

PROFILE: ETHIOPIA



Ethiopia, in the Horn of Africa, was an empire until 1974. Apart from a brief occupation by Italy under Mussolini, Ethiopia has never been colonised. A military coup in 1974 deposed Emperor Haile Selassie and marked the beginning of a long civil conflict, peaking in the Red Terror of 1977/78. In May 1991, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front overthrew the socialist government, and the country has stabilised since.

In the late 1990s, Ethiopia was at war with Eritrea over the demarcation of their border.

In the West, Ethiopia became shorthand for the horrors of starvation during the 1984 famine, as shocking images beamed around the world and Live Aid was launched in response.

In some years, Ethiopia has produced enough food to feed its population, but policy, conflict, poverty, lack of education and lack of infrastructure prevent supplies reaching the people who need them. Malaria is a major health issue, as is HIV, which is exacerbated by gender inequality.

Lack of clean, safe water sources presents another health risk. Many water sources are unreliable, contaminated and a long way from home. There is also a lack of knowledge about the links between water, excreta and disease, leading to poor hygiene practices and poor health.

The Horn of Africa has been identified as one of the world's most vulnerable regions with regard to climate change.

TEARFUND'S WORK IN ETHIOPIA

In Ethiopia, Tearfund works with six partners, including the Kale Heywet Church, the Meserete Kristos Church and the Ethiopian Full Believers Gospel Church. We are mobilising churches to take part in integral mission, which gives people the opportunity to participate in their own development and transform their lives economically, socially, politically and spiritually.

Using this approach, Tearfund supports partners to address issues such as health, HIV, food security and literacy holistically, in the context of the family, church and community. One example of this approach is self-help groups, where savings and loans allow people to start small businesses to generate income for their families. We also run programmes to improve water and sanitation as well as providing education on hygiene.

Helping churches and communities to reduce their vulnerability to disasters, such as droughts or floods, is a priority for Tearfund in Ethiopia. We are working in particular with four partners to improve their capability to mitigate food shortages.

- **Pray for people living in poverty in Ethiopia.**
- **Please pray for our partners as they seek to help others.**
- **And pray for the country of Ethiopia, for justice, peace, good health and hope for everyone.**