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THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA  
MINISTRY OF URBAN AND INFRASTRUCTURE

# **LEAD EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF URBAN PLANNING AND URBANIZATION URBAN PROFILE OF DEBRE WERK TOWN**



**September, 2025**

**Addis Ababa/Ethiopia**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Ministry of urban and infrastructure is one of the federal organization which has its own duties and responsibilities based on proclamation number 1263/2021. “Undertaking studies relating to urbanization, in coordination with other relevant bodies establish system for integrated urban development & preparation of national spatial plan; follow up implementation of same” is among the duties specified for the ministry office.

The Urban Plan and Urbanization Lead Executive Office is one of the established organizational structures within the ministry of Urban & Infrastructure since 2014 E.C to perform the above duties and others. This Office begins to prepare Ethiopia cities urban profile as a single document under the newly established desk called urban observatory and capacity building to demonstrate the urbanization changes and urban information of cities/town.

In this regards, the desk prepared this Deber Werk town urban Profile document based on the Structural Plan report of the town and the Ethiopian Statistical Service data.

Debre Werk town is found in the Amhara Regional State within North West Ethiopia in Enarj Enawga Woreda. This Woreda has 27 rural kebeles and 4 urban kebeles. Debre Werk town is one of the eight town administration found in the East Gojam Zone of Amhara Region. The town is boarded with two Kebele, in the north Dej Agamena Safekeda and in the south, east and west by Aba Jenber Hawariat Dur Gedeke Kebele the boarder surrounded by Amhara region kebeles. Debre Werk town has different natural, religious, historical, cultural and traditional resources. Moreover, the town strategic or situational position integrates different cities of the region.

Finally, we would like to say thanks to the national regional government of the Amhara Region Urban Plan Institute in providing the Structural Plan study report of Deber Werk town. The details of the town profile information presented as follows:

## **2. ORIGIN AND FOUNDATION OF THE TOWN**

- According to various written sources as well as elders also explain that the name "Debre Werk" was given by the local Jacob, who believed that the location was blessed. He saw a vision where angels descended from the sky, blessing the place with prayers. The Angels told him to change the city name into Debre Werk, from that moment; He then declared the name "Debre Werk" was adopted, referencing its sanctity and divine blessing.
- Before Debre Werk acquired its current name, it was previously referred to as "Miskabe Kidane" which means "Assembly of the Saints." The term "Miskabe Kidane" in Ge'ez language translates to "Place of the Gathering of the Saints," as described by the historical records.
- One of the main reasons for Debre Werk's town establishment was its strategic position as a monastery. Historical information reveals that the location, Debre Werk Mariam Monastery, played a significant role.
- From 250-351 AD, in Debre Werk, the skilled scholar Orith Ya'qob, who was known for his wisdom and devotion, used to teach and share his teachings. In Ethiopia, around 313 AD, the holy king, Abraha and Atsbha, learnt about Christianity from Feremnatos Kesate Berhane Abasalam. They were considered Christian figures that traveled all across Ethiopia, building churches and spreading the Gospel.
- Yaiqob, during his time, was a key figure in the spread of Christianity in the entire of Gojjam. In 335 AD, he began to teach the Christian faith and its practices, guiding people to embrace it. Additionally, he played a role in the formation of the Gojjam Episcopacy, granting them authority and leadership in the Christian community.
- In 351 AD, with the son of Abraha, Atsibha the first church was built with silver and gold there.
- The Gospel was preached and studied there, and Debre Werk became the hub of Christian worship and missionary activity. The center continued to thrive and remained active in its mission until 857 AD.
- After that, during her time, Yodit Gudit caused the destruction of the church, and it remained inactive until 1372 AD. In 1372 AD, the son of Emperor David, Aba Serse Petros, rebuilt the church. He restored its structure on the ground and strengthened its system.

### 3. PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE TOWN

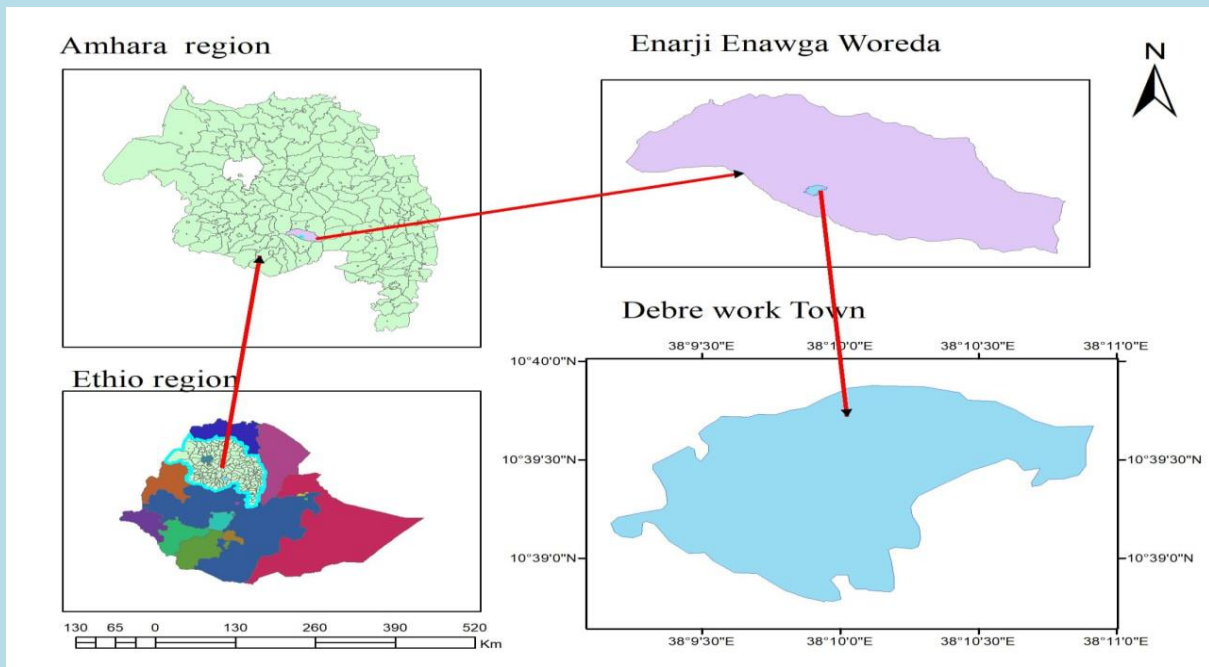
#### 3.1 Administrative Structure

- Name of the Town: Debre Werk town
- Region: Amhara Region
- Zone: East Gojam
- Woreda: Enarj Enawga
- Hierarchy of the town: Town Administration
- Administrative function: Woreda Center
- no. of kebeles: 3
- Area of the town: 2365.8 hr

#### 3.2 Location

- Latitude:  $10^{\circ}38'46.26''$  -  $10^{\circ}39'39.54''$  N
- Longitude:  $38^{\circ}09'26.02''$  -  $38^{\circ}10'46.6''$  E
- Distance from Bahir Dar (km): 198 km
- Distance from Debre Markose (km): 116 km
- Distance from Addis Ababa (km): 291 km

Fig 1: Location map of Debre Werk Town



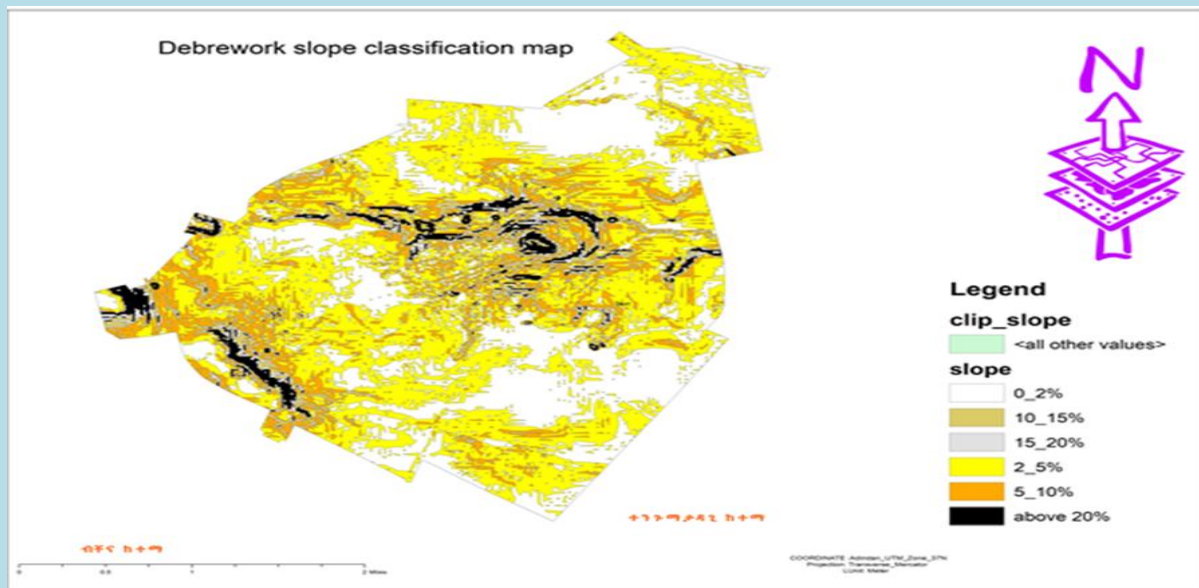
Source: Computed from Ethio GIS (Own Source)



### 3.3 Topography

- The altitude of the town (above sea level): the minimum elevation is 2408m; the maximum elevation is 2547m.
- Dominant topography (Slope) of the town: approximately 50% flat land, 30% mountainous area, and 20% hilly terrain.
- Dominant Soil type of the town: 50% black cotton soil, 30% red soil, and 20% sandy soil.
- Shape of the town is elongated and steep.

Fig 2 Slope analysis map of the town



Source: Debre Werk town Structural Plan Socio-economy Study Report 2017 E.C

### 3.4 Climate

- The agro- ecology of the town is found Weina Dega (Temperate climate).
- The mean annual temperature of the town is 17 degrees Celsius.
- The average annual rainfall is 1342.6 mm.
- The prevailing wind / dominant wind direction flows from East to West.

### 3.5 Principal Constraints for the Physical Expansion of the Town

- Natural: The Existence of Fragile and highly sloped land topography leads to town exposure to flooding and the increased risk of soil erosion.
- Man Made: -

## 4. DEMOGRAPHY

### 4.1 Population Size of Debre Werk town

Table 4.1 Population size of Debre Werk town

Number of Population		Percent
Male	7,730	47.30 %
Female	8,614	52.70%
Total	16,344	100 %

Source: Ethiopian Statistical Service Population Projections, 2023 G.C

### 4.2 Population Age Composition

Table 4:2 Debre Werk Town Population Age Compositions

Broad Age Group	Age Group Population by %
0-14	36.70
15-64	60.16
65 <sup>+</sup>	3.14

Source: Debre Werk town Structural Plan Socio-economy Study Report 2017 E.C.

### 4.3. Ethnic Composition

Table 4.3 Ethnic composition at 2017 EC

List of Ethnic group (Amhara, Oromo, Tigre, Sidama etc	Percent (%)
Amhara	100%

Source: Debre Werk town Structural Plan Socio-economy Study Report 2017 E.C.

### 4.4. Religious Composition

According to the Municipal data the majority of the town dwellers are Orthodox, there is also few number of Muslims religion followers.

Table 4.4 Religious compositions and Distribution of Religion Services

S.N	Religious composition (Orthodox, Muslim, Catholic, Protestant, ...)	population size in %
1	Orthodox	99%
2	muslim	1%
Total		100%

Source: Debre Werk town Structural Plan Socio-economy Study Report 2017 E.C.

## 5. BASIC SOCIAL SERVICES

### 5.1 Education Services

Table 5.1: Number and Types of Schools in 2016 E.C

No.	School level	Total No. of schools	Ownership		Remarks
			Government	Private	
1	Kindergarten	3	-	3	
2	Primary (1-8)	3	3	-	
3	Secondary & Preparatory (9-12)	2	2	-	
4	TVET	1	1	-	
	Total	9	6	3	

Source: - Debre Werk Town Structural Plan Socio-economy Study Report 2017 E.C.

### 5.2 Teacher, Student and Classroom Ratio

Table: 5.2 Teachers to Student Ratio, No. of Teachers and Students in 2015 E.C

School Level	Teacher /Student Ratio	Class/ Student Ratio	No. of Students			No. of Teachers
			M	F	T	
Kindergarten	1:25	1:38	167	134	301	12
Primary	1:21	1:40	1,168	1,292	2,460	117
Senior Secondary & Preparatory	1:18	1:47	1,701	2,251	3,952	223
Total			3,036	3,677	6,713	352

Source: - Computed from Debre Werk town Structural Plan Socio-economy Study Report 2017 E.C.

### 5.3 Health Services

#### 5.3.1 Ownership of Health Institution

Table 5.3: Type of Health Institution by Number and Ownership in 2016 E.C

No.	Type of Health Institutions	No. Health Institution	Ownership		
			Government	Private	Other
1	Primary Hospital	1	1	-	-
2	Health Center	1	1	-	-
3	Health Post	2	2	-	-
4	Clinic	12	-	12	-
5	Primary Hospital	1	1	-	-
6	Pharmacy	6	-	6	-
7	Animal Clinic	1	1	-	-
Total		24	6	18	-

Source: Debre Werk Town Structural Plan socio-economy Study Report 2017 E.C.



### 5.3.2 Numbers of Health Professionals

Table 5.4: Health Professionals of Debre Werk Town in 2016 E.C

No	Professional Title	Number of Professionals	Ratio of Health Professionals to Population
1	Doctors	12	1 Dr : 4,806 people
2	Health officer	13	1 HO: 4,437 people
3	Nurses	42	1 Nurse:1,373 people
4	Clinical Pharmacist	6	1 pharmacist: 9,613 people
5	Lab. Technician	10	1 Lab. Technician: 5,768 people
6	X –ray Technician	2	1 x-ray tech: 28,839 people
7	Others	92	1 others :627people
Total		177	

Source: Debre Werk Town Structural Plan Socio-economy Study Report 2017 E.C.

### 5.4 Housing Issues

Table 5.5: Housing Issues

Year	Total number of Houses	Backlog
2017	12,324	5,154

Source: Debre Werk Town Structural Plan Socio-economy Study Report 2017 E.C.

### 5.5 Worships and Cemetery Services

Table 5.6 Worships and Cemetery Services

S.N	Types of Religion	No. of Worships Place	Number of Cemetery	Remark
1	Orthodox	9	9	The worship places also include a cemetery place
2	Muslim	-	-	

Source: Debre Werk Town Structural Plan Socio-economy Study Report 2017 E.C.

## 6. MUNICIPAL SERVICES

**Table 6.1 Municipal Services (in 2017 E.C)**

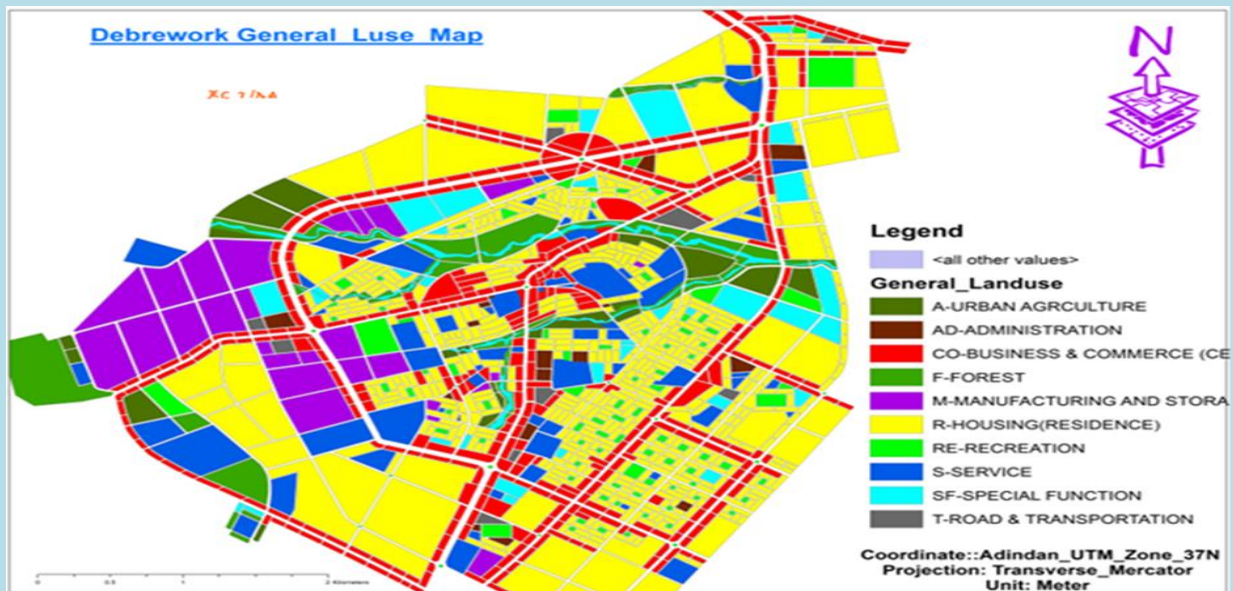
Available municipal services (in number)								Market (in number)		Recreational facilities									
Abattoir services	Municipal cemetery	Religious cemetery	Fire Brigade	Ambulance	Public Library	Public Toilet	City/Town Hall	General	cattle	daily	park (No.)	standard hotels (No.)	sport field (No.)	Playground (No.)	Youth rec. Center (No.)	museum (No.)	water body (No.)	services for special need (yes/no)	others
-	-	9	-	-	1	4 (22 classes)		1	1	-		-	1		1	1		-	-

Source: Debre Werk Town Structural Plan socio-economy study report 2017 E.C.

## 7. URBAN PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

- Types of urban plan: Structural Plan
- Year of plan prepared: 2017 E.C
- Period of plan expired: 2027 E.C
- The town plan is prepared (Revised) 4 times: (1974 E.C Master Plan, 1991 E.C Development Plan, 2005 E.C Revised Plan, 2017 Structural Plan)

**Fig 3 Proposed Land use Map of Debre Werk Town**



Source: Debre Werk town Structural Plan socio-economy study report 2017 E.C.

## 8. ECONOMIC CONDITION

### 8.1 Major economy Activities (Enterprises) of the town

#### 8.1.1 Trades, Services and Others Related Activities in the Town

Table 8.1.1 Number of Trade Organization in Debre Werk Town in 2017 E.C

No.	Economic Activities	No. of establishments (Total)
1	Hotel	17
2	Restaurant	16
3	Grain Storage	47
4	Grinding mill house	36
5	Hide warehouse / Leather storage/	4
6	Production of household and office furniture	20
7	Tea House	250
8	Fuel Station	3
9	Tire Repair	2
10	Garage	3
11	Shop	563
Total		961

Source: Debre Werk Town Strategic Plan Socio-economy Study Report 2017 E.C.

#### 8.1.2 Micro and Small Scale Enterprises Activities in the Town

Table 8.1.2 Micro and Small Scale Enterprises data

Year	Economic Activities	No. of Members			Unemployment condition
		M	F	T	Rate of Unemployment (E.S.S)
2016	Manufacturing Industries	4	5	9	
	Trade	14	12	26	
	Service	26	6	32	
	Urban Agriculture	31	9	40	
	Construction	78	66	144	
	Mining	13	7	20	
Total		166	105	271	3.7

Source: Debre Werk town Structural Plan socio-economy study report 2017 E.C.

## 8.2 Investment Condition in the Town

Table 8.2: Types of Investment in 2017 E.C

S.N	Types of Investment ( Sector)	number	Capitals of the investment (in Birr)
1	Manufacturing Industries	12	2,572,177,223.00
2	Urban Agriculture	10	220,600,000.00
Sum			2,792,777,223.00

Source: Debre Werk Town Structural Plan Socio-economy Study Report 2017 E.C.

## 8.3 Financial Institutions

Table 8.3 Financial Institutions in the town (2017 E.C)

S. no.	Financial institutions	Government institutions (in No.)	Private institutions (in No.)	Total (in No.)
1	Banks	1	9	10

Source: Debre Werk Town Structural Plan Socio-economy Study Report 2017 E.C.

## 8.4 Municipal Finance /Annual income/

Table 8.4 Situation of the Municipal finance (2013-2015)

Year	Annual revenue	Per - capita revenue	Major sources of revenue
2013	39,220,443.00	-	Direct Tax, Indirect Tax, Municipal Service Income (VAT, Turn Over Tax, and Tenant from a tenant Tax...)
2014	44,000,704.00	819	
2015	55,673,145.55	1012	

Source: Debre Werk town Structural Plan socio-economy study report 2017 E.C.

## 8.5 Economic Linkage

Table 8.5 Origin and Destination of Goods and Services in 2017 E.C

No .	Types of Goods and Services	Origin	Destination
1.	Cereals, Pulses, and Oil crops	From hinterlands/rural kebeles, Neighborhood Woredas (Enemaye, Bitchna, Goncha Siso, Hulet Eje Enebesse Enebesse, Shebele Berenta Woredas)	Debre Werk Town
2.	Vegetables and Fruits	Debre Werk Town & Hinterland kebeles	Neighborhood Woredas (Enemaye, Bitchna, Goncha Siso, Hulet Eje Enebesse, Shebele Berenta Woredas), Debre Markose, Mota, Bahir Dar, A.A
3.	Butter& Honey	From Enarje enawega woreda, Surrounding woreda (Enemayena Goncha Siso, Enebesse Woredas), Mekane Selam and Gonder Towns	Debre Werk Town
4.	Egg	"	Debre Werk Town
5.	Goat & Sheep	"	Debre Werk Town
6.	Cattles	"	Debre Werk Town
7.	Hides and skins	"	Debre Werk Town
8.	Livestock and livestock products	Debre Werk Town	Bitchna, Debre Markose, Bahir Dar, A.A
9.	Teff	Debre Werk Town & Hinterland kebeles	Up to South Ethiopia Regions
10.	Bean	Debre Werk Town & Hinterland kebeles	Bitchna, Debre Markose, Bahir Dar, A.A up to Sudan

Source: Debre Werk Town Structural Plan socio-economy study report 2017 E.C.

## 8.6 Development Potential for Investment in the Town

### 1) In the Field of Agricultural Development

#### ➤ In Livestock Resource Development:

- Animal fattening
- Dairy cow breeding and milk processing centers
- Poultry farming and chicken meat processing
- Beekeeping, honey filtering, and processing
- Leather factories (production of leather shoes and other leather products)

#### ➤ In Horticulture and Fruit Development:

#### ➤ In Agricultural Product Production and Processing:

- Processing and marketing of livestock products (milk and meat processing)
- Processing of pulse products (lentils, peas, beans)
- Animal feed processing



- Flour, pasta, and macaroni factories
- Bread and confectionery (baked goods) production
- Potato processing
- Malt factory
- Beer factory

**2) In the Field of Mineral Resource Development**

- Production of bricks and blocks
- Sand and gravel production using machinery
- Production of decorative stones
- Production of tiles (ceramic/slate)

**3) In the Field of Chemical and Construction Industries**

- Production of medicines
- Production of blocks, bricks, terrazzo, etc.
- Production of concrete electric poles
- Real estate development
- Construction machinery rental
- Construction of market centers

**4) In the Wood and Metal Industry**

- Production of metal products (nails, wire, etc.)
- Table production
- Chair production
- Paper factory
- Edible oil processing plant

**5) In the Hotel and Tourism Development Sector**

- Construction of star-rated hotels
- Construction of modern hotels
- Establishment of guest houses and entertainment centers
- Development of recreational and green areas
- Construction of lodges
- Construction of motels

**6) In the Social Service Sector:**

- Kindergarten schools
- Savings and credit service institutions
- Hospitals and colleges
- Primary and secondary schools
- Medical diagnostic centers
- Health stations

**7) In Textile, Leather, and Leather Products Manufacturing**

- Production of clothing, socks, and shirts
- Tanning and production of leather goods (shoes, belts, laser-cut bags, etc.)

## 9 INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

### 9.1 Road and Transport

Table 9.1 Road and Transportation system in recent year 2017 E.C

Road					Transport								Transport Terminals						
Number of outlet or inlet roads	Coverage of Gravel road:(km)	Coverage of Cobblestone (km)	Coverage of Earthen pressed (km)	Coverage of Asphalt surfaced (km)	Intra-Urban mode of Transport				Inter-Urban mode of transport										
					Number of Bajaj	Number of Damas	Number of Motor Cycles	Number of Horse drawn carts	Number of Bicycles	Bus	Number of Mini Bus	Number of Isuzu	Railway	Airway	Bus station	Railway	Air port	Freight terminals:	Number of towns with direct passenger interaction:
>10	8.875	1.05		7.14	270	2	9	190	30	1	51	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	>10

Source: Debre Werk town Structural Plan socio-economy study report 2017 E.C.

### 9.2. Telephone, Postal and Electric Power service

Table 9.2 Telephone, Postal and Electric Power service data in recent year 2017 E.C

Postal Service		Electric Power Services	
Type	Number of postal boxes	Connection Type/ Tariff Category	Number of Customer (Number of meter connection)
Commercial	4	Domestic	3470
Private	2	Gov't & Private Organization	3495
Gov't	1		
Not rented box	>100		

Source: Debre Werk town Structural Plan socio-economy study report 2017 E.C.

- Since 1955 E.C, the town has been using a manual telephone system, and starting from 1986 E.C, it has also become a user of an automatic telephone system.

### 9.3 Water Coverage

Table 9.3 Water Services in 2016 E.C.

Water Services					
Source of water (underground or under surface)	Customer Type /Type of connection/	Number of Public taps	Average annual production(m <sup>3</sup> )	Average annual consumption	Coverage (%)
Underground Water & Under Surface Water	Commercial	300	149,700	135,500	10.36
	Residential	2652			
	Government	5			
	Bono	5			
	Total	2962			

Source: Debre Werk Town Structural Plan Socio-economy Study Report 2017 E.C.

## 10 CULTURE AND TOURISM

These includes: historical, cultural, and natural attractions in the town:-

### 10.1 Cultural Center

- The Debre Werq Maryam Monastery.
- Abinet School (The model school),
- Jer Gabriel Monastery and Cave, and
- The Holy Water called by Abba Seretse Petros, ...

### 10.2 Tourism

- The Debre Werk Museum,

Fig 4: Debre Werq Maryam Monastery



## **REFERENCES**

- Amhara Region Urban Plan Institute: Debre Werk Town Structural Plan Socio-Economy Study Report 2017 E.C.
- Ethiopian Statistical Service Population Projections, 2023 G.C.