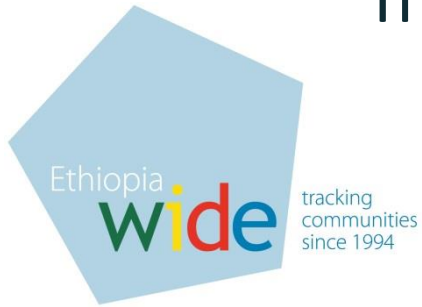


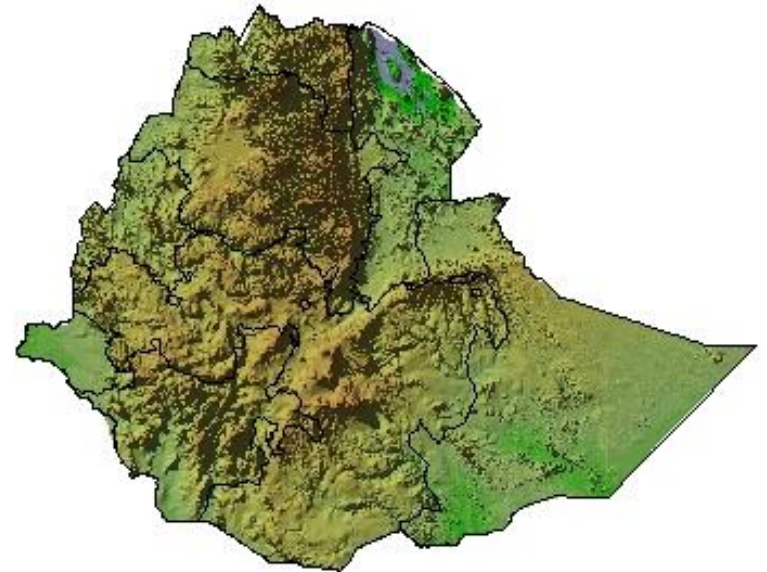
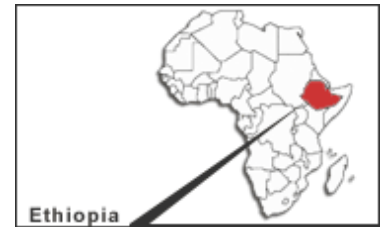
Tracking Ethiopian rural communities since 1994: dynamics, diversity, and policy consequences



Pip Bevan, Catherine Dom, Alula Pankhurst, Sarah Vaughan
working through Mokoro Ltd

www.ethiopiawide.net

Seminar at ODI, 2 November 2016



Outline of talk

- The evolution of Ethiopia's rural communities since 1991
- The WIDE longitudinal, qualitative, case-based study of twenty exemplar rural communities 1994-2013
- Some lessons from the operation (or absence) of government interventions to promote change in six sectors in the WIDE communities:
 - *Community management*: top-down policies, government structures, implementation techniques
 - *Diversifying rural mixed economies*: farming interventions, non-farm interventions
 - *Rurbanising rural places*: internal road & paths, irrigation and drinking water structures
 - *Human development and well-being*: youth in transition to adulthood – education, work, migration
 - *The field of ideas*: Government promotion of innovation and learning
- WIDE3 engagement with the Government of Ethiopia 2009-16

Changes affecting Ethiopia's rural communities 1991- 2016

- By 2014 estimated population = 99 million; an estimated 25,000 rural *kebeles*
- 1991: military/socialist regime in power from 1974 overthrown by rebel factions led by Tigrayans
- From 1991: revolutionary democracy then developmental state
- 1995: multinational federalism
- 2002: deepening of *wereda*/district-level decentralisation
- From 2002 Ethiopia entered a period of rapid modernisation
 - 2002-5 The first donor-supported 'poverty reduction strategy paper - SDPRP
 - 2005-15 PASDEP; GTP
 - 2015-20 Growth and Transformation Plan II

Changes affecting Ethiopia's rural communities 2003-13

Major modernisation processes

- Population growth; increasing life expectancies; healthier, better-fed, more educated and aspiring people...
- Increasing connectivity and relations with the outside world: urbanisation, roads, mobile phones, radio, (satellite) TV, urban and international migration and linkages..
- Increasing influx of ideas from outside: developmental, religious, political..
- Economic growth, diversifying economies, increasing average wealth and incomes, increasing economic inequality as rich get richer...
- Improvements for women, longer youth transitions to adulthood, child-rearing changes...

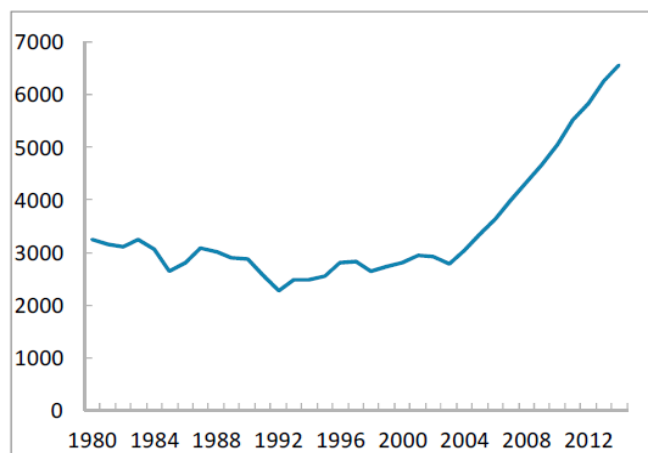
Government development interventions

- Increasing penetration of rural communities by infrastructures and economic, human development, social, cultural and political interventions
- 103 different interventions identified in WIDE communities in 2013

Accelerating development

- Under-five mortality halved between 2000 and 2011
- Largest safety net programme in Africa to address chronic food insecurity (2005 – to date)

Figure 1. Ethiopia: GDP per capita
(in constant 2010 birr)



Source: IMF Staff Estimates.

Figure 1: Percentage of primary school-age children out of school, 1999-2008²

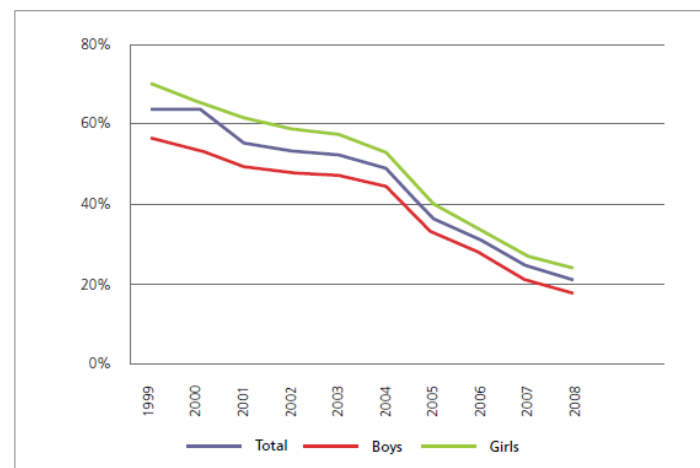
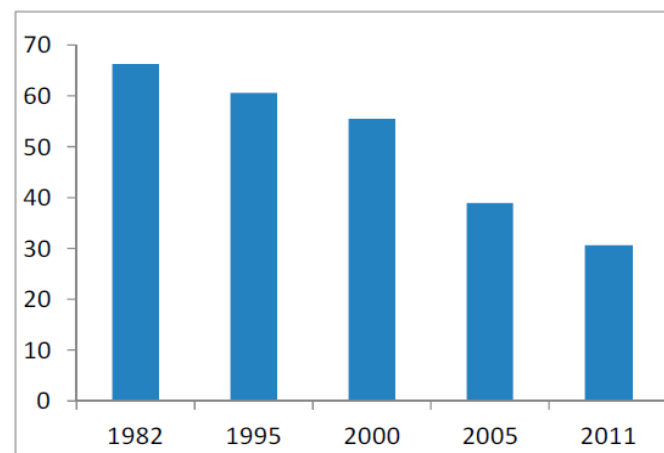


Figure 2. Ethiopia: Poverty Headcount Ratio at US\$1.25 a day (PPP)
(in percent of population)



Source: World Development Indicators, WB.

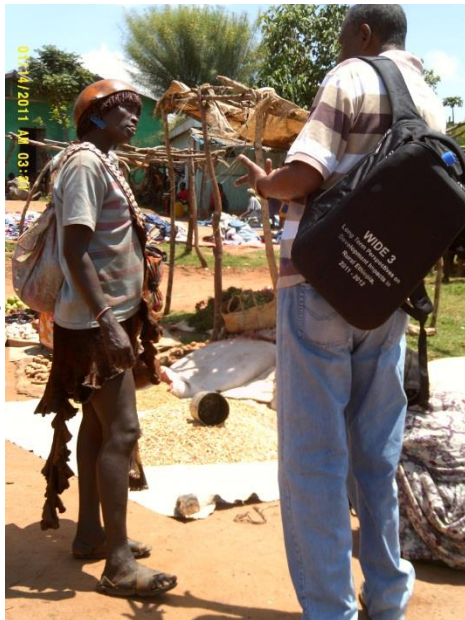
WIDE3 researcher workshop



Nursery manager interview

The WIDE research

Field
worker

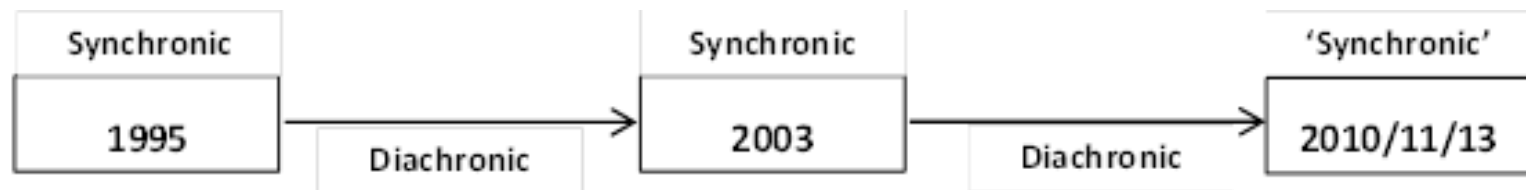


Visiting a
coffee
processing
plant

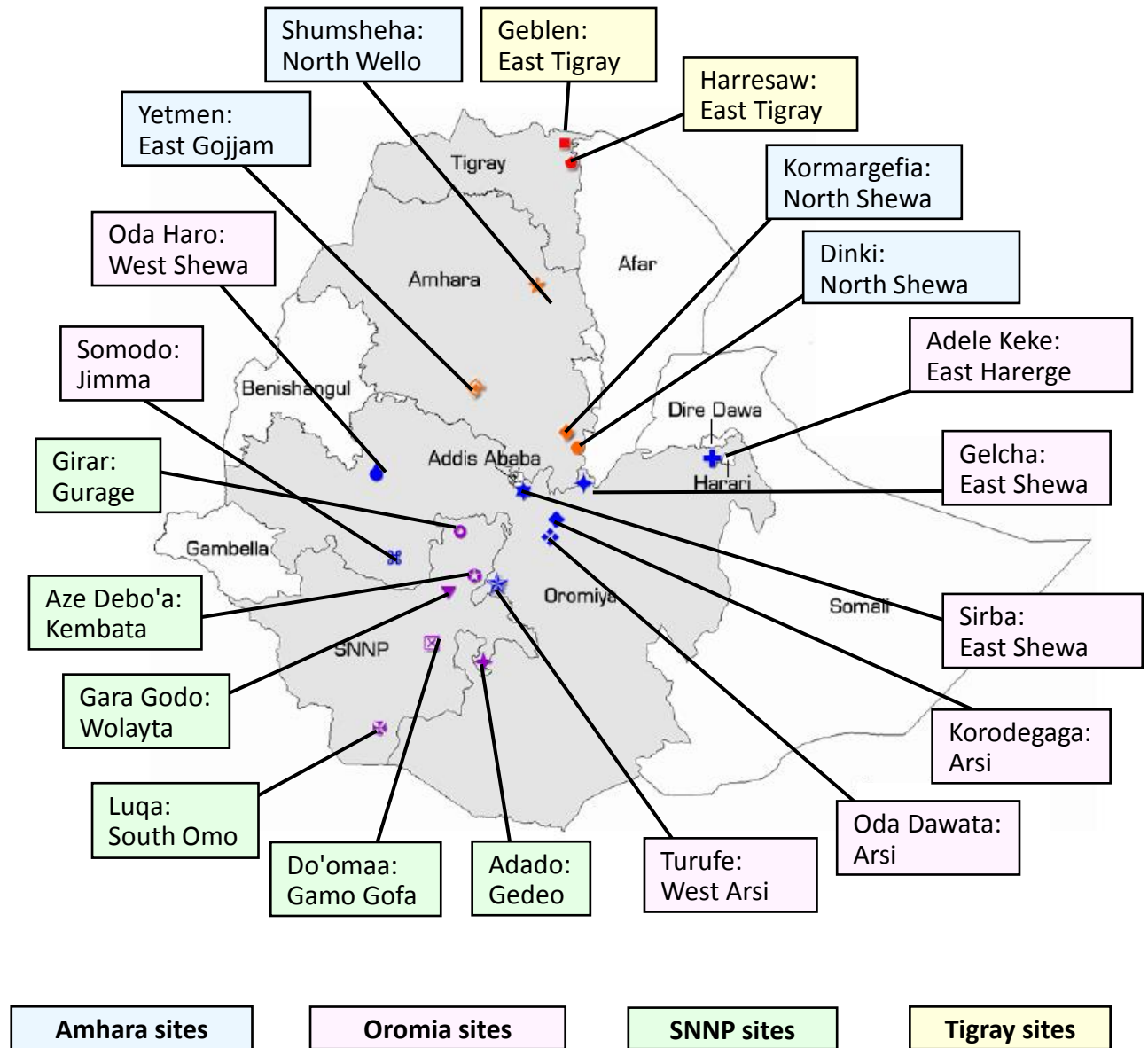


WIDE research 1994/5, 2003, 2009-13

- WIDE1 1994/5: protocol-guided sociological/historical studies in fifteen rural communities chosen to exemplify *Ethiopia's main farming systems* (UK ODA funded)
- WIDE2 2003: re-visit to the fifteen communities; addition of five new exemplar communities (ESRC funded)
- WIDE3 2009-13: re-visit to the twenty communities in three stages – early 2010 - 6, late 2011 - 8, early and late 2013 - 6 (funded by donors based in Addis Ababa)
- Data used in synchronic comparative case-based analyses and diachronic investigations of continuity and change



The WIDE communities by Region and Zone





Different kinds of rural communities





Drought-prone agriculture site



Pastoralist site

Coffee-producing site

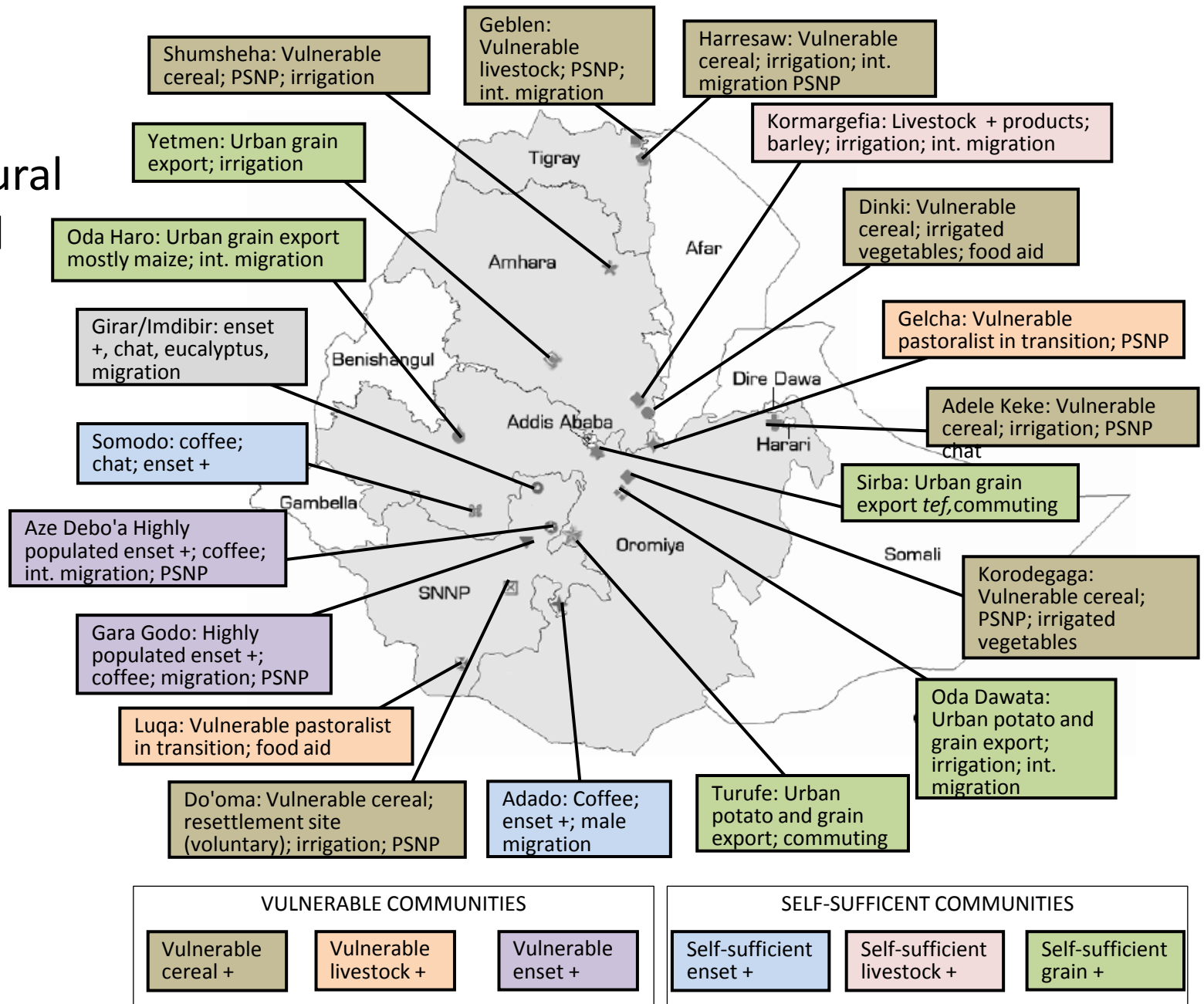


Diverse rural livelihood systems

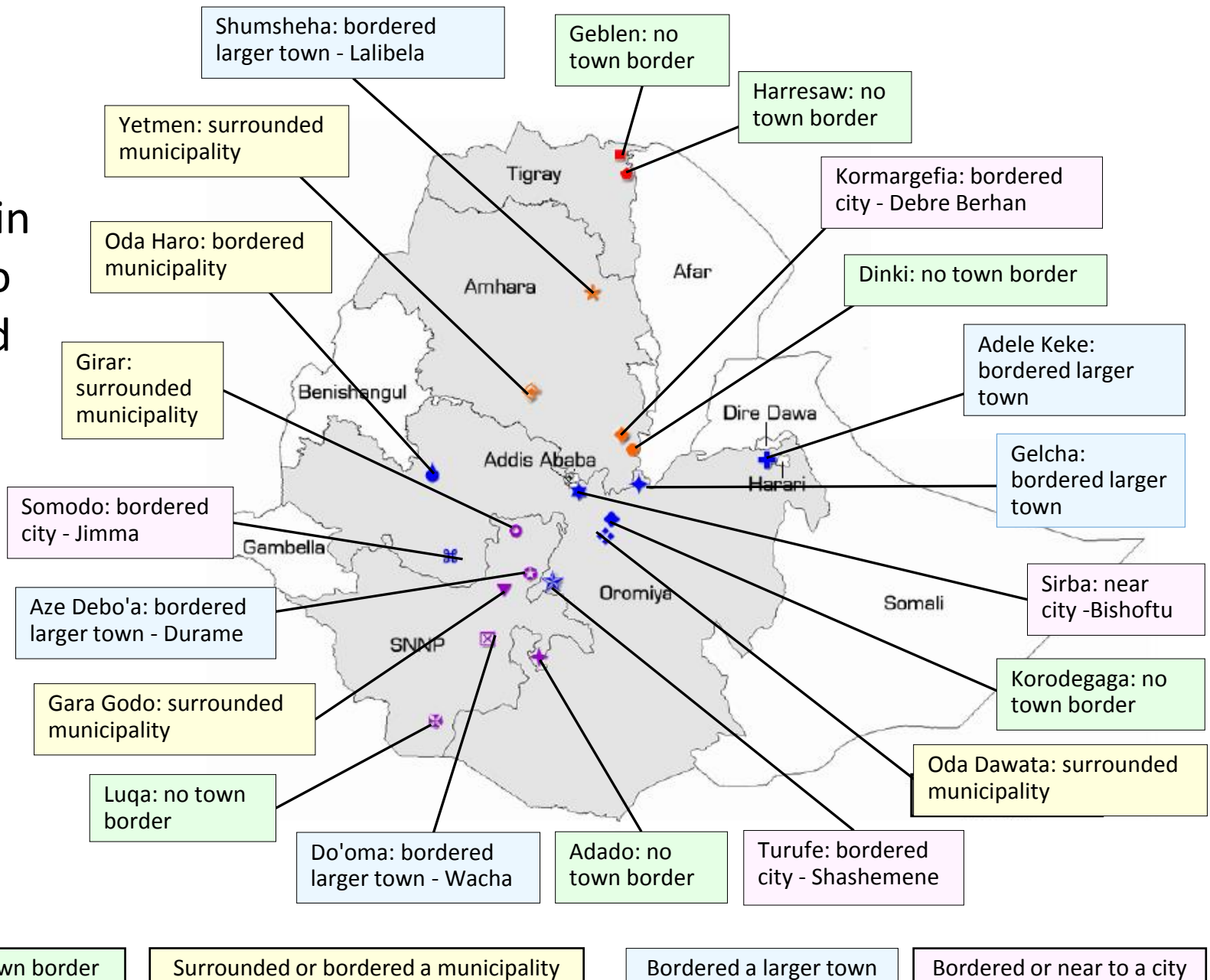
Cash-crop site



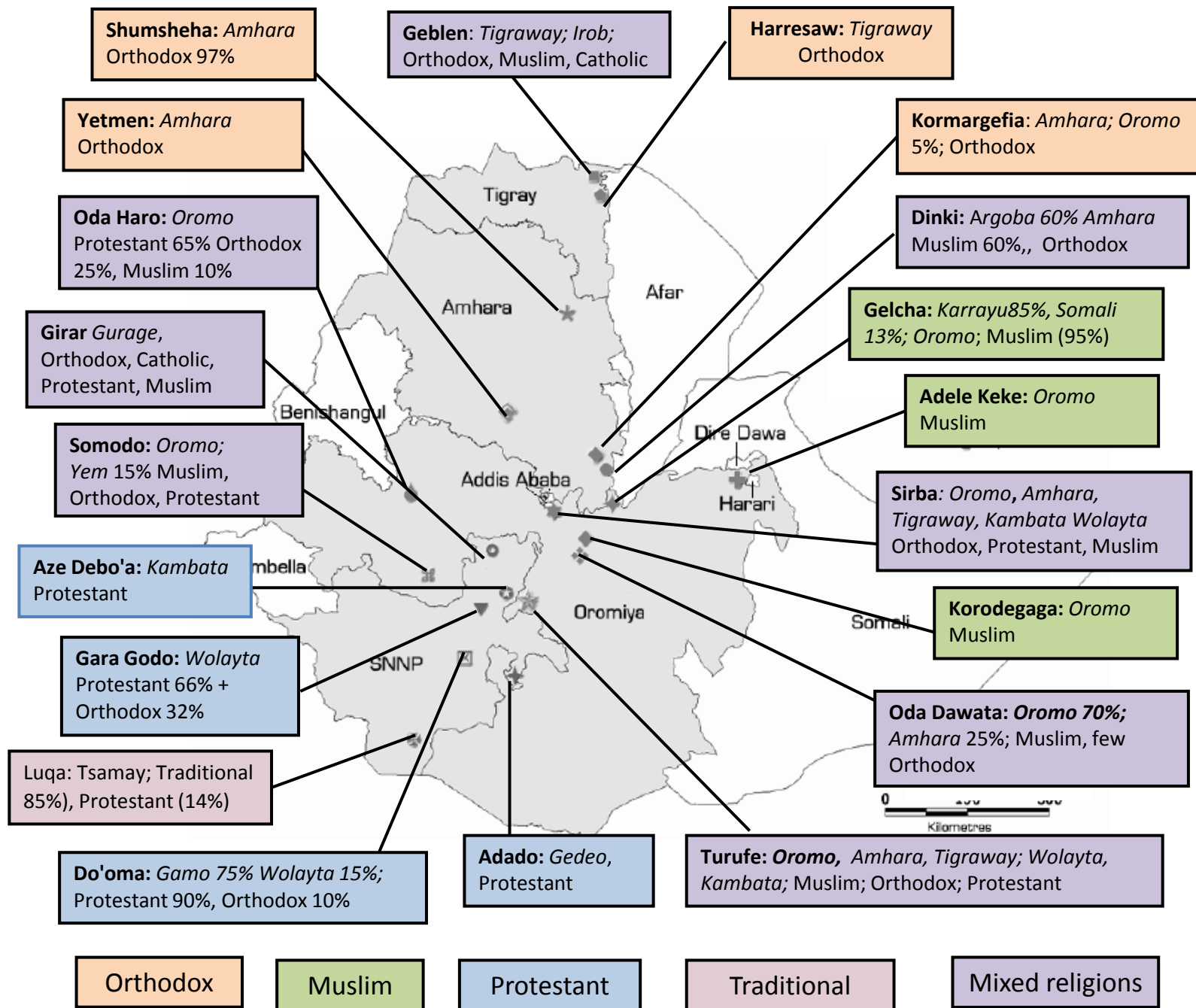
Diverse rural livelihood systems



Diverse locations in relation to towns and cities



Diverse cultures and religions



Different kinds of people living in the communities





Wind-powered water pump



Vet at work

Over a hundred development interventions in each community

Electricity supply



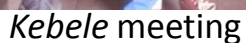
Training at the Health Post

Conceptual framework

- *Rural community systems* are composed of (dynamic and interacting) material eco-systems and five institutional sub-systems, which are both domains of power and fields of social action.
- *Development interventions* are socio-material systems inserted into community sub-systems with the intention of bringing changes to people, institutions and the physical landscape.
- Community systems and development interventions *co-evolve*.
- *The fate of an individual intervention* in a community depends on
 - how well it connects with the place, the people, the culture, and the relevant community institutions;
 - and the time and resources people are expected to contribute to it, and to other concurrent interventions.

Examples of development interventions in this talk

Interacting community sub-systems	Development intervention examples
Community management domain	Top-down policies; <i>kebele</i> and party structures; implementation techniques
Diversifying mixed rural economies	Agricultural extension; non-farm extension
Rurbanising rural places	Internal roads & paths; irrigation & drinking water structures
Human development and well-being	Youth in transition – education, work, migration
The field of ideas	Learning & innovation – top-down techniques



In the *kebele* office

Community management domain

Posted budget

[illegible]

Characteristics of good governance



Models & Realities of “Transformation”

- ? Qualitative process over quantitative targets
- ? Balance between 3 branches of government
- ? Decision-making by women and young people
- 1) Locally designed/tailored packages
- 2) Workloads and citizen relations
- 3) Kebele manager - kebele executive relations
- 4) Efficacy/reach of system of “models”
- -> problematisation of “governance” practice

Packages suited to each community

- “one size does not fit all”
- Local prioritisation of investments
- Growth/diversification of local economies
 - new peri-urban opportunities
 - Market impact of micro-level infrastructure
 - MSEs’ expansion beyond wereda-level towns
 - Socio-economic stratification
- Need to improve kebele feedback, innovation
- “coercion” & consensus in developmental change

Workloads and inclusion

- Concentration of responsibilities amongst a few individuals associated with the kebele/political structures leads to....
- frustration, exhaustion, low motivation
- -> difficult for economically successful to join?
- -> undermines patterns of interaction?
- -> undermines “developmental consensus”?
- -> drives complaints re nepotism, corruption?

“Kebele managers are like salt: they go everywhere”

- Lynchpin of development model
- Key entry point for accountability, oversight
- Complex relationship with kebele executives
- Policy/research focus on good practice and relationships of KMs?



Working through “models”

- Real efficacy of “trickle down” from models?
- Disconnect between popular & local govt view
- Comparison between DAs and HEWs
- Flashpoints for policy monitoring:
 - Less wealthy or more vulnerable communities?
 - Groups that remain outside system?
 - Wealthy models and poorer salariat?
- How to harness positives of “kulakisation”?



Diversifying rural mixed economies



Features of the local economies

COMMON FEATURES

Economic structure:

- Smallholder farming
- Non-farm small and petty enterprise sectors (of varying sizes)
- Community-based agricultural & non-farm employment

Mixed economies:

- Government initiatives, regulation and control interacting with, or ignoring, private economic initiatives

Rurbanisation and thickening rural-urban links

Migrating for work – different mixes of agricultural, urban, industrial, international

FEATURES OF SOME COMMUNITIES

- **Commuting** for work in non-farm medium and large enterprises
- **Urban expansion** into the kebele land

Common social structures

Different types of household relying on *different mixes of income sources*

(i) Landed households:

1. self-supporting from big farming and sometimes relatively big business; may share-crop or rent in more land
2. mostly self-supporting on farm but also rely on other activities
3. those who do some farming but rely more heavily on other activities
4. those renting or share-cropping their land out and (1) working on other activities or (2) relying on informal social protection

(ii) Landless households:

1. farming through renting/share-cropping others' land plus other activities
2. those only involved in non-farm private activities or employment (sometimes very successfully)
3. hand-to-mouth activities - daily labour; wood/grass selling; petty trade
4. destitute relying on informal social protection

Differences among the local economies

16 communities: export crops + subsistence

- *8 self-sufficient - leading export crops - richer*
 - maize and potatoes – 1; maize and red peppers – 1
 - wheat and potatoes – 1
 - *tef* and chickpeas – 1; *tef* and wheat - 1
 - coffee – 2 + maize
 - *chat* and eucalyptus - 1
- *8 drought-prone and aid-reliant – subsistence crops + exports - poorer*
 - root crops + coffee, PSNP (2)
 - maize + *chat*, PSNP (1); maize + irrigated vegetables and fruit, PSNP(2)
 - maize + irrigated vegetables and fruit, annual EFA (1)
 - sorghum, *tef* + irrigated vegetables and fruit , PSNP(1)
 - barley + irrigated vegetables and fruit, PSNP + EFA (1)

4 communities: livestock the leading product + subsistence

- 1 self-sufficient settled: cattle most important + wheat/barley; irrigation
- 1 vulnerable settled: shoats most important + grain, PSNP, small irrigation
- 1 vulnerable agro-pastoralist : camels, cattle, shoats PSNP, small irrigation
- 1 vulnerable: cattle and shoats EFA, small irrigation

Agricultural extension

Agricultural extension focused mainly on the **‘traditional’ crops**: maize, wheat, barley, *tef*, and involved advice on fertiliser, improved seeds and improved farming techniques such as planting in line

Development Agents dealt mainly with **selected Model Farmers** (including a few women); other farmers were meant to observe their success and methods and copy

In many of the communities, including the drought-prone ones, all farmers were **‘forced’ to take fertiliser**; in some places on credit, although this was not available by 2013 due to the build-up of outstanding debts

By 2013 **livestock extension** had become more aligned with market forces with some promotion of livestock fattening and milk production in rural areas with urban links

There was increasing extension attention to **coffee** in the four coffee-growing sites

Individual farmer initiatives outside the extension system

Established and successful cash crops not supported by the extension services:

- eucalyptus (Kormargefia, Girar), *chat* (Adele Keke, Somodo), potatoes (Turufe, Oda Dawata),

Farmers responding to good prices for products not previously grown

- spices (Do'oma), sesame (Luqa), tomatoes (Oda Haro, Somodo, Korodegaga, Do'oma...), other vegetables, fruit...

Use of irrigation to produce vegetables and fruit for urban export

- In many cases irrigation was not the result of government action or support was minimal

Livestock fattening and milk production – in response to urban demand

The WIDE evidence suggests the importance of

- individual entrepreneurship in decision-making for success
- tailoring extension to respond to farmer initiatives
- tailoring extension to fit different kinds of livelihood system
- tailoring extension to fit different kinds of farmer
- agricultural research institutes which work closely with local farmers

Non-farm activities on the increase

The extent of the increase **varied among the communities** depending on their proximity to towns of different sizes and/or the density and reach of their urban networks.

Private enterprise within and beyond the community

- trading local products – big, middle, small and petty
- other service enterprises – retailing, hospitality & leisure, repairs, transport, personal care etc
- manufacturing – e.g. furniture, farming tools, food-processing
- construction – skilled inputs to houses and public buildings, labouring
- natural resource enterprises – stone, sand, wood, grass and charcoal selling (various sizes of enterprise)

Community employment – local enterprises, government, wage farm & non-farm labour

Commuting for rural/urban formal or informal work

Agricultural, urban & international **migration** for periods of varying length

Government support for non-farm business activities

- Little support for non-farm activities for **adult men**
- Emphasis on (not very successful) **service co-operatives** for supplying inputs and buying outputs
- Not very much support for non-farm activities for **women and youth**
- What there was required them to organise themselves in **co-operatives**; very few successes
- There was **not sufficient demand** for some co-operatives' products or services
- For some non-farm activities individual entrepreneurs just needed **access to credit** (various problems)
- For other more skilled activities need for **packages** mixing training, access to credit, and often access to small plots of land



Rurbanising rural places



Beseka bridge - Gelcha



Road from Luqa to Arba Minch

Infrastructures: internal roads

- **Not very extensive in** most communities; many parts not accessible at any time by vehicles
- Almost completely **dryweather** in all communities
- Internal use of vehicles **impossible during the rains**; walking difficult on muddy roads and paths
- Affected ease of internal and external travel for residents: particular problems for **health emergencies**
- Also affected the **ease of exporting** grain, potatoes, other vegetables, fruit, coffee, *chat*, milk, eucalyptus trees, stone, sand, and gravel and **importing** modern inputs and machinery
- **PSNP, EFA and community Public Works** had contributed to improvements in, and maintenance of dryweather roads
- But without **wereda technical and financial assistance** communities could not deal with difficult terrains
- People in richer busier communities **reluctant to engage in Public Works** – in these places may be a case for employing (skilled) labour to work on the roads

Irrigation structures in the WIDE3 communities

Community	Location	Irrigation
Harresaw	Remote	X
Geblen	Remote	x
Adado	Remote	
Luqa	Remote	x
Korodegaga	Remote	X
Dinki	Remote	X
Oda Haro	Border municipality	X
Oda Dawata	Borders municipality	x
Yetmen	Borders municipality	x
Girar	Borders municipality	
Gara Godo	Borders municipality	
Shumsheha	Borders larger town	x
Adele Keke	Borders larger town	X
Aze Debo'a	Borders larger town	x
Do'oma	Borders larger town	X
Gelcha	Borders larger town	x
Somodo	Borders city	x
Kormargefia	Borders city	X
Turufe	Borders city	
Sirba	Borders industrial area	x

The size of the X reflects the relative size of the irrigation

Infrastructure: irrigation

- Irrigation was a major factor of **differentiation** among the communities and among their households
- And a major factor of success for many of the **successful individuals**, contributing to elite wealth creation
- Shifts economic interests/opportunities, generates a range of **knock-on effects**
 - Allows **experiments** with diverse cash crops
 - Creates demand and opportunities for **daily labour**
 - **Strengthens local cash economies**
 - Strengthens **local market networks** and rural relations with traders
 - Enables **diversification** of livelihoods and improved **nutrition**
- WIDE evidence suggests
 - The need for **public investment** when building and maintaining the structures is beyond the farmers' capacity
 - It should be developed on **different scales** and using **different technologies** in different places (e.g. rivers, wells, reservoirs, gravity canals, pumps, drip irrigation)
 - **Specialised advice**, maybe involving agricultural research institutes

Drinking water structures in the WIDE3 communities

Community	Location	Safe drinking water
Harresaw	Remote	x
Geblen	Remote	x
Adado	Remote	x
Luqa	Remote	x
Korodegaga	Remote	
Dinki	Remote	
Oda Haro	Border municipality	x
Oda Dawata	Borders municipality	x
Yetmen	Borders municipality	X
Girar	Borders municipality	x
Gara Godo	Borders municipality	x
Shumsheha	Borders larger town	x
Adele Keke	Borders larger town	X
Aze Debo'a	Borders larger town	X
Do'oma	Borders larger town	X
Gelcha	Borders larger town	
Somodo	Borders city	x
Kormargefia	Borders city	x
Turufe	Borders city	x
Sirba	Borders industrial area	X

The size of the X reflects the community coverage of safe drinking water

Infrastructure: drinking water

- **Sixteen** of the communities had **some safe water infrastructures** including eight which were drought-prone
- Many of the waterpoints provided by **donors and/or NGOs**
- In a number of communities long delays in getting repairs – **shortages of plumbers and spare parts**
- **Routine maintenance problems** related to inadequate community institutions for managing waterpoints, lack of training for local people, and difficulties raising the money to pay for repairs
- Signs of **privatisation of water supplies**: waterpoint constructed with community contributions in one community; borehole dug for water sale in another
- People in two communities unhappy about construction of waterpoints on their land which **pipd water to nearby towns**; in one this had led to rationing

Internal roads, safe water & irrigation: luck of the draw

- The design and implementation of these three kinds of infrastructure did not receive much wereda and kebele attention
- In comparison considerable Government energy and investment was devoted to campaigns for health, education, agriculture and political programmes
- There were no paid government officials based in *kebeles* with responsibility for these infrastructures
- Wereda officials had responsibility for these infrastructures in 20 or more kebeles
- Government might consider establishing an infrastructure extension service for rural areas
- This could also take some responsibility for the installation of electricity infrastructure

Electricity coverage in the WIDE3 communities

Community	Location	Electricity
Harresaw	Remote	x
Geblen	Remote	x
Adado	Remote	X
Luqa	Remote	
Korodegaga	Remote	
Dinki	Remote	
Oda Haro	Border municipality	
Oda Dawata	Borders municipality	x
Yetmen	Borders municipality	x
Girar	Borders municipality	x
Gara Godo	Borders municipality	x
Shumsheha	Borders larger town	x
Adele Keke	Borders larger town	x
Aze Debo'a	Borders larger town	x
Do'oma	Borders larger town	
Gelcha	Borders larger town	
Somodo	Borders city	x
Kormargefia	Borders city	x
Turufe	Borders city	x
Sirba	Borders industrial area	X

The size of the X reflects the community coverage by electricity

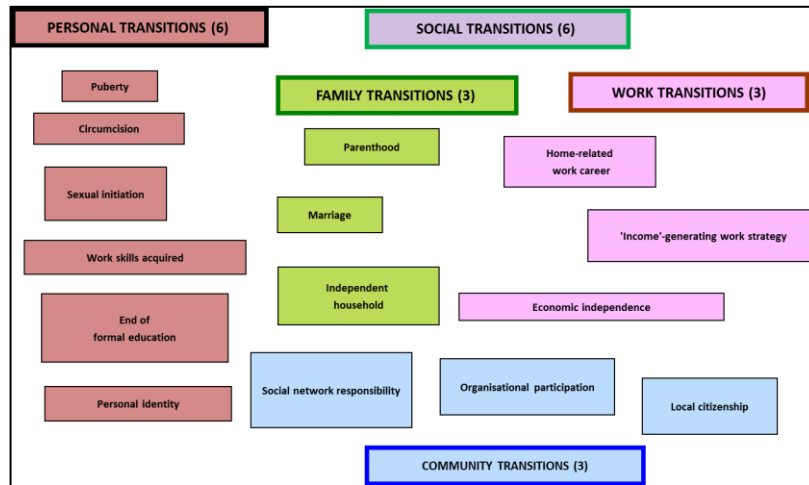


Human development and well-being

Youth in transition to adulthood, education, work, migration



Youth transitions to adulthood and interventions



15 gendered transitions, **not thought through 'together' in policy/interventions.**

- Focus on young women's reproductive and young men's productive roles.
- No attention to young people establishing independent households.

Case study: GOE interventions related to early marriage

- *Standard package*: variable mixes of variably strongly implemented law/ban (<18), government-led 'awareness-raising', school clubs, age checks etc.
- Overlook strong rationales (protection from risks), cultural variations (<15 in 5 communities, >15 in 12) & policy differences (pre-, mid-, late-teen marriage).
- Focus on 'surface' (age) rather than social norms (girls'/young women's agency).
- Overlook importance of alternative transition paths (education, skill training, job) and potential of alternative means of protection (e.g. access to contraception).
- Ban/enforcement indispensable but need to go hand-in-hand with 'convincing'; effectiveness of 'local coalitions', and potential of reaching out to men.

Education as a path to a better life and to work

Considerable achievements but **large differences** between more integrated/historically better served **communities** (hundreds of secondary/higher education leavers) and remoter ones (fewer than 10 enrolled in secondary).

Large gap between **rich & poor children/youth**, with lifelong consequences. **Gender gap** closing in early school years, much less after the first few years.

GOE package - Strong focus on UPE, successively adding focus on quality; access to general secondary & university expansion; TVET & ECCD. Ten years (primary & general secondary) before trying prep/univ or formal TVET.

- Overlook differences between areas/schools (e.g. standard capitation grant); in children/families' ability to afford costs (e.g. no scholarships, no systematic waiving of school contributions for the poor).
- Unresponsive to realities for instance
- Child work: social norm, necessity for many, clashed with full-day attempts
- Many 'drop-out-and-in' trajectories: yet little focus on distance education, rigidity in transitions evening/day classes, no modularisation except TVET.

Education as a path to a better life and to work (2)

- Approach to promoting **girls' education** (e.g. separate toilets at school) overlooking other constraints specific to females (e.g. young married women, unmarried young mothers very rarely allowed to continue).



Only starting to pay attention to '**education for what**' question

- Increasing numbers of 'educated' youth with no further education prospect & little/no preparation to work. Esp. acute in 'progressive' communities.
- System overly academically focused, expectations geared accordingly. TVET expanded later than university, 'second best', strong doubt on worthiness.
- Mismatch expectations/locally available options...
- Could be partly addressed, we suggested, through stronger focus on skill development training (incl in mainstream cursus), pre-grade 10 TVET options, and promotion of 'blue-collar' jobs.
- Would support GOE goal of structurally transforming Ethiopia's economy.
- Skilled technicians should become increasingly in demand in 'transforming' rural communities.

Transition to work/economic independence

Evidence of longer, more complex transitions to work/economic independence.

Constrained access to land, limited local job options & access to capital/credit, combined with mismatch between expectations and available options.

Various forms of migration as one response. Cases of youth entrepreneurship. Market demand matters (more options in better connected communities).

GOE youth package, rural youth job creation initiative – Requires group-forming, savings to access credit; little attention to young women, market demand for product.

Little success. Few non-agric youth co-ops (stone/sand quarry), but even those may fail after a few years due to management/leadership issues, insufficient marketing/technical skills etc.

Lack of support to Micro/Small Enterprise creation in rural areas (*kebele* centres).

Too much focus?



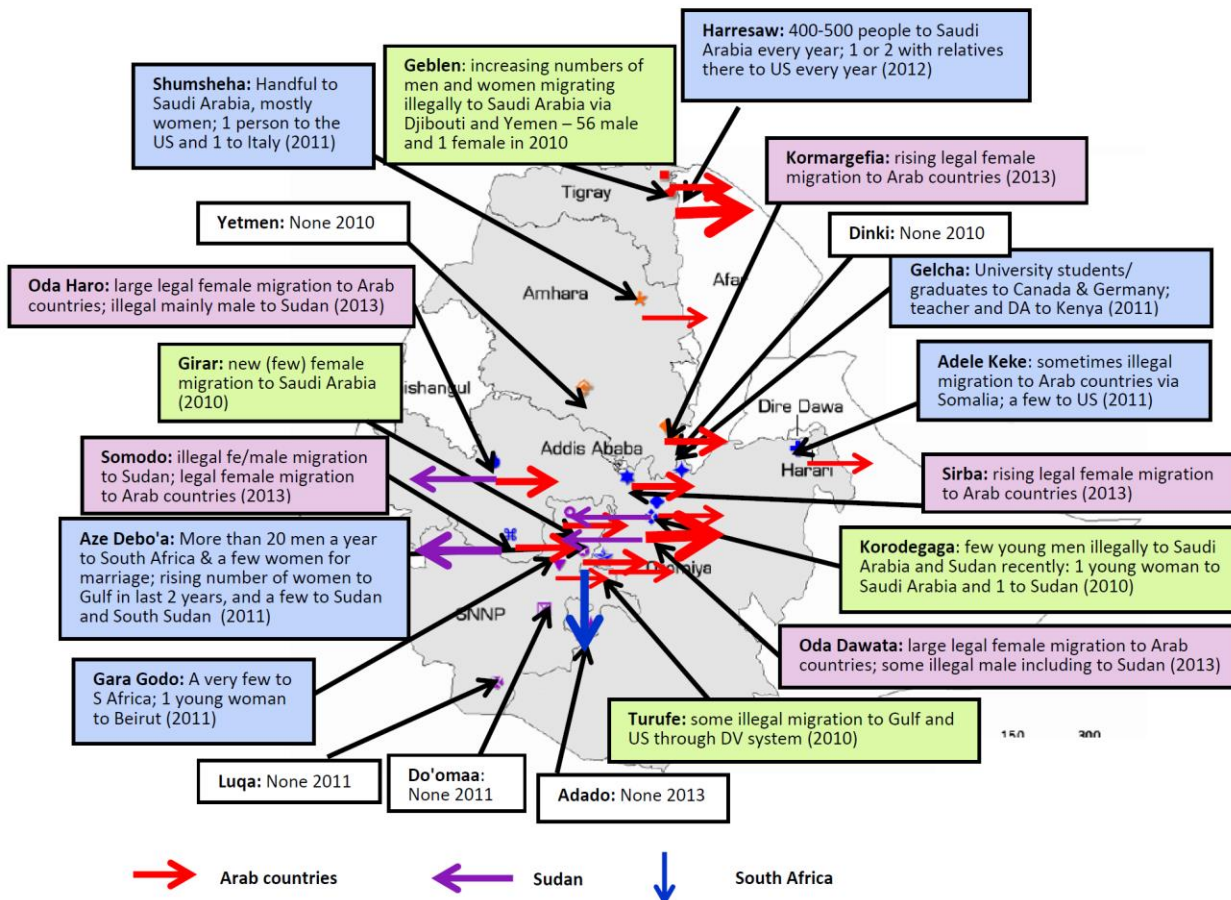
Too little support?



Migration as a pathway to fulfil aspirations

- Rural outmigration for work: more people (women & youth), diverse destinations (towns, factories, farms, abroad) & durations (commuting, seasonal, years...)
- A product of development and higher aspirations. Young people esp., faced with limited local options, want to 'change their life'.

Map of international migration in WIDE communities



- Urban/industrial migration in all communities; 'important' in twelve.
- Costs small compared to migration abroad; reduced pressure on local resources (land), one fewer mouth to feed.
- But often precarious life, small returns, exploitation (esp. women, in domestic or hospitality work, sometimes mixed with prostitution).

Migration as a pathway (2)

- **Migration abroad**, important in both striving/struggling communities.
- Gendered pattern: could be legal for young women (housemaids in Gulf county till Nov 2013), rarely so for young men.
- Costly so poorer people make riskier choices to be able to travel.
- Irregular migration was risky; legal migration not without risks too; risks known but insufficient deterrent for many.
- When successful, considerable positive effects at individual, household & community level: wellbeing (housing etc.), social protection (e.g. support to elderly parents), human development investment (e.g. siblings' education), local economic investment, diversification and strengthening of rural-urban links.
- Yet *policies generally unsupportive* – Examples
 - In Ethiopia - No labour information system, restrictions on urban migrants' access to MSE support, little focus on enforcement of existing labour laws and regulations in factories, domestic and hospitality services.
 - Migration abroad – Banned from Nov 2013 to Feb 2016; led to uptick in far riskier irregular migration. New Proclamation: unrealistic requirements (Gr8 + COC but no such TVET options), not yet operational.



The field of ideas



Government-led “technology transfer”

- Ethiopia has **assertive, innovative systems** of developmental outreach that are key to change, but...
- **one size does not fit all**: tech transfer/packages/models \neq well **tailored, communicated, piloted/demo'ed**
- ➔ outcomes could be improved by **closer attention** to:
 - *specificity of **very local opportunities** for learning/innov.*
 - *sophistication of **informal social knowledge diffusion & local calculations of interest** that underpin them*
 - *developmental potential of **individual/“outlier” innov.***
-local nuance = hard to capture by **quantitative targets / national packages.**
- **“attitude change” plans** need careful nuancing:
 - Change = function of economic opps & resources as well

Agricultural innovation & its wider effects

- Agric/other rural innovation = **extremely vigorous/diverse**
- **irrigation** shifts economic interests/opps > farmers expanding
 - *experiences of diverse and/or cash crop prod't'n*
 - *Demand & opps for wage/daily labour & local cash economies*
 - *local market networks & rural relations with traders;*
 - *diversification of livelihoods/food consumption for nutrition*
 - *Rural/urban linkages/connectivity*
 - *Food security in insecure sites & wealth creation by an elite*
- ➔ **rural job creation** should exploit all aspects of micro socio-econ change around irrigation: new demands, new opps
- ➔ irrigation should **innovate cautiously, spreading risk**
- ➔ should **develop at different scales** in/for different sites
- ➔ links between **irrigation & pastoralism** need care

Social patterns of knowledge diffusion, learning, change

- Innov./learning reinforces across sectors, beliefs, practices
- Innovation across all social/demographic groups/sectors
- Learning = **non-linear, unpredictable, very localised**
 - Exemplars often ≠ formal models: neighbours including resettled, returnees/migrants, students, other family members
- innov from rural individuals' growing **entrepreneurialism++**
 - *connects to **emergent inequality, growth of small urban centres***
 - *micro-economic innovation (e.g animal fattening, milk) **v sensitive to price fluctuations** particularly (not only) in AGP areas.*
- ➔ **rural job creation, incomes, production** : beyond MSEs
- ➔ Not everyone can innovate: many who do draw on **non-technical / technological resources & skills**



Engaging with the Government of Ethiopia

A cautious, evolutionary approach

Government is... more assured of its own directions, of its entitlement to set the development agenda, and of its stature vis-à-vis donors than are the governments of many other low-income countries...

Furtado & Smith, 2007. Ethiopia: Aid, Ownership, and Sovereignty

The government has successfully retained full control of its development strategy, vis-à-vis both traditional and non-traditional development assistance flows, resisting external attempts to put in place greater policy engagement (or conditionality)...

Prizzon & Rogerson, 2013. The Age of Choice: Ethiopia in the new aid landscape.

An evolving process

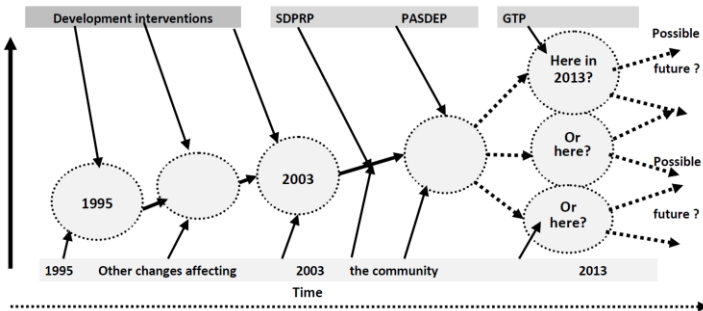
- WIDE1, WIDE2 more academically oriented. WIDE3 undertaken as policy-relevant academically rigorous research.
- Endorsed at high level (overlooked first, indispensable)
- Seeking to engage throughout (2009-2016)
 - Separately with ‘outsiders’ and GOE to address different models of how development should be pursued
 - With GOE: dedicated communication, senior level less defensive (*‘your data must be wrong’...*)
- In particular since 2013, seeking ways to use WIDE evidence more directly to inform policy-making and implementation
 - Fourteen (so far) topic-focused briefs, based on WIDE evidence, written ‘for GOE’ (topics identified in informal consultations).
 - First 5 by consultants, guidance from WIDE team; next 9 by WIDE team, guidance from Ethiopian non-government peer reviewers.
 - March 2014, March 2016: ‘Close door’ High Level Discussion Forum.

‘Bifurcated’ development models and conversations

Date	Engagement with government and DPs 2009-2016
Nov-Dec 2009	Workshops/meetings (4 DP groups) to present WIDE3 Stage 1 plan, consult on topics of interest
April 2010	Presentation of early findings from Stage 1 to the Netherlands Embassy, at their request
June 2010	Meetings/workshops to discuss Stage 1 main preliminary findings (6 DP groups, different sectors)
Sep 2011	Meetings to present Stage 2 plan and consult on key topics of relevance, with 7 donor groups
Dec 2011	Workshop for GOE officials (various agencies): Stage 1 findings, plan for Stage 2
Feb 2012	Meeting with State Minister MOFED: Stage 1 key findings, Stage 2 plan
June 2012	Dissemination meetings/workshops on Stage 2 main findings for discussion, with 6 donor groups
June 2012	Workshop for GOE officials (various agencies): Stage 2 preliminary findings, plan for Stage 3
Feb/Mar 2013	Consultation meetings to present Stage 3 and consult on key topics of relevance, with 2 donor groups
May 2013	Focusing on Stage 2 findings and ongoing Stage 3 research with DFID
Oct 2013	Meetings/workshops on Stage 3 first fieldwork findings to consult on final fieldwork focus, 3 groups
Oct 2013	Seperate meetings with State Minister MOFED and Minister of Agriculture: Stage 2 & Stage 3 findings
Mar 2014 (*)	High Level Discussion Forum on Policy Implications of WIDE3 research findings (focus on 5 topics) – with senior government officials including GTPII lead designer (National Planning Commission)
March 2014	Discussion Forum on WIDE3 briefs – with World Bank and other donors
Dec 2014	Bilateral meetings with DP groups: Heads of Agencies (DAG), interested agencies (DFID, Irish Aid, SIDA) – leading to agreement on ‘transition phase’ including preparation of 9 more topic-specific briefs
Dec 2014	Meeting with MOFEP State Minister to confirm GOE interest in topics, and in seeing WIDE taken forward
Sep15- Mar16	Close consultation with Ethiopian (non-government) peer reviewers for each topic/brief
Mar 2016	High Level Discussion Forum on 9 topics – with senior GOE officials and GOE-linked think tanks
Mar-Sep 2016	Meetings with DPs (agencies and groups) to present 9 analyses and table ‘next steps’ ideas
Planned	WIDE Book launch

An evolving process (2)

- ‘Discussion briefs’ (not ‘policy briefs’) – Draw on WIDE evidence to raise questions and possible implications for policymaking & implementation.



- Recognise and document progress (‘where things are coming from’) before raising ‘the way to go’ – Give a sense of trajectory.

- HLF with few seniors, face-to-face bilateral meetings with ministers: enabled cautious but frank discussions of the type of findings we presented today, said more diplomatically.
- Interest in findings, reflections and approach (“*stories behind the numbers, tell us why the numbers are what they are*”); recognition of diversity and implications (“*one size does not fit all*”).
- But (like for all ‘supertankers’) changing course is hard in practice.
- Shared with GOE/public: 3 research reports, 14 briefs, book (*), website.

What can be learned?

- What can be learned from the fact that GOE began to engage?
- Effectiveness of WIDE characteristics?
 - Attempt to be ideologically as neutral as possible, independent from donors' policy discourse and agendas
 - Headline message recognising huge broadly positive change
 - Giving leeway to address more sensitive issues through nuanced presentations of findings and possible suggestions
 - In dedicated space for engaging with government.
- WIDE as an exemplar of independent, policy-relevant research?
- Need more of this type, yet prevailing 'silo'/sector/programme approach among DPs makes it hard to find funding...



What next?

How do we make WIDE sustainable, to perpetuate its long-term nature?
Capitalising on GOE's (& DPs') interest; recognising constraints.

Longer term

- Think about, discuss, develop approach to gradually institutionalise WIDE
 - Ethiopian home
 - One of the ways GOE (and DPs) can follow-up change over the long run.

Ongoing/shorter term

- Enable more use of existing data: make it available (website, book).
- Further engagement with government (e.g. regional level) – need funding.
- Other analyses – need funding. We have ideas about a number of policy-relevant topics which could be usefully addressed using the existing WIDE data, some of them in conjunction with focused/small-scale new fieldwork.

Medium term

- WIDE4... Need larger-scale funding.