

# PROJECT COUNTRY: ETHIOPIA



Capital:	Addis Ababa
Size:	1.1 million km <sup>2</sup> (27.5 x the size of Switzerland)
Inhabitants:	85 million (11 x the population of Switzerland)
Languages:	Amharic (official language), Tigrinya, Oromo, Somalian, Arabic, other local languages, English
Ethnicities:	around 80 ethnicities, among them 28% Oromo and Amhara, 7% Tigray, also Afar, Somali, Benshangui, Gambella, Harrar, 45 Sudanese tribes, < 1% Italian minority



## Economic, social and political situation

Ethiopia has been cultivated for 2000 years, making it the oldest cultivated land in Africa. At the same time, Ethiopia's domestic unrest and civil war which led to the secession of Eritrea means that this famine-stricken republic is one of the poorest countries in the world. In respect of net per capita income (\$900 p.a.) and of the UN's Human Development Index (0.41 / 1), Ethiopia occupies one of the lowest ranks. Over three quarters of Ethiopia's inhabitants live on less than 2 US dollars a day, 99.4% of the urban population lives in slums and infectious diseases are widespread – 4.4% of the population are infected with HIV/Aids, for instance. The tropical disease malaria is responsible for around 27% of all deaths in hospitals. Poor healthcare, extremely restricted access to water, recurring droughts, population growth and political tension are all important factors hindering development..

Although this multi-ethnic state has very long-standing historical roots, a sense of unified identification of the people with their country is still lacking. The understanding of what Ethiopia actually stands for differs greatly among ethnicities.



*Almost half of Ethiopia's inhabitants are under 14 years of age*



*Only a small proportion of fertile land is used*

## Geography and agriculture

Ethiopia is the second highest country in Africa and correspondingly, large areas of the country are in the highlands of Abyssinia. In the higher strata it is rather cool – the average midday temperature in Addis Ababa (2400m) lies between 8 and 24°C. – while below 1800m a hot, tropical climate prevails.

Agriculture occupies a central role in the Ethiopian economy. Over 80% of the population is involved in this sector. Subsistence farming dominates; meaning crop cultivation and animal husbandry are carried out for use at home. Although almost 70% of land area is potentially suitable for



*A lack of access to clean water, periods of drought and outmoded cultivation methods worsen the country's food situation.*

agricultural use, only 11% is cultivated. Coffee is grown for export alongside subsistence farming. The inadequate water supply – only 22% of the population have access to clean water, overuse of the land and outmoded cultivation methods lead to worsening soil fertility and also bring the risk of desertification.

## Biovision in Ethiopia

Since 2001 Biovision has supported numerous projects in Ethiopia, which have as their goal the dissemination of ecological methods to improve health, generate income and promote sustainable agriculture and land use.

Biovision currently supports the following projects in Ethiopia:

1. BV-AH-04 Tsetse Rollback via Biofarming in Assosa
2. BV-PH-04 Sebeta Biofarm for the Blind
3. BV-TS-01 Farmers Academy Ethiopia

## Did you know?

The state owns all land in Ethiopia, which it lets out on long-term leases.

## Eine Zukunft für alle, natürlich



*Successful tsetse control using environmentally friendly colour and scent traps in the project "Tsetse Rollback via Biofarming in Assosa".*