**BAHIR DAR SAWE**

The description of city districts (Kebeles) selected for the project

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**INTRODUCTION**

The Bahir Dar SAWE project will concentrate its activities on few Kebeles of the City of Bahir Dar in order to have more profound impact with the limited funds. The selected Kebeles are Fassilo, Sefane Salam, Belay Zeleke and Gishabay. These Kebeles form a joint belt through the City.

During the past year, the City of Bahir Dar has combined Kebeles decreasing their number from 16 to 9. In the process, the Kebeles were also given names instead of numbers. Meanwhile, the responsibilities of Kebeles have increased also. They are now taking charge of many permit issues previously taken care by the municipality office. Many of the municipality officials have been moved to the Kebeles to serve the people at the Kebele offices. Each Kebele also has six politically assigned officials such as the microenterprise, public organization and female officer. Kebeles usually have about 10 000 to 25 000 inhabitants but nowadays the population has increased in many Kebeles even up to 100 000.

The City of Bahir Dar also has a development plan on preparation concerning the old Kebeles 4, 5 and 12, which are on the area of the current Kebeles. The development plan should be ready by 13.6. These observations are based on the interviews and visits to the Kebeles on 13. and 14.5.2009.

**KEBELE FASSILO**

The Fassilo Kebele comprises of the old Kebeles of 3 and 15. The vice-manager of the Kebele is Amsalu Embas and the manager is Shibabaw Tefera. It has about 19 000 inhabitants with 1800 unemployed. Fassilo has 8 public toilets and one public water post. Most of the people are served by private water taps on their premises. However, about 20-40 people use the public water post which is run by a private person called Wubnesh Melese who took the control from the water development bureau around two years ago. Wubnesh sells 25lt water for 20cents. The water post was originally built with four outlets but currently only two are functional. Wubnesh also says that there had been no cases of water born disease outbreak in the area since she took control of the water post.

The toilets are emptied by sewage trucks from the municipality through formal application made to the kebele. The kebele then inspects the septic tank and sets the price for emptying the septic tanks at the individual households. On average the cost of emptying toilets is
around 230Birr. On the other hand, dry waste is collected by private association and each household pays for the association. Currently, there are two associations working on dry waste collection and the kebele supports these associations by finding customers in the kebele and assisting them in maintaining their equipments. Traditionally, people give food to the country people who take care of the waste from the households.

Urban agriculture is not as popular at Fassilo as it is more urban area and the public land is quite densely built. The visit to the private household at house number AMBDF 2830 demonstrated some urban agriculture practices. The woman renting the house has a micro enterprise of knitting with machine but she also keeps chicken and cultivates the garden. The garden was quite small but it was densely cultivated. The woman also uses the chicken manure to fertilize the gardens. She has to use the tap water to water the garden, which is quite expensive, 55 Birr month. Because of the expenses, she waters the garden only every second or fourth day.

Ato Shibabaw said currently training is being given to a youth association on urban agriculture and composting. The youth association is on the process to be given a space for cultivation of vegetables through a scheme made by the kebele to alleviate unemployment.

**Kebelle Gishabay**

The Kebele Gishabay is formed from the previous Kebeles of 1, 2 and 12. It is quite centrally located and has many small businesses in its area. The area is one of the oldest to form in the city of Bahar dar. There are 18 973 inhabitants (13.5.2009) and 18 people working for the Kebele. The young manager of the Gishabay, Ato Eyaya says the kebele has several sanitation and flooding problems. He also noted that due to the ongoing business activity in the area people are more concerned about building more shops in every bit of space available and gives little or no concern to toilets and proper sanitation. The Gishabay has more than 1000 rented houses for the population in addition to government owned rented houses which are more expensive.

Gishabay has eight public water sources and 12 public toilets and over 18 community toilets. The maintenance of one of these is outsourced by the municipality and the others are community toilets. Many of the residential houses have their own toilets.

The inspected toilet was the outsourced toilet located behind the community police. The toilet was built by the Kebele and run by a private man, who collected 20 cents from each user in turn for two sheets of paper. The man was also in charge of emptying the toilet i.e. calling the service car to empty the toilet and pay for it.

The toilet had no ventilation pipes. The toilet had six booths, one side for women and one side for men. The toilet was painted nicely from the outside and the grounds around it were clean. The inside of the toilet was not very clean, the toilets smelled and there were no waste baskets. The toilet has a water tap but no means for hand washing.

The waste management at Gishabay is run by the community waste collectors. They also collect the waste from the micro-enterprises and clean the ditches around the Kebele. There are about 80 members in the community waste collection.

There is also active urban agriculture on the Gishabay. The SOS children village had garden on the yard, where the parents of the children can cultivate and grow vegetables. Urban agriculture can also be seen especially on the outskirts of the Kebele, which extend closer to the countryside.
The Kebele administration had given app. 500 x 500 m land area behind the SOS village to women organization of 18 members who used to be traditional musicians. As the women get older, they cannot perform anymore and the urban agriculture is one thing they do for living. Each woman has her own plot which she is in charge of but the vegetables are sold jointly to the neighboring communities at the site and the money is collected together. The best time to sell the vegetables is during the two months of fasting season before Easter. The areas have artificially made ponds as a means to store water for watering vegetables, however at the time of visit the ponds were seen to be dry.

The women told us they buy new seeds from JeCCDO with this fund and the excess is distributed to the women. They also mentioned, they collect waste from home and bring it to the site for composting. There was no compost visible at the site during the visit. It was told that, sometimes the women even buy compost from the Kebele 8, where there is excess of it. There are no other fertilizers used. The women also told the active participation of the women association in urban agriculture in the area has positively effected to the abundance of such tradition in the area.

**Kebele Belay Zeleke**

The Belay Zeleke Kebele (named after the famous Ethiopian patriot) comprises of the old Kebeles of 7 and 17. It has about 20,000 inhabitants and 17 employees. The amount of employees is expected to grow to 30. The Belay Zeleke is at the outskirts of the City and not as financially well off as some of the other Kebeles. The Kebele has 1 water post and 6 communal toilets. According to the manager of the Kebele, Tirgalem Geremew, the toilets are not managed or used very well. The inspected toilet is located next to the Kebele office and has 4 booths and 10 households use one booth. It was built by Amhara Development Organisation as do many other toilets as well. The toilet had no ventilation and was quite in a bad shape. The doors were corroded and the floor had caved in some of the booths. The structural frames of the building were built of poor materials and hence are disintegrating.

Dry waste collection used to be done by a youth association but as it turned out to be not profitable, they have stopped their activities. It might have been difficult for the association to collect the fees from the inhabitants of the Kebele and at the same time maintaining the equipment such as donkey carts and hand pushed trolleys.

There is quite a lot of private urban agriculture at the Kebele, as it is close to the countryside. There is also a youth group working on agriculture. However, the level of awareness when it comes to composting is quite low.

Therefore in most cases, people use cattle manure as a fertilizer than a properly made compost.
KEBELE SEFENE SELAM

Sefane Selam comprises of the old Kebeles 4, 5 and 6. It has 20,000 inhabitants and 11 employees. It is connected to the lake Tana and has quite a lot of hotels and the municipality offices are located there. The manager of the Sefane Selam, Tesfahun, had only been working at the Kebele for one month and did not have answers to many of the questions yet.

Sefane Selam has eight community toilets built by Amhara Development Organisation and the Red Cross. They also have two public water post working. The inspected toilets were both built by the Amhara Development Organisation. The toilets are emptied by the users.

The first toilet had four booths and six households using one booth. The doors were locked, which made it impossible to inspect the inside of the toilet more thoroughly. The toilet smelled bad, it had no ventilation and the construction was not very well done. The surroundings were littered.

The second toilet was built by the same organization in 2001 but with the aid of the Japan Embassy. The surroundings of the toilet were clean. The toilet had no ventilation and it smelled a little bit. The doors were again locked but as one of the doors was broken, it looked like the floor had caved in.

Dry waste is collected by several youth associations. More information on the association can be found from the small and micro enterprises office. There is quite a lot of urban agriculture along the shorelines of lake Tana and the Church by the lake. However, there had been no signs of composting apart from manure used as fertilizer.

FIGURE 6 A COMMUNITY TOILET IN SEFENE SELAM KEBELE  (BUILT BY AMHARA DEV. ASSOCIATION AND EMBASSY OF JAPAN, IN 2001)