

Ethiopia's government is a Federal republic. There are 9 ethnically-based regions in the country plus two chartered cities (Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa). Below the regions are districts (or woredas). On the local level people are organized into urban associations and farmer's associations (kebeles or peasant associations). Kebeles provide clinics, shops with subsidized foods etc., for the people in their geographical area. Kebeles own land and houses which they rent to people.



Population: 102,374,044

The capital city is Addis Ababa with a population of 3,238,000.

Total area: 1,104,300 sq km (statistics taken from The World Fact Book, cited July 2017)

Historically Ethiopia's rulers tied their regimes to the Ethiopian (formerly Coptic) Orthodox Church. There have been periodic invasions by Islamic groups. Estimates place Orthodox Christians at 43.5% of the population, Catholic 0.7%, 18.5% as 'Evangelical' or Protestant Christians (Pente). Muslims are estimated to be 33.9% with traditional religion 2.7%. Under Mengistu's socialist government many of the Evangelical groups suffered persecution in one form or another.

Ethiopia's economy is based on agriculture, which accounts for 41% of GDP and 85% of total employment. Coffee has been a major export crop. The agricultural sector suffers from poor cultivation practices and frequent drought, but recent joint efforts by the Government of Ethiopia and donors have strengthened Ethiopia's agricultural resilience, contributing to a reduction in the number of Ethiopians threatened with starvation. While GDP growth has remained high, per capita income is among the lowest in the world.

Languages: Amharic, Tigrigna, Oromifa, Guaragugna, Somali, Arabic, English, over 75 others