Abreha-We-Atsbeha rock hewn church

- The name Abreha-We-Atsbeha is derived from the name of two kings called Abreha and Atsbeha.
- They were famous in constructing rock hewn churches in Northern Ethiopia, mainly in Tigray.
- Abreha-We-Atsbeha has 919 households and 5,130 inhabitants.
- Its main economic activity is agriculture.
- Local Crops: Maize, Fingermillet, Teff, Wheat, Sorghum and Check peas.
- The community is also known for their white honey product (150 Birr per kilogram).
Beehives on the recovered forest
The community is known for water and soil conservation activities

- The community has 619 hectare of arable land
- Every household has an average of one hectare
- The community produce crops and vegetables 2 to 3 times a year using rainfall and irrigation
- The irrigation system is from hand dug wells and micro dams
- Through irrigation, they produce variety of vegetables and fruits
- They are one of the known fruits and vegetable producers in the woreda
- Every household (male-headed, female-headed and youngsters) are working hard to ensure food security
- No labor force migrate from the kebelle to other areas
Water and soil conservation activities

• There is no running water which erodes their soil - they have constructed a crescent shape terraces and rectangular ditches to conserve water and soil
• They have also closure areas free from animal and human disturbance which allow quick recovery of the natural vegetation
2012 Equator Prize

Chairperson with equator prize in 2012

Equator prize

- The community become global equator prize winners of 2012.
- The chairperson received the award in Brazil
- The community stood one of the top ten out of 800 competitors in the world and won 20,000 USD award and certificate of appreciation
Welcoming ceremony by the regional president
Presenting the global award to the community elders
Historical background of the community and its achievements

- The community was producing food for subsistence 15 years ago
- The land was drought prone areas, had less fertile soil and low productivity
- Resettlement was recommended by the regional government as a solution to take the community out of poverty.
- They worked hard on water and soil conservation not to leave their home village
- Promote closure areas
- Built 51 micro dams
- Prepared 519 individual and 144 group hand dug wells
- Developed 3 springs for human and animal use
- Produce cash crops and vegetables 2-3 times a year
- Generate more income to ensure food security at household level
- Become model community in the region
The micro dams construction by the community
Collective work in water management
The fruit of collective work for more productive season
Some of the 519 Individual Water Wells
“The Key to Ensure Food Security is Water”

• They are effectively using surface and ground water for irrigation purpose

• A group of 48 standby youths check the condition of the dams and micro dams

• They are using motor pumps to water their crops and vegetables
Production of fruits through Irrigation
The community motivates its own model farmers
Having water everywhere sustain development
Food security for animals as well
Diverse produce, diverse diet
Medias always hunt the success of the community
Making the impossible possible/
Amazon dam become a reality/
Modern farming system introduced (raw planting)
Environmental friendly school
Holistic improvement/ bed net and toilet/
knowledge center of the community