# Interviews with kebele officials in Udea kebele (of which Sirba is a sub-kebele), Ada’a wereda, East Shewa, Oromiya - Stage 3 questions

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## Kebele structure

### About the kebele

Sirba was a kebele on its own 12 years ago, but Sirbana Godeti Kebele has now became one village under the administration of Udea kebele which contains (Sirba, Ude and Kumbursa villages) The kebele office is located at Udea village and also the Kebele is named as Udea. There is urban and rural kebele administration. Sirba, Kumbursa and part of Ude are under the rural kebele administration and Ude village/Denkaka town is now under the urban Kebele Administration. There is one kebele office building but different leaders and different office rooms for the urban and for the rural. Only one manager serves for both, but as cabinet member to the urban kebele only.

There are about 835 hhs in the town and rural parts of the three villages. In Sirba alone there are 224 hhs. The kebele council has 300 members. The cabinet has 8 members for the rural and 7 for the urban Kebele. The cabinet members are; Chair, vice chair, kebele manager, security head, women, youth and children’s affairs office head, HEW, head teacher, and the DA. These same positions with different staff exist in the rural and urban division of the kebele, with the exception of the manager who is only in the urban administration.

There is a social court and it has three members in both the urban and rural kebeles. It is made up of three members including; a secretary, *Sebsabi* and a 3rd member.

The respondent said that his role is leading the rural kebele office. The main works are implementing anything that comes down from the government to the community, collecting tax, working on security at village level, also taking any concerns of the community to the government to get their voice heard.

### Sub-kebele structures

There are about 31 development teams; each team has 28-30 members. The team is organised based on neighbourhood and gender, women are organised separately.

The aim of any of these teams is the same, which is taking the country’s political reality/party ideas to the ground through this group and accelerating development. There are cooperatives in farming activities, including poultry, which has not started so far and new cooperatives are being set up for bull fattening. Through one-to-five groups, skill sharing and cooperation is achieved in daily farm activities.

The party organization is almost the same in cooperation and functioning. The leader of the development team is also a leader of the cell which is a political local organization.

The development team leader collects members twice a month and they share ideas on development issues including delivering any new development ideas from the government. There is no difference between men and women’s teams.

The main role of cell leaders is educating members about politics, getting the party magazine and newspaper and discussing it with members. They assemble monthly and pay 14 birr party contribution annually per hh. They also discuss the party’s new ideas/rules from the top and which flow down to the community. They evaluate the party activities that they have done, and they evaluate each other through *Gimgema.* They build on their strengths and accept the weaknesses for improvement.

1-5 groups are responsible for their own security in the neighbourhood, they cooperate in development activities, they discuss party issues by getting newspapers from the cell. The activities are the same for men and women but male groups are more involved in security issues.

The plan for one to five is not going as it was planned, because the attitude of the community towards it has not developed well. Mostly people stick to the old way of traditional interaction in their chosen neighbourhood rather than taking this new structure.

### Kebele Committees

There are: Security committee, Political party committee, social court committee/the social court, kebele KUMI /Main kebele committee. The main committee is more effective and also the rest are active. There is no weak committee, if any of these committees are found to be reluctant to do what they are given, they will be replaced by election nominated by OPDO party and elected by the community.

### Kebele leadership

I have worked for two years at the Kebele office, before that Ato TH was the chair. He was demoted because he had problems in administration, besides he was less capable and suspected to be corrupt by the whole community, in particular in selling land. He has now bought a house at town and also Bajaj /Tuktuk that works in town. However he is still living here, he ploughs his land here. BeforeT, Ato H was chair.

The problem we faced last year was that the group of the ex-chair were threatening the new kebele administrators and even they beat me up at night. When we mobilise the community to work on public works like terracing, the ex-chair was mobilizing people not to obey the new administration. The other problem was that he was supporting the youth to gamble around the villages and disturb the village security by causing conflict among them.

I suggest that the kebele administrators should not be able to work for more than five years, because if any leader stays more than one election period he will learn how to steal as he adopts the system/position. The other problem is that the wereda has the mandate to promote or demote any chair elected by the community. This meant that someone who steals gives some money to the Ada wereda leaders and becomes chair. Sometimes the wereda suddenly demotes them and appoints this man without consulting the community. These are challenges and problems that should be improved in the future.

*Kebele relations with neighbours*

There are very good relations with neighbouring kebeles, there was no conflict with them. There are livestock thieves who come from other wereda called Akaki/Abu wereda. There were three livestock thefts times last year and this year a total of 13 livestock were taken from another 3 households during the night. The solution we came up with is to have patrols around the neighbourhood at night with one-to-five groups taking turns. For the last two months since this was established we have had no cattle stolen, we hope that this will help.

## Agricultural extension

The Agricultural extension program operates in each village, in all three there is one crop DA but there is only one NRM and livestock DA for all three villages/for the entire kebele. There was no DA assigned to the kebeles before they were merged into one. There is no change in HR in the agricultural extension program. The role of the DAs is distributing improved seeds and fertiliser, they also educate about planting in lines, using BBM methods, about the amount of seeds to be spread out on a hectare. We used to plant up to 100 kg per hectare, but now they trained us how to sow only 28 kg per hectare. They also teach the community about crop rotation to plant Teff and, chickpea alternatively to keep the soil fertile. They move around with the kebele administration to see how the work is going. The DAs work also with women regarding how to handle the weeds, and how to use weed killer. They also discuss bio-gas with those who already use it and the issue of chicken management and livestock with which women are assisted by the DAs directly.

There were about 203 model farmers selected from 835 hhs in the kebele. There are about 62 model farmers from Sirba village. They were only selected in 2010 and still the DAs are assisting them to be more productive. I live in Sirba and I am one of the model farmers. Model farmers do bull fattening, dairy farming, grow vegetables by using irrigation and they are hard workers who plough a large area of land by renting in addition to the land they own. In this kebele people have at least 1 hectare and some have about 12 hectares which is the maximum land size. There are two champion farmers in Sirba village; there are two also in Udea, but none in Kumbursa village, even though there are model farmers here like in the other villages. The role of the champions is to be agents for improved seeds and to work with DAs in this regard. The other role they have is they are taken as examples and people see them as role models.

The role of development teams and one to five in the agricultural extension work is connecting hhs with the DA programs like seeds, fertiliser, and any others, enabling them to communicate easily.

The DAs are living with the community and they are close to every hh which helped a lot for the work to run smoothly with their effort and close interaction.

## Health extension

There is only one HP in the kebele in general, and there are three HEWs in the HP, they work on different packages, on toilets building and other packages. There are only 4 people who don’t have a toilet. The HEWs teach about personal hygiene, about AIDS, about to the importance of having institutional delivery and ante-natal care, to use Family Planning methods, about the importance of breast feeding up to six months and what food items to give children after six months. They teach through the Gerea/development team and they go door to door to every hh.

Each of the three HEWs are assigned to a village in the kebele. Only one HEW was assigned to the kebele 10 years ago, but in the past five years one HEW is assigned to each village and they began to teach the community closely, which was not the case before. The change is effective because five years ago these prevention activities were not there. At that time the vaccinations were only given in Debre Zeyt, except when there were more widespread campaigns, for example for Polio eradication. But now they are given at HP level here. In addition, bed nets are distributed at the HP every year depending on the family size, up to 4 for one hh. There is better awareness in disease prevention, and care.

There are no health volunteers. Like for the agricultural extension program, the development team, and the one to five groups helped the HEWs to access the community easily, besides in the one to five group, educating neighbours about health issues is made possible.

There are about 7 individuals in a health army who are leaders of development team, having better education and also who are closer to the HEWs in communication.

They organise health movements like sensitising for vaccinations, organizing distribution for bed nets, and mobilization on health prevention issues, they control who is not having toilets, and not implementing any of the health packages.

Now we have two TBAs trained by the wereda health bureau. We had TBAs in each village but the one in Sirba died this year in October after she was sick for a year. They work with HEWs in cooperation, in assisting women at delivery.

There is only one HP in the whole Keble but I suggest that we should have HPs in each village and the wereda could add one HEW to have two in each village. If the one is not present the other will help the community in the villages.

## Investors and in-migrants

The investments in the kebele are: a brick factory, a flower farm, Hotels called Arose and Gedera, there is gas station under construction. There are Arabs who took land for poultry, and there is a plan to set up this soon. Yesterday there another investors’ group visited looking for suitable land in the kebele with the Wereda administrators, but I am not sure what they want to do, and when.

There is a Chinese road Construction Company which took land for four years and set up camps here and it will leave after the road is completed. The regional investment bureau in cooperation with its office at the Wereda decides which land to give for investment and for what type of investment.

There is some dissatisfaction among some segments of the community about incoming investment, because they feel that their land is being taken away, though they can’t resist this process, because no one can resist the government’s decisions.

I don’t know how much land has been given out exactly. The government’s promise was to provide employment with good salary, but now the flower farm is paying only 12 birr per day and the local people are disappointed by this. Because of this the community is not in favour of any investment.

The land taken for investment all used to be ploughed by individual farmers. There was compensation paid for these farmers which was good money at the time. About 300 people were employed from all the three villages, in the flower farm and in the brick factory, but in the hotels only 3 people were employed. There are a few in-migrants who came from Gondor and Wollo for farming 8 years ago, these are about 5 people. Those who came for employment are mainly working on the Chinese road construction project. Most of them came from Harar, Arsi,, Wolayta and AA. One man came from Arsi to be employed in the flower farm.

These in migrants live with the community peacefully, there is no problem. These in migrants rent a house from those who have extra rooms for 250 birr on average There is no cost/disadvantage that the community faced due to in migration.

## Credit

The wereda used to give credit for seeds and fertiliser three years ago, but it has discontinued since then. There are service cooperatives providing credit. These include: WALKO/Walda Liki fi Kuseno Oromia (Oromia Credit and Saving Association), which gives credit for all farm activities like the purchase of fertiliser, land rent, seeds, etc. There is also an association called GUDINA organised by the wereda at village level that gives credit in the summer and collects in the winter, this is also for farm inputs.

The first one brings money from the Oromia Development Bank, and the GUDINA fund comes from villagers’ savings in the association.

The government linked MFI is WALKO, which is working actively in the kebele. For a group to access credit, ten people should join together and the amount of credit ranges from 2000-10000 birr. The highest is obtained when the group remains a member for a long time and is reliable in its repayments. Anyone interested in getting credit can access these loans by being in a group.

Usually the loan is used for farm inputs, for oxen, fertiliser, and land rent etc. There is no major debt because the group collateral system is effective in avoiding indebtedness.

The village saving group/Association is organised mainly for fertiliser purchase; the amount depends on the borrowers’ needs.

There are no farmers who have taken credit from the bank yet. There is no private MFI here; there is also no NGO involved in credit and saving service. Iddir is another source of credit, up to 1000 birr for members only. Non-members are not allowed to borrow money. Every Iddir member contributes 100 birr per year, whether you take credit or not. If you take 1000 birr the interest is assumed to be 100 birr and as you are a member you are exempted, because you pay contributions.

WALKO gives the largest loans, followed by GUDINA/the village saving institute, and then Iddir provides the least amount. There are no cases of indebtedness here, everyone pays on time. There is an improved habit of saving among the community members, maybe because of the mobilization by the government about it, the credit and saving institutes also encourage saving.

## Drinking water

Most of the kebele hhs have access to safe water except those in Kumbursa village where they entirely rely on water wells, and half of Udea village where they use wells which are not safe water.

There are five water points supported by electric power/taps or bono (a water point that is shared by villagers by opening the pipe simply as it is supported by electric power), there are about 7 hand pump water points. There were two solar pump water points previously but now these are out of order. The three water points available at Sirba which are tap/bono are provided by wealthy people living in Kuwait/Arab which collects money for the sale of the water. There is another water point provided by Passion Connection NGO, for irrigation, but also used for drinking. The third one is constructed by the Chinese road company for the camp but this also provides water for the community for free. Because this is free, there are many people queuing for water and so some people prefer to pay for the private water sources.

For Kumbursa village it was difficult to provide them with tap water/bono because they don’t have electric power. In addition, the government couldn’t provide them with a hand pump yet. Five individuals made a cyclical pump/MENEBELA for themselves for the water well that they dug. There are no plans for water expansion intervention. The maintenance for the NGO water point is paid for by the sale of the water which is managed by a committee. The owner of the private water pump also maintains the pump himself, and the Chinese maintain theirs. The wereda used to work on the maintenance of the solar and hand pump points before the tap option was made available, first by passion connection 5 years ago, then the Chinese and then the private water source 3 years ago. There is no problem in maintenance; the pumps are no longer used by the community and are not preferred now, so it is a waste of money to maintain them.

We have progressed from pump water points to tap /bono water points, and I wish to have water taps in every hh’s compound.

## Taxes and contributions

### Taxes and licences

Land tax was the only tax we had in the rural kebele administration, but we are now registering some small businesses to give them licenses. These includes shops, rural bars and grain traders. Every year we collect 41,460 birr from land tax. The land tax is 40 birr for a hectare per year, and depending on the size they hold the tax is calculated. Every trader at the market place selling anything should pay 5 birr per week. Farmers selling their products are not taxed at the market place. Those who are in trade must pay a profit tax and those who have started paying are: one grain trader, two butchers, one alcohol bars, and some shops also. The wereda finance office comes and decides the rate of income tax for each business, by observing their sales. There are about 6 people who currently have a license.

The problem in tax is the delay in paying it. There is no other problem, what we do is mobilise the community to reduce the tendency of delay.

### Contributions

The contributions for the school are 350 birr per annum for those who send at least one child to school and 100 birr for those who don’t have a child at school. There is a 10 birr contribution for the Red-cross, 12 birr for kebele logistics, and a few people have bought Bonds for the Renaissance dam, from 100-1000 birr. I don’t know the exact number of people who bought them, this is based on their interest - no one forces them. But the contribution to the Red Cross and the kebele logistics is required, and there is no exemption. The above mentioned contributions were collected in the past 12 months. Everyone pays the same amount, there is no varied contribution. In kind contributions include wood for school construction, fencing, etc but this has not occurred in the past 12 months. The Health Post burnt down when a cylinder gas blew up recently, and now the community is contributing 100 birr regardless of any status differences or ability to rebuild it.

## Government volunteers

There is no problem in doing the work and in relations with the wereda, but in relation to the community there is problem to do with maintaining village security as the cabinet couldn’t satisfy everyone. The Kebele manager is a member of the cabinet for the urban structure/kebele and he is working smoothly with the group, there is no problem. With the council as well there is no problem, we work in harmony. The council meets every two months, the cabinets take part in the meeting, and the kebele administration organises it, and there are three people from the council who are also responsible for organizing it with us. These three people have the name AFEYEYEA in the local language/Oromiffa.

The relations with government employees is also a good one, they work properly for the kebele and there is nothing that causes problems.

There is no problem regarding the cabinet work, but members do have challenges in handling their farms and homes well, as the kebele work takes much time.

## Youth

Land shortage is the main problem for the youth trying to establish their own family, and the other problem is that there is no other job opportunity here and they don’t have money to start their own business. There is no opportunity for less educated people, but the government is trying to bring them together in cooperatives which work in stone production, grain trade, and poultry. The cooperatives in stone production are now working actively; the others are in progress, they have not started yet. Members of those cooperatives formed for poultry are educated at college and some of them have completed 10th grade. The objective of this cooperative was to create jobs for educated people without any position in the kebele civil service. For those educated ones, job opportunities are available at civil service at.

For educated girls there is no opportunity here, and those who can’t join preparatory school, leave for Arab states. There are up to 30 girls who have gone to different Arab states. Women also used to have a chance to get a share of land, but now it is becoming scarce and they can’t get access. There is no special problem for girls. There was no land distribution in recent years or during this regime.

For those 8 youth coops there has been training depending on the type of work they planned to do. For the stone production cooperative, credit is given and they bought a crusher for 180,000 birr. The group repaid the loan, but the machine is now broken and has been taken to AA for maintenance. The rest of the groups didn’t have access to credit or other inputs.

Mostly young women migrate to the Arab states. In total about 30 have left already, 5 leave each year on average. Young men don’t migrate anywhere. Maybe one or two boys leave sometimes, and one young man from Kumbursa village went to South Africa. The migration of women to Arab states is increasing, from time to time. The migrants help their families, and I think it is a good thing. There are some who didn’t send money at all. My daughter went to Beirut last year, and now she sent 15,700 birr and about 5000 birr another time. The first 15700 birr is for the family, and the second one is for her to be put in the bank here. I fear when I hear that they might be treated badly. That they might burn them with boiling water or they die on the journey etc. This is fearful news, but none of the migrants from this kebele has faced such problems.

## Public Works

### Environmental public works

*Research Officer 1* There is soil erosion but no flooding here. We didn’t have forest here before, and deforestation can’t be mentioned as an issue. The grazing land 10 years ago has now been taken by individual farmers from the community and now there is no grazing land left. Straws of maize and Teff are the main livestock food. The rain is becoming late and it also stops early for the past 12 years. The temperature is increasing as well. We planted trees and only in the past two years about 1800 trees were planted in all the three villages. Terracing has been done on two hills Udea and Sirba Mountains. Only in the months of December and January is the community expected to work four days a week on the public work. But during the rainy season, trees are planted in the holes which are already dug in these two months. The main works are terracing, maintaining internal roads eroded/broken, and planting of trees. The wereda provided the kebele AKAFA and DOMA (farm tools for digging), 31 of each type.

The success is that the running water on the hills is not eroding farms now, because of the trees that are growing and the grass covered hills. The erosion on farmland is minimised as a result.

*Research Officer 2* Public works are led by the public work coordinator under the agriculture office. The natural resources and crop DAs are the experts who direct the program; whereas the development groups and 1-5 team are the main actors of the actual work. Although some community members were reluctant to participate in the public works done in 2004 EC, they were given an oral warning from the kebele administration that they might be prevented from getting access to different goods and services provided by the kebele. This year different community awareness raising trainings and meetings have helped to bring better community participation. The community gets information about the best experiences of the farmers in Tigray, Dire Dawa and Harari regions where there are successful results of soil and water reservation activities through public work.

Flooding has been common during the rainy season when it eroded the farmland and destroyed crops. It was flowing into residential houses and compounds. Flooding had divided Godeti and Sirba and created kinds of holes in between these two villages. It had been very difficult to cross the border between the two villages in rainy season. For the last two years, however, flooding has reduced as people have been preventing it by making terraces along the sides of their farm lands and compounds. The eroded holes have been rehabilitated with stone and soil.

The natural forest which existed in the past was lost during the Derg regime and there have been no remarkable results from efforts to rehabilitate it. Some ten years back, reforestation activity was started and there is some change although much has yet to be done.

There is no grazing land as all the available land is used for farming. Cattle are fed at home or on the farmland when the crop has been collected.

With regard to peace and security, there has been no problem as the community has been participating actively. However, there are rare cases of theft and livestock robbery.

There has been no problem regarding the environment. However, there has been a shortage of rain last year and there are increasing temperatures. The agriculture office through public work has been working to preserve natural resources. There has been forestation and terracing of 1000m only in Sirba. It has been planned to increase this up to 3000m in Sirba and 12,000m at Kebele level. About 80 people/day participated in the public works done in December 2005EC for 15 days. Public work is done three days a week and it has no payment.

There has been no Food-For-Work after the Derg fell.

### Other public works

*Research Officer 1* The number of people we have in the kebele is large and we have enough labour to mobilise for the public works we have. The priority of the public work is decided depending on the condition of the internal roads. If they are out of order, we need to fix them on time as they become barrier to communication and transportation. If trees are provided to us we should plant them on time, and in the discussion with the kebele administration we prioritise what to do first. The community is expected to spend 34 days in a year on public works. There are only two months a year that community members should focus on public works, because this period is a time when there is no farm work. Both men and women participate in public work, but old, sick, and weak people are not forced to come out for public work. Only a few people miss public workdays, and they are advised not to repeat. All public works are considered equally important by the community members. We don’t have issues in participation and I don’t have anything to say about improving participation.

*Research Officer 2*  In 2004 EC, the kebele administration in collaboration with the community and Compassion Connection Ethiopia collected 20,000birr and constructed 4 additional class rooms for the elementary school in Sirba which had only three class rooms. Besides, the kebele’s high school which was only 1-8 school has been upgraded to grade ten (1-10) by constructing an additional three class rooms, one toilet and one office. The wereda added three other classrooms and provided the necessary financial and technical support to the school.

Some seven years back, the health post in the kebele was constructed by community participation. However, it was destroyed last year (April, 2005EC) due to an accidental fire after an Oxygen gas explosion. It was estimated that 100,000birr would be required to re-construct it. The iddirs in the kebele have already collected 60,000birr from their members and the community has promised to contribute labour power. The wereda has also promised to provide financial and technical support so that the health post would start service soon.

There is much demand for public work as the kebele’s budget is not enough to pay for all costs. The kebele office was constructed 22 years ago from wood and mud. Now, its walls are old and deteriorated and it is uncomfortable for work. It has no sufficient office furniture such as chairs and tables. The wereda has not responded yet.

### Organising public works

*Research Officer 1* Women participate in public work, there is no penalty but there is advice by the kebele to those who don’t participate regularly in the public works. There is good participation, and participation is not a problem at all. There is no type of work that people prefer and dislike, they come for all the public work mentioned.

*Research Officer 2*  Priority is given to flood prevention activities because flooding is destructive. All community members at the age of 18-50 who are healthy and capable of working are supposed to participate in the 15-60 days public work every year. There is no gender difference. Students whose age is 18 and above participate once a year when they are in semester break. They are assigned to work in the terracing and stone collecting. Those who are under 18 years old, over 50 years old, patients and disabled people are not required to work and they get the same benefits from the kebele as the participants. The time for public work depends on the type of the work and quality of the work to be done. The work is arranged after the harvest season is over so that is does not clash with farming activities. The kebele and wereda experts discuss with the community about the type of work which needs priority and the community decides.

People prefer to work in terracing than other types of public work because the work is allocated by meters to each person and it is easy to complete soon and go home. Public works done by a group are not much liked by individuals as they take time and all group members may not provide an equal contribution to accomplish the task.

It is suggested that the community has to show active participation so that the goals of public work are achieved, the environment will be conserved and the life of the community will be improved.

## Government propaganda/public relations

*Research Officer 1* The ideas of government interventions and development are disseminated through development teams, by the kebele, but the propaganda/information officer is the one assigned to disseminate party messages through cells.

The kebele administration is assembled every week on Wednesdays. The council meets every two months. In both meetings people participate very well. Out of the 300 council members, half of them are women, including female headed hhs. There is a meeting every month for the political party, and all its members participate. Everyone participates because they are members, there is no punishment if they don’t come, and there is no problem in participation at all. Those who can read Afaan Oromo, they read the party newspaper and they are interested. For the rest, the newspaper is read out loud by Gerea/Development teams and cells. The trainings given are different types, on politics, on security, on development, about natural resource conservation, about health, about education etc. Kebele administration, community members and concerned workers are invited for training at, and in the Kebele as well held mainly by the wereda. Recently in the past two weeks, there was a training about the election for the community, in particular focusing on the free election. For HEWs and community members there is now a training here in the kebele, about delivery and ante-natal care. This training is for four days and is given by the wereda health office. Most of the farmers have radio and TV in their houses and they listen/watch to get government ideas. Model farmers and Champions don’t deliver any message, but they serve as a model for the community regarding hard work. The iddir are used to pass messages of politics and development and during funerals as well such messages are disseminated.

*Research Officer 2* The government related information is provided in different ways. The main routes are iddirs, community gathering, general public meetings, etc. People are informed by ‘tirumba” (a loudspeaker) or a call is made to the 1-5 development team leaders who in turn disseminate the information to the neighbourhoods. The meetings are called to discuss issues about peace and security, new directions from higher authorities and about development activities.

There are 5 *gots* (sub-villages) of 1-5 development teams who meet once a week. They discuss about water, farming inputs, health, security, etc. The 32 development team leaders meet once a month to hear reports and evaluate the works done by the 1-5 teams.

Five years ago, people were not interested to participate in public meetings and women’s participation was very low. There is some improvement and as a result, many people including youth and women are participating in public meetings. Although there is attendance taken during meetings, there has been no action taken to punish absentees. But there are actions taken to explain the importance of those meetings and the importance of individual participation for each meeting so that people’s awareness rises. There are efforts made to convince people who repeatedly miss meetings. Indeed, some kind of oral warning is given so that individuals wouldn’t repeatedly be absent. The warning includes that they might not get priority or might be excluded from some community based development interventions, provision of farm inputs, etc. The kebele administration believes that intensive community mobilization work has to be done first before punishing absentees.

There are 315 members of the kebele council out of which 150 are women and they meet once every two months. During the previous election, there were 300 council members out of which only 60 were women. Almost 99% of the community are members of the ruling party. Five years ago, there were only 4000 party members. The members of the central committee meet every month. The party membership contribution is 14 birr which was 12 birr up to 2004EC. The party’s newsletter is distributed to the kebele at a cost of 0.50 for members. It is distributed to the community through the 1-5 teams which have party members. The information in the newsletter is disseminated by the members of the party to the other community members. As the newsletter is printed in the local language, the community’s interest to read it has increased.

There are different capacity building and leadership trainings provided to the members of the central committee of the party. There are also trainings regarding policy implementation skills and directions provided to the members who are at different kebele positions. Recently, (in December, 2005EC) there was a 7 day training for village leaders and model farmers regarding natural resources conservation methods and about its implementation in the kebele. There was also discussion about challenges to ensure good governance and the farm inputs distribution process.

There is government radio, television and FM station transmitted from Adama (Nazareth) in Oromiffa. The community also has access to Ethiopian Radio and Television and other FM radio stations transmitted from Addis Ababa.

There are 45 model farmers who are either leaders or members of the development groups and they are used to mobilise the community about different issues. These model farmers invite other farmers from the community to visit their houses, livestock and farm lands. They also organise experience sharing visits among themselves as well as among farmers from other villages. Especially those farmers who have bio-gas technology have been visited by different farmer-groups that came from the neighbouring villages. There are different development groups for the town Udie and for the rural Udie kebele. The development groups are further classified into 1-5 teams. There are 1-5 teams specialised for agriculture extension packages, for health packages and for peace and security. At kebele level, there are 5 development groups, each with 1-5 teams, for the rural and 4 groups of 1-5 in the town. There is one development team for the rural kebele with 30 members (leaders of each 1-5 team) and one development team for the town with four members. Each 1-5 team is led by one kebele cabinet member such as the agriculture office head, the head for women and children office, the head of peace and security office and the kebele chairman.

The successes are explained in in terms of securing peace and implementing the agriculture and health packages. There are remarkable changes regarding the terracing works, soil and water reservation activities and water related activities.

Despite this, the 1-5 teams are not as active as they are expected to be. There are tendencies of focusing more on private work and forgetting about the responsibilities as member of the 1-5 team. There were 7 wells constructed by government budget so that people would benefit from irrigation; but they have not yet been functional.

There are no opposition parties in the kebele; but there were some during the 2005 election. They tried to mobilise the community by posting the symbols of their parties along the streets.