

## **A leader in the making: a growing leader who holds COWASH stronghold in Asosa, Benishangul Gumuz Region.**

Feyera Kebede nick named as Bona (34) is born from his father Ato Kebede Hundesa and from his mother, Beshadu Edesa in Ambo town in January 1984 G.C. He has four brothers and three sisters and he is the second oldest child of the family. He studied his primary and secondary school in Ambo and joined Addis Ababa University for his first degree and graduated in Applied Chemistry.

Feyera is married to Mestawot Chali and his first born, Yafet, is a three years old boy. He speaks four languages, Amharic, Oromia, English and Arabic. He is quite friendly and smile is part and parcel of the package he offers if one gets the opportunity to sit with him for a conversation. He truly is an example of a good leader in his community and possesses the values we promote in COWASH Ethiopia.



Feyera during the interview/April 2018/Photo credit/Melaku Tekola

Feyera, even if he was born and grow up in Ambo, Oromia region, he spent significant amount of time serving his fellow country men and women in Benishangul Gumuz region at Bambasi and Asosa town. He lived in Asosa for more than 11 years and still believes he has more to do in the region.

Asked how he started working in WASH, Feyera said “I started as a Teacher of Chemistry in Bambasi Secondary and Preparatory School and worked for about 3 years and seven months in the school. Then, I joined Water, Mine and Energy Office in Bambasi as Water Quality and Sanitation expert. I worked on this position for about three months and moved to Water Sanitation and Data analysis Expert for another two months”.

The Bambasi office looking at his successful track record in the above positions, promoted him to a Water Resource Core Process Owner position and then, he became Water, Mine and Energy Head at Bambasi. At this position, he was Coordinator of UNICEF WASH programme and supported the Community Development Fund which he said preceded community managed project.

Again looking at his success, he was directly appointed by the Regional Water, Mine and Energy Bureau to manage the Regional Water Quality Case Team. At this position, he had an opportunity to work in areas of development as well as the emergency programme. He added “opportunity presented to me to work with various stakeholders such as UNICEF, Faro foundation, AMREF and IRC. I was also the chairman of the regional technical committees of the local NGOs and the one providing support on a regular basis”. Feyera continued showing positive results in all his new assignments which led to a senior level appointment as Water Resource Management Director for the region. He worked on this position for six years and served his community until September 2017. He then, joined COWASH as Sanitation and Hygiene Specialist in October 2017.

Asked why he left the directorial position to join a Specialist position at COWASH, Feyera answered “I’m fond of the unique programme management approach COWASH employs... I’m son of a farmer and I always wanted to work directly with the community... I did not waste a second to work for COWASH to give back to my society”. He added “it was my dream to engage in community level intervention and to give back to my community who have given everything to educate me and to support me to reach where I am now” says Feyera reminiscing about his childhood memory.

Feyera has been a valuable member of COWASH Asosa regional support unit (RSU) for about seven months as Sanitation and Hygiene Specialist and currently working as Acting “COWASH Team Leader” in Asosa region. He does not only cover the fort but strives to strengthen the Asosa COWASH team.

As Acting Team leader, Feyera plans to improve services for the community, speed up implementation of current projects such as timely constructions of planned water schemes and sanitation projects, improve relationship with the regional council and continue lobbying for better budget allocations for COWASH projects. Internally, he plans to reduce operational cost and work on capacity building of his regional team. He vows to strengthen coordination among various stakeholders and work to enhance internal and external communications including strengthening of the Regional COWASH Communications Network (RCCN).



Feyera during the interview/April 2018/Photo credit/Melaku Tekola