dinki has advantage of water resource. |
| Alela Ager | Irrigable land but very small as compared to Dinki  Suitable for animal breeding as they have grazing land (They share boarder with Afar) | Shortage of water  Some people lost part of their land due to flooding  Dispute with Afar, as the Afar people sometimes take their animals | Alela Ager ranks last in terms of wealth because it is prone to drought. |
| Meri Ager | The weather is good, as it is cooler  Near for the School in Chibite  No malaria only small part of it rarely | No satellite school in Meri Ager, because it is thought that it is near to Chibite | Next to Dinki, Meri Ager is better because of the weather. It is not drought prone as compared to Alela Ager |

In 2007 two new satellite schools were built: one in Dinki and the other in Alela Ager.

## Community event history

### Crises 2002/3 – late 2009

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | *Crises history* |
| 2003-4 | The water in Dinki river (flood) took land of some people. The river changed its course and never returned to its previous place. |
| 2004-5 | There was dispute because of the elections in 1997.  Worms and beetles affected maize and sorghum. |
| 2005-6 | The weather has come to be generally warmer than the previous years and it has continued to date. |
| 2006-7 | Drought due to rain failure. It continued up to 2001.  Clearing trees for making Charcoal. This has continued to the current year (2002) and the problem was severe in 2001. And the trees that were once in the neighbourhood are lost. |
| 2007-8 |  |
| 2008-9 | Malaria epidemic, many people were affected and many were forced to be bed-ridden.  Many people in Alela Ager were affected by diarrhoea. It was put under control, but it reached to Dinki (Neighbourhood) in small proportions though.  In June locusts affected onion and *teff*. All neighbourhoods were affected.  There was a disease that affected heifers and bulls; it is also present in 2002. This happens in June and September every year, and there is vaccination to it.  There was a minor earthquake but it did not bring any harm. |
| Later 2009-early 2010 | In October flocks of birds affected the sorghum. This was especially true for Alela Ager.  There used to be good water availability and the volume of the river was higher, before 6 years; and people could plant whatever they want on their irrigable lands. Water was available even during the sunny season. But now if there is no rain for one month, no water is found in the river. In 2001 some people lost their plants like onion for shortage of water. |

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### Economic events history 2002/3-9

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | *Economic events history* |
| 2003-4 | People were going to Gachene, when the town was being built. They may spend a week or two weeks according to the food supply they have. They were paid 10 Birr per day, not it is up to 25 Birr. |
| 2004-5 | Cardamom and clove was distributed for people with irrigable land after the seedlings were planted in the nursery. They have to grow to be big trees before they could give any output, and they did not give any output up to now.  The number of camels in the community increased, hence they use them more for transporting different things. |
| 2006-7 | Overall price increase – the price of grain more than doubled. And the alleged reason was drought. But this did not benefit the farmers, as they were forced to buy grain themselves. Those people involved in trading benefited.  In connection with this the price of fertiliser increases noticeably. The one that was sold for 200Birr became 400 (Dap), and the other one became 350 Birr, it used to be 170 Birr (Urea). This is for 50Kg.  The price for other household consumption commodities also rose.  100 or 200 Birr cannot buy anything now. Poor people were affected more. Those who are relatively well to do can do one thing if others fail them.  This year and the following two years were affected by drought. |
| Later 2009-early 2010 | The price of clothing rose. |

### Social events history 2002/3-9

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | *Social events history* |
| 2004-5 | The Argoba people were soliciting for being included to Region 2, while the Amharas were insisting the opposite. This was in connection with the elections.  Everyone was suspecting others during the election. But this year’s election is much peaceful and no one knows its existence. |
| 2005-6 | People from Afar stole every livestock of one person. |
| 2006-7 | One case of murder |
| 2007-8 | One case of murder  One man burnt the house of another person. The man, whose house was burnt, burnt the crop of the other person in vengeance in 2008-9. |
| 2008-9 | One case of murder |
| Later 2009-early 2010 | A girl was abducted and her father took the case to the court. But she said that she went willingly.  There was a conspicuous wedding in a rich farmer’s house |

### Cultural events history 2002/3-9

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | *Cultural events history* |
| 2007-8 | Sowing in lines and using improved seeds of maize, sorghum, *teff,* chickpea, and haricot bean. Though sowing in lines was introduced earlier, it was widely accepted this year. |
| 2008-9 | People were trained to prepare compost and the training continued to 2009. This was helpful as the price of fertiliser is out of the reach of many farmers.  HEWs were working with the people to build latrines, to use stoves that save fuel and to make a structure (of wood and mud) for putting household utensils and to be able to keep them clean.  Three farmers took water pumps, (one for each).  The plastic for use in water harvesting was being distributed.  People used to make houses of corrugated iron sheets before this year and about for five years back. But after this year as the price of corrugated iron sheets rose (from 30 to up to 100) the people are not making such houses. |
| Later 2009-early 2010 | There is a change in the way people are wearing clothes. These days people are wearing modern clothes. |

The year is not mentioned but some people converted their religion to Islam, and their number is not more than ten. One family (having 7 members) was converted. This was so, it was said, to get money and other supports. One man became Muslim and he again became Christian.

### Political events history 2002/3-9

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | *Political events history* |
| 2004-5 | The election was going smoothly. People of different parties were telling the people. But this was until a month remained for the election. After this time other party supporters were not free to do what they did before.  Until the year of the election, the people were forced to attend meetings and they were fined and even imprisoned. Meetings were commonplace. |
| 2005-6 | After the election different meetings were held (conferences). The officials asked the reason for the loss on the election. The reason was known to be obligatory undertakings. There was time when the people were forced to dig wells for water harvesting for an individual. This might be done by FFW. People who built their houses on hills were made to shift in lower areas, and this was also one of the grievances.  After the elections meetings and community development activities became voluntary. |
| Later 2009-early 2010 | This year’s election is peaceful. |

## 

## Trajectories 2003 – 10

### Environment history

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | *Environment history* |
| 2006-7 | The people started to make charcoal, which was unknown in the area before. Old trees were visible before this time but now there are no old trees. The charcoal cleared all the old trees of the area.  The water volume of the rivers has decreased dramatically. For the last two and three years ‘our shoes did not touch any water while crossing the rivers’. We did not miss any market day because of the river. Before this time, we might not be able to go to Aliyu Amba for two market days (Thursdays) in a row. The river was called as ‘a powerful man for two months’  The springs dwindled as well. There are also springs that ceased to exist at all.  The weather changed, and rainfall comes untimely. If there is no rain, there is no weed. Weed is a blessing when there is, if we weed and give it to our oxen, if they ate we are satisfied as if we ate something ourselves. |
| 2007-8 | Seedlings of different indigenous trees were planted in the nurseries for future use. |
| Later 2009-early 2010 | We are working on communal lands and constructing terraces to plant trees. In June, when there is rainfall, seedlings of different indigenous trees will be planted on selected communal lands. |

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### Infrastructure

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| --- | --- |
|  | *Infrastructure history* |
| 2004-5 | A wireless telephone started to give service in Chibite, the Kebele centre. But it does not function very well. |
| 2008-9 | The road for vehicles was maintained with machinery. The road was maintained only last year ever since it was first built. The road in the river was built with a stone structure with wire (Gabion boxes) |
| Later 2009-early 2010 | The road is not an all-weather road, and it does not allow vehicles other than four wheel drives. It needs maintenance every time rain comes. |

### Migration and remittances

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| --- | --- |
|  | *Migration and remittances history* |
| Later 2002-3 |  |
| 2003-4 | The growing landlessness had forced both males and females to seasonally migrate to Region Two (Afar region). Region Two people are not hard workers so Dinki’s people work on their land on weeding and harvesting. |
| 2004-5 | Females seasonally migrate for market. From the time when the community’s growing of onions flourished the women take onions to markets. |
| 2005-6 | When young boys grow up and could not get land they could work on they migrate for longer- term to neighbouring communities and work on others’ land in return for sharing the production with the land owner. This type of migration is not much common. |
| Later 2009-early 2010 | Females usually migrate for marriage, when they marry someone out of the community or when their husband migrates to other places for work.  People in urban areas don’t send remittance as what they get isn’t enough for themselves. |

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### Land

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| --- | --- |
|  | *Land history* |
| 2007-8 | We were given green card, which certifies our land ownership. My wife’s and my photo was posted on the land certification card. And a stone mark was put at the boundary of our land to separate our land from others. |
| 2008-9 | Before this time renting land for more than two years was not allowed. Now it is said that up to twenty years is possible. |
| Later 2009-early 2010 | Land holding is decreasing every year, as the number of children who live on their own is also increasing. For example, two of my children took part of my land, after that time my status declined.  Amhara women can share everything equally including land, since they bring everything equally into the marriage. But Argoba women, unless she is cruel, she does not share the land up on divorce. If she is cruel she ‘walks on the land’. This did not happen in Dinki, but we hear in other places (A view of an Argoba man). |

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### Smallholder agriculture

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|  | *Smallholder agriculture history* |
| Later 2002-3 | People who have irrigable land started to plant chat on a relatively large scale. The number of people who chew chat increased dramatically, so there are people who want to plant their whole land with chat. |
| 2003-4 | There is improvement on the use of irrigable land. For example, some people now plant maize in line, and it is providing good results. There is also pesticide that kills worms that affect maize. |
| 2006-7 | Belg rain started to fail this year. The Meher rain is not timely either. |
| 2007-8 | We were given improved seed of maize. |
| 2008-9 | We were given improved seed of maize |
| Later 2009-early 2010 | Starting from 1999 to this year, the Belg rain has failed and the Meher is not timely. Some people are forced to buy grain in the market, because they were unable to produce for their own consumption. And the market price for grain is very high which compounded the problem. Those people who are able to produce are benefiting a lot as the price for grain is higher. People are now working for other people to support their families. People also borrow from others in July and August  Digging new canals for new irrigation  There is no difference on the major crops we grow. They are teff, sorghum, chick pea and maize. |

### Livestock

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| --- | --- |
|  | *Livestock history* |
| Later 2002-3 | Starting from this year the number of camels in increasing. They are used for carrying different things for market or for other farm activities. People also buy small ones and sell them after they grow very well. Camels are bought and sold in Aliyu Amba, or in Gachene after the town was established. |
| 2003-4 | Improved varieties of chicken were distributed by the Wereda workers. |
| 2004-5 | We were told about milk cows but no one started to keep them. |
| 2006-7 | Modern beehives were introduced but no one is benefiting from them. Those people who keep bees are doing it in the traditional way. |
| Later 2009-early 2010 | We are taught about fattening but no one is involved in it.  People might not need to go to the market to buy sheep and goats. They ask other people in the community and they can get them.  There is no change in the pattern of grazing. When crops are still in the field, animals are kept in a specific place where they cannot harm the crops, but in other times they can be wherever there is something to eat.  For the last three years, the number of cattle is decreasing and the benefit they give is also declining. This is related to the weather, and the land can no more support many animals. Especially the cattle are hurt and some died, due to the drought and disease in the last three years. |

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### Agricultural labour

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|  | *Agricultural labour history* |
| 2005-6 | These years many children are going to school, and other people are forced to look after the animals at least when children are in school. This specially happened after the election. |
| Later 2009-early 2010 | There is no change in agricultural labour contribution of members of households. The household head’s major responsibility is farming and the related activities. While wives do the household chores. But this does not mean that women do not take part in farming activities, they do engage in every activity except ploughing.  Children are also involved in activities fit to their age. Children ages 9 and above start to herd animals, while children of aged 13 and above start to be engaged in ploughing, though it is just for a while until they become experienced.  Mowing and weeding might need extra labour and this might be done by different arrangements. By Wenfel, where people help one another in turns. The other way is hiring daily workers; and this is for well to do farmers. The payment for daily labourers increased during these times. |

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### Non-farm own-account enterprise

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| --- | --- |
|  | *Non-farm own-account enterprise history* |
| 2004-5 | The Chibete market opening had opened an opportunity for men to start trade - buying teff, onion, fruits, vegetables, cereals … etc from the farmers and bring ing them to the market.  A carpenter worked on roofing houses with corrugated iron. |
| 2007-8 | Hairdressing wasn’t charged for until this time. The women ( hairdressers) start using it for money making. |
| 2008-9 | Buying from the market women start selling soap, sugar and oil in their house. |
| Later 2009-early 2010 |  |

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### Non-farm employment

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| --- | --- |
|  | *Non-farm employment history* |
| 2008-9 | There is one teacher living in Dinki, who teaches in the satellite school. The DAs, and the health extension workers are living in Chibite, the Kebele centre. |
| Later 2009-early 2010 | There is no much non-farm own account work in Dinki. There are a very few people engaged in daily work. Many people also go to the Market, only to sell what they produced and to buy other things for household consumption. And we cannot take this as a permanent employment. People who have camels might use them to transport goods and farm products, and again this is not permanent.  There is no shop in Dinki. |

### Livelihood innovation

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| --- | --- |
|  | *Livelihood innovation history* |
| 2005-6 | Widespread use of torches. Previously only fathers used to have one. Now even small children have their own torches. The current torches use less energy but they are damaged easily. |
| 2006-7 |  |
| 2007-8 | Improved smokeless stoves were introduced. This reduces the use of firewood, it prevents from direct exposure to fire. It also prevents the house and wood outside the stove from burning, as it the surrounding is protected. This is especially good when children make injera. |
| 2008-9 | They use light bulbs connected to battery cells. |
| Later 2009-early 2010 | DAs taught them how to prepare compost. But the people are not using it as they did not know the benefit.  Making terraces on communal land was started after many years. |

### Access to credit

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| --- | --- |
|  | *Access to credit history* |
| 2006-7 | We used to be given seed and fertiliser with credit, but now we have to buy them, on a regular basis. They said that people were not repaying their credit. |
| Later 2009-early 2010 | ACSI is involved in giving credit for people who want. But we hear some people saying that it was not good, as they were forced to sell their ox and rent out their land to pay the credit. But there are no many people who take credit from ACSI. Those people who are allowed to take credit from ACSI are those people who can have a support letter from the Keble for having something like land, to repay the credit, if they fail to repay on time.  There are no moneylenders now. People borrow from neighbours or relatives, and it is taken as Wenfel. And this is for only a short period of time. |

### Access to markets

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | *Access to markets history* |
| 2003-4 | The new thing that is marketed is onion. People were using it for personal consumption, if at all they plant it. After this year they came to realise the benefit and started to sell onion, tomatoes, and other vegetables on a large scale. And this is done so by only those people who have irrigable land. |
| 2006-7 | The volume of outputs sold has decreases as the weather failed starting from 2006. And those self-supporting farmers, who were affected by the drought, were forced to go out to the market, sell their cattle and buy grain for their consumption. |
| Later 2009-early 2010 | The major market is Aliyu Amba, and the major market day is Thursday, Monday is a minor one. Everything is available in the market in Aliyu Amba, vegetables’ grain, cattle, goat, camels etc are bought and sold in Aliyu Amba.  There is a market in Chibite, and the market day is Sunday. But it is not a full-fledged market and it is considered to be ‘women’s market’. In this market grain and vegetables are available, and the number of people who participate in this market is very small. This market is very good for those men who want to drink, Areke, a strong local alcoholic drink.  There are markets in Zego, Haramba and Gachene; but their importance is minimal to the people in Dinki. |

### Prices of inputs and outputs

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | *Prices on inputs and outputs history* |
| 2006-7 | The price of inputs and outputs increased dramatically, and it is increasing since then.  The price for household commodities also increased.  The price of fertilisers and pesticides increased dramatically. But it was increasing before this time, and it is still increasing. |
| 2007-8 | Improved seeds are provided with credit but this is not regular. |
| 2008-9 | A kilogram of onion was selling for 4-5 birr, and it was very good for those who harvested onion. |
| Later 2009-early 2010 | The price for a kilogram of onion decreased dramatically. It is 2-3 Birr.  The price for oxen is very high for the last ten years, and there is no change.  The price for grain varies from one month to another. After the harvesting season, the price for grain generally decreases and rises afterwards. It also depends on the places, in Dinki and the surrounding area it is better, in other areas where there was no rain, the price is very high. |

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### Local commercial investment

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| --- | --- |
|  | *Local commercial investment history* |
| Later 2009-early 2010 | There are no commercial investments in the area. The water mill is owned by a person from Addis Alem ‘gott’. |

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### Housing, household assets and consumption

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| --- | --- |
|  | *Housing, household assets and consumption history* |
| 2005-6 | A large number of people start using corrugated iron sheets for their roofs instead of using grass. Finding grass for roofs had become very laborious and was vulnerable to the termites causing damage.  Some people started using wooden beds. |
| 2007-8 | People are white-washing their walls from a colour made of limestone. |

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### Child-related practices

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | *Child-related practices history* |
| Later 2002-3 | Corporal punishment died out. In earlier years children spent the days on the field looking after the harvest to protect it from monkeys and wild boar and if they failed to do so they used to get flogged. But since this year because of deforestation the animals have migrated to farther areas. |
| 2005-6 | People’s willingness to accept vaccination has grown after the HEWs alerted them that children who haven’t been vaccinated won’t be able to get treatment from the health post if they get sick.  Children have started playing with toys, dolls, cars … as their Godfather/mother from the urban areas bring them.  Then more children go to school |
| 2006-7 | The children are getting a better chance for a longer period of breast feeding, as the gap between the children has increased due to the use of contraceptives. |
| 2007-8 | Sending children to school has increased since the opening of the satellite class in the neighbourhood. |

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### Illnesses

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | *Illnesses history* |
| 2004-5 | In this year and in former years women used to have pregnancy and child birth complications, since there wasn’t a health post they could go in times of pregnancy and delivery difficulty. |
| 2006-7 | Malaria has reduced. It could be because of the bed net distributed or the reduced stagnant water when the water was being put in to use.  A few people died who were suspected to be HIV positive. Nowadays the increased awareness of the virus and its ways of transmission has halted the high spread of the virus. The people are afraid of each other. |
| Later 2009-early 2010 | Acute diarrhoea and vomiting occurred in the community widely and one man died. We took it as God’s wrath on us. |

### Health-seeking behaviour

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| --- | --- |
|  | *Health-seeking behaviour history* |
| 2005-6 | Users of traditional medical have decreased since the opening of the health post and an awareness of no use of it . |

### Community education levels

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| --- | --- |
|  | *Community education levels history* |
| Later 2009-early 2010 | Almost every child can read and write. Children who go to school read and write letters for their families. The satellite school must have contributed for this. |

### Education-seeking behaviour

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| --- | --- |
|  | *Education-seeking behaviour history* |
| 2007-8 | Students’ enrolment has increased because a satellite school has opened in the community and teachers have inspired the community to send their children to school.  Drought has restricted students from going to school when their family are unable to buy them stationery materials.  The number of students in grade 7 and 8 has increased since Gendeweha has extended to grade 7 and 8. |
| 2008-9 | Drought has restricted students from going to school when their family are unable to buy them stationery materials |
| Later 2009-early 2010 | Drought has restricted students from going to school when their family are unable to buy them stationery material |

### Community-initiated organisations

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | *Community-initiated organisations history* |
| Later 2002-3 | Money contributions in the iddir were increased as a result of the inflation . |
| 2005-6 | Iddir membership has increased in number as a result of being aware of its use. |
| 2008-9 | Almost all the community members became members of the iddir when it start working together with the government and people who haven’t become a member got excluded from social life/ activities. They will be forced to have their funeral alone and have no one to lend them a hand in times when their cattle are put in to trouble.  Some positions were strengthened and the people start working efficiently as cashier, chairman, judge (o charge a fee from those who are absent and to reconcile disputing parties). |
| Later 2009-early 2010 | Prior to this a member with a funeral will be given 20 birr (from a bank account ) and cereal contributed from the members ( each brings one can )  Discussions have been held to give aid for people in problems before death other than the memorial service.  There is no female iddir in Dinki but female heads join the iddir as a household.  Iddir leaders are elected by the society and are usually better in wealth. |

### NGOs – none working permanently in the area

### Government-linked organisations

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | *Government-linked organisations history* |
| 2006-7 | A Peace committee was set up and they prevent the occurrence of disputes, and reconcile minor cases. |
| 2007-8 |  |
| 2008-9 | The service cooperative was set up in a new way and there are more than 300 members. It is involved in the distribution of fertiliser and pesticides. But since it does not have much capacity its activities are limited.  The youth in Dinki were organised to dig out stones for construction but it did not start functioning. |
| Later 2009-early 2010 | Women association is started but it is not doing anything though.  There is no association for credit and saving, but ACSI gives credit, though the number of people who participate from Dinki is very small.  There is a parent teacher committee, and there are also nine people, three from each Hiwas (cell) that are responsible to go from house to house to enrol new children to school.  There are militia in every Hiwas (Cell). |

### Mobilisation of the community

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| --- | --- |
|  | *Mobilisation of the community history* |
| 2006-7 | The government is using the Iddir for mobilising and other purposes. If a person fails to comply with the expectation of the Kebele, they told us to ban the person. Iddirs are now being used to disseminate government views.  DAs and health extension workers are also involved in mobilising in relation to their respective interest. |
| Later 2009-early 2010 | When a directive comes from the Wereda, it passes through the Kebele and reaches to the people via Hiwas (cell) leaders. It came to be called Hiwas in 2008, it used to be Mengistawi Budin. The leaders are involved in mobilising the people for community work, and they also collect tax and other contributions.  But the people do not like to be involved in community work or any other new ideas; but after they see the benefit of other people they want to have everything they want. |

### Elites and community leaders

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| --- | --- |
|  | *Elites and community leaders history* |
| 2007-8 | A well-known elder died. |
| Later 2009-early 2010 | Another well-known elder died.  Now there are three well-known people. This is because they are involved in conflict resolution, they are involved in land administration and they are knowledgeable. |

### Understanding of government policies

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | *Understanding of government policies history* |
| 2004-5 | Starting from 2005, with the election many people started to have radio and they listen and understand government policies. |
| 2007-8 | The people’s understanding of the benefits of schools has also increased. Previously, they might not send children to school, but now they are asking for schools in their neighbourhoods, and they are helping in the construction of schools. |
| 2008-9 | The people are involved in protecting communal land in order to return the vegetation cover. Their willingness to take part in the activities has increased, as the weather is failing repeatedly.  Two satellite schools were constructed in Dinki with the initiative and labour contribution of the people. |
| Later 2009-early 2010 | The people’s understanding of health packages is improving and they are being supportive of the health extension workers.  There are no NGOs permanently working in Dinki. An NGO called ANFEAE (Adult and Non-Formal Education Association in Ethiopia) covered the cost of the construction of two rooms in the school. A Catholic organising will start to work in Chibite on irrigation. The government carries out most of the things done in the Kebele. |

### Political mobilisation

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|  | *Political mobilisation history* |
| 2004-5 | The election in 2005 was full of tension. The ruling party as well as CUD was telling the people about their ideologies and they were trying to win their votes. It was going smoothly until three months to the election. After that CUD supporters were being chased and frightened by those of EPRDF. When the election was a few days away, CUD supporters’ houses were stoned by people hired to do so. Some people tried to cheat on the election day, but it was not successful. At the Wereda level CUD won the election. |
| 2005-6 | EPRDF held repeated conferences to know where it failed. And tried to sooth the past reservations of the people. Former CUD supporters were approached in a special way. The election was a very good lesson for the leading party, as it brought many changes |
| 2006-7 | Changes started to be seen as a result of the election and the post-election meetings. |
| 2007-8 | The Wereda and Kebele election went smoothly, as there was no opposing party. |
| Later 2009-early 2010 | This year’s election does not appear to be an election. Apart from meetings about the election, there is no other indication of the election as it was in 2004/5. There are no opposing parties. |

### Ideas about development and well-being

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|  | *Ideas about development and well-being history* |
| Later 2002-3 | People who have irrigable land used to sow crops like maize but after this year they changed what they do. |
| 2003-4 | People who have irrigable land started to use is effectively by planting onions and other vegetables. |
| 2006-7 | This year and the following three years the weather was not good at all, and the productivity has decreased dramatically. Since we expect rain, if that is not good nothing else could be good; we cannot expect any form of development while drought is striking us. People who have a better standing and a better productivity are the ones who pass such years without much problem. And people who have irrigable land are in a better condition. But the water volume is not helping them that much. This is a problem that knocks every door, but those very poor households and female heads are the ones that are hit hard. |

### Community wealth and household inequality

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|  | *Community wealth and household inequality history* |
| 2006-7 | The Belg rain did not come at all starting from 1999. Before this time we used to get two harvests. The Meher harvest used to take us to the Belg harvest. And the Belg harvest used to take us somewhere. Those people who have sufficient piece of land do not face any problem. Those who have limited land may cover their annual subsistence. But those who do not have any land, like me, we cannot say that we are living. |
| Later 2009-early 2010 | Those people who have sufficient piece of land do not worry about anything. They work and get what they want. And those people who have children to support them, do not face that much problem either. Even when they do not have land their children support them in working in a sharecropping arrangement.  But when one does not have land, and any labour support – this is real poverty |

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### Ethnic/religious/clan relations

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|  | *Ethnic/religious/clan relations history* |
| 2003-4 | When the census was conducted members of both ethnic groups ( Amharas and Argobbas) used to give wrong information about their numbers to outnumber the other with the assumption that it will help in winning authority. |
| 2004-5 | During the election there was a tension between the two ethnic groups (Amhara and Argoba) in electing their own members. The wereda officials were involved in taking side with the Argobbas with the notion that the Amharas support opposition parties where the Argobbas will vote for the leading party. |

### Youth status and inter-generational relations

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|  | *Youth status and inter-generational relations history* |
| 2007-8 | The increased market demand for charcoal made the youth engage in burning trees from forests to make charcoal. It was very familiar to see fire everywhere when people make charcoal.  Since the road has start working and many educated people are entering into the community many young girls and boys have had the encouragement of keeping their education and becoming successful like the people they see. |
| 2008-9 | The government had made an effort to enforce the law and abduction and rape has reduced |
| Later 2009-early 2010 | The youth reduced making charcoal when the government strongly forbade the cutting of trees and making charcoal.  Students start going to Aliyu Amba for education since the school has been extended . |