# Interviews with teenage focus groups in Geblen, Saesiatsaeda Emba wereda, East Tigray

*Topic – government development interventions*

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## Focus group of males aged 15-19

1. EN, 18, Poor
2. TB,17, Medium Rich
3. OE 16, Poor
4. KB 15, Medium Rich
5. OT 13, Medium Rich
6. TL 19, Poor

### Land

According to participants of the group discussion, land redistribution plays key role in ensuring food security of the community in Geblen. However, the prevailing status of land ownership in the locality has negative impact against the target because most of the young people are landless while they are capable of harvesting good amount of harvest, if they had farmland. On the other hand, there are some people who have large agricultural and even near to irrigation facilities but didn’t use the land effectively to promote their status of food security. Therefore, fair redistribution of land will play a great role in ensuring food security of the community in general and of the young people in particular.

They provided the request of redistribution of land located in uncultivated areas many times with the intention to develop it and for farming activities even to animal rearing; however, except some promises, they are not able to get the required land. In 1999E.C, the administration has notified them about its plan to redistribute land for the young in a public meeting held at zonal level in Adigrat town. However, the public [land owners] was not voluntary for the land redistribution. One of the participants of the discussion stated this condition saying, “Our enemies are our parents”.

Participants of the discussion held the idea that young people in the locality are denied their rights of the young people in the locality, the young feel that there is no hope for them in Geblen due to this condition many young people have the inclination towards migration to abroad like Saudi Arabia however such kind of attempts have a great danger to their lives.

In 2000E.C and 2002E.C, groups of young people in Geblen who were organised in cooperatives were given land for the purpose of bee keeping. However, some challenges had seen in the process of distributing the land located on mountains, to the organised young people, against the instruction given by the government, through the wereda administration, in the form of opposition came from the community who came from Semuidaga sub kebele. Nevertheless, the problem is being solved through discussion. Therefore, the problem on the issue of redistribution of land for the young cooperative members is directly related with low level of consciousness of the local community on the importance of the specific effort.

### Resettlement - NA

### Government universities/colleges - NA

### Irrigation - NA

### Alternative Basic Education - NONE

### Water harvesting - NA

### Government pre-school education - NONE

### Agricultural extension and packages - NA

### Community-government interactions - NA

### Livestock extension and packages - NA

### The use of models, champions, promoters

With regard to government models, one of the participants of the discussion reported that in Geblen, there would be model farmers. However, the reality about the real status of the so called “model farmers” is not correct because in most cases the model farmers who received award in kebele level and woreda level have claimed that still they are poor people, therefore, it [the award] is designed only for political consumption. The model formers are the privileged ones equipped with irrigation facilities, however, they considered themselves as poor people. Among residents of the kebele no one is self-sufficient, including officials of the administration like all of the ordinary citizens. However, if the officials would have different statement on the issue, it may be for the sake of the salary they have received.

### Non-farm extension and packages - NONE

### The use of extension workers - NA

### Co-operatives - NA

### Good governance - NA

### Government Micro-credit

Participants of the discussion reported that in Geblen there are different credit services provided by Dedebit Credit and saving Institution. They are the micro credit service and extension & packages. The micro credit service is given to people organised in small groups; 3 to 5 people a group who do have their own land but who are not in blood relationships. According to the terms of the loan agreement, the given loan with its interest shall be paid back within two (2) years. In their kebele there are many people who are taken this type of loan. However, all the beneficiaries of that credit service are those people who do have land. The young people could not be beneficiaries from the micro credit programme for they do not have land to use it as a guarantee.

Unlike micro-credit, the extension and package service is accessible to the young people. In their kebele there are many young people who have been given that type of loan for the purchase of goats and sheep’s and other domestic animals. Development Agents since close follow and supervision was implemented on the utilization of the given loan and on specific individual borrows. Though there are many cases of misusing the money gained by the credit services, the increasing interest rate of the loan and the problem of inflation are affecting to the efforts of developments being exerted by the youth borrowers.

### Interactions with woreda - NA

### Food aid

Participants of the group discussion reported that the PSNP is good to the young in the kebele, through there are some irregularities related with the delay of delivery of the ration in food. According to participants of the discussion, the delay of delivery of the ration is seriously affecting the community. But the cause for such delay is not yet identified. On the other hand, contrary to this kebele, other kebeles have been started to engage in the second phase of PSNP.

People in Geblen have been working in PSNP since in 1996 and the quota of the ration for a person is claimed to be 15k.g However, the weight of the food given to participants vary at different times. For example, one of the participants received 13 K.G and 9 K.G in 2000E.C and 2001 E.C respectively. They said that the loss of the food occurred during transporting it but they did not replace the lost weight.

Sometimes the payment is effected in kind & sometimes it is paid in cash. Birr 50 to one person. However, most of the time it is given in the form of food, in kind, and it is the better alternative for the beneficiary. The young people, however, prefers the payment effected in cash because they want to use for daily consumption as well as to solve immediate problem or to cover the daily expenses of food, cloth etc.

On the other hand, the adult people prefers the payment effected in king, in the form of food because the real value of Birr 50 is being deteriorated related with the inflation therefore, its value is not equivalent with 15 K.G or 9 K.G of food crop. For example, currently the market value of 100 K.G what is Birr 500. Therefore, the purchasing power of Birr 50 is not sufficient to buy the indicated amount of food item. The living cost has been increasing since 2000 E.C. purchasing of food items requires cost of transportation headed to Edagahamus town, on the other hand, the cooperative association operating in the kebele is not strong enough to fulfil the demand of the residents. Even when they provided it once a year, they fixed unreasonable price with unacceptable reason and forced the people to buy it. For the last time, they provided the food crop in November or December, 2001 E.C. Additionally, the farmers’ cooperative’s weight has been broken.

The informants know that there are recipients of relief food aid as well as participants of the PSNP. They said beneficiaries of the food aid are grouped in two categories. The well to do and PSNP, He does not know anyone who is included in both categories.

They appreciate the PSNP because in the absence of it the society’s existence would have been faced a risk and elderly people who did not work throughout the year are beneficiary.

Their schedule of work is 5 day per month and beyond this mass mobilization is required. Basically, the work that has been undertaken by participants of PSNP is soil and water conservation and other activities that have been undertaken by the mass are building of water reservoirs, terracing and renovation of social court’s building house.

Now he is registered for PSNP for the second time it is different from the previous one, though its implementation is not commenced. Previously, no one, who is participated in PSNP couldn’t work with participants but currently the plan is different, through the implementation is different, though the implementation is not yet started. In his opinion, providing fair opportunity to everybody is a good practice.

### Security, policing and justice - NA

### Nutrition - NA

### Taxes; other contributions of cash and labour - NA

### Family planning - NA

### Government-sponsored Associations - NA

### Pregnancy and childbirth - NA

### Presentation of government models of development - NA

### Drinking water - NA

### Exemptions for the poor - NA

### Sanitation - NA

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

### Preventive health services

They have received educational aimed at increasing the awareness of the society and this helped them to be safe from and to prevent occurrence of some disease.

### Youth policies, programmes and implementation

### Curative health services

In this kebele health care service is provided to children but not to the adults. The only alternative for adults to get health care service is to call to the ambulance of the Ethiopian Red Cross Association to go to Adigrat hospital which has been operating with good performance.

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

### Primary education

### Transport

### Secondary education

Most of students in Geblen who completed grade 10 classes were not successful to continue further education. They could not join higher learning institutions and TVET centres. Due to this condition those who are learning in lower grade classes are frustrating and failed to work hard in their educational activities. Lack of qualified teachers are educational materials are the major reasons for the weak performance of the young people in the area.

Participants of the discussion also suggested that a high school should be built in Geblen as there are many students walking kilometres to Adikelebes village on foot to attend secondary school education.

### Electricity and communications

### Government TVET

### ‘Harmful traditional practices’

## Focus group of males aged 11 – 14

1. BH 14, Medium Rich
2. TF 14, Rich
3. NM 14, Poor
4. IO 14, Poor
5. SN 12, Medium Rich
6. OB 12, Medium Rich

### Land

Participants of the focus group discussion reported that distribution of land located in mountains and small cliffs and small plots of land for beekeeping purpose to the young people is one of the encouraging activates.

### Resettlement

Since 1997E.C, four water structures; developed springs, rock catchments with water tankers and were built in Geblen. However, some of them lack pipelines, and others are not safe to be used for drinking due to contamination; others lack water pumps to use for irrigation purpose. Therefore, the people could not use the water from the concerned structures for drinking purpose. Participants of the discussion reported that in Welaalabur sub kebele, a spring known as *Shinfaeto* spring was developed for both drinking purpose and for the purpose of irrigation. However, it lacks pipeline to supply the people water for drinking safely. The dam is unsafe that both animals are using it in an unsafe manner. The dam contains much water. However the water is not clean. People wash their suits and their body using the water in the reservoir and let the dirty water flow in to the dam. Terracing that were being built around the dam are sliding and thus the soil and the flints are accumulating in to the dam. Moreover, the water in the dam is contaminated by the dry waste and human manure which is carelessly dumped by the villagers in the sloppy area behind the village of *Mishig* is being carried out by the flood in the rainy season which flows in to the dam. Before, pipelines were installed in the water point. However, the pipeline and the filtrating structure damaged because there is nobody to tack care of it.

### Government universities/college - NA

### Irrigation - NA

### Alternative Basic Education - NONE

### Water harvesting - NA

### Government pre-school education - NONE

### Agricultural extension and packages – NA

### Community-government interactions - NA

### Livestock extension and packages - NA

### The use of models, champions, promoters - NA

### Non-farm extension and packages - NONE

### The use of extension workers - NA

### Co-operatives - NA

### Good governance - NA

### Government Micro-credit - NA

### Interactions with woreda - NA

### Food aid

Participants of the group discussion reported that the PSNP is being implemented in the kebele since 1996E.C. But, only the poor households are beneficiaries of the programme. They said the so called rich households in Geblen must not be excluded from taking part in the programme because they are not rich people in actual sense. They are relatively better off households. Therefore they deserve to be included in the programme.

### Security, policing and justice - NA

### Nutrition

The benefits provided to increase the wellbeing of children are not achieving their target because the nutritious foods, cooking oil etc supplied to the children have been consumed by all of the family members including the adult people.

Participants of the discussion are critical to those people who are responsible to distribute nutritious food to the needy children in Geblen. They reported that there are cases of favouritism done by the distributers and recruiters while performing their activities. They are making eligible children be beneficiaries of the aid while there are a lot of children whose conditions are by far worse than those who are receiving the nutritious food.

There are cases where two and more than two children within the same households are provided with nutritious food aid, while there are households having needy children whose conditions are worst and from which any chilled is selected to beneficent. According to the participants the group, it is an act which is against the rule.

Recruiters and distributors of the nutritious food are not giving orientations to the parents of the beneficiaries on how to prepare the food which requires some technical knowledge on how to prepare it. As a result, the children are not consuming it regularly and the needed amount of the food.

Parents of the beneficiary children in Geblen are not feeding the nutritious food to their needy children. Rather, they are sold the food. According to participants of the discussion, the food aid provided to children in Geblen includes cocking oil. However, most of the parents of recipient children sold it. As a result the target children’s health condition is not improving. In fact there is no case of child death because of food shortage.

### Taxes; other contributions of cash and labour - NA

### Family planning - NA

### Government-sponsored Associations - NA

### Pregnancy and childbirth - NA

### Presentation of government models of development - NA

### Drinking water - NA

### Exemptions for the poor - NA

### Sanitation - NA

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

### Preventive health services

Regarding health package, participants reported that the effort to introduce using of toilet rooms as well as best stove has been scored good result. The health package is primarily focused on preventive strategy but not to cure diseases, accordingly, they have witnessed reduction of HIV/AIDS prevalence and occurrence of other common diseases among the society. As a result of the awareness creation effort, the local communities’ willingness for HIV/AIDS test has been increased.

### Youth policies, programmes and implementation - NA

### Curative health services

Participants said that since 1995E.C. the administration issued a rule with regard to family members of the T.P.L.F fighters and soldiers who died in the battles were to receive free medical services. Accordingly, the kebele administration had identified beneficiaries and granted them free medical certificates. However, the health workers of the health centre and Adigrat hospital are not treating them properly. They made them buy medicines from the privately owned pharmacies with exaggerated costs. Sometimes, the pharmacists working in the health centre and the hospital made them buy medicines in cash while they are certified beneficiaries of free medical services. In order to renew their certificates of free medical services, they are made to pay up to 70 birr.

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

### Primary education

The rock catchments and water reservoir built within the compound of Geblen Full Primary School. But, it serves the students only for four months. According to participants of the group discussion, the water reservoir never gets full due to lack of sufficient rainfall. The existing water in the reservoir is so little that it is used by the students only for four months of the year. Moreover, the reservoir is not safe; hence the water within it is contaminated with worms.

Geblen’s full Primary School lacks electricity service. The group discussion reported that they cannot have access to education using plasma televisions like students in Adikelebus[a neighbouring village to Geblen and located in kebele Saesie] do. Electricity power line is installed pass by the gate of the school. However, classes in the school could not be supplied with electricity. Lack of transformer is the reason behind for inaccessibility to the supply of electricity for the school. The kebele chairperson also said that though, they prepared proposals and pre sent to different to donors so as to buy them a transformer, any of them did so. According to the chairman, the transformer costs 70000 ET. Birr.

### Transport - NA

### Secondary education - NA

### Electricity and communications - NA

### Government TVET - NONE

### ‘Harmful traditional practices’ - NA