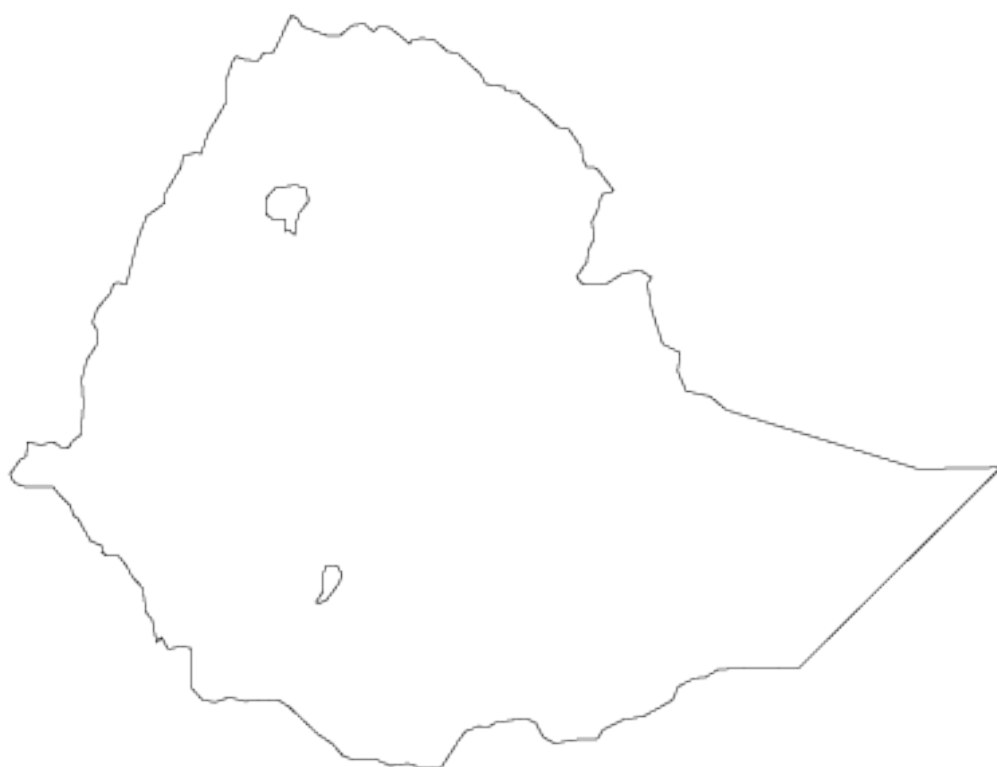

April 2019

Assessment

Assessing the capacity, challenges and sustainability of the community radio sector in Ethiopia

Ethiopia



Acronyms

DDG	Deputy Director General
DG	Director General
EBA	Ethiopian Broadcast Authority
EBC	Ethiopian Broadcast Corporation
EPRDF	Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front
FDRE	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GCAO	Government Communications Affairs Office
ICTAD	Information and Communications Assisted Development
IMS	International Media Support
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOIT	Ministry of Innovation and Technology
MOST	Ministry of Science and Technology
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SNNPR	Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Region

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1. Introduction

Ethiopia is presently undergoing dramatic political changes which just months ago were unthinkable. This has opened a window of opportunity for media reform, and several international organisations are working with the government to develop new media legislation.

International Media Support (IMS) carried out two initial assessment missions in Ethiopia in June and August 2018, and the community radio sector was identified as an area of possible cooperation and support. In order to follow up on this finding, an IMS team consisting of Mr. Tewodros Negash and Mr. Per Oesterlund was assigned to carry out an assessment of the community radio sector in Ethiopia. This report synthesises findings from desk research and field-work conducted by IMS. The first phase of the assessment analysed the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the community radio sector based on literature reviews, discussions and interviews held with relevant actors such as government regulatory authorities, radio station managers, journalists and listeners. Subsequently, visits to selected community radio stations in rural areas and urban centres outside Addis Ababa were undertaken. The following radio stations were visited:

- Debre Markos University and its Surrounding Community Radio Station, Amhara Region
- Silte Community Radio, SNNP Region
- Argoba Community Radio, Afar Region
- Kombolcha Community Radio, Amhara Region
- Hawassa University and its surrounding community radio station, SNNP region
- Kemise Community Radio station, Oromiya Zone of Amhara Region

In addition, the consultants also held discussions with the Chairperson and Vice Chairpersons of the Ethiopian Community Radio Broadcasters Association, which represents community radios and in the process of pursuing legal recognition.

The assessment was carried out between October 2018 to January 2019.

The assessment was not able to identify reliable independent data on audience numbers; any future support strategy for the sector should be informed by independent listener surveys.

2. Social and political context

Despite its ongoing political challenges, Ethiopia's socio-political environment is changing for the better, as evidenced by the change in political leadership. Inaugurated in April 2018, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has indicated a willingness to introduce broad-based socio-political and economic reforms, which, if successfully implemented will change the trajectory of Ethiopia's development.

There is also general consensus among political observers and the general public that the ongoing reform process is irreversible, and that society is determined to move away from the politics of the past. Official declarations on policy reforms have already yielded behaviour changes among citizens; there is increased readiness to engage in political debate and expression of views both online and in other social spaces.

Notwithstanding these positive developments, change will be slow and incremental. The conflation of the state and the ruling party means that reforming state institutions and addressing the prevailing culture of impunity will take time.

Also under question is whether the ruling coalition, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), will uphold this commitment to open up the political space.

A number of risk factors remain in play. Notably, inter-communal tensions have been flaring up since 2017; in 2018 alone, violent clashes over land and resources created 1.4 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). About four million people are on welfare schemes every year, and some eight million more have needed help with basic food during the past two years due to drought and other climatic challenges. In addition, Ethiopia hosts more than 900,000 refugees, mainly from South Sudan, Somalia and Eritrea. It is also important to note that Ethiopia still faces huge developmental challenges resulting from high levels of unemployment, loss of community farm land to rapid urbanization, and poor access to health, housing and education across the country. Moreover, low foreign exchange reserves, reliance of the economy on rain-fed agriculture, and internal political struggles within the ruling coalition (EPRDF) mainly for more autonomy remain serious concerns.

The media play an essential role in development and can both facilitate and impede progress. Within the media environment, community radios play an important role at the local level by providing a public platform for the advancement of community-level developmental and governance agendas. Ethiopian community radio stations have the potential to play a significant role in providing quality information to citizens and driving public accountability and governance issues through 'citizen-oriented journalism'. As described later in this report, however, there is still room for improvement, as the stations all struggle with a gap in professional skills and experience alongside technical limitations.

3. Overview of the community media sector

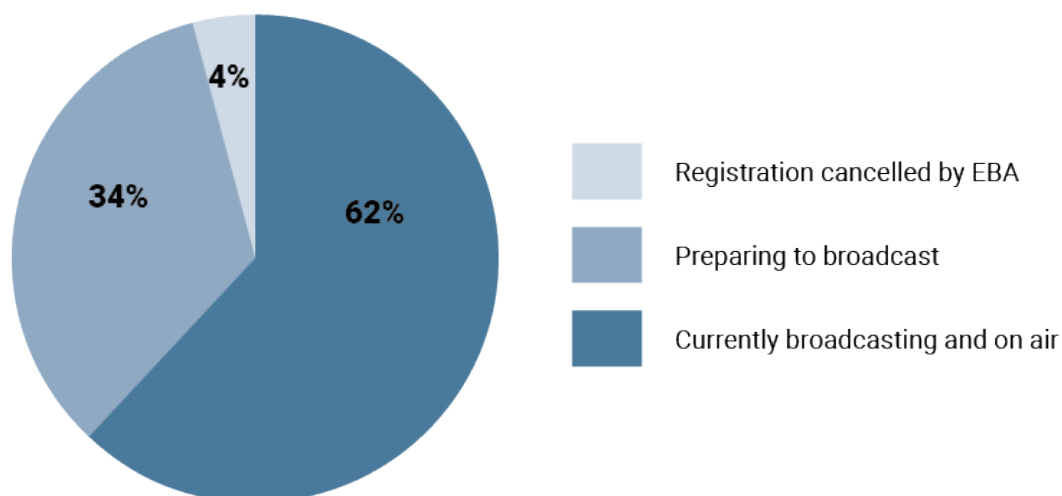
Community radio is a relatively new sector in the Ethiopian media landscape, with initial conceptualisation and support programmes emerging only in the early 2000s. The first community radio station was registered in 2005, following efforts by several actors including local indigenous communities, media professionals and advocacy groups. Since then, the importance and relevance of community radio stations in Ethiopia has grown dramatically.

In January 2002, Oxfam Canada organised a symposium in Addis Ababa entitled ‘Promoting Community Radio in the Horn of Africa’, with a subsequent national workshop for Ethiopians. These fora helped the Ethiopian participants to embrace the idea of community radio, and to launch their own initiatives to promote the sector. Participants, including government officials, local and international NGOs, civil society groups and the media examined the existing legal framework, and agreed to promote community radio. The immediate manifestation of this commitment was the Ethiopian Community Radio Advocacy group.

The legal framework for community broadcasting – a so-called Proclamation was adopted in March 2006, and the first community radio license awarded to Kore community in January 2007. However, some literature suggests that there were attempts to establish community radio prior to this, among them Sidama Radio and Harar Radio.

To date, 50 community radio stations have received broadcast licenses from the Ethiopian Broadcast Authority (EBA), a government regulatory body established in July 2007 to develop a high-quality broadcasting service that will contribute to political, social and economic development. Of these, 31 (62%) are operational and have started some form of broadcast. Two licenses have been revoked, and the rest (34%) are conducting preparatory and start up related activities with the aim of launching broadcast services in the coming year(s). The precise launch dates are not clear neither to EBA nor the stations themselves. The majority mention lack of equipment and financial resources as the major challenges in this regard.

Current broadcast status of Community Radios in Ethiopia (n=50)



The entire process of launching and maintaining a community radio station presents a multitude of challenges for all involved: the owners, broadcasters, listeners and other stakeholders. The key challenges include legal, operational, technical, human resources, administrative, financial, and infrastructure related problems.

This study also reveals a low public awareness regarding the role of community media/radio; community participation in the establishment and management of the stations is very limited. In addition, the stations have not received adequate training, and lack the knowledge to improve their skills and meet the growing demands of their communities. Without adequate support from local administration and the community itself, they generally struggle to promote themselves and generate the additional income required to run smoothly. Challenges identified included: insufficient knowledge about the relevant legal framework, absence of internal procedures, frequent failure of technical equipment, lack of studio equipment guidance, low commitment on the part of staff, lack of transportation to access remote communities, and low broadcast and programme quality.

Some of the stations are not fully operational, or not broadcasting programmes on a regular basis. Lack of basic broadcast equipment and maintenance skills, lack of human and technical capacities (including business development and profitability plans) are the main causes for the broadcast interruptions.

Regardless of these challenges - judging by the nature and number of issues raised by the listeners - the radio stations nonetheless play an important role in addressing the social, political, economic and development problems in communities. In addition to prioritising community agendas, they are also promoting healthy communities (mentally, psychologically, physically), promoting good governance, justice, human rights, democracy, civic participation, public good, cultures, identities, and values at grassroots levels.

Anecdotal evidence heard by the assessment team regarding specific cases of conflict indicates that radio stations seem to be facilitating positive community participation in regard to development, peace, tolerance and pluralism. Moreover, they also state that they promote the values of voluntary activity, and encourage community participation in local development, governance and other aspects of social life.

4. Legal and policy contexts

The constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE), the Proclamation on the Freedom of the Mass Media and Access to Information, and other regulations such as the Directive on Community Radios have duly recognised the freedom of the press, mass media, rights of individuals, ethnic groups and other internationally enshrined rights of communities to express their opinions, organise and form associations.

Freedom of the Mass Media is constitutionally guaranteed under Article 4 of the Proclamation No. 590/2008 of the Freedom of the Mass Media and Access to information:

“Censorship in any form is prohibited. Restrictions on the freedom of the mass media shall only be made by laws issued in accordance with the Constitution. All public bodies shall have regard to the right of the mass media, in fulfilling its public function, to:

- a) seek, receive and impart news or information;*
- b) express opinion or criticism on various issues or;*
- c) participate in the process of forming public opinion through other means.”*

The constitution, ratified in 1995, was described by many as very liberal. Article 29, for instance, states that people have:

“the right to hold opinions without interference, the right to seek, receive and share information using any media they want, that the press shall not be censored and should access any information that will be of an interest to the general public with a prerogative of special protection”

However, the restrictive political environment and the constraints on public discourse mean that the public and the media in particular have struggled/been unable to exercise those constitutional freedoms. Consequently, all types of media, including community radios, private newspapers, magazines, radios and television stations, must tread very carefully in this regard. For instance, under Article 3 of the Proclamation on Anti-terrorism (Proclamation No. 652/2009¹), publishing or causing the publication of a statement that is likely to be understood by some or all of the members of the public to whom it is addressed as a direct or indirect encouragement, or other inducement, to the commission, preparation or instigation of an act of terrorism could face 10 to 20 years in prison.

Regardless of the relevant legal provisions, the country’s broadcasting sector has, for the most part, remained under government scrutiny and control for the past 27 years. As a result, the role of the media as a force for political, social and economic change, and indeed for community benefit, has been minimal. Even the new government is unlikely to fully relinquish control, given the numerous local conflicts. There is a fear that in the absence of public control, the local media might actually exacerbate existing conflicts.

Prime Minister Abiy’s administration has taken the bold step of revising several of the problematic laws or operational preconditions which limit freedom of speech and public participation (e.g. the Anti-terrorism Proclamation and the Charities and Societies Law).

Notwithstanding the recent national reform agenda, in general the Ethiopian media landscape remains state-controlled, limiting the public good that flows from a free and democratic media. When state media begin to discuss substantive political issues, it is in cases where this serves government interests, and not necessarily

¹ <https://www.refworld.org/docid/4ba799d32.html>

because any major shift in the dynamics of the media sector. However, both public and private media outlets are actively testing the new boundaries of freedom.

4.1 The Directive on Community Radios

There are several laws and directives which govern the media sector, including the Anti-terrorism Proclamation mentioned above. However, the key document for local radios is the Directive on Community Radio, officially ratified on January 2011 by the Ethiopian Broadcasting Authority. The Directive has seven sections and 38 articles which set forth the substantive and operational requirements, namely the definition of community radios, their roles and responsibilities, their board members and broadcasters, the types of community radio stations, accreditation and licensing processes, feedback and complaints processes, broadcast language and area, content of broadcasts, public service announcements and sponsorship procedures.

Before the ratification of the directive, the board members of EBA reviewed the experiences of several countries, including South Africa. It is on the basis of these case studies that the national directive has been designed. The community radio sector is vitally important to empowering communities in Ethiopia, which presently struggle to make themselves heard and to access the information they need in order to make informed decisions.

A number of proclamations and directives state the importance of Community Broadcast Services on the following grounds:

- Community Broadcast Services play a critical role in covering informational, educational, and entertainment needs that are unaddressed by commercial and government broadcast services.
- The expansion of Community Broadcast Services helps to address the informational, education and entertainment needs of the different nations and nationalities of the country.
- The scarce airwave resources need to be allocated in an equitable manner for developmental and democratic exercises, and there needs to be a clear procedure guiding the expansion of Community Radio Broadcast Services to this effect.

Section one of the Directive describes the roles and responsibilities of Community Radio:

“a broadcast service established under the consent of members of a given society that live in the same location or those who share common interests”.

Community radio stations aim to provide informational, educational and entertainment services for inaccessible communities, thereby contributing to their political, social and economic development. Article 4 also sets forth operational and performance requirements as follows:

- Operate on the basis of the interests of the community with respect to development, education and the promotion of good governance.
- Promote and enhance the language and culture of the community.
- Enable the participation of members of the community preparation of the programme.
- Broadcast programmes on the common affairs of the community which are not disseminated by the other broadcasting services.
- Utilise the income derived from other avenues for the services of the station.
- Solicit community feedback and report back to the community after screening the comments with the bodies concerned.
- Enhance the community’s culture and knowledge concerning information by producing informative and entreating programmes which are focused on the needs of the community.

- Broadcast programmes on human and democratic rights with a view to enhancing and deepening community awareness of these issues.

Section five of the Directive outlines the registration processes, application requirements and license renewal procedures; the following key issues are explained in detail:

- The applicant should submit evidence which proves that the entity is established as non-profit organisation, according to the applicable law;
- Confirmation that the objective of the Broadcasting Service is to serve the community and that it is non-profit;
- Signatures of members of the community on a form to be prepared by the Authority, as evidence of the community's support for the establishment of the broadcasting service;
- A list of the board members together with their addresses, level of education and signatures, and the minutes from the meeting during which the board passed the resolution to establish the Broadcasting Service.
- No license shall be issued for any political party or organisation. Before issuing a license, the Authority shouldn't ensure political party or organisation, or member of the party's executive committee is not a participant either as an owner or a patron or member of the board or the management and programme officer;
- No license shall be issued to any religious organisation;
- No Community Broadcasting License shall be issued to foreign nationals, and nor shall foreign nationals be engaged in the broadcasting service;
- No Community Broadcasting License shall be issued for an individual person or an organisation established for profit;
- The capacity of transmitter shall not exceed one kilowatt;
- A broadcast license is only valid for five years and the Authority has the right to cancel the registration.

Articles 11, 12 and 13 of the Directive discuss the structure, organisation, election, roles and responsibilities of the general assembly and board members of a Community Radio, including the following key issues:

- The board members are elected for a period of three years. Those interested and elected may continue to serve for subsequent periods, but those persons should constitute no more than one-third of the new board;
- The general assembly shall meet at least once a year and is formally the highest decision-making body for the radio station. The board reports to the general assembly. The station manager is automatically a member of the board without being elected, and shall serve as the secretary to the board;
- The board is responsible for the registration and accreditation of the station, developing the editorial policy and other relevant administrative and operational directives;
- Board members are drawn from the community, local administration, associations, or other stakeholders in the locality. They are unpaid.

4.2 Types and Licensing of Community Radios

According to Section 2, Article 4 of the Directive on Community Radios, there are six different ways to secure ownership of a community radio station:

1. Topography/Geographic Community Radio

The community itself can apply to establish this type of community radio. Communities take full operational and financial ownership of the initiative, including the establishment, management, and

funding. Sometimes, these radio stations are referred as ‘purely community-owned’ community radio stations. There are 18 radio stations licensed under this category.

2. Community-based Local Administration Community Radio

With the support of the local or regional administration, a community can apply to establish a community radio based on its geographical location. There are 17 radio stations licensed under this category. Kemise Town community radio station, although not operational, is one example of this category, and was visited by the IMS team. Finote Selam Community Radio of Amhara Region is also another, established with the support of the West Gojjam Zone administration.

3. Community-based Higher Education Community Radio

Communities can apply to establish a radio station hosted by a local higher education institution. This type of station also serves the surrounding community. Twelve radio stations have received licenses under this category. The best examples are the ones at Hawasa University (SNNP State), Debre Markos University (Amhara State) and Jimma University Community Radio (Oromiya Regional State). IMS consultants were able to visit the two former examples.

4. Higher Education Institution Community Radio

Universities can apply to establish a community radio on campus. Sometimes, these are referred to as campus-based community radio stations. Similar to the first category, these stations serve a particular community: in this case, staff and employees at the higher education institution in question. The two radio stations licensed under this category are Addis Ababa University and Civil Service University community radio stations, both located in Addis Ababa City Administration.

5. Common Interest-based Community Radio

A group of people who share a common interest in a particular area can apply to establish a community radio. The station that serves the Hawassa Industrial Park (HIP) is a typical example of this category. People working in the industrial park own the community radio and are responsible for its management. The station covers issues of interest to the industrial park and entertains the voices of its employees and other staff.

6. The sixth and last category are stations that may be established based on studies conducted by the EBA².

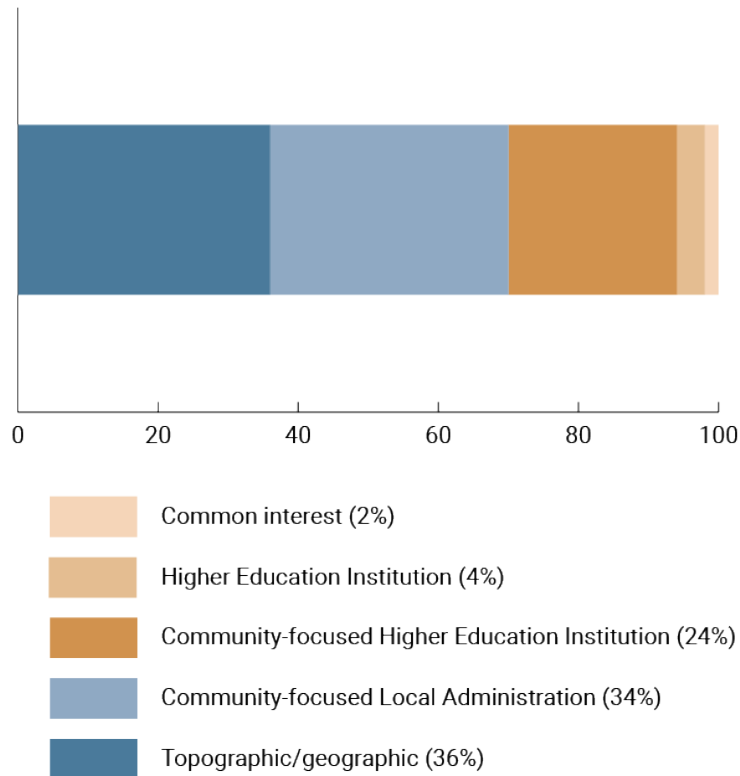
Type of community radio	No of board members	Duration of Board tenure	No of general assemblies	Main stakeholders
Topographic/Geographic CR	7	3 years	150	Minorities, Local administration council, education and other members of the community.
Community-based Local Administration CR	7	3 years	150	Local administration council, education institution, local associations and other members of the community.
Community-based Higher Education CR	7	3 years	150	Student council, teachers, other employees, Students Union, Local associations, local administration could be represented.
Higher Education Institution CR	7	3 years	100	Students Union, Students, University Management and representatives of communities living near the university campus represented.
Common Interest CR	7	3 years	100	Managers of the common interest association, education institutions and other members of the community represented.

In general, the application and licensing process is swift and easy, as long as all the necessary documents are provided. There is a clear application procedure for establishing a community radio station. The EBA has been working to open up more opportunities for the establishment of community radio stations. Regardless of the ongoing media reform activities, the five pathways outlined above remain the only available avenues for the establishment of community radios. Out of the 50 existing radio stations, 18 (36%) are owned by Community or Community Associations, 17 (34%) by Community and Local Administration, 12 (24%) by

² It is not yet clear if EBA has thus far conducted this study and already licensed (or preparing to license) any station. EBA did not confirm this on official record.

Higher Education Institutions/Universities and their surrounding communities, 2 (4%) by Higher Education Institutions/Universities and 1 (2%) by a common interest group (see chart below).

Ownership of Community Radio stations in Ethiopia (n=50)



5. Map of community radios in Ethiopia

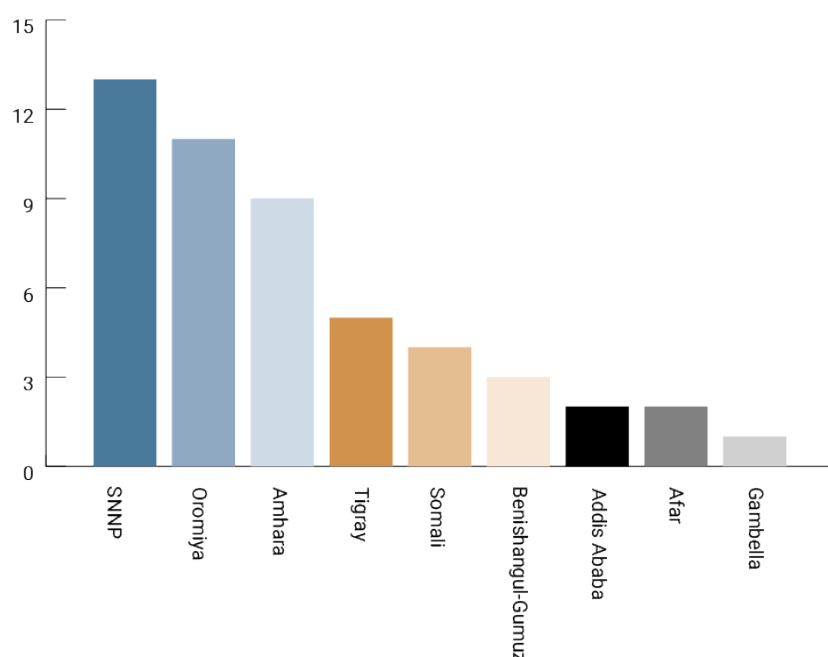


The stations marked in red are those visited by the IMS team. This map should not be considered official, as the exact demarcation of the regions remains disputed.

6. Distribution of community radios

There are 9 regional States and two City Administrations in Ethiopia. These regions are Oromiya, Amhara, Somali, Tigray, Afar, Gambella, Benishangul Gumuz, SNNP³, Harari, and Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa City Administrations. While these States are part of the federal government, they have constitutionally recognised regional assemblies (councils), and hence exercise legislative authority over their own administrative boundaries.

Distribution of Community Radios by region (n=50)



As shown in the graph above, there are 13 radio stations in SNNP, 11 radio stations in Oromiya, 9 radio stations in Amhara, 5 radio stations in Tigray, 4 radio stations in Somali, 3 radio stations in Benishangul Gumuz, 2 radio stations in Addis Ababa City Administration, 2 radio stations in Afar and 1 radio station in Gambella region.

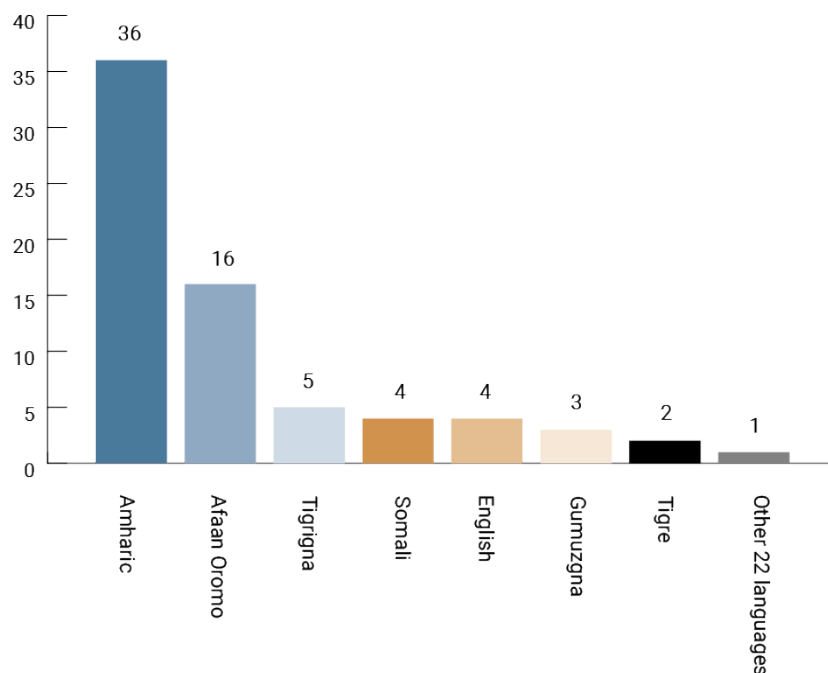
SNNP, Oromiya and Amhara Regions have the highest number of community radio stations with 13, 11 and 9 respectively. Addis Ababa City Administration and Afar each have two community radio stations each, while Gambella only has one. Harari Regional State and Dire Dawa City Administration do not have any community radio stations registered within their administrative boundaries. While the broadcast coverage of other nearby stations could not be confirmed by Haromaya University Radio, the populations in these locations confirmed that they listen to the broadcasts by stations registered within the administrative boundaries of Oromiya and Somali. These include Haromaya University Community Radio station and Jigjiga University Community Radio station, located in Somali. All regions (except Dire Dawa City Administration and Harari Regional State) have community radio stations broadcasting in their

³ SNNP – Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Region

administrative boundaries. The authority to monitor and provide accreditation rests with the federal government⁴.

6.1 Distribution of Community Radio by broadcast languages

Broadcast languages of Community Radios (n=50)



According to the registration documents of the radio stations, there are 29 broadcast languages: Afa Konso, Afaan Oromo, Afarigna, Agawigna, Agnuwak, Amharic, Argobigna, Arigna, Awigna, Baskettogna, English, Gezogna, Gofigna, Gumuzgna, Hemtigna, Hosagna, Kefagna, Kembata, Korete, Kunamigna, Nuerigna, Shekkicho, Shinashigna, Silteigna, Somali, Tigreg, Tigre, Tigrigna, and Wolayitigna.

As shown in the graph above, of the 50 radio stations, 36 (72%) use Amharic, the national language of Ethiopia, as the primary or secondary broadcast language. Sixteen (32%) use Afaan Oromo, 5 stations (10%) use Tigrigna and 4 (8%) use Somali and English. English is mainly used in the campus-based community radio stations. While Oromiya has 11 radio stations within its administrative boundary, 16 radio stations use Afaan Oromo/Oromiffa language as their broadcast language. Afaan Oromo is believed to be spoken by more than 50% of the Ethiopian population. This also clearly shows that stations based outside Oromiya region also use Afaan Oromo/Oromiffaa as their broadcast language.

One of the earliest community radio stations, Kore FM, was registered in SNNP. In total, the region has 13 radio stations; they are sparsely distributed across the central, northern and southern areas of the region. In terms of language, Amharic and English are used by those owned by Higher Education Institutions and the Industrial Parks (i.e. Hawassa industrial Park, Hawassa University and Dilla University). The rest are broadcast in the relevant local languages: Korete, Kembata, Kefa, Afa Konso, Gofa, Gezo, Ari, Silte, Basketto, Shekkicho, and Wolayita.

⁴ While the authority of regional governments to monitor, control or regulate their operations is not yet clear, practices indicate that they have exercised some form of power and autonomy in the past.

There are 11 community radio stations in Oromiya, the largest region of the country. They broadcast in Afaan Oromo, Amharic, English and other languages depending on their locations. Three of these are owned by universities (Wellela, Haromaya and Jimma). In addition to Afaan Oromo, the official language of the region, Amharic and English are also used.

The Oromiya region is home to more than 30 million people and it has one of the highest media coverage in the country. This is mainly due to its strategic location. In addition to the university community, the community radio stations in this region also serve indigenous communities, resettled communities, and pastoral communities whose needs have previously not been met. According to EBA's registration unit, the highest number of pending applications are from the Oromiya region. EBA is reviewing applications and will grant licenses once the requirements are satisfied.

7. Description of radio stations visited

The assessment team visited a total of six stations (Debre Markos, Silte, Hawassa, Argoba, Kemise and Kombolcha), of which three are currently fully live (Kombolcha, Debre Markos and Argoba). The Kemise and Silte stations are some way from broadcast readiness, while Hawassa was experiencing technical difficulties (broken transmitter) at the time of the field visit. The team also held discussions with relevant stakeholders such as the Ethiopian Broadcast Authority, Government Communications Affairs Office, Association of Community Broadcasters, and UNESCO.

The information on transmission reach, and thus the possible number of listeners in the areas of coverage should be taken with some modification. Based on phone calls from listeners, the stations know that their broadcasts can reach up to 150-200km, but this does not mean that they can reach 200km in all directions. FM signals need line of sight, meaning that the signals cannot penetrate mountains, and Ethiopia's terrain presents quite a challenge in this regard.

As mentioned above, all visited stations except Debre Markos have experienced violent local conflicts in their coverage area.

1. Kombolcha Community Radio

The radio station is in Kombolcha town, approximately 370km north of Addis Ababa in Amhara regional state. Established in 2007 by representatives of the Kombolcha community, it has been operational for the past 11 years. It broadcasts for 70 hours a week (10 hours per day) and runs 21 programmes, of which 14 are live. The station is run by 40 staff, comprised of 30 volunteers, 6 part-time staff, and 4 fulltime staff. Staff include women, elders, youth, women and men representing various sections of the community.



Kombolcha Community Radio Station, Kombolcha town, Amhara regional state. Photo: Tewodros Negash/IMS

The station staff believe that their broadcasts have a range of 120-200km, reaching over 1.5 million people living in and around Kombolcha town. Its typical listeners are youth and women who often engage through live call-in shows, listener surveys, interviews, etc. While it is currently broadcasting exclusively in Amharic, the community has repeatedly made requests for broadcasts in Afaan Oromo, Afar and Afar.

Name of station	Broadcast hours/week	Male	Female	Total staff	Volunteers
Kombolcha Community Radio	33	25	15	40	30

2. Argoba Community Radio

The radio station is based in Gacheni town, approximately 170km north east of Addis Ababa in Afar regional state. Established in 2009 by representatives of the Argoba community and local administration, it has been



Argoba community Radio station, Gacheni town, Afar Regional state.
Photo: Tewodros Negash/IMS

operational for the past 9 years. It broadcasts for 56 hours a week (8 hours/day) and runs 16 pre-recorded programmes per week, including interviews. The station is run by 17 staff, 4 volunteers and 13 fulltime, paid staff. The staff is mainly composed of young men and women from the Argoba community.

The local government supports about 30% of salaries. The station believes that its broadcasts covers 5 out of the 13 kebeles of Argoba wereda, due to the breakdown of the mast and transmitter in Kundi. Its broadcasts have a 100km radius, reaching over 300,000 people living in and around Gacheni town, East Hararge Zone of Oromiya Region, the

border areas of Amhara region and Mille town of Afar Region. Its typical listeners are youth, women and elders, who often engage through live phone call-in shows, listener surveys, interviews and other programmes. It is currently broadcasting in Argoba, Afar and Amharic.

Name of station	Broadcast hours/week	Male	Female	Total staff	Volunteers
Argoba Community Radio	56	7	4	11	4

3. Debre Markos University Community Radio

The radio station is on the premises of Debre Markos University, in Debre Markos town, located approximately 200km north of Addis Ababa in Amhara regional state. Established in August 2015 by Debre Markos university and representatives of the community as a community-focused higher education institution community radio, it has been operational for the past three years. It broadcasts for 42 hours a week: 6 hours per day, from 7am to 9am in the morning, and 4pm to 8pm in the evening, in Amharic language. It produces programmes on agriculture, health, governance, youth, elderly and other social issues in a range of formats (pre-recorded, live, interview and news).



Staff and Manager of Debre Markos University Community radio station interacting with the IMS consultants, Debre Markos, Amhara regional state. Photo: Tewodros Negash/IMS

The station is run by 24 staff, of whom 10 are volunteers and 14 are full-time staff, all paid by the University. The staff include women, youth, women and men representing various sections of the community and the university, including teachers and students. The station believes that it reaches a radius of 150km, covering all woredas near Debre Markos town. Its typical listeners are youth and women, who often engage through live call-in shows, listener surveys, interviews, etc.

Name of station	Broadcast hours/week	Male	Female	Total staff	Volunteers
Debre Markos University CR	98	13	11	24	10

4. Hawassa University Community Radio

The radio station is on the premises of Hawassa University, Hawassa town, approximately 275km south of Addis Ababa in Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples (SNNP) regional state. Established in January 2011 by Hawassa University and community representatives as community-focused higher education institution community radio, it has been operational for seven years. It broadcasts for 63 hours a week (9 hours/day), producing programmes on research, agriculture, law and justice, health, governance, youth, the elderly and other social and entertainment issues, in pre-recorded, live, interview and news formats.

The station is run by 12 full-time paid staff, who are supported by 20 to 25 volunteers from the University's School of Journalism and other departments. The full-time staff was primarily made up of students of both genders, teachers and few others representing various sections of the community. The station was not broadcasting during the field mission due to a broken transmitter. The broadcast area covers up to 100km and all woredas near Hawassa town. Its typical listeners are youth and women who often engage through live call-in shows, listener surveys, interviews, etc.



Hawassa University Community Radio. Photo: Tewodros Negash/IMS

Name of station	Broadcast hours/week	Male	Female	Total staff	Volunteers
Hawassa University CR	56	23	14	37	25

5. Silte Community Radio



Silte Community radio station, Werabe town, SNNP region. Photo: Tewodros Negash/IMS

The radio station is in Worabe town, approximately 150km south west of Addis Ababa in Silte Zone of SNNP regional state. It was established in June 2015 by Silti Community Radio Association and the local administration. Although the station has received a broadcast license from EBA, it is currently non-operational, as essential radio equipment has not been procured and transported to Worabe. Once operational, it will broadcast for 35 hours a week (5 hours/day) in Silte and Amharic.

Its programmes will focus on the development, economy and social life of Silte community and other people living in the Zone, which has an estimated population of one million. The station has recruited 19 staff (10 volunteers and 9 full-time); the local administration has promised to fund the latter positions. The full-time staff are women and men drawn from the local administration and other members of the community.

Name of station	Broadcast hours/week	Male	Female	Total staff	Volunteers
Silte Community Radio	NA	14	5	19	10

6. Kemise Community Radio

The radio station is in Kemise town, approximately 220km north of Addis Ababa in the Oromo Zone of Amhara regional state. It was established in August 2016 by the Kemise community and the local administration. Although the station has received its broadcast license from EBA, it is currently not operational as essential radio equipment has not been procured and transported to Kemise. Once operational, it will broadcast news and programmes in Amharic and Afaan Oromo languages. Its programmes will focus on the development, economy and social life of the Oromo, Amhara and Afar communities in the special zone. The Zone is strategically located, bordering North Shewa to the southwest, South Wello and Argoba special woreda to the northwest, and Afar Region to the east.

8. Analysis of radio stations visited

8.1. Staffing

As shown in the tables above and chart below, the majority of the journalists are men, although women are better represented at university radio stations. Kombolcha, Hawassa and Debre Markos have the highest number of female staff with 15, 14 and 11 respectively. In general, the radio stations have significant numbers of volunteer staff.

Despite the seasonal variation of volunteer staff, they are promoting the values of community volunteerism, ownership and participation. Kombolcha and Hawassa community radios have the highest number of volunteers, with 30 and 25 respectively. Volunteers make up between 40 and 70% of their total staff. This is a very positive indicator of public engagement and interest, with youth as a key stakeholder group.

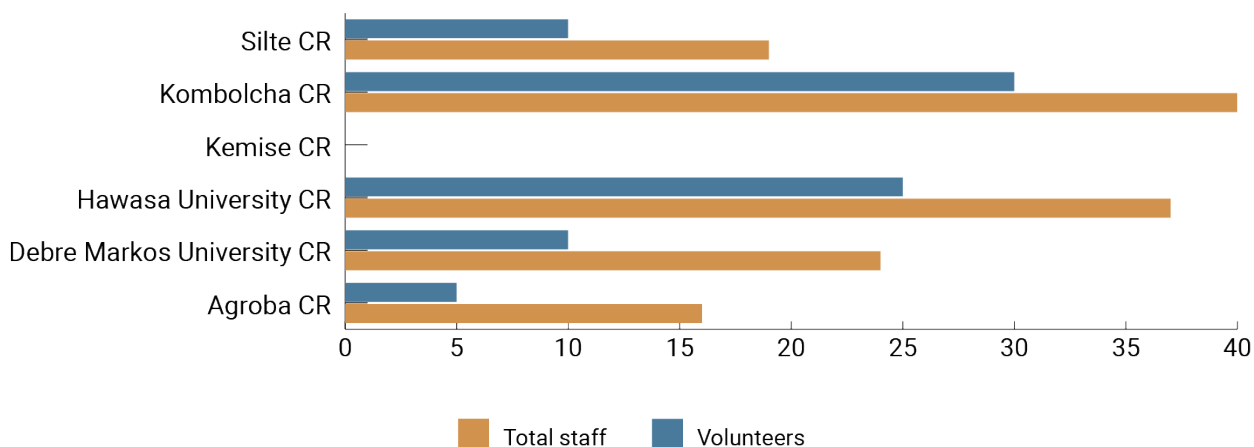
Many of the volunteers have not received any formal production training, and the high turnover among volunteers negatively affects the quality of the programmes. There is also a relatively high turnover of regular staff, because - with the exception of the university stations – community radios are unable to pay competitive salaries.

Aside from Kemise and Silte community radio stations, the rest have received some form of training in the basics of journalism, radio journalism, journalism ethics, editing and studio equipment use, maintenance and handling. All of them mentioned the need for more specialised training on radio journalism, studio management, radio equipment maintenance, editing and programme presentation, live programme management, conflict sensitive journalism and specific skills relating to coverage of health, development, business, governance and corruption. As shown by the table below there is generally an acceptable gender balance at the stations:

Number of regular and volunteer staff

NAME OF STATION	BROADCAST HOURS/WEEK	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL STAFF	VOLUNTEERS
Argoba Community Radio	56	11	5	16	5
Debre Markos University CR	98	13	11	24	10
Hawasa University CR	56	23	14	37	25
Kemise Community Radio	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Kombolcha Community Radio	33	25	15	40	30
Silte Community Radio	NA	14	5	19	10

Proportion of Volunteer staff



8.2. Ownership and governance

The Community Media Directive clearly states that radio stations must be established freely, without political pressure or restrictions of any kind. The services must be voluntary, and membership free from any form of political or religious influence. Based on their registration and licenses, the stations are owned by the community only, by the community and local administration, by the community and institutions of higher education/universities, or by universities only. Foreign nationals are not allowed to own community radio stations or be involved in decision making processes. While there is some degree of freedom with regard to independent development of editorial policies, EBA's Community Radio Directive and other relevant proclamations on public and commercial broadcasting are applicable to governance structures.

In practice, however, the stations are not entirely free from the influence of local administrations, university administration bodies, or the EBA itself, all of which are frequently dominated by members of the ruling party or their sympathisers. The stations explain that while they do not experience direct interference with programming, staffing or choice of topics for coverage, they are, for example, urged to cover events organised by the local authorities. However, the day-to-day editorial decision-making processes do not seem to be seriously affected – and there is a very limited interference by local or national governments.

It should, however, be noted that the stations are not anti-establishment in any way, and they all stress that they do not cover sensitive party-political issues. EBA monitoring units monitor the programmes and receive complaints from the community, if the stations make errors or offend listeners. It is not clear how many complaints the EBA has collected, reported and/or responded to.

Board members are drawn from elders, known community members and intellectuals, the local administration, etc. Although the board members are expected to meet at least once a year, few of them participate in these meetings or influence decision making processes. The assessment team was not able to examine the actual composition of the general assembly or boards, but all stations reported that the local administrations are represented by the head of the local Communication Office, or other representatives of local government bodies. While the general assemblies are not formally dominated by political or religious organisations, people with a variety of political and religious opinions are of course represented.

It is not surprising that there is limited local interest in the governance of the stations, since the general population tends to be more preoccupied with earning a living. It is a common problem for such organisations all over the world that the audience appreciate the service, but they do not feel an obligation to contribute financially or in any other way.

In this context, it is remarkable how many volunteers the stations have been able to attract. This is a clear indication of the relevance and popularity of each local station, as is the volume of local advertising revenue they have generated. In some cases, such as Argoba, this covers up to 30-40% of the running costs.

8.3 Program content

Conversations with the managers and staff of the stations suggests that programme content is fairly similar across most of the stations; the main differences relate to hours and language of broadcast, and the type of feedback received and addressed. This indicates that local populations across the country have broadly similar political, social and economic interests and concerns. The similarity in the programme schedules is also the consequence of central guidelines from the EBA.

The programme content spans thematic and cross-cutting issues such as health, education, agriculture, governance, peace, culture, gender/women's issues, youth, sports, children, campus life, research communications, elders, disability, justice, legal education and advice. Notwithstanding variations in type, frequency, and specific programme content, all stations cover these topics, using a range of formats in their programming.

Weekly broadcast schedule of Kombolcha Community Radio, Amhara region. Currently the station has 21 weekly programs, out of which 14 are live programs. Photo: Tewodros Negash/IMS

Analysis of weekly programme content/schedule by community radio stations

		Agroba CR	Debre Markos CR	Hawassa CR	Kombolcha CR	Silte CR	Kemise CR
Programme focus area	Health	1	1	1	1	Not on air	Not on air
	Education	1	1	1	1		
	Agriculture/rural	1	1	1	1		
	Governance and peace	1	1	1	1		
	Culture	1	1	1	1		
	Gender/women	1	1	1	1		
	Youth	1	1	1	1		
	Children	1	1	1	1		
	Campus life	0	1	1	0		
	Elders and disabled	1	1	1	1		
	Research finding	0	1	1	0		
	Law and legal advice	0	1	1	1		
	Total number of programmes	9	12	12	10		

All stations broadcast weekly or bi-weekly programmes on development, governance, law and justice, agriculture, health, education, gender/women, and other cross-cutting issues such as elderly, children, culture, language, etc. They broadcast and communicate both in Amharic, the national language, and in the local languages that are spoken in the particular areas of coverage.

Of the issues above, good governance is a key topic for all community radio stations. Kombolcha, Hawassa and Argoba community radio stations have played a significant role in mitigating the inter-communal conflicts in their respective localities by involving relevant actors such as the police, traditional leaders, youth, local administrative officials, local security forces, academia, NGOs, and others.

The stations also promote community volunteerism and encourage participation in local development and other aspects of social interactions.

Programme formats

The programme formats vary from station to station depending on the number and experience of staff. Although the stations focus on the same thematic issues, the frequency and the quality of the programmes vary significantly. The main formats used by the four stations include:

- News and current affairs
- Pre-recorded programmes
- Interviews
- Vox-Pop
- Community talk shows
- Studio guest shows/mini debates
- Live discussion with community on various topics, Q&A format
- Social and educational dramas and short plays
- Entertainment (music, DJs, etc.)

It is worth noting that none of the stations broadcast political discussion magazines. They do not deal with issues related to political parties, and try to steer clear of political propaganda, which in fact bolsters their credibility. But they do report on issues affecting their communities, as long as it can be done under the banner of "social issues". Examples are infrastructure problems such as poor road maintenance or lack of drinking water in specific locations; it can also entail bringing conflict parties together to hold a discussion on air.

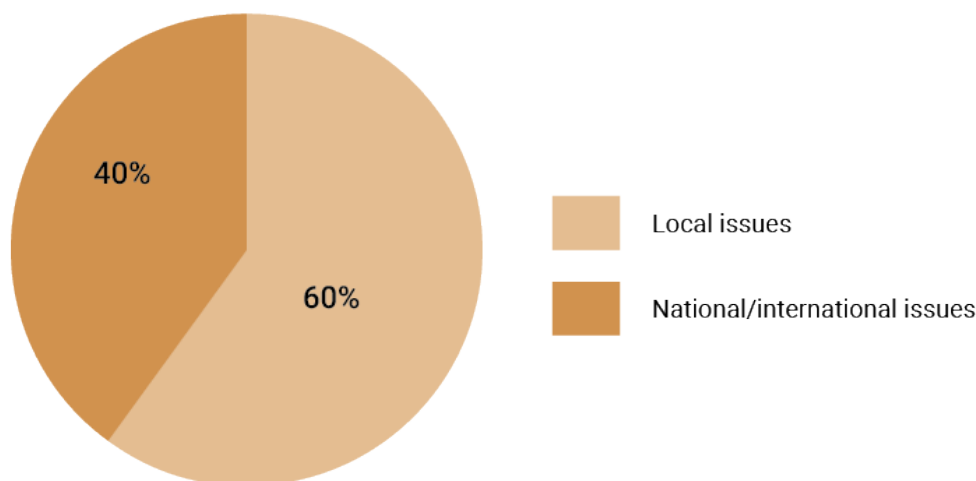
In fact, the listeners use the radio stations to complain to the authorities when they face problems in their daily lives, from lack of toilets, access to roads and electricity, to poor governance and slow decision-making processes. According to station staff, programmes where authorities have to respond to listener complaints are extremely popular.

In accordance with the Community Radio Directive, 60% of programming focuses on local issues, and 40% on national or international issues⁵. Issues are selected and prioritized in accordance with relevance to the local audience. All of the stations visited rely on their own staff members and volunteers for production - no externally produced programmes are broadcast.

In contrast to Ethiopia's commercial and public radios, community stations tend to be less interested in sports journalism (such as the English Premier League.). However, local sports news is covered regularly.

⁵ The numbers are taken based on the community radio directive. This does not indicate analysis of actual broadcast hours.

Coverage of local vs. national/international issues in news and other programmes



8.4 Relationship with audience

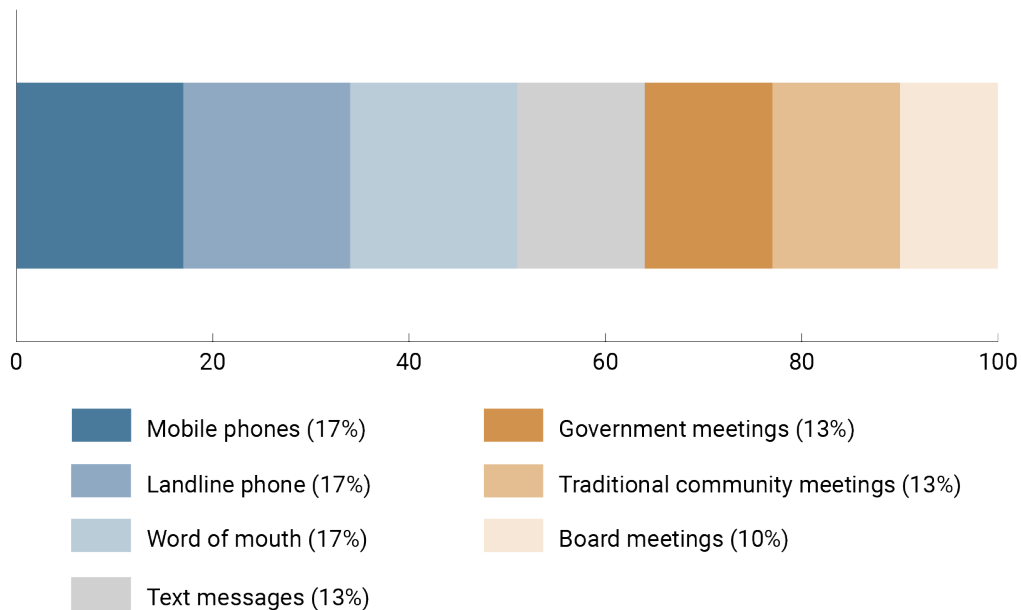
The main modes of communication with the audience are mobile phones, landlines, local meetings, traditional gatherings, board meetings, and word of mouth. The communities are generally very active in terms of contributing content, generating programme ideas, and providing feedback, although listeners do not directly participate in daily or weekly editorial meetings, run-downs, etc.

While previous studies on community participation indicate low levels of community participation in the governance of the local stations, IMS' interviews with station managers and staff indicate increased community participation and regular interaction with the audience regarding programme content. Many listeners use the radio stations as a means to complain about issues related to local governance and administration, such as water, electricity, fuel, mobile network coverage, banking, transport service interruptions, price hikes on basic consumables, delay in distribution of fertilisers, pesticides, herbicides, or other matters that affect their daily lives.

There is a serious lack of data (both quantitative and qualitative) on the reach and impact of the community radio stations. There are no listener surveys to reveal the number of listeners and popularity of the stations/programmes. The Argoba station tries to systematically record where the listeners are calling from and what they think of the programmes, but this is an exception. Most stations do not systematically collect this type of information. There is significant room for improvement in how they document, analyse and utilise audience feedback.

However, the number of listeners who contact the stations via letter, phone, etc, do indicate that the audience is substantial. Similarly, it is noteworthy that the stations are able to attract local advertising; local businesses clearly value the branding and reputation of the stations. Another indicator of popularity is the ability to attract volunteers to support paid staff.

Nearly half of the stations have social media pages and interact with audiences outside their broadcast locations, and some have tried to stream the programmes so they can be available online from all over the world - either through streaming servers, or services such as Facebook Live. This is not, however, a priority for the stations. They prefer to focus on local FM transmission.

Interaction with audience (N=4)

8.5 Editorial practices

The EBA has developed a manual to support community radios to develop their editorial policies, structure their boards, plan editorial meetings, address staff requirements; and introduce financial, procurement and asset management policies. However, beyond using this as a standard operating procedure, none of the stations have developed their own editorial policy based on the manual. While all the managers have very good awareness about the Directive on Community Radios, among the rest of the staff and the community, there is little awareness of the directive or its implementation modalities.

All of the stations visited told IMS that they are familiar with journalism ethics and the basics of community radio broadcast principles, which include balanced reporting, integrity, independence, timeliness, community engagement and active interaction with the listeners. Despite their stated commitment to uphold those principles, mistakes happen, and there have been several instances of on air ethical missteps, requiring an apology to listeners. But according to radio staff, this has not seriously affected audience loyalty.

As described above in the chapter on governance, all the stations interviewed stated that they have never faced direct intervention/interference or sanctions from local government, EBA, university/campus leadership, or other authorities within the community such as tribal leaders, clan chiefs, religious leaders, etc. The radio managers emphasised that they have the confidence to reject any inappropriate request. On the other hand, as this report has mentioned, the stations are sometimes strongly encouraged to cover certain topics or events that are of particular importance to the local administration or other community actors. The pressure may come in the form of offers of per diem or other allowances, or transport to report on specific stories or events.

8.6 Financial and administrative issues

Generally, most community radio stations are financially weak. They are not able to pay competitive salaries to their journalists, and they cannot afford to replace broken equipment. As a result, staff turnover is high, and broadcasts are subject to frequent interruptions.

Most community radio stations have not diversified their revenue streams. The sources of income depend on the type of ownership. While those related to universities receive funding from the universities, the rest have to generate their own income from public service announcements, advertisements, sponsorship, and donations from community members. These radio stations stated that they do not receive adequate financial or administrative support from the organisations to which they are affiliated. Most of them do, however, receive modest salaries from the local administration to employ core staff, including the station manager. Thus, in terms of support for core staff, Ethiopian community radio stations are in a stronger position than most other community radio stations on the African continent, which generally rely entirely on volunteers and local advertising.

The EBA manual gives detailed directions on the type of financial and management procedures that support sustainability. But none of the stations have the necessary knowledge, skills or capacity to develop these internal policies or procedures and/or adhere to the guidelines. They all recognise this gap in capacity. None of the stations have business plans, sustainability strategies or formal funding strategies.

The university stations are generally in a better financial situation than the other stations. On the other hand, university policies (e.g. on procurement, per diem or transport usage) are ill-suited to fast-moving media organisation, and as such pose difficulties. The stations may have sufficient funds to buy a new transmitter or other items of technical equipment, but it can take several months to secure approval from the university administration. Debre Markos University staff, for example, believe that without the University's financial and procurement procedures, they would have reached more communities, with improved community participation, ownership and programme quality.

Public funding, advertisements (sponsorships and PSAs) and member contributions are generally very low across all locations, as the listeners have numerous other social commitments and often very limited income. Under the community media regulation, up to 15% of airtime can be used for PSAs, but none of the stations use this quota. Some stations, however, have launched coupon-based income generation (e.g. Kombolcha) whereby members of the radio support group pay a small monthly amount. The stations are not allowed to receive any funding from NGOs or other donors.

Transport is a big problem for all stations. They do not have a dedicated vehicle or other means of transport to reach out to their communities, and the radio stations do not have a transportation expense budget for reporters. Therefore, journalists either have to pay for their own transport or conduct interviews by phone. The annual license fees are also quite a burden for the stations; import taxes on broadcast equipment also makes replacing equipment very costly.

8.7 Infrastructure

Lack of adequate broadcast equipment, maintenance skills, lack of spare parts, and lack of financial sources significantly affect the overall operation, broadcast quality, and contents of the radio stations in general. The limited broadcast coverage of the stations coupled with poor quality of broadcast equipment (antenna, mixers, recorders, transmitters etc.) are the major issues that all radio stations complain about. They are in constant fear of broadcast interruption or totally going off-air. For instance, Hawassa University community radio was off-air for more than three months due to transmitter failure and the bureaucracy involved in releasing funds from the university accounts.

All stations received their initial equipment package from the government agency ICTAD, but due to insufficient maintenance and timely replacement of worn-out equipment, the technical quality is rapidly declining. None of the stations have in-house technical capacity to repair and maintain broadcast equipment, and this affects sound quality as well as broadcast range.

The quality of the studio equipment including mixers, microphones, computers etc. vary from station to station, but maintenance is a common problem and so is replacement of worn-out equipment, in some case because of lack of funds but in others because of the bureaucracy involved from the university or the local administration. And all stations reported about lack of adequate transmitters and essential studio equipment such as mixers, microphones, headphones, power backups, cables, recorders etc. All broadcast equipment needs to be imported and there is heavy taxation on import of electronics.

The standard transmitter size is 1kW, which can give a broadcast range up to 150-200 Km if there is line of sight, but in the very hilly or mountainous areas in Ethiopia it can be a problem to reach locations even very close to the transmitters. This can be solved by installing smaller repeater transmitters, but this is too costly for most stations. But the reach and the quality of the signals can also be improved by adding more transmission power - for example up to 2 kW. There are, however, strong technical arguments for having limits to the transmission power, because strong transmitters can disrupt the signals from stations in neighbouring regions or countries.

On the positive side, it should be mentioned that the stations visited generally have good office buildings - with the exception of Kombolcha, which has very modes facilities.

9. The Community Radio Broadcasters Association

The Association was first initiated along with the establishment of community radio stations in the mid-2000s, with the aim of leading advocacy, capacity building and sustainability for the national community radio sector. The initial ad-hoc group advocated for Ethiopian broadcasting law to adopt a special provision to recognise community radio as one of the broadcasting sectors. It also promoted the relatively unfamiliar concept of community radio to Ethiopian audiences, highlighting its contribution to development and democratisation.

The ad-hoc working group, mainly operated by a local NGO called the Peace Family and Media Association (PFMA), has maintained a positive working relationship with the government, NGOs and local associations. It has achieved some results, although following the ratification of the Community Media Directive, there was little or no funding for the sector due to the restrictive operating environment for the media.

Recently, the association was initiated by EBA and GCAO during a meeting organised by Farm Radio International. The community radio managers have elected a members to establish the association as a legal entity registered by the Charities and Civil Societies Agency. The members of the elected board are drawn from Hawassa, Argoba and Kombolcha radio stations, all of which were visited and interviewed by the IMS team.

So far, the association has not been registered, nor granted legal status by the Charities and Civil Societies Agency. Given the changing political and media environment in Ethiopia, the representatives are optimistic that the association will receive accreditation. If not allowed legal status as an independent organisation, it could obtain status as an operational ad-hoc network/umbrella organisation. This may require consultation with station managers, the EBA and NGOs which supported the initiative in the past.

Key findings on the Community Radio Broadcasters Association

- The idea of establishing the association has been agreed by all the licensed community radio stations. It has not been legally registered by the respective government authority, i.e. the Civil Societies and Charities Agency⁶;
- It is aimed at solving financial, administrative and sustainability issues;
- It also vowed to improve experience sharing between stations, and sharing of programme content;
- The position of EBA and GCAO is not clear. Other than providing a letter of support, neither has previously provided any formal or informal support/accreditation to the regulatory body (Civil Societies and Charities Agency). Now that GCAO has been officially dissolved and partially united with EBA, officials confirmed to IMS that they will do their best if the conditions at the CSO Agency improve. They are supportive of the Association's objectives and will also explore other practical ways to strengthen it if there are other actors interested in supporting the sector;
- If the Association receives financial support from donors, it has the potential to improve the community media environment, improve the working relations between EBA and the community media broadcasters, promote the rights of community media broadcasters, journalists and other

⁶A draft proclamation that could eventually change the roles and responsibilities of the agency, the registration and licensing of NGOs, and areas of operation of CSOs, etc. is currently under discussion by relevant law-making bodies. The proclamation will be officially enacted once approved by the national parliament (House of People's Representatives) of the FDRE.

members, develop/expand the number of stations, improve the quality and quantity of community radio broadcasting, and overall local development more broadly.

In addition to the above described areas of assessment, the community radio station managers, journalists and other respondents were asked to prioritize their needs. The table below summarize their current needs and priorities.

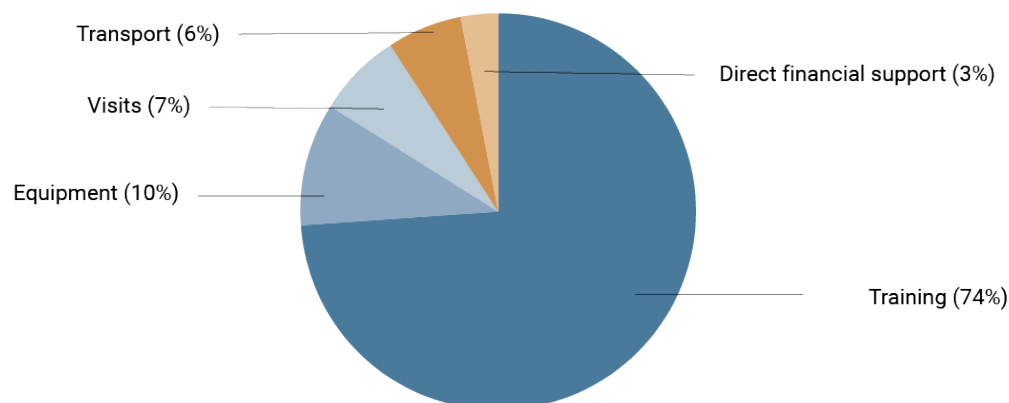
Priority areas of support requested by the Community Radio Stations

Ranks	1 - Extremely Important	2 - Critically Important	3 - Very Important	4 - Important	5 - Less Important
Debre Markos University CR	Equipment support: Extra transmitter and other essential broadcast/studio equipment	Training: Training on specialised journalism skills (conflict sensitive journalism, peace and reconciliation reporting, governance reporting), Live studio presentation skills and public feedback management	Experience sharing visits to other stations in Ethiopia and outside	Regular on-the- job training and awareness raising events on campus to improve awareness of the university community	Support for transportation (motorbikes) to reach local communities
Silte CR	TRAINING: Training on Basic Journalism	Training on studio set-up, starting new community radio, managing public feedback using technologies (SMS, phone-in, etc)	Business plan development, fundraising, and editorial policy development	Experience sharing visits with other stations across the country	
Hawassa University CR	Experience sharing visits to other countries	Specialised journalism trainings (governance reporting, conflict sensitive journalism, how to better interact with communities and officials on corruption reporting, local elections, conflicts etc), communicating research findings to communities, best practice documentation and reporting	Ongoing on-the-job training for journalists and volunteers. Ongoing training for volunteer university students, especially those coming from non-journalism/media backgrounds.		
Argoba CR	Equipment support (transmitter, UPS, backup, microphones, mixer, laptops, recorders, headsets, etc)	Transportation support (motorbikes or vehicle) to reach remote communities/audiences	Training on studio management and technical maintenance, specialised journalism trainings, e.g.: conflict sensitive journalism, governance, peace, agriculture,	Training on project proposal writing and how to raise funds from local, national or international sources	Training on business plan development and technical skills to engage local communities in radio programme content

			gender etc;		
Kemise CR	TRAINING: Training on Basic Journalism	Training on studio set-up, starting new community Radio, managing public feedback using technologies (SMS, phone-in, etc)	Training on conflict sensitive journalism		
Kombolcha CR	Equipment support (transmitter, UPS, backup, microphones, mixer, laptops, recorders, headsets, etc)	Training on conflict sensitive journalism and how to interact with listeners via new technologies (phone, SMS, Internet etc)	Technical support on how to engage communities and improve interactions in order to generate more income	Training on how to manage community radio stations	Promotion, awards raising, exhibition, community events etc to engage the relatively high number of private sector actors in Kombolcha town (Chinese, Turkish, etc -factories, beer factories, universities, hotels, etc
Community Broad-casters Association	Support for the Association to obtain legal status (legalisation and registration process)	Training of Association members on fundraising, business plan development, community radio management and sustainability strategies	Ongoing training on basic journalism, ethics in journalism and conflict sensitive journalism	Technical and financial support to organise community media related events at national and local levels, raise awareness, address challenges, fundraise, etc	Financial support to mobilise more funds, experience sharing with other African countries, etc;

As shown in the chart below, most of the community radio stations and the Community Broadcasters Association members have identified capacity building and training (74%) as key areas of need followed by broadcast and studio equipment support (10%), exchange visits to other stations in and outside the country (7%) and transportation support to reach wider audiences (6%). The training needs include technical and specialised reporting skills, financial management, broadcast and studio technical equipment training and business plan development.⁷

Summary of priority areas of support requested by the community radio stations (N=7)



⁷ In addition to the six radio stations, the Community Broadcasters' Association was also assessed. Hence, n=7

Annex 1: List of community radio stations in Ethiopia

The table below describes the year of establishment, location of the station, ownership, name of the radio station, legal status, broadcast language, date of registration (in E.C) of the 50 community radio stations registered and licensed by the Ethiopian Broadcast Authority (EBA) until end of October 2018

SrN	Region	Name of the Station	Date of License in Ethiopian Calendar ⁸	Frequency No.	Broadcast Language
1	SNNP	Kore Wereda and its Surrounding Community Radio Station	1998	FM 92.3	Korete Amharic
2	SNNP	Kembata Wereda and its surrounding Community Radio Station	2000	FM 105.8	Kembata
3	SNNP	Kefa Community Radio Station	2000	FM102.5	Kefa
4	SNNP	Konso Local Administration Community Radio Station	2007	FM103.7	Afa Konso Amharic
5	SNNP	Uba Debre Tsehay Wereda and its surrounding Community Radio Station	2007	FM103.1	Amharic, Gofa Gezo, Ari
6	SNNP	Hawassa University Community Radio Station	2004	FM 90.9	Amharic:English

⁸ Date of license is in Ethiopian calendar which is 7 or 8 years behind the European Calendar depending on when the actual registration happened.

SrN	Region	Name of the Station	Date of License in Ethiopian Calendar ⁸	Frequency No.	Broadcast Language
7	SNNP	North Ari Wereda and its Surrounding Communities Radio Station	2007	93.9 FM	Ari and Amharic
8	SNNP	Silte Community Radio FM	2008	FM92.6	Silte Amharic
9	SNNP	Laska FM	2008	FM 99.6	Basketto Amharic
10	SNNP	Shekka FM	2008	FM 98.6	Shekkicho
11	SNNP	Welayita Wogeta FM	2009	FM 96.6	Amharic and Wolayitigna
12	SNNP	Dilla University and its surrounding Community Radio	2010	FM 89.0	Amharic
13	SNNP	Hawassa Industry Park Community Radio Station	2010	FM102.4	Amharic
14	OROMIYA	Jimma University Institute of Higher Education Community Radio Station	2000	FM102.0	Amharic:Afaan Oromo
15	OROMIYA	Sude Community Radio Station	2001	FM 103.5	Afaan Oromo
16	OROMIYA	Wellega University Community Radio Station	2004	FM 91.5	Amharic:Afaan Oromo:English
17	OROMIYA	Haromaya University Community Radio Station	2004	FM 89.8	Afaan OromoAmharic
18	OROMIYA	Adola Rede Communities and Adminstration Radio Station	2007	FM 92.1	Afaan Oromo
19	OROMIYA	Chewaka wired community Radio Station	2008	FM 89.0	Afaan Oromo
20	OROMIYA	Rayitu FM	2008	FM 94.3	Afaan Oromo
21	OROMIYA	Gidami Wereda Community Radio Stataion	2008	FM 95.6	Afaan Oromo, English, Amharic

SrN	Region	Name of the Station	Date of License in Ethiopian Calendar ⁸	Frequency No.	Broadcast Language
22	OROMIYA	Mettu FM	2008	FM 100.1	Afaan Oromo, Amharic and English
23	OROMIYA	Dillo Wereda Community Radio	2009	FM 100.7	Afaan Oromo & Amharic
24	OROMIYA	FM Segele Adama	2010	FM 89.0	Amharic, Afaan Oromo and English
25	AMHARA	Kombolcha Community Radio Station	2000	FM 104.8	Amharic, Afaan Oromo
26	AMHARA	Wag Hemra Community Radio Station	2002	FM 92.7	Hemt, Amharic, Tigrigna and Awi
27	AMHARA	Debre Tabor University Community Radio Station	2005	FM 92.3	Amharic
28	AMHARA	Bahir Dar University and its surrounding community Radio station	2006	FM 93.3	Amharic
29	AMHARA	Finote Selam City Administration and Surrounding Community Radio Station	2007	FM 98.8	Amharic
30	AMHARA	Debre Markos University Institute of Higher Education Community Radio Station	2007	FM 97.7	Amharic
31	AMHARA	Enjibara FM	2008	FM 104.1	Amharic and Agaw
32	AMHARA	Weldiya FM	2008	FM 89.2	Amharic
33	AMHARA	Kemise FM	2008	FM 101.0	Afaan Oromo and Amharic
34	TIGRAY	Setit Humera Community Radio Station	2003	FM 106.9	Tigrigna
35	TIGRAY	Raya Community Radio Station	2005	FM 98.1	Tigre

SrN	Region	Name of the Station	Date of License in Ethiopian Calendar ⁸	Frequency No.	Broadcast Language
36	TIGRAY	Erob FM	2008	FM 92.3	Hosa and Tigregna
37	TIGRAY	Kunama FM	2008	FM 97.9	Kunamigna and Tigreg
38	TIGRAY	Mekelle University Community Radio Station	2010	FM 96.4	Amharic Tigre
39	SOMALI	Qebri Dehar Community Radio Station	2004	FM 90.8	Somali and sometimes in Amharic
40	SOMALI	Fiq Community Radio Station	2009	FM 93.3	Somali
41	SOMALI	HadeGala Communities Radio Association	2009	FM101.7	Somali
42	SOMALI	Jigjiga University and Its Surrounding Communities Radio Station	2009	FM 96.1	Somali and Amharic
43	BENISHANGUL-GUMUZ	Dibate Wereda and Its Surrounding Communities Radio Station	2007	FM 93.7	Gumuzigna, Shinashigna, Afaan Oromo and Amharic
44	BENISHANGUL-GUMUZ	Guba Community Focused Community Administration Radio Station	2007	FM 100.2	Gumuz and Amharic
45	BENISHANGUL-GUMUZ	Soge FM	2009	FM 95.3	Gumuz, Amharic and Afaan Oromo
46	ADDIS ABABA	Civil Service University Community Radio Station	2003	FM 100.5	Amharic and Afaan Oromo
47	ADDIS ABABA	AAU Institute of Higher Education Community Radio	2005	FM 99.4	Amharic
48	AFAR	Argoba Community Radio Station	2002	FM 98.6	Argoba
49	AFAR	Semera City and its Surrounding Administration Radio station	2007	FM 90.6	Afar and Amharic

SrN	Region	Name of the Station	Date of License in Ethiopian Calendar ⁸	Frequency No.	Broadcast Language
50	GAMBELLA	Gambella Town and its Surrounding Community Radio Stations	2007	93.2 FM	Agnuwak, Nuer Amharic

