# Interviews with wereda officials re Adado, Gedeo – Stage 3 questions

## About the wereda

### Wereda policies and budget

The Wereda administrator reported the wereda policies and budget. He said that poverty reducing sectors (ordered in importance: Agriculture, education, water, road, SMEs) are given priority by government of the country and all weredas work in line with the given direction. Indeed, he said, education sector has larger size of human resource and therefore larger budget is allocated, salary. Government also enforces the wereda to use internal revenues to support the budget. Budget shortage is not only to specific sectors, but also have no sufficient resources to undertake the required development activities. People demand for public service is increasing in all development sectors. Regional government supported the wereda in building health centre, water (Basura), education expansion (Haro Wolabo). There are some campaign works in the wereda: Model household in health, Health extension workers, environment protection such as watershed management, SLM and AGP.

### Wereda progress

The wereda is the second in the zone in health sector performance. He reported that watershed management activities are also recognised as the best in zonal meeting to evaluate weredas’ annual performance. The wereda has performed better due to public participation and the strong follow up system of wereda administration. The wereda is suffering a lot in road networks from Bule to Dila town. It is gravel road along mountain chains throughout the wereda. Even though the wereda connects SNNPR to Oromia region, there is no all season road. Budget shortage is the known reason for the lack of investment in road construction. Regarding water development, WASH project dug deep boreholes and upgraded spring waters in budget share with wereda (17%), public (5%), and SNNPR (78%). Increasing the budget through various options, partnership with supporting stakeholders and inviting private investors to the area are expected to improve the situation further.

### NGOs in the wereda

The wereda administrator reported that there is no active NGO operating in the wereda at present. However, he pointed that there are NGOs coming to specific sectors for short periods of time. He mentioned that a year ago “Mekane Yesus” missionary-based NGO tried to launch a project on generating electricity from a river in the wereda. However, they couldn’t continue that project. A few years ago, Samaritan’s Corps was operating in the wereda, but it is not functioning at present. Indeed, the wereda administrator is not sure about which NGO is contacting specific sectors, but he said that health and education sectors in the wereda have a link with NGOs coming from Hawassa.

## Investors

### Has and been leased to investors from outside?

The wereda administrator mentioned that there is no specific investor who formally launched a project in the wereda. However, there has been a request from individuals interested to do hotel business and farming investment. But, there is no one who actually invested. The wereda, however, prepared 175 hectares of land for investment. He mentioned that investors requesting come from Dila and Hawassa towns. He also disclosed that the poorest roads in the wereda and remoteness of the area are major barriers making them miss investment opportunities. Regarding land arrangement for investment, the administrator mentioned that there is free land around the Bule town suitable for investment. This is fenced and allotted for investment.

### Kebele structures

The Kebele structure is similar to the one shown to me. A few improvements are drawn as follows

Main Kebele

The Cabinets

General Council

Social Court

Kebele Manager

Kebele Chairman

Secretary

Kebele Vice Chairman

Members

Sebsabi

hairman

200 people

Out of 450 kebele dwellers

Information Desk

2-Health Ext.

Militia Head

Registrar-No available

Political Party Organiser

School Director

3-Agricultural Ext.

At present, the *gots* play a great role in development activities, as the wereda administrator reported. Kebele development activities such as public works for natural resource management and environmental protection, good governance in the community, political activities through 1-5s, election of representatives and *gimgema* start from the grassroots in the community.

The kebele is the lowest administrative structure. *Cell* that includes many 1-5s is the lowest structure in party structure.

He reported that government structure includes both party members and non-members in the community, while political structure includes only party members. Indeed, the 1-5s is adopted for development activity, which was formed for political activities. At present, 1-5s structure for development activities includes both party members and non-members. The administrator reported that there is no problem in kebele structure.

## Wereda report on Adado kebele

The kebele administration of Adado is known for its good coffee production, followed by *enset,* since a long time. He mentioned that the kebele has established its own coffee processing site owned by the farmers’ union. This created better market opportunity for the community to sell their coffee in union coffee washing site or Union office. He mentioned that there is no notable bad thing observed for this kebele. The kebele is in good relation with the wereda administration.

### Wereda’s future livelihood plans for the kebele

The wereda administrator remarked that the access to all season roads is not met in the wereda. However, the wereda connects SNNPR and Oromia regions as well as a source of major commercial crop, coffee, at national level. He said that the wereda has access to rivers, but the topography is mountainous to divert rivers for irrigation. Thus, many other options such as ground water, harvesting rain water and to some extent rivers will be used to access water for irrigation. He reported that there is awareness creation on the importance of small and medium enterprises in rural areas, but there is still no one established. At present, the AGP and SLM programmes are under way to realise household level projects (ox fattening, sheep, got and hen production) in groups. He said there is no new investment in the wereda. He also informed that land is owned by the smallholder farmers and not allowed for leasing. If investors wish land from farmers, it is through mutual agreement between them through a short-term contract. The kebele communicates the consensus between an investor and a farmer to the wereda for approval, in cognizance of the zonal administration. This is the procedure for smallholder farmer land rental process.

### Future Regional and Zone plans for the wereda

The Regional government is constructing a hospital in Bule wereda. The zonal administration has no special plan except distributing the budget, following up and technically supporting the weredas. The zonal administration has no budget of its own except the budget allotted from the region.

## Wereda relations with their neighbours

The administrator mentioned that the wereda is topographically known for its share of border areas with many of the weredas in Oromia region. There was a referendum question from people neighbouring Negele Borena areas from part of Bule wereda. They requested to join the Oromiya region at that time since the catchment was far away from Bule wereda centre. However, the people who asked referendum regretted their decision while observing the distance of public service centres in Negele Bonena areas. Except this, there has been no one tension in the community of Bule wereda or with the nearby weredas. Currently, the administrator witnessed, there is a joint annual conference between weredas in Oromia region and the Bule wereda regarding peace and security. Previously, there were very serious theft and robbery problems across the two weredas, however, the joint conference solved this problem. The weredas sharing common borders and previously facing a robbery and theft challenge meet together. The two zones support their respective weredas to undertake peace and security works. The other weredas in their respective zones have no such challenge. The consensus of the conference is to protect peace and security of the two wereda catchment in joint supervision. He reported that this joint effort has solved the problem. He mentioned no conflict agenda at present in neighbour weredas. He added that the markets for coffee, cattle and cereals between Bule wereda and the wereda in Oromia region are now peaceful.

## Nutrition in the wereda

Child malnutrition is not a problem among the wereda community. In the last six months there were 143 malnourished children and the number shows that the problem is not an issue at wereda level. There is no regular Community-Based Nutrition Programme in the wereda but there is regular screening of malnourished children every six months and malnourished children are identified and given nutritional support. The nutritional screening service is also given when children come to health facilities for other health problems.

Save the Children in collaboration with the agriculture office and the health office works on the prevention of child malnutrition. Some cases of malnutrition is caused not because of absence of food in a given family but due to lack of awareness so Save the Children advises farmers to feed their children instead of selling every product thing to market. For those who do not produce varieties Save the children advises to grow varieties of vegetables and feed their children. Save the children started working in the wereda in 2005EC.The AGP is also working on making farmers to produce varieties. Health extension workers are given trainings on child feeding and breast feeding so that they will teach the community accordingly.

Supplements of Vitamin A and iodine are given for under five children. Iodine is given every 6 months and to treat when there is malnourishment. There is no school feeding programme in the wereda.

When children get malnourished moderately there is OTP (outpatient therapeutic programme) in health posts and in health centres. When children get severely malnourished there is SC (stabilisation centre) at wereda level which is the same as TFU or TFC. The stabilisation centre was established in 2000EC.

Integrated training including on nourishing diet was given at wereda level for health extension workers. The training included theory and practice. The training was given for 15 days and it included the 15 packages of the health extension programme. One out of the 16 programs is left because malaria does not exist in the wereda. The training was effective because it is helping the health extension workers to teach the community in a better way. The community is also improving its diet intake.

The child malnourishment is mainly caused due to lack of awareness in the community. Improving the awareness of the community is a key solution to solve the problem of malnourishment in the wereda. This is what Save the Children is already doing and intensive work should be done to change the practice of the community in feeding children.

## Maternal mortality in the wereda

To reduce maternal mortality identifying causes of maternal mortality is important. The current policy to reduce maternal mortality is making women to make anti-natal care and deliver at health centre. House to house assessment is being made to identify pregnant women in communities and they are advised to make antenatal care and to deliver at health institution. When there are complications in delivery pregnant women are taken to higher health institutions using ambulance free of charge. Family planning services are given after delivery because child birth without spacing puts the life of the mother in danger. Women take family planning services based on the choices made by themselves. HIV is a possible cause of mortality among women so prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) service is given to HIV positive women. Women get PMTCT services within their kebele by health workers from health centres WHO go to kebeles in their catchment area to give PMTCT service.

The proportion of pregnant women attending antenatal care is 75%. Taking the data from last month there was one death out of 358 deliveries accordingly the estimate of maternal mortality rate in 0.016% that is 1/358.

There are four health centres in the wereda. Five years ago the average number of delivery at health centre per month was 5. Currently the average number of deliveries that takes place at health centres is 20 per month. There is improvement and the improvement came from the intensive teachings and efforts made by the wereda health office through health extensions and other health workers. The other factor that played a role in the increase in the figures of delivery at health centre is the coming of ambulance service to the wereda. The ambulance service came to the wereda in July 2004EC and it gives service free of charge.

Currently there is delivery at health posts by health extension workers. Five years ago there was not delivery at health post because there were no trained personnel at health posts. Five years ago the health extension workers were not given training on clean and safe delivery. There are 27 health posts in the wereda and there is an average of 4 deliveries per month in each health post.

There is practical increase in Health Centre and hospital deliveries.

There is no programme for training TBAs. The participation of the TBAs in delivery is not acceptable but still they are functioning. TBAs are assisting in very remote areas of the wereda. In Adado there is one TBA. There is no training for TBAs but TBAs are given clean delivery kits because they use them in assisting delivery in the absence of skilled health personnel. The clean delivery kits are provided to the TBAs from government budget. The health centres buy the clean delivery kits and distribute it to health posts under their catchment area then the TBAs take them from health posts. Delivery kits are given to TBAs based on their request. Majority of pregnant women deliver at health centres and health posts.

The number of health extension workers who took training to do clean and safe delivery is 21 out of 57. Priority was given to those who are working in remote areas far from health centres, and one health extension worker participated from each of the health posts. The training on clean and safe delivery was given for 15 days.

The proportion of health posts that have clean water and electricity is 4/27. Health posts that have electricity are 4. All (27/27) health posts have suitable place for deliveries. They have all necessary materials. They have delivery couches and sterilised materials.

The negative attitude of community members in relation to delivery is hindering the efforts being made to reduce maternal mortality. Going to health centre for delivery is not accepted in the culture. Women who go to health centres for delivery are considered as weak. Those women who deliver without screaming during labour are appreciated. Now this attitude is being changed but still it demands a lot of work to change it. What should be done to change the situation is that political leaders at wereda and community elders, religious leaders should work to increase the awareness of the community to change their attitude towards delivery at health centre. A hospital is being constructed so it will play important role in reducing maternal mortality.

## Preventive health services in the community

The current policy for the organisation of preventive health service is to build a structure called development army. The work is facilitated by the health extension workers and development army. More than 85% of the illnesses that affect the community are preventable so doing prevention is critical and it is also government policy. It requires the active participation of the community and other stakeholders.

Development army are those trained community members who took training on the health extension packages. Below them there are 1-5 groups led by one person. The leaders of the 1-5s are those people who took training and who have better performance in implementing the health extension packages.

The role of the health extension is to implement the 15 packages (excluding malaria) by going house to house. They also use 1-5 leaders to implement health extension packages. The HEW makes communication with the leaders of 1-5. HEW gives training to the 1-5 leaders and she makes weekly meetings and discussions with them. Health extension workers compile reports and send them to the health centre and the health centre sends to the wereda.

The health volunteers are 1-5 leaders. The structure of 1-5 started in 2003EC.The health volunteers train those who are not trained and makes follow up on what their members do. The 1-5 teams work on all the health extension packages. This includes hygiene and sanitation, improvement of maternal and child health, maternal health and in improving nutrition. They work in the control and prevention of communicable disease.

Health volunteers and leaders of 1-5 are one and the same. There are 3061 health volunteers/1-5 leaders (this very high number must be checked by the RO who has tried to call but hasn’t succeeded yet; it seems like if this is the number of women in the community).

Leaders of 1-5s and the group they lead are totally called development army. Through the organised structure they implement the packages of health extension programme. Health extension workers make house to house visit to teach and assess how the community is implementing the health extension packages.

Delivery and related costs are covered by the health centres. Since 2004EC there is free delivery service including for glove.

## Credit programmes in the wereda

The head of OMO microfinance in Bule Wereda, Ato Abraham Tressa, was asked about financial service for Bule wereda community. Particularly, a few detailed questions were posed to open the discussion. Regarding which kind of farmer oriented financial intervention there is in the wereda, he answered that there is no direct fertiliser or seed targeting credit service. However, the OMO microfinance provides credit for farmers for ox fattening, hen or sheep production. The mode of this credit support is when 70-100 households are selected and a membership-based group is formed by the kebele administration and the OMO MFI agent in the kebele in communication with the wereda OMO MFI office. Group collateral is the means to collect debt from members. There is no service co-operative credit service in the wereda. He disclosed that there was Rural Finance in earlier times in the wereda that used to offer fertiliser credit to farmers through OMO MFI, which is now not operational. He could report that OMO MFI is functional in all 30 Kebeles in the wereda. There is no other kind of financial service in the wereda, he reported. In the wereda there is one government commercial bank, but it offers credit service for only those who bring guarantee/ collateral. Thus, the poor can take credit from OMO MFI only. In the wereda, there is no NGO-based or privately owned financial service. It is unknown whether the government has a plan to run both government and RUSACCOs, simultaneously. The head reported that there is nearly 1,000,000 debt burden in the wereda. This amount has been accumulated due to lack of agent in the kebele for distribution as well as returning the debt. In order to return the debt burden, the kebele officers are given assignments. In addition to this, the kebele OMO MFI agents are creating awareness to households with debt. There is a new initiative to promote saving in the community. One steering committee is established for a group of three kebeles and saving is decentralised at this committee level by preparing *Kazena*, which makes easier to collect saving in the vicinity. There is no crop or livestock insurance in the wereda. Saving is mobilised at household level. Therefore, the OMO MFI office has arranged saving box in every household’s home. This saved money is collected by the kebele OMO MFI agent for registering it in every household’s leger account.

Finally, he added that the wereda community demand for credit service is not yet met. From his discussion, it’s clear that women are only 20% out of 6,000 beneficiaries. In this year, 76 million birr was planned to save (20% from households; and 80% from government – It is not entirely clear how this works. Presumably the households’ savings are expected to represent 20% of a lending capital to which the government would contribute 80%). OMO MFI expects 3,000 ETB saving from each household in a year. At present, the credit ceiling is 5,000 Birr. Initially, the interest rate is 12% (including service charges) and 8% and 5% when the beneficiary participates in second and third rounds.

## The wereda’s safe water programme

Name of office: Water, Mineral and Energy office.

The main areas of work for the office are potable water, mineral and alternative energy. In alternative energy their work includes the installation of solar energy, introducing fuel saving stoves to the wereda community and construction of micro hydropower from water.

In the area of potable water the office works in the construction of potable water points. This includes maintenance and treatment of water points. It works on community mobilisation to contribute money for maintenance and to make the community to take the ownership of the water points so that the water points will give sustainable provision of water to the community. Community members are made to contribute money and to deposit it at bank by opening their own account for this purpose. Community members are given trainings on the overall management of water points.

A wereda level the proportion of persons who have access to safe water is 36.1%. In 2002EC it was 18.1% and it has increased to 36.1% at individual level at the end of 2004EC. At the end of 2005EC it planned to reach 51.1% coverage.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Type | Required | Available |
| Spot spring | 126 | 48 |
| Shallow wells | 80 | 0 |
| Hand pump | 51 | 4 |
| Borehole | 7 (including one under construction) | 4 |

Acute watery diarrhoea is not common in the wereda community. There was an outbreak of acute watery diarrhoea in 2001EC. The cases were limited to places bordering with Yirga cheffe and Dilla Zuria weredas. This includes Adado and Gedacho kebeles. He does not have the figures of the cases in the kebeles because he was not in his current position and also there is not documented data available in the office.

There are current activities and also plans to increase the number of safe drinking points in the wereda. A borehole is under construction for Birida kebele. The civil works are almost done what is left is digging the borehole.

There is borehole construction for Repi town under the Millennium Development Goal programme which is funded by the Federal government. The site is identified and already submitted to the person who is going to construct the site. In other weredas the construction materials for similar construction were transported to the sites but it is late in Bule wereda. At this time Repi town has no access to safe drinking water. This project has plan to make 4,000-5,000 people beneficiaries of safe drinking water. The construction of one borehole is going on for Basura and Sokicha kebeles to be used jointly. The construction of this borehole is almost over and it remains with the installation of some materials.

Sources of funds for the expansion of access to safe drinking water are the Federal government through the Millennium Development Goals Programme and the African Development Bank. In some projects the African Development Bank contributes 17%, the government 78% and the rest (5%) is covered by the community.

They also used to work with the WASH programme with Africa Development Bank. ADB used to cover 78% of the expenses but now it has changed and the wereda should cover 51.1%. Yet this year there was no budget allocated to this so it became an obstacle for the wereda to achieve the 51.1% coverage which was planned with the assumption of support from ADB. So now, ADB is providing funding only for one borehole project at Birida kebele. ADB paid 50% of the money for this that is, 11,194,954 birr. In general the wereda office implements the construction of water points from various sources. In 2000EC and 2001EC Norwegian Church Aid worked in the construction of hand pumps.

Water maintenance is usually carried out by the wereda when it is a very technical problem. The community reports and the technical person from the wereda investigates the problem and he tells them if it needs spare part to buy. If so he tells the community to buy. The community buys with the money deposited in the bank account already opened for this purpose. When the community members report that they have bought the spare part the plumber goes and fixes the problem with the water point.

Spare parts are usually bought from Yirga Cheffe at an association that sells spare parts for the maintenance of water points. The community members participate in the maintenance of fence around the water points and cleaning the surrounding area. There were cases when community members tried to maintain water points but it caused even more damage to the water points because they are not able to do that without the technical support from the wereda. The selected community members are given training on maintenance of water points.

There are not enough spare parts in the wereda due to shortage of budget. There is also a new policy in the wereda that says the wereda should not buy spare parts for the community unless there is a critical problem. There is also no store to keep spare parts in the wereda. The community buys the spare parts and the wereda provides the community with technical support required for the maintenance of water points. There are some spare parts which are beyond the purchasing capacity of the communities. It is 300birr for PVC and 2800 birr for a cylinder required for boreholes. Such kind of problems are difficult to fix due to financial constraints in the wereda. There are 19 hand pumps that have stopped to give safe drinking water to the community due to budget constraint to buy spare parts.

There are not enough plumbers at wereda. There is no plumber at the office but they get him from the town committee working on water. The committee is called the water health committee. In the office there is one electro-mechanical person who identifies problems in water points but there should be three persons with this profession.

To increase the provision and maintenance of water points there must be a study of the geology and population of a given area. The water points should consider the population and its increase in the near future due to urbanisation and natural growth. The case of shortage of water in the wereda capital Bule is because of the construction of water points which did not consider the possible increase in population.

Fund raising activities should be done to fill financial constraints in the wereda. The community should make contribution so that the community will have sense of ownership.

One of the improvements that should be made at the wereda level to increase access to safe drinking water is giving due time during budget allocation of the wereda. The office is asked to give an annual plan for the expansion of safe drinking water but the decision-making body does not consider the annual plan given by the office of water, mineral and energy. In addition to this the budget allocation is made in a hurry because the decision-makers spend their time in campaigns, meetings and other party activities. When they are asked for budget allocation they simply decide without making enough discussion with concerned bodies. This happens in all sector offices in the wereda. For the future to expand safe drinking water enough time and discussion must be done before allocating the wereda budget among various sectors.

Sometimes there are cases by which the wereda budget is not used because it is released by the end of the budget year. The water points should be made before the coming of raining season because the availability of water from rain misleads the presence of water in a given area.

The government uses capital and matching budgets. In the case of capital budget everything is covered by government budget whereas in the case of matching fund the government expects a certain percent of money from other organisations.

## Marriage interventions

### Under-age marriage

Name of office: Women and child affairs office.

There is a big problem of underage marriage in Bule wereda even though the problem is decreasing over time. The decrease came through intensive awareness raising activities. The women and child affairs office is working intensively to stop underage marriage. The office works on awareness raising activities in the community and to take the cases to court when underage marriage occurs. In the office there is work process called gender mainstreaming in development. In the issue of underage marriage the office teaches women that they are harmed when they marry underage because they marry too young without having their own income.

The legal provision with regard to the minimum age of marriage is above 18 years old. She does not know the time when this law became applicable. The office works not only to make women marry above the age of 18 years but to make girls marry after becoming economically strong and independent. This is the stand of the office.

The structures and enforcing bodies with regard to underage marriage are the attorney, the court, the police and her office. When cases are reported to the office the office reports to the police; the police investigates and gathers evidence and then the case is taken to the court.

When a girl got married underage the families from both sides if they are involved in the marriage knowing that the girl was below 18, are sue d at court. The girl will also be asked before law if she was wiling in the underage marriage.

There are problems in enforcing the law, for various reasons. Sometimes the police investigating the case receive bribes and make the evidence incomplete or compiles wrong evidence. They hide the right information by making agreement with the family.

There is also a problem that arises from the girl’s family. They cheat the court by increasing the girls’ age. They tell that age of the girl is 20 while the girl is less than 18. When the girls also cheats on her age, then the office of women and child affairs office became supportless and the case gets dismissed.

The attorney also sometimes does not interpret the law in the right way. They sentence guilty person with 10 or 8 years of imprisonment while the law foresees longer imprisonment time.

In general there needs to be more awareness in the community because in one way or another, the problem arises from poor awareness. The girls should be made to know their right so that they will ask for that when the law is transgressed.

The court, the police and the attorney must work based on the law stated in the constitution. The women and child affairs office works hard. The office exchanges ideas with the above mentioned bodies. The office invite the above mentioned bodies and discuss on different these issues at different stages. They discuss about the importance of respecting women rights because they are their wives, mothers and sisters.

### Abduction

Abduction is not an issue in the wereda. Abduction has been a problem in the wereda many years ago. What is becoming a problem in the wereda is when the girl and the boy agree and run away from home. When the family accuse and then the girl says that she is willing at that time the court dismisses the case. There is no problem in abduction but the problem is in elopement. The government is doing awareness raising activities on abduction as part of harmful traditional practices in the community.

In the wereda there was no case of abduction in the last year. Awareness raising activities are also made on elopement.

### Choice of marriage partner

In general men choose their marriage partner more than women do. Compared to the previous years choosing marriage partner is becoming common by women and men. There is no government action or legal provisions regarding choosing marriage partner. The women and child affairs office makes effort and awareness raising activities to make women choose their marriage partner. The office advises that women should complete their education first and attain a good economic position, then they make their own position. If women are not empowered economically they do not have the opportunity to choose their own partner. In the case of poor economic conditions women are forced to have less opportunity to choose the marriage partner they would like to have.

Arranged marriages usually have problem. Parents arrange everything but when the girl goes to college she usually abandons the one chosen by the families so the groom’s family comes with complaints and the families get in conflict. So the family has to pay compensation which is expensive because feasts were made including food and drinks, he bought gold and cloth. Sometimes they pay for transportation, clothing to college and also pay pocket money during her college stay. During her college stay she chooses someone who is educated like her by abandoning the one arranged by the family. This is becoming a serious problem so what the office of women and children’s affairs is doing is advising girls not to have a boyfriend before completing their education. Similar case also happens when a boy abandons his fiancé after coming from college.

### Polygyny

Polygyny is wide spread in Bule wereda. This is even very common in Bule the capital of the wereda. There are many people who have two wives, including in Bule town. A man can marry up to three wives at a time. The legal provisions regarding polygyny are that a man can marry only to one woman. This law started to be applicable in 1987 EC.

There is a difficulty to enforce the law against polygyny because it is deeply rooted in the culture. Most of the people who have more than one wife got married before the coming of the law against polygyny. Some of them got married to two wives after the coming of the law. Majority of the wereda community are followers of protestant church and the church does not allow polygyny. The women and children affairs office in collaboration with the Protestant Church is increasing the awareness of the community. For those who have already got married to two wives and got children there is nothing that can be reversed so the office advises husbands to take care of the wives and children from both sides. The office is preventing intended marriage of second wife. Polygyny has implication in the population increase in the community. At this time living costs are very high and polygyny leads to increased living costs because of its role in increasing the population of the community.

When the office gets information about a plan to marry a second wife it informs the police. The police and the attorney process divorce of the second wife. The office is using the development teams to fight against polygyny.

Difficulties that happens when enforcing the law is when the man who got married to two wives is rich; he gives bribe to the police and the attorney and the evidence gets insufficient to support the case, then the case gets dismissed. The other problem is that the women themselves support polygyny and are not supportive to give information to the court. There are also cases when the first wife accepts the coming of a second wife - when the first wife has no child or has only two children or when children from the first wife are only female. Women do not inherit land so there must be a son to inherit the land.

There was no case of polygyny in the last year.

The changes that could be made to strengthen the effectiveness of the law with regard to polygyny is to increase the awareness of all community members and making the police to take ownership of the cases. The awareness of police and other people whose action is affecting the community negatively should be increased. The office is informing the community about the importance of leading a better life with children from one wife. The office is also telling women that they have to fight for their rights. Poor awareness of women is contributing to the failure to take cases to court because they do not know that they are being harmed when they are second wife to a man. Most cases in court are related with husband and wife.

### Widow’s inheritance

At this time widow’s inheritance is not practised in the community. So many years ago it used to be practised among the Gedeo and Oromo communities. There is no specific legal provision on widow’s inheritance after the death of the husband. A woman can marry to whom she likes including her husband’s brother. As a culture marrying the dead husband’s brother is considered as a taboo.

### Marriage to a dead wife’s sister

Marriage to a dead sister’s wife is not practiced in Bule wereda. This practice has never been in the culture of Gedeo. There is no law that talks about marriage to a dead wife’s sister.

## Female circumcision

Female circumcision is a taboo in Gedeo culture so there is no practice among the Gedeo. There were very rare cases of female circumcision in Amhara and non-Gedeo people who live in Bule, the capital of the wereda. At this time it almost does no longer exist even among the in-migrant people. Lessons used to be given by the women chid affairs office for people who used to practice female circumcision and the lessons were effective. There is no practice of female circumcision in rural communities of the wereda. Since there problem is insignificant there is no recent intervention on female circumcision. There was no prosecution related to female circumcision.

## Violence against women

### Rape

There are some cases of rape in the wereda. In the past rape used to happen when girls travel to school which is far from their residence. Now schools are opened nearby in many communities; so the problem has been much reduced. There was no reported case of rape in the last year. The trend is decreasing quickly. The office has been working on rape as one of the harmful traditional practice in the community. Working on increasing the awareness of the community is effective because people commit rape due to low awareness.

The above is the situation of rape among young girls who are not married.

The problem which is increasing now is rape among married woman when their husbands go to market or are not staying at home for various reasons. The problem here is that cases are not reported to the wereda. Instead it is settled at the kebele by community elders. The husband whose wife is raped is given compensation of 5000-10000birr. Even though the wife is harmed the husband takes the compensation.

There was one recent case of rape on a married woman in one of the wereda kebeles called Agamsa. The raped woman was the wife of the kebele manger. The kebele elders got involved and the man who raped gave compensation to the kebele manger. He gave the compensation by selling his ox. Rumour on this case was heard at the wereda and when the wereda women and children affairs office went to the kebele to investigate the case they could not trace any evidence that would help them to take the case to wereda court. People who got involved in solving the problem were not willing to give information. The woman denied that she was raped. The kebele manger was removed from his position because he did not deal with the case in the legal way when he was supposed to fight such rapes in a legal way.

The problem that makes rape among married woman not to be reported is when women become willing to accept the rape.

The intervention being made to avoid rape in general is teaching the community to have good awareness. This is effective because women are willing to report cases. Last year there was no reported case of raping married woman. The case of the kebele manager mentioned elsewhere was not officially reported. The office heard the rumour and tried to investigate but did not get evidence. The health office, schools and the police are teaching the community to avoid rape. The health extension workers and the Protestant church are working on awareness raising activities. The church teaches that rape is sin. There is change as a result of the above mentioned efforts but the change is not as desired. The teachings given to the community are more effective than legal punishment.

Some police and other people in the legal process are obstacles in making the criminal get appropriate punishment and even they interrupt the legal process by giving wrong information.

### Domestic male violence

Domestic male violence is a big issue in the wereda. Beating and insulting wives is widespread among married couples. Women are also forced by their husband to leave their house.

The intervention against domestic male violence is that the women and children affairs office is teaching the community about the equality of women. The women and children affairs office make couples to have good communication based on the family law. When violence on women happens the office counsel couples and when necessary they take it to court. The police are teaching the community that beating a person is a crime that leads to punishment.

Even though there are awareness raising activities they are not as effective as expected. There is in general a profound problem in the mind and culture of the community. Still awareness raising activities in intensive way remains to be the solution to stop domestic violence on women. Even those people who are better educated beat their wives.

There was one case of domestic violence reported to court. The woman is the wife of an inspector working in the wereda and she repeatedly faced beating and insulting by her husband. He even insulted the judge and others working in the court. It was not easy to get solution at wereda court so the case was taken up to region women and children office. It was decided at the region that he had to be moved from his place because he cannot be inspector but it is not implemented so far.

## Women’s rights after divorce

The legal rights of women depend on who proposes the divorce. If it is the woman she will pay compensation to the husband. If it is the husband he pays compensation to her wife. The money to be paid to either part depends on the income they get.

Property sharing is based on the number of children they are going to grow up with them. If they are small children under the age of 7 the law states that children must live with their mother. Children above 7 can choose themselves with whom to live.

A woman cannot share the property that her husband had before their marriage. If the property is accumulated after marriage by both then the wife has the right to equally share property.

The customary practice on property sharing favours the husband. According to the customary practices when a woman gets divorced she takes nothing from the house and she goes to another husband.

If the woman accepts the customary practice she just leaves property behind and marries another husband. If the case comes to court she shares property equally. The police and the court are involved in making women get equal share of property. They collect evidence and witnesses and finally the court decides. The issue in law enforcement is that husbands give bribes to the court and they make witnesses to give wrong information. Husbands say that they bought property before the marriage so that the woman will not share property by the court’s decision. The attorney gets bribes and favours the husband. Women also become hopeless in waiting for the legal process to end and so they prefer the customary practice. Last year there was no case of property-sharing.

Things that need to be improved to strengthen the implementation of women’s legal rights in cases of divorce practice are making women to be aware of their rights during divorce.

## Women’s rights after death of husband

After death of her husband a widow has the legal right to take the property.

In the customary practice after the death of her husband women do not take land but their children can inherit. She can use the land as long as she stays in the house to raise her children but if she leaves to marry another husband her right to use the land ends there. She will not have the right to use or live on her husband’s land. This is when the land is her husband’s from the very beginning which is the case for most women in the wereda.

When the women and children affairs get information that needs assistance on the rights of women after death of husband, the office facilitates things for the woman to take the case to court; or women directly go to the court. The women and children affairs office, the police and attorney are the structures involved in the enforcement of the implementation of women’s rights after death of husband.

The organisation of the police and the court is good to implement such cases but the problem is women’s awareness to take their cases to the wereda court. The change needed is to increase the awareness of women on their rights on land.

## Women’s rights to inherit from parents

Legally women have equal inheritance right with men. The law started with the coming of EPRDF after 1982EC.

With the customary rights there are no inherence rights for female. Only sons have the right to inherit their parent’s land and property. Women do not have confidence to ask for land because it is not acceptable by the community. The inheritance cases are seen by wereda court.

Last year there was no inheritance case that any woman brought to the wereda. Women do not bring their cases to the wereda court so there has to be awareness raising activities to increase the knowledge of the community so that women will know their rights on land and take their cases to the wereda court.

## Other interventions to improve women’s status

In kebele there is woman federation, women association, women league and women affairs. Women affairs is involved in kebele cabinet which means women participates in kebele decision making. The women affairs representative is made to be cabinet member so that women will take part in decisions making.

In the wereda only women affairs used to participate in the wereda cabinet and make decisions with other cabinet members. Now women are participating in the different government sector offices. The following are leadership positions at the wereda level which are occupied by women.

1. Civil service (Vice)
2. EPRDF rural politics department (head)
3. Culture, tourism and government communications (vice)
4. Spokesperson of the wereda council
5. Youth affairs head.

This was made intentionally to increase the participation of women in leadership in various government structures.

Women are also given position as process owners, they are involved in wereda cabinet positions and are being made to have the position of school heads. Now there are 3 school heads in the wereda. The women and child affairs office is making women to increase their capacity. There is an increase in the decision making capacity of women.

There are four organisations which directly work on women.

**1. Women association**. The role of the women association is capacitating women socially and economically. It works to make them and their children to go to school. It works to improve their health status. It helps women to use family planning services. They also collaborate in the implementation of the 16 health extension programme packages. They are making women to have the habit of saving.

**2 Women league**. Women league is an organisation which is capacitating women to improve their participation in politics. It is making women to have more of a role in political decision-making in the EPRDF.

**3 Women federation** works by organizing the women association and the women affairs office. It works to ensure that women are participating in the economy, politics and social aspects of the wereda.

**4 Women affairs office** works with women association, women league and women federation and other government sectors to improve the life of women in the wereda.

In the women affairs office there is a process called improving capacity of women. It ensures the participation of women in economic activities so as to increase the capacity of women in the wereda. Women are made to be organised in small and micro enterprises in urban places. 50% of the credit is allocated for women but those at the small and micro enterprises office have awareness problem so individuals at the office do not work well.

In rural areas OMO micro finance gives to women and makes them to start income generating activities. Women take money and get involved in livestock rearing and beekeeping. OMO micro finance and micro and small enterprise are the stakeholders with the women and children affairs office which are contributing in the economic empowerment of women in the wereda. There is Women Development and Transformation Package (WDTP) which was designed in 1998EC.It is implemented by a committee called Abiy Committee. This committee comprises of individuals from the above mentioned organisations. The wereda administrator is the chairperson of the Abiy committee and the women and children affairs office is the secretary. The agriculture office, trade and industry, education, health offices and other government sector offices are members of the committee. There is a second committee which is called technical committee. The head of this committee is the gender mainstreaming process owner and all government sectors are members. In all government sectors there are gender mainstreaming officers and these officers are the members, representing their respective government sector office. The committee is established to assist women in development. At the beginning there was a problem because members were not giving attention to issues of women in the wereda. Now the problem has been solved. The committee also was not very effective at the beginning. It became better with the establishment of development groups in Yekatit 2005EC.The development groups were first piloted in Alaba special wereda and Kochche wereda and another wereda in the region. It was found that development teams were better in the implementation of various development activities so it was expanded in all weredas.

Women are organised in development teams and 1-5 groups. Women have started savings in these teams. Intensive awareness raising activities were given by cabinet members. Women who are members of development teams are participating cattle rearing, rearing sheep and producing vegetable in group.

There is one team of women who collect stones and sell in group. Now they have accumulated 6000birr at OMO microfinance. This working in development teams is very effective. There are also development teams who have bought an ox by contributing 50birr each. There are 22 members and they collected 7,142 birr within one month. They used the money to buy ox.

There is project called Agricultural Growth Plan (AGP).This targets both men and women but it foresees that at least 40% of beneficiaries must be to women. So far it has established 7 associations with 10 members each. It gave 13,000birr to each of the 7 associations. There are associations that have accumulated up to 30,000birr. When AGP started to work with women it assesses their interest and it can be beekeeping, sheep rearing and cattle fattening, growing potatoes or enset seedlings. The AGP gives technical support by going to kebeles. In 2004EC AGP was working only on 7 kebeles; this year (2005EC) it has added 7 more kebeles. Now there are 14 kebeles under AGP and Adado kebele is one of those kebeles involved in 2005EC.

### Land rights

There is land right certification after measuring land. Women are involved in the certification. In the past land certification used to be only for husbands; now it includes wives. There are still problems, the production from the land is usually used by the husband only. There were problems in including women in land certification and as a result, land is going to be measured again by the government. This is not effective if the husband has two wives. The land measurement was started in 1998EC. In the case of a husband with two wives if he has four farm land plots he makes two plots his own and two plots in his second wife’s name. In this way the children from the two wives will get equal share from their father. If he has only one wife he makes the land only in his own name.

There are affirmative government actions to increase the participation of women in the overall development of the wereda. If a 2 point mark is required in government position a woman can get the position with a 1.8 point mark. Similar affirmative action is taken during promotion and competition for educational opportunity that comes to government workers. This is done effectively but there are some problems in the wereda due to poor awareness and negative attitude towards women. When women fight for their rights some men are not happy about it as they want to favour men who have acquaintance with them. They favour people who support their idea and who accept their involvement in corruption. This is an obstacle in implementing government affirmative action. Women in the wereda are not involved in corruption, and men do not like this as they want someone who collaborates with them when they are corrupt. Problems that women face when they do not fight for their rights are the same as when they fight for their right. They face challenges in both cases.

### Girls’ education

The woman and child affairs office and the education office are contributing a lot to make female children to go to school. Sending more girls to school and making them to perform better is one of the main plans in wereda. The office is encouraging girls to go to university.

During the raining season 40 students attending in preparatory class, college students, better performing students in grade 7-10 who stood 1st-3rd from 30 kebeles were made to get together and share their experience. The students promised that they will work hard enough to join university without trying to drop out of school to get married. On the occasion those female students going to preparatory schools were given 100 birr each as a prize.

Orphan girls who are going to school are supported with books, pens and exercise books. The woman and child affairs office communicates with schools and makes female students to get tutorial classes. The effort made on girls’ education is effective.

## Vulnerable women

Women who are usually vulnerable to economic problems are women with disability, daily labour workers, women with low income, homeless and women living in shabby house, women having many children and landless(small land). is no special support given for vulnerable women group.

## Research officer additional topics

### Wereda Infrastructure

In general, the wereda is topographically high land areas in Gedeo zone. However, the road infrastructure connecting the wereda to neighbour areas is poor. Internal roads of PAs in the wereda are also not comparable to other wereda setup, as reported by the wereda head. Schools, health centres and other public offices are also less equipped with human and material resources, the head reported. However, the wereda is potentially a good place for investment on fruits such as apple and others, bamboo tree, coffee, wheat, barley, sorghum and the likes. However, it is observed that most part of the wereda land holding is smaller.