

This document is a description of the Institutional framework regarding water in the rural areas of Ethiopia. It presents the main texts that are defining the policies and are orienting the strategies for the water sector. It synthetizes the roles of the different actors involved, including a specific focus at the level of the *Woreda*\* and the involvement of the water users.

\* Administrative organization of Ethiopia breakdowns as Region > Zone > Woreda > Kebele

## 1. General Framework

Ministry of Water & Energy	
<p>Established in 2010</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sets policies, strategies, regulations and standards</li> <li>develops plans and programs for water management and supply</li> <li>signs international agreements</li> <li>issues water use permits and certificates of professional competence (for contractors, consultants)</li> <li>supports the Regional Water Bureaus</li> </ul>	
Regional Water Resource Development Bureau (SNPPR)	<i>Made up of 9 Regional Bureaus and the Dire Dawa area</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepares <b>regional</b> policies, regulations and guidelines</li> <li>Studies, designs, constructs and supervises big water supply projects</li> <li>Responsible for program planning, management, coordination, and capacity building at regional scale</li> <li>Provides trainings and technical assistance to Zonal and Woreda Water offices</li> <li>Develops training &amp; communication materials for partners (brochures, posters...)</li> </ul>	<p>The <b>Information Department</b> is in charge of communication about on-going activities in the Region.</p> <p>The <b>Planning Department</b> is auditing all projects and budgets, controlling that reports and expenses are matching with realizations.</p>
Zonal Water, Mine and Energy Department	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supports the development and implementation of water supply services activities in their respective areas</li> <li>Provides capacity building and technical support to the Woreda</li> <li>Implements and monitors assignments from Regional Bureaus</li> <li>Responsible for operation and maintenance in complex cases</li> </ul>	
Woreda Water Mines & Energy Office	
<p>The Water Offices are divided in several Cores:</p> <p>For now, all positions are not fulfilled and technical teams are usually composed of about 5 to 8 staffs (technical engineer, sanitation agent, social mobilizer). Their main duties can be listed as such:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plans, budgets, implements and monitors water projects construction and programmes</li> <li>Monitors Operation &amp; Maintenance of infrastructures, verifies water quality</li> <li>Studies water resources</li> <li>Community mobilization and follow up of Water Associations and Federations</li> </ul>	
<p>The WWMEOs are directly accountable to the Woreda Council.</p>	

## 2. Policies and strategies

### Water Policies and Strategies

- The **National Water Resources Management Policy**, published in 1999, defines guidelines concerning water supply and sanitation, resources management, irrigation and hydropower –  
[www.mowr.gov.et/attachmentfiles/Downloads/Water%20policy.doc](http://www.mowr.gov.et/attachmentfiles/Downloads/Water%20policy.doc)  
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- The **water and sanitation strategy** of 2001 translates the policy into objectives  
[www.mowr.gov.et/attachmentfiles/Downloads/Water%20strategy.doc](http://www.mowr.gov.et/attachmentfiles/Downloads/Water%20strategy.doc)  
The key aspects include:
  - More decentralized decision-making
  - Promoting the involvement of all stakeholders, including the private sector
  - Increasing levels of cost recovery
  - More integrated approach to water, sanitation and hygiene promotion activities.
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- To achieve the policy objectives, the **Water Resources Development Fund** and a **Water Sector Development Program** were established in 2002 that define interventions in terms of projects and programs for 15 years (2002-2016)  
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- **A WaSH Implementation Framework (WIF)**, has been finalized in March 2013 as guiding document for the implementation of the **WASH Program**. It recognizes that safe water and improved sanitation & hygiene are not separate pursuits and that results will only be sustainable if responsibilities and resources are decentralized and communities are empowered to manage their own transformation

### General Strategic Plans

Other major National strategic plans include objectives of increasing water coverage and improving sanitation:

- The Plan for Accelerated Sustained Development and to End Poverty (**PASDEP**) that covered the 2005-2010 period,
- The **Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP)** for the 2011-2015 period
- The **Universal Access Plan II** that is the revision of the 1st UAP of 2006 and is aligned with the GTP

The GTP/UAP II target in rural water supply is coverage of 98% access at 15 liters per person per day within the radius of 1.5km in 2015, reduce non-functional rate of WS schemes to 10%.

### Coordination between institutions

- Proclamations and rules are prepared by the Regional Council, who mandates the Regional Bureau to translate it into regulations and guidelines.
- The Zonal and Regional Bureaus are coordinating and communicating with NGOs and donors. Contracts agreements are signed by the Region Bureau who control implementation and ensure the respect of budgets
- The Regional or Zonal Bureaus allocate the funding for projects that are then implemented and monitored by the WWEMO (preparation, supervision, providing manuals & trainings materials)
- The WWEMO submits proposals, budgets, quarter reports and plans as well as strategic year plans to the Zonal dept.
- The WWEMO submits quarterly reports and quarterly plans, budgets to the Woreda Cabinet

### Budget

- Ethiopia receives funding from the UN Millennium Development Goals, the World Bank, WFP (safety net), the African Bank, Unicef, etc. that are allocated by the Regions and Zonal Councils to Woredas according to the needs (coverage and population) and request of Woreda councils. The Water Zonal Dept. will assign envelopes to WWEMO according to the projects that have been defined.
- The budgets of Regional and Zonal bureaus are voted on by the cabinets of their respective **Councils**, i.e. that the Regional Bureau prepares a proposal to the Regional Council only for the Regional Bureau, idem for the Zone.
- The Woreda Council can possibly fund WWEMO's running costs or salaries depending of the amount allocated by the Zone and the envelopes requested for each sectors Bureaus

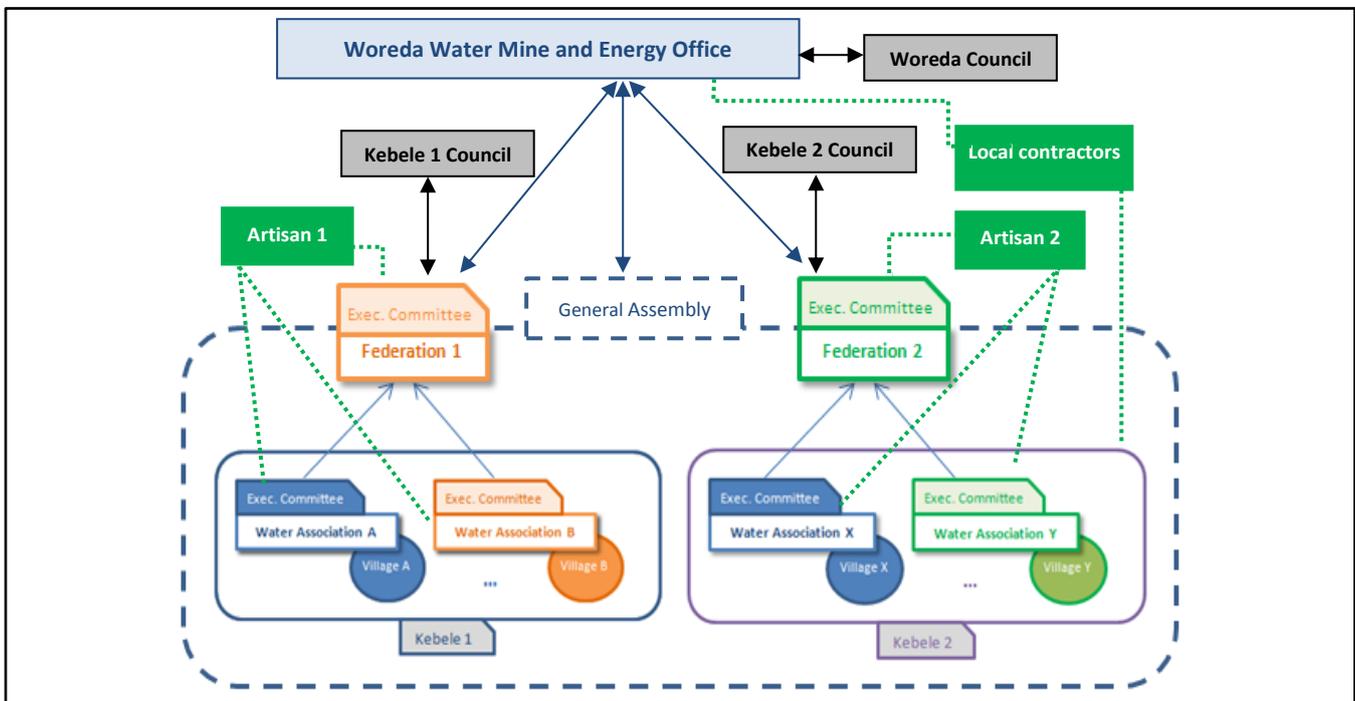
### 3. Focus at the Woreda level

The governance system follows the same tripartite structure at the Region, Zone, Woreda and the Kebele level: an elected head of the administration, a council with an executive committee (or cabinet) and a sector bureau.

WOREDA COUNCIL	
<p>The Woreda Councils consist of directly elected representatives from each Kebele in the Woreda. The Woreda Council has dual accountability: upward to its respective Zonal and Regional Executive Committees, and downward to its electorate. The <b>Woreda Cabinet</b> (also referred to as the Executive Committee) regroups mainly head of sector bureau.</p> <p><i>Woredas also have a court, which is under the authority of the regional judicial apparatus, and that can arbitrate water conflicts at Woreda level.</i></p> <p>The Woreda Council is gathering requests from communities and Kebeles and is forwarding them to the WWEMO.</p>	
<p><b>The Woreda Cabinet regularly organizes WaSH Task Force to :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review every quarters, reports of accomplishment, Plans for the next period and budget prepared by WWEMO</li> <li>- Submit budgets to the Zone Council</li> <li>- Twice a year evaluate the achievements/versus plans in each Kebele</li> </ul> <p>Possibly after arbitration between sectors' needs, the Woreda Council can allocate complement of budget concerning support costs for the Woreda bureaus</p>	<p>It is composed of the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chief Woreda Administrator</li> <li>- Woreda Water Office</li> <li>- Woreda Health Office</li> <li>- Woreda Education Office</li> <li>- Woreda Women and Children Office</li> <li>- Woreda Finance and Economic Development Office</li> <li>- Woreda Agriculture and Rural Development Office</li> </ul>

**KEBELE COUNCIL**

Kebele administration consists of an elected Kebele council, a Kebele cabinet (also referred to as the executive committee), a social court (comprising three judges) and the development and security staff posted in the Kebele (including Federations members). The Kebele cabinet usually comprises a manager, chairperson, and civil servants (Development Agents, school director, representatives of women and youth associations). Three Kebele Council's members are supposed to represent the Kebele in the Woreda Council.



**Water Associations and Federations**

A regulation published in May 2012 in the SNNPR Region, establishes that all water point users have to join a **Water Association** and are represented at Kebele level by **Water Associations' Federation** (chairmen and secretaries of all associations of a Kebele). Federations and Associations are overseen by executive committees. All associations' members composed the General Assembly.

### Water Associations and Federations

#### - Regulation N° 102/2012 Negarit Gazetta -

*The Ministry establishes policies and regulations at the Federal level; the Regional Bureau can develop regional regulations.*

The regulation n°102/2012 established by the SNPPR Region is formalizing communities' ownership of water systems by establishing **Water Associations** of users at water system level, and **Water associations' federations** at Kebele level.

Anyone who wants to benefit regularly from a water point in a community has to pay for water in order to contribute to the maintenance of the system. Therefore, using a water point implies being member of its Water Association. Users who are joining an association commit to take care of their system and to contribute to the operation and maintenance costs<sup>1</sup>.

Water Associations are led by an **executive committee** who is **administering decisions and establishing their own bylaws and rules** concerning membership, system utilization, operations of maintenance, fixing money contribution, exemption (include also rules concerning latrines and sanitation).

This Executive Committee is composed of 5 persons elected for not more than **three years** by all association's members: **chairman (or chairlady), secretary, cashier** - like in previous WaSH Committees - and new positions:

- a **storekeeper** who is managing the tool bank (maintenance equipment) at water point level,
- an **evaluator** who will audit the budget (check expenses and balance) and the organization of the structure. He/She will report any concerns first to the chairman, then to the Federation and in last resort to the Kebele Administration or directly to the court (Woreda level).

Members of all associations constitute the **General Assembly**. The General Assembly has at a minimum a **meeting every 6 months** where experiences are shared and activities' reports are submitted to the rest of the General Assembly, Federations and Woreda Water Mines and Energy Offices.

Water Associations are overseen by a **Federation**. Chairmen and secretaries of all associations of a Kebele represents the members of a Federation, among them, 6 are chosen to form the **managerial board** or **executive committee** of the Federation = chairman, secretary, cashier, technical evaluator, financial auditor, public communication (NGOs, donors).

Any associations or federations are required to register at the WWEMO, where they get a certificate. Registration must be renewed every year for both of them.

The role of the Federation will consist to:

- **represent the associations and be the link** with the Water Bureaus, Kebeles' Cabinets and Woreda Council
- **follow and support associations, solve problems** – Federations have to be informed of the activities of all associations and can decide to give their agreements if requested,
- **monitor local artisans**

Gradually, **the WWEMO will transfer competences to the federations**, such as controlling association's budgets and organizing diagnosis. They are supposed to have an office at Kebele level and it is planed that they could employ staff (accountant and artisan).

*If there is a failure on a system for example, the federation will be informed and will check. Regarding the level of the problem, association will either refer to the artisan, or the federation will hire contractors, or will refer to the WWEMO if it is beyond local contractors' capacities.*

Therefore, WWEMO will focus more on developing policies and standards, supervising major constructions and on capacity building by providing trainings (concerning technical, organizational and financial management), ensuring that regulations are applied and by providing technical support.

The tariff Water Associations' members are paying for water is established by the associations' bylaws. It has to cover Operation & Maintenance costs, possibly rehabilitation or expansion, public toilet and sanitation services. It has also to finance the Federation by an annual contribution for the running cost (stationeries, office costs, salaries...).

<sup>1</sup> Are considered only water points that delivers water for more than 20 Households, below it is the traditional system that prevail.