# Interviews with a range of people on the Community and its History since late 2002 in Geblen kebele, Saesie-Tseada Imba wereda, East Tigray

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## Spatial and social map

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | *Service/housing area* | *Place* |
| 1995-6 | Grinding Mill Installed | Welaalabur Sub kebele |
| 1997-8 | A grinding Mill Installed | Welalabur Sub Kebele |
| 1999-2000 | A grinding Mill Installed | Kaslen Sub kebele |
| 2003-4 | The status of the road to Geblen improved | Mishig: Welaalabur Sub- Kebele |
| 2004-5 | The Health post built  Construction of farmers’ training centre completed | Mishig: Welaalabur Sub- Kebele  Mishig: Welaalabur Sub- Kebele |
| 2005-6 | Telephone post  Geblen full Primary School improved[1-8] | Mishig: Welaalabur Sub- Kebele  Welaalabur Sub- Kebele  Welaalabur Sub- Kebele |
| 2006-7 | Bet Maria School built [1-4] | Irata Sub- Kebele |
| 2007-8 | 3 Springs developed namely *Adafullo, Kalale* and *Semlek*  Geblen access to Electricity Service | *Irata, Kaslen and Semui Daga*  Mishig: Wela alabur Sub- Kebele |
| 2008-9 | 2 Water Catchments structures were constructed | Wela alabur Sub Kebele |
| Late 2009 | A spring was developed  People mobilised to registering to participate in the third national election | Kaslen Sub kebele  All sub kebeles and those residing out of Geblen. |

## Community event history

### Crises 2002/3 – late 2009

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | *Crises history* |
| Later 2002-3 | Minor drought strike Geblen resulted in decrease of production. |
| 2003-4 | Geblen was hit by a severe drought: crop failed. |
| 2004-5 | Severe drought hit Geblen: crop failed. |
| 2005-6 | Drought and Goat disease called *Haffow* [Dermatitis] strike the kebele. Goats died. *Haffow* have been a common goat disease in the kebele but became a serious disease since 1998. Then the wereda sent veterinaries and medicine to be sprayed up on the goats. Many goats were treated. |
| 2006-7 | Severe drought strike Geblen.  Animal diseases called *Cred, Sakena* and *Haffow* erupted in the kebele in the form of epidemic. Respondents estimated that more than 801 animals were dead of the diseases. *Cred* [a fatal goat and chicken disease makes them died within a day], *Sakena* a goat disease that caused death within one month of time]. *Haffow* [skin rash, goat disease kills goats ] |
| 2007-8 | The year 2000 was relatively a good year. There was sufficient rainfall and there was better harvest.  Lightning killed 3 people who were building terracing. People believed that the incident happened because they were working in St. Abune Aregawi’s day. [St. Abune Aregawi is a highly celebrated saint in the area]. Before, people in Geblen were not working on that day. |
| 2008-9 | Severe drought stricken the *kebele*. Cactus which is the most drought resistant plant and is a source of food for human beings and animals destroyed. As a result cattle died.  A leopard attacked three people. Two of them were harmed at their arms. The third man beaten at his head and arm and was seriously wounded |
| Later 2009 - early 2010 | There was better rainfall in the kebele. Cactus began to revive.  The ration to be distributed among people participating in the PSNP in Geblen delayed for seven months. Informants reported that there are people suffering from food shortage. Some has to depend only on *Quenti* [The root of a grass specific type of grass existing in the area. people sometimes used it as a supplementary food] for survival.  St. Michael Church in Geblen looted. Police arrested some suspects. Some of the stolen goods (crosses) were found out after three days. |

### Economic events history 2002/3-9

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| --- | --- |
|  | *Economic events history* |
| 2003-4 | People from Geblen participating in the PSNP were given their rations*.* Most people were able to cope with the economic hardship they faced. |
| 2004-5 | People who were not participating in the PSNP were provided with food aid. They were able to cope with the economic hardship. |
| 2006-7 | People who were not participating in the PSNP were given food aid under the emergency programme.  Snow fall and crop damaged and animals died. Since then the wealth status of the communities in Geblen had been deteriorating and the locality had been changed into a desert. Economic statuses of communities in Geblen began to deteriorate. |
| 2007-8 | The price of grain and other commodities increased steadily: peoples in Geblen spent more money on consumables. |
| 2008-9 | People who were not participating in the PSNP were provided with emergency food aid under another food for work programme.  Loss of goats and sheep as a result of drought and animal disease following the drought.  Construction of houses in towns expanded and buying modernised equipment like beds and mobile phones, DVD players Televisions due to increased income. |
| Later 2009 - early 2010 | Informants reported that rations of PSNP participants in Geblen have not been delivered since last October. As a result most people are facing economic hardships. They are forced to borrow money from their networks and the government to sustain themselves and their families. Others were reported to have consumed the selected seeds.  In Geblen participants of the PSNP were recruited for the second time. Those who were participating in the previous programme… |

### Social events history 2002/3-9

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|  | *Social events history* |
| Later 2002-3 | Farmers of the locality have been mobilised by the kebele administration to contribute labour and oxen to plough the farmlands of the family members of the freedom fighters of TPLF and of the army who were killed in the battlefields. However, the activities lack consistency. In the state a rule have been put in effect since the time of the revolution to give an overall support to the families of freedom fighters killed in battles. |
| 2004-5 | Family package started through government micro-finance. It brought about an internal disagreement between the youth who wanted to migrate and their parents became common. Many young people who wanted to migrate to the Middle East needed their parents to borrow from the government credit programmes to cover their cost of migration. Parents troubled and were resisting. They feared the possible consequence if the children failed to repay the debt. Later, many of them ended up in debt. |
| 2005-6 | A man was shot dead in Geblen by the militia men who had been guarding the kebele centre. He was reported to have had attempted to steal the money deposited in the finance office. The killers and relatives of the deceased had settled the feud through mediation by the traditional arbitrators. |
| 2006-7 | A girl was abducted. The dispute was solved through mediation by the traditional Arbitrators. |
| 2008-9 | The tradition of preparation of feasts in wedding party deteriorated in Geblen. But excessive feast consumptions in time of ceremonies organised to commemorate dead persons prevailed.  Neighbours and relatives in Geblen helped each other to sustain the drought. |
| Later 2009 - early 2010 | A Farewell party was organised in the kebele centre to say good bye for the kebele chairman. He left his office when he was appointed by the wereda administration to take the office of the wereda youth Affairs. More than 30 people contributed birr 100 for the party. They were drinking beer and singing till midnight came. |

### Cultural events history 2002/3-9

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|  | *Cultural events history* |
| 2007-8 | Public transport facilities were improved in Geblen. Commodities including packed drinks such as beer and soft drinks were supplied to traders in Geblen. Drinking beer became common among the people of Geblen. Men prefer to drink beer than Siwa [traditional drink]. Many people were spending more money on beer. In some occasions, a person [not always the same person] could spend up to birr 200 at a time for beer.  Young people in Geblen were wearing expensive suits. Parents found it very expensive to afford for it. |

### Political events history 2002/3-9

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|  | *Political events history* |
| 2004-5 | People in Geblen elected representatives to the Federal and Regional State parliaments. It was peaceful. Except TPLF, no other party participated in the election. |
| 2007-8 | People in Geblen elected their representatives for the wereda and kebele councils. |
| Later 2009 - early 2010/early 2010 | The Communities in Geblen were mobilised to participate in the 2002 national election registration.  35th anniversary of TPLF birth celebrated in Geblen. People from the four sub kebeles, men and women, were singing and gathered in front of the FA centre. After the new kebele chairman address a speech about the party and other issues in the kebele. A question and answer session was held between four farmers. Finally champions from each sub kebele administrators were selected and awarded a certificate. Each champion has said his motto loudly. The people were saying after each champion. One of the champions, a champion awarded for his effective leadership to implement the health extension programme in his sub kebele, said “Each latrine in our sub kebele will be plastered soon”. |

## Trajectories 2003 – 10

### Environment history

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|  | *Environment history* |
| 2003-4 | Trees, most of them eucalyptus trees, were planted. Only 15% of them grown up. |
| 2006-7 | Severe drought hit Geblen: crop failure. |
| 2007-8 | Much more seedlings were planted. 20 hectares of land were covered with indigenous trees associated with celebration of the millennium. But very few of them grown up. |
| 2008-9 | Natural Resource Conservation Programme put in place on the non-arable communal lands and on those lands possessed by individual farmers living in the kebele and the communal lands. Activities of free grazing and cutting trees within the conserved areas were forbidden. The conserved areas show little progress.  Experience-sharing programme was organised within Geblen;between communities of *Semui Daga* and *Irata* on natural resource management. The communities in *Semui Daga* had cut down all the trees in their localities, while the communities of Irata were better in that respect. Thus, people from *Semui Daga* were made to learn about resource management from the communities of *Irata.*  Geblen was hit by a severe drought. Plants including cactus, the most drought resistant plant and is used as food for people and animals, were destroyed. Thus, animals died. 95% of the seedlings planted in Geblen were destroyed because of the drought. People in Geblen remember the event as a worst happening in the life of the communities destroyed. |
| Later 2009 - early 2010 | More lands which were owned by the individual farmers have been put under the conservation programme. People lack access to grazing land for their animals. They were forced to minimise the number of their animals. |

### Infrastructure

|  | *Infrastructure history* |
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| 2003-4 | The road from the town of *Edagahamus* to Geblen was maintained. Lorries were driving to Geblen. |
| 2004-5 | The road from the town of *Edagahamus* to Geblen was maintained. People participated in the maintenance and were paid for that. They were able to generate income.  A health post was built in Geblen. |
| 2005-6 | The road from the town of *Edagahamus* to Geblen was maintained |
| 2006-7 | Communities in Geblen access to telephone service. One wireless telephone service was installed at the kebele centre. Many people are able to communicate with their networks outside Geblen.  The road from the town of *Edagahamus* to Geblen was maintained. People do it through food for work programme. |
| 2007-8 | The road from the town of *Edagahamus* to Geblen was maintained by the communities. Those who were not participating in the PSNP had access to generate income.  2 water points were built. It is used by the communities living around it.  *Mishig* [the kebele centre] is supplied with 24 hours electricity service. Communities living around the kebele centre, [56, HHs] are beneficiaries. As a result, people in the kebele have access to television service. People in Geblen were watching TV in Mishig.  People in Geblen have mobile phones in Geblen, but there was only one spot few hills with mobile reception. |
| 2008-9 | The road to Geblen was maintained, mini buses began to provide transport service from *Edaga Hamus to* Geblen*.*  The road from the town of *Edagahamus* to Geblen was maintained. People generate income. They were paid by Adigrat Catholic Church that gave its support to the maintenance of the road. |
| Later 2009 - early 2010 | Telephone service in Geblen improved. Before, it had been interrupting while the rainy months come. |

### Population

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|  | *Population history* |
| 2003-4 | Family planning programme had been put in place. But, people in Geblen were not using it. |
| 2007-8 | The number of elderly people in general, women in particular,show increase. Young people were not interested to live in Geblen. They were reported to have been migrating to the Arab countries and *Humera* in search of jobs. |
| Later 2009 - early 2010 | The use of 3 years Norplant, contraceptive, began in Geblen. So far 5 women are using it. Most people in Geblen are not using contraceptives. The number of children parents in Geblen bear is large. A blind woman continues to deliver children. She gave her sixth child in that year. |

### Migration and remittances

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|  | *Migration and remittances history* |
| 2003-4 | A migrant from Geblen to Saudi Arabia returned to Geblen unsuccessfully after 12 years of imprisonment there. He was suspected for a crime of murder and there was no proper trial to investigate the case. The deceased man was another migrant who went from around Geblen. |
| 2005-6 | Young women were migrating to Saudi Arabia. Some of them were sending remittances to their family. |
| 2007-8 | Youth migrated from Geblen massively to Saudi Arabia. But, most of them are not sending remittances. Only 3 % of them were sending remittances up to birr 800 to their relatives in Geblen. |
| 2008-9 | 85% of migrants to Saudi Arabia returned from migration unsuccessfully. |

### Land

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|  | *Land history* |
| Later 2002-3 | There was shortage of land in Geblen. Thus, demobilised soldiers were not given land, despite the law that prioritise them to access land. |
| 2003-4 | 50 youth household head farmers were given land for residence houses. Some of them built houses. |
| 2006-7 | 12 youth household heads were given land for residence house. Most of them did not build houses. |
| 2007-8 | 45 youth household heads were given land to construct residence houses. Out of the total 107 youth household heads, only 65, constructed houses. |

### Smallholder agriculture

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|  | *Smallholder agriculture history* |
| Later 2002-3 | New seeds of barley, wheat, and maize were introduced. |
| 2005-6 | Farmers in Geblen received trainings on the techniques of preparing compost; accordingly, they were preparing it. It helped them to increase their productivity. |
| 2006-7 |  |
| 2007-8 | Between 2007 and 2009 135 people became users of irrigation and or water harvest of household ponds. The products are onion, potato and tomato, crops such as beans, corn, barley and wheat, and fruits such as oranges and lemons. 80 people in Geblen are using irrigation 40 of them are residents of Welaalabur sub kebele. Totally, they are 120 people. However, the lands irrigated are very small. The maximum amount of land measures 5mx5m. People grow; tomato, onion, potato.  Very poor people in the kebele were given selected seeds freely.  The amount of irrigated lands in Geblen was increasing. More people irrigate their land and produced onion, tomato and potato. Income of more people in Geblen was increasing. |
| Later 2009 - early 2010 | Most people in Geblen were unable to buy improved seeds. Those who bought had consumed it. |

### Livestock

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|  | *Livestock history* |
| Later 2002-3 | Since 1995EC, the number of sheep in Geblen was decreasing. It was because of lack of graze. Goats are surviving the problem by browsing in the steep hill sides.  In 1995, the agricultural office[public] ceased to provide credit service through Agricultural and livestock extension and Package programmes. The service was provided through the agency of Dedebit Saving and Credit Enterprise. |
| 2003-4 | Selected species of Hens were introduced. But, they could not be reproduced of diseases.  A veterinary clinic was built in Geblen. But it could not give us service as there were no skilled personals assigned. There were also no medicines. The house was used only as a shelter for those who were coming annually to give vaccines to animals. |
| 2006-7 | Goats and sheep were dead of disease called *Cred* and *Sakna* [goat and sheep disease that were not common to the kebele before], There was no medical service to save them. |
| 2007-8 | A new breed bull was brought to Geblen. The numbers of high breeds are increasing in number. Thus, the community’s wealth improved. |
| 2008-9 | 250 modern hives were distributed among the people in credit. Some of the hives were broken or lack some accessories. Thus, people who took them by chance were complaining. Bee colonies were dying because of the drought; borrowers were not making use of it for they lack bees to place in the modern hives.  A livestock DA was assigned in Geblen.  Geblen was hit by a severe drought. Animals lack fodder and water as a result 810 animals died. |
| Later 2009 - early 2010 | 300 modern bee hives were distributed among the communities in Geblen before they pay back their previous debt. They are selling their animals and grain to repay their debts. They are critical to the government There are some people who sold it with 847 Birr for the payment of the debt.  In 2000E.C, 300 modern beehives were distributed among farmers in Geblen. Last year, the beehives distributed in the kebele were only 205. |

### Agricultural labour

|  | *Agricultural labour history* |
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| Later 2002-3 | Men in Geblen mainly engage in the field work activities such as in building terracing in the farm, plough, sowing, weeding are the regular activities done by men. They also engage in the preparation of compost, fetching water, watering garden, collecting firewood, and marketing, transporting grains to and from the market and grinding mill plants, building fences, maintaining house buildings and Producing charcoal.  Herding is an activity done by both men and women.  Farmers in Geblen do not produce surplus products. Thus, they are not sellers of agricultural products. |
| 2007-8 | Farmers in Geblen have worked in the orange farms of the monastery of Gunda Gundo known for its orange production in the region. It is located in a neighbouring kebele to Geblen, 6 hours walk on foot and is found in the border of wereda Erob and Saesie-Tseada Imba. The labourers were paid 30 birr per day and a food, lunch, every day. The lunch served to the labourers is obligatory and is considered as part of the payment. The orange from the monastery is the best in its quality and in the towns of Edaga Hamus, Adigrat and Mekele; a kilo of orange of from the monastery of Gunada Gundo is sold for 17 birr, while the same amount of orange brought from Addis Ababa is sold only with 12 birr. However, the orange from Gunda Gundo is not produced throughout the year. It is available only in the months of January and February. The orange transported from Gunda Gundo to the towns is loaded to a lorry from Geblen. The house of a young rich in Geblen, Almadaga village which is located near Geblen primary school, who do have his own store house for rent served as a post to trade the orange from Gunda Gundo to the towns. |
| 2008-9 | A man in Geblen who known for his engagement in *Lifinti*, and who was buying up to 1 quintal of DAP: fertiliser lost his crop because of the drought. People engaging in *lifinti* and Tiufrti, the most common agricultural labour management activities in Geblen are disappearing. [ *Tiufrti* refers to share cropping arrangement between the land owner and owner of labour and oxen. On the other hand, *Lifinti* labour contribution systems between of a group; relatives or neighbourhood]. The respondent said that this days everybody prefers to work by himself rather than doing things with others. |
| Later 2009 - early 2010 | A man in Geblen had been ploughing his farm by pairing a donkey with an ox. Such kind of practice; pairing an ox with a donkey is not known before].A change is being observed in the traditional practices in the locality. |

### Non-farm own-account enterprise

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|  | *Non-farm own-account enterprise history* |
| 2004-5 | There was only one woman who was generating income by selling tea and local drinks in Geblen. |
| 2007-8 | Three shops were opened in *Mishig* [Mishig is a village in *Wela ala bur* sub-kebele in Geblen where the kebele office, the health post and the farmers Training Centre, are located] Access to electricity, telephone and credit services enables people in Geblen to start businesses and improve their living.  More and more women living in Mishig were starting small scale business associated with the village’s access to electricity, telephone and TV services. in *Mishig* 6 women House Hold Heads who are engaging in selling *Siwa* [a local drink], tea, beer and soft drinks. |
| 2008-9 |  |
| Later 2009 - early 2010 | A young returnee from Humera opened barber’s shop. I observed one men’s barber’s shop and a pool game house. The barber reported that at an average he earns birr 5 a day. But, he pays birr 30 a month for the house rent. Two teachers working in the primary school also reported that they are paying birr 35 to the house they rented from a female household head who built a better house in *Mishig.* |

### Non-farm employment

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|  | *Non-farm employment history* |
| Later 2002-3 | Young men in Geblen are not skilled in the construction activities. Therefore, they are working in the above mentioned towns as daily labourers earning meagre income. Before the Ethio-Eritrean war, the young mainly men had been migrating to Eritrea and were working as daily labourers with better payments. They had also the chance to acquire better skill while they were working in Eritrea.  Young women in Geblen are working in restaurants, tea rooms, bars in the towns of Adigrat, Edaga Hamus and Mekele. They are earning 200 to 250 birr per month. |
| 2004-5 | Young people’s income improved in Geblen when a temporary employment opportunity was created by the ADCSS, for Geblen while the construction of a water structure (spring development) and water reservoir built in Welaalabur sub kebele. ADSSC employed them. 50 young people were participated. |
| 2007-8 | Two female students from Geblen completed their education and were employed by the government as teachers in other areas. Educated people from Geblen are being employed by the government. |

### Livelihood innovation

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|  | *Livelihood innovation history* |
| Later 2002-3 | Respondents reported that the young people in Geblen are not creative. They would like to migrate abroad rather than engaging in innovation. According to the informants, there was no access to education for a long time and most of them lack skills to innovate new things and make income. |
| 2003-4 | Respondents reported that since 1996 most people in Geblen were participating on the PSNP. Access to food improved. |
| 2007-8 | People in Geblen were using batteries, bulbs and torches, particularly, people living in *Irata and Semui Daga* [these are sub *kebeles* where electricity service is not accessible]. The batteries and bulbs are not made by people in Geblen. They are bringing it from the towns. |

### Access to credit

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|  | *Access to credit history* |
| Later 2002-3 | 518 people in Geblen participated in family package through Dedebit micro finance programmes. Elderly people were excluded from participation in the programme.  Since 1995, the Farmers Association Cooperative in Geblen has been giving credit service to the farmers in the locality. The credit service provided by the cooperative is not given in cash, rather it is given in kind such as in the form of fertiliser, selected seeds, pumps food etc. |
| 2008-9 | In the year 2001, borrowing money to buy agricultural inputs and animals stopped and was decided to be given to the seekers in kind. Informants related this decision with the failure of migrants and their parents to repay the money they took for the purpose of migration. |
| Later 2009 - early 2010 |  |

### Access to markets

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|  | *Access to markets history* |
| Later 2002-3 | The communities in Geblen are able to buy commodities like coffee, sugar, salt and etc in their village. It was because of access to public transport service in Geblen. Before, they were going to the towns of *Idaga Hamus and Adigrat* on foot to buy goods. |
| 2008-9 | A new market area was set up in *Adi Kelebus* [A village in a neighbouring *kebele* to Geblen; 50 minutes’ walk on foot away from Geblen]. The day of the market is fixed to be on Thursday. A very few people from Geblen are able to sell tomatoes they produce in a relatively nearer market. Many of the people in Geblenare not producers for market and thus cannot be beneficiary from that opportunity created to them. |
| Later 2009 - early 2010 |  |

### Prices of inputs and outputs

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|  | *Prices of inputs and outputs history* |
| 2007-8 | Prices of seeds and fertiliser began to show sharp increase.  In 2000E.C. the price of a quintal of barley became 800birr. Before it has been sold only 400 birrs. |
| 2008-9 | The price of grain is sky rocketing very recently. Respondents reported that the price of goats, sheep chicken and their products are also increasing in a similar manner to the products they are buying. But, the fact that the numbers of animals to be sold by the people of Geblen are very limited, make them to be more of loser than be beneficiaries. Respondents point out that they [the people of Geblen] are more of buyers than sellers. As a result, they are facing difficulties due to the rise of the price of goods. |
| Later 2009 - early 2010 | According to informants, the same trend continued in the current year.  Farmers in Geblen have access to purchase fertilisers from retailers in the town of Idaga Hamus |

### Local commercial investment

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|  | *Local commercial investment history* |
| Later 2002-3 | There is commercial investment in the *kebele.* Three grinding mills were built: Two of them were built in 1990 and 1992 respectively. The owners are employing 3-5 people. |
| 2005-6 | A grinding mill was installed in Geblen. There are three people employed from the locality. They are being paid up to birr 300 per month. |

### Other non-Government acts affecting livelihoods

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|  | *Other non-Government acts affecting livelihoods history* |
| 2004-5 | *Adigrat* Catholic Church had been recruiting some people **[unskilled labourers]** to participate in different activities it had undertaken in thekebele. Those include road maintenances, construction of canals and water points. According to informants, labourers participating in the activities are paid 10 birr per day. |
| 2005-6 |  |
| 2008-9 | World Vision Ethiopia provided honey production equipment to the bee keeping cooperative in Geblen. |
| Later 2009 - early 2010 | World Vision Ethiopia provided selected seeds to farmers in Geblen. |

### Domestic work

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|  | *Domestic work history* |
| Later 2002-3 | Women undertake domestic activities such as food preparation, childcare, laundry, cleaning the house, assisting other miscellaneous tasks. They also engage in farming activities such as weeding, sawing, winnowing, harvesting, husking and threshing.  Women and girls in Geblen wash suits of the household members at an average once in a month.  Before 1988E.C, women in Geblen have been grinding grains with their hands  Many springs found in every sub kebeles dried out due to the fact that people were planting eucalyptus trees around the springs. Thus women have to walk for hours to fetch drinking water. |
| 2003-4 | In Geblen*,* women’s working hours outside home was increasing associated with the implementation of the food for work programmes. |

### Housing, household assets and consumption

|  | *Housing, household assets and consumption history* |
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| Later 2002-3 | Most households in Geblen built latrines. They also separated human and animal homes. Built shelves, and cleaning houses.  The type of food commonly consumed by members of the most households in Geblen are Tihilo, Injera (wheat or barley or millet bread), Shiro (beans or pea floor grind together with spices). |
| 2003-4 |  |
| 2004-5 | New household equipment are becoming common in Geblen. Respondents reported that plastic equipment such as dishes, Jeri cans, cups, *Fistos* [plastic tankers] are used by the people. Traditional equipment made up of clay such as *Geini* [clay water or local drink tankers], *Tsahili* [pun used to cook food], *Minilik* [cup made up of metallic material] are being replaced by plastic equipment. According to respondents, recently, beds made up of wood are becoming common in some richer households. Before everybody in the *tabia* [kebele] had been using beds made up of mud and stone. |
| 2007-8 | People in Mishig, a village in Geblen where the kebele centre is located, are building better houses with corrugated iron roof and concert plastered walls. |
| Later 2009 - early 2010 | The buses and tracks do not get in to Geblen frequently as they do to *Adi Kelebus*. It is only on Friday and Saturday that the minibuses go to Geblen, there are no many people to use it. People in Geblen used the minibuses on Saturday because the market day in *Idaga Hamus* is on Saturday. Thus, more people will use the transport service in and out of Geblen. In some special days when there are more people to use the minibuses at a time, the minibuses drive to Geblen.  More than 50 improved stoves [firewood effective] used to bake Injera [bread], were unloaded from the double cup cars that belong to the wereda administration. Coordinator of the DAs handed over it and stored them in the FTC. I[the researcher] together with few farmers contributed labour in carrying the stoves from the kebele office to the FTC. The DA reported that the stoves are firewood saving stoves and are intended to be distributed among the model farmers. He also reported that, the introduction of the improved stoves shall contribute to the effectiveness of the Zero grazing programme that have been put in place in the kebele. |

### Child-related practices

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|  | *Child-related practices history* |
| Later 2002-3 | There were very few traditional medicine men and witches but since recently those traditional practices disappeared.  Young girls are not married before 18. But informants admitted that rarely girls under 18 may get married if she is matured enough physically.  Female genital mutilation is not known among communities in Geblen.  There is the culture of open discussion among children and parents in Geblen*.* Adolescents are not shy and openly talk about their wishes, desires including sexual behaviours with their parents and adults.  Respondents reported that theirkebele was free **[ under the control of TPLF** ] since early 1970s. Thus, it was long before traditional practices and belief systems such as the above mentioned ones disappeared. |
| Later 2009 - early 2010 | In Geblen, harmful traditional practices are decreasing. A traditional medicine man who had been dealing with sick children has officially declared that he give-up doing so in the month of October 2009. The medicine man had been said to “heal” sick children by making them drink a juice of herbs [the local people call it Gusay] which he believed to heal infants from any haphazard disease. He also used to cut part of glottal tissue and removed the first appearing milk teeth of children. The HEW, reported that she had been teaching the people not to take their children to the traditional healer. If they do, they have to go to him having bought a new razor blade.  Under-nourished children in Geblen were provided with nutritious food [Plumpynut]. The children are improving. |

### Illnesses

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|  | *Illnesses history* |
| 2004-5 | Since 1997E.C, there are cases of diarrhoea among the residents of Wela alabur sub-kebele. The disease occurs from September to November, in the last few years. Victims were children, infants and adult people who received the medical treatment in Adi Kelebes [a village near Geblen where the health centre is located]. |
| 2005-6 | A young man from Geblen who migrated to Humera in 1998E.C, came back infected with Malaria. He has treated in the hospital in Adigrat town. Annually cases of malaria have been registered in Geblen. However, so far, no malaria epidemic erupted in the locality. People in the kebele who suffer from malaria are those who are infected while they were in western Tigray. |
| 2006-7 | A seriously sick woman who was suspected to be a person living with HIV/AIDS died leaving behind her child. She was advised to conduct VCT but she refused. |
| 2008-9 | A man who slipped from a steep cliff was injured. He was seriously The ambulance from the town of Edaga Hamus arrived within 30 minutes of time and took him to Adigrat hospital. His life was saved. People who need emergency service in Geblen can easily access better medical service. |

### Health-seeking behaviour

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|  | *Health-seeking behaviour history* |
| 2004-5 | A health post was built in Geblen. But it lacks water and medical equipment. |
| 2005-6 | Many adults in Geblen were receiving VCT service. |
| 2007-8 | A woman died while she was giving birth. She was not taken to a hospital. |
| 2008-9 | A man in Geblen took his daughter to Adigrat to be splashed with holy water. Though they do have access to hospitals, there are many who are using traditional medicine men and traditional medicines. |

### Harmful traditional practices

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|  | *Harmful Traditional Practices history* |
| Later 2002-3 | Working on saints’ days is becoming the culture of the people in Geblen. Except in those few saints days: Beale Mariam, Mikael, Beale Egziabher and Sunday [days dedicated to St. Mary, St. Michael God respectively and Sunday]. Campaign to Ban the tradition of not working on the saint days except on the above-mentioned days began since 1983EC, when the government and Orthodox Christian religious leaders bring down the proposal for public discussion.  In Geblen, there are religious leaders who are advocating to the preparation of feasts to the priests in return to the services they give the people at the annual and decade memorial ceremonies of the deceased people. The church leaders, the people and the concerned government officials had agreed before, to abandon such practices and do it only with a reasonable cash payment to the church with a legal receipt. |
| Later 2009 - early 2010 | A big feast was prepared in Geblen. Harmful traditional practices are not decreasing. The researcher observed while people in Geblen were spending excess resources on a ceremony called *teskar.* [*Teskar* is a religious feast prepared to commemorate the date of the dead. *Teskar* implies to the whole process of a ceremony of saying of the prayers by priests for the salvation of the deceased’s soul. The ceremony includes consumption of food and drinking by the attendants of the funeral service of the deceased including the priests, relatives, beggars, neighbours and friends. The hosts killed eight cows and oxen to serve their guests, one for the muslins and seven for the Christians. They also sent a cow to *Gunda Gundo* monastery to be consumed by the monks living there, hoping that they will say the prayers for deceased’s soul to be saved. Almost everybody in the three *kebele*, various people from the neighbouring *kebeles* and some from the towns abroad attended the ceremony].  The other occasion where an excessive resource was spent was the *Timiket* [epiphany] That day we were invited in the house of a senior priest in the kebele. *Tihlo* a traditional food and *Siwa* a locally made beer [drink] were prepared for a lunch and we were served a lunch. In the ceremony, more than 50 people, most of them, spiritual children of the priest, were gathered and everybody was served with similar food and drinks. Every spiritual child comes in carrying a small bag containing *Tihini* [barley flour used to prepare *Tihlo]*. And hand over it to the hosts. Due to lack of time I did not measure the total amount spent for the purpose of the feast.  In an informal discussion with people in Geblen, it was made clear that excessive spending on ceremonies such as *teska*r and weeding as well as building of monuments on the grave of the dead was outlawed. One who do so will be penalised with birr 1000. But still, people are spending excess resources and knowingly pay the penalty. |

### Community education levels

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|  | *Community education levels history* |
| 2004-5 | Workers of Adigrat Catholic Church brought two people living with HIV/AIDS to Geblen to teach people in Geblen about HIV/AIDS.  A number of people in Geblen gathered to contribute labour to the construction of spring development. |
| 2005-6 | 443 people in Geblen took training on HIV/AIDS in the FA centre. 247 were women. That time most of them conducted VCT service. But, those who are living with HIV/AIDS are not exposing themselves. |
| 2007-8 | More than 100 people in Geblen enrolled to attend basic education at the evening programme. But, the programme did not last long for most of them terminated their education. |
| 2008-9 | 2 female students from Geblen are attending university level education. People in Geblen are sending their female students to school. |

### Education-seeking behaviour

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|  | *Education-seeking behaviour history* |
| 2004-5 | People inGeblen requested the government to rise up the level of primary school in to a full primary school. Respondents reported that the kebele had been under thecontrol of TPLF fighters. Thus Geblenhas no access to education. Thus, people remain un-educated. It is very recently that schools are being opened in the kebele. Due to this everybody in the *kebele* has no problem to send children to school. |
| Later 2009 - early 2010 | Almost all children in the kebele are going to school. Respondents reported that children at this time even the smallest ones likes to their school and do not want to stay at home. |

### Social networks

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|  | *Social networks history* |
| Later 2002-3 | Labour and cash contribution with neighbours and relatives in time of mourning and wedding is continuing. Commonly people contribute 2 birr in time of mourning and up to 1000 birr for Teskar [a memorial ceremony performed after 40th days of the date of the deceased. The amount of cash contribution varies depending the level of the closeness of the relationship between the contributor and the receiver. |
| 2006-7 | 16 people constructed the house of a poor elderly woman. People in Geblen have strong relationships with neighbour, family, relatives. |

### Social protection

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|  | *Social protection history* |
| Later 2009 - early 2010 | Respondents reported that people in Geblen, irrespective of their religious backgrounds and wealth status, are using the most common means to deal with both good and bad events which is reciprocity |

### Community-initiated organisations – no case in Geblen

### NGOs

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|  | *NGOs history* |
| 2004-5 | *Adigra*t Catholic Church as NGO to engage in activities such as road building projects, irrigation, water harvesting, and provision of improved seeds. |
| 2005-6 | Rock catchments structure was built in Kaslen sub kebele by ADCS.  ADCS built a big water tanker in Semui Daga Sub-kebele. It has a water pipe. The water is available only between June and November.  A water pipe was built in sub kebele Irata by Adigrat Catholic church.  A training programme was organised by World Vision Ethiopia for the traditional birth attendants |
| 2006-7 | Tigray Relief Society, a local NGO, developed a spring in Semui Daga sub-kebele, Geblen. |
| 2007-8 | An attempt was made to dig deep water well in Geblen. However, it abandoned its effort after digging 60 metres without harvesting water. On the other hand, an NGO funded by Africa Development Bank is digging deep wells in the village of Koma Subha. |
| 2008-9 | UNICEF provided nutritious food aid to some needy children and stationery to children attending their education in primary schools in Geblen |
| Later 2009 - early 2010 | World Vision Ethiopia launched the construction of a piped water structure that will be used for the health post in Geblen. |

### Government-linked organisations

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|  | *Government-linked organisations history* |
| Later 2002-3 | Parents in Geblen are sending their female children to school. The number of female students in Geblen is exceeding to that of male children. |
| 2003-4 | Geblen Farmers Association Cooperative set up in Geblen. |
| 2006-7 | Geblen Farmers Association Cooperative brought commodities to Geblen to supply the people with a fair price. But, that did not continue. |
| 2007-8 | Young men who are married and committed to establish households and live in the kebele were given plots of land in non- cultivable areas for the purpose of construction of residential houses. |
| 2008-9 | Honey Cooperative was established. |
| Later 2009 - early 2010 | 16 young people organised the second Youth association bee keeping cooperation and who are members of the youth association but due to the drought, they did not get any facility for the time being.  Among 185 members of the youth association 70 of the members have joined PSNP. Among all of the members 115 young people are dependent on their parents. |

### Mobilisation of the community

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|  | *Mobilisation of the community history* |
| 2005-6 | TPLF mobilised the communities to join the party massively. Party members are in the forefront to accept and implement government programmes and policies to come down to the grassroots |
| Later 2009 - early 2010 | The communities in Geblen were mobilised to accomplish the 40 days soil and water conservation activities within 20 days. They were performing two times larger the regular work done in a day. They also worked for additional 6 days dedicated to the notable TPLF member Iyasu Berhe, on their own initiative. |

### Elites and community leaders

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|  | *Elites and community leaders history* |
| Later 2002-3 | According to informants, the role of the elderly people kebele in mediation is very important. People engaging in conflicts were resolving their conflicting interests through mediation arranged by elderly people, whose proposals are respected by anybody in the kebele Informants reported that this trend show no change and is still the common way of resolving conflicts including criminal acts such as murder and abduction. |
| 2008-9 | The oldest person from among the people in thekebelepassed away in 2001 at the age of 110. There are many elderly people in Geblen. |

### Understanding of government policies

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|  | *Understanding of government policies history* |
| Later 2002-3 | Since 1991 the government and community representatives in Geblen have put in place awareness creation campaigns in place. However, the community could not bring attitudinal change in some of the harmful traditional practices. For example, people in Geblen spent 8 days in commemoration and they are building monuments on the graves of the dead. Moreover, they also continue preparing feasts to commemorate the dead. In the kebele a regulation to penalise 1000 birr, up on those who built monuments in the graves of the dead and prepare Teskar feasts. The people however continue to do so while paying the cash imposed up on them as a penalty. On the other hand, preparing excessive feast in the time of marriage is decreasing. |
| 2008-9 | People in Geblen decided to put their lands under the conservation programme. Their knowledge about the government policies is good but they lack commitment to put it in practice. |
| Later 2009 - early 2010 | Improvement of the level of awareness of women of the kebele is improving. The number of women who are using contraceptives is increasing. There are some women who have taken the 3-year birth control. |

### Political mobilisation

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|  | *Political mobilisation history* |
| 2004-5 | In Geblen, three rounds of elections took place and all the election sessions concluded in a peaceful manner.  So far, people in Geblen saw no political party other than TPLF, contesting in election in their locality. |
| Later 2009 - early 2010 | Communities in Geblen were mobilised to register for the 2002 national election.  In Geblen members of TPLF party became 270. |

### Conscription and de-mobilisation

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|  | *Conscription and de-mobilisation history* |
| Later 2002-3 | The kebele chairman came back home from the army. In the previous years many people come back to Geblen after the government demobilised many of them who were injured in the battle fields fought with Eritrea. |
| 2008-9 | Demobilised soldiers are living under pension. They also do have access to free medical service.  Landless people from Geblen who have been demobilised from the army were not given land in their attempt to rehabilitate in the kebele. |
| Later 2009 - early 2010 | In the Ethio-Eritrean war more than hundred men were recruited to join the army. Most of them were ex-fighters of TPLF in the war against the Derg regime. Most of the members of the contingent from Geblen demobilised from the army between 2002 and 2005. |

### Ideas about development and well-being

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|  | *Ideas about development and well-being history* |
| Later 2009 - early 2010 | Geblen people’s idea about development and wellbeing was mainly related being healthy, access to infrastructures, the existence of sufficient rain for agriculture and education for their children. The informant said “the richest person is the one who is healthy”,  In Geblen, young peoples and adults have different ideas about development and wellbeing. For the younger ones, development and wellbeing is something related with being successful in making their-own business and live in towns or outside their country. Even, they were not interested in education and being employees. |

### Community wealth and household inequality

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|  | *Community wealth and household inequality history* |
| Later 2002-3 | Informants reported that basically Geblen and its surrounding is very poor. They said, “The land is *rekik”* [the depth of the top soil is very shallow and infertile]. Hence, it is unproductive that cannot support the communities. Particularly, those who are living in *Irata* and *Semui Daga* sub-*kebeles* are very poor. They are living far from the *kebele* centre; no electricity, telephone and road services. As compared to them, people living in sub-*kebeles* of *Kaslen* and *Welae alabur* are relatively better off. |
| 2006-7 | The youth in Geblen are becoming hopeless in that they lack farmlands. In 1999E.C, when the administration has notified its plan about its plan to redistribute non-cultivable lands for the young in a public meeting, the elderly people who own the lands were not voluntary for the land redistribution. |

### Ethnic/religious/clan relations

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|  | *Ethnic/religious/clan relations history* |
| Later 2009 - early 2010 | The communities in Geblen both Christians and Muslims, particularly, the adults in Geblen are speaking both *Tigrigna* and *Erob* languages. But, they are unable to make clear distinctions of their identities across the *Tigray* and *Erob* groups as they do between Christian and Islam. In fact some reported that there is intermarriage between those from *Erob* including *Erob* living out of the *Wereda* and *Tigray* groups. Some Islam people in Geblen believed that *Erob* are Christians (Catholic Christians). While the Christians do not clearly associate *Erob* ethnic groups with catholic Christians.  The man whom I talk about this issue, who is a Catholic himself (One out of the three Catholic Christians in Geblen) was unable to clearly identify his clan with *Erob.* At the same time, he was unable explain that he was a non-*Erob*. He generally believed that people in Geblen*,* including himself, are neither *Erob* nor *Tigray*. Among the Muslims again I found some who speak mainly *Erob* language but believed himself as not *Erob*.  As to my observation *Tigrigna* language seems to be a second language to some people but both Christians and Muslims. Some other Muslims related their ethnic background with Afar. [Another Ethnic group living relatively far from Geblen as compared to the area where the *Erob* are living]. Though they associate their background with the afar Ethnic group, they never heard or speak Afar language. *Erob* language spoken in Geblen shares many words with Afar.  The fact that I have little Afar language command helped me to see some commonality between *Erob* and Afar languages with Afar.  The relationship between Orthodox Christians and Muslims and Catholics is very good and no inter-religious or enter ethnic problem is observed in the *kebele*. |

### Women’s status and gender relations

|  | *Women’s status and gender relations history* |
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| Later 2002-3 | Before 2002 women in Geblen used to engage in handicraft, but currently there is no woman engaging in such activity. The heavy work load in and outside home make it impossible.  Since 2002 Muslim religious leaders in Geblen banned marriage before conducting HIV/AIDS test. Very few Muslim spouses had not been married violating the precondition set by the Qadi [Islam religious judge]. Consequently, they became convicted of such act and forced to conduct HIV/AIDS test and remarry once again. |
| 2007-8 | The school administration banned the use of Hijab in schools by the young girls who reaches puberty; this was not acceptable and important to the religious leaders. |
| 2008-9 | In 2001, 100 women from Geblen were exempted from contributing labour in the natural resource activities undertaken through the FFW. They are pregnant women and mothers having children less than 10 months |
| Later 2009 - early 2010 | Respondents reported that women’s right to equality is respected since long ago. Respondents reported since the area was under the control of TPLF and since TPLF had been working for the respect of women’s right, women in the [kebele] have equal access to land, inheritance divorce and division of properties and political representation. According to informants those situations remain intact until this time.  100% of women in Geblen were given the opportunity to participate in the second phase of the PSNP |

### Youth status and inter-generational relations

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|  | *Youth status and inter-generational relations history* |
| 2007-8 | Young people in Geblen are migrating abroad; they have no access to land. In Geblen the land was distributed in 1982/83 [the time where land redistribution was made in the kebele]. They are totally dependent upon their parents. If they have to engage in farming and herding, they have to do it in the farms of their parents or in the land of others as share-croppers. The non-arable land in Geblen was also distributed among the elderly in 1975. |
| 2008-9 | Young men in Geblen, who are engaging in business are becoming profitable and or improving their livelihoods using credit programmes put in place under youth category. A 27 years young man from Geblen built a house in the town of Idaga Hamus. |