# Personal stories of female transitions to adulthood in Adele Keke, Kersa wereda, East Harerghe

[Rich young woman 30s 2](#_Toc433903399)

[Your household 2](#_Toc433903400)

[Youth in the community 2](#_Toc433903401)

[Your life story 2](#_Toc433903402)

[Government interventions which have played a part in your life 4](#_Toc433903403)

[Aspirations and plans for the future 5](#_Toc433903404)

[Middle wealth young woman 30s 5](#_Toc433903405)

[Your household 5](#_Toc433903406)

[Youth in the community 5](#_Toc433903407)

[Your life story 6](#_Toc433903408)

[Government interventions which have played a part in your life 8](#_Toc433903409)

[Aspirations and plans for the future 9](#_Toc433903410)

[Poor young woman 30s 10](#_Toc433903411)

[Your household 10](#_Toc433903412)

[Youth in the community 10](#_Toc433903413)

[Your life story 10](#_Toc433903414)

[Government interventions which have played a part in your life 11](#_Toc433903415)

[Aspirations and plans for the future 13](#_Toc433903416)

[Rich young woman mid-20s 13](#_Toc433903417)

[Your household 13](#_Toc433903418)

[Youth in the community 13](#_Toc433903419)

[Your life story 14](#_Toc433903420)

[Government interventions which have played a part in your life 14](#_Toc433903421)

[Aspirations and plans for the future 16](#_Toc433903422)

[Middle wealth young woman mid-20s 16](#_Toc433903423)

[Your household 16](#_Toc433903424)

[Youth in the community 16](#_Toc433903425)

[Your life story 17](#_Toc433903426)

[Government interventions which have played a part in your life 18](#_Toc433903427)

[Aspirations and plans for the future 18](#_Toc433903428)

[Poor young woman mid-20s 19](#_Toc433903429)

[Your household 19](#_Toc433903430)

[Youth in the community 19](#_Toc433903431)

[Your life story 19](#_Toc433903432)

[Government interventions which have played a part in your life 20](#_Toc433903433)

[Aspirations and plans for the future 21](#_Toc433903434)

[Rich young woman 16-17 21](#_Toc433903435)

[Your household 21](#_Toc433903436)

[Youth in the community 21](#_Toc433903437)

[Your life story 22](#_Toc433903438)

[Government interventions which have played a part in your life 23](#_Toc433903439)

[Aspirations and plans for the future 24](#_Toc433903440)

[Middle wealth young woman 16-17 25](#_Toc433903441)

[Your household 25](#_Toc433903442)

[Youth in the community 25](#_Toc433903443)

[Your life story 25](#_Toc433903444)

[Government interventions which have played a part in your life 26](#_Toc433903445)

[Aspirations and plans for the future 27](#_Toc433903446)

[Poor young woman 16-17 27](#_Toc433903447)

[Your household 27](#_Toc433903448)

[Youth in the community 27](#_Toc433903449)

[Your life story 27](#_Toc433903450)

[Government interventions which have played a part in your life 28](#_Toc433903451)

[Aspirations and plans for the future 28](#_Toc433903452)

## Rich young woman 30s

### Your household

The individuals listed below are currently living in the household

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Person | Relation to household head | Sex | Age |
| You | Wife | F | 32 |
| Head | Head | M | 40 |
| Other | His son | M | 15 |
| Other | Relative/the daughter of the respondent’s sister | F | 12 |

### Youth in the community

Recently there are some business opportunities for young men to be involved in. These include opening a shop so as to buy commodities such as soap, salt, sugar, pens, exercise books etc. from the town to sell in the kebele and to buy grain at harvest time when the price is a bit lower so as to sell when its price increases, mostly in summer season. She said that as the kebele is on the main road involving in these kinds of transaction is easy. However, young men of her age had not such opportunities. This is because unlike now, at that time people were not aware of the value of these kinds of businesses.

Some young adolescent girls also have an opportunity to work in shops by buying such goods from the town to sell in their shop in the village. She stated that like her recently some young women, about 13, have been involved in buying milk from the local people to sell in the town (mostly Haramaya and Aweday town). These kinds of work opportunities were not available when she was an adolescent since at that time people were not as concerned about their life condition. But now due to scarcity of land youngsters are trying to identify different means so as support their life.

Despite such opportunities, she explained that access to credit is very low as in most cases lenders need to have a guarantee when giving out loans. Because of this there are some youngsters who want to involve in trading but are unable to because of lack of starting capital.

On the other hand she said nowadays some adolescent girls are in a hurry to have a relationship with a young man. She thinks a few of them may start sex earlier and they do not give emphasis to education. She said that one factor for this may be the absence of women who joined university or college. She said until now there is only one girl who has learnt in private college. She also explained that in most cases due to marriage they drop out of school when they reach grade 8. There are some differences compared with the time when she was an adolescent in the sense that adolescent girls drop out school earlier due to marriage, which in some cases happens because of unplanned pregnancy. However, the number of adolescent girls who joined school was less compared with now since the awareness of people towards education, especially girl’s education was low and access to school was also low. With regards to young men the proportion continuing schooling has increased greatly. She stated that most young men in the area try to follow in the footsteps of those who started to involve in some non-agricultural activities so as to generate income rather than giving emphasis to their education. Until now adolescent girls are mostly involved in domestic work where as young men are involved in farm activities and other non-farm activities. The participation of both young men and women is rather less than adults; mainly old people are the ones who are actively involved in religious affairs.

### Your life story

She was born in the kebele, Gole village. She grew up there. When she was in her first six years or so she was getting good care from her parents. As her parents were rich she got different quality food items such as milk and honey. She stated that when she was about 8 years old the main school was being constructed. Because of this her parents did not send her to school. She got only religious education.

Before she left her parents’ home through marriage she was living with both her parents and 3 of her siblings in Gole village. Then she got married in the same village (Gole village) when she was about 17 years old. As the marriage was through the formal procedure she had no contact with boys initially and she did not have a boyfriend and she experienced her first sexual experience after she got married.

She stayed with her husband about 7 years. But later on he banned her from home as she could not deliver a child. Again, she married another husband. Still she did not have a child. Because of this after she stayed for 3 years she divorced and she went back to her parents’ home without any assets. In relation to this she described that during that time a woman who did not have a child could not ask for the property of her husband. Because of this she left her home with empty hands. At this time she returned to her parents’ home. Then time she organized with other unemployed youth since she had nothing as she left her home by divorce and did not get her share. Then the wereda saving and credit organization gave a credit of 500 birr to the organized unemployed youth. She also got this credit. Immediately (in 2000 EC) she started trading milk. Within a year she paid the loan and she took another loan. Similarly, within a year she paid such loan back. This loan was free from interest. From the kebele a total of 25 youths got this credit; except her others had not used their loan properly. Because of her hard work in trading milk since the last 4 years up to now she has become among the most successful business persons in the area. At this time when she became economically successful her 2nd husband wanted to continue with her and another 2 men asked her for marriage. She stated that she got such offers mainly because she became economically successful and she developed assets. Because she is a woman he tried to force her to continue living with him. During this time she told of this difficult situation and the problem she encountered to the kebele peace/security and good governance representative as she become closer with him. This closeness came due to the fact that when she was constructing a home the carpenter was wasting materials. At this time she informed him of this fact so he could support her since he is kebele peace and good governance representative. Accordingly, he made them use materials properly. Then he told her that he did not give out for another man rather he would marry her as a second wife. Upon this she told him to get the consent of his wife. Accordingly, he told his wife, she agreed and he married her in 2002EC. She stated that as she disagreed to be married again to her former husband, she chose and married through her own interest this man (the kebele peace/security and good governance representative). Since she married him she has been living with him peacefully.

 This man is a 3rd husband for her and she is his second wife. His first wife is living in another village. Now she has set up a household of her own. She is living with him in the house she built recently on the main road in Kusho village. Her husband lives with her as well as with his first wife. As stated above she has no child. After she stayed longer in married life and did not get a child she went to Harar Hospital to check her fertility. The physician advised her to undergo surgery so that after the surgery she will get a child. However, she is worried and fears the surgery and still she has not undergone the surgery. But she greatly wants to have a child. Now she lives with the son of her husband and the daughter of her sister.

Regarding work she stated that starting from age of 8 she has been involved in different domestic work such as fetching water, cooking, baking bread, cleaning house and helping her parents on farm related activities. It is recently that she started the business (trading milk). From the profit she got she has also bought land on the main road for 12,200 birr and built a quality home of 2 rooms (one is living room and the other is planned to be used for a shop). To build this home she has spent about 100,000 birr. Furthermore, she has saved some money in the bank so as to buy a minibus and to open a wholesale distribution shop. She had not encountered serious illnesses or accidents throughout her life. Her father died in 2003 GC. But his death has not affected her life as she was already living alone at that time.

She is a follower of the Muslim religion. She is an active follower as whenever she has time she goes to the mosque to pray. Otherwise if she is busy she prays at home. Unless she is in menstruation period she prays 5 times a day at home. The important people/groups of people for her in terms of support are her husband, her husband’s first wife, her siblings, her sibling’s children, her mother and other relatives.

***Informal Information****: I heard from many individuals that as the respondent’s husband has 7 children from his first wife he did not need to marry another wife. The reason he married her is to benefit from her assets as she became a very successful milk trader. To marry her he convinced his wife by justifying that the assets of his second wife will be used to raise up their children since his second wife (the respondent) still has no child and they expect she would not get a child.*

They say that if the respondent has a child in the future his first wife will be offended because the respondent’s child, if a son, will have equal rights with her children to share the farmland of her husband as he would be their father.

### Government interventions which have played a part in your life

When she was growing up she was fetching water from Tabia village to Gole village. Even though it takes some minutes it is not far for them. But she said that at that time people were carrying water on their backs. But now they are using donkeys to carry water. Furthermore, now she gets water from the village where she is living (Tabia village). Thus, the intervention of building manual/ hand pump water at village level has increased her access to water.

She said that even though there was mill house it was a bit far from her parents’ home. Because of this sometimes she was grinding grain with a stone mill at home. But this was very labour intensive. As a result, she and her mother were feeling tired easily. But over time as more people are buying mills they have minimized using the stone mill. Similarly, as she grew up she has not suffer from grinding grain by stone rather she and her family started to go to the modern mill house.

Her parents have 8 *kert* of land. By the education obtained from DAs and other responsible officials they were farming and producing different kinds of crops, including chat, and keeping bees. She hopes the lessons they obtained helped them to apply properly and get good production. Thus, she stated indirectly that changing the way of farming and the kinds of crops produced have improved their livelihood.

Regarding health also whenever any of their family members fell ill they were benefiting from Haramaya health centre, which is not far from the kebele.

Now in community affairs she participates on certain activities. She is involved in two equbs. In one case she is the leader of the equb. She encourages and organizes the members to pay layouts on time, get the money when their turn comes, and continue being an iddir member. Her husband pays land taxes. She also contributes cash whenever she is asked. For instance, last year she paid money for the improvement of the school and for Oromia Development Association. She is a member of the women’s milk processing cooperative. To establish the cooperative, like other members she has paid layouts twice (60 birr and 50 birr each). She has planned to pay 150 in the near future as the members already agreed and decided to contribute.

Her husband has many roles in the community. He is the kebele Peace/Security and Good Governance representative. Thus, to create peace in the community he participates in conflict resolution with local elders, he identifies thieves with local militia men and takes them to responsible bodies such as the wereda police/court. He is a model farmer. He transfers the knowledge he has in farming to others so that others farm better to get more yield. He is also a unit extension (organizer of group for development activities). As his farm land is found in Kejero Oli village he is not able to irrigate his farmland as the availability of water in that area is low. It is not like the area closer to the lake, which has good water. Thus, she expects that if he got any means to irrigate his land he would produce more yield.

For the improvement of her living condition, the microcredit institution has played great role. She explained this in the sense that if she hadn’t got a credit from the institute, which she used as a starting capital to start trading milk she might not be involved in this successful work/trading milk. In addition, to teach her about saving the wereda finance officer came to her home, gave her a small box that she used to put money in. On a monthly basis the official comes to her home and receives the money she put in and then they deposit that money in the bank in her name. Because of this practice now she has developed interest to save money in a bank. Accordingly, she has saved some money in the Bank by opening a book in her name. This saved money will also be used to improve her livelihood by expanding her business activities. Until now with the profit she got she has bought land, built a quality home and bought other best household furniture like a spring mattress, which until now no other person had bought it in the kebele. As her husband’s children are a lot (7) until now since they got married he did not take grain to eat to her home. As she has a good income she is the one who buys grain for household consumption. She stated that unlike the majority of the community members she does not use only maize or sorghum rather she buys three kind of grain (teff, sorghum and maize) and she use them by mixing them. However, her husband is not able to eat this as he has a gastric problem, mostly he eats pasta, macaroni and rice. Due to her success she became the leading adult female role model in the area and others also started to involve in trading milk and goods so as to strengthen their economic condition in order to improve their living condition.

She described water and mill house as very accessible for her. One of her neighbours also bought a new mill house recently. When it becomes functional it will be more accessible for her. She also got electricity. She and her husband have a mobile phone and they use it to communicate with other traders and relatives.

She also has been getting so many health related education from the HEWs and applying practically what she told her. For instance, unlike the former time now she has constructed a latrine and using it. On the other way round due to the expansion of schools most of her husband’s children are attending school.

### Aspirations and plans for the future

She has planned to go to the health care centre to get proper medication so that she could get a child.

Looking ahead over the next five years she aspires to continue trading milk and is further interested to expand her business. To achieve this she has a concrete plan to buy a minibus and to open a wholesale shop with the money she saved in the bank. She aspires for most households to build a home on the main road, and the kebele would get a kind of small town context.

## Middle wealth young woman 30s

### Your household

The individuals listed below are currently living in the household

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Person | Relation to household head | Sex | Age |
| You | Wife | F | 33 |
| Head | Head | M | 40 |
| Other | Daughter | F | 18 |
| Other | Daughter | F | 12 |
| Other | Daughter | F | 10 |
| Other | Daughter | F | 6 month |

### Youth in the community

She stated that these days most adolescent girls and young men in the community drop out of school as they grow up. The major cause for this is that first they start to enjoy time together when young men chew chat. Later on they dance in the evening. In these circumstances some of them may be exposed to unnecessary practices such as sex. Upon this they love each other and if they agree to marry each other they go to another area. At this time their parents know the fact. The young man also sends elders to her parents so as to ask them to accept this offer to marry their daughter. As it is with her consent, in most cases they agree and the wedding will be prepared and they get married. The problem after this is that the man got married without having anything. Both of them face the problem of unemployment. Because of this they will be dependent on his parents. In most cases he supports his parents in farming and the couple eat with his parents. In this case the girl does not get privacy. If she faced divorce she would leave the home without taking any property. The scarcity of farmland is also becoming a major problem for young men over time. These kinds of problem were not prevalent when she was an adolescent girl.

Above all she emphasised that access to school has increasing over time, unlike when she was an adolescent girl. A few outstanding young men or adolescents can pursue attending school as the awareness of parents and the community in general about the importance of education has been increasing over time.

Nowadays as trading chat, grain, livestock fodder, milk and other consumption goods such as sugar, salt, oil etc has become familiar in the area both adolescent girls and young men have an opportunity to be involved in these activities. There are a few who have already started trading. Thus, mostly young men assist their parents in farm work whereas young girls support their mother in household chores. Nowadays the government and concerned bodies have given attention to the problem of unemployed youth. Because of this in the kebele unemployed youth have organized into small groups recently and they are on the way to start income generating activities. She hopes that like urban areas responsible bodies would make an effort to strengthen such established groups so the youth would be benefited. The problems of unemployment and scarcity of land were at a lower level when she was an adolescent girl. With regards to religious participation she stated that some young men go to the mosque on Friday and in the fasting season to mosque to pray. She said youth seem to be passive in giving due emphasis to religious affairs.

### Your life story

She was born in Asebetefri area, Debeso kebele. Her father married her mother as a second wife when his first wife died. Then he also married another 6 wives. From these wives he has got 40 children (25 are male). When she was a child she remembers he had 5 wives as he divorced 2 of them. Of these 5 two have died. Thus, now her mother and one of his wives are alive.

As her father has a lot of children he was careless in caring for a child. Because of this when she was a small child, about 3 years old, a woman who came from Dire Dawa area (but originally from Asebetefi area) stole her and took her to Dire Dawa. Since then she was living/growing up there (in Dire Dawa town, Dechatu village) with them. The reason she stole and took her was that she did not have a child she and her husband wanted to raise her as their own child. Thus, she was living with the two of them. The husband was a driver and the wife was working in factory. As both of them earned income they were caring for her in a good manner.

As they had taken her without the consent of her parents they did not like her to be seen by other people. Because of this they did not send her to school. As she did not know the importance of education she did not mind about that. Not to be seen by others they did not let her go out from the compound. When she was a child she did not play with other neighbouring children. When they took her as she was a small child she forgot her parents and what she knew was only the two of them who raised her.

After 12 years one of their neighbours was trading goats from Dire Dawa to Asebetefri. Her sister was also involved in these activities. Her neighbour told her sister that in the area there was a girl who looked like her. Upon this her sister told her that she had a sister and her family did not know where she had gone. Then her sister with her parents came to the area (the home where she had grown up) and knew that she was their child and asked the individuals who raised her to take her with them. As she did not know them she refused to go with them. But they had taken her. In the middle when she did not feel comfort she was going back to Dire Dawa and her parents came and took her back to Asebetefri.

When the man (now her husband) went to the Asebetefri area they met each other. Then they fell in love. As a result, he sent elders to her parents. Her parent accepted him and she got married through formal procedure and she moved to Adele Keke area when she was about 16 years old. As the marriage was through the formal procedure she had no contact with boys initially and she did not have a boyfriend and she experienced her first sexual experience after she got married.

Before she left her parents through marriage she was living with her parents and her siblings in Asebetefri but in the middle also she went to Dire Dawa to those who raised her. Then after she got married she has been living in Kusho village, Adele Keke kebele. She got her eldest daughter in 1995 GC. She did not face any problem when she gave birth. She was circumcised when she was about 10 years old. Her biological parents are Muslim but those who raised her are Orthodox Christian. Because of this she was Orthodox Christian. Her husband was also Orthodox Christian. Thus, their first daughter got the proper epiphany. She was a housewife, meaning household chores are the major activities that she has been doing. She started doing domestic work when she was 8 years old.

But after living there for certain years she faced conflict with her husband and got divorced. The major reason for divorce was he used to drink much and he beat her frequently. Due to this she preferred to get divorced. Thus, she initiated the divorce. At that time he got a gift of farmland from his parents, rather he ploughs for them and they eat what they produced together. As they have no resources she did not get any household property when leaving the area. Then she moved to Aweday town to live with her sister. She took her child to Asebetefri so that her mother will raise the child. After staying for 5 months at Aweday she got married in another rural area. She delivered a son there. But immediately her husband disliked her and made her leave his home without taking anything. Because of this she left the child there and moved to Asebetefri to live with her parents. After staying 5 months her first husband came to her parents’ home, convinced her and her parents to reconcile. As a result of this she came to Adele Keke with him.

Like her, while she was away from home he also married another woman and got a daughter. When he brought the respondent from her parents’ home his second wife was still at home. She came knowing that he was still with his second wife and he let her live with his mother. But his second wife did not accept her and she took the case to court and the court decided that he has to stay in prison for 5 months. But he realised after staying 2 months that the judge who decided had died. Upon this his second wife left home. Then the respondent and her husband started to live in their home. They changed their religion from Christian to Muslim so that he should avoid getting drunk and disturbing her frequently. Because of this his behaviour has improved. He also stopped chewing chat. But in terms of devotion to religion she stated that they are passive followers as they did not go to mosque to pray and do not pray even at home. The major reason they changed religion from Christian to Muslim is to prevent her husband from drinking and to be familiar with the local people.

After that they had three more daughters. Thus, altogether they have 4 children. All these children, who are aged 18, 12, 10 years, and 6 months old, are living with her. Of these three have joined school while the youngest one is too young to attend school.

She has been sick with gastric, haemorrhoid/uterus related pain and anaemia for a long time. She has visited Harar Hiwot Fana Hospital three times. Even in this hospital there was a problem to get service on time since the health care workers do not come on time, do not treat properly and do not treat with respect. By visiting this hospital she could not be cured. Then she visited private clinics at Haramaya. The cost of this treatment is expensive. For instance, she mentioned that for a one time diagnosis there is a time that she paid 700 birr. She also bought drugs from private pharmacies, which is also expensive. With this treatment she got a bit better. But, still she was not cured. Because of this she then visited Dil Chora Hospital in Dire Dawa twice. It is a government hospital. She was bedridden at this hospital recently (in the month of September). She was requested to get blood from 6 individuals as she faced severe lack of blood. At this time she was very worried about how to get the blood. Then through the help of one of the nurses she got the blood from Red Cross without any payment. After she obtained these medical treatments she returned home and she is getting better over time. Throughout her lifetime she had not encountered other serious illnesses or accidents. In relation to these illnesses she described that before this year she used to buy eggs from far rural areas and has been distributing them to hotels in Aweday town. In turn by the profit she got she used to buy consumable items such as oil, onion, sugar, etc for her household and livestock food from this town. Accordingly, her household has been benefiting from these. But since last year she had not involved in these activities due to these health problem.

The important people/groups of people for her in terms of support are her husband, her daughters, her mother and siblings who live in another area, the siblings and mother of her husband, some of her neighbours and her friends.

### Government interventions which have played a part in your life

Regarding her life as she grew up she said there were a few government interventions that played a part in her life. This is because as she was stolen by another woman and she raised up with non-biological parents. Because of this they did not allow her to go out of the compound. Even though there was a school she did not get chance to join it. But she mentioned that her biological parents were successful in their livelihood as they were trying different agricultural activities such as farming and beekeeping (honey bee production). She expects these could be the result of information obtained from officials who used to come from the district to teach/advise farmers on how to plough so as to produce better. Because of such successful livelihood her father has 8 wives. As he has many children (40) he does not give due value to children. That is why she was stolen and taken to another area. In relation to this she explained that at that time there was no intervention to eradicate polygamous marriage. She stated that if her father married few wives or one wife only, she and her siblings might have got proper care, which might have had great value for their current living situation.

As her husband is a civil servant she is the one who in some cases participates in different community affairs. She is a member of the women’s association and pays an annual contribution of 3.25 birr. Furthermore, one NGO (Harerghe Catholic Secretariat) planned to support the women’s milk processing cooperative, of which she is a member, by building a home. The NGO preferred to build the home on their farmland, which is found on the main road. The household was willing and gave the preferred land kindly. Accordingly, the home was built there. Because of this kind contribution she became leader of the cooperative and her husband keeps the home. She hopes for the future he would be a guard.

The respondent mentioned that the household has been paying land tax annually and other contributions whenever asked. Last year she said the household gave wood for the improvement of the main school and the construction of the Farmers’ Training Centre. In 2008 GC also they gave wood for the construction of the health post. Three years ago the household also contributed labour for digging a deep well, which was used to construct a hand/manual pipe in their village. Because of this she stated that she gets water from the water manual/hand pipes found in her village. As a result it takes her only 10 minutes to get to it. Monthly she contributes 1 birr. She also gets to a mill house in the neighbouring village easily.

Last year her husband contributed 60% of his monthly salary for Oromia Development Association. He paid such contributions throughout the year. He was also asked to contribution for the Blue Nile project/millennium dam. She expects that this will also be deducted from his salary starting from the recent month.

She explained different government interventions are playing an important role in her life since recent years. Since the implementation of the programme in the area (2000 EC) she has been included in PSNP and has been getting support of PSNP. Last year the household got a credit of 4,340 birr from an Italian based NGO (CISIP) through the PSNP programme. The credit is interest free. With the credit she has bought a modern cow for 6, 000 by adding an additional 1,660 birr. Now the cow is pregnant. She stated that when the cow delivers the household would get milk both for household consumption as well as for sale. Accordingly, she hopes the credit will benefit the household.

Due to the introduction of using a water pump to fetch water to farm land during the winter season, the household have dug a water well (which was dug by machine) in the area near the lake. Though the household have dug a big water well they did not buy a water pump but they have been irrigating their land by renting a water pump (by paying 15 birr per hour) from other farmers. Due to this their productivity has been increasing.

Besides irrigating their farmland, the support of PSNP and the credit obtained has been improving their livelihood as they built a new home made with corrugated iron sheets (before that they lived in a house made with grass), they bought one modern milking cow, they are also arranging another room for livestock, and educating their children. After the veterinary worker was assigned to the kebele she said she has been taking her cattle there for medication.

Since the HEWs started working in the area she has been getting so many services from the health post. These include that she became aware of the bad consequence of FGM. As a result, she said she would not circumcise her daughters. She also understood the bad consequence of circumcising boys at home by Traditional Birth Attendants as she worries that the sharp material the Traditional Birth Attendants use may not be safe. She has used contraceptives. Specifically for the last 9 years she has been using Injections (once every 3 months). Thus, she got her youngest daughter within the time frame of 9 years since she got her 3rd daughter. She stated that for her child she also got vitamins from the health post. The HEW comes to her home to vaccinate her child kid every month. She said in addition she gets painkillers whenever she faces headache.

She has been sick with gastric, haemorrhoid/uterus related pain and anaemia for a long time. In explaining how the health care intervention played an important role in her life she said for these illnesses she visited Harar Hiwot Fana Hospital three times but she was not cured. Then she visited private clinics at Haramaya. But, still she was not cured. Because of this she then visited Dil Chora Hospital in Dire Dawa twice. It is a government hospital. She was bedridden at this hospital recently (in the month of September). She was requested to get blood from 6 individuals as she faced severe lack of blood. At this time she was very worried about how to get the blood. Then through the help of one of the nurses she got the blood from the Red Cross without any payment. Now she has returned home and she has been cured.

Regarding education, she stated that two of her daughters are attending Adele 01 primary school (they are attending grade 4 and 5), in the neighbouring kebele. The reason she selected this school is that first they believe the quality of the education is better there as compared with the schools found in the kebele. Second the school is not far to their village. Her eldest daughter is also learning in grade 10 in secondary school (Adele 01 kebele). The school is found in another kebele (in the neighbouring wereda). In general, she emphasised the accessibility of these schools has enabled her daughters to get good education.

She also mentioned the community got electric light in 2005. Like the majority of the households in the kebele she contributed money and got the electricity. In her household there are 3 mobile phones (one belongs to her, another belongs to her husband and one belongs to her elder daughter). Because of the availability of electricity the household gets different information from the radio.

### Aspirations and plans for the future

Looking ahead, over the next five years when her health becomes better she aspires to participate in trading that she was involved in for some years. The trading is to buy egg from far/remote rural areas and to sell/distribute them to hotels in Aweday town. In turn with the profit she gets she aspires to buy consumable items such as oil, onion, sugar, etc for her household and livestock fodder from town. She also aspires to see the educational success of her daughters, especially her eldest daughter.

She also planned to shift the livestock house to the room they built recently so as to make it a bit far from their main room. She also aspires to have some role in the women’s milk processing cooperative when it becomes functional so that she would get some benefit/return out of it.

For the community she aspires to see changes in the way people live, which includes improvements in terms of eating habits, farming techniques, and participating in some other productive activities.

##

## Poor young woman 30s

### Your household

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Person | Relation to household head | Sex | Age |
| You | Wife | F | 32  |
| Head | Head | M | 39 |
| Other | Daughter | F | 11 |
| Other | Daughter | F | 9 |
| Other | Don | M | 5 |
| Other | Daughter | F | 1 |

### Youth in the community

As she compared with the time she was adolescent and now, adolescent girls and boys have the opportunity to continue attending school as the awareness of parents as well as girls and boys has increased as teachers go from village to village and inform/advise them about the importance of education. She said that it was due to lack of awareness that she dropped out of school from grade 3.

When she was adolescent, girls were travelling a long way to fetch water and grind grain as the mill house and water well were far from home. But now access has improved; nowadays adolescent girls do not face such a burden. In addition, recently people started to use donkeys to carry loads. But formerly when she was an adolescent girl it was girls who carried them . Over time also males are involved in grinding grain and fetching water. Thus, the workload for girls has been reducing over time.

She stated that both young men and girls similarly faced the problem of unemployment once they completed grade 12 or when they dropped out earlier. In most cases it is girls who drop out of school. Scarcity of farmland is also another problem that led more young men to be idle.

Unlike the past or when she was adolescent, now people are becoming familiar with trading as the number of individuals involved in this activity has increased. Thus, young men and women have opportunities to engage in trading of different goods such as chat, milk, grain, other consumption goods and fodder. However, a lack of initial capital or credit is a hindrance factor to being involved in these activities.

In terms of marriage she also said that nowadays girls got married by their own consent but in the past mostly the marriages were arranged by parents.

### Your life story

She was born in Haramaya wereda, Terkanfi Kero kebele. Formerly the kebele name was Gula. Her father died when she was 3 months old. As he died when she was a child she did not know him physically. Thus, she grew up with her mother. She has only one brother, who got married when she was a child. She heard from her mother that after her father died their living condition deteriorated as he was the one who managed farming. Sometimes it was her brother who ploughed land for the household. As his home is closer to her mother’s home he supports the household in different aspects. But as he has his own family he gives emphasis to his own work. Sometimes neighbours support her mother in farm related activities when she calls and arrange traditional labour support, meaning ‘Debo’. She stated that whenever there was shortage of rain and the farm land was not ploughed and weeded on time they did not get good production. Due to this sometimes she said she and her mother were facing food shortage.

In the kebele where she was born there was a primary school. She attended up to grade 3 there. When the Derg regime failed the school was closed temporarily. Because of this the teaching- learning process was interrupted. Then without any reason, mainly due to lack of awareness about the importance of education for her future life, she discontinued attending school. Her mother and brother were not keen on her going to school. Her brother learnt religious education. He has been a religious leader there. He serves in the mosque.

After she dropped out of school and stayed with her mother for some years she started to be involved in wage work in Haramaya town so as to overcome the problem of food shortage. At this time she met a man who was working in the mill house. Then she became acquainted with this man. Then they married and she acquainted him with her family. Then she and her husband came to Adele Keke kebele as her husband got wage work at a mill house. Since both she and her husband are originally from another area they do not have farming or residential land. Because of this they had been living in Kusho village in another’s home for a long time. But in 2000EC a kind man, who belongs to her clan, let them build a living home on his land in Tabia village. Accordingly, they have built a small home and have been living in this house independently.

At that time she is the one who decided to marry her husband. She simply got married by her own interest. Before this there was no instance that she started talking with or developed an interest to form a relationship with another man. So, she did not have other boyfriend. She did not know these kinds of relationship at that time. Thus, she said she had her first sexual experience after she got married to her husband. He is her first husband but she does not know whether he had another wife or not before.

After she got married she has had 4 children. She got her eldest son in 2001 GC. She did not face any problem when she gave birth. She was circumcised when she was about 9 years old. All of her children, who are aged 11, 9, 5, and 1 years old, are living with her. Of these two have joined school while the youngest two are too young to attend school.

Regarding her work history she stated that starting from when she was 8 years old she was supporting her mother in domestic work. When she grew up a bit she also started farm related work such as weeding. Over the last 4 years she has been rearing and fattening goats for resale. This greatly helps her to feed her children. She hopes and aspires to expand these activities. Since they have no farmland and her husband has no experience of farming he did not participate in farm related paid work. In addition, he does not like farm related work. Because of this he has been working at the mill house daily except on Friday. For working there for one day he gets 20 birr. But she said if he involved in farm work he would get better income and better fulfil their family needs. As her husband always works in the mill house she is the one who participates in PSNP public works PSNP as the household is a PSNP beneficiary.

She is a follower of the Muslim religion. As her elder brother is a religious leader, ‘Imam’, starting from her childhood period she goes to Mosque every Friday. Always she also prays at home. Thus, she explained that she is an active follower. The important people/groups of people for her in terms of support are her husband, her mother, her brother and her neighbours, especially those who gave them land to build a home. She and other members of her household are also sharing their latrine together.

### Government interventions which have played a part in your life

Regarding her life, as she grew up there were some government interventions that played a part in her life. These include that in the kebele where she was born there was a primary school. She believes that if she had continued learning the education she got might have helped her in her life now. However, as she dropped out from grade 3 she did not benefit from the lessons she obtained. But still it made her think a bit about ways to help improve her living situation. That is why now when buying a goat for resale first she calculates how much she will sell the goat for after a certain period of time. Indirectly the education she learnt increased her skill in estimation.

She described that when she was living with her mother, she was travelling a long way to go to the mill house as it was in Haramaya town. Due to this in most cases she was grinding grain by local stone mill. But this is labour intensive and she and her mother got tired easily. There was no manual or hand pump rather they got water from an unprotected well. Until now there is no electricity in the area where she grew up. Regarding health interventions, when she was growing up there was no HEW. Due to this whenever they got ill they had to travel to Haramaya town to get treatment. Because of this mostly whenever people from the kebele fell ill they visited a traditional healer. So, in this regard, she said there is no interventions which played a part in her life as she grew up.

In terms of farming practice there were officials who used to come to the area to advise farmers on how to plough so as to produce better. But as her father had died and it was through the support of her brother and neighbour they produced she think she has not benefited from such interventions since the yield they were getting did not improve.

Her participation in the community is low. She does not participate in the youth or women’s organization as she is not a member. Similarly, she does not participate in kebele or sub-kebele office or health related interventions. Similarly, her husband’s participation in the community is low since except Friday he works at the mill house always a full day without rest. As they have no farmland she and her husband do not pay tax or other cash contributions. But she participates by contributing labour. For instance, last year the household did make any cash contributions. But she assisted in labour for the construction of the Medressa/religious school, and in digging and constructing a latrine. She is a member of one smaller equb as she cannot afford the contribution for the larger equb. She pays a layout of 10 birr every 15th day of the month. By considering her capacity she also participates in one smaller iddir (Mude Iddir).

Regarding how government interventions are playing an important role in her life now, she mentioned that the availability of school in the kebele is beneficial for her children as her eldest child is attending grade 3 and her second child joined school this year. As much as she can she would try to make her children continue schooling as she regrets dropping out of school.

Similarly, she said her household has been benefiting from other government services. For instance, her household has been included in PSNP. Accordingly, they have been benefiting over the last 5 years. As the kebele officials or organizer of public works know that her husband is a daily labourer they allow her to participate in the public work. Thus, under the public work she participates in different NRM related activities with other beneficiaries.

Besides, they were able to build their home on the land they got from a kind man since the household has been eating the support of PSNP. Meaning, they built the home with the profit she got from fattening and selling of goats and with what she saved from the income her husband gets by working in the mill house

In 1999 EC when credit through the PSNP programme was provided to beneficiaries she also asked to get credit but she could not as those who give the credit told her that she had no guarantee and how would they pay back the loan if she or husband wasted/misused the credit. In relation to this she explained that lack of farmland prevented her from getting credit, which could help her to buy more goats for resale and to benefit from the profit. But now people know her well for being involved in fattening goats for purpose. This is because the number of goats she is fattening and rearing has been increasing over time (now she has 9 goats and 2 chickens). She sells the goats when their price is at a peak (during the Muslim feasting season) and buys another latter. Because of this success now they promised her to give credit in the coming possibilities so that she could use it for these activities. In addition, she stated that the veterinary service that started recently also has an important role in keeping her goats healthier as whenever she observes some kind of illness in her goats she goes to the vet and she gets drugs without payment.

She also gets electricity from her neighbour by paying 10 birr per month for one lamp. There is no one from her household that has a mobile phone. She said that because of the availability of electricity the number of mill houses found in the kebele has increased. Because of this her husband’s work access has increased. She has a mill house and drinking water close to her home.

She has been getting anti-headache and stomach drugs free of charge from the HEWs in the last three years. She gave birth to her youngest child at the health centre as she faced labour pains for a long time (for 2 days) and the HEW and TBA advised her to go to the health centre. For this service she has paid. But she delivered the remaining children at home. In 2000 EC her second child faced severe stomach ache. At that time the kebele wrote her a letter to get free medication. Accordingly, she was exempted from treatment expenses. Now as she has been facing difficulty to feed four of her children she does not want to have any more children. To achieve this goal she said she has used the long lasting family contraceptive (Implanon), which prevents pregnancy for 3 years, from health point.

### Aspirations and plans for the future

Looking ahead, over the next five years she aspires to get credit and buy more goats to rear and fatten so as to sell later. As she becomes successful in these activities, which she has already started, she aspires to expand them. As the 6 household members and the goats she has, which are 9, are sharing the home, which is also very small, she also aspire to build another home to use it for their own and to leave the home where they are living now for the goats. But she does not know how to build the home as their home is built on the land given by their neighbour.

Even though if she does not get credit, she has now planned to sell goats when price increases such as in the fasting season and to buy them in other seasons when their price reduced. She has planned to continue working in this way.

For the community she aspires to see improvement on internal roads so that people can move freely from village to village, especially for Kejero Oli and Kejero Gedi villages that are remote. She also aspires for those village that do not have electricity to get it so as to benefit from electricity like people from other villages.

## Rich young woman mid-20s

### Your household

The individuals listed below are currently living in the household

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Person | Relation to household head | Sex | Age |
| You | Wife | F | 26 |
| Head | Head | M | 32 |
| Other | Son | M | 9 |
| Other | Daughter | F | 7 |
| Other | Daughter  | F | 5 |
| Other | Daughter | F | 4 |
| Other | Son | M | 10 months |

### Youth in the community

Adolescent girls as they grow up these days in the community have the opportunity to continue learning as long as they want if they are interested/committed but in most cases they get married and drop out of education. But she is the one who decides whom to marry. Girls are now free to express what they need to their family, even some parents who can afford to have bought them mobile phones. But she suspects that they face a problem of having premarital sex with their boyfriends. She said this may be one cause of getting married soon after she moved with the man to another area. Now as different services are available closer to the village, girls do not go long distances to fetch water or grind grain.

But when she was an adolescent, girls did not have an opportunities for learning. In terms of marriage also they got married through parentally arranged marriages. Thus, they had no opportunity to select their marriage partners. At that time as girls travel long distances to fetch water they were exposed to different problems such as rape.

She stated that the major problems young men are facing in the community as they grow up these days are shortage of farmland and unemployment or lack of work to do so as to support/improve their life. As compared with what young men of her age experienced while she was growing up the level of problem is large now. But unlike the past, the opportunities to continue education have increased. In the past the proportion of those attending school was less but over time it has been increasing. As people have started to engage in more business in urban areas, now young men have an opportunity to involve in these kinds of wage work outside the community. Unlike the past nowadays a young man cannot marry a girl he selects in most cases unless she agrees. Thus, now the ability of men to marry the girl they like has reduced.

### Your life story

She was born in Haramaya wereda, Damot kebele. She did not join school as her parents did not value education at that time. She is the first child of her parents. However, after this their awareness about education improved, as a result of this after she got married they sent her youngest brother to school. He has got good results and has joined Adama University. He is on the way to graduate.

Regarding her life when she was in the first six years, she stated that her parents were caring for her properly as during that time everything was cheap and her parents had no other child to raise. But after her mother delivered 5 more children she was overburdened with domestic work since she was the first daughter of the family. When she was about 8 years old she started to fetch water, clean the home and do other easier activities. As her age increased she started to participate in heavier activities such as baking.

When she was growing up her household/parents did not experience any major shock. She also had not encountered any serious illnesses or accidents during her life time.

Before she moved to Adele Keke kebele because of marriage, she had not moved to another place. When she left home the household members with whom she was living with were 7 (her parents and her five younger brothers).

Her aunt has been living in Adele kebele. As the parents of her husband died earlier it is her aunt and her husband (who is also his brother) who raised her husband as their own child. She said her aunt had discussed with her husband to get/convince the husband’s brother to marry her (the respondent). They told him, he accepted and he sent elders to her parents’ home. Accordingly, her parents accepted his offer and she got married in 2001GC with the formal procedure and moved to Adele Keke kebele. She and her husband immediately established their own separate household. At that time she did not a chance to choose her husband. She simply got married by the decision of her parents. Thus, there was no instance that she started talking to or developed an interest to form relationships with boys. So, she did not have a boyfriend. She said that at that time these kinds of relationship were not known, unlike the present time. Thus, she said she had her first sexual experience after she got married. He is her first husband but she is the second wife of her husband as he divorced from his first wife. She does not know the cause of the divorce.

Since she got married she has had 5 children. She had her eldest son in 2003. She had not faced any problem when she gave birth. She was circumcised when she was 10 years old. She said she would circumcise her daughters when they become about 10 years old. In relation to this she said, culturally it is sin (‘haram’) if a girl is not circumcised. All of her children, who are aged 9, 7, 5, 4 years old, and 10 months old are living with her. Three of them have joined school.

She is a follower of the Muslim religion. She is average in terms of activeness in attending the prayer programme at the mosque, rather she prays most of the time at home. This is because to care for her small children mostly she stays at home. But she fasts in all fasting seasons, her husband and her eldest son too.

The important people/groups of people for her in terms of support are her husband, her husband’s brother, family members (meaning her husband’s brother’s children, who are also her cousins and nephews since the wife of her husband’s brother is her aunt), her parents and her siblings.

***NOTE****: In the area marrying one’s cousin is allowed. I have come across two couple who married each other though they are cousins.*

### Government interventions which have played a part in your life

Regarding her life as she grew up, there were no government interventions that played a part in her life. She explained/justified this by saying that when she was living with her parents she was travelling a long way to fetch water and to go to the grinding mill. As she is the first child and the only daughter at home she was the one who mostly travelled to do this. She stated that the absence of a school in the kebele where she was born also can be one cause for not joining school.

Her participation in the community is very low. She said that as she has many small children mostly she stays at home caring for them. Accordingly she did not participate in the youth or women’s organization or the milk processing cooperative as she is not a member of them. Similarly, she does not participate in kebele or sub-kebele office or health related interventions. But her husband has a few roles in the community: he is a leader of a 1-5 household network and village development group.

The household pays land tax and other contributions. She participates in one equb. She pays a layout of 100 birr on every 15th day of the month. Her husband also has another equb. He pays a layout of 200 birr on every 15th day of the month. Neither of them have recently got money as their turn to receive it has not yet come. Similarly, before last year as they had been participating in these kinds of equb they received money at different times. The household also participates in one Iddir.

Regarding how government interventions are playing an important role in her life now, she mentioned that due to the introduction of irrigation in the area they bought a water pump in 2004 GC for 3,000 birr. They dug a water well near the lake. As a result, they have been using the water pump to irrigate their farm land. They are among the few households who have bought a water pump first in the kebele. In addition, they had dug a water well just like a pond inside their farm land. When it rains the water goes into the well and they use the water later for their crops. Accordingly, because of such efforts they have been getting chat more times. Getting a high income has improved their livelihood. Since then they have also given the water pump to others to irrigate their farmland free from payment.

They have been living in the house, which is found in Gelan village. But with the money she saved from sale of chat, which is obtained from the equb, they have built a home of three rooms on the main road (beside the Coca Cola distribution centre). They built this home in this area as it is very convenient for the market. Accordingly, after they built it they started to buy maize and animal fodder when wholesalers brought it by bigger car to resell. They have been involved in this trading for a long time in this home while living in the other home, found in Gelan village.

But in 2010 GC one day their water pump was stolen from this house during the night while they were in the main house. As it is the first water pump this kind of pump is not available in the market. It is a quality pump. She said if it was available it might cost up to 15,000 birr. They have been trying to identify the thief but until now he is unknown. But as the brother of her husband has a water pump, they take this pump whenever they need to water their chat crop. Because of fear of further theft, since last year the household has started living in this home. In addition, rather than keeping a large amount of grain and livestock fodder for sale they preferred to buy a minibus. Accordingly, by adding about 10, 000 birr from relatives they bought a minibus car for 180,000 birr last year. They hired a driver and the car started working. But recently it has faced technical problems and become un-functional until it gets repaired. But for the repair it needs some money, about 8,000 birr, but they do not have money on hand to repair it. Due to such technical problem the household is a bit worried.

She has 2 milking cows and one calf and she uses the milk for her children. As they are not modern milking cows the milk obtained is a small amount, which is about 3 litres per day. In general, she stated that irrigating their farm land, participating in informal means of saving money (equbs) and involving in business has greatly improved their livelihood.

 The availability of a school in her village also enabled her to send her children to school as three of her eldest children are attending in the nearby school (the main school). All are attending in grade 1. She sent her eldest son last year but he repeated grade 1 as mostly he was absent from school since he likes playing with children. As there is also a mill house and water pump close to her home she does not go far to grind grain and fetch water.

Since the HEWs have been working in the area she did not go to the health centre for the vaccination of her two youngest children. Formerly for three of her children she was getting vaccination service from Haramaya health centre. She has delivered four of her children at home. But when she faced long labour pains when she delivered her youngest child she went to Haramaya health centre and she delivered there. The reason she went to the health centre is that she got a lesson from the HEWs about the bad consequences of having long labour in delivery. Her husband is sometimes sick in the stomach for a long time. Mostly he is getting treatment from Haramaya health centre. Sometimes when he is ill he gets drugs from the HEWs.

As the kebele has got electricity they have benefited from the light. They have 2 mobile phones (one for her and one for her husband). They use the mobiles to communicate with relatives and for business whenever they need.

### Aspirations and plans for the future

Looking ahead, over the next five years she aspires to get some income from the car they bought and to expand their business. She also aspires to buy some modern milking cows, about 4, so as to get income by selling milk. However, she worries that if the technical problem of their car does not get a solution soon they may incur loss. If the technical problem is severe they even would sell the car, losing some money as compared to the price of the car when they bought it. As some community members have also has been trying different means to improve their living condition she aspires to see a kind of modern life, just like urban life style.

## Middle wealth young woman mid-20s

### Your household

The individuals listed below are currently living in the household

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Person | Relation to household head | Sex | Age |
| You | Wife | F | 22 |
| Head | Head | M | 26 |
| Other | Daughter | F | 3 |
| Other | Daughter | F | 1 month |

### Youth in the community

She said the problem of most adolescent girls in the community as they grow up these days is dropping out from school and getting married without having or building assets. As a result of this they do not have the capacity to establish an independent household, rather initially they are exposed to living with the parents of her husband, which will be bad for her in case she faces conflict/divorce with her husband. This is because as they work/farm and use products together, when she left home she would not take any resources as the couple does not have their own property, rather it is perceived that the property belongs to her husband’s parents. She said these problems are somewhat the same as compared with when she was an adolescent girl. As she compared the number of children young couples have, she said nowadays it has reduced as most of them have started to use contraceptives.

She mentioned that both adolescent girls and young men face the problem of unemployment. As an example she said there are youngsters who have completed grade 12 but did not get good enough results to join preparatory or college education. Because of this they remain at home: girls doing household chores while young men sometimes support their family in farm work. To solve this problem unemployed youth have now organized into three groups. One group is planning to buy consumer goods such as oil, sugar, etc for the community, buying them from the nearby town, while the second group planned to work on carpentry related activities. In this group the members are male. The third group comprised female members and they are on the way to identify what they would be going to do. They have not contributed money yet. She hopes that after the government sees the contributed capital they would be able to get credit of up to 100,000 birr. The number of members of these groups is about 13.

She stressed that these opportunities will be good in enabling youth to develop their livelihood. The problems of both young man and adolescent girls, which have been mentioned above, are somewhat the same as those that she experienced when she was an adolescent. However, the magnitude of the problem has greatly increased as the scarcity of farmland is becoming severe.

### Your life story

She was born in this kebele, Gelan village. She stayed in this village up to when she completed grade 12. When she was in the first six years, life was very good for her. She is the second child of her family. As the main school is found in their village her parents sent her to school on time. In this school she learned up to grade 4. Then she joined Adele 01 Primary School and learnt there up to grade 8. Then she joined Adele secondary school. Since then she was not able to get a job though she tried to get one. She has taken the grade 12 exam so as to improve her result but it did not improve. When she was growing up the household experienced the death of relatives but it was not a major shock for the household. But last year her father had a severe car accident. He went through surgery and he was saved from death. People were expecting that he might die as the extent of the accident was very bad.

Before she left home she was living with 7 of her siblings (4 brothers and 3 sisters) and her parents. In 2000 EC she moved to this household because of marriage. As her husband’s village and her village are close they know each other very well. When he was grade 11 she was grade 7 and he was helping her in studying. It was since that time that their special friendship started/she started talking with boys and he became her first boyfriend. They agree to get married when she complete education and they promise not to start premarital sex. According to their agreement and promise, after she completed grade 12 they took each other to Haramaya and they stayed there for some days. Upon this her parents expected that she had gone with a man who would be her husband. Upon this her husband sent elders to her parents to ask their permission as she has agreed and already went somewhere with him. Upon this her father got offended as he was aspiring for her to join college. But finally since it is her wish he can do nothing. As a result he accepted the offer. Then she went back to her family until the wedding was prepared. Then normal procedures followed and the wedding ceremony was prepared. She stated as to their promise their first sexual experience was after they got married. Thus, it is in this way that she moved to the household she and her husband set up, where they are living in now.

***NOTE****: this is a kind of marriage that they call ‘Weltensa/Weljeledema’, whereby the couple both agree and stay some place until the girl’s parent accept and normal procedure is started. This kind of marriage is the other form of the earlier abduction but the difference is that the man takes the girl somewhere with her consent and nowadays most youngsters are getting married through this type of marriage.*

She is still married to her first husband, meaning she did not part. Now they are living in Tabia village. In 2001 EC she had her first child. In last November also she got her second child. Both of her children are female. They are living with her. There was no problem she faced in delivery. She said she was circumcised in the past when the community valued circumcision and unlike these days there was no fight against FGM during that time.

She described that she has been worrying about how she has stayed idle at home as she completed grade 12. Though she is not attending now she aspires to retake the exam so as to improve her result. If her result becomes point 2 she will join private college. As her husband is a teacher he is also encouraging and supporting her to do this. In relation to this she shared with me that there is one young woman (I know her: she is the woman wereda councillor) who joined private college and graduated with a diploma. But when she joined the college her grade 10 exam results was below the standard (below point 2). But as private college runs only for their own business they accepted her and she graduated. But until now she could not get a job as employers do not consider the diploma only but also they see the grade 10 exam result. She stated that learning in a private college like this situation is a waste.

In general, she believes that marriage interrupted her schooling indirectly. This is because as her father (the kebele chairman now) is knowledgeable about the value of education if she had not got married at that time she might have taken exams and she might have joined college and graduated like her brother, who graduated last year.

Regarding her work history she stated that she starting involving in household chores when she was 8 years old. As her age increased she was involved in more domestic work. Apart from domestic work, she has not done other work throughout her life. The lessons she got at school also helped her in doing these activities since she put into practice what she learnt.

She is a follower of the Muslim religion. But she is not an active follower rather she is about medium as she does not go to the mosque frequently, rather she prays at home.

The important people/groups of people for her in terms of support and sharing ideas are her husband, her parents, her siblings and her relatives since she believe these people are honest for her.

### Government interventions which have played a part in your life

She stated that different government interventions have played a major role in her life as she grew up. These include that when she was small child there was a primary school in her village. As the school is close to her parents’ home they sent her to school on time. The good demand for chat has improved the living condition of her parents as her father has been greatly involved in selling chat as a broker. Because of this improvement she got good care from her parents, he provides her what is expected from him as a father. The improved living condition enables him to buy electronic goods, mainly TV and tape. This has increased the access of her parents to different information. Due to the introduction of irrigation in the kebele her parents were using it and their production has increased. This also contributes to her parents’ income, and indirectly they use the money to meet household needs. They also had a modern milking cow, and she drank the milk obtained. Since her childhood times there have been a mill house and private manual/hand pipe in the village. Due to this she and other woman did not waste time travelling a long way.

Her participation in the community is low. She does not participate in the youth or women’s organization as she is not a member. Similarly, she does not participate in kebele or sub-kebele office or health related interventions. But her husband has a lot of roles in the community: he is a cabinet member (as representative of education in the kebele as he is a teacher), he is a wereda council representative of the kebele, and he is a leader of a 1-5 household network and village development group. Sometimes he collects land tax and other contributions from the members of a village he is assigned to. He himself also pays some contributions expected from him. He is also involved in Gelan Iddir.

Regarding how government interventions are playing an important role in her life now, she mentioned that the construction of schools in the kebele is beneficial for her household. This is because after completing training her husband was directly assigned to one of the schools constructed recently, which is Dedo school. So, rather than working in another area it is good for him to work in the kebele. If he was assigned to another area he might need to incur expense for house rent and transport (to visit the household). In addition, he might not visit the household as he wanted. Similarly, as he is originally from the kebele he has got the position of education representative of the kebele (one cabinet member) and wereda council representative of the kebele. Having this position is good for him as he interacts with more government officials and is involved in so many activities, which will enable him to enhance his knowledge and skills, which in turn will be beneficial for him.

As over time government is mobilizing the community to construct water points in different villages, she gets water in one of the nearest villages (Gelan or Tabia village). As there is also a mill house close to her home she does not go far to grind grain. Since the HEWs has been working in the area she did not go to the health centre for the vaccination of her eldest child or for the child she had recently. Based on the education provided by the HEWs she knows the bad consequences of FGM. As a result she said she will not circumcise her daughters.

### Aspirations and plans for the future

Looking ahead over the next five years she aspires to take exams and join private or government college and her husband will complete the education he started in summer programme. To achieve this she would try to study some reference books. If this would be unachievable she might open a shop and will buy and sell commodities.

She aspires for the community to improve in terms of infrastructure. For instance, she aspires for the newly constructed schools to be improved; she aspires for the local people to have more contact with the people of the nearby town and to try to behave like them in different aspects of their life. Thus, she said if the local people’s thinking and practice improves the community in general will be modern and attractive.

## Poor young woman mid-20s

### Your household

The individuals listed below are currently living in the household

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Person | Relation to household head | Sex | Age |
| You | Wife | F | 26 |
| Head | Head | M | 23 |
| Other | Son | M | 2 |

### Youth in the community

Unlike the past or when she was adolescent, now girls get married to a man they chose. Thus, there is no family influence. Parents over time have become aware of the need for children’s education and they are sending more children to school. A girl who is attending school also can continue education as she cannot be given for marriage unless she is interested. But when she was an adolescent parents did not consider the girl’s interest. Due to this, marriage had been a major cause to interrupt schooling. But now this is not a problem for the majority of girls. However, most girls drop out of school to get married. These girls also face problem of unemployment as they do not get jobs since they did not complete their education.

The major problem young men facing in the community as they grow up these days is shortage of farmland. When parents give farmland when their sons get married the land size they give for each son is small. Due to this young men face shortage of money to support their life.

As compared with what young men of her age experienced while she was growing up, the opportunities to continue education have improved as over time people’s awareness about education has been increasing.

### Your life story

She was born in the kebele, in Gole village. She is the second child of her parents. When she was in the first six years she was getting good care from her parents. She used to play with her eldest sister. As her eldest sister did domestic work, mostly she used to play with neighbouring children. When she was growing up her family did not experience any major shock.

Her eldest sister did not join school. The respondent also joined school very late. So as to care for her younger siblings her parent made her drop out school when she became a grade 2 student. She liked school but it was her parents who made her leave school since her mother and father were not keen for her to go to school. Upon this she continued to care for her younger siblings, to help her mother in domestic works. Actually she started to be involved in simple domestic work such as fetching water and cleaning the house when she was 7 years old. Over time she has been involved in more and heavier activities, including farm related activities. Even thought she was thinking/wanting to get back to school after certain years, her parents did not allow her to.

Before she moved to the household where she is living now she did not move anywhere, rather she was living with her mother, father and 3 of her siblings. Her eldest sister had already left home due to marriage. Her husband sent elders to her parents to ask to marry her. Accordingly, they accepted the offer. Immediately (in 1999 EC), when their wedding ceremony was on the way to be arranged her husband’s father became very sick. To treat him the household sold so many assets. He slept in Dire Dawa Hospital for 2 weeks. His illness was kidney related. She heard from others the cause of his illness is chewing as he used to chew a lot. After he fell ill the physician advised him to stop chewing. But he died. After that their wedding was prepared and she moved to the household she where is living now. Thus, they have established their own household. At that time she did not have a chance to choose her husband. She simply got married by the decision of her parents. Thus, there was no instance that she started talking to or develop an interest to form relationships with boys. So, she did not have boyfriend. Due to this she said she had her first sexual experience after she got married. She is still living with him/her first husband. Since then she got one son, who is 2 years old now. He is living with her. There was no problem she faced during delivery. She was circumcised when she was about 12 years old.

Whenever she is exposed to sun, for instance when she does farm work, she is sick with a headache. Due to this over time she minimized doing farm work whenever there is strong sun. Sometimes her son falls sick with a cough. For medical treatment she goes to Haramaya health centre.

She is a follower of the Muslim religion. She is an active follower as sometimes, especially on Friday, she goes to the Mosque for prayers. She also frequently prays at home.

The important people/groups of people for her in terms of support and sharing ideas are her husband, her parents, her siblings, her neighbours/friends and other relatives.

### Government interventions which have played a part in your life

She attended grade 1 in the school found in the kebele. But at that time it was the only school in the kebele and there was no other school in her village, and her parents’ awareness about the importance of education was low so she could not proceed in education. Even though there was no water point or mill house in her village she was getting these services from other villages, within the kebele. Thus, she was not exposed to travelling long distances to get these services. Whenever she or a member from her household became ill they were getting medical treatment from Haramaya health centre. As Haramaya is not very far from the kebele they were getting the required service without difficulty.

Her participation in the community is very low: she does not participate in the women’s organization as she is not a member. Since she has no modern milking cow she did not join the milk processing cooperative which was established recently. Similarly, she does not participate in kebele or sub-kebele office or health related interventions. Her husband has no role in the community. Her husband pays land tax in the name of his father. In case of other community contribution her husband contributes in labour as they cannot afford to contribute in cash. For instance, last year he contributed labour for the construction of desks for Gole School. She participates in one small equb. She pays a layout of 25 birr on every 30th day of the month. She has not got money as her turn to receive it has not come yet. Her husband is also involved in an iddir.

Recently a new school was built in her village (Gole village). Even though she has no school age children, the neighbouring children are attending this school. As the school is found in the village, parents become keen for their children’s education and they have started to send children to school on time.

Due to the construction of water points in her village she gets water easily. Unlike 4 years ago she does not go to another village to fetch water. Similarly, as there is a man who has opened a mill house closer to her village she does not go far to grind grain.

Since the HEWs have been working in the area she does not go to the health centre for the vaccination of her child. From the education provided by HEWs and volunteers she became aware of the adverse impacts of HTPs. Because of this she had not pulled out the milk teeth of her child and had not practice huduu four (putting a little stick on the oral part of a child, which exposes for bleeding). Similarly she understood the difficulty of raising more children, especially as her economic position is not strengthening. Because of this she has decided not to have another child in the coming three years. Thus, to achieve this, from the health point she used implanon (the contraceptive method that helps her avoid pregnancy for three years). As she and her husband understand the value of chat they planted chat recently rather than planting other grain. She hopes that after a year they would get chat. When they sell it they will get better income to fulfil family basic necessities. Her husband is involved in the public work programme of PSNP as they are included in the programme. She explained that a bit different from PSNP, last month there was natural resource improvement work, especially work around Kalu village where trees were illegally cut. In this activity anybody who can work has been involved and got money. Similarly, her husband was involved in this activity and they got cash. Thus, since the last four years her household has been benefiting from the support of PSNP.

### Aspirations and plans for the future

They are living in Gole village in the home her husbands’ parents built. But now she wants to build a small home in Kusho village where they have farmland. As Kusho village is near to the main road, building a home in the village would be good for her to involve in petty trade around the home they would build. By involving in these activities she aspires to improve her living condition

## Rich young woman 16-17

### Your household

The individuals listed below are currently living in the household

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Person | Relation to household head | Sex | Age |
| You | Daughter | F | 17 |
| Head | Head | M | 70 |
| Other | Wife | F | 50 |
| Other |  Son | M | 25 |
| Other |  Son  | M | 22 |
| Other |  Son | M | 20 |
| Other |  Son | M | 18 |
| Other |  Son | M | 15 |
| Other | Daughter | F | 7 |
| Other | Daughter | F | 10 |
| Other | Grandchild | F | 2 |
| Other | Relative | F | 22 |

### Youth in the community

The problem adolescent girls face in the community is that they do not give due emphasis to education. Whenever they enjoy time with young men they are exposed to form relationships. After that some may be exposed to premarital sex, others may get married and drop out of school. But later on when there are disputes between them and their husband they go back to their parents’ home. While explaining this she also mentioned herself among some of the adolescent girls who are victims of this. She further explained that as she is strong and her parents are economically well off she started schooling again without any difficulty. However, she stated that other victim adolescent girls do not think to get back school as their mentality is affected by the situation they are in since they are dependent on their parents.

In general, she said that adolescent girls do not face a problem of parentally arranged marriage. She said adolescent girls have a right to choose their marriage partner. So, they could not get married unless they want or are interested to.

As the parents’ and girls’ attitude towards education has been improving over time, now adolescent girls have a great opportunity to continue schooling as far as they are interested and committed. But if they drop out they will face the problem of unemployment.

Likewise young men also face the problem of unemployment. She mentioned that there are some young men who dropped out of school but got nothing to do to support their life. Because of this they remain idle at home. They are dependent on their parents. As there is shortage of land they face difficulty to develop their own means of life. As a result, they live by helping their parents in farm related works. Without having anything some young men start relationships with girls. Later on this would not be good for the man or the girl since their relationship would end due to lack of basic necessities. She said this is what she observed and experienced but she emphasised that since recently, mostly in the last four years the magnitude of the problem has greatly increased.

But recently there has been an opportunity for unemployed landless youth to form a group so as to ask for credit and be involved in some activities to support their life with the profit they would get.

### Your life story

She was born in the kebele, Tabia village. She is the 5th child of her parents. When she was in the first six years she was getting good care from her parents as well as from her elder siblings. At that time she was living with her parents and her siblings. Her parents also sent her to school on time: she joined the main school found in Gelan village when she was 8 years old. After completing grade 4 she moved to Adele 01 primary school as at that time the main school taught only up to grade 4. From grade 5 she was promoted to grade 6 and she started attending grade 6. But before completing grade 6 she dropped out of school due to marriage. Thus, the marriage interrupted her schooling.

Her household has experienced some major shocks when she was growing up. These include that her father has been sick with a gastric problem for a long time. In 2000 EC his illness reached a severe level and the physician advised him to stop smoking cigarettes, chewing chat and drinking coffee as his gastric system has been greatly affected. Then he stopped them. In addition, he selects his food. In most cases he eats pasta, macaroni and rice. She stated that he used to say that what had exposed him to this illness is working hard since when he was young he was working as a daily labourer. He also has a back pain because of work burden. He led his life in a very difficult situation. Through his hard work he improved his living condition, whenever there is no one to work in the mill house he works without leisure. As this is rural area sometimes they lack any one who can work in the mill. Because of this he has been working hard. There are even instances when they go to Haramaya to search for daily labour.

 Around 2004 GC they had a small car (hilux). When her brother was driving near the main road a stone was thrown and hit a boy. Then the boy died. The boy was from this community. The elders decided they should give 15,000 birr to the boy’s mother. They paid. After 4 years they sold this car and bought another minibus. Last year also the car killed a man; as the car has insurance the compensation to the deceased family is paid from the insurance.

One of her younger sisters has been mentally ill. When she was two years old the family members and neighbours thought she had died. But after some time she woke up. Since then her mental state has been affected: she speaks and laughs alone. Sometimes she beats children. When she becomes severely sick half part of her body bends backwards. Until now the family has been taking her to different treatment centres but she could not get improvement. Thus, the household has been spending a lot of money for such treatments.

She faced toothache twice. She went to Haramaya health centre and got better. She herself did not encounter any illnesses or accidents during her life time.

As mentioned above when she was attending grade 6 she dropped out school due to marriage. At that time she was living with her parents and 8 of her siblings, two of them temporarily living out of the community for work. She knew the man who married her at school when she was attending grade 5. It was since that time that their special friendship started/she started talking with boys and he became her first boyfriend. He was a senior student but he dropped out when she was learning in grade 5. As both of them liked each other and agreed to get married he took her to another place and they stayed there for some days. Note: This is a kind of marriage is what they call ‘Weltensa/Weljeledema’, whereby the couple both agree and stay some place until the girls’ parents accept and the normal procedure for the wedding starts. Upon this her parents understood that she has gone with some man/fiancé. Immediately, her husband sent elders to her parents to ask their permission as she had agreed to married him since she already went somewhere with him. Upon this her parents and siblings were very offended as they were hoping that she would continue schooling until she reached certain level. But finally since it was her wish they could do nothing. As a result they accepted the offer. Then she went back to her family until the wedding was prepared. Then normal procedures followed and the wedding ceremony was prepared and she moved to Dengego and established her own household. She stated that her first sexual experience was after they got married when she was 14 years old.

She stayed there for one year with her husband, she became pregnant, but always she was facing disputes with him. He was a trader, he bought clothes from Dire Dawa and sold them in Chiro. Because of this mostly he did not stay at home but he suspected that she might have extramarital affairs. Because of this he beat her and she became unhappy and fled to her parent’s home. As her parents were not initially happy with her marriage they greatly appreciated her and forced her husband not to take any action such as sending elders so as to reconcile with her. He had not tried any means. Peacefully she delivered her child in her parents’ home with the help of a TBA. Upon delivery she did not face complication or problem. She was circumcised when she was about 10 years old and she circumcised her daughter when she was 1 and half years old. Until now the child is living with her and her parents. As her mother, father, and siblings are keen on her schooling after she delivered her daughter she went back to school. Now she is attending grade 8. She aspires to continue education up to university level.

Her eldest sister was married before she got married. As her marriage life was not comfortable she divorced and she came back home. Then she got training and now she is working as an HEW in another kebele (in Fedis wereda). As the respondent did not like her married life she divorced, went back to her parents’ home and rejoined school as mentioned above by following her eldest sister’s experience.

Regarding the kind of work she has been engaging in she stated that she started simple domestic work such as fetching water when she was 8 years old. Then as she grew up she started to be involved in more work. For instance, she helps her father at the mill house and shop. Education helps her in her work as she calculates amounts collected from clients easily. Now, after school she is the one who mostly sells at her parent’s shop.

She is a follower of the Muslim religion. But she is an not active follower as she does to go to the mosque, rather sometimes she prays at home. The important people/groups of people for her in terms of support and sharing ideas are her parents, her siblings, her neighbours/friends and other relatives.

### Government interventions which have played a part in your life

She stated that different government interventions have played major roles in her life as she grew up. These include that when she was a small child there was a primary school near her village. As the school is not far from their/her parent’s home they sent her to school on time. The increase in the sale of chat has enabled her household earn better income. By saving this income through informal means of saving (equb) her parents were able to buy a mill house. As during that time there was no mill house in other villages they had a lot of customers. As a result of this her parent’s economic conditions was strengthened. Due to this her parents were providing what she wanted to have. The improved living condition enabled them to buy electronic goods, mainly TV and Tape. This enabled her, her parents and her siblings to get different information. Due to the introduction of irrigation in the kebele her parents were using it and their production has increased. This also contributes to strengthening the household economic condition. From the income obtained from these sources her parents bought a small car (hilux). In turn they had been benefiting from the income they got from this car.

As government had been introducing the importance of rearing cows for milk her parents bought 2 cows. The milk they get is used for consumption as well as to sell. She said this also supports the household. Since her childhood times there is a manual/hand pipe in the village. Due to this she and other women do not waste time travelling a long way to get water.

She explained that as she is a student her participation in the community is very low. She did not participate in the youth or women’s organization or the milk processing cooperative as she is not a member. But her mother is a member of the women’s organization and milk processing cooperative. Similarly, she does not participate in kebele or sub-kebele office or health related interventions. But her parents have a few roles in the community: Her father is a leader of 1-5 household network and village development group. Her parents pay land tax and other contributions. Her parents participate in two largest equbs. They pay a layout of 200 birr to each equb on every 15th day of the month. Similarly, before last year as they had been involved in these kinds of equbs they received money at different times. The household is also involved in one of the largest iddirs.

Regarding how government interventions are playing an important role in her life now, she mentioned that due to the introduction of irrigation in the area they have bought a water pump and they have been using the water pump to irrigate their farm land. Accordingly because of such efforts they have been getting chat more often. Getting a high income has improved their livelihood.

As the kebele got electricity they have benefited from the light. Formerly, their mill was working with water. But since the kebele got electricity the mill has started to work on electric power. Because of this the speed of the mill has increased. Daily they get an income of 400 birr. For labour they pay 30 birr. With this income and a credit of 10,000 birr obtained from the wereda micro finance institution they bought a minibus in 2009 GC. It is her brother who drives the car. On average daily they get 200 birr from the car. The household also opened a shop, and they buy commodities from the nearby town and sell them in the kebele. As the government encourages hard workers, her parent as a model farmer at different time is invited to share his experience with others on how he become a successful farmer as well as businessman. Due to such encouragement her parents are still working hard. Because of availability of electricity she has a mobile phone. Her father and three of her siblings have mobile phones. They use the mobile phone to communicate/to talk to relatives and for business whenever they need to. Because of having electric light she also works up to 9pm in the evening in the shop.

The availability of a school in her village also enabled her parents to send their children to school on time. Three of her siblings are attending the nearby school (the main school). But she would like it if they changed to Adele 01 primary school. As she has learned in both the main school and Adele 01 primary school she emphasised that the quality of education provided in Adele 01 primary school is by far better than what is provided in the main school.

As their mill house and shop is next to their living home she and other household members do not go far to work there, rather besides they also involve in other household activities. There is a water pump close by in their village. So, she gets water easily whenever she needs to.

Since the HEWs have been working in the area she did not go to the health centre for prenatal care and for the vaccination of her child. When she was pregnant she got iodized salt from the HP. But formerly to vaccinate her youngest siblings her mother was travelling to Haramaya health centre. She delivered her child at home. Whenever she feels a headache she gets painkillers from the HEWs. She also stated that the HEWs have been greatly teaching the community members to keep their home and environment clean. Accordingly, she keeps their home and surrounding area clean.

### Aspirations and plans for the future

Looking ahead over the next five years she aspires to continue schooling up to university level. She aspires to be a nurse as she likes the profession. To achieve this she would try to study hard so as to get better results. If this would be unachievable she may expand the shop, where she works after school now, or open a new shop in a nearby town so as to become a business woman like her parents.

She aspires that the community members will improve their living conditions as the involvement of many farmers in activities that enhance their living conditions is increasing over time. Some people have started to build new homes on the main road. If this practice continues and more people start to live on the main road the kebele would look like semi-town area in the coming 10 years and in the longer term she aspires for the area to change to a town.

## Middle wealth young woman 16-17

### Your household

The individuals listed below are currently living in the household

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Person | Relation to household head | Sex | Age |
| You | Wife  | F | 17 |
| Head | Head | M | 25 |
| Other | Son | M | 3 |
| Other | Daughter | F | 3 months |

### Youth in the community

She described that one of the problems of some adolescent girls in the community face when they grow up these days is to start an unnecessary relationship with a young man. If the man is not a kind person she perceives that he may expose them to unplanned pregnancy. Furthermore, later on he may not want to marry or live with her. She mentioned the experience of two adolescent girls who faced this problem. Upon this they would not be happy. In addition, she said this condition is also one cause of dropping out of school. In connection with this, she said that after dropping out of school they do not get anything to do as a basis for their livelihood. Similarly, she mentioned that young men face the problem of unemployment. For instance, like her husband there are youngsters who have attended school but stay at home idle. The other problem young men encounter is that they marry without having anything. As a result of this the man and his wife have to stay with his parents for some time. But this is not good for the new couple since if they do not stabilise their own household they will remain supporting his parents. This is also the problem she faced immediately after she got married.

### Your life story

She was born in Haramaya wereda, Adele kebele. She lived there with her parents until she was 3 years old. When she was 3 years old her father and mother quarrelled. After that her father disliked them. As she heard from her mother he was forcing her to leave the area. Because of this influence after this her mother preferred to return to her birth place rather than staying in the area. Accordingly, with her mother she moved to Adele Keke kebele. Her mother left the area without any property. Due to this her mother raised her in a difficult situation. Thus, when she was in the first six years of her left she feels her mother had been facing shortage of money to meet her basic necessities. Because of this her mother could not afford to send her to school. Thus, she stated that the divorce of her parents is the major shock that exposed them to leading a challenging life. In addition, her mother married another man and got a son. But after that she faced conflict and divorced. Since then her mother has been fulfilling her and her brother’s basic necessities by involving in petty trade; recently she started to buy milk from farmers in the kebele and sell it in Aweday town.

In 2000 EC she got married. Before she left home she was living with her mother and her brother.

Her mother faced conflict with an old woman among their neighbours. When they beat each other one of the teeth of the old woman was knocked out. Because of this her mother was taken to jail and stayed there for seven months. During this time her uncle proposed to her that she get married to his son. She knows his son as he is from her village. She accepted the offer. As he was frequently visiting her mother he told her about the marriage and she also accepted. Accordingly, a small wedding ceremony was arranged and she married her cousin (the son of her uncle: the brother of her mother). As a result of this she left the home of her mother. Thus, she has chosen her husband and she got married with her consent and her mother was keen on her getting married. She explained that before that she had not formed a special friendship/started talking with boys. Thus, she had no boyfriend and her first sexual experience was after she got married.

Immediately after she got married they were living with the family of her husband. After staying there for certain year she and her husband wanted to live in a separate house so as to establish their own household. But his parents were not happy. As a result a kind of dispute was created between them and his parents. As the father of her husband had had a car accident he was not able to work for 2 years. Because of this they wanted them to stay with them since her husband was the main one who was farming for them. During this time she and her husband moved to her mother’s home. In this home they stayed with her brother. But later on they reconciled with her husband’s parents and they gave them farming land and a new home that they (her husband’s parents) built on their farmland in Kusho village. When her mother was released from prison they left her mother’s home and started to live in this new house. She and her husband have been living separately in this house. In directly, after that she set up a household of her own. She is still now married and has been living with her first husband.

She stated that unlike her he (her husband) has learned up to grade 12. He got married when he got a low result and this result would not enable him to continue his education. But to get better result he is thinking to retake the exam.

She has got two children (a daughter, 3 months, and a son 3 years old). Both are living with her. The respondent was circumcised when she was about 5 years old. When she gave birth to her children she did not face any problem. In both cases she delivered with the help of a TBA. She said that now she has got good lesson about the disadvantage of FGM. Because of this she stated that she will not circumcise her daughter.

She had not faced any serious illnesses or accidents during her life.

In terms of work she started working when she was 8 years old. At that time she was involved in domestic activities. When she grew up she started to involve in more work including farming activities.

She is a follower of the Muslim religion. She is an active follower as she sometimes goes to the mosque and she always prays at home. The important people/groups of people for her in terms of support and sharing ideas are her mother, her brother, her husband, the parents of her husband, her neighbours/friends, and other relatives.

### Government interventions which have played a part in your life

Regarding her life when she grew up, there were few government interventions that played a part in her life. This includes that whenever she or her family members fell ill they were getting medication from the health centre in the capital of Haramaya wereda, which is not far for them. Even though the available mill house was not close like now they had been benefiting from the mill house found in another village.

She mentioned that unlike nowadays at that time women’s rights were not respected. As a result of this her mother left her father’s home without taking anything. In relation to this she mentioned that it is lack of money that exposed her to be illiterate unlike other children in her village.

Her participation in the community is low. She does not participate in the youth or women’s organization as she is not a member. Similarly, she does not participate in kebele or sub-kebele office or health related interventions. They have not joined equb or iddir. Her husband has some roles in the community: he is leader of a 1-5 household network and village development group. Her husband pays land tax in the name of his father; it is about 20 birr per year.

Regarding how government interventions are playing an important role in her life now, she mentioned that since the government has been mobilizing the community to construct water points in different villages through community participation, a manual hand pump water point was constructed in the village where she is living. Because of this she gets water easily without travelling a long way. As there is also a mill house in the next village she does not go far to grind grain.

She said that she has been benefiting from the HEWs. For instance, after the HEWs started working in the area she got prenatal follow up service from the HEW when she was pregnant with both her children. She has been getting vaccination service for both her children. From the education the HEWs provided she understood the bad consequence of FGM and she stated she will not circumcise her daughter.

From the DA she got lessons on the value of rearing a cow to get milk. Accordingly, even though she cannot afford to buy a cow she has taken a cow from other people so as to share the newly born calf. She also understood that the cash value of chat is by far better than other crops. And she planned to plant chat recently. Starting from last year her mother is included in the PSNP programme. She feels happy as the support would benefit her mother and her brother; since they do not have farmland they buy crops for consumption from the market.

### Aspirations and plans for the future

Looking ahead over the next five years her aspiration is to build another wider home as the home they are living in now is small in size. It was in 2010 GC that her husband got a gift of farmland from his parents. Until now they have been producing maize and potatoes. But as she understands they will benefit more if they plant chat they have planned to plant chat soon. She also aspires to buy a modern milking cow so as to benefit from the milk.

She also aspires to support her mother since her mother has no farmland; she meets her and her son’s basic necessities from the profit she gets from trading milk.

## Poor young woman 16-17

### Your household

The individuals listed below are currently living in the household

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Person | Relation to household head | Sex | Age |
| You | Daughter | F | 16 |
| Head | Head | F | 30 |
| Other | Son | M | 11 |
| Other | Son | M | 9 |
| Other | Daughter | F | 8 |
| Other | Son | M | 5 |

### Youth in the community

She mentioned that after reaching a certain grade, especially grade 7 or 8, both adolescent girls and young men drop out from school. Upon that they become idle as they remain at home. If they are committed they have an opportunity to open a shop next to their home as most people like to buy in their village rather going to another village. Involving in trading such as trading milk and fodder is also another opportunity to generate income.

### Your life story

She was born in Kersa wereda, Gende Metekoma kebele, which is close to the capital of the wereda. When she was 3 years old her father died. Until she was 5 years old she lived with her mother in that kebele. At that time her mother was buying fruits and used to sell them in Dire Dawa so as to support their life and fulfil her needs. But then her mother got married in Adele Keke kebele and she left the area, leaving her with her grandmother. Thus, after that she was raised by her grandmother (maternal). Her grandmother has 3 children. Three of them have been attending school. One of them has dropped out of school due to marriage. Until now two of them are attending school. There is a primary school in the area (Gende Metekoma kebele) but her grandmother did not send her school unlike her own children rather mostly she was herding their cattle. Thus, she started herding cattle and doing other domestic work when she was 8 years old. But now she is involved in more work. For example she bakes bread, and she collects milk from different villages for her mother that she sells in the urban area.

Around 2007 GC the husband of her mother died. Because of this her mother ploughs her farmland by hiring a daily labourer and sometimes through the support of relatives; she does not get good production as the farming related activities are not done at the right time. In addition, she produces maize and sorghum. But this is not adequate for household consumption. Thus, to fill this gap she is trading milk: buying from different villages and selling it in Aweday. She goes to Aweday around 8 pm in the evening and gets back home between midnight and 2am. In 2008 GC her grandmother died. Upon this her mother brought her to live with her since she needs her to support her in domestic work, especially to care for her four siblings (half siblings) while she is away from home. After she came to live with her mother she has been doing almost all the household chores and she also buys milk for her mother from other villages. However, the father of her deceased stepfather (whose home is next to them) does not like her. It seems he dislikes her as she shares food with his grandchildren. She said sometimes he tells her to return to the area where she grew up. But he does not notice the care she provides for them. Because of this she feels sad.

Sometimes she gets sick with stomach ache. Then her mother takes her to the health centre in Haramaya and she gets better. She has not faced any other serious illnesses or accidents during her life.

 She has not started talking with boys. Thus, she has no boyfriend. She has no any experience. She has not got married, she has no child, and she is living with her mother and siblings.

She is a follower of the Muslim religion. But she is not an active follower since it is in rare cases that she goes to the mosque with neighbouring children but sometimes she prays at home. The important people/groups of people for her are her mother and siblings, and her aunt and uncle who live in the area where she grew up.

### Government interventions which have played a part in your life

While she was living with her grandmother she did not benefit from interventions. For instance, even though there was a primary school in that village her grandmother did not send her to school due to lack of notice/ignorance. To grind grain also she went to Kersa town travelling a long way.

She does not participate in any community affairs. But her mother participates in some. For example, her mother is involved in an iddir. She still has not joined the women’s association or women’s milk processing cooperative. Annually she pays 30 birr land tax and other contributions as well. For instance, last year she contributed labour for the construction of the Medressa/religious school in the kebele.

Among the government interventions she explained that the role of PSNP is vital for the household as starting from the last three years they have been eating the support they have been obtaining from the programme. With the cash transfer they get her mother started to trade milk and she has been using the profit to provide other family basic necessities. She also saves the profit she gets in equb. On every 15th day [of the month] she pays a contribution of 50 birr. Whenever her turn to receive the money comes she uses the money to buy clothes for her children to buy more milk for resale. So, she stated that their life condition is improving a bit.

Because of availability of a school in the kebele her younger brother is attending school. As neighbouring children were shifting to the school found in the neighbouring kebele (Adele 01), which is closer to their village, since the education provided in this school is better he also shifted school with them.

As there is water in her village she gets water easily. She also grinds grain in the neighbouring village which is close to her village without difficulty.

### Aspirations and plans for the future

Looking ahead, over the next five years she aspires to improve their house and buy some household tools. She also aspires to plant chat on their farmland so as to get better income. With her mother she discussed and planned to support her mother in milk trading so as to improve their living condition.

For the community she aspires for it to be like small towns: to have a market centre to buy and sell some crops and consumption goods. If this would be possible, she hopes the community’s way of life will be improved.