



Dr. Kejela Gemtessa's Biography

Senior Development Economist | Systems Reform Specialist | Managing Director, WABEKBON Consult

Dr. Kejela Gemtessa is an accomplished development economist and institutional systems strategist with nearly four decades of experience across Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa. He is recognized for leading high-impact national programs, strengthening public systems, and guiding evidence-based policy reforms across social protection, agriculture, WASH, urban systems, and rural livelihoods.

As Managing Director of WABEKBON Consult, Dr. Kejela has directed complex, donor-funded diagnostic missions, performance verification exercises, and institutional reforms for the World Bank, IFAD, UNICEF, government ministries, and regional institutions. His work spans the full cycle of development programming—policy analysis, baseline design, implementation support, midline and endline evaluation, and performance-based verification.

He is a long-standing technical leader for Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP), where he has overseen grievance redress verification, performance-based condition review, and accountability strengthening across 55 woredas and 110 kebeles. His contributions have enhanced credibility, transparency, and data integrity in one of Africa's largest social protection systems.

Dr. Kejela has also led strategic economic corridor and livestock export system studies under the DRIVE initiative, seeds and market-system assessments in Tigray, Afar, and Somali regions, the URRAP rural roads evaluation across 76 woredas, and institutional capacity reforms for 41 Ethiopian cities under UIIDP. In the WASH and environmental sectors, he led the national WASH performance review and watershed planning in 135 watersheds, producing high-utility policy and institutional recommendations.

Alongside public-sector advisory work, Dr. Kejela is a committed development entrepreneur. He has invested in hospitality, real estate, eco-tourism, and green-space ventures, generating employment for more than 80 young professionals and contributing to local economic transformation.

He holds a PhD in Development Economics and is completing a second PhD in Agricultural Economics, with research focusing on peri-urban land transitions and livelihood resilience in Addis Ababa and Sheger cities. He has published more than 15 articles on international journals. Multilingual in English, Afaan Oromo, and Amharic, he is widely engaged in policy dialogue, evaluation, and institutional reform processes.

Dr. Kejela is married to Mrs. Bizuayehu Fida and blessed with three sons: Wael, Bekan, and Bonsan, whose support remains central to his professional and personal mission.