



ESRC Research Group on  
Wellbeing in Developing Countries

## **QoL Phase 1 Summary**

**Ethiopia: Terufe Kechemama**

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## **Terufe Kechema QoL Phase 1 Summary**

WeD carried out focus group discussions with members of Terufe Kechema as part of the Phase 1 QoL fieldwork. Six focus groups were held, divided by age and gender but with two groups representing young males and none for young females. Below are summaries of the answers given to a selection of questions.

The focus groups were asked what people aspire to have in their lives. The most frequently mentioned characteristics were owning an iron-roofed house, being able to educate children and having modern agricultural equipment and supplies. Half the groups also commented that they aspire to own livestock. They were then asked what people need in order to have the good life. Every group mentioned the need to have farmland. Having livestock and money or savings were commented on by most groups. Half the groups noted the need to have modern farming equipment, educated children and to work hard.

The groups were asked what characterises life in their community, and most agreed that farming is the most prominent feature. They were then asked to name the goals that community members pursue from day-to-day. Having access to electricity, and having a grinding mill in the village were the most frequently mentioned goals, with these both being mentioned by all of the male groups.

Focus groups were questioned about the characteristics of people in their community who are living the good life. Old women did not answer this question. The characteristics mentioned most often were that these people are organised, work hard, help others and are work orientated, with all these mentions coming from male groups. An ability to save money was commented on by both middle-aged groups. The groups were then asked what goals or obstacles get in the way of attaining the good life. Most commented that the lack of fertiliser and the high prices that must be paid for it hinder attainment of the good life. Lack of land was also mentioned, and old people commented that having no savings is a big hindrance.

Semi-structured interviews were also carried out as part of the WeD QoL research. Twenty community members participated in this stage of data collection. They were asked what features of their current lives they wish to see changed. Lack of land and poverty were the most frequently mentioned elements, with the latter being the focus of male participants. Respondents were then asked how their current state compares to the state they aspire to be living in. Almost all stated that their present conditions are worse, although the female participants were more optimistic about than the males. Hope for a better future was often mentioned as the aspect of life which keeps people content with the life that they are leading.

Participants were then asked what makes their life worth living. All male respondents as well as some female's commented that their hope for a better future is what makes their lives worth living. Children was the second most mentioned area, with women being the only ones to mention them. The

respondents were then questioned about the domain of their lives that they find it hardest to be happy with. Poverty and illness were the most frequently mentioned.

The respondents were asked what aspects of their life they are most happy with and which moments or events in their lives they recall as the happiest. Health was the most frequently mentioned aspect with which people are currently happy, and engagement or marriage was commented on most often as the happiest event that people recall. Children and education were also mentioned a number of times in answer to this question. The unhappiest moments or events in people's lives emerged as being the death of relatives and times of ill health.

Participants were asked to list the characteristics of people in their area who are living the good life. Having educated children was mentioned most frequently as an important characteristic. Helping others or being generous, being hard working and advising others were also commented on frequently in the interviews, although men were the only ones mentioning these aspects. They were then asked how such people have managed to achieve the good life. Old women did not answer this question, but from the answers given by the other participants, hard work and the ownership of land were frequently mentioned as necessary for achieving the good life.

The Person Generated Index (PGI), which asks participants to list the areas of most importance in their lives, was also administered as part of the semi-structured interviews. Health was the most frequently mentioned area, with most participants noting the importance of it. The majority of respondents also commented on accommodation or property and farming as important in their lives. Education, children, marriage and peace were mentioned by a number of interviewees.