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From Hopelessness to Hope: A Young Man's Journey into Poultry Production

Tajebe Kebie's Success Story

Tajebe Kebie Enyewu is a 24-year-old young man living in Chimbord Kebele of Gozamen Woreda, East Gojjam Zone, Amhara Regional State. He comes from a very poor and illiterate family whose livelihood depends on hand-to-mouth agricultural activities. Tajebe is unmarried and, before the intervention, owned no assets and had no source of income. Although he completed Grade 10, unfavorable life circumstances prevented him from continuing his education or securing employment, leaving him without a clear livelihood pathway.

For several years, Tajebe lived in his community without a job or income. The worsening economic situation made his life increasingly difficult, and his dependence on his family grew heavier. With no capital, no employment opportunities, and no long-term plan to improve his livelihood, his future appeared uncertain. Reflecting on this period, Tajebe explains, *"I stayed at home for many years without work. Even though I wanted to support my family, I had no income and no chance to start anything. I felt hopeless about my future."*

A turning point came when **Bees for Development Ethiopia (BfDE)** started supporting unemployed youth in their kebele. Before this intervention, Tajebe had little understanding of income generation or small business development, and his family's situation was extremely challenging. Through the project, he received basic **soft and core skills training**, including technical skills and financial literacy. The training introduced him to income-generating activities, basic business planning, financial management, and record keeping. Following screening along allied value chains, Tajebe participated in several trainings, including income-generating activity planning and management and financial literacy, conducted over a period of three to five days.

Describing the impact of the training, Tajebe says, *"The training opened my mind. I learned how to calculate costs, manage money, and plan a small business. For the first time, I started to believe that I could change my life."*

After assessing different livelihood options, Tajebe selected **poultry production** as a feasible and sustainable business. However, his greatest challenge was the lack of startup capital. Applying the financial literacy skills he gained from the training, he





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approached his family and managed to mobilize **30,000 birr** to start the business. This initial investment covered the purchase of 30 chickens, feed costs, poultry house construction using locally available materials, and veterinary services.

Through proper management and daily care, Tajebe began producing an average of **25 eggs per day**. Over four months, he generated **54,000 birr** from egg sales and an additional **6,250 birr** from the sale of five chickens. His total gross revenue reached **60,250 birr**, resulting in a **net income of 30,250 birr** after deducting the startup costs. Speaking about this achievement, he says, *“When I earned my first income from poultry, I felt proud of myself. It showed me that even a small business can change a person’s life.”*

Currently, Tajebe owns **25 mature chickens**, each with a market value of **1,450 birr**, giving him an asset value of **36,250 birr**. Combined with his net income, his total capital has grown to **66,500 birr**, a remarkable achievement for a young man who previously owned nothing.

Beyond financial gains, Tajebe experienced a deep personal transformation. Through the support of BfDE, he developed strong soft and core skills that enabled him to manage his on-farm livelihood activity effectively. He gained practical knowledge in financial management and record keeping and improved his confidence and decision-making abilities. *“Before, I had no confidence and no direction,”* Tajebe reflects. *“Now I can plan my work, record my income, and make decisions for my future.”*

Looking ahead, Tajebe plans to expand his poultry business and diversify into additional income-generating activities, including **shoat fattening and petty trading**. He also aims to secure land to scale up his operations and increase his income further. His long-term vision is to become a role model for unemployed and discouraged youth in his community. *“Many young people think there is no hope without a job,”* he says. *“I want to show them that with skills, commitment, and support, we can create our own opportunities.”*

With the experience, confidence, and skills gained through the **BfDE project**, Tajebe is determined to change his life, support his poor family, and inspire other jobless young people to believe in their potential and pursue sustainable livelihoods.





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