# Interviews with teenage focus groups in Korodegaga, Dodota wereda, Arssi

*Topic – government development interventions*

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## Focus group of males aged 15-19

1.GI; 18; Grade 8; no assets; student living with parents

2. CN; 15; Grade 5; one goat and member of loading and unloading cooperative; living with parents

3. UU 17; Grade 6 (dropped –out); mobile phone and member of loading and unloading cooperative; living with parents

4. UI; 18; Grade 9 (drop-out); member of loading and unloading cooperative; living with parents

5. UN; 17; Grade 8 (drop-out); 10 goats and an Ox and member of loading and unloading cooperative; living with parents

6. IB; 19; Grade 3 (drop-out); 1 Ox, 2 sheep and 2ha land and is a member of sand selling cooperative; married

### Land

Providing land for the youth is highly beneficial by creating employment and improving the livelihood of the youth. This intervention has different effects on human development aspects. Young men could get health treatment using the wealth they obtain from land intervention. It also improves food security of the youth by farming the land given for the youth. They could also cover educational costs, fuel costs and house rent by selling the products they obtain from the land they get. It also helped to change the work type on which the young men participated. It changed the engagement of the youth from selling fuel to farming land. The youth also get money for recreation in the town from the money they obtained from the land. The youth could also be independent from his family and help them in case they need it. They could help each other, their friends, relatives and neighbors when the need arises from the money they get from the land. When they are engaged in land farming the youth avoids bad behavior like theft and concentrates on their farm works. Sultan Haji is benefitting from irrigating land of 0.25ha and producing three times a year. Due to this his family could secure food and do not need to sell cattle to buy food.

The land intervention excludes students and, accordingly, one discussant is harmed in that the kebele has refused to give him land with the pretext of being a student while other students are still getting land. There are also people that are organised into cooperatives to get land but are then refused by officials for unknown reasons. Corruption has to be stopped. It is good news that they have heard women are now participating in cooperatives and the government is helping them in providing initial capital through credit for buying motor pumps, fertiliser, improved seed, pesticide, etc. These land related interventions will improve the livelihood of the youth and other service cooperatives buy their products, which means in the long run youth could construct houses in the kebele and in towns. It does no harm to the community in the long run. Strengthening what has been started would improve the intervention.

### Resettlement

None

### Government universities/colleges

Do not know the interventions.

### Irrigation

See under *land* above

### Alternative Basic Education

None

### Water harvesting

None

### Government pre-school education

None

### Agricultural extension and packages

Development agents give advice to the youth; provide improved seed and fertiliser. Youths that have land and use extension packages are benefitting unless there were problems like drought. One of the discussants was harmed when the new maize seed failed and he was forced to pay debt of 300.00 birr. The interesting thing they heard is that farmers that followed DA advice on irrigation have got higher production that those not using the advice. A model farmer has a certificate stamped in his farm and his name sent to wereda which initiates other farmers to be like him. See also under *land* above.

### Community-government interactions

None

### Livestock extension and packages

Do not know much about livestock extension.

### The use of models, champions, promoters – roles

None

### Non-farm extension and packages

None

### The use of extension workers – roles

None

### Co-operatives

Creating employment through cooperatives is important to improve the livelihood of the youth. Many youths are organised under different cooperatives of farm and non-farm service cooperatives that improve the livelihood of youths. The major cooperatives are sand selling, rain fed and irrigation land and loading and unloading. Students are prohibited from participating in cooperatives. Due to this problem some students are dropping-out from school to participate in cooperatives. There are youths who have paid the debts of their parents from the money they obtained from cooperatives. Except one discussant, all discussants are members of cooperatives and some of them have paid credit and improved seed debt of their parents at different times which strengthen family relations. This service is improved by establishing MSE in the town for cooperative members that have capital deposit leaving this work to the new youths and could continue their education. See under *land* for more details

### Good governance

None

### Government Micro-credit

No youth participated in micro credit

### Interactions with wereda

None

### Food aid

It provides food for the poor. Only the poor needs to get this aid, but well-to-do families are getting the aid due to corruption and this situation needs to be improved.

### Security, policing and justice

None

### Nutrition

None

### Taxes; other contributions of cash and labour

None

### Family planning

None

### Government-sponsored Associations

The cooperatives office is benefiting the youth by establishing cooperatives. See cooperatives

### Pregnancy and childbirth

None

### Presentation of government models of development

None

### Drinking water

None

### Exemptions for the poor

None

### Sanitation

None

### Gender laws, policies , programmes and implementation

None

### Preventive health services

None

### Youth policies, programmes and implementation

The youth policy allowed the youth to organise themselves into cooperatives in order to change the livelihood of the youth by reducing unemployment

### Curative health services

None

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

None

### Primary education

It helps the youth to get education near their residents and avoids additional costs. Due to the absence of grades above 4 and the increased educational cost, many youths are dropping-out from school and this situation should be improved. Parents that do not send their children to school should get awareness through Parents Teacher Association. Most of the members of the cooperatives are drop-outs due to shortage of capacity to go and learn in towns.

### Transport

Dire Kiltu road needs to be improved because this makes the price of our products cheaper and it takes a longer time. The sand selling youth cooperative failed to get to market with their product due to transport problem.

### Secondary education

None

### Electricity and communications

None

### Government TVET

None

### ‘Harmful traditional practices’

None

*Note: As most of the discussants are living with parents and do not have any exposure to development interventions, they have limited ideas on most issues.*

## Focus group of males aged 11 – 14

1. GN; 13; Grade 5; 5 chickens; living with parents

2. LC; 11; Grade 1; 2 sheep and 1 chicken; living with parents

3. TN; 12; Grade 5; 3 sheep and 2 chickens; living with parents

4. KK; 11; Grade 2; 1 goat; living with parents

5. LK; 12; Grade 5; 1 Sheep; living with parents

6. LK; 13; Grade 3 (drop-out); poor (owns nothing); living with parents

### Land

Government gives land to our family which they used to buy cattle, food, clothes and construct good houses. We are working on land given to our family and produce food and other vegetables like onions, tomato, and pepper. The money obtained from the land cultivated also helps to take sick people to health centers and get treatment. They also buy educational materials, shoes, and clothes for us. The interesting thing they heard is a replacement of the transformer that helps the development of the already abandoned community irrigation land.

The land also helps to produce food that further improves nutrition and protects us from different diseases. It also provides money for treatment in case of illness. Our parents are also giving us the money we are requested to give at school for different club contributions by selling products they get from the land. Our parents also give us money when we go to town for market for recreational activities. We also invite our friends with the money they give us. Before the land was given to our parents we were playing the whole day with our friends. Now we are working on our parents land to get money when we go to market that changed our behavior.

### Resettlement

None

### Government universities/colleges

None

### Irrigation

Refer to *land* above

### Alternative Basic Education

None

### Water harvesting

None

### Government pre-school education

None

### Agricultural extension and packages

None

### Community-government interactions

None

### Livestock extension and packages

None

### The use of models, champions, promoters – roles

None

### Non-farm extension and packages

None

### The use of extension workers – roles

Health extension workers are helping us in providing treatment. For example one of the discussants, went to the health post and got malaria treatment. They also help us not to be absent from school due to sickness.

### Co-operatives

Our parents get land through cooperatives and employ themselves in different activities and earn money that could help us to get food, educational materials and allow us to work with our parents. An interesting thing we heard is that it is possible to get land through cooperatives. Refer under *land* above for details.

### Good governance

None

### Government Micro-credit

Parents get credit and buy sheep and goats for breeding and after repayment of the debt they remain with additional assets which we also get advantage of from our parents. If an ox bought by a loan died, the family is forced to pay the debt selling other household assts.

### Interactions with wereda

None

### Food aid

It gives food to our family and we participate on terracing, helping our parents. The food protects us from disease and enables us to learn at school without hunger. In contrast it harms us when we are absent from school to participate in terracing.

### Security, policing and justice

None

### Nutrition

None

### Taxes; other contributions of cash and labour

None

### Family planning

None

### Government-sponsored Associations

None

### Pregnancy and childbirth

None

### Presentation of government models of development

None

### Drinking water

None

### Exemptions for the poor

None

### Sanitation

Prevents us from different diseases by digging latrines and properly managing waste around our compound, etc

### Gender laws, policies , programmes and implementation

None

### Preventive health services

None

### Youth policies, programmes and implementation

None

### Curative health services

None

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

None

### Primary education

It is helping us to eradicate literacy and know different ideas.

### Transport

None

### Secondary education

None

### Electricity and communications

None

### Government TVET

None

### ‘Harmful traditional practices’

None

*Note: the discussants were too young to give good information and they were also shy.*