# Interviews with kebele officials in Somodo, Mana wereda, Jimma Zone, Oromiya – Stage 3 questions

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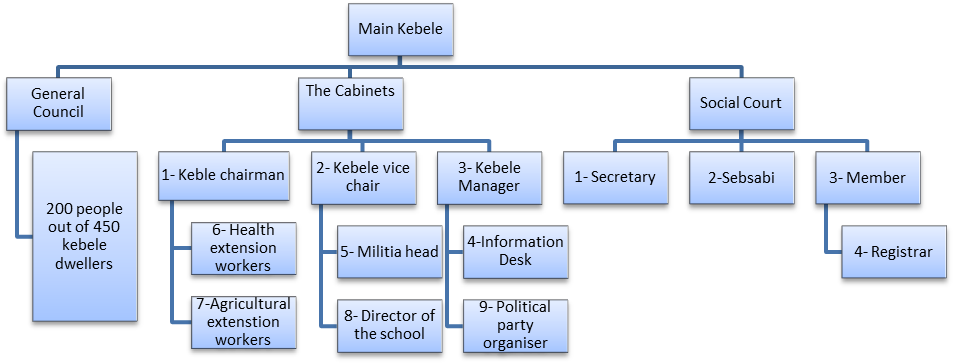
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## Kebele structure

### About the kebele



The diagram (found in the module – see above) corresponds to the structure of Somodo kebele except minor differences. The difference is that there is no information desk and political party organiser rather the kebele manager is the one responsible for information. Similarly, the cell leaders serve as political party organiser. In Somodo kebele structure under social court there is no registrar. Under the cabinet of the structure of Somodo kebele there is a women affairs officer. The head of the militia indicated in the diagram, in Somodo is substituted by the head of peace and security.

Thus, the total number of cabinet members in Somodo is 7 and not 9 as to the diagram. These 7 kebele cabinet members are the chairman, vice chairman, HEW, DA (livestock), Director of the main school, Women affairs officer and head of peace and security.

### Sub-kebele structures

In Somodo kebele there are 3 sub kebeles/zones, namely Nano Mene Berumsa, Kosha and Abujede zone. Each zone has its own administrative bodies comprising 7 members; among them, one is one of the DAs who is also the secretary for the zone. The rest of the members are selected from among the community members. The sub villages/zones play an important role in disseminating messages or information to their respective villages. Sometimes also a message at the zone level is organised so as to encourage members attend the meeting.

Mainly, when it is difficult to make meetings or provide training at kebele level this is handled at the respective villages which are closer to the community. The secretaries of the zones (the DAs) report to the kebele administrative body and the kebele manager about the activities undertaken at zone level.

Generally under these three zones there are 45 Development Teams (*Gere*). The leaders of the zone call the leader of Development Teams so as to transfer messages/ information /education to DT members. Thus, the role of the teams is important in delivering information and education on health, agriculture, education, development interventions etc to the members. On every two weeks there is monitoring and evaluation of work done in comparison with the plan of what was supposed to be done.

Under these 45 Development Teams there are 248 1-5 networks (mostly 5 members with one leader and in rare case they are 6 due to close proximity in neighbourhood). .In the kebele there are 45 development teams. In each, there is one committee of 5 members including the DT leader, and each committee handles different problems that people in their respective development team face. But the total number of members in one development team varies between 25 and 40.

The lower-level structures in place are 1-5 networks based on neighbourhood. The 5 HHs under the network share information with each other, they follow each other on what they should do with respect to farming and implementing other activities that they have told to do. The leaders of the development team frequently communicate with the leaders of the networks so as to transfer any message/ information /education to members and to get feedback about how the members of the network apply what they were informed to do. Recently separate 1-5 women networks were organised. This is organised to implement the health extension packages so as to enhance mothers and child health, keep their environment clean, etc

Cells are different from Development Team (Gere) in the sense that cells comprise party organisers who are party members. There are about 20 party organisers from all of the three zones. Under these 20 party organisers (locally called *hundhe dhaba* which means root) there are 45 cells. Under each cell there are 1-5 networks. Leaders/members of the cells are also leaders/members of development teams. However, all members/leader of development teams may not be member or leader of a cell. In the party structure the role of cell leaders mostly consists of informing people about the vision of the party, explaining to members and others about the importance of the party in keeping the environment peaceful and its contribution for the farmers’ livelihoods. The party structures have a program every two weeks. They give a newsletter entitled ‘*Raya*’ (vision) freely for the members so that they get hints and information about the party. Thus, the overall kebele structures are working as planned.

### Kebele Committees

At kebele level there are 4 active committees that handle cases separately. These committees are peace and security, education, health and agriculture committees. Each committee has 5 members. From these committees peace and security is most effective as there are many local militia men who serve the community to make the area peaceful. The committee also has been working effectively with the newly established community policing at kebele level as well as sub kebele level. Since 2011 one police man is assigned from the wereda and this man has been working in collaboration with the local militia men and the committee. The education committee is less effective as still now the committee is not able to control school absenteeism, mainly during coffee harvesting time and school dropout.

### Kebele leadership

The current kebele chair has been in office since 2005GC. His predecessor after serving for 3 years left the leadership due to health problems. The chair before his predecessor also left the leadership as he preferred to focus on his own work. The challenges he and the rest of the kebele cabinet face are that in principle cabinet members should meet once per week and the chair serves the community three days per week. However, there are many instances that they do not meet as planned. As from half of the cabinet members are not paid in most cases they prefer to focus on their own work. Due to this sometimes as all the cabinet members are not available there are instances where the session is postponed.

To improve kebele organisation the chair suggested that it would be better if the wereda officials assigned to organise meetings at kebele level would serve the community full day (all working days). Whereas as the chair and vice chair are not paid employees it is difficult for them to serve the community properly on time.

*Research Officer observation: While exploring informally from other community members how the chair has been in position for 8 years I got information that local people fear him since one of his brothers is a director of the nearby secondary school and another was working as wereda vice-administrator, who later on won the 2002 EC election and since then is in Addis Ababa House of Peoples’ Representatives as representative for Jimma zone.*

*Kebele relations with neighbours*

Kebele relations with neighbours is more described in M2.21 and M2.22

## Agricultural extension

Now the agricultural extension service is structured into three specialisations: crop, livestock and natural resource management. Accordingly, there are three DAs working in the kebele. Since 5 years there has been a good change as government has given great emphasis for the agricultural sector. The DAs frequently get refreshment training and in turn train farmers so as to improve their farming practice.

Thus, it is now more efficient compared with the old system; unlike in the past farmers are using modern agricultural inputs and their productivity has been increasing. As the three DAs are the leaders of the sub kebele/zones while meeting with the members of the village they inform farmers about the need of planting coffee properly and giving it due care, the importance of using modern agricultural inputs as well as artificial fertiliser (compost). More importantly the three DAs frequently communicate and meet with the leaders of the development leaders in their respective village; they assign them as leaders to follow up on how farmers are working. Development team leaders in turn communicate with the 1-5 households so as to teach members about improved ways of farming and agricultural related updates. The DAs support one another. Teachers and HEW also assist them via delivering message to the farmers.

Over time the intervention of Jimma agricultural research institutes has been increasing. They assist farmers by providing improved chicken and improved coffee seedlings for a few model farmers so that others also get lesson from them and would be interested to try. The institute also provides lime (some people call this “land vaccination”) to increase soil fertility for deteriorating farmland after thorough laboratory soil test. Upon these the DAs have been working in collaboration with the institute by encouraging farmers to try their best and benefit out of it.

Through campaign DAs are also encouraging people to use Artificial insemination, which started in Belida recently. They also advise farmers to get Borena modern livestock breeds. If someone in the community is eager to get one Borena cow, the DA facilitates this by contacting the wereda.

Though with the DAs in these roles the system has become more efficient it still has some limitations. For instance, at the back of FTC there is a wide area planned for demonstration purpose but this area is bare as nothing has been done to demonstrate due to budget limitations. Sometimes also DAs are not able to cover all HHs as planned, especially when the DAs are not assigned on time. For instance, one of the DA (the DA crop) has left the area last summer. Since then thus for 8 months there has been no DA specialised in crop who serves the community. Due to this farmers stated that the service they are getting from the DAs is not that much beneficial for them due to mainly lack of efficiency. Rather they said they are doing their best by their own efforts based on the information and education they got from other areas and through mass media.

Around 2005 it seems that model farmers were recruited from among supporters of the party. But over time this has changed and there has been a new kind of ‘model farmer’ selection. Accordingly, the criteria to be a model farmer include: 1) To use modern agricultural inputs as well as artificial fertiliser properly and get excellent product 2) To apply/try good practice/experience from the lessons learnt from others, mainly from experience sharing sessions. The model farmers inform others on how they become successful. However, all model farmers are not necessarily leaders of development teams. There are 2 champion farmers who got a prize at zone and wereda level for their best performance. In Somodo model farmers have three levels as to the effectiveness of their performance.

To improve the agricultural system the demonstration area should be used properly, which is a good learning centre for the farmers practically. In addition, as in the last two years the output of maize was not good it seems that the improved seeds that the cooperative provided was not of quality. Due to this some farmers secretly are planting local seeds. Thus, first before taking the improved seeds there needs to be some check to assess whether the seed is of sufficient quality or not. There also needs to be DAs assigned on time and they need to be encouraged to best serve the community by giving them more consideration.

## Health extension

In the kebele the health extension program started in 1999 EC. Initially the service was provided in one small room. But after the construction of the HP completed in 2001 the necessary medical equipment were brought and the service provision system has strengthened. As the wereda supplied a refrigerator to keep vaccines the HEWs are not running to wereda to bring medicine every day; rather they store it in the refrigerator. Until last year two HEWs have been working. Last year one of the HEW left the job.

Compared with the old system the health extension program is very efficient. This is because before the introduction of the health extension system it was only very few active or educated parents who vaccinated their children. The utilization of contraceptives was also very low. But after the HEWs were assigned, community members have been getting education about all of the health extension packages and they have been implementing them well. Unlike the past malaria is not a problem in the area as people got lessons and they have been using bed nets. As Plan international supplied RDT (Rapid Diagnosis Treatment) to diagnose malaria, rather than giving medicine based on symptoms only like in the past, the HEWs use the RDT to know whether the illness is malaria or not. As a result the community members’ health, especially mothers and children health are enhanced.

The HEWs give service at HP one or two days a week. Mostly they are working at grass root level and use to serve by travelling home to home. The HEWs work with the women affairs officer, women leaders of development teams and leaders of the women 1-5 networks. They convey messages to the leaders, who in turn transfer the messages to the members. These leaders remind mothers to implement different health extension packages and to take their children to the vaccination centre. Especially in the women 1-5 networks they encourage each other to implement health packages by following one another. In general, the role of HEW is diverse including providing awareness raising, education, vaccination, contraceptives, etc

Formerly there were three health Volunteers who had been working through Packard (NGO) on vaccination and contraceptives. The program phased out four years ago. These volunteers sometimes support the HEWs on vaccination. However, there is no organised health Volunteers who work well in the kebele since unlike the past there is no pocket money that they get.

The kebele has a Health Army; all are female who are the leaders of the development teams as well as the leaders of the women’s 1-5 networks. The health Army mobilises people for vaccinations, encourage women for prenatal care and support the implementation of health packages.

There were two TBAs who got training in the past. One has left the area and the other (male) is assisting women in delivery. But recently there is no training given to the TBAs. Though people get education on the importance of delivery in health institutions still most women give birth at home. For delivery they go to health centre or hospital in case of severe labour only. However, in general there is some improvement in giving birth at health care facilities.

As only one HEW is serving and the area is vast she is not able to reach out to all HHs. Due to this people use to complain that she is not visiting them. The health office also has not assigned anyone to replace the HEW who left the job last year. Thus, she suggested it would be nice to assign HEWs timely. The health office also should pay her a salary increment of 230 birr per 2 years. But they do not do this on time. In addition, HEW is not allowed to pursue education at private college. The health office gives opportunity to pursue education for a few HEWs based on evaluation of their performance. These are factors that discourage HEW and make them to leave their work. Thus, the HEW suggested to consider these and to make arrangements so as to improve the system.

## Investors and in-migrants

Land was given to investors from outside only once, in 2000EC. The person (the investor) used to work in the wereda education bureau. First he applied to the wereda mentioning that there is wide land in Somodo and asked to get land nearby to Abya River so as to irrigate by using the water from the river. Accordingly, the wereda decided to give the land. Then they sent a letter to the kebele to ask the community to allow the person/investor to irrigate the land. Initially there was opposition from the community as the land was used for communal grazing. But finally the community members also allowed giving the land. Then nearby Abaya river 12.5 Fechasa (3.125 hectare) of land was given to him. As the land was communal there was no compensation given. The costs for the community, especially for those residing close to the river, is only losing what they had been using the land for grazing.

The investor planted chat on some parts of the land and mostly covered it with vegetables (onion and tomato). He employed one guard and some daily labourers (all were from outside, mainly from Jimma) were working on his farm. He was following up while staying in Jimma. Monkeys started to eat the vegetables and the output was not good. Upon that he changed and sowed teff. Similarly, he was not successful as he did not stay there and the guard did not keep the crop well. As he was not successful he rented out the land, about 3 hectares for 10,000 birr for three years to three outsiders who have experience in irrigating land in other parts of the country (Adama and Ziway). As these individuals have good irrigation experience they brought water pump and planted vegetables. They are staying there and taking care of the vegetables in a proper manner. Now also they brought a second water pump. Local farmers have benefitted as these people used their oxen to plough and they got money for this. Some poor people also collect the vegetables and get wages. Some traders also buy vegetables from the farm and sell them on local markets (Belida, Somodo and Mazoria). Farmers, especially those who have land close to the river are becoming aware of the importance of irrigating their land. The community members like this person as he worked well and gives lesson to others on how they would irrigate their land. However, later on they were not happy with the first investor as he did not do well. Rather he rented out part of the land and benefitted from the rent, which is totally different from what he initially intended to use the land for.

## Credit

The wereda do not provide direct credit to farmers for fertiliser, seed etc. Service Co-operatives also do not provide credit to farmers; they sell improved seeds and fertiliser on cash. There are no NGOs that provide credit. Farmers also do not borrow from banks. There are no private MFIs operating in the community. One source of credit in the kebele is that farmers take loans from coffee traders representing investors and later on at coffee harvesting time they give these traders their coffee in return for the credit they took. This credit is interest free.

There is no village Savings and Credit Association in the kebele. Participants think that some people, especially traders use to save at the bank. Recently the community has been getting education about the importance of saving so as to start up some organised activities. As a result women on a group basis have started to save money so as to use the money saved for income generating activities such as chicken rearing or others.

There is no active Government-affiliated MFI in the kebele. Recently there has been initiation to better organise youth and involve them in farming activities on the land given for them (from the communal land) by providing them credit on group collateral basis.

The active RUSACCO in the kebele is WALKO (Oromia credit and saving share company) that provide credit for the community. The credit is given on a group basis. First as criteria the person requesting a loan is assessed based on his assets – to determine whether he would be capable to pay back or not. After they think he is capable to pay back he/she will be asked for what purpose he/she is requesting the loan. If this purpose is worth he/she would get the credit with other group members through group collateral (group members become guarantee for one another). But they use the money individually. Generally, the credit is limited to a maximum of 4,000 birr. As this credit has interest people are not interested to take and use it. Thus, there are about 60 individuals (this figure is estimation) who took the credit from this source.

*(Research Officer observation: Get additional information from Module 8)*

## Drinking water

Every household in the kebele have access to safe water throughout the year. Since long past the area has surplus water. Totally there are 49 communal springs in the kebele. 19 are prepared with cement (through the support of government and labour contribution of the community) whereas the other 30 are manual. But the manual springs are protected in the sense that they are fenced and users clean them frequently. People think that the water from the springs is clean and safe. Thus, they think that there is no one who uses unsafe water but sometimes the spring dry outs. As there are many springs when one dries out they get water from another nearby spring. In connection to this participants stated that there has not been any outbreak of Acute Watery Diarrhoea in the kebele.

Starting from the past, since 1993 GC there has been one hand pump near the kebele office. As the well was dug by machine and it is very deep people stated that the water from this pump is very clean. But only HHs near to the kebele office uses it as it is far for the rest of the HHs. Every user HH monthly contributes 3 up to 5 birr per month and the money is used for maintenance of the pump. Some poor households are exempted from this contribution. There is a water user committee that controls this pump. The committee members are recruited from the users and they are changed by other beneficiary after serving for certain time. The contribution collected every month is only used when the pump faces technical problem. As the possibility of facing technical problem for spring water is less there is no water committee and contribution for spring.

People fetch from this pump only twice a day (in the morning and late afternoon). As water from this pump is cleaner than from the other pumps and springs people residing near the kebele office prefer to fetch from this pump, mainly for drinking purpose.

Currently there are interventions to increase access to safe water: since last year water bureau has supplied about 8 hand pumps so as to insert the pump on individual’s water wells. Some individuals have water wells in their garden. First it is assessed to what extent the water well would be functional if a pump is inserted. Accordingly, water bureau has supplied 8 pumps without charge. All needy neighbours, at least 10 households should benefit from this pump. Water bureau has done tis so as to enable more HH to have access to hand pump. But as these wells were not dug by machine but were hand dug water is not available all the time and sometimes the water is not clean. Because of these participants suggested that it would be good if the water bureau dug a communal well via machine (Excavator) rather than only supplying pumps for individual wells. But as digging by machine (Excavator) costs much the water bureau did not consider this suggestion.

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## Taxes and contributions

### Taxes and licences

3 of the kebele officials (kebele chair, vice chair and peace and security official) collect land tax. The tax is collected once per year starting from the month of December up to April. The amount of tax paid differs based on the size of the land. Every landholder (1300 HHs) should pay land tax. For .25 up to .75 hectare the land tax is 15 birr, up to 1.5 hectare it is 40 birr, up to 2 hectare it is 65 birr, up to 3 hectare it is 100 birr, up to 3.5 hectare it is 135 birr, for more than 3.5 hectare it is 190 birr, for more than 4 hectare it is 265 birr. 265 birr is the maximum amount of land tax. There are 4 HHs that pay this maximum amount. The total land tax paid every year is 68,000 birr. Formerly the land tax collected (with other contributions) was directly given to Wereda finance. But now they report to Wereda finance and give the money to Commercial Bank of Ethiopia as a new branch of this bank started functioning in the wereda capital (Yebu town) recently.

While collecting land tax 60% of the farmers pay the tax earlier but the remaining 40% need some reminder to pay on time. If they do not pay up to April as it has punishment they pay before that.

In the nearby town (Belida) officials from wereda finance come and collect tax on the market. For sheep and ox they take 5 birr for each. They also collect tax from petty traders. In the kebele there are some who have formal government jobs. These employees pay income tax, which is deducted by their employers. Many shop owners in the kebele have a business license. From the 31 shops found in the kebele it is expected that most of them have licence. To get the licence first they get cooperation letter from kebele. Then by taking that letter they get the license from the wereda revenue office. The amount of the tax these shop owners pay is calculated based on the estimation of their sales income. On average small shop owners pay 1,000 birr per annum and big shop owners pay about 2,500 birr. The shop owners are highly complaining that the tax they pay is not commensurate with their income as it is calculated based on estimates of their sales income which actually they do not sell up to the estimated value. Because of this some shop owners do not go and pay tax on time. Upon that the wereda revenue office uses to come to the kebele and collects the taxes. Recently the wereda revenue officers informed tea/biscuit shop owners to have business licences as well. Even there are some mills owners who do not have business licence but they are supposed to have it. Thus, these owners are on the way to get licence.

### Contributions

The regular annual cash contributions collected by the kebele are for 3 local school guards, sport, water, Red Cross association, and Oromia Development association 10, 10, 35, 6, and 6 birr respectively. Everyone HHs pay the same amount. Contribution for Red Cross association is a national contribution whereas for the Oromia Development association it is a regional contribution. The contribution for 3 of the local school guards for the three primary schools found in the kebele is given to the school directors. The school include this contribution in the school income and pays to the community-employed school guards. People complain and wonder why they are paying contribution for Red Cross as they do not get service such as ambulance service. The tax collectors convince them that their contribution indirectly is used to give free medication in other areas. Formerly the contributions collected (with land tax) were directly given to Wereda finance. But now they report to Wereda finance and give the money to Commercial Bank of Ethiopia as a new branch of this bank started functioning in the wereda capital (Yebu town) recently.

Whenever there is internal road construction the community members contribute money as to their capacity. Thus, everyone does not pay the same amount. For instance, for the road constructed recently that goes from Somodo to Bebele Karraa and Bebele Kossa last year, there were three levels of contribution (100 up to 200, 300, and 500 birr). Even few well-to-do HHs contributed from 1,000 up to 3,000 birr. Landless and 300 poor HHs (even landholders) were exempted from these cash contributions. HHs who encountered some crisis, such as death of ox, were also exempted from these cash contributions. For this road construction also the community members made labour contribution up to their capacity. Over the last six years also up to their capacity the community members have been contributing wood and labour for the construction of the two new schools and for school expansion.

## Government volunteers

*(Research Officer observation: Questions to be covered in this section were addressed in Modules 3 and 8)*

## Youth

Most youth do not manage to establish an independent livelihood they cannot get the basic necessities in order to lead a separate life. The opportunities for educated and less well educated young men are trading by representing investors during coffee harvesting time and trading commodities as well as crops. In addition, to plant and take care of coffee properly on their family land is also another opportunity. In most cases upon completing grade 10 they are not able to get a job. The same is true for young women. The special problems young women face is that as they start friendship earlier with young men, as a result some do not pursue education and drop out due to marriage. In a few cases their marriage does not last as they got married simply without proper plan.

There has not been any land distribution on an individual basis. However, on three occasions (in 1996, 2001 and 2002 EC) part of the communal land was given for male youth so as to improve their livelihoods by starting productive activities on a group basis. Thus, there are three male cooperatives involved in the production of stones. However, over time some of the cooperative founding members migrated to Sudan, some left the cooperatives and some found other jobs. Thus, dropout among founding members has high and strongly negatively affected the effectiveness of the cooperatives. Only the pioneer cooperative established in 1996EC succeeded to get a few members supporting their life from the income they got from it. There is no other youth package in the area.

## Public Works

### Environmental public works

There is some problem with regard to erosion and floods in the community, mainly on farmlands especially in some sloppy areas of the kebele. To solve this problem at different time public works on soil and water conservation activities was carried out through the organization of DAs and wereda officials, mainly for about 50 days. This public work has brought good achievements to keep the environment green and enhance the fertility of the farmland. The problem is that sometimes, especially on market days some farmers do not participate and some farmers are sometimes absent from the work due to negligence.

Since 2003 EC Jimma agricultural research institute also has been providing lime for severely affected farm land that lost its fertility due to erosion and some floods, so as to make the farmland productive. At the same time the institute has been providing elephant grass so as to protect soil from erosion. This grass is also used as animal fodder.

There have not been problems with regards to grazing land management except lack of adequate grazing land.

As compared with the past since a few years de-forestation has been highly reduced as there is follow up if community members cut trees. First they inform the kebele about why they cut off trees, especially when they plan to build a house. There is restriction on cutting natural trees.

### Other public works

The road to Somodo (from the zonal as well as the wereda capital) is an all-weather road. Annually the wereda rural development office has been making some repairs. It is after they started doing these repairs that more minibus and city bus transportation started working, which increased community access to transport service.

Last year public works were organised on community roads from Somodo to Bebela Karraa. For this construction Somodo’s community made cash as well as labour contribution. The road was constructed through government funding through the Universal Rural Roads Access Programme. Still it has not yet opened for use. However, there has not been much change in internal roads. Even the internal roads have become narrow as most farmers expanded their farmland by taking part from the internal road.

Starting six years ago there also were public works on public buildings. For instance, 6 years ago there was only one primary school but over time this main school was expanded to teach up to grade 8. In addition, two more primary schools were built and these schools have also been expanded to teach up to grade 6 and 4 respectively. For the construction as well as expansion of these schools the resources obtained from the wereda were corrugated iron sheets, black boards, text books and some technical assistance. The rest such as wood was contributed from community members, especially by the people residing nearby the area/in the zone where the schools were built. The construction was also done through community labour, mainly by carpenters who are knowledgeable about building houses. Community members also made labour and wood contributions for the construction of the health post in 1999 EC.

Recently new rooms that will be used for kebele office, DA office and Vet office have been constructed. When there were meetings at kebele level there were small public works so as to accelerate the construction. Now the rooms are ready to use. As the kebele office is older the officials are thinking to shift the office. The vet also uses one room for living and to store medicine. Thus, officials reported that when they use these rooms one room would be given to Vet office. The kebele also bought about 10 new chairs that will be used while the new rooms will be utilised. Generally, to improve investment in and maintenance of community public goods participants suggested that maintenance should be organised within certain time frame.

### Organising public works

Participants started that there is enough public work labour to cover all the needs of the community. The kebele prioritise public works based on how urgent the work is and its effect for the community. There are no fixed days in a year when community members are expected to work on Public Works but it depends on the extent of the need. But they stated that at a minimum they engage for about two months. In most case the regular time while organizing public works for soil and water conservation activities is for 7 weeks continuously. All community members (one per household) capable to work should participate. Elderly and people who have long term illness do not come for work. For the activities that needs skills more people come for some kinds of work than others. For instance for construction of schools mostly those who have carpentry skills used to come more often. When there are people who don’t sometimes come for the work efforts have been made to advise and encourage them to participate through their 1-5 HH networks and head of development teams. To improve community participation participants suggested to provide continuous awareness about the value/impact of the work on the overall community situation so that people better understand the advantage and would be interested and encouraged to participate actively.

## Government propaganda/public relations

General meetings of the kebele are held about once per month. But the attendance level is not good. Due to this meetings are then held at zone level. Above all the main routes through which development and political messages are delivered to the community are the development teams and 1-5 networks.

There are 300 male and 59 female party members. The party also has 36 male and 21 female preselects, who would possibly become members. In addition, the party has 100 male and 50 female supporters.

Occasionally, the 20 highest party organisers get refreshment training from the wereda. Recently these organisers have been participating in frequent meetings held at the wereda, which focused on the election. Then at kebele level these party organisers in turn were arranging meetings and discussing the overall mission of the party and the implementation done so far. At the lower level the leaders of the 45 cells (under these 20 party organisers) convey updates on development as well as political messages to the leaders of the 1-5 networks, who in turn convey such messages and updates to the members. Those who do not attend the kebele level meeting get the updates through these structures. Biweekly the party have a program. They give a newsletter entitled ‘*Raya*’ (vision). As they get this newsletter free from charge the members take it. However, as some of the adults cannot read they let their children read for them.

It is not common to listen to government messages on the radio but sometimes they hear about it while watching TV. Model and champion farmers also transfer their knowledge and the government’s message about efforts to increase productivity. However, they do not focus to transfer party/political message or information.