COUNTRY FACT SHEET
FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA

GUIDING QUESTIONS

- Why might the country of Ethiopia not require children to attend school? How does this decision affect the country’s future?
- More and more Ethiopians are moving from rural areas to the city. What opportunities do you believe are available to girls with no education who are living in a city? What opportunities would be available to those with an education?

GENERAL INFORMATION

**Capital City:** Addis Ababa

**Population of Ethiopia:** 102.4 million (2016 est.)

**Population of Addis Ababa:** 3.24 million

**Mobile/Cellular Telephones:** 42.312 million

Ethiopia is a large country and home to more than 80 ethnic groups, speaking dozens of different languages. Ethiopia is unique in the region because it managed to maintain its freedom and was never under colonial rule. A majority of Ethiopians are either farmers or livestock herders living in rural areas. Rural areas often lack access to electrical power, schools and clean water. Currently Ethiopian children are not required by law to attend school.

Ethiopia is a landlocked country in Eastern Africa. The country is bordered by Eritrea, Sudan, South Sudan, Kenya and Somalia. Ethiopia is 1,104,300 sq km with only 104,300 sq km of water. Ethiopia is almost twice the size of the state of Texas in the US. The country consists mostly of rugged mountains and high plateaus. Ethiopia is also home to the Great Rift Valley and the Danakil Depression, 100m below sea level.
GOVERNMENT

Ethiopian history goes back to the Queen of Sheba and King Solomon. Tradition claims that their son, Menelik I, was the first emperor of Ethiopia. Ethiopia remained under an emperor’s rule until the end of the Solomonic Dynasty in 1974, when a military coup installed a socialist government. Controlled by the military, it lasted until 1991. A new constitution was adopted in 1994. The government is currently a multiparty democracy under a constitutional monarchy. It has a prime minister, president, and legislature called the Federal Parliamentary Assembly, which includes the House of Federation and the House of People’s Representatives. The country’s nine states elect the House of Federation and the people elect the House of People’s Representatives.

THE PEOPLE

Education

Percent of the population considered literate: Citizens able to read and write over the age of 15.

Females 41.1%
Males 57.2%

Ethnic Group Distribution

Oromo 34.5%
Amhara 26.9%
Somalie 6.2%
Tigrayaw 6.1%
Sidama 4.0%
Other 22.3%

Religious Group Distribution

Ethiopian Orthodox 43.5%
Muslim 33.9%
Protestant 18.6%
Other 1.3%

Languages

Oromigna (Official regional) 33.8%
Amharic (Official) 29.3%
Somalina 6.2%
Tigrina (Official regional) 5.9%
Other 24.8%

English is the official foreign language taught in schools.

Rural vs. Urban

Percent of the country’s population that lives in urban areas: 19.5%
This is increasing by about 4% every year as Ethiopians migrate from rural areas to cities.

THE ECONOMY

The Ethiopian economy relies heavily on agriculture, with coffee being a major export crop. Agriculture has become challenging with recent droughts. However, cooperative efforts between the government and donors have enabled effective programs focusing on strengthening agricultural resistance to be established. The country is utilizing resources from both micro-credit loans and larger foreign investors. In 2010, 29.2 percent of Ethiopia’s population was living below the poverty line.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in US$: 61.54 billion
Currency Exchange Rate: 1 US$ = 23.25 Birr (ETB)

Imports and Exports

- Ethiopia imported $14.7 billion in food, live animals, petroleum and petroleum products, chemicals, machinery, motor vehicles, cereals and textiles in 2016.
- Ethiopia exported $2.932 billion in coffee, khat, gold, leather products, live animals and oilseeds in 2016.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Small reserves of gold, platinum, copper, potash, natural gas, hydropower

RESOURCES

- Khan Academy at www.khanacademy.org
- World Bank's website at www.worldbank.org
- Great Rift Valley and the Danakil Depression at National Geographic at www.nationalgeographic.com

All data was reported in 2015 unless otherwise noted.