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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 Shashemene City



October, 2025

Addis Ababa

Contents

1. INTRODUCTION2

2. Origin and Foundation Of The City3

3. PHYSICAL CHARACTRSTICS OF THE CITY/TOWN3

 3.1 Administrative Structure3

 3.2 Location4

 3.3 Topography5

 3.4 Climate5

4 DEMOGRAPHY6

 4.1 Population size.....6

 4.2 Population Age Composition6

 4.3. Ethnic Composition6

 4.4 Religious Composition6

5 BASIC SOCIAL SERVICES7

 5.1 Education Services.....7

 5.3 Health Services8

6. MUNICIPAL SERVICES9

7. URBAN PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT 10

8. ECONOMIC CONDITION..... 11

 8.1 Major economy activities of the town 11

 8.2 Financial Institutions 12

 8.3 Municipal revenue 12

 8.4 Linkage..... 12

 8.5 Development Potentials for Investment in the City..... 13

9. Infrastructure Development 14

 9.1 Road..... 14

 9.3 Telecommunication 16

10. Culture and Tourism..... 16

 10.1 Cultural Center 16

 10.2 Tourism: 19

REFERENCES 22

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. Urban Profile is a single document that captures all information’s about cities/towns from different data sources i.e. primary and secondary data sources. An urban profile offer a detailed snapshot of the conditions of an urban area to provide a set of information and plans that officials as well as NGOs and other stakeholders can use to make sustainable urban planning decisions.

In this regards, the desk prepared this shashemene town urban Profile document based on the structural plan report of the town and the Ethiopian Statistical Service data.

Shashemene is located in west Arsi zone of the Oromia National Regional state approximately 250km south of Addis Ababa. Geographically, the town is located at 7 degree north latitude and 38 degree east longitude. The is the home of nation and nationalities of the country. Shashmene is particularly known for being home to many Rastafarians who were drawn to the land granted by Emperor Haile Selassie in 1948. It is a popular destination for those interested in the Rastafarian movement. The town is economically important and a hub for commerce agricultures due to its unique position expanding quite rapidly compared to other towns. Shashemene is uniquely positioned along Ethiopia major trade routes, serving as a gateway between Addis Ababa, Hawassa , and the southern Ethiopia regions, as well as neighboring countries like Kenya. The town also lies within Ethiopian rift valley and it’s close to the lake and holiday resort of Hawassa, langano, wondo Genet resort, shalla Abiyata Park as well as senkele wildlife sanctuary.

2. Origin and Foundation Of The City

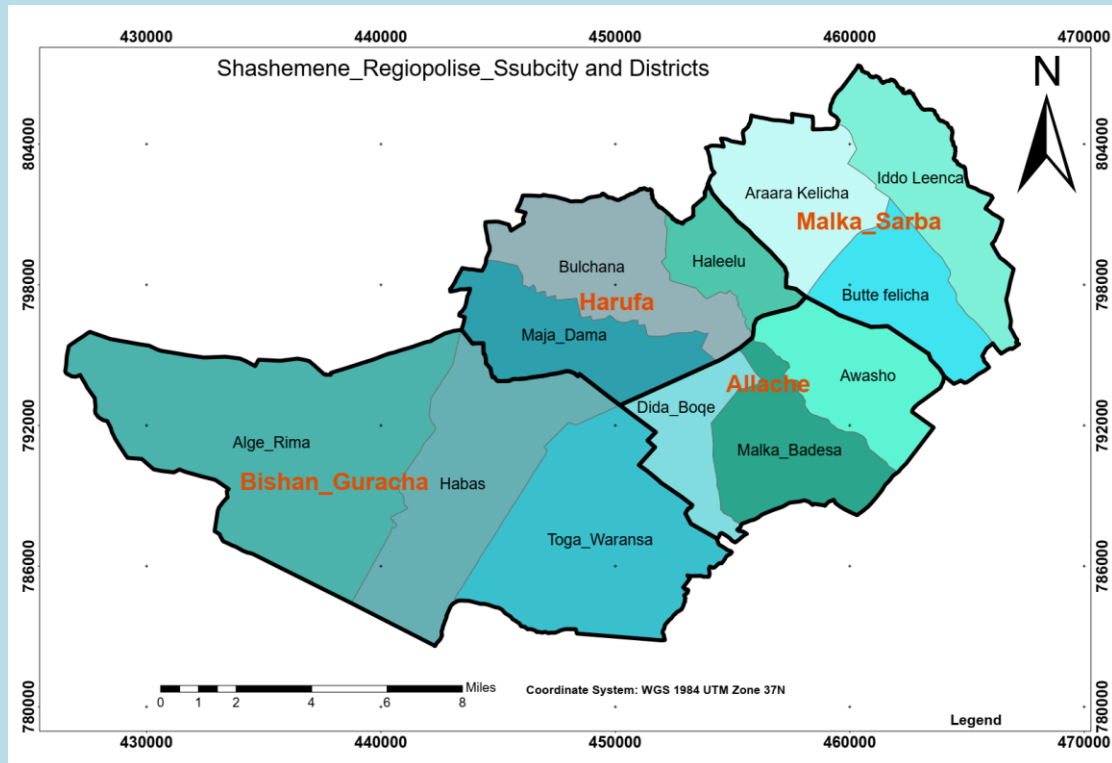
- The name Shashamane derived from famous Oromo lady named “Shashe”, who sell Tella and Boka as well as food stuff to the merchants :mana shashe
- emerged as the result of commercial activities in the Southern, South-Western and South Eastern Ethiopia (Alelu (Korre Rogicha),Hurufa
- lays on the Trans-African High Way international road that starched from Cairo to Cape Town
- Shashemene is got its own municipal administration since 1935/36,
- a master plan since 1996 and currently has SP covers total area of 17,119 hectares
- Shashemene is a town established in 1903 E.C

3. PHYSICAL CHARACTRSTICS OF THE CITY/TOWN

3.1 Administrative Structure

- Name of the City/Town: Shashemene
- Region: Oromia
- Zone: west Arsi zone
- Woreda: Shash
- Hierarchy of the city/town: higher urban centers
- Administrative function: zone capital
- No. subcity: 4
- no. of kebeles ; 12
- Area of town: **50386 ha**

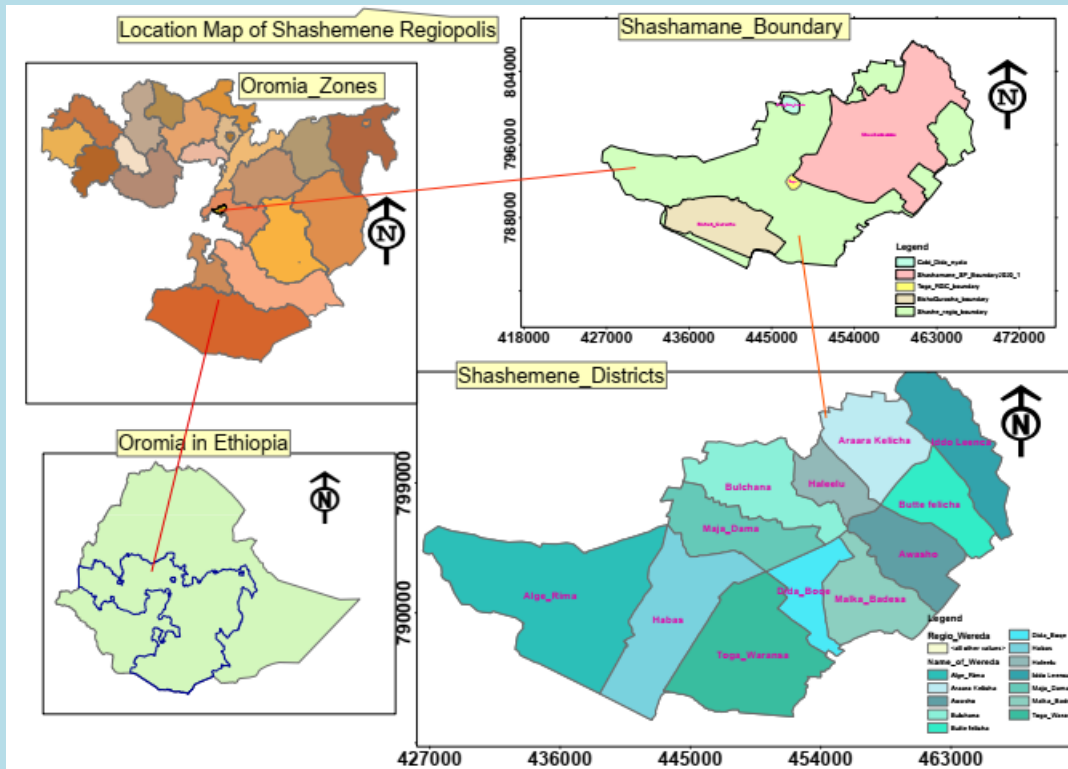
Fig 1: Administrative structure



3.2 Location

- Latitude: 7° 08' 51''N to 7° 18' 19''N latitude
- Longitude 38° 32' 43''E 38° 41' 07''E
- Distance from Addis Ababa: 250km

Fig. 1 Location map of the town



3.3 Topography

- The altitude of the town: ranges from 1,672 to 2,722msl.
- Dominant topography : flat
- Dominant Soil type of the town : Haplic Xerosols
- Shape of the city town: elongated

3.4 Climate

- The Agro-climatic zone of the city: sub-tropical
- The mean annual temperature of the City: 18.4°C.
- The average annual rainfall: 1,500mm - 2,000mm
- The prevailing wind direction: easterly

4 DEMOGRAPHY

4.1 Population size

Table 4.1 Population size of the town 2016

| Number of Population | | Percent |
|----------------------|---------------|---------|
| Male | 325437 | 50.1% |
| Female | 316067 | 49.9% |
| Total | 641509 | 100% |

Source: shashemene town socio-economic profile, 2016 E.C

4.2 Population Age Composition

Table 4:2 population age compositions (2016 E.C)

| SN. | Age group | Age Group Population by % |
|-----|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | 0-14 | 39.8% |
| 2 | 15-64 | 58.2% |
| 3 | 65 ⁺ | 2.0% |

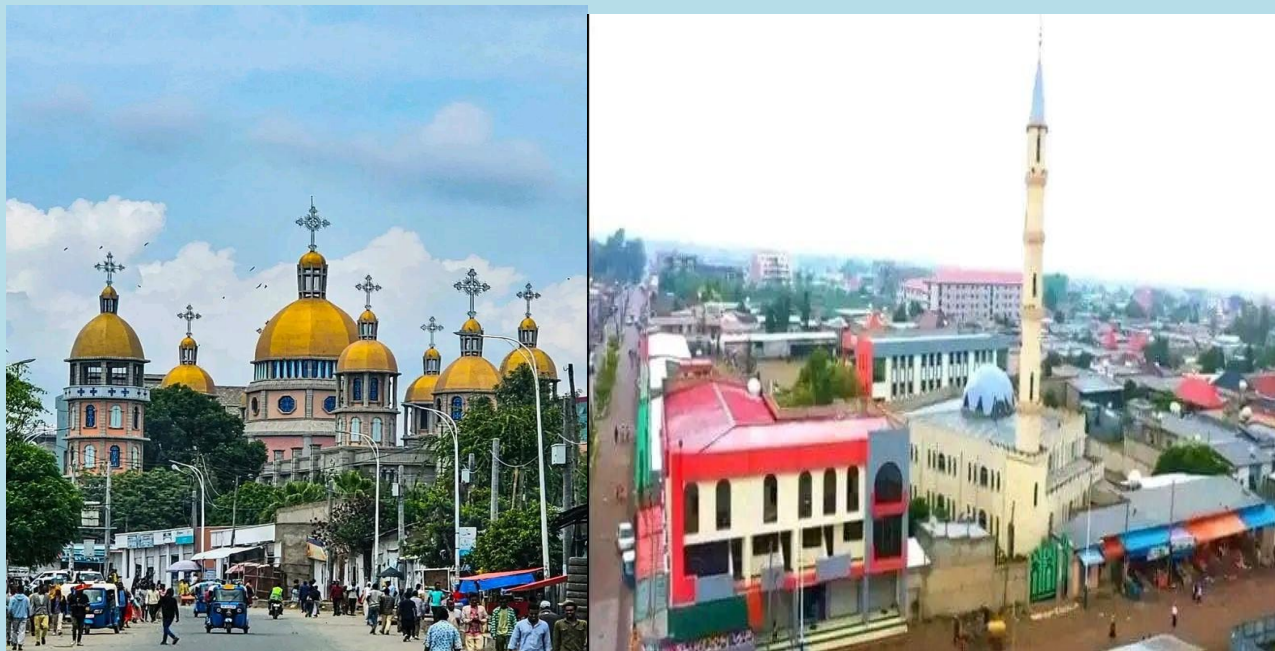
Source: shashemene town socio-economic profile, 2016 E.C

4.3. Ethnic Composition

- Oromo: 74.11%
- Amhara: 9.26%
- Wolyita: 5%
- Kembata: 2.3%
- Gurage: 2.13%

4.4 Religious Composition

- From religious points of view, more than 50% of society in city are Muslim while number of orthodox and protestant society are the 2nd and 3rd in city the respectively.



5 BASIC SOCIAL SERVICES

5.1 Education Services

Table 5.1: Number and Types of schools in recent year 2023

| Schools | | | Ownership | | |
|---------|-------|--------|------------|---------|---------|
| No | Level | Number | Government | Private | NGO/FBO |
| 1 | KG | 76 | - | 74 | 2 |
| 2 | 1-4 | 29 | -+3 | 28 | 1 |
| 3 | 1-8 | 78 | 13 | 64 | 1 |
| 4 | 9-12 | 14 | 7 | 7 | - |
| 5 | TVET | 5 | 1 | 4 | - |
| Total | | 202 | 21 | 177 | 4 |

5.3 Health Services

Table 5.3: Distribution of Health Institutions by Type of Ownership, 2023

| Health Institutions | | Number by Ownership | | | Health Professionals | Beds |
|---------------------|--------|---------------------|---------|-------|----------------------|------|
| | | Government | Private | Total | | |
| Referral Hospital | | 1 | - | 1 | 129 | 38 |
| General Hospital | | 2 | 1 | 3 | | |
| Health Center | | 6 | 1 | 7 | 76 | 22 |
| Health Post | | 8 | 3 | 11 | | |
| Clinic | Higher | - | 17 | 17 | 90 | 26 |
| | Medium | - | 34 | 34 | | |
| | Small | - | 22 | 22 | | |
| Pharmacy | | - | 30 | 30 | | |
| Drug Stores | | - | 44 | 44 | | |
| Total | | 14 | 152 | 169 | 295 | 86 |

5.4 Recreation facility

The town has:

- Sport field
- youth center
- cultural center,
- Play grounds over the town.
- Stadium
- River side greenery
- park



6. MUNICIPAL SERVICES

The city has;

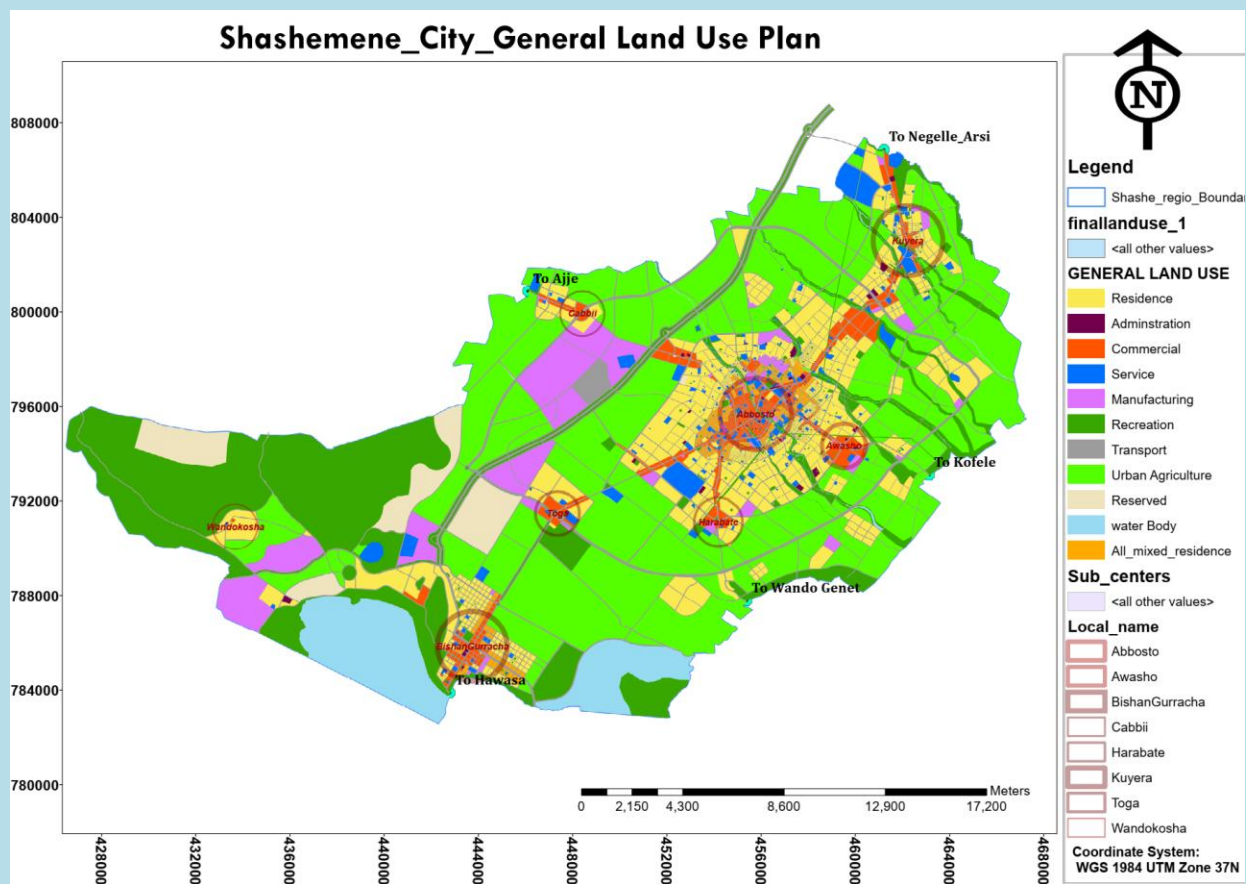
- Abattoir services ; 1
- municipal cemetery; 1
- City Hall; 1
- City library;1
- General market; 3
- Mini market: 4

- Cattle market; 1
- Bus terminal: 1
- Freight terminal: 1

7. URBAN PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

- Types of urban plan: structural plan
- Year of plan prepared: 2023
- Period of plan expired: 2033
- For How many times the city/town plan is prepared (Revised): 3rd

Fig. 4: shashemene city structural plan proposal, 2023



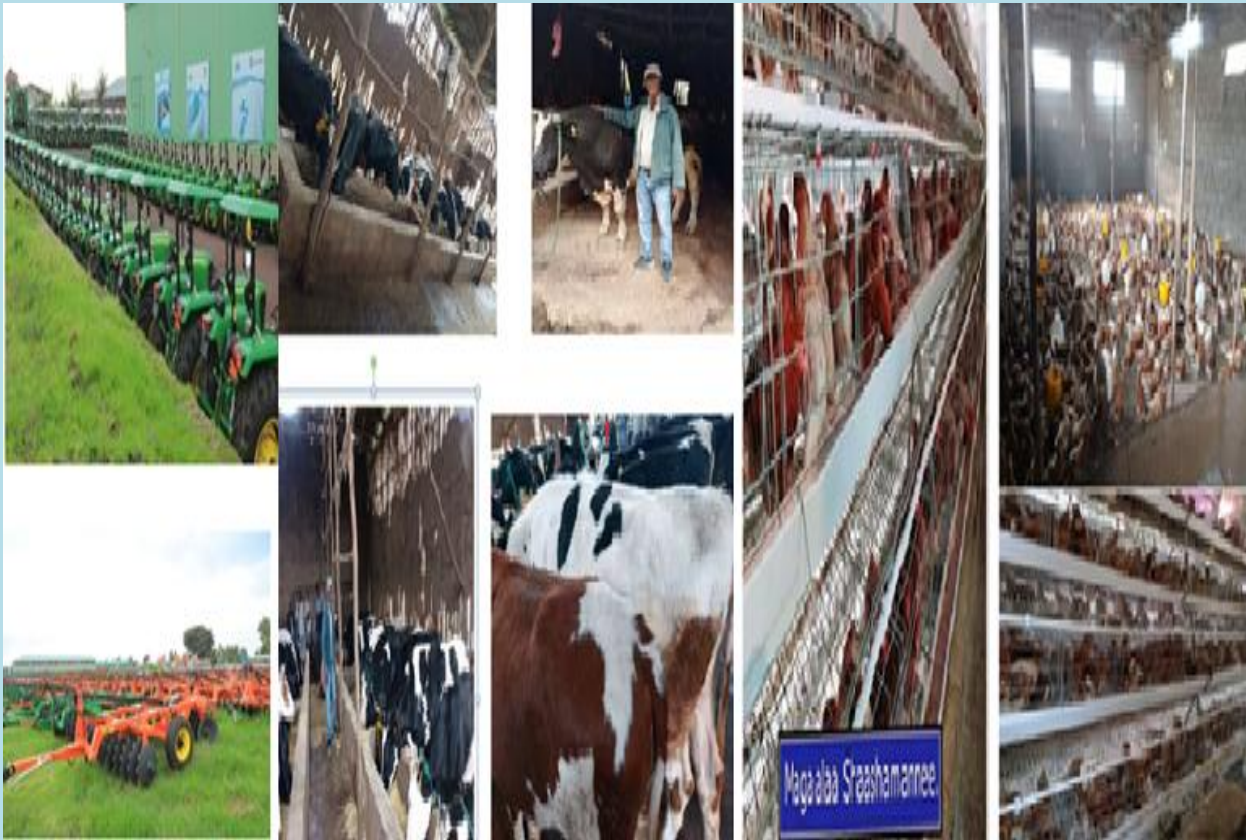
8. ECONOMIC CONDITION

8.1 Major economy activities of the town

- Trade
- Agro processing
- Manufacturing of wooden products and hand crafts
- Urban agriculture
- Service provision: hotels and tourism, schools, colleges and, recreation centers, etc

Table 8.1 types of manufacturing

| No | Type of manufacturing | 2016 year Capitals |
|----|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Small scale manufacturing | 44,000,000.33 |
| 2 | Medium scale manufacturing | 34,000,000 |
| 3 | Large scale manufacturing | 138,000,000.9 |



8.2 Financial Institutions

Table 8.2 Financial Institutions in the town

| No | Institution | number |
|----|-----------------------------|--------|
| 1 | Commercial bank of Ethiopia | 20 |
| 2 | Private bank | 59 |
| 3 | Insurances | 10 |

8.3 Municipal revenue

Table 8.3 Situation of the Municipal finance

| S.N | Year | Annual revenue |
|-----|------|----------------|
| 1 | 2014 | 336,461,268 |
| 2 | 2015 | 598,689,502 |
| 3 | 2016 | 1,210,981,270 |

8.4 Linkage

Table 8.4: linkages of the city

| S.no | Types types of linkage | Origin | Destination |
|------|---|---|-------------|
| 1 | Physical linkage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hawasa-Dilla-Moyalle, Kofele-Dodola-Robe, Aje-Alaba-Wolayita Sodo-Arbamich, ➤ Wondo Genet and other areas around its district ➤ Addis Ababa to Moyale/Kenya/ Nairobi/ | shashemene |
| 2 | Economic linkage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ City different types of economic linkage with different urban centers internationally, nationally, regionally and hinterland area. | shashemene |
| 3 | Agriculture product (wheat and livestock) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Gedeb Hasassa, Dodola, Kofele, Negele Arsi, Kore, Shire and Adaba | shashemene |



8.5 Development Potentials for Investment in the City

- Good locational centrality that strengthens linkage with hinterland
- The five getaways that accelerate regional as well as national interaction; the way to Hawassa and airport, Wondo genet, Addis Ababa, Bale Robe and Wolaita Sodo.
- Located on Trans African high way under construction
- Presence of surplus agricultural product in the surrounding hinterlands
- Multi-cultural and natural tourism attraction centers (hinterland)
- Suitable land features for future development
- Presence of manufacturing industries on mechanized agriculture.
- Presence of ample minerals for industrial raw material
- Strategic center of export and import market districts

- Proximity to national and international market

9. Infrastructure Development

9.1 Road

Table 9.1: Road type and length in km 2023

| s/n | Hierarchy | Width | Length km | Area |
|-------|-------------|-------|-----------|----------|
| 1 | Express way | 100 | 22.9 | 2290 |
| 2 | PAS | 40 | 274.5 | 10980 |
| 3 | SAS | 25 | 175.35 | 4,383.75 |
| 4 | CS | 16 | 212.4 | 3,398.4 |
| 5 | LS | 8-10 | 343.4 | 3,090.6 |
| Total | | | 3051.55 | 24142.75 |



9.3 Telecommunication

Shashamane City has:

- a digital telephone,
- Mobile and broad band internet service
- fax
- Recently the entire towns in the city have 4G internet services.

10. Culture and Tourism

10.1 Cultural Center

- Different cultural dressing, food, marriage system and other socio-cultural
- Dressing like : Gufta, Hindake, Gabi and
- Food types like : Marqa, Miccirra, Alaqana, Marmaree Finiina and
- Marriage system like gabbara, walgara, aseenna, Dhaala and wembeetoo were







10.2 Tourism:

Tourism destinations in and around the city

- Deneba Cave at 7km and
- Habas lake and Hills
- Munessa Man Made and Natural Forest
- Wondo Genet Natural Spring at 19km,
- Hawasa City at 26km
- Abidjatta-Shalla National Park at 47km,
- Langano Lake Lodges and hotels at 53km,
- Bale Mountain National Park at 155,
- Arba Minch City at 246 km,
- Sinkile sanctuary

1. Harbs lake



2. Wondo Genet lodge and resort





Senkele Wildlife Sanctuary



REFERENCES

- Shashemene structural plan preparation socio economic report, 2023.