# **Interviews with wereda officials re Aze Debo’a, Kembata - Stage 2 questions**

There are a large number of gaps in this module.

## Kedida Gamele wereda

*Many gaps in this report*

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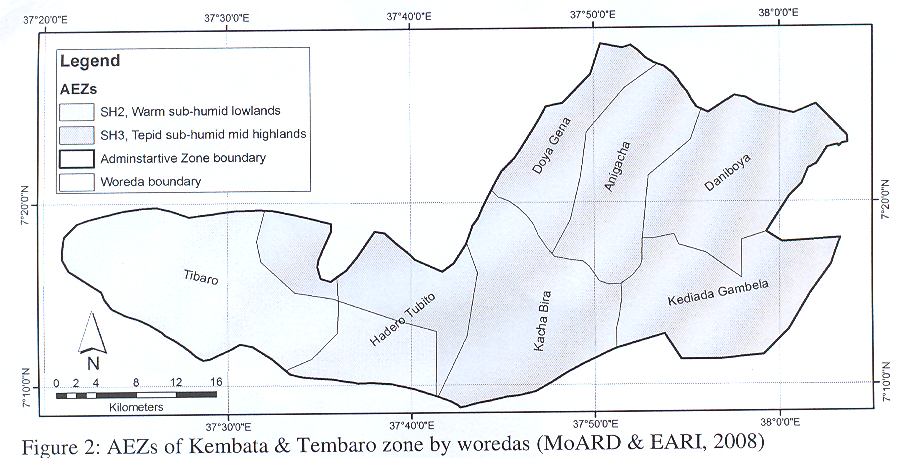
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## About the wereda

### Comparison of the wereda with others in the zone

Kedida -Gamela wereda is one of the seven weredas in the Kembata-Tembaro zone of the Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR). Durame, the capital of both the zone and Kedida-Gamela wereda is located at a distance of 290 km from Addis Ababa through the Hosanna road in the South-West direction; and 130 km away from the region’s capital, Hawassa. The wereda is bordered with Kachabirra and Angacha weredas to the west, Badawacho wereda of the Hadiya zone to the south and east, Danboya wereda to the north and Halaba wereda to the north east. The majority (more than 95%) of the wereda population are members of Kembata ethnic group having their own language named "Kembatissa". They share the same language with Halaba and K'abena as well as T'ambaro, Donga and Dant'a. These differ one from the other in dialects and in accent respectively. Linguistically, Kembata is much closer to the Sidama ethnic group which belongs to the Highland East Cushitic Group comprising communities speaking kindred languages such as Hadiya, Gedeo, Burji. It shares a large vocabulary with the Lowland East Cushitic Group such as Oromo, Somali, Afar languages and others.

**Map of the Kembata-Tambaro Zone**



The climatic condition of the wereda comprises three agro-climatic zones: Dega (wet highlands), Woinedega (moderately warm midlands), and Kolla (semi dry and relatively hot lowlands), that account for 21.82, 72.73%, and 5.54% of the area respectively. The wereda consists of different types of landforms, including plains, plateaus, escarpments and lands with sharp slopes and deep valleys as well as mountains with long chains. The elevation of 93% of the wereda ranges from 1,801 to the highest peak of Hambaricho mountain, which is about 3,058 meters above sea level. The remaining 7% of the wereda is between 1,400 to 1,800 masl.

**Table 1: Basic Geographic Information: 1998 EC**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Total area in hectares** | **Mean annual Temperature** | **Mean annual Rainfall in mm** | **Elevation in metres** | **Major mountains in the wereda** | **Major rivers in the wereda** |
| 18,343.94 | 15.1-20.00 | 1001-1400 | 1501-2500 | Hambaricho 3058 meter above sea level & bordering 3 weredas (Angacha, Kedida Gamela and K'acha Bira) | Markosa & Ebala |

The coverage of vegetation other than crop varieties is scarce and includes natural forest remnants and human planted tree species such as Eucalyptus, Juniperus procera (yeabeshatid), Juniniperus spp (yeferenj tid), Grevillia robusta, Ficus sur (Shola) Ficus Vasta (Worka), Acacia spp, Milletia ferruginea, Susbania spp, Aningeria baphia, Podocarpus gracilus, Hyperthenia flipendula (in grassland), Papyrus typha (in swampy areas), and the endangered Ethiopian tree species of Cordial Africana, Olea africana (weyra) and Crotaon macrostachys (Bisana) to a lesser extent. Several grass species also play a great role to make the zone green especially during rainy seasons.

There are also abundant seasonal streams, a number of perennial and seasonal springs as well as two big rivers in the wereda. The wereda receives bimodal type of rainfall that occurs twice a year known as Meher (longer) and Belg (shorter) rainy seasons. Crop production is limited to main (Meher) rainy season due to inadequacy of the Belg rainfall to meet water requirements of crop.

Roughly 6o% of the wereda is under the major cropping season, whereas 40% also has a minor cropping season. The rainfall occurs twice a year. The wereda is mainly bimodal receiving relatively adequate amount of rainfall. The rainy months of the bimodal pattern extend from first week of March to last week of May, and the main rainfall months range from mid-June to the end of September, and sometimes extend to mid of October. The average annual minimum and maximum precipitation in the wereda ranges between 900 and 1400 mm, while the average daily temperature ranges from 7 to 25 degree centigrade. The mean annual temperature and rainfall of the wereda are 22 centigrade and 1100mm respectively.

According to the informants from Agriculture and Rural Development Office, all inhabitants in the wereda have been sedentary farmers for centuries, and their livelihood is based on the cultivation of Enset, cereals, perennials like coffee, fruits and vegetables supplemented by varieties of legumes, root crops as well as livestock rearing on a small scale. The major annual crops grown in the wereda include bread wheat, teff, maize, sorghum, faba bean, taro, barley, field pea, Ethiopian cabbage (Kale), haricot bean, potato, sweet potato and check pea in that order of importance. Enset, coffee, banana, chat, avocado, sugarcane, mango and hop are the major perennial crops grown in the wereda.

Among these major crops, the Rural and Agricultural Development Office of the Kambata-Tembaro zone was successful in introducing and promoting improved maize and bread wheat varieties in potential weredas. Besides, high yield varieties of potato (Jalene and Gudene) and teff (Cr-37 and Quncho) and other crops were also introduced, tested and found promising regardless of shortage of cuttings and seed.

**Table 2: Major crops (in the order of importance) and productivity estimates in the wereda**

| **No** | **Types of crop** | **Productivity (Qt/ha)** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Enset's yield (kocho,etc) | 134.93 |
| 2 | Maize (Zea mays) | 23.50 |
| 3 | Teff (Eragrostis teff) | 8.53 |
| 4 | Wheat (Triticum aestivum) | 25.76 |
| 5 | Ginger (Zingibere officinale Rosc) | 162.05 |
| 6 | Faba bean (vicia feba) | 13.33 |
| 7 | Coffee (Coffee arabica) | 4.05 |
| 8 | Barley ( Horddeum vulgare ) | 18.38 |
| 9 | Taro (Colocasia esculenta) | 144.71 |
| 10 | Sorghum (Sorghum bicolor) | 16.06 |
| 11 | Haricot bean (Phaseolus vulgaris) | 9.39 |
| 12 | Potato (Solanum tuberosum) | 110.28 |
| 13 | Sweet potato (Ipomoea batatas (L.) Lam) | 103.63 |
| 14 | Field pea (pisum sativum L) | 10.22 |
| 15 | Yam ( Dioscorea spp) | 148.42 |
| 16 | Kale | 175.50 |
| 17 | Pepper | 8.04 |
| 18 | Finger millet ( Eleusine coracana) | 16.88 |
| 19 | Onion /Shallot | 97.93 |
| 20 | Garlic (Allium sativum) | 77.40 |
| 21 | Linseed (Linum ustatissimum) | 7.25 |
| 22 | Cabbage | 200.86 |
| 23 | Beetroot | 192.53 |
| 24 | Carrot | 151.19 |
| 25 | Tomato | 244 |
| 26 | Oats | 16.92 |
| 27 | Cassava | 101.50 |
|  | total |  |

*Keys: Qt= quintal (1Qt=100kg or 0.1 tones) and ha = Hectares*

*Source: Zone Agriculture and Rural Development Office (Unpublished)*

Both crop and livestock productions are equally important in all agro-climatic zones of the wereda. According to the Kedida Gamela wereda Agriculture and Rural Development Office Report, the total area of land in the wereda is 18,343 hectares and its land use pattern is as follows: crop land 263980 hectares (12032 annuals and 263980 perennials), grazing land 967.5 hectares, land covered by forest and bushes 1398.5 hectares (natural 150, associations 300, private 948.5), degraded land that is not recommended for cultivation 540 hectares, and land that may cultivated in the future 515 hectares.

**Table 4: Land use in the wereda**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Crop land |  |  | **14.671,8** |
| Annuals |  |  | 12.032,0 |
| Perennials |  |  | 2.639,8 |
| Grazing land |  |  | **967,5** |
| Forest & bushes | |  | **1.398,5** |
| Natural |  |  | 150,0 |
| Associations | |  | 300,0 |
| Private |  |  | 948,5 |
| Degraded land |  |  | **540,0** |
| Land potentially cultivable | | | **515,0** |
| **TOTAL** | | | **18.092,8** |

According to the information we obtained from the zone and wereda Administration Offices, Kedida-Gamela is the second most densely populated wereda in the zone without including the city administration of Durame town.

**Table 3: Landholding in the wereda**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Land holding in hectare | Number of households | | |  | Total (ha) |  |
|  | male | female | total |  |  |  |
| Households with 0.34 and below | 3.643 | 914 | 4.557 | 39,0% | 1564,62 | 19,6% |
| Households with 0.35 to 1 hectares | 3.687 | 850 | 4.537 | 38,8% | 2751,33 | 34,5% |
| Households with 1.1 to 1.5 hectares | 1.493 | 293 | 1.786 | 15,3% | 2101,41 | 26,4% |
| Households with 1.51 to 2 hectares | 409 | 57 | 466 | 4,0% | 752,53 | 9,4% |
| Households with 2.1 to 2.5 hectares | 184 | 28 | 212 | 1,8% | 465,78 | 5,8% |
| Households with 2.51 to 3 hectares | 71 | 15 | 86 | 0,7% | 224,91 | 2,8% |
| Households with 3.1 to 3.5 hectares | 14 | 2 | 16 | 0,1% | 48,48 | 0,6% |
| Households with 3.51 to 4 hectares | 4 |  | 4 | 0,0% | 14,2 | 0,2% |
| Households with 4.1 to 5 hectares | 7 | 8 | 15 | 0,1% | 32,84 | 0,4% |
| Households with 5.1 to 6 hectares | 3 |  | 3 | 0,0% | 16,65 | 0,2% |
| Total Households | 9.515 | 2.167 | 11.682 |  | 7972,75 |  |

In terms of food security, the wereda is known for having a large food insecure population compared to some weredas in the zone such as Doyogana and Angacha. This has been primarily due to shortage of farming land for most of the households in the wereda. Population pressure has been increasing at a far greater rate than the national population growth rate (3%), as several households returned from different areas of the country owing to ethnic conflict and started to live in their home area. However, the wereda is relatively better than some of the weredas like T'embaro in terms of food security and access to social services and infrastructural facilities.

Although the wereda has diverse ecological zones, suitable environmental conditions (i.e. relatively adequate amount of rainfall with bimodal patterns, suitable and diverse soil types, moderate temperature and humidity), wide irrigation potential, and better access to market for crops and livestock production, the productivity at a household level or per hectare remains very low compared to the potential of the wereda.

Agriculture in the wereda has been performing poorly and failing to provide adequate subsistence for a large part of the population. There are many reasons for this, including the ever increasing population pressure and the resultant shortage of land and environmental degradation, augmented by shortage of improved agricultural technologies in kind and quantity (crop, livestock and natural resources), failure to use the technology packages or the necessary inputs, unavailability of improved farm implements, limited capacity in terms of technical knowledge and/or skills, limited access to post-harvest technologies, underutilised irrigation potential, limited credit services, crop and animal diseases, insects and other pests, and occasionally emerging erratic nature of rain and its uneven distribution.

These factors made Kedida-Gamela wereda characterised by low productivity and food shortage. In relation to shortage of land, for instance, 40% of the households in the wereda have less than or equal to 0.34 hectare of land, which leads to low agricultural productivity and small numbers of livestock. This has been further aggravated by high unemployment rate and limited livelihood opportunities in the wereda. For instance, data collected by the zone administration office in 2010 (2002 EC) indicated that there were 5,235 (3,804 male and 1,431 female) and 176 (157 male and 19 female) unemployed college and high school graduates in rural and urban areas of the wereda respectively.

### Wereda structure

Kedida Gamela is divided into 17 rural kebeles and one urban kebele named Adilo. This excludes the Durame town having its own independent administration equivalent to the wereda status.

## Kebele organisation and Aze Debo’a

### Kebele organisation

No change in the kebele structure

### Boundary changes

There is no change in kebele boundaries.

### Comparison with other kebeles

As compared to the other rural kebeles in the wereda, Aze Debo'a is only 4 kilometres from the zonal and wereda capital; it is the most densely populated kebele in the wereda, and that with the smallest amount of farming land. The climatic condition of 89% of the kebele is Woinedega (midland and moderately warm), while the remaining 11% is Dega (highland and relatively cold). Its elevation ranges from lowlands of 1,800 masl to the highest peak which is about 2,995 masl. The average minimum and maximum yearly temperatures range between 12 and 26 degree centigrade. The rainfall occurs in Aze Debo'a twice a year. The longer rainy season is from June to September, whereas the shorter rainy season is from mid-February to April. The average rainfall varies from 1,200 to 1,300 mm.

### Development potential

Poor communication network and especially lack of adequate road access that links the kebeles with each other has been one other serious problem of the wereda. According to information obtained from the zone administration office, the road network distribution of the wereda in 2010 (2002 EC) was 33 kilometre all season road (8 km asphalt, 17 km main gravel and 8 km gravel road), and 982.8 dry weather road (443.2 km winter road and 539.2 km earth track).

### Plans for new interventions affecting the kebele - NA

### Public services outside the kebele which kebele members use

There are various public services outside the kebele such as health centre and veterinary clinic in the neighbouring kebeles like Bezena Benara and Zato respectively. There are two health centres and one hospital in Durame town.

## Land-related interventions

### Land re-allocation

There was no land allocation in most of the rural kebeles of the wereda, except for investment in the wereda towns and a small portion of land allocated to washing coffee plants (two in the wereda of which one, the smallest and most recent, is in Aze Debo’a).

### Land registration

Land registration took place in all kebeles in the same way.

### Rights to land

As opposed to the former time, women have equal right of land and property inheritance.

### Inward investment

Land leasing is not yet practically implemented at zone and wereda levels. Furthermore, there is a ban at the regional Investment Bureau level not to give any land for investors planning to involve in agriculture in Kembata-Tembaro zone because the zone is known for not having extra land for farming.

### Zero-grazing

There is a large area of land protected from human and livestock contact.

### Community forests

No discussion was made with wereda officials as they were not in the office

### Communal grazing areas

Every kebele has its own communal grazing area. Some kebeles have community forests since the Derg regime.

### Other land policies

There is no policy affecting land management or use in the wereda.

### Re-settlement - NA

### Villagisation

There was no villagisation since 2005

## Farming interventions

### Water for farming - irrigation and water harvesting

According to the information from wereda water and agriculture offices, irrigation is one of the areas that lacked adequate attention by the government even though there is high potential in the wereda. The major constraint in this regard is lack of adequate budget to undertake irrigation schemes in the wereda.

### Other farming and environmental interventions that should be found in the kebele – NA

## Non-farming interventions – NA

## Credit and debt – NA

### Micro-credit and savings organisations

NA

### Debt

NA

## Food/cash for work (PSNP and Emergency Food Aid)

There are a total of 3,775 (2,273 male headed and 1,502 Female headed) households benefitting from the PSNP in the wereda, comprising the total number of 7,557 male and 7,761 female beneficiaries. PSNP support is provided for six months. According to information from the staff of PSNP section in Agriculture and Rural Development Office of Kedida Gamela wereda, there were serious rain failures especially in 2009 and 2010, and as a consequence a large number of people in Kedida Gamela and other weredas in the zone were hit by drought and there was a serious emergency humanitarian caseload. Since then, Kedida Gamela along with other PSNP weredas is facing relatively low PSNP coverage.

The major activities are road construction; watershed activities (enclosure, soil bund construction, *fanaju* construction, stone bund construction, spring development, bridge construction, gabion construction); FTC construction; seedling preparation and planting; cattle crush construction and; health post construction. For instance, road construction and maintenance begin in the beginning of the rainy season. The work is chosen by the community depending on topography of the kebele.

## Co-operatives – NA

### Producer Co-operatives

No discussion was made due to their absence in the office.

### Service Co-operatives

No discussion was made due to their absence in the office.

### Other Co-operatives

No discussion was made due to their absence in the office.

## Interventions against HTPs affecting livelihoods – NA

## Food aid – NA

## Nutrition

Nutritional education and food supplements for nutrition of children and pregnant and breast-feeding mothers are provided by the wereda Health Office and World Vision Ethiopia. During the drought of 2008, Samaritan Purse was the major NGO providing these services to needy people. Currently, there is no feeding centre in the wereda.

## Drinking water

The overall safe water coverage of the wereda is 48% which indicates that more than half of the wereda's population is still using unprotected sources for drinking water. However, the percentage of people using protected water sources in some kebeles having high ground water potential like Aze Debo'a, Zato Shodera, and Bezena-Benara is much higher (85%) compared to other kebeles.

The other problems in relation to protected water sources, especially regarding bore holes, shallow wells and hand-dug wells are lack of well trained personnel and lack of adequate budget to maintain them immediately after they have been damaged. As a result, at the time of the fieldwork 3 bore holes, 20 shallow wells, 5 hand-dug wells and 2 springs were not functional. Similarly in Aze Debo'a, 6 of the 18 protected water schemes were not in service in October 2011. In the wereda, 53 water schemes were constructed by the Ethiopian K'ale Heywot Church, and 8 were constructed by UNICEF. Two more water schemes were constructed by World Vision and Save the Children USA. The following table indicates the number of water schemes and their condition at present.

**Table 4: Existing water Schemes constructed in Kedida Gamela Wereda**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of scheme** | **No. schemes** | **Functional** | **Non functional** | **Remark** |
| Borehole | 7 | 4 | 3 | 2 are under construction |
| Shallow well | 43 | 23 | 20 |  |
| Hand dug well | 7 | 2 | 5 |  |
| On spot Springs | 4 | 2 | 2 |  |
| Serving with distribution | 1 | 1 | 1 |  |
| Roof water harvesting | 1 | 1 | - |  |
| Total | 63 |  |  |  |

## Hygiene and environmental sanitation

According to information from the wereda health office, 93% of the households have toilets, waste disposal, hand-washing, kitchen cupboards; and 80% of the households are estimated to use them well. In this regard, 25% of the households in the wereda have graduated from these programmes, and the coverage is increasing over time. However, only 17% of the households in the wereda have smoke free and separated rooms for human beings and animals. Disease prevention and control

According to information from the wereda health office, there is very high achievement in terms of disease prevention and control programs. For instance, immunisation coverage, spraying houses, removing stagnant water, provision of bed nets and availability of first aid service at the health post level reached 100% in 2011. In terms of curative health services, the major drugs available in the health post are Coartem, ORS, folic acid, drugs of malaria and pills of family planning. There are problems in getting adequate supply.

## Interventions against HTPs affecting health

FGM is the major HTP affecting health in the wereda and throughout the zone. However, thanks to various interventions on FGM and other HTPs by numerous NGOs like KMG, K'aleheywot, Mekaneyesus, World Vision and others, the practice of FGM seems to be abandoned. According to information from KMG, it organised girls into groups that could support each other and become a potent catalyst for change. During the last few years, more than 100,000 uncircumcised girls were organised into groups and were provided training on leadership skills. They were also encouraged to engage outside the community by speaking about the benefits of ending harmful traditional practices in the area. By improving leadership and communication skills they are taking ownership over their body. In the former time, being uncircumcised was a taboo in the area. It was also considered as manifestation of dirtiness and shame for centuries. Currently, uncircumcised girls' sport clubs are organised, where girls play soccer and volleyball, build esteem and confidence. It is also expected that they can stand firm against violence and discrimination. Curative health services

## Curative health services

### Health Post drugs

According to health policy of the country, antibiotics and other curative drugs are not available at the health centre except pills for family planning and malaria drugs. Because the major focus of HEWs is providing preventive services to the community.

### Health Centres

According to the health policy of the government, there is adequate number of health centres in the wereda. The major problem in health centres is lack of adequate trained health professionals and lack of drugs throughout the zone.

### Non-government health services

There are only two private clinics in the wereda.

## Reproductive health services

### Reproductive health services generally

There are several reproductive health service programmes under way in the wereda, carried out by the wereda health office and many NGOs.

### Contraception

According to data from the wereda Health Office, roughly 80% of the married women are presently using contraceptives.

### Abortion

There is no abortion service in the wereda. However, abortion service is provided in the hospital at Durame town. Infertility

There is no research based data regarding infertility. However, the number might be very small compared to the total population.

### HIV/AIDS and STDs – NA

### Fistula – NA

## Mother and child services

According to information from the wereda health office, the percentage of women getting prenatal advice and monitoring, maternal vaccinations, assisted delivery and advice on infant health is 100%, 90%, 33% and 35% respectively.

## Education

### Pre-school education

The pre-school education coverage of the wereda is 101% according to the wereda education office. The recent change is the increasing of pre-school children over time. The major problems mentioned are shortage of skilled /well trained teachers, lack of text books, shortage of desks and shortage of room facility. The following points were suggested to improve the situation: building additional classrooms, printing additional text books and providing intensive training to teachers.

### Primary education

The major achievement in this regard is the decrease in repetition rate. The primary education coverage in the wereda is 101% (like for the pre-school education). There are one or two schools in each kebele of the wereda. The major problems are shortage of skilled /well trained teachers, lack of text books, shortage of desks and adequate room facility. In the wereda the average number of students in a class is 80. The following points were suggested to improve the situation: building additional classrooms, printing additional text books and providing intensive training for teachers.

### Secondary education

There is only one secondary school (9-10) in Kedida Gamella wereda. There is a preparatory school and a TVET in Durame town.

### Post-secondary education

There is no a higher institution like college or university of the government throughout the zone except the one vocational college and a training centre for Health Extension Workers. However, there is one private college providing Diplomas and Degrees in certain fields like Nursing and others in Durame. As a result of limited access to post-secondary education, most of the youths who could not succeed to join the university through the regular programme go to Hawassa for their university studies.

### Other training - NA

## Marriage practices

Based on information from the Head of the wereda Women Affairs Office and its staffs, the wereda pays little attention to issues related to marriage. There is no early marriage in Kembata: since the antiquity boys and girls marry after the age of 18. Even if they wanted it, families would never allow them to marry before the age of 18. Secondly, the practice of marriage through abduction was totally abandoned after it was considered as a crime and put in the criminal code, and for the last 15 years local enforcing bodies started to take deterrent legal measures against offenders. For example, a person convicted for abducting a girl in 2002 was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment by the Kedida Gamela wereda court. This and other similar cases were widely disseminated and reached the ears of the wider community in the wereda. Since then, abduction is not an issue and there is no any sign of abduction throughout the zone. Currently, boys and girls have the right to choose their partners and marry by their own consent.

Similarly, polygyny is a rare case among the Kembata because it is strictly forbidden among the Protestant Christians that accounts for the majority of the zone population (followed by small proportions of Catholic and Orthodox Christians). In comparison with other zones in Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Region and throughout the entire country, Kembata is known to have the highest number of Protestant Community members. This might be the major factor for the very small number of cases of polygyny in Kembata. However, there are a few cases in the border areas of Kembata with the Muslim community in Halaba. As the head of Women Affairs Office underlined, the major concern of the wereda is in fighting against various HTPs like FGM, uvula cutting, and others which are not completely eradicated from the area.

The informants explained that in the past there was a culture of widow inheritance and marrying a wife of the deceased brother. However, for many reasons this has now disappeared. In the past, there was a culture of polygyny and a married person could take a widow as his second wife. However, after the majority of the population converted to Protestant Christianity and the practice of polygyny started to be eroded, widow inheritance has also become a rare phenomenon - unless an unmarried young boy is willing to marry a widow as his only marriage partner. On the other hand, a person who lost his wife by death can marry a widow or a girl, or if he/she is divorced from their previous partners in a convicted case of promiscuity. However, almost all young boys want to marry with girls of their age group. As a result, getting a husband for a widow is very difficult among the Protestants.

Apart from this, there is high level of awareness among the women regarding property rights, and efficient legal protection is given to women by the local enforcing bodies. According to the judge in Kedida Gamela wereda, accusations on property issues between husband and wife come to court in rare cases. In this regard, KMG has done a lot of gender-related awareness creation on gender, property and human rights issues before the new NGOs legislation by the government.

## Using customary organisations to help implement interventions – NA

## Women's organisations – NA

## Youth organisations – NA

## Planning and consultation – NA

## Differences between taxpayers and non-taxpayers in the wereda – NA

## Community contributions + taxes – NA

## Accountability – NA

## Security and policing – NA

## Justice – NA

## Learning about government policies and programmes – NA

### Growth and Transformation Plan

### Delivering development messages to the community

## Social equity interventions

### Insurance

This is one of the areas untouched by the government. There is no crop, livestock and health insurance throughout the country. So far, there is insurance for individuals having vehicles in Hawassa and other big towns. There is not a single insurance office in Durame. I myself heard about crop and livestock insurance that has been started in Kenya through BBC. In short, there are no such activities in the area.

### Promoting equity for women

According to information from Kedida Gamella Women Affairs Office, there is participation of women at all levels of the government structures, starting from 1 to 5 at village level, to kebele and wereda levels.

There are women associations in every kebele, but some educated women explained that they are not happy with the government policy of restricting and banning the NGOs like KMG from working on gender and human rights issues because it played a big role in promoting the awareness of the community in general and the women in particular towards their property rights, personal and human rights. As a result, women are aware of their rights and the wereda Women Affairs Office and KMG are intervening in cases of attack or violence on women from their husbands or other people. However, KMG is not intervening as strongly as before.

As Women Affairs’ Office staff underlined, most of the household violence and conflicts between husband and wife are not reported to the wereda legal bodies; rather they are handled locally by elders, neighbours and church leaders. Women have equal access to the use of government services like education, health and others. There is high enrolment rate of girls in school at this time. In this regard, some parents from Kembata started to send their female children to schools equally with boys since 1950s and even before that.

Rape is not common in the area and there is no record of it. However, in the wereda there are a number of victims of FGM exposed to fistula problem. In the last couple of years the HTP prevention department of Kale Heywot has taken more than a hundred women having a problem of fistula to the Fistula Hospital in Addis Ababa for treatment.

Apart from this, there is no serious discrimination against women in relation to access to social services and other benefits like FFW based on gender differences. However, women still have less power in controlling the resources and the property of the household. They also work more hours than men as it has been common in other areas of the country.

### Youth policies and programmes – NA

### Getting government services to poor people – NA

### Interventions to help vulnerable people – NA