# Interviews with wereda officials re Kormargefia, North Shewa – Stage 3 questions

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## Wereda

### Wereda policies and budget

The greater part of the Wereda budget/manpower is allocated to sectors that have direct contribution to poverty reduction, education, agriculture, health. And education sector takes more budget and 50% of the manpower, receiving the greater part of the wereda salary budget- 80% of the total wereda budget is allocated for salary and the greater part of this goes to the education sector. Agriculture and health take the next largest part of the wereda resources. The agricultural sector still suffers from a lack of budget because NGOs are less willing to support programmes/projects in this sector, preferring education, health, and water

The MDG fund enabled the Wereda to achieve progress in education, safe water, and road building, for which the wereda was selected among the best,

Last year, adult education and watershed development campaigns were carried out allocating finance from different sources/other budgets

*Wereda Budget for the last and current year (2011/12 to 2012/13)*

***Budget breakdown***

2011/12 2012/13

1. Recurrent Budget……………………….36,895,695.00…………………………….. 44,048,059.00

Salary ………………………………………… 32,541,480.00 …………………………… 37,646,996.00

Operation cost…………………………… 4,354,215.00 ………………………….….. 6,401,063.00

1. Capital budget…………………………….. 765,942.00 ………………………………. 1,146,051.00

***Source of budget (it is for current and capital budget)***

2011/12 2012/13

From the government ………………..200,000.00 ……………………………………. ?

Aid ……………………………………………. 565,942.00 ………………………………. 582,285.00

***Share of budget***

Share of budget 2011/12 2012/13

For alleviation of poverty ……….. 26,807,233(71.18%) …………………… 31,502,884.00(69.7%)

For others ………………………….. 10,854,404.00(28.82%) ………………………… 13,691,226.00(30.3%)

### Wereda progress

Health and education were mentioned as the most successful programmes achieved by the wereda. The reason for the success was the involvement of various local and international NGOs providing support in addition to government budget/resource allocation in these areas.

## NGOs in the wereda

In addition to the regular government budget, they use what they call external budgetary support they categorise as channel one and two; the channel one budget support is foreign funds that is directly injected into the government budget, whereas channel two is spent by the NGOs themselves on projects in coordination with government’s annual work plan and priorities. UNICEF, IAD, SIDA,ADB (Africa development bank) were the main funds to come directly through the government budget. WASH, Adhno (integrated rural development association), CCF now changed to Tesfa Birhan Hitsanat ena beteseb Mahber, food to children, environmentalist, Rotary, are among channel two supporters whose work plans are integrated into government plans for each sector in which the NGOs are interested to work.

The new regulations didn’t affect these NGOs, but very few, especially those involved in HIV/AIDS support were complaining about 30% administration costs as it affected their main activity of providing trainings, which he believed was their source of personal gains.

There are nine (9) local non-governmental organisations in the Wereda namely: Sustainable Natural Resource Management Association (SUNARMA), Yethiopia Yedur Ensesat ena Tefetiro Habit tarik Meheber (Ethiopian Wild Animals and Nature Resource History Association), Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), *Tesfa Birihan Yehitsanatna beteseb limat mahaber* (i.e. Association for child and family development), *Adihino Yetekenaje Geter Limat Meheber (Adihino* Integrated Rural Development Association), *Yeethiopia Goji Limadawi Dirigitoch Aswegaj Meheber* (i.e. Ethiopian HTP prevention Association), Soliyana Yenatochna Yehitsanat Ma’akel (i.e Soliyana Mothers and Children Centre), Nobel cause Elder Care and Sport, Migib Lehitsanat Dirijit (i.e Food For Children Organisation).

***Sustainable Natural Resource Management Association (SUNARMA)***

This association started to work in the Wereda since Oct, 2006. At present, it is working in 6 kebeles namely, Basodegora, Gudoberet, Abamote, Deble, Gosh Ager and Qeyit. Its programmes mainly focus on conservation of forest, distribution of seedlings to farmers and establishing seedling centres. For instance, the association enabled the reservation of a forest in Dengora kebele which was in previous time used to be communal property for the community. It’s budget is estimated around 2,657,152.5 Birr and it gets fund from the Methodist Relief and Development Fund (MRDF).

***Yethiopia Yedur Ensesat ena Tefetiro Habit tarik Mehaber (Ethiopian Wild Animals and Nature Resource History Association)***

The association started to work in the Wereda since Jan 2009. Nowadays, it is working in 2 kebeles namely, Angolala and Biribirisa. Their project programme is on conservation of forest, seedling, Organizing and training farmers to help them to produce energy saving local stoves for the kebele. Its budget is estimated around 1,606,345.2 Birr and it gets it fund from Aid UK.

***Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)***

it has started to work in the wereda since June, 2011. It has a project programme in 14 kebeles namely Wishawish, Wayu, Debele, Angolela, Muticheriqos, Moye, Mangult, Biribisa, Goshebado, Gifit, Bmaereager, Zendegur, Kasima, Dilila Sariya. Its programmes include providing schooling materials for pre-school and primary schools, Capacity Building for teachers and organizing Media programs in schools. It budget is estimated around 4,076,915 Birr and it gets its fund from USAID.

***Tesfa Birihan Yehitsanatna beteseb limat mahaber (i.e Association for child and family development)***

The association was active in the wereda since Jan, 2011. It works in 5 kebeles namely Bakelo, Qeyit, Abamotr, Gudoberet Zuriya, Gudoberet Tadagi ketema (Gudoberet Growing town) and Basodengora. Its project programmes emphasised provision of safe water, maintenance of water points, distribution of seedling of vegetable and provision of food for children with malnutrition and orphans, providing children for adoption outside the community, facilitating medical service for those children with health problems, provision of school materials for preschool and construction of toilets in schools. It budget is estimated around 26,418,176.3 Birr and it gets it fund from CCF(Christian Children Fund).

**Adihino Yetekenaje Geter Limat Meheber (Adihino Integrated Rural Development Association)**

The association has started to work in the wereda since 2012. Their project is targeted at reduction of poverty by strengthening conservation of natural resource. Under this programme, the association established seedling centres and distributed seedlings to the farmers mainly seedling of Apple. In addition, it provides honey processor for an association named Tegulet Mehaber and training on weaving and materials for doing the weaving for a women association. It is reported that around 231 people, who are member of the association, are getting benefit from the honey processing technology. At the beginning, it has started to work in two kebeles namely Chinbire and Gifit. Starting from the end of 2013, it has also started to work in another additional kebele named Moy Meda. Previously, it had been funded by British Council. However, since last year, it gets fund from The Christian Fund (TCF). At present, its budget is estimated to be around 1,538,020.00 Birr.

***Yeethiopia Goji Limadawi Dirigitoch Aswegaj Meheber (i.e Ethiopian HTP prevention Association)***

The association has been working in the wereda since Nov, 2011. It’s programmes cover 10 kebeles in the wereda. The kebele are Kasima, Zengedur, MehalAmba, Nas, Adisge, Debele, Wayu, Dibit, Wishawishign and Goshager. The association supports those female students who are forced to stop their education because of early marriage and facilitate medication service for those people who face health problem as a result of harmful traditional practices. Moreover, it organises community conversation of the issues of harmful traditional practices. Its budget is estimated to be around 4205910.76 Birr and it gets its fund from Plan International Ethiopia.

***Soliyana Yenatochna Yehitsanat Ma’akel(i.e Soliyana Mothers and Children Centre)***

It had provided its project proposal for the wereda in 2010 and it got permission in the same year in the month of February. However, as the person who is assigned by the wereda to follow up the works of NGO’s in the wereda explained, the centre has never start to work in any kebele. When it was proposing to work in the kebele, the centre chooses Gudoberet kebele. According to the proposal it provided, the project was planned to work on construction of grade 1 to 4 school in the kebele .

***Nobel cause Elder Care and Sport***

It has started to work in the wereda since April, 2012. The project covers one kebele named Basodengora. It programme area is providing support for those elders without anyone to take care of them. Its budget is estimated to be around 799,940.00 Birr.

***Migib Lehitsanat Dirijit (i.e Food for Children Organisation)***

It has started to work in the wereda since April, 2012. Its project covers two kebeles namely Angolela and Kormargefia. The organisation work focuses on children focused integrated society development.

## Investors

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

Two investors from Addis Ababa received land for sheep farming, but the wereda has retaken the land because the investors failed to start production as per the agreement. Thus 70 ha of land were reclaimed from Kibure Gena (once chairman of Ethiopian chamber of commerce, African Initiative director?) because he simply fenced the area and left, and didn’t bring any sheep. The other investor also fenced and disappeared, and didn’t pay the required taxes so the wereda, in consultation with the region, reclaimed 70 ha of land he had fenced. They have also given land to an investor from Addis for a highland water bottling factory.

## Kebele structures

Each kebele is further divided into Nus-kebele(sub-kebele), Got(village), and Mender(hamlet)

## Wereda report on Kormargefia kebele

Kormargefiya is rated as medium in terms of wealth, dairy farm, and health package achievement, but next to last in terms of agricultural development work achievement

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

He said extension work will be intensified in helping the community increase market oriented productivity with particular emphasis to dairy production, fattening, improved livestock, growing in irrigation; they have decided to assign a veterinarian at the kebele to help the community get access to treatment, vaccination and drug services for their livestock.

### Future Regional and Zone plans for the wereda

The regional state has a plan to upgrade the agricultural research centre (formerly ILCA) to serve for the wider Northern Shewa zone; they have promised to allocate budgets for livestock, especially sheep development projects in the wereda

## Wereda relations with their neighbours

He said they have a good relationship with all neighbouring weredas

## Nutrition in the wereda

The problem of child malnutrition is minimal in the wereda. On average, two to ten children in each kebele of the wereda may have a problem of malnutrition. As the respondent explained, malnutrition was a serious problem before a few years ago. However, the intervention by a non-governmental association called ‘Migib Lehitsanat’ has had a tremendously reduced the number of children affected by malnutrition. Through their OTP (Outreach Tripotric Program), they distribute food items called F11 and F75 for those children who are under weight.

There is no regular-community based nutrition programme in the wereda. However, the wereda is highly motivated and has, of course, started basic organizing work to build capacity to expand community-based associations in order to minimise the wereda’s dependence on other non-governmental organisations which have a base outside the wereda.

Except for ‘migib Lehitsanat Dirigit’, there is no other regular or occasional programmes working to reduce chid malnutrition.

The OTP is funded by UNICEF. It started to provide supplements in 2008. As the respondent said, all wereda residents’ children with malnutrition have equal access to the program. The Health extension workers, who are in charge of targeting the children, record the weight of children who seem to be underweight once every six months. In addition, they check the progress of those children who are already in the programme and getting supplements. Those children, who gain weight by using the supplements, will be replaced by those new underweight children. There is no quota for the provision of supplements.

There is no feeding centre in the wereda. However, as the respondent said, one health centre out of the four health centres in the wereda treats children who are seriously malnourished and cannot be helped by the health extension workers because of lack of capacity and facility. According his perception, this health centre can be considered as a feeding centre for children with serious malnutrition. The health centre started treating children with malnutrition in 2011.

The training given by health extension workers to the communities are to some degree effective. However, there is a major lack of knowledge among the community residents regarding the importance of nourished diets for people, especially children.

According to the respondent, the programme will be improved by giving much attention to and working with mothers. As he explained, as they have the most responsibilities for feeding and taking care of their child, intensive work to change and shape their attitude towards child feeding must be a core target. The wereda has taken a sample from the kebeles and works intensively with mothers and women on nutrition. Based on this experiment, trainings and education for women have led to the reduction in the number of underweight children in sample kebeles. The last but not the least recommendation of the respondent is initiating and supporting community-based organisations to solve the problem from its base.

## Maternal mortality

The respondent said that the current policy towards maternal mortality is targeted at reduction of maternal mortality by providing skilled delivery, family planning, and focused ante-natal checks. As a policy, a pregnant woman should have at least four ante-natal checks. Among these checks, she should visit the health centre at least once during her pregnancy.

Currently, around 37% of pregnant women attend an ante-natal check compared to 16% in 2010. There is no official estimate of the maternal mortality rate in the wereda.

There is a big problem regarding the rates of delivery taking place at the health centres. As the data show, in 2012, delivery at the four health centres together was around 2%. However, in this year (2013), the delivery rate at the health centres increased to 6%. The improvement is the result of the provision of ambulance by the federal health ministry which greatly helped the wereda residents to bring pregnant women to the centres for delivery at the right time.

As the respondent explained, though the wereda requested the provision of four Ambulances, one for each health centre, the federal health ministry is capable of providing only one. As he mentioned, the contribution of Ambulances in reduction of maternal mortality will be significant if and only if the ministry is able to provide the requested number of Ambulances to the wereda.

There are 31 kebeles in the wereda and each has one health post. Except five health posts, each has one health extension worker who got training in clean delivery. Among these health posts with trained health extension workers, only 30% of them are providing clean delivery service in their respective health posts. The respondent said that the majority of health extension workers who got the training are not providing the service not only because of lack of sufficient training and skill but also fear of involving in the delivery. Moreover, there is also no sufficient supply of necessary equipment. At present, the proportion of delivery at the health posts are estimated around 8% while it was around 18% in the last year. Reduction of the role of the health extension workers, particularly health posts, in delivery was the target of the wereda health office. The intension behind this goal was to minimise the delivery rate by clean delivery. Instead, the wereda mainly prioritised the role of health centres in maternal mortality reduction through provision of safe delivery. Safe delivery is only available in health centres.

As the respondent described, the provision of Ambulances will facilitate and increase the number of deliveries both at health centres and hospitals. He said that the wereda health post has proved that strengthening the network of health posts with health centres and hospital through modern transportation system can contribute a lot in the implementation of the policy. The wereda has an initiative to lay down a strong referral system to refer patients with serious diseases from health posts and centres to hospitals both in Debre Berhan town as well as in Addis Ababa.

There is no training programme for TBAs. The respondent said that in June 2012 the health extension workers, with some officers from the wereda health office had organised a conference which aimed to stop the involvement of TBA in delivery. The aim of the conference was to create awareness among TBAs that their work is risky both for themselves and for the pregnant women. It also informs the TBAs to refer any delivery which they encounter in their kebele to the health centres as well as to the wereda health office.

At present, among 66 health extension workers, only 16 have received training in clean delivery. He said that a high turnover rate of HEWs has contributed to the insufficient number of trained workers.

There is no provision of water in all health posts. Only four health posts have electricity. As the respondent responded all health posts except one have relatively suitable places for delivery. The wereda has received these materials for delivery from CCF (Christian Child Fund).

The respondent recommended the provision of training in clean delivery for the health extension with a larger coverage and quality. In addition, increasing the number of professionals with a skill of safe delivery must be increased at the health centre. Moreover, increasing the number of specialist who works on pregnant women with HIV/AIDS could be viable to safe the newly born child from the virus.

## Preventive health services in the wereda

The current policy for the preventive health services is focused on four health extension packages, as the respondent said. These include packages on the health of mothers and children, transmitted diseases, non-transmitted diseases and personal and environmental hygiene. However, among the packages, the wereda give priority for two packages: mothers and children as well as transmitted diseases.

The respondent described that the HEWs have contributed a lot especially in the area of vaccination, family planning, ante-natal checks as well as personal and environmental hygiene. Since the introduction of HEWs in the community since 2006, there is a significant change and progress in the above mentioned activities.

Health volunteers were very common in the wereda until May 2012. However, based on a political justification, the structure was demolished and a new structure is in place since the mentioned year. The new government directed structure, Development group and 1-5s, was in place to facilitate a political mission by amalgamating it with development. As the respondent argued, the ex-members of health volunteers assigned to lead either a development group or 1-5s groups. A few of them are made simply to be a member of these groups.

The wereda health office, particularly the HEWs are using the development groups and 1-5s groups of women for the implementation of government intervention in connection to health. As he said, the previous health volunteers were more active in helping HEWs in their respective kebele. They had been getting training from the wereda and they were communicating with the wereda health office by providing reports each three months.

The respondent said that the new structure helps the HEWs to send their messages to the community through the leaders of development groups as well as 1-5 groups. Usually, the HEWs meet and communicate with the leaders of the Development groups each 15 days who are again responsible to communicate with the leaders of 1-5s groups each week. Though the structures of these groups were there since 2010, the health office has started to use it to implement intervention since the last year.

Development groups and 1-5s groups with membership of women are called ‘Women Development Army’, a term used to describe similar concept as ‘health army’.

## Credit programmes in the wereda

Fertiliser is provided on credit only for a few poor people selected by the community with wereda budget collateral. The micro-finance, small scale industry and urban development office head insisted that in principle the Wereda does not directly provide any credit for farmers in cash nor in kind. They facilitate credit access from NGO support and the local financial institutions, ACSI, ALMA. ACSI is the most important rural credit provider in the wereda. There are 19 service cooperatives in the Wereda, but they don’t have enough capital to provide credit in cash/inputs. However he reported that there is a plan to mobilise service cooperatives’ and kebele funds, which remained idle in banks without interest, and give them to ACSI so that they can provide credit to farmers. Farmers could not borrow from the bank due to a lack of collateral asset such as urban houses. Some NGOs used to provide farm input credit such as improved grain, vegetables, root crops, fruits, and sheep/ bull s for insemination (Food for Children). He insisted the wereda doesn’t have much of a debt problem so that for the 2004-2005 production year, input credit recovery was 99% for Kormargefiya and 88% at Wereda level. He reported no crop/livestock insurance plans so far.

## The wereda’s safe water programme

The responsible office is named the Water resource development office. In terms of access, 49.64% of the wereda population uses safe water; there wasn’t any diarrhoea/cholera outbreak whatever. They have already floated bids for the development of 15 water points. For the last year, they had plans to develop 90 safe water sources, but developed only 10 due to lack of budget allocation, they had studied the feasibility and planned to build 9 boreholes, but none was done because no budget was allocated from the region. He reported that the communities are responsible for the management and maintenance of water points by committees; users contribute monthly fees meant for maintenance costs so that easier problems are dealt by trained committee members whereas serious faults are repaired by Wereda experts (there are two experts, a mechanic and an electro-mechanic). The wereda doesn’t have any spare parts supply department nor budgets except experts providing assistance; water committees buy parts from private enterprises.

## Marriage interventions

### Under-age marriage

At present, under age marriage could not be considered as major problem in the wereda. As the respondents explained, the Women, youth and child office of the wereda conducted a research by choosing sample kebeles and the finding shows high reduction in the rate of early marriage.

The wereda’s legal provision regarding to the minimum age of marriage is similar to that of the federal policy on early marriage. It prohibits marriage of couples whose age is, either of the two or both, under 18 years. However, as they described, the wereda actually started to organise suitable structures to implement the policy five years ago. The formation of Women, Youth and Child office was a landmark for the wereda’s engagement in the control of underage marriage.

The laws are enforced by both governmental and non-governmental organisations. There is NGO which mainly works in control of HTP in the wereda. The Ngo named ‘Goji LImadoch Aswegaj Dirijit’ mainly use to organise discussion forums, meetings and question and answer sessions to create awareness among the residents. In addition, the Women, Youth and Child office use different formal structures of the kebeles, such as the Women Affairs office and Health extension workers as well as student structures at school to alert the community on the negative consequences of HTP. According to the respondent, almost all sectors in the wereda are involved in the control of HTP to different degrees.

As they said, the office is putting pressure on the kebeles to deal with cases related to HTP, particularly, early marriage. Usually, it follows up the cases using students as well as people from the kebele structure as informants, and communicates the case to the wereda Justice office. It also uses school reproductive clubs, which are there since 2011 and permanent awareness creation programme twice a year, as a channel to send messages to the students as well as to other community members via their children who are in school.

For instance, in one of the kebele, named Gifit, a female whose age is not more than 13 years old was forced by her parents drop out from the school and get married. The office, having this information and consulted with the Justice office, had facilitated to bring the case in front of the wereda court. Then, the court sentenced her mother and the man who proposed to marry her, along with others who were directly engaged in the case to 1 and 3 years in prison, respectively.

The problem of corruption and lack of transparency is a major problem regarding to early marriage. They explained that people fear to stand in front of the court as an eye witness. Moreover, there are males who try to persuade females to lie about their real age in court.

The respondent said that the enforcement of the law could be improved by diversifying the information sources from the kebeles. The pointed that they do not have full information about all under age marriage took place in the wereda. Especially, the office could not access under age marriage of females who are not attending school.

### Abduction

Similar to that of early marriage, abduction cannot be considered as a big problem in the wereda. The respondents said that, nowadays, the case of abduction is becoming very controversial. There is a case, which resembles an abduction. Nevertheless, the couple agreed to elope so that they can avoid wedding ceremony, which most likely going to incur them a cost. This kind of arrangement may also work for those couples whose age is below 18. Similarly, the couples will deny their real age just to escape legal consequences.

The wereda has been working to prevent abduction for many years. But, it has started to take it seriously in to consideration after 2006 i.e. it delegates the work to the Women, Youth and Child office.

As a whole, at the present time it is hugely difficult to find cases which can be considered as ’abduction’. As the result of this fact, there is no record regarding abduction in the last year.

The respondents proposed the strengthening of Women and Youth Association and other related structures to discharge their responsibility through promotion and awareness creation.

### Choice of marriage partner

Culturally, choosing marriage partner was exclusively the right of males. Still these days, there are few kebeles which intended to maintain the old status quo. Customary leaders, specifically elders, use to be proponent of male’s right to choose marriage partner.

Nowadays, because of government intervention in women rights, there is a significant change in awareness of community members to enforce the right of women to choose their marriage partner.

The wereda has incorporated the new family law of the country since it was officially passed. Actually, as they said, the real work to implement it was started after 2009. The law gives equal right to both sex to choose their own marriage partner.

Regarding the enforcement of law, particularly for females, different sectors from the wereda including police, Justice office, Women, Youth and Child office, schools and other security organisations are working together to help females to use their right appropriately.

In Debele kebele, a parent tried to arrange marriage for their grade seven, 14 years old daughter without her consent. As the respondent said, she had no idea on what was going on until her wedding day. Actually, she was forced to prepare food and drink for her own wedding under the cover of other feast. Finally, when they request her to dress up, she refused and ran to the kebele police office. The police brought her to the wereda Justice office and the office gave a warning to her father.

Similarly, in Gudoberet kebele, a mother forced her grade six, 14 year old daughter to drop out of school for marriage. As they described, she escaped from the marriage and went to Debre Berhan town where she used to be a domestic servant. The wereda Justice Office arrange gave a warning to her mother and facilitate for her to live with other relatives.

### Polygyny

Polygamy is not a big problem in the wereda. However, as they explained, men used to have other women who are economically independent living in other communities or towns. It is hardy inappropriate to call this relationship marriage and it should be secret to continue for long period of time. Otherwise, it may result in divorce because wives will not accept it.

Legally, the wereda is implementing the country’s law on marriage i.e. second marriage is prohibited. They could not remember the exact time for the introduction of this law. There is no structure to enforce it since it is considered culturally acceptable for anyone.

The office officers explained that there are women who visit the office to report cases related to the relationship mentioned above i.e. ‘*Wichita’.*

They said that this ‘misbehaving’ cannot be control by government.

### Widow’s inheritance

Not part of the culture

### Marriage to a dead wife’s sister

Marriage to a dead wife’s sister is culturally and religiously prohibited.

## Female circumcision

They said that there is reduction in the practice of female circumcision. This progress is achieved through continuous awareness creation by the health extension workers in all kebeles. The government intervened by providing training.

In 2010, the wereda provided training for those people who had been circumcising females. After letting them know the legal provision and the health consequence related to female circumcision, they were provided with warning letter. The warning letters were distributed for them in order to avoid any quarrel with the community members who ask them to give the service.

Besides this, there is a significant change in those kebeles where the NGO named ‘Goji Limadoch Aswegaj Dirijit’ works. Previously the NGO had been working in 8 kebeles now they drop these kebeles and shifted to another 10 kebeles in the wereda. In addition to them, the Orthodox Church is intervening to control HTP since 2011, particularly female circumcision. The health extension workers had checked females who are under 5 years whether they get circumcision or not in eight kebeles. And, they observed that the numbers of circumcised females are very small.

However, it is not possible to say the problem is not there at all. As they described, some residents of the wereda went to neighbouring wereda to get their daughter circumcised. Moreover, they find areas which are not on the focus of the health extension workers.

The respondent said that among all interventions against female circumcision, the government intervention was successful especially in creating awareness for the community at large. The people are also very curious about the government intervention because they fear the legal consequence of breaking the law. Interventions by NGO’s have positive impact though it is limited in its capacity to reach to the majority. There is no record of prosecutions related to female circumcision.

## Violence against women

### Rape

The respondent explained that it is difficult to tell how big the problem of rape in the community is because the victims could not expose the crime as its exposure will result in disrespect among the community members. However, they believe that the crime is minimal because there is fear of the legal consequence of violating the law.

There is no report related to rape that the office received in the last year. However, the wereda police have records: for instance, in Goshu Bado kebele a 10 year female was raped by 20 years old male who lived in the same kebele. The wereda sentenced him to stay for 20 years in jail. In addition, in Qeyit kebele a 50 years old man raped a women and the decision was 8 years.

The intervention on rape is carried out both by government and non-governmental organisations. Similar to other interventions on HTP, government intervention on rape was successful as it is highly advantageous to cover large population.

### Domestic male violence

The issue of domestic violence is still a major problem in the wereda. Though the trend tends to decline, the respondents believe that there could be cases which are violent in nature but society accepts them as common misbehaviour. The women bring the case to the wereda sectors which are in charge of it if and only if the violence resulted in physical harms and bleedings.

The intervention against male violence is implemented in parallel to other works on HTP and in the process of creating awareness. Especially, the kebele structure named ‘community policing’ has a huge impact to control and reduce domestic male violence.

## Women’s rights after divorce

Women rights after divorce can be considered a major problem concerning women’s right. According to the wereda legal provision, women have equal property right after divorce. This has been laid out 10 years ago. However, intense work to implement the law has started only after the establishment of Wereda’s Women, Youth and Child office.

Customary practices are not free from bias against women. Culturally, women were alienated from land rights based on the logic that they could not plough by themselves.

Formal structures of the government are there to check whether or not women’s property rights are implemented. However, especially, at the kebele level, there is a tendency to provide unclear and vague information to the higher responsible organs at the wereda level. In addition to this, they also try to misuse their power to revert court decisions in times of implementation. Moreover, the disinterest among the elders paved the way for kebele officials to manipulate the law in their own interest and way.

In the last year, there have been 18 cases reported to the office which are related to divorce rights of women. Many of these cases got decision by the wereda court in such a way to protect women right and few of them are still in the hands of the court. As the respondents say, there have been many cases reported to the office as compared to earlier because women have better awareness regarding their legal rights in divorce.

The major problem in implementing women rights in divorce is the lack of dedication of the wereda officials as well as elders. It is lack of transparency and accountability that make women not to benefit from the law. Consequently, the respondent recommended a new way to make the officials accountable for to the task they are discharged with.

## Women’s rights after death of husband

The wereda has a legal provision that guarantees women right of ownership to all properties, including land that they owned together after her after passed away. The law attracted much focus after the establishment of Women, Young and Child office.

Customary practices favour the dead husband’s family over the women’s right of land ownership. Most of the time, the dead husband’s brothers are considered to be the right people to work on the land, at least on a sharecrop arrangement.

The kebele officials are responsible to follow up violation of this right and make orders to check the implementation of the law. However, most of them are reluctance to look for the case unless the women inform them about the case.

There are 5 cases related to widow’s rights recorded by the office in the last year. Most cases got a decision while others did not. The delay is caused by the absence of the women’s name in the land ownership registration book.

As they mentioned, widow inheritance is now becoming a huge problem. It is a big misunderstanding to mention it as a problem which only recently becomes significant. However, based on the numbers of reports regarding the case, there has been real increment. As the respondent analysed, this could be a result of government intervention in women’s rights. She said “we have been receiving cases related to widow inheritance, not because the problem is new but because now women know that they have the right to refuse inheritance and they are confident in the government to get their right implemented.”

Among many cases, for instance “a widow woman, who has two children and lives in Goshu Ager kebele, faced a problem in relation with land right. After her husband passed away, his brother was ploughing her farmland and shared the product equally with her. However, for unknown reasons, he stopped sharing and starts to use the land only for himself. She requested the elders to deal with the case. He didn’t accept their proposed conciliation and arrangement. And even he was warning her not to try anything to stop him from ploughing her land. She came to the office and reported the case. And we reported the case to the justice office. Now, the case is under the court.”

There is has been a legal provision in the kebele for a long period of time. However, the dedication to implement it came after 2005 and this process was backed by the establishment of Women, Youth and Child office in the wereda.

The wereda is using different structures at the kebele level to implement the legal provision. Among others, land administrators, kebele chairmen and women’s affairs are responsible for exposing violations of widow inheritance right and to follow up the implementation of court prosecution. In addition to the kebeles’ land administration office, there are committees at the ‘Got’ level to collect information and report it to the kebele officials.

In 2011, the wereda established a special committee to follow up cases which are already known by the court as well as justice office. The committee is comprised of Women, Youth and Child office, justice office and environmental protection and land use.

The difficulty in enforcing the law is a lack of clear and full information. People who are responsible to provide information to the court as well as the wereda justice office are in favour of men’s land rights and they really do not have an interest in standing on the side of women’s land rights. As they explained, they are people who use to discourage women to take the case to the court claiming that it will cost them too much time and money. In 2012, 5 cases were in the hands of the court. And, as I mentioned before, the wereda is receiving more information than before in relation to widows’ inheritance right.

To improve the implementation of the law, as they said, there has to be another law to control those officials who tend to be biased against women’s land rights and misinform the higher officials. In addition, they propose additional information channel to get qualified and trustful information

## Women’s rights to inherit from parents

Legally, women have equal right with men to inherit land from their parents in the wereda. The commitment to implement the law has been high since the office established in 2006.

The customary practices with regards to women’s inheritance rights are biased against women. Most likely, it favours the men to inherit more property, especially land, than the women. They elders say that the women will pass the land to her husband when she gets married. They believed land should not be owned by people who do not belong to the same lineage.

There have been many cases related to women’s inheritance that were reported to the wereda justice office as well as court in the last year. There are also cases which did not come to be heard by these wereda sectors. For instance, one of the officers in the wereda Women, Youth and Child office says, “I know grandparents who refuse to leave their land to their grand-daughter. They say that ‘we do not want to pass our ‘rist land’ to another outsider.’ Because of this, she migrates to Addis Ababa and now she becomes domestic servant. “

To improve the implementation of the law, the respondents recommended intensified awareness creation programme starting from primary school to the kebele. They also proposed the importance of increasing the participation of elders in protecting women’s land right in general.

## Other interventions to improve women’s status

To increase women’s participation in the kebele structure, the wereda put a direction to make the women affairs leader a member of kebele cabinet. As they said, though the proportion is low as compared to the number of men in the cabinet, it is definitely a good opportunity for women to exercise leadership and decision making.

Nevertheless, the intervention to increase women’s participation in the wereda structure is very minimal so that the chance to get women leaders in wereda sectors, except women office, is very low. Leadership, as they explained it, is exclusively based on one’s political affiliation not gender. However, there is affirmative action in case of training programs and career development in the wereda level.

Since 2006, the wereda has taken initiatives to organise women in different service co-operatives as to enhance women’s participation in the economic sphere. For instance, there are women who engaged in spinning, weaving, cash-crop production (vegetable) and ranching. Before they start to organise themselves in co-operative, the wereda had provided training and credit. There are also NGOs which provided the co-operatives with vegetable seedlings, credit and so on.

There is an intervention by the wereda to increase women’s land right. Among these, awareness creation through meetings and conferences was the major means to provide the people with knowledge about it. In addition, the wereda declared the right of women to have a land registration book. Above all, in court cases related to women’s land rights, the wereda administration bargains with the wereda court in such a way as to give priority to the women’s cases.

There is an intervention by the government as well as NGOs to enhance girls’ education. Fre Addis is a fund released by the deceased former Prime minister of Ethiopia, Ato Meles Zenawi, to support those girls who are interested in continuing their education but facing economic problem to do that by themselves. Currently, there are 18 girls, who are between grade 9 to 12, getting the benefit. They get 1000 Birr each year. Based on this support, there are female students who joined private colleges as well as universities.

In terms of education accessibility, each school in all kebeles register those girls as well as boys whose age is around seven.

## Vulnerable women

Widows, divorced as well as women who migrate from the rural part of the community to the town part of the wereda could be considered as vulnerable women. In addition women with HIV/AIDS could be also belong to this group.

Although there is no special programme to support vulnerable women from the government or the non-governmental organisation, there are different interventions which could benefit vulnerable groups from both sex.

The HIV/AIDS Fund for Government Employees was established around 2008 to support those HIV victim government employees as well as their families. Initially the association’s source of budget was contributions of 0.5% of the salary of each government employee. However, within few months, they bought an Isuzu car which enables them to get flexibility in their budget since the car is rented out and they can generate income. Thereafter, they extended their support coverage to those orphans who lost their parents as well as those children who themselves are victims of the virus. Currently, there are 47 beneficiaries. In addition, there are around 100 people who are getting benefit under the association named ‘Yenegew Sew’. It was established by federal HIV control office around 2009.

Beside this, the Global Fund is providing clothes for 565 orphans twice in a year. The Global Fund has also been providing credit with training to support those households who are rearing child of their relatives to engaged in any income generating activities. It was started in 2011 and till now 45 households are beneficiaries.

The most successful intervention against vulnerable women is the work of ‘Fre Addis’ because it enables females to continue their education when it seems impossible without it.

And, they proposed the organisation of community-based interventions to give long term solutions for the problems.