

Ethiopia

Last updated: April 2008

About Ethiopia

- 77 million people live in Ethiopia, over 60 million (81%) live on less than \$2 a day (Human Development Report 2006).
- Annual income is \$141 per person, compared with \$37,000 in the UK. (World Development Indicators Online, 2005).
- Ethiopia has a federal government structure comprising nine regional and two autonomous city administrations. The Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), the ruling political party led by Prime Minister Meles Zenawi has been in power since 1995. The EPRDF won 3rd elections on 15 May 2005.
- 74.2 % of children are enrolled in primary school. (Welfare and Monitoring Survey 2004)
- Average life expectancy at birth is 54 years, compared with 79 in the UK.
- Of every 1000 children born alive, 123 die before the age of five years. (Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey 2005)
- There are 673 maternal deaths for every 100,000 live births, compared with 11 for every 100,000 in the UK. (Demographic and Health Survey report, 2005).
- 1.4% of those aged 15-49 years are living with HIV or AIDS. (Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey 2005)
- 8.6 million men, women and children were relying on food aid in 2005. (EC Diagnostic Survey 2006)
- Only 52% of the population has access to safe, clean water.
- The average annual growth rate over the past 3 years was 10%.

DFID: Working to reduce poverty in Ethiopia

Between 2001-2005, Ethiopia received £4.7 billion in aid, of which DFID provided over £195.7 million. We have increased our aid significantly, from £60m in 2004/5 to £130m in 2007/8.

Since June 2006, we have been providing most of our aid to Ethiopia in the form of a contribution to the Protection of Basic Services (PBS) Programme. So far, DFID has spent £142.5 million through PBS and we expect to spend a further £25 million before the end of June 2008. This money is used to supplement government funding on education, health, agriculture and water and sanitation while requiring regular monitoring of expenditure. In addition, PBS aims to make local government more accountable to citizens for delivering these services.

We are currently finalising our 2008/9-2010/11 business plan for Ethiopia. We will focus on supporting a more accountable, capable and responsive state; making education, health, agriculture, water and sanitation services better and more widely available; and creating more opportunities for the poor to become productive. We will increase our annual level of financing from £130 million to £175 million by 2010/11.

Making aid effective

DFID's programme is designed to help the Ethiopian Government implement its own poverty reduction strategy, the Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty. As far as possible, we do this in partnership with other donors using government systems.

Governance

Poor governance is a cause of poverty. People suffer when governments don't allow participation in political life, provide access to justice, deliver adequate public services or control corruption. DFID is working to develop a more capable state in Ethiopia, for example, by contributing £25 million to a major programme designed to make the public service better at managing its resources. We have allocated £5 million to strengthen institutions such as the judiciary, the Human Rights Commission and the regional and federal parliaments so that citizens can hold public institutions to account. We are also helping citizens to voice their demands so that government responds to their needs and rights.

Health and HIV/AIDS

Our main support for the health sector comes from the PBS programme – for example, funding the salaries of over 16,000 doctors and nurses. In addition, DFID is providing £15 million to help the Ministry of Health procure and distribute 6.5m insecticide treated bednets, 2m doses of malaria treatment, and contraceptives for 3m women. Ethiopia receives a large amount of money for HIV/AIDS from global and disease-specific funds, so DFID concentrates on improving the systems that are essential for delivering the services provided through these other funds.

Education

Most of our support for the education sector is provided through the PBS programme – more children are now going to school, and we hope to get an extra 3.7 million children into primary school over the next two years. The large increase in the numbers of children attending school has had an effect on the quality of education being provided, and so we are also working on a new programme designed to strengthen education system management, improve teaching and make more textbooks available.

Hunger and Humanitarian

DFID is contributing £92 million to the national Productive Safety Net Programme which ensures that 7.2 million of the poorest families in Ethiopia get enough food and maintain a basic standard of living through the year, even during times of harvest failure. In 2007, DFID gave £2 million to the International Committee for the Red Cross emergency appeal, and £4 million for emergency assistance through a Humanitarian Response Fund, managed by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Water Sanitation and Infrastructure

We are contributing £75 million towards a World Bank project which supports the Ethiopian Government's plans for improving water, sanitation and hygiene. Our finance will help an extra 3.2 million people get safe water. We are helping the Ministry of Water Resources through an evidence based research programme and the secondment of a policy adviser. DFID is also providing around £1 million per year to improve rural access roads.

Making progress against the Millennium Development Goals...

Poverty indicators in Ethiopia are improving, although not fast enough to ensure that any will hit the Millennium Development Goal targets by 2015. Some improvements are:

- In 2006/07 there were 14 million children in primary school (over 70% now in school).
- Maternal mortality fell from 871 per 100,000 live births in 2000 to 673 in 2005.
- The rate at which young people became infected with HIV declined from 0.64% in 1998 to 0.41% in 2005.
- Deaths in children under five years old fell from 166 per 1000 live births in 2000 to 123 per 1,000 in 2005.
- There were no epidemics of malaria in 2006/07, and new malaria cases fell by 50% in just two years.
- In 2006/07, 52% of the population has access to safe drinking water supply, up from 35% two years earlier.

For more information about DFID's work in Ethiopia please visit www.dfid.gov.uk.

If you are a journalist and wish to know more about DFID and its work to reduce poverty in Africa please call DFID press office on 0207 023 0600