

### Engagement Discussion with Ketena 03 Garbage Collectors Association

The Ketena 03 Garbage Collectors Association is organized before 3 years with 10 female members. According to the members, the initiatives to form the garbage collection association came from their own will by observing females engagement from other areas. They started their garbage collection by registering customers within their neighborhood, and later on the Kebele supported them to have a legal status. The sub-city gave them 3 carts, the Christian Children's Fund also gave them some carts, spades, gowns, brushes, etc.



The members respect their duty and handle their customers according to their capacities and requests. They said that, since there are economic and other social burdens on their customers, they try to convince their customers that such burdens are felt also by themselves. Accordingly, they discuss and determine the service costs and fee collection dates on common understanding. They believe that they are giving a valuable service to the community and give respect to their work. Even though the income they earn is little, they said that it is fair by the present condition, since their customers could not pay more than what they pay them now.

The meeting participants were briefed about the past three year activities by the AAU professors, students' community assessment and MSW thesis research projects. They were briefed about the basic principles of a community-university partnership and what the Gedam Sefer Community-University Partnership has done so far and its future plans.



The participants appreciated the principles of the Community-University Partnership, and what they want is an institution or group of people or individuals who could fill their gaps on building their knowledge and show them the directions for community development. They believe that they could work in a better condition if trained. They hope that the core committee and the technical committee of the partnership could support them after taking the ABCD training. The Ketena 03 garbage collection association members hope that this process is their additional support for their wellbeing. They agreed to be part and parcel of the Gedam Sefer

Community University Partnership and elected two representatives to the Core Group and also attend the ABCD training to identify their strengths, assets and gaps to find solutions.