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**Kebele 41, Redd Barna Project, Addis abba.** Community-based urban development in Ethiopia.

Building Community: a third world case book, Ed. Bertha Turner, Building Community Books, London, 1988

# Community- based urban development in Ethiopia

**Documentation:**

A. G/Egziabher, Y. Hailu,  
T. Tekle, T. Debas  
Redd Barna, PO Box 6589,  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

## Kebele 41

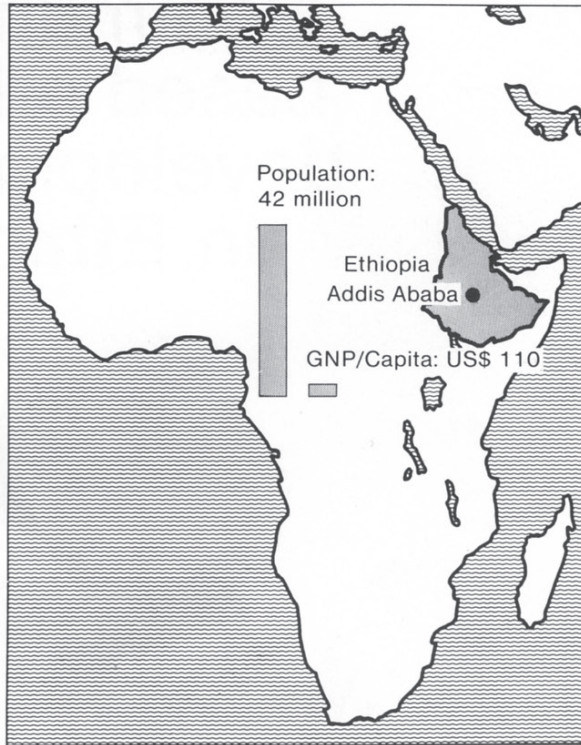
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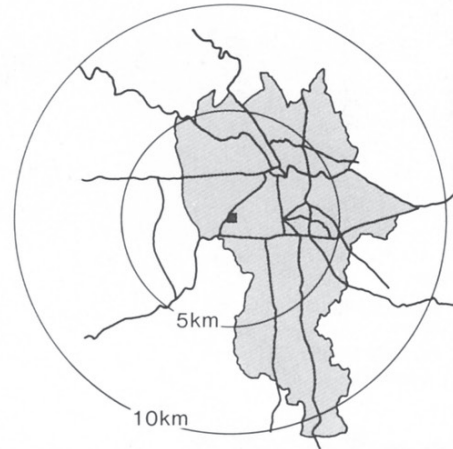
**Advisor and Text:**

Yves Cabannes,  
GRET, France.



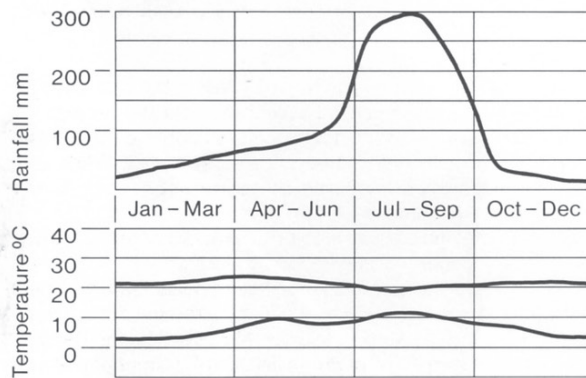


Population Addis Ababa (1984) : 1.4 million  
Population Kebele 41 (1984) : 4,157

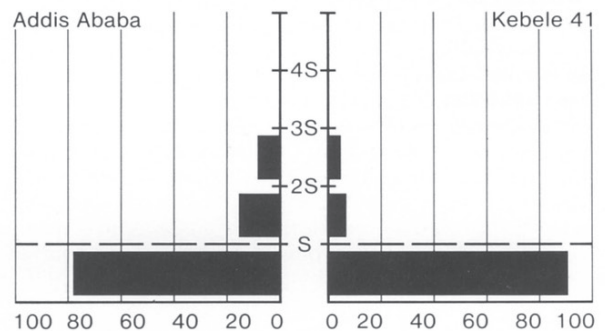


Addis Ababa

□ Built-up Area  
■ Kebele 41  
— Main Traffic Routes



Climate Graph Addis Ababa (2,400m)



Percentage Distributions of Population by Income Level  
S=when 85% of household income must be spent on food





*Kebele 41 before the start of the project. No drainage, no waste disposal, no water supply. Bridges and roads were in very bad repair.*

PHOTO: PETER MYHREN, REDD BARNA, ETHIOPIA

KEBELE 41

#### The project's history 1981-86

Fundamental changes have taken place since the 1974 Ethiopian Revolution. Urban people have been organized into dwellers' associations (kebeles) and urban land is no longer a commodity for sale or exchange, as speculation has been abolished (Land Nationalization).

Initially, a community representative contacted one of the members of the Municipality of Addis Ababa's International Co-ordination Committee (ICC), requesting permission to present a proposal to an ICC meeting. Permission was given, and Redd Barna-Ethiopia expressed an interest in carrying out the urban development project, due to the large number

of children who would benefit. The proposal was accepted and the ICC assisted in drafting the project document. The agreement between Redd Barna-Ethiopia and the Municipality was signed in April 1981.

Kebele 41, near the market and one of the poorest of Addis Ababa's 285 kebeles, was chosen for the project, supported by a 1980 socio-economic and physical study and a 1981 house-to-house survey. Since 1981 the ICC has kept up the necessary contacts on the government side. Redd Barna and the Municipality have been working closely together, with increasing Municipal support, especially since the project began to show positive results.

In 1986 the programme was phased out and the activities introduced with Redd Barna's support are now managed by institutions at community, kebele, Municipality and central government levels. Redd Barna is currently concentrating its efforts in another extremely poor kebele, behind the railway station.

#### Abbreviations:

ICC	International Co-ordination Committee
Redd Barna	Norwegian Save the Children



### A community-based, integrated approach

Since the beginning of its urban development programme in Kebele 41, Redd Barna-Ethiopia has used a community-based, integrated approach consisting of four major components interlinked with one another.

**Physical upgrading** deals with the problems of housing, latrines, communal kitchens and community programme buildings.

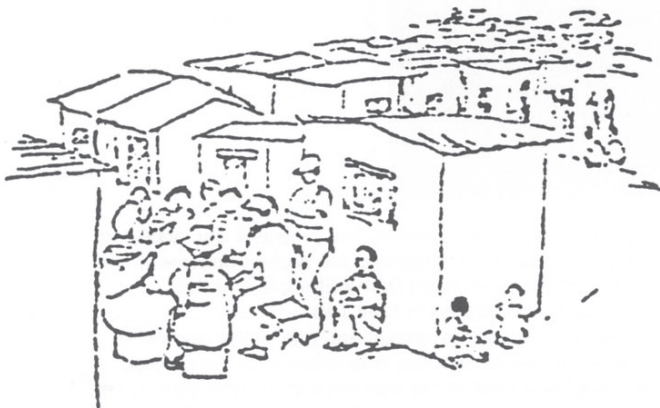
**Income-generating activities** are a means of improving the social and economic standards of the community.

**Preventive health programmes** emphasize mother and child care.

**Building the social awareness and participation of the community** ensures the smooth running and continuity of the programme, along with long-term and profound social benefits to the people.

The major achievements of the project over the past five years are largely due to having such a well-organized community.

KEBELE 41



#### Community awareness and participation

From the start, Redd Barna has involved the community in identifying its own problems, decision-making and overall planning. At present, the level of awareness and participation is very high, enhanced through taking part in the various committees.

#### Four committees link the Project with the kebele structure

A **zone co-ordinating committee** consists of members from the kebele administration and representatives from each zone. In its weekly meetings, it co-ordinates the overall programme, participation and organizes collective labour activities.

A **health committee** meets twice a week and is made up of members from the kebele administration and representatives from each zone. Its main function is to activate and encourage mothers to participate in the various health programmes. Sometimes this committee organizes environmental clean-up campaigns in the kebele.

The **social welfare committee** deals with those having social problems and helps them to help themselves.

An **education and literacy committee** meets whenever necessary. Its responsibility is to activate and mobilize the community to participate, for instance, in the literacy classes. It also identifies those children needing help in their education.



#### Youth and Children Programme

Various activities have been specifically designed to benefit children, as part of the integrated approach:

**Literacy classes** were opened to 100 children (6 to 10 years) who were unable to attend regular classes.

A **kindergarten** for 80 children in the kebele's school, soon to be transferred to its own building.

**Vegetable gardening** was introduced to 80 children, along with crafts, such as woodwork, carpet making, needle work.





#### Preventive health programme

As poor health damages both individual and community development, special attention was given to having a safe and clean water supply through 3 stand-pipes which are run by the kebele administration.

**Environmental health** was improved through better latrines, dry waste disposals and showers. In future the City Council will pay the 'sanitary guards' who were subsidized by Redd Barna, to maintain these systems.

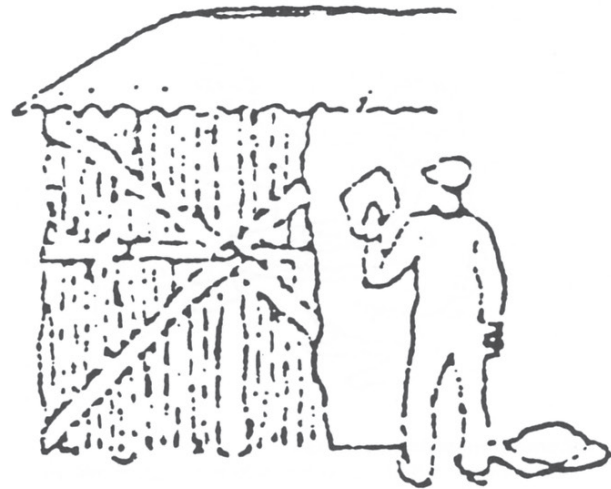
**The vaccination programme** began immunizations in 1982. After coverage of Kebele 41, the programme was extended to 5 other kebeles.

**The mother and child health care programme** includes pre-natal, post-natal and new-born infant physical examinations along with family planning. Traditional birth attendants (midwives) are also participating and assist many mothers.

**Nutrition:** Dry ration distribution - sorghum, powdered milk, cooking oil, for instance - to mothers and children under 5 years of age and demonstrations of nutritious food preparation are two ways to show the importance of a healthy diet.

**Health Education:** Audio-visuals are the most effective way to reach people. Communicable disease control has allowed the identification of cases of tuberculosis and venereal diseases.

**First Aid service** is given 24 hours a day and is run by the Kebele Health Committee and 120 youngsters.



#### Physical upgrading

**Site:** The major roads of Kebele 41 are under construction, since this is a project area of the World Bank.

**Housing:** The gradual improvement of housing conditions through repairs (118 houses); temporary relief houses (39 units); new houses (51 units).

**Communal kitchens:** All 52 communal kitchens repaired or newly built.

**Sanitation:** 24 newly built communal latrines will complement the existing ones which were maintained or closed. By building 6 public areas for showering, Redd Barna increased the number of personal hygiene facilities, helping to improve health.

**Garbage collection:** A system of garbage collection was implemented. Metal containers, each shared by 25 households, are regularly emptied into one of the 6 central collection points.

**Public facilities:** In order to develop the income-generating activities, various structures were built: a food processing plant, a grain mill, a garment-making workshop. Educational buildings such as a kindergarten, a nursery, a literacy campaign centre or a library and other health facilities were newly built or upgraded from existing structures.

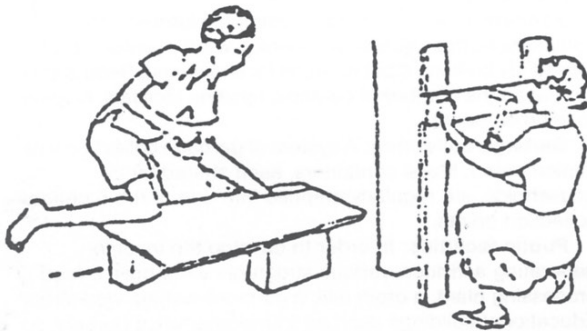


#### Income-generating activities

**Communal activities** which include the grain mill, the laundry facility, a shower room and water stand-pipes are all managed by the Kebele 41 administration and are generating income for the kebele revolving fund.

**A food processing plant** has provided employment for 30 mothers. They work at cleaning, splitting and packing horse-beans, peas and lentils for sale.

**The garment-making unit** created 31 jobs for unmarried mothers and school drop-outs.



#### Training and education

The aim is to help young people to acquire skills to increase their employment opportunities. In 1986, 10 students were enrolled in a technical institute, 6 others have places in a job training scheme and 31 received financial help so that they could continue their education.

#### It can be done

The day-to-day achievements of the Kebele 41 programme have proved that a community-based integrated approach was possible in Addis Ababa, even in the early 1980s, a time of tension and rapid social change. The work at kebele level has become a successful reality, dispelling the doubts of the programme's early days.

#### Fruitful co-operation

Through its achievements, Redd Barna has gained recognition from various Ministries (Health, Housing, Urban Development and others) and from the Municipality of Addis Ababa. Redd Barna is a member of the International Co-ordination Committee of Addis Ababa City Council.

Around the end of 1982, other external aid agencies began to show an interest in working on kebele development programmes. In fact, NGOs like Concern, Oxfam and the American Save the Children Fund have asked for documents and ideas. Some of them are in the process of starting to work in other kebeles.

Though the relationship between Redd Barna-Ethiopia and the university was only in the project's initial phase (1980-81), the achievements of Kebele 41 are attracting increasing interest from various training institutions.

The people of Kebele, involving men and women ...



PHOTOS: PETER MYHREN, REDD BARNÄ, ETHIOPIA





Kebele 41

Physical Improvements



#### From community awareness to government acceptance

- 1 15 Dwelling houses
- 2 Kitchens
- 3 Sewage and sanitation units
- 4 Income generating
- 5 Nursery
- 6 Food processing plant
- 7 Health post
- 8 Kindergarten
- 9 Nutrition kitchen
- 10 Kebele Hall
- 11 Mill house
- 12 Library
- 13 Weavers' house
- 14 S.C.B. and F.R.C. production shade
- 15 S.C.B. making room
- 16 Store
- 17 Literacy campaign rooms
- 18-22 Houses
- 23 Communal latrines
- 24 Test house no. 2
- 25 Test house no. 1
- 26, 27 Houses
- 28, 29 New latrines and kitchens
- 30 Communal latrines

... improved their physical environment ...



... and the level of services.



KEBELE 41



### Three lessons and an open question

#### Upgrading versus urban renewal

The Kebele 41 Urban Development Project has clearly demonstrated that upgrading is the most feasible way to improve highly congested and densely populated low-income settlements. The alternative, urban renewal, is unaffordable to the poor and disruptive to their already precarious lives.

#### Role of the community

The success of Redd Barna's approach has proved the importance of integrating the social, economic and physical improvements upgrading both the environment and the lives of low-income settlers at the same time. It has also indicated the need for integrating training, education and skills improvement together with physical improvements.

#### The community is effective through organization

The Kebele 41 project shows the effectiveness of the community, organized through the kebeles and the zonal co-ordination committees. Effectiveness follows when the organized community participates in identifying its needs and planning, implementing and controlling its social, economic and environmental development.

#### Replicability

Limited attention was paid to cost recovery, since social benefits were of equal importance to the physical improvements. The project required nearly US\$2 million, met mainly by subsidies.

Addis Ababa today has 284 other kebeles which need full or partial improvement. Replicability of the project might be limited in the absence of a budget allocation or a grant. An optimum use of subsidy will have to be worked out.

KEBELE 41

*New structures were erected, local jobs created ...*



*... and health centers opened.*



PHOTOS: PETER MYHREN, REDD BARNA, ETHIOPIA