# Interviews with kebele officials in Kormagefia kebele, Basona Werena wereda, North Shewa, Oromiya - Stage 3 questions

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## Kebele structure

### About the kebele

Kormargefia kebele has three sub-kebeles: Kormargefia, Aloberet and Milky.

Structure in the Wereda Module



* The new things which differ from the diagram (above) showing the structure of the kebele includes size of the general council, membership of kebele cabinet, as well as difference in the structure of the kebele in some ways.
* The kebele cabinet members are the kebele chairman, vice chairman, administration and security affairs, youth representative, health extension, head teacher, development agent and the kebele manager.
* The structure named administration and security affairs is represented by the militia head in the cabinet. There is no information desk in the kebele. But, the party structure named ‘party affairs and information’ which is headed by the kebele chairman, has the role of information desk. In this case, the chairman has a dual representation in the cabinet.
* Regarding the social court, in addition to secretary, sebsabi, member and registrar, it has a structure named candidate members ‘Teteki abalat’.
* The size of the general council is 300 (80 , 120, and 100 from Aloberet, Kormargefia and Milky sub kebele respectively) .
* The members of the core party structure at the kebele level are elected by the kebele council. They are 18, including the kebele chair, vice chair, and manager, who are also the member of the kebele cabinet.

Beside this the overall structure of the kebele resembles the one we had in the module.

### Sub-kebele structures

There are three sub-kebeles in the kebele namely Kormargefia, Aloberet and Milky. There are 28 ‘Gots’ in the kebele; there are 11, 7 and 10 ‘gots’ in Kormargefia, Aloberet and Milky sub-kebele. The sub-kebeles have the role of following and supporting development agents in their respective sub-kebele. As the respondent explained, the leaders in the sub-kebele level are members of the core party structure, which is working at the kebele level. There are six core party members who are at the same time sub-kebele leaders in Kormargefia and Milky sub-kebele and four leaders in Aloberet sub-kebele. These leaders of sub-kebele distribute ‘gots’ among themselves in their respective sub kebele and recruit as well as mobilize party members in each development teams.

As he explained, all development team members are not ‘hiwas’ members. The size of ‘hiwas’ in a development team depends on the work and skill of the sub-kebele leaders. Members of ‘hiwas’, ranges from 7 to 10 household in each development team. All ‘hiwas’ in all development teams has ‘sebisabi’ and secretary. In theory, the leaders of sub-kebeles are expected to meet ‘hiwas ‘leaders (Sebisabi and secretary) at weekends. Similarly, the core party structure at the kebele level is expected to meet the leaders of sub-kebele and ‘hiwas’ in each development team all over the kebele once a week.

According to his explanation, this structure was there for a long period of time, after the transition period. However, it becomes more visible and functional since 2005 national election.

There are 28 development teams in the kebele. There is a development team in each ‘got’; 11, 7 and 10 in Kormargefia, Aloberet and Milky sub-kebele. The membership of each development team ranges from 18 to 38.

As the respondent said, the lower –party structure in the kebele is ‘hiwas’ . He did not mention about cell members. However, contradictory to the chairman’s response, the number of ‘gots’ is 13 and those ‘gots’ which have large size could comprise one or more development teams.

He described that development and party work in the kebele is similar; the party may carry out some activities exclusively. For instance, the party structure of the kebele may hold party meetings and collect party contributions. Except for some cases, development team leaders are ‘hiwas’ leaders; they lead both developmental as well as political activities of their respective development team. However, here it has to be clear that all development members are not ‘hiwas’ members and all ‘hiwas’ members are ‘ginbar qedem’ farmers.

There is a separate development structure for females but not party structure. There are development teams of women mainly working on health extension packages. In this case, female household heads have dual membership in development teams, in the male as well as female structure. The males’ development teams, which have been there before, are mainly working with Development Agents in agricultural interventions.

As he explained, the development team leaders are the main channels in which both political as well as developmental messages and interventions pass. They are the ones who lead the 1-5 groups, and support them to apply government interventions in agriculture, health, and education sectors.

In ploughing and cultivation seasons, they show 1-5 group members how to prepare their land for cultivation, planting, how to use fertilizer, weeding and so on. In the education sector, they work to register those school age students, drop outs and so on. In the health sector, they work with the HEWs in the implementation of health packages. Especially the females’ development team leaders are the ones responsible for checking and controlling the status of households regarding health packages implementation. For the kebele administration sector, they, especially the males’ development team leaders, are the ones responsible for organising and mobilising land tax collection and debt repayment to any credit institution, whether it is ACSI or NGO.

Theoretically, development leaders are expected to bring reports to the kebele manager once a week. As the respondent said, those leaders who lead both the party as well as the development will bring two reports, one for the kebele manager and the other for the core party which is headed by the kebele chairman.

There are 13 female household heads who lead development teams. There are also few ‘hiwas’ leaders and there is one woman in the core party structure, the head of woman affairs.

According to the chairman’s perception, there is no cell structure in the party; the lower structure is ‘hiwas’.

He said that the structures are well functioning though it is not uniform across development teams. Development teams with skilled and committed leaders have a better performance than the other.

### Kebele Committees

There are four committees in the kebele; education, health, administration and security, and agriculture.

According to the respondent, among these committees, the most effective is the education committee. The reason is that the committee has succeeded in mobilizing the community to contribute in kind, labour and wood for the expansion of the school compound which teaches from grade 0 to 6. They successfully facilitated the beginning of adult education in the last academic year. Moreover, they work hard to bring school age students to school as well as to minimize drop outs and absentees. The respondent said that the committee is successful because it has committed leader.

The health committee is less effective, as he said. This is because the HEWS are not interested in their profession. There is continuous absenteeism as well as permission cases. They are reluctant to attend meetings in the kebele office organized by kebele administration. Because of this gap, the cabinet members were actively participating in getting the packages implemented in the kebele.

### Kebele leadership

The current chairman has been in office for more than 20 years. He was first elected in 1992. However, the size of kebeles then was small; in the current structure it was one of the sub-kebeles. In 1991, the present sub-kebeles of the kebele were independent kebeles, Kormagefia, Aloberet and Milky. In addition, Faji and Bokafiya , Tebase, and Karafino were independent kebeles which were finally incorporated with the above mentioned kebeles in 1997.

In 2005, Faji and Bokafiya, Tebase and Karafino detached from the kebele territory and were given to Debre Berhan town administration. The kebele office, including the Farmers’ Training Centre (FTC )and house for development agents were in Faji and Bokafiya. In the same year, the office moved to one of the sub-kebele named Kormagefia. However, the kebele did not build FTC or houses for the DAs in the new kebele administration compound.

The predecessor of the current chairman was in power for a year after EPRDF took the national political power. As the respondent said, he was removed because of corruption related to land and weapons.

The challenge that the kebele cabinet face is shortage of time for kebele work. As he said, he has no rest time, especially in recent years, because the burden of kebele work as well as his private livelihood engagement has increased significantly.

As he said, the ability to balance one’s own work with kebele administration tasks is the major challenge preventing cabinet members from staying in power. For instance, as he said, the cabinet elected a new vice chairman as the former failed to allocate his time properly for kebele work.

He recommended continuous capacity building work for cabinet members of the kebele.

*Kebele relations with neighbours*

The respondent said that there is not any historic or current tension with the neighbouring communities. Since 2005, there is a regular meeting once a month between the chairmen of two other neighbouring kebeles. It was the direction of the wereda to enhance peace and security among the kebeles.

## Agricultural extension

There are three agricultural extension DAs in the kebele(farming, livestock and environment ). They closely work with development team leaders. They sub divided the kebele into three to facilitate their work; each DA works in one sub-kebele in all areas of development intervention. When there is a need for special skill in sub-kebeles, the one with such skill, will give service to that specific sub-kebele.

According to his explanation, Development agents have been introduced in the kebele since 1992, after the transition period.

The agriculture extension system in the kebele changed in such a way to enable all households to access agricultural interventions. By strengthening the development teams the system showed a progress in its coverage as well as quality of work.

As he said, the present agricultural extension work is more efficient than the previous one. There is a significant change in agricultural practices, both farming and livestock rearing, in recent times. In addition, there is a better beginning in environmental preservation such as watershed management where there had been lack of skill.

The development agents have a role to teach and mobilize the leaders of development teams on agricultural intervention works. They evaluate the work of development team leaders as well as the practicability of each intervention in the household level. They hold meetings as well as personal contact with development team leaders to provide new things/ideas as well as to take feedback.

Development agents do not use the females’ development teams as the males are the one who mainly engaged in farming and other agricultural activities.

In kebele history, the first election of model farmers took place in 2005. At this time 250 farmers were elected. From 2005 to 2012/13, an additional 35 model farmers were selected. At present, there are 283 model farmers in the kebele. In 2009/10, two model farmers were demoted because the kebele council evaluated them and found that they have a problem related to discipline. Moreover, these farmers had reduced their time on farm activities by deviating and allocating more time to non-farm work (daily labour) that was available in Debre Berhan town. This was the time during which Debre Berhan University was built.

The role of model farmers, who were elected before 2010, is the same with model farmers elected recently. All model farmers are ‘ginibar qedem’ farmers and vice versa. And, all development leaders are model farmers. Models have a rank, A, B and C, depending on the status they have on some criteria such as the capacity to adopt new agricultural technologies, hardworking, and so on.

There is no new kind of model farmer in the kebele.

There is a farmer who is a champion at wereda and zone level. He is the kebele chairman. He got prize (certificate and medal) from the former prime minister of Ethiopia, Meles Zenawi. He got prizes three times, in 2007, 2009 and 2011.

In 2007, the wereda awarded him with urban land (250 square metres) in Debre Berhan town. As he said, he got the prize because he has a better performance both on irrigation farm as well as fattening. In the last harvesting season, he produced 50 quintal onion and 60 quintal carrot. He sold onions at 13 birr/kg and carrots at 13 birr/kg. In total, he generated around 100,000 Birr from the sale of the vegetables. In the same year, he fattened three ox and 20 sheep for market.

As mentioned above, the development team leaders, who are at the same time 1-5 group leaders, are responsible for the lion’s share of the implementation of agricultural intervention in the kebele. They are used as bridge for the communication between agricultural extension agents and the farmers.

The respondent recommended the re-assignment of DAs with better practical skill and commitment.

## Health extension

There are two HEWs and they work closely with women, particularly with females development team leaders. They sub divided the kebele in to two in such a way to minimize the time wastage by moving from one sub-kebele to other.

Five years ago, there was no development team structure in line with gender. The health extension system had been using the males’ development team leaders by giving much emphasize to their wives. The establishment of females’ development teams create accessible channel for the effective work of the extension system.

The old health extension system was too weak as the professionals were coming from the wereda occasionally to give some service such as vaccination.

The HEWs play a significant role in introducing health extension packages in the community. They work with active women, who are leaders of development teams as well as 1-5 groups, to implement the packages at the household level.

There is no health volunteer. The structure was demolished and now most of them have become leaders of development teams. The leaders have a role of checking and following the implementation of health packages in 1-5 group members. They report the name of those households who refuse to apply the packages for different reasons. They share skills with the 1-5 group members, on some packages such as making of improved traditional stoves.

According to the respondent, the health army of the kebele are model farmers.

There is no TBA in the community. The traditional birth attendants were trained, warning them of the legal consequence of giving the service.

He said that the government should assign HEWs with better education quality and experience. In addition, it must work to improve the working environment and return of their work to enhance their commitment to serve the people.

## Investors and in-migrants

There is 5 hectare land, located in the kebele but leased by the wereda to investors. The kebele did not make the decision. However the proposition by the wereda was made accessible to community member to discuss it. As he explained, except few people, the majority have agreed on the investment based on the expectation that it will create employment opportunities. There has been little initial opposition but the kebele leaders played a crucial role to persuade the opponents about the advantage of the proposed investment.

The community, including the kebele officials, believe that the investors did not work as they promised which implies that the community did not get the benefit which was expected in the beginning.

The land, now leased by the investors, was communal land that had been used for grazing land. The investors had been using it for fattening as well as milk production. Previously, there were three permanent employees in the kebele; a guard and people for milking. Currently, the investors are reorganizing themselves to recommence in a different way. For the on-going building in the compound, they are hiring 25-35 daily labourers.

They are in-migrants employed in the site as a daily labourer. They are from the neighbouring Angolela and Tera wereda and they are around 10.

There is no problem between the local people and in-migrants to work in the investment site. The respondent, the kebele chair, does not know the amount of rent, because it is the wereda investment office that deals with it.

Currently, the benefits of the investment favour the youths because they are the one with physical fitness to work as daily labourer. In the last five years, the benefit of the investment was minimal. There had been only three people who got job opportunity.

The cost of the investment is said to be very negligible as there is plenty of communal land in the kebele.

## Credit

The respondent said that the wereda had been providing direct credit to the community for the last many years. The kebele officials used to establish a committee to select farmers who should be given priority to get the credit. There was a quota. Usually, it ranges from 100 to 150 households. The service cooperative was responsible for collecting the debts. However, in the coming farming season there will not be a direct credit service, which was officially announced to the community at the beginning of this year. Following this new direction, there is a call by the wereda credit and saving association to initiate farmers to register and save in the association. The respondent said that farmers have started saving. Those farmers who did not start saving will look for other sources of income to cover their agriculture input in the coming season. The most obvious means to do so is to sell their fattened livestock.

As the respondent described, the service cooperative of the kebele does not provide credit by itself. It organizes credit service in the community. It supports credit providers in credit distribution as well as debt collection.

There is no government affiliated Micro Finance Institution (MFI) in the kebele.

Regarding the village savings and loan association, the respondent described that the community prefers these indigenous institutions to the other government based saving and credit organizations. The reason for this tendency among the people to prefer ‘equbs’ than other saving and credit organization includes their cultural attachment, minimal procedures and bureaucracy to join and leave, as well as the lack of obligation to form groups i.e. to organize formally and so on. Currently, the number of people who are willing to save in ‘equbs’ as well as the amount of money they save has increased. For instance, five years ago, most people had been saving 5 to 10 Birr per month. Currently, it ranges from 50 to 100 Birr per month. Moreover, people in different economic status, rich, poor as well as middle one, use the ‘equb’ institution to save the amount of money that they can. The amount of money that should be saved in ‘equb’ is not fixed in such a way to open the saving opportunity for all society.

Equbs can be organized by anyone who has legitimacy because of his good behaviour or hard work. People save in ‘equbs’ for different purposes. A few people invest the money in agricultural inputs or livestock. Others may purchase household equipment, clothes and so on. The number of people in each equb differs; it ranges from five to 20. As it is a community based initiative as well as an indigenous saving institution, the problem it has in its organization and running is very minimal. For instance, there might be a delay of money contribution, which will be immediately solved through informal contact and discussion. There is no credit service provided by ‘equbs’ in the community.

There are no farmers who borrowed money from banks. Similarly, there is no private MFI operating in the community.

There is a local NGO namely, ‘Migib lehitsanat’, which has been providing credit for the community since 2009. The credit is in kind which includes provision of cows, ox, as well as agricultural inputs such as improved seed. As the respondent explained, more than 100 people had benefited from this credit service.

The NGO has been using kebele officials as well as party leaders in the kebele to select beneficiaries of credit service. As he said, the kebele officials organize a meeting for the people to give their opinion on who should get the priority to take credit from the NGO. Together they propose people who are most likely believed to be poorer, and prioritized them every year.

The service cooperative is in charge of collecting the debt from the beneficiary farmers. They must repay the debt within three years. Until this time, though there are farmers with outstanding debt, there is not a procedure to punish them.

The kebele has an access to credit from ACSI (Amhara Credit and Saving Institution). However, the credit is not given on an individual basis; people have to organize themselves usually within their development team. Moreover, the kebele administration has to write a recommendation paper that shows their legitimacy to take the credit. Though it is not obligatory, the institution asks credit takers to show their land ownership book or, if not available, their kebele ID card.

The kebele residents have taken more credit from ACSI than the NGO because the credit from the NGO is not equally accessible for all. Currently, around 250 people are saving in ACSI. Regarding the outstanding debt in the kebele, the respondent explained that there is a high rate of repaying because there is a fear of debt among the community.

On the saving culture of the community, he described that there is a significant change of peoples’ outlook toward saving in recent years. However, the change is not brought by the government or non-governmental saving and credit organization, but through the indigenous institution, equb.

## Drinking water

The respondent said the majority in the community have access to safe water throughout the year. Few households use unsafe spring water throughout the year. There are 10 water points in the community; 7 of them were built by ARO (Amhara Redevelopment organization), 3 were built by an NGO named ‘migib lehitsanat’ and there is one water point which is under construction.

According to his responses, acute diarrhoea has not occurred in the community in the last 20 years.

There are water committees for each water point responsible for maintaining as well as proper usage of the water. In case of pipe breaking as well as other related technical problems, the wereda safe water office send technicians to repair it within a short period of time. As mentioned by the respondent, there is no problem relating to water point maintenance.

The first 7 water points were built in 2006 while the other two were built in 2011.

He explained that the community is at risk in safe water provision. As he said, the water points are not drawing underground water but they are piped springs . There is a fear in the community that few water points will dry up very soon as the amount of water is declining from time to time. In consequence, the kebele is forced to limit the amount of safe water that each household can use per day in each water points. Because of this fact, he recommended a well-financed government or NGO project to search for underground water resources and build wells for provision of safe water.

## Taxes and contributions

### Taxes and licences

The two tax types collected from the community are land and income taxes. The owner of the grain mill is the only individual who pays income tax as well as having a business license from the non-farming business people. And, the government employees in the kebele pay income tax.

The kebele does not calculate the rate of land tax. It is the wereda that fixes and directs tax collection in the kebele.

Land tax calculation in the kebele

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No | Size of land in hectare | Classification of land tax | total |
| Agricultural income tax (Yerisha Sira gebi) in Birr | Rural Land use tax (yegeter meret meteqemiya) in Birr |
| 1 | 1 | 35 | 20 | 55 |
| 2 | 1.5 | 50 | 25 | 75 |
| 3 | 2 | 65 | 35 | 100 |
| 4 | 2.5 | 95 | 35 | 130 |
| 5 | 3 | 130 | 40 | 170 |

The respondent said that there is one individual in the community who has been paying 250 birr for 3.5 hectare land. He explained that the maximum size of land per individual is 3 hectare unless there is a land owned through inheritance or long term contract.

There is market tax at Debre Berhan town for selling livestock; 5 birr for cow and ox, 2 birr for sheep.

He said that there is no significant problem in land tax collection. In times of land tax, the kebele officials organize a meeting for the community members and put deadline for land tax payment with them. In most cases, the deadline extends to a month that gives a chance for land tax payers to finance their tax from any income. Rarely, the militia will be involved in bringing those farmers who hesitate to pay the land tax in the given period of time.

### Contributions

The respondent said that the yearly contribution for Red Cross, sport, kebele office and school guard, Amhara Development Association is amount about 5, 10, 6 and 36 Birr. he mentioned that there might be contribution for one time such as contribution for water construction but it is limited to the specific ‘got’ where the water is going to be build.

## Government volunteers

The respondent said that the cabinet volunteers face a problem of commitment to do their work regularly because of absence of salary. It is a responsibility without any return. Beside this, they may enter in disagreements with community members whose interest is affected directly or indirectly by the cabinet decision.

In addition, he mentioned the shortage of time to do both kebele tasks as well as farming for their own livelihood. He says “we are the ones responsible to see and check community complaints, follow the works of committees in the kebele, and so on which divert us from our farm and other livelihood activities “.

He said that the cabinet does not face any problem with the wereda, community, government employees as well as kebele council. He also mentioned that there is no problem between the kebele manager and cabinet as they are working together.

## Youth

The respondent said that young men may face a problem in establishing an independent household as there is no land distribution in the kebele after the 1996 land re-distribution. Besides this, he mentioned that there is plenty of access to credit for them if they need to engage in other businesses including livestock fattening for sale.

Currently, the kebele is planning to distribute kebele land to a few young men. Sixteen young men, who organize themselves, have requested for land and the kebele administration is planning to provide them with 6 hectare farmland. As he said, the young men are going to use rain fed farming as they do not have access to water for irrigation. He hopes that in the coming cultivation season they will start working on it.

The opportunities for less educated young men is cattle fattening as well as farming for few who already organized a producer cooperative before two years. In addition, there is a stone exploitation potential which could create an opportunity for those uneducated young men. Regarding educated young men, the respondent said that there is no promising environment to absorb educated people in the kebele.

He said that there is no special/different problem for young women in the community. They have equal access to those opportunities which the young men do have and equal challenges such as lack of farmland as well as job opportunities for educated ones.

There is has not been a land distribution from the government’s communal land to individuals. However, there has been land re-distribution to individuals. For instance a deceased person might have no descendants who have inheritance rights to the land, so the kebele will redistribute it. Those lands, without anyone who has inheritance rights, are locally called ‘Yemote Keda’ and will be distributed to landless people. As he described, the question of who should be given priority has been handled by the community as a whole. Meeting will be organized to select landless people and prioritise them.

In 2010/11, the kebele has contracted 4 hectare of irrigated land to 51 young men. They pay 640 Birr per year for the land. Before 2010/11, the land was communal grazing land.

According to him, there is a youth package in the kebele. The youth service cooperative got 4000 Birr credit from ACSI and used it to purchase a water pump. In addition, they got credit from the wereda MFI. ‘Migib lehitsanat, a local NGO, which provided them with potato seeds for one cultivation season. However, the secretary of the youth cooperative contradicted this, saying that they didn’t get any support from the government or the NGO. As he informally talked to me, he elaborated that the pump water which is said by the chairman to be owned by the cooperative is the property of one member of the cooperative. He told me that he bought it in the last year. The cost was financed by taking credit from ACSI; his mother took the credit for him because he is not eligible for it.

He said that around 10 young men migrate each year to Debre Berhan and Addis Ababa. Few leave the community to continue education though the chance to stay in school is low in towns; they drop out and work as hired daily labourers. The others purposely leave the community to work in different construction projects including cobble stone projects in Debre Berhan town. Migration, as he said, has increased slightly compared to previous times.

The number of young women migrating each year is estimated at around 15. He described that in addition to urban daily labour, they were also hired as domestic servants in Debre Berhan as well as Addis Ababa. Few young women, after staying for few years as domestic servants leave the country to Arab states. He believes that at this time around 40 women are living in Arab states working as domestic servant.

According to his perception, the consequence of migration tends to be positive as families of those young women who left to Arab states are getting a remittance which has a huge impact on their livelihood status. Though migration of young men has a negative impact on the size of labour on individual household farm, it could not be that much significant as the cultivation season had reduced to one because of climate change. Consequently, most households do not have shortage of labour to work on land.

## Public Works

### Environmental public works

The respondent said that there have not been any significant problems related to erosion, floods, deforestation, as well as grazing land management in the community. As he said, there is a small amount of sloped land which to some extent has been affected by flood and erosion. And also, some communal lands are steeply sloped which face the problem of erosion and flood.

Public works have been conducted in large degree to solve environmental problems of the community since 2010. As the respondent explained, public works had been organised to work on watershed management projects in each of the sub-kebele. Among the three watershed management sites, eucalyptus trees were planted in the two sites. A few farmers have also worked terracing their own farmland.

Community members worked 60 days, except weekends and five days which the orthodox Christian religion forbid working, in each year for the last three years, including this year. There is no FFW in the community.

He said that the wereda had provided the kebele with supporting materials such as hoe, and others.

### Other public works

The respondent said that recently, in March 2013, there were public works done on reconstruction of internal roads and bridges. The public work was carried out for four days in two consecutive two weeks. As he explained, the wereda had provided a skilled person who helped farmers on bridge construction and little equipment.

There was public works involvement in the construction of buildings for the kebele office, health post as well as for the expansion of school buildings. Two years ago, public works were used to expand the main primary school for a month, except for weekends and religiously work forbidden days. In addition to labour, the community members contributed wood.

In 2006, the year when the health post as well as the kebele office was constructed, public work had been mobilized for more than a month. The wereda had provided iron sheets for the buildings, health post and kebele office.

### Organising public works

The respondent said that there is enough public work labour to cover all the needs of the community. As he said, the prioritization of public works depends upon the main current problems of the kebele. For instance, the bridge has to be reconstructed before rainy seasons so that it will protect the community from being cut-off when the level of the river is high.

He explained that community members are expected to spend 60 days in public works in a year. There is no regular time each week because the working day excludes those saint days on which the community believes work is forbidden. In most cases, a household will be represented by a household head or elder children on public work.

As he described, people may not come to the public works because of different reasons. However, he mentioned that there are few people who intentionally are not coming to the public works because they do not believe in it. Most of them are against the government in their political view but they do not oppose the government openly.

The kebele cabinet members try to talk to such people personally as well as in a group. There is no punishment for absentees from public work.

He said that most people do not like to work on watershed management projects. They relatively are positive towards school, internal road, bridges as well as health post building construction. He believes that this difference on public work emanated from the return that each get on individual base, the time they have to wait to see the benefit as well as the tangibility of the benefit.

## Government propaganda/public relations

There is a structure which is under the party structure of the kebele named Party issues and advertisement (yedirijit guday ena masitaweqiya). By default, the head of the structure should be the kebele vice chairman. The current vice chairman of the kebele is assigned in the last year. The chairman, who has been in the position for the last 20 years, believes that the structure has never been actively operating in the kebele. He still insists the new vice chairman is the right person to give information on the issues related with information and advertisement in the kebele.

There respondent said that the main routes to deliver development as well as political messages are the development teams as well as 1-5 groups under the each development teams. Any cabinet member will inform the leaders of the development teams when there is an issue, whether it is development or politics, either by contacting them or sending letters.

The ‘Hiwas’ structure of the party at the grass root level is believed to be a structure that is responsible to follow the work of development teams. As he explained, in most cases, the leaders of the development teams are, at the same time, the leaders of the ‘Hiwas’. However, sometimes ‘hiwas’ leaders may be elected from 1-5 group members.

The respondents said that there is a general meeting at least once a year, when all farmers, named ‘ginibar qedem’ will attend. Sometimes, when there is urgent development or political issues, such as watershed management, time for land tax and so on they will call the community members by using the aforementioned information channels. In general kebele meetings, farmers regularly attend if there is no urgent work to do, which include both social and economic activities. There is no punishment on the absentees. As he informed, cabinet members will try to advise as well as convince them to attend kebele organized meetings.

He said the kebele cabinet meet at least once in two weeks, however, there was no kebele cabinet meeting while we there for more than a month. He also said the kebele council regularly meets twice a month. Again, in reality, there was no meeting held for more than a month. And he admitted there was no meeting for the last three months. Similarly, it is reported that the cabinet meet development team leaders twice a month though there has been no meeting for the last two months.

There are 284 party member household heads. Among them, 25 are female household heads. At kebele level, there is a meeting held for ‘ginbar qedem’ farmers. Most of the time, this is a meeting where there is a high level of attendance as compared to the other kebele as well as party meeting.

There is also a meeting of core party members (Meseretawi Dirigit) at the kebele level. Most members belong to the kebele cabinet. However, the respondent said that the meetings are rarely held as the members are so reluctant.

At sub-kebele level, members of ‘hiwas’ meet, but not regularly.

At the ‘got’ level, the ‘hiwas’ leaders meet the 1-5 groups, where they are the leaders of development team. In special cases, where there are 1-5 group members but not ‘Hiwas’ members, the leaders of ‘hiwas’ will contact more than 5 or less people, which depend on the number of ‘hiwas’ leaders in a development team.

Similar to that of kebele meetings, there is no control mechanism of absentees in the party meetings.

The government newspaper is provided to the kebele at least twice a year. The kebele manager as well as the chairman, distributes newspapers to development team leaders who are mainly responsibly to take and discuss with the development teams as well as 1-5 group members. The respondent described that the feedback from the development team about the messages of the newspapers is positive. However, he said that it is not fair to say individuals have the same comment and observation.

Usually, the wereda arranges training for kebele officials, especially for kebele cabinets as well as core party members, at least three times a year. Recently, in February, 2013, the kebele chairman, vice chairman and DA (farming specialist) were trained in the wereda for two full days. The area of the training was watershed management and the training includes visiting other wereda, in Menz area, where there are well-managed watersheds. The per diem was 150 birr.

The respondent explained that listening to radio news in very common in the community. Community members usually use the government radio station to listen to news.

The only champion in the kebele is the kebele chairman. The model farmers are in most cases the leaders of development teams so that they are the main channel to deliver government message to the community members.

Regarding selection of model farmers, the respondent describes that models farmers in most cases were selected in their absence. At the yearly conference, the ‘ginbar qedem’ farmers, who are at the same time model farmers by default, will suggest farmers who they think they are strong and active enough to be a model. Then, all members, including the meeting chairs i.e. kebele cabinets, discuss and decide whether the candidates can be models or not. According to the respondents, there are farmers who are relatively strong in farming as well as fattening but not taken as model. This is because they are not willing to teach others and they are selfish. Most of these farmers have no interest in kebele related issue including party membership. The respondent said that most of them are against the ruling party and had an attachment with the ‘Derg’ regime, where they got the name ‘burocrasi’.

## Research officer additions

### Kebele statistics – types of organisation

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| no | Organization type | Class of household head | Total | Remark |
| Male household heads | female household head |
| 1 | land tax payers | 785 | 343 | 1128 | There are people who left the community but own farmland in the community. i.e. they are not included in the number of household  |
| 2 | Households | 699 | 281 | 980 |  |
| 3 | ‘Ginibar qedem’ | 259 | 25 | 284 | All are model farmers |
| 4 | Core party members | 17 | 1 | 18 |  |
| 5 | ‘yehiwas leaders’ | 108 | 4 | 112 | All are model farmers and the majority of them are development team too. i.e. there is overlap between political and development structure leadership |
| 6 | Development team leaders | 551 | 148 | 996 |  |
| 7 | Number of 1-5 groups | 140 | The leaders of 1-5 groups are also the leaders of development team leaders |

The kebele population size is 3825 (1979 males and 1846 females)

###

### Kebele statistics – numbers of livestock

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| no | Type of livestock | Size of each type in the two year |
| 2010/11 | 2011/12 |
| Local | breed |
| 1 | Cattle |
|  | Cows |  4987(total sum) |  498 | 410 |
| Oxen | 1556 | 700 |
| Bulls | 509 | 205 |
| Heifers |  307 | 107 |
| Calves |  1407 | 205 |
| 2 | Shoats |
|  | Sheep | 7613 | 4003 |
| Goats | 225 | 525 |
| 3 | Chickens | 2830 | 3360 |
| 4 | Beehives | NA | 40 |
| 5 | Pack animals |
|  | Donkeys | 1338(total sum) | 2256 |
| Horses | 509 |
| Mules | 21 |

N.B. the Development Agents collect data on the size of livestock in the kebele by using the development team leaders’ i.e. the leaders of each development team will provide data on the number and type of livestock in each household under the team for the DAs.