

Ethiopia



Location	Ethiopia is located in the Horn of Africa (Eastern Africa). It borders Somalia, Djibouti and Eritrea to the east, Kenya to the south and Sudan and South Sudan to the west. The capital of Ethiopia is Addis Ababa. Map: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/et.html
Climate	Ethiopia's climate varies from hot and arid to tropical monsoon in different regions. Average temperatures in Addis Ababa range from lows of around ten degrees Celsius to highs in the mid-20s.
Geography	The Great Rift Valley splits Ethiopia into a high plateau (raised area with a level top) and a central mountain range that rises sharply from the flat lands.
Government	As one of the oldest countries in the world and the oldest independent country in Africa, Ethiopia has done well in protecting itself from foreign invasion. However, border disputes with neighbouring Eritrea have caused tens of thousands of deaths in war and tension remains between the two countries. Furthermore, suspicions surrounding the fairness of Ethiopia's past elections, which did not meet international standards, add to the country's instability.
Environment	Current environmental issues in Ethiopia include poor access to clean drinking water, mismanagement of land and water resources, at-risk biodiversity and food insecurity.
Economy	Despite their country's fast-growing economy, 30.7 percent of the population is below international poverty line of US\$1.25 per day. ¹ Their livelihoods are based mostly on farm products like coffee and sugarcane and are vulnerable to extreme weather conditions like drought and flooding.
People	Ethiopia's population was close to 99.5 million in 2015, with an average life expectancy of 61.48 years. ² Ethiopians spend an average of seven years in school and only 49.1 percent of people over age 15 can read and write. ³ The population has limited access to basic services such as energy sources. The average resident of the 'developed world' uses as much electricity as 400 Ethiopians. ⁴
Novels <i>Garbage King</i> by Elizabeth Laird	Extreme poverty deprives Ethiopian children of proper nutrition, clean water and medical treatment. One out of six children die before age five and approximately half of the children in Ethiopia are stunted and underweight. Families often depend on child labour to survive and thus do not allow children to attend school. Those lucky enough to attend school travel considerable distances on foot through harsh terrain. The classrooms are over-crowded, the teachers are poorly trained and there are few materials.
Issue Rights of Children	

1 The United Nations Childrens Fund, "Ethiopia Statistics," available from http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/ethiopia_statistics.html

2 The Central Intelligence Agency World Factbook, "Ethiopia," available from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/et.html>

3 Ibid

4 The World Bank, "Ethiopia: Climate Risk Factsheet," available from http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTAFRICA/Resources/Ethiopia_Country_Note.pdf

