# Interviews with wereda officials re Geblen, East Tigray – Stage 1 questions

## Saesiatsaeda Emba wereda

There are many gaps in this document which are probably because the interventions do not exist.

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## Locating the kebele in the wereda

List of all the kebeles in the wereda:

1. **Geblen**
2. Marwa
3. Tahtai Ziban
4. Saesie
5. Kuma Subha
6. Meshul
7. Sewne
8. Welwalo
9. Asmena
10. Emba Mezewle
11. Hadush Hiwot
12. Edaga Hamus
13. Beleso
14. Hadush Adi
15. Raele
16. Hawile
17. Mai Megelta
18. Hangoda
19. Agazi
20. Sinkata
21. Freweini
22. Gula Benaa
23. Agamet
24. Guemese
25. Sendeda
26. Saze
27. Tsenkanet

Before 1994 Geblen, Marwa and Tahitay Ziban kebeles had been organised under kebele Geblen. Kebele Guemse and kebele Mariam Agamet had been organised Guemse Agamet. Kebele Asmena and Kebele Imba Mezewle had been organised Imba Simena. On the other hand kebele Tsenkanit had been a kebele organised under Wereda Hawzien.

### Comparison of Saesiatsaeda Emba wereda with neighbouring weredas

There are nine weredas in Eastern zone such as Hawzen, Erob, Ganta Afeshum, Saesie Tsaeda Emba and Kilte Awlaelo. Kilte Awlaelo is the first wereda in relative wealth while Saesie Tsaeda stood second or third but in general it is considered as medium. Hawzen is one of the weredas with low relative wealth.

Most of the weredas are almost the same in irrigation potential. Kilte Awlaelo has the best potential and Atsbi is good in natural resources management. Saesie has two small towns that made it to be considered as good in urban development as Edaga Hamus is well developing. There is low private land acquisition is Saesie Tsaeda Emba.

The wereda has better roads as most villages are adjacent to a main road from Mekelle to Adigrat. Malaria is prevalent in 16 kushets of the wereda out of 110 kushets and considered as in good status relative to the other weredas. It has better market access and better health coverage. Hawzen is one of the disadvantaged weredas regarding roads and access as it is out of the main road.

The wereda has better NGOs involvement.

##### The wereda has better education coverage as there are 60 schools and most of the wereda budget goes to education

### Changes in wereda boundaries

Tsenkanet was transferred from Hawzen wereda to Saesie Tsaeda Emba as the kebele is located close to the centre of the wereda.

### Changes in wereda structures

In 2005 a new Wereda Organizational Structure was developed for the Weredas of Tigray region. It became operational in all the weredas in Tigray in 2006 including Saesie Tsaeda Emba. Wereda capacity building office was divided into health and education, rural development office was divided into roads, water and agriculture, public organizations such as youth affairs and women’s affairs were established as an independent entity; justice office was separated from police and militia.

Formerly, the Wereda Health and Education offices were organised under the capacity building main Office. According to the newly developed organizational structure, they were reorganised as Capacity Building section, Health section and Education sections. Each of them was put under the direct control of the Wereda Administration. Formerly, sections such as: Women’s Affairs, Youth Affairs which were incorporated under the Public Organization Office. Now, they are reorganised as independent entities of youth Affairs and Women’s’ Affairs. Directly, they are responsible to the Wereda Administration. The General Accounts & Disbursement Pool section and Purchasing and Property Administration Pool had been operating independently. Now, they are combined under the Finance and Economic Development Office. The former Justice, Police and Militia sections were reorganised as the Police and Militia Section. It is under the direct control of the Wereda Administration, while Justice office is reorganised as Justice & Security Office. It has been made under the directly control of the Wereda Administration. According to the new structural organization the Water Resources Section, Mining and Energy Sections are reorganised under a single entity which directly responsible to the Wereda Administration. Construction, Rural Road and Transport Sections were reorganised under a single entity. Formerly, they were under the Rural Development Office.

The changes made it easier to monitor the activities of each sectors.

### Comparison of Geblen kebele with others in the wereda

Geblen is 39Kms from Freweini, the wereda centre. The road to Geblen is an all-weather road constructed by Adigrat Dioceses Catholic Secretariat Social and Development Coordination (ADCS-SDCC)] and the communities that lie in between the town of Edaga Hamus to Geblen. Freweine is accessible by car and public transport is available till Adi Kelebes, a village half way to Geblen. While, public transport services are available regularly from the town of Edaga Hamus, Geblen enjoy it only for 2-3 days in a week. People from Geblen go to the village of Adi Kelebes, 4 kms far from Geblen, on foot to access public transport. The average distance of other kebeles is around 20kms. The farthest villages from the wereda are Marwa and Meshul that are around 50 kms from the centre.

The remotest kebeles of Wereda Saesie Tseada Emba are Marwa, Meshul and Hawile. Approximately, they are 50 kms far from the town of Freweini . Geblen, Thitay Ziban, Saze and Welwalo are found at a relatively average distance from Freweini. Approximately they are 35 kms far from the town of Freweyni. Kebeles such as; Hangoda, May Megelta, Hadush Hiwot, Hadush Adi, Sinkata are the nearest kebeles to the town of Freweyni. Government cars and Motor bicycles can drive to the remotest kebeles of Marwa, Meshul, Tahitay, Saz & Hawile. Public transport service is available to Welwalo, May Megelta, Hadush Hiwot, Hadush Adi, Geblen, Saesie, Koma Subha, Hadush Hiwot kebeles..

The proportion of female population, in almost all kebeles of the wereda is more than 50%. According to censes conducted in the wereda in 2000E.C; it was only in kebele Beleso that the number of male population was greater than the number of women population. The number of male was 1580 while the number of female was 1561. In that year the number of male population of kebele Geblen was 1483; while the number of women population was1515. The peoples of Geblen are composed of Tigray and Erob ethnic groups. In fact Irob language is spoken in Geblen, but it is difficult to make distinctions between Tigray and Irob languages. In kebele Meshul there some of the residents are people that belong to the Afar ethnic Group. Orthodox Christian dominates the religions in Geblen and there are also Muslims. In Meshul all the people are Muslims. On the other hand, Catholic Christians are dominant in Tahtai Ziban.

Geblen is economically one of the weakest kebeles in the wereda due to the difficult landscape, constant drought, lack of water resources and lack of soil fertility. Villages such as Hadush Adi and Hadush Hiwot are better economically due to the availability of fertile land and water resources.

According to Ashenafi Bezabih, wereda Saesie Tseada Emba development Planning Coordinator. People living in the 5 kebeles that lie in the northern part of the wereda are economically weaker than those peoples of the kebeles found in the southern part. Geblen is one of the 5 poorest kebeles in the wereda. Hadush Adi and Hadush Hiwot are economically the strongest kebeles of the wereda due to better access to Irrigation and better soil fertility.

Geblen is advantageous as compared to Tahtay Ziban, Meshul and Marwa kebeles in term of access to road transportation, Electric city telephone and Television service. Meshul and Marwa have no roads, electricity, and telephone services. that make the villages difficult to reach. There is electricity service in Geblen (only at Mishig, the centre of the kebele that incorporates the Kebele administration office, the health post and the FTC]. There is electric service in 12 kebeles of the wereda. The FTCs in kebeles of Marwa and Meshul were built late in 2001E.C.

There is no mobile network in most kebeles. In some villages such as Tahtay Ziban and Raele the network works to some extent. There is no network coverage in Geblen, Marwa, etc. (However, in Geblenthere was only one spot on a hill with mobile reception and the village community having mobile phones wander around in search of full network coverage to make calls). There is a fixed community telephone in Geblen and in all other villages except Marwa and Meshul.

Geblen is almost the same in getting health services. There are health posts in all villages of the wereda mainly focusing on prevention. There are six health centres in the wereda and Geblen community gets service in Saesie health centre. There is one clinic (Mariam Tsion) in Tahtai Ziban made by the Catholic Development Organization.

There are 6 health centres in the wereda: in kebele Welwalo, Sendeda, Hawile, Idaga Hamus and Saesie. The kebeles where the health centres are located are selected based on their accessibility to each 6500 people living in the kebeles living around the health centres. The proportion of health centres and users is 1: 65000 people. Geblen has almost the same chance to other kebeles in accessing to a health centre. Geblen community gets service in Saesie health centre. There is one clinic (Mariam Tsion) in Tahtai Ziban made by the Catholic Development Organization. Each kebele has a health post, mainly focusing on prevention. There are 2 Health Extension workers in each kebele. (But the researcher observed that in Geblen there is only one Health Extension Worker).

Geblen is one of the kebeles with good access to education. Till 1995 there was only one full primary school [Geblen Full Primary School] but currently there are two additional first cycle schools: Betmaria and Irata primary schools. In earlier years students from Geblen used to attend high schools in Adigrat and Edagahamus but a new high school is constructed in 2002 in Saesie that made it very accessible to grade 9 students. The quality of education is low in Geblen as there is shortage of teachers.

As compared to Geblen Kebele Koma Subha is advantageous as it access potable water from deep wells dug by the help of Africa development Bank. Geblen is one of the villages with chronic water shortage and no ground water potential. There are rock catchments water structures and springs. Most of them are not functional. The majority of the population uses unprotected sources from springs.

The total land in Geblen is 4,027.50 ha and the arable land is 245.50ha which made it one of the villages with shortage of land due to its difficult landscape full of rugged mountain sides, hills and cliffs. Saesie has more than 2000ha arable land. There is high problem of landlessness in Geblen.

Geblen is one of the most food insecure kebeles in the wereda and it has given enough quotas of participation in the PSNP due to its drought prone nature. Sendeda has better food security status.

Geblen has low irrigation potential as it lacks enough water. Rainwater harvesting is almost the only option of water harvesting. But Geblen is advantageous in its topographical nature to build rock catchments water structures. Hangoda, Mai Megelta, Saze, Guila Abenae and others have good irrigation potential.

The major development challenge in Geblen is lack of water. It is one of the kebeles with good roads. Malaria is prevalent only in one sub village and the occurrence is very low. Drip irrigation is one of the technologies introduced to solve the problem of water shortage but the community is resistant so as to avoid getting in debt.

The NGOs working in the wereda are ADCS (Adigrat Diocesans Catholic Secretariat), REST(Relief Society of Tigray) and World Vision focusing on road construction, natural resource management, irrigation and drinking water development. ADCS mainly focuses on Tahtai Ziban as there are more Catholic Christians and World Vision mainly works in Tsaeda Emba. REST works almost in all kebeles. In Tsenkanet Millennium Villages Project works vastly as the kebele used to be part of the Hawzen wereda in which the organization works on.

Geblen is considered in the eye of the wereda officials to be one of the best kebeles in good governance and cooperation with wereda officials. In the last three years it stood second following Mai Megelata. Geblen, Mai Megelta, Hangoda and Kuma Suwha are the self-sufficient kebeles in undertaking any government intervention.

Geblen has strong administration and council as compared to others. For the last three years Geblen stood second in the overall administrative efficacy.

Geblen has good potential in honey production which is highly affected by the recurrent drought

### Changes in kebele boundaries

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2003 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
| Kebele boundaries | None | None | None | None | None | None | Imba Siemena divided into twoGuemese Agemet divided into two | None |
| Sub-kebele structures | None | None | None | None | None | None | One kushet transferred from Hadush Adi to Mai Megelta | None |
| Kebele structures | None | None | None | None | None | None | None | None |

In 2009 Imba Siemena was divided into two kebeles namely Asmena and Emba Mezewle due to the demand of the community. There is big running water in between the villages and it was difficult for the community to travel to the administration centre. One *kushet* (sub kebele) was also transferred from Hadush Adi to Mai Megelta as it was far from the kebele centre.

### Changes in kebele structures

Ashenafi Bezabih reported that there has been no structural change at kebele level.

### Comparison of the development progress of Geblen compared with the wereda as a whole

The kebele has done better in livelihood development than average. Geblen has better potential in honey production which led to better livelihood development

Employment opportunities in the kebele are average. There is high landlessness problem in the village. The government is creating non-farm employment opportunities for the landless such as sand and stone collection. However, the problem still persists.

In terms of food security Geblen has done worse than average. Due to persistent drought agricultural productivity is very low and hence high food insecurity prevails in the village

Health services in Geblen are about the same. Geblen has almost the same health facilities with the other villages.

Geblen has almost similar access to education and the challenges are quality related which are similar for all villages

The kebele has done worse in terms of micro-credit. Since there are Muslims in the village, they do not accept taking loans (religious reasons). However, loan repayment is better than most villages

The kebele has done better than average in infrastructure. A road has been constructed which makes the village accessible

Geblen has no water potential due to persistent drought and physical landscape full of mountains

Geblen has done better than average in terms of governance. It has a strong administration that is self-sufficient. Mainly the village administration has strong acceptance from the community

The kebele has done better in peace and security due to the existence of traditional mediators;

## Wereda event history 2003-early 2010

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | *Crises* |
|  | Wereda level event | Effects on kebele |
| 2002-3 | Drought | Lack of livestock feed and shortage of food |
| 2003-4 | Drought | Lack of livestock feed and shortage of food |
| 2004-5 | Good rainCar accident due to narrow road in Freweini and  | Increased livestock feed |
| 2005-6 | Good productivity due to the good rain in 1997 rainy season | Increased availability of food for the household |
| 2006-7 | Car accident in Freweini killed three young students | The incident was in town and it has no effect on Geblen |
| 2007-8 | Heavy rain created flood (107.6mm) and destroyed plant in three villages mainly Sendeda, Guemese and Sinkata. Houses were destroyed in Freweini TownLack of rain in 7 kebeles of the wereda eg. Geblen, Marwa, Sewne, Meshul, etc | In Hadush Adi five family members died due to the heavy rainIn Geblen and the other drought kebeles the community was forced to sell livestock before they die of hunger. In addition, children dropped out of school |
| 2008-9 | Shortage of rain. There was no single rain drop in seven kebeles of the wereda such as Geblen, Marwa, SewneA woman faced spinal cord problem during FFW in Sendeda | Lack of agricultural productivityThe number of drop out children increased in schools |
| Later 2009 | Frost was prevalent due to low temperaturePeople participating in the water and soil conservation programs were preparing feasts to motivate themselves while they are in duty.  | Vegetables destroyed in Raele, Hawile, Geblen |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | *Economic events history* |
|  | Wereda level event | Effects on kebele |
| 2003-4 | Family package started through micro-finance | Saving culture created, construction of houses in towns and buying modernised equipment like beds and mobile phones due to increased income |
| 2004-5 |  |  |
| 2005-6 | Honey production strengthened | Better income |
| 2006-7 |  |  |
| 2007-8 | Organization of landless youth in honey production, sand and stone collection, metal work and so on expandedHigh inflation of consumable prices | Created better employment opportunity for the youthCost of living increased |
| 2008-9 | Increased fertiliser pricesIncreased migration to Saudi Arabia through Yemen and Djibouti | Lowered fertiliser use led to decrease productivityShortage of labour for agriculture, death of travellers due to various reasons  |
| Later 2009 | Increased fuel prices | Decreasing in the use of pumps for irrigation  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | *Social events history* |
|  | Wereda level event | Effects on kebele |
| 2004-5 | Dispute was created among students from Freiweini and Edaga Hamus towns regarding the wereda administration seat | The conflict was between two town communities |
| 2005-6 | Increased preparation of graduation partiesImproved culture of working on saints’ days | Increased expenses for the communityIncreased productivity especially on environmental conservation work |
| 2006-7 | Conflict between Wolwalo village and Berih (Dalol) due to border. They started firing but no one was killed | Tension was created in the kebele community but solved |
| 2007-8 | The wereda planned to construct a health post in Meshul A girl was raped in Beleso and the rapist was sentenced ten years of imprisonment | Conflict created between Saesie and Meshul over the health post but later solved through the administration and constructed as plannedAwareness was created and resulted in decrease of rape |
| 2008-9 | A woman murdered her husband in Hadish Adi and later killed herselfYouth recreation centre constructed in Freweini | No effect on GeblenThe youth started spending time in the centre when they come to town |
| Later 2009 | A disabled girl was raped  | Created shock in the community |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | *Cultural events history* |
|  | Wereda level event | Effects on kebele |
| 2002-3 | Community mobilization about health services enhanced | Increased culture of going to health centres instead of to the traditional medicine men |
| 2003-4 |  |  |
| 2004-5 | Working culture improved | Environmental rehabilitation work expanded |
| 2005-6 |  |  |
| 2006-7 | Use of modern technologies like mobile phones expandedExpansion of modern bee hives | Improved communication in the community better honey productivity |
| 2007-8 | Expansion of Protestantism in towns | Disapproval from village community |
| 2008-9 | Covering of houses with iron sheet increased | Creation of small town around the village administration office in the villages |
| Later 2009 | Clothing style changing from dresses to jeans  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | *Political events history* |
|  | Wereda level event | Effects on kebele |
| 2002-3 |  |  |
| 2003-4 |  |  |
| 2004-5 | National Election | The community elected their representatives |
| 2005-6 |  |  |
| 2006-7 |  |  |
| 2007-8 | Wereda and Kebele election (for the ruling party-EPRDF)Village manager (civil servant) assigned in every village  | Government services became easily accessible to the community |
| 2008-9 | New land administration proclamation developed | Land redistributed from the deceased  |
| Later 2009 | Registration for national election started |  |

## Wereda perspective on interventions in the kebele

### Land

Intervention 1: New land administration proclamation in 2000

The aim is to redistribute land from the deceased and enhance equity, enabling inheritance of land to grandchildren, etc. The proclamation implemented in 2001 in all villages and land has been given to the landless. There is land scarcity in Geblen due to its physical structure and there is no land to be distributed to the landless

Long-run benefits: Equity in land distribution will be enhanced

The implementation faced problems as the member of land administration in the kebeles are uneducated (skill shortage). To solve the problem the wereda experts provide education to the village administration

Improvements? Training should be provided at regional or national level

The proclamation faced resistance from employed people (civil servants) because it states that land should be taken away from employed people working in villages

The landless complained as they were hoping to get land. However, the current redistribution in Geblen is an exchange for land taken to do development interventions such as school

### Resettlement

Intervention 1: 2003-2005 (resettlement to Humera)

For drought persistent and land scarce villages the program was hoped to improve the food security status of the community by creating the opportunity to farm in fertile lands of Humera. The implementation was demand driven and there was no quota for the kebeles. Money on credit basis and farm tools was given to the resettled. They were also given land in Humera. However, the program stopped as it was claimed that the land was over exploited. There is still demand from the community to resettle.

A few people went from Geblen

Long-run benefits: The program enables the resettled to get good agricultural harvest that enables to feed their families and hence achieve food security

Problems: During initial stage the community was not willing to leave their villages. However, the village administration officials visited Humera with a few model farmers that enabled them to convince the village community to go to the resettlement area. One of the challenges was that a few people disappeared after getting the loan to go to Humera

Improvements? Strong follow up should be made after resettling the community members

Households with families refused to go and most of the resettled are young unmarried people

No one was excluded from the program as it was done on voluntary basis

### Irrigation and water harvesting

Intervention 1: 2003-4 HH pond construction

The aim of construction of household ponds was to minimise dry spells affecting agricultural productivity and create supplementary water source. The ponds were 169m2 vast made from plastics and clay. However, the intervention was not successful as the ponds had no cover and evaporated due to wind and sunlight. In addition, death of livestock occurred due to lack of coverage. Some farmers were benefited by using the water as supplementary irrigation for vegetables

Geblen was one of the least beneficiaries due to shortage of rainfall

Long-run benefits: To support the community for better agricultural productivity

Problems: Labour shortage households were unable to construct ponds and were supported with food for work program

Improvements? The size of the pond should have been smaller considering the land scarcity in the wereda. In addition, it should have been covered to minimise evaporation and death of livestock

During the initial stages the intervention faced resistance but it became mandatory to construct

Intervention 2: construction of well enhanced in 2009

Construction of wells has been in practice for the past few years and the plan increased to irrigate more than 1500ha of land in 2009. The plan is less likely to be achieved as the government promised to supply cement for free but it’s not given yet. One of the prevailing problems in irrigation is the community is not used to plant different varieties that are market oriented. In addition water resource utilisation is not efficient

Irrigated land in Geblen is very small due to its physical structure. The soil is highly degraded and persistent drought makes it difficult to practice irrigation

Long-run benefits: Achieving food security by enabling the community to produce marketable crops

Problems: Training on crop rotation is being provided to the farmers

Improvements: For Geblen due to drought construction of earth dams is planned

Due to inefficient utilisation of the water resource some community members might be excluded

### Agricultural Extension and packages

Intervention 1: Family extension package-2004

Family extension package was introduced in 2004 but was not successful because it was involuntary. However, intensive mobilisation was undertaken and it became voluntary since 2006. The major economic activity for the wereda is bee-keeping. The supporting activities are poultry, cattle fattening and small ruminants rearing. The intervention enabled the community to have additional source of income to support the household.

There are no cattle fattening or dairy cow in Geblen. The major activities are bee keeping and sheep rearing

Long-run benefits: Attain food security

Problems: Since bee-keeping is a risky activity as the bees could flee due to lack of feed, training was provided to the farmers to supply supplementary feed

Improvements? Intensive training on the activities should be provided

Intervention 2: drip irrigation introduced since 2003

The intervention didn’t succeed as planned due to low awareness

It’s useful for Geblen due to shortage of water

Long-run benefits: Enhance agricultural productivity through efficient use of available water

Problems: Lack of awareness in the community created resistance. The administration involved the community in experience sharing visit

Improvements: If the price of drips is reduced and if the promised cement is provided, they might be willing to introduce

Lack of awareness of the technology led to resistance

### Livestock extension and packages

Intervention 1: provision of bee hives since 1996

The intervention expanded till 2001 as honey production is very profitable. However, death and flee of bee colonies was the major challenge. Till 2001 5171 bee hives were distributed in the wereda. Though Geblen is suitable for bee keeping, drought and environmental degradation led to lack of feed to the bee colonies

Long-run benefits: Enabling the community to be self sufficient

Problems: Awareness creation to provide additional feed such as sugar

Improvements? The intervention should consider the current situation of the villages

Fear of lack of feed created resistance from the community

Intervention 2: zero grazing introduced in 2004

Zero grazing enhanced currently so as to support livestock extension package and enhance the potential in the wereda by saving the energy of livestock and increase dairy production. In addition, it also avoids over grazing and reduce environmental degradation. However, the community is not used to keeping livestock at home and the intervention has not achieved as planned. Due to drought the community leaves the livestock freely in the fields

Long-run benefits: Reduce environmental degradation and improve agricultural productivity

Problems: Continuous community mobilisation is undertaken to create awareness

Improvements? Alternative feed like planting alfa and other feed should be enhanced

The community is reluctant to accept the method due to long practice of sending the livestock away from home

### Non-farm extension and packages – NA

### Co-operatives

Intervention 1: various cooperatives established since 1995

More than 70 cooperatives established in different sectors such as irrigation and bee keeping. The aim is to build the capacity of the community. some cooperatives are successful and some are not performing well. Multipurpose cooperative in Sendeda is one of the best performing. The multifunctional cooperative in Geblen is not functional. One bee keeping and one irrigation cooperatives have faced problem due to drought and rising price in bee colonies

Long-run benefits: Economically enable the community and improve livelihood

Problems: Lack of business skill and lack of awareness of the community to work in groups are one of the challenging led to poor performance in most villages

Improvements? Providing BDS (business development service) and market linkage might improve the intervention

There is resistance to some extent to work in groups

### Government micro-credit programmes

Intervention 1: family package (1997)

Family package was introduced in 2005 and strengthened in 2009 aiming at creating employment opportunity and increasing household income. The loan was increased from 5000 to 10,000 that enabled the community to involve in various business ventures. Loan is provided through DESCI (Dedebit Saving and Credit Institution) and urban development office supports in preparing business plans, providing trainings and market linkage. The intervention mainly focuses in towns but people coming from villages can also be benefited

Long-run benefits: Capacity building

Problems: Loan repayment rate is slow but follow up is made by the office to make sure loans are returned on time

Improvements? To motivate the community the office is working towards creating model micro and small enterprises

###

### Food aid

Intervention 1: 2007 and 2008 emergency food aid

Due to persistent drought emergency food aid has been provided for 11,718 beneficiaries in 1999 and 33,651 beneficiaries in 2001 for the drought prone kebeles. The aid enabled the non-PSNP beneficiaries to fill the gap of food shortage. In addition, it contributes to environmental rehabilitation as the support is provided while people participating in rehabilitation activities. However, the quota is small comparing to the demand. Geblen is one of the food aid beneficiaries

Long-run benefits: The aid has short term gap filling objective

Problems: Low quota and not solved. Due to low quota all people in need of the support are not included

### Nutrition

Intervention 1: Bi-annual nutrition assessment-2005

Bi-annual nutritional assessment started in 2005 that became four times a year in late 2009. The assessment enables to identify the undernourished children and provide support. For moderately undernourished children Famex and cooking oil is provided. For severely undernourished children Plumpynut is provided to be combined with food treatment. The children improve if they are fed properly. However, shortage of food makes it difficult for the severely undernourished children to improve. The intervention also includes nutritional support to pregnant and lactating women. Geblen is one of the villages with more undernourished children getting support.

Long-run benefits: Reduce infant mortality

Problems: Shortage of transportation to the villages hinders on time distribution of the support. The wereda administration seeks assistance from NGOs for transportation.

Improvements? Proper follow up should be made to make sure the support is utilised properly to the children who are undernourished.

There is no resistance from the beneficiaries. However, the community complains claiming every child should get the support.

### Family Planning

Intervention 1: 2009 implant contraceptive introduced

In 2003 and 04 only pills were available in the villages as a contraceptive method. The usage increased since 2006 due to increased awareness about family planning through HEWs (Health Extension Workers). In 2009 HEWs were trained by Pathfinder to use implantation (three and five days). Introduction of implantation is easier for the women as it is useful for long time. Family planning is practised through use of contraceptives in all villages as there are assigned HEWs.

Long-run benefits: Reduce maternal mortality .

Problems: Some women were unable to go to the health centres to get contraceptives as their spouses do not approve. Introducing implant has minimised the problem. In addition, conference has been undertaken to create awareness that included religious leaders .

Improvements? Awareness creation should focus not only on women but also on men.

There is low resistance currently.

Intervention 2: assignment of nurses in high schools in 2008

Nurses are assigned in high schools in order to create awareness about family planning and reproductive health for the young. They are involved in providing first aid, teaching about family planning and so on. Nurses are assigned in high schools and there is no high school in Geblen

Long-run benefits: Creating healthy society

Problems: The intervention faces financial problem for supply of kits

Improvements? Support might be sought from different organizations

### Pregnancy and childbirth

Intervention 1: construction of Health posts since 1998

Availability of health posts in villages enable for mothers to follow up easily closer to their area during pregnancy. Mothers are taking vaccination every month. There is health post in Geblen and pregnant women get service by the HEW.

Long-run benefits: Reduce child and maternal mortality

Problems: Though the service is available, there is still low awareness about the benefit delivery in health posts. In addition, there is shortage of skill in ANC (Anti-Natal Care) especially if there are complications during delivery

Improvements? Additional training required in ANC

Resistance is decreasing from time to time due to mobilisation by HEWs

### Drinking water – NA

### Sanitation

Intervention 1: construction of latrines strengthened in 2009

Construction of latrines has been undertaken since 2006 and it was strengthened in 2009. The major objective is disease prevention and create clean and healthy environment. Though the construction is successful, the utilization is still very low. Geblen is one of the villages that have successfully constructed latrines in every household

Long-run benefits: Create healthy society

Problems: Consistent use of latrines is not yet practised and mobilisation work is still undergoing by the HEWs

Improvements? Model households can be identified and awarded in latrine use to motivate the community

Since the community is not used to latrines there was resistance which was later solved through constant awareness creation and making the activity mandatory (not voluntary)

### Preventive Health services

Intervention 1: HEWs assigned in all villages-2005

The major task of HEWs is provision of preventive health services to the community. the intervention has brought impact in teaching the community to prevent themselves from disease. The service is the same in all villages.

Long-run benefits: Creating healthy and productive society

Problems: Initially the village administration gave them low priority due to lack of awareness but improved gradually. The community has still a curative mind and it needs more work

Improvements? Skill enhancement to the HEWs

Awareness improved through constant teachings in public gatherings like PSNP work

Intervention 2: HEWs trained for malaria examination in 2008

HEWs were trained for Para check (a method for malaria examination) that enabled the community to get services in their villages. Malaria prevalence is low in Geblen

Long-run benefits: Providing on time treatment

### Curative health services

Intervention 1: health centre constructed in Edagahamus-12006

To enable easy access to the community. For Geblen community there is health centre in Adi Kelebes that is very close to the village

Long-run benefits: Providing health services

No challenges

Intervention 2: 24 hours service in health centers-2009

It enabled to get access for health services at all times including weekends. No health centre in Geblen

Long-run benefits: Minimises death due to lack of service

Problems: Shortage of manpower for all shifts and the problem is not solved yet

Improvements? The Regional Health Bureau should assign enough experts

Experts complain about working long hours to cover different shifts

### Primary Education

Intervention 1 Primary School Improvement

Nearly 85% of the plan accomplished. Since 2003 22 primary schools improved. 3 schools improved in 2004, 3 schools in 2005, 7 schools in 2006, and 8 schools in 2007 and 3 in 2008. As a result the number of students in the wereda increased to approximately 32 thousand. Shortage of teachers was the problem

Provision in Geblen is better: one of the 5 satellite schools improved in to primary school is found in Geblen.

Long-run benefits: Children in Geblen access to primary school education.

Problems: Budget shortage: The wereda administration allocated 59% of the 25 million birr [wereda budget] to education

Improvements? If the administration could access to financial resource to the education sector;

Intervention 2 School Meal Program began

In 5 schools the school meal program started in 2009. The number of drop outs reduced. In the wereda there were 900 drop outs due to food shortage. One of the targets is Irata primary school in Geblen.

Long-run benefits: The number of students will increase in the long run. Previously the number of dropouts was large.

Improvements? If the program expanded to other schools: There are many more poor people who are lacking resource to educate their children.

### Secondary Education – NA

### Post-secondary – NA

### Alternative basic education – NA

### Government pre-school education – NA

### Good governance package – NA

### Security, policing and justice – NA

### Taxes and other contributions of cash and labour

Intervention 1 Awareness Creation Campaigns on Taxes Collection;

Success compared with aims? Achievements? Problems?

Successful; In 2004, the administration collected 1.5 million birr. In 2009 the amount of tax collected reached to 4.5 million birr. In 2010, the administration is planning to collect 5 million birr from the tax payers. But yet, there is lack of awareness among some community members. Most people in the rural areas lack access to Television service to know more about tax. Communities in Geblen are from the best ones in terms of paying taxes and other contributions.

Long-run benefits: The administration will begin to allocate capital budget to development projects.

Improvements? Strengthening awareness creation campaigns with view to educate the people about the importance of paying tax to the government In the future the administration is planning to give Education about tax in conferences, exhibitions will be organised and awarding champions will be put in place.

There are many people particularly living in the towns who are evading taxes

### Presentation of government models of development – NA

### Getting government services to poor and vulnerable people – NA

### Gender laws, policies, programmes and implementation – NA

### Youth policies, programmes and implementation – NA

### Community work including FFW and non-government work – NA

### Electricity and communications

Intervention 1 Telephone Service

Good; since 2007 the government was took measure to install wireless telephone to each kebele in the wereda. Geblen has accessed a telephone service since 2007; it has got technical problem but advantageous as compared with kebeles Mesuhl, Sewne and Marwa that have access too but is not functional.

Long-run benefits: It will facilitate development in the kebeles

Problems: it has got technical problem. It interrupts.

Improvements? If the telecommunications Authority take measure to improve the service.

### Harmful traditional practices – NA

### NGO interventions

Intervention 1: Road Construction and Drinking water harvesting activities by Adigrat Dioceses Catholic Secretariat Social and Development Coordination (ADCS-SDCC)

Poor; they are operating in road construction, education and drinking water harvesting activities. Their projects are not effective. ADCS-SDCC, are not willing to cooperate with the wereda administration to jointly plan and implement projects, while World Vision Ethiopia did so.

Better than those kebeles where World Vision Ethiopia is operating in. Tahitay Ziban is the best beneficiary. Geblen benefits equally to Kebeles such as Saesie, Koma Subha etc.

Long-run benefits: In the long run, it has no benefit to the communities because their budget is very little

Problems: Lack of coordination with the wereda administration; their interventions are inefficient. The wereda administration attempted to approach them with the proposal to discuss and work together with it. But, their budget is too meagre that it could not bring basic change

Improvements? If they are committed to cooperate with the wereda administration

Intervention 2: Building bridge, capacity building activities, health, water harvesting and others

Better - World Vision Ethiopia had built a bridge in between kebele Agaazi and kebele Hangoda.

Long-run benefits: Not much;

Problems: World Vision Ethiopia does not want to operate in kebeles where ADCS-SDCC is operating. Wereda administration has approached them to coordinate their plans and with its plans.

Improvements? If they work in coordination with the administration and if it widely operate by increasing its budget

Since the beginning of this year, people living with HIV/AIDS in the wereda who had been assisted by World Vision Ethiopia are abandoned. When they were appealing the wereda administration is trying to provide them by shifting a little budget from other activities

## Development potentials and challenges for the kebele

### Development in general

* Geblen is developing. But, the process of its development is slow. The wereda officials rate the developmental level in the kebele as ‘moderate’.
* Geblen is among the weakest kebeles in the wereda in terms of its natural resource potentials.

Current potentials:

* Geblen is advantageous in that it has wider non-cultivable lands [steep mountain sides, valleys, and cliffs] that are suitable to bee-keeping, harvesting of animal fodder [grass] and plantation of trees.
* Geblen community’s’ ability to resist drought is increasing;
* People in Geblen are more of pastoralists; they have got good knowledge in herding.
* The communities in Geblen are highly motivated and can be mobilised easily for developmental activities.
* Communities in Geblen do have strong tradition of supporting the poor.
* Communities in Geblen are enthusiastic to contribute cash and labour. They are also committed to pay taxes. In this respect, the kebele is one of the leading kebeles in the Wereda.
* Communities in Geblen are committed to repay debts;
* The land in Geblen has been conserved. Now, it is improving;
* The rate of NGO interventions in Geblen is increasing;
* Geblen has got good potential to harvest water from rook catchments structures.

Current challenges/constraints

* Geblen has got poor soil thus, has no potential to agriculture.
* Geblen suffers from persistent drought;
* Geblen lack access to water potential for irrigation;
* Geblen lack access to drinking water;
* Geblen lack ample cultivable land;
* People in Geblen are reluctant to participate in various extension and packages. They are reluctant to borrow money from the government credit institutions and invest it.
* People in Geblen are extravagant;
* The development Agents in Geblen lack commitments.
* The soil fertility in Geblen is poor to grow crops.

Major changes in potentials since 2003

* Geblen community’s ability of resisting drought is increasing. In addition to the interventions made by the government they are also developing their own coping mechanisms to deal with hunger resulted from the drought. The informant said that for example last year nobody died of hunger in the kebele, while it was hit by a severe drought. That had happened not only because of food aid provided by the government, but also due to the fact that the people’s own capacity to cope with such hardships is improving. Before, whenever the kebele was hit by a severe drought it had been common for them to migrate in a mass leaving behind their houses and household utensils.
* The environment in Geblen is improving.
* Good governance is improving in Geblen.
* Despite the fact that the kebeleis drought prone, there is progress since 2003 in terms of community’s health and level of education.

Major changes in challenges since 2003

* Resistance of the people to participate in extension and packages is increasing,
* Development Agents are lacking commitment to work. One of the DAs interrupted his job and left Geblen.
* Drought is becoming a persistent phenomenon in Geblen.

### Livelihood development

Current potentials

* Implementation of the PSNP continues widely.
* Communities in Geblen do have access to road.
* By organising women in cooperatives it is possible to make them benefit from beekeeping and livestock farming.

Current challenges/constraints

* Drought
* Extravagance
* Resistance to participate in extension and packages and micro credit programmes

Major changes in potentials since 2003

* The communities are becoming motivated to organise in cooperatives and make them involve in bee keeping and breeding goats, sheep and cattle.
* The youth in Geblen are educating
* The number of the youth in Geblen organising in cooperatives is increasing.

### Employment opportunities

Current potentials

* More and more children from Geblen are joining higher institutions.
* Lack of government budget to finance projects.

Current challenges/constraints

* The Youth in Geblen are lacking skill to engage in non-farm income generating activities;

Major changes in potentials since 2003

* Schooling increases.

### Food security

Current potentials

* Beekeeping: The area is very suitable for bee farm
* There is an opportunity to grow cactus and use it as food for both human beings and animals.
* Implementation of the PSNP continues widely.
* Communities in Geblen do have strong tradition of supporting the poor.
* There is a potential of organising women in Geblen. They are motivated to be organised in cooperatives.

Current challenges/constraints

* Drought: Though drought prevailed in the kebele, it is possible to generate income from bee keeping. He reported that for example *Sewne* is a drought prone kebele like Geblen but, the people are producing honey. People in *Sewne* are taking care of their bees by providing them food; sugar juice [Sugar Diluted in a water] and *Shiro* [a colourful pea or beans flour that launches good odour towards bees and used as food for bees in the absence of flowers]. These days [In the times of drought] there are people who are able to extract up to 90 Kgs of honey. At an average every bee keeper in Sewne kebele extracts 75 Kgs of honey. The informant reported that people in G*eblen* are losing their bees not only because of the drought but also because of their lack of commitment to work hard and sustain their bees.
* People in Geblen are extravagant
* Lack of commitment of the Development agents;
* People in *Geblen* have no problem in understanding and accepting the programmes, but lack commitment to put them in to practice. My informant said it is because of the weakness of the Development Agents.

Major changes in potentials since 2003

* The amount of irrigated land in Geblen is increasing.
* Construction of terracing is increasing
* Construction of water reservoirs for irrigations is increasing
* The environment in Geblen is increasing.

Major changes in challenges since 2003

* Increasing drought
* Resistance to borrow for modern hives and other packages is increased.

### Health services

Current potentials

* The use of latrines;
* The use of ambulance service to Adigrat hospital;
* There is improvement in controlling diseases. Geblen is from among the best kebeles in the wereda in implementing the health package.

Current challenges/constraints

* Shortage of pure drinking water

Major changes in potentials since 2003

* Communities in Geblen are changing their houses and their household equipment.
* The numbers of households who are using kerosene-stoves are increasing
* The number of users of family planning and nutritious food is increasing.

Major changes in challenges since 2003

* Shortage of drinking water;
* The use of traditional medicines is decreasing

### Education

Current potentials

* Children are becoming successful in education.
* The communities in Geblen are very committed to contribute money to school improvement programs is high. For example, last year they contributed the money allocated to improvement of education in the kebele by the Tigray Development Association [TDA] for the school construction program.
* Building of higher secondary school in the Adi Kelebus [A nearby village to Geblen, it is 4kms away from Geblen along the road to Geblen]. Students from Geblen can access it easily.

Current challenges/constraints

* Lack of quality and ample number of teachers

Major changes in potentials since 2003

* They feel that they are lagging behind in education

Major changes in challenges since 2003

* Lack of high schools to students in Geblen is decreasing.

###  Micro-credit

Current potentials

* Communities in Geblen are committed to repay debts;
* Availability of credit giving institution in a nearby kebele;
* Muslim communities in Geblen do not have a problem to participate in the credit programs.

Current challenges/constraints

* Resistance of people in Geblen to participate in micro-credit programs is increasing.

Major changes in potentials since 2003

* None

Major changes in challenges since 2003

* Resistance of people to borrow money has been increasing.

### Infrastructure

Current potentials

* The communities in Geblen do have access to road, electricity and telephone services

Major changes in potentials since 2003

* The telephone service in Geblen has been interrupting.

### Water

Current potentials

The existence of sufficient water potential in Koma Subha, a neighbouring kebele to Geblen: (*As to my observation, the distance between Koma Subha and Geblen is approximately 15 kms. There exist kebele Saesie and a small part of kebele Marwa between the two kebeles*) could be taken as a potential to supply the people in Geblen with drinking water.

Current challenges/constraints

* Lack of ground water in Geblen
* Lack of access to drinking water;

Major changes in potentials since 2003

* ADCS is operating in Geblen in water harvesting activities;
* Drought persists in Geblen. Thus, water harvesting structures are not functioning;

###

### Governance

Current potentials

* Effective and efficient kebele administration

### Peace and security

Current potentials

* There is a potential to use traditional arbitrators to resolve conflicts. This is because the people partially are Erob [*an ethnic group living mainly in wereda Erob and do have a strong tradition of resolving conflicts and other social issues with elderly people, arbitrators or mediators*]*.*Elderly people in Geblen are playing a very important role in resolving conflicts between individuals. A wereda official reported that the kebele administration is strengthening traditional mediators committees with the view to using arbitrators in the process of resolving conflicts. As a result, the communities in Geblen enjoy relatively peaceful life as compared to other communities in the wereda.

Major changes in potentials since 2003

* Peace in Geblen is strengthening;

##  Interactions among policies and programmes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Positive Synergies | Negative Synergies |
| Health Extension packages and Education | Natural Resources Management Program and Livestock Extension and Packages |
| School Feeding Programs and Education | Micro Credit and Youth development Programs |
| Water Harvesting Program and Sanitation | Sanitation and Agricultural Extension &Package |
| FFW Program and Natural Resource Management | Agricultural Extension and Irrigation Program |
| FFW Program and Harmful Traditional Practices | Water harvesting programs and Livestock package |
| Food aid programs and Education | Water harvesting and Preventive health Service Programs |
| Preventive Health Package and Agricultural Extension |  |
| Good governance and women’s and youth policies |  |
| Micro Credit Program and Women’s Policy |  |
| Family Planning and FFW Program  |  |
| Harmful Traditional Policies and FFW programs |  |

## Three most important interventions proposed for the kebele

Financing of interventions – responsibility must lie with NGOs because the *Wereda* Administration lack capital budget to finance projects since 2007. More than 90% of the wereda budget is allocated as a regular budget for salaries to government employees. The respondent believed that the projects can be strengthened by the PSNP which will continue to be implemented in the coming five years.

Bee keeping using modern hives

* Development responsibility – wereda administration
* Financial responsibility - Adigrat Dioceses Catholic Secretariat Social and Development Coordination (ADCS-SDCC): World vision Ethiopia is not interested to intervene in those areas where ADCS-SDCC is operating.
* Implementation responsibility -NGOs

Goat and Sheep rearing

* Development responsibility – kebele administration and Development Agents
* Financial responsibility – African Development Bank
* Implementation responsibility – wereda administration

Cattle breeding

* Development responsibility - NGOs
* Financial responsibility – other NGOs
* Implementation responsibility – Development Agents