# Girar General Election 2010

During my stay in the research site, I came to know that the people are very busy with the election. In the first round of our research, there were different committees organized to conduct the registration of the people. Especially from women associations, there were some elected women who give election cards for the people every Sunday morning. When we went for the second round of the field work, the time was very close to the election. Everyone was busy. In almost all of the government offices, the higher officials were out in the community carrying out election campaign. In the offices we went to get the support letter to the kebele, we learnt that there were representatives.

In the election campaign, all members of the kebele cabinet were included. There was frequent meeting of the kebele cabinet including the school director, the kebele chair and vice chair, DAs and health post workers. However, later on, the DAs were sent back to work in the community. There was a circular from the wereda mentioning that development workers and health extension workers should not be involved in the election affairs.

Though there is no opposition party in the area, the election campaign was very strong. In my informal conversations with some people from the campaign team, I heard that their mission was to get every possible vote. In the absence of any opposition party, it would be shameful if the people do not participate in the election. In the history of the wereda, this year is the first in which there is no opposition party.