

Country – capital	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia – Addis Ababa ¹
Population	Oromo 35.8%, Amhara 24.1%, Somali 7.2%, Tigray 5.7%, Sidama 4.1%, Guragie 2.6%, Welaita 2.3%, Afar 2.2%, Silte 1.3%, Kefficho 1.2%, other 13.5% (2022 est.). Total population 116.5 million (est. 2023). ²
Geography	Eastern Africa, west of Somalia ³
Languages	Oromo (official working language in Oromiya) 33.8%, Amharic (official national language) 29.3%, Somali (official working language of Sumale) 6.2%, Tigrigna (Tigrinya) (official working language of Tigray) 5.9%, Afar (official working language of Afar) 1.7%, other local languages, English (taught in schools), Arabic (2007 est.) ⁴
Writing system	Ge'ez or Ethiopic script (ግዕዝ), from left to right ⁵
Education and literacy	51.8 % is literate, females lower than males (44.4% resp. 57.2% est. 2017). ⁶ Primary education is free. Students enter school at age 7 and compulsory (primary) education lasts for six years and ends at age 12. 32% of children of primary school ages are out of school. In rural areas facilities are often thinly spread and there are wide disparities between the poorest and richest children, especially at the primary level. Middle school, or lower secondary school, lasts for four years. Students are generally ages 13 - 16. Upper secondary education begins at age 17 and lasts for two years. Students choose between science or social science. ⁷
Religions	Ethiopian Orthodox 43.8%, Muslim 31.3%, Protestant 22.8%, other 2% (est. 2016) ⁸
Conflict history and overview	From 1930 on, Ethiopia was ruled by Emperor Haile Selassie until he was deposed by a military junta (<i>derg</i>) in 1974. In 1991 a coalition of rebel forces took power, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) under Tigrayan soldier-politician Meles Zenawi. A border war with Eritrea in the late 1990s ended with a peace treaty in December 2000 but tensions remained high. In 2018 the first Oromo PM Abiy Ahmed Ali took office, who entered into peace agreement with Eritrea and a reopening of the border. In November 2020, a military conflict erupted between the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front (TPLF) and Ethiopia's National Defense Force. The bloody conflict, which has continued till Nov. 2022, has exacerbated ethnic violence and has largely centered in northern regional states Tigray, Amhara, and Afar. ⁹ In Oromia, conflict has continued/escalated, impeding humanitarian access to aid. ¹⁰
Humanitarian situation	Life expectancy at birth: 68.6 yrs (male 66.4, female 70.8). Population below poverty line: 23.5 % (2015 est). ¹¹ The Horn of Africa is experiencing the longest and most severe drought recorded, leading to mass displacement, hunger, insecurity, conflict. ¹² Over 20 million people need humanitarian aid, amongst whom 4.6 million of IDPs. Millions more have fled to Sudan. ¹³ Some parts of Ethiopia, such as Oromia and Somali regions, are critically affected by both drought and conflict simultaneously. ¹⁴
Human rights situation	In Western Tigray Zone, an ethnic cleansing campaign took place in 2021, amounting to crimes against humanity, against the Tigrayan population by newly appointed officials and Amhara regional security forces and militias. In western Oromia, fighting between government forces and armed groups resulted in serious abuses committed by all sides. Extrajudicial killings, mass arrests, arbitrary detentions, and violence against civilians occurred in other regions facing unrest, insecurity, and conflict. ¹⁵
Situation of women FGM/C – early marriages	Maternal mortality rate has decreased to 267 per 100,000 live births (2020). ¹⁶ FGM/C was legally banned in 2004, but 16% of girls 0-14 yrs have undergone FGM, >50% were cut before the age of 5. Of the women age 15-49, 65% have undergone FGM. The minimum age of marriage is 18 years, but 14% of women 20-24 years were married before age 15, and 40% before age 18. ¹⁷
Situation of LGBTI	Same-sex sexual activity is grounds for imprisonment of no less than a year – “making it a profession” aggravates the penalty to up to 10 years. There are several cases of enforcement by authorities and horrific stories of mob justice. ¹⁸
Asylum / migration / (IDPs)	Malta: Ethiopia arrivals unknown. ¹⁹ In 2021 28 persons lodged asylum applications in Malta. No more recent data. ²⁰

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- ¹ <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ethiopia>
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 - ⁴ <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ethiopia>
 - ⁵ <https://omniglot.com/writing/ethiopic.htm>
 - ⁶ <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ethiopia>
 - ⁷ <https://www.scholaro.com/db/Countries/Ethiopia/Education-System>
 - ⁸ <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ethiopia>
 - ⁹ <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ethiopia>
 - ¹⁰ <https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/ethiopia-humanitarian-response-plan-2023-february-2023>
 - ¹¹ <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ethiopia>
 - ¹² <https://www.unhcr.org/emergencies/horn-africa-drought-emergency>
 - ¹³ <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/conflict-ethiopia>
 - ¹⁴ <https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/ethiopia-humanitarian-response-plan-2023-february-2023>
 - ¹⁵ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2023/country-chapters/ethiopia> ; <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/conflict-ethiopia>
 - ¹⁶ <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ethiopia>
 - ¹⁷ <https://data.unicef.org/resources/fgm-country-profiles/> ; <https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/learning-resources/child-marriage-atlas/regions-and-countries/ethiopia/>
 - ¹⁸ <https://database.ilga.org/criminalisation-consensual-same-sex-sexual-acts>
 - ¹⁹ <https://www.unhcr.org/mt/figures-at-a-glance>
 - ¹⁹ <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/download/?url=0iecXW>

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