

# FOOD CRISIS ETHIOPIA



## FAST FACTS



**Ethiopia** is located in the horn of Africa. It is a landlocked country split by the Great Rift Valley. During 2015-2016, the country experienced its worst drought ever recorded in the highland areas. As a result, lowland areas are now also experiencing drought.



**Capital:** Addis Ababa



**Population:** 99.39 million



**Total Land Area:** 426,400 square miles



**Borders:** Ethiopia is a landlocked country and has borders with 6 countries including; Kenya, Sudan, South Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti and Somalia.



**Official Language:** Amharic and Oromo. There are also over 80 additional traditional languages spoken in Ethiopia.



**Religion(s):** Ethiopian Orthodox, Muslim and other indigenous religions



**Currency:** Ethiopian Birr



**Climate:** The climate is varied due to three environmental climate zones: cool, temperate and hot.



**Terrain:** The terrain of Ethiopia comprises of a highland complex of mountains and dissected plateaus which is divided by the Great Rift Valley.



**Natural Resource(s):** Limestone, gemstones, oil, gas



**National Day:** 12<sup>th</sup> December (Jamhuri or Independence Day)



**National Symbol:** Lion



**National Anthem:** Ee Mungu Nguvu Yetu



**Key Landmarks:** Amboseli National Park, Lake Nakuru, Lamu Island and Mount Kenya National park



**Wildlife:** Elephant, buffalo, cheetah, leopard, lion, rhinoceros, giraffe, hyena, jackal, antelope, warthog, wildebeest, baboon, monkey, zebra, hippopotamus

# ETHIOPIA: A COUNTRY IN THE GRIP OF A MAJOR FOOD CRISIS.



- 1935**  **ITALY INVADES ETHIOPIA** FOR THE SECOND TIME
- 1941**  BRITISH AND COMMONWEALTH TROOPS ALONG WITH **ETHIOPIAN RESISTANCE MOVEMENT** HELP **RESTORE POWER** TO OUSTED EMPEROR HAILE SELASSIE
- 1963**  ORGANISATION OF **AFRICAN UNITY** HOLDS ITS FIRST CONFERENCE IN ADDIS ABABA
- 1973-1974**  **200,000 PEOPLE DIE** IN THE PROVINCE OF WOLLO AS A RESULT OF FOOD CRISIS
- 1984-1985**  THE **WORST FOOD CRISIS IN MORE THAN A DECADE STRIKES**. FOOD AID SENT FROM A NUMBER OF WESTERN COUNTRIES.
- 1994**  NEW CONSTITUTION **DIVIDES ETHIOPIA** INTO ETHNICALLY-BASED REGIONS
- 1999**  **WAR BREAKS OUT** BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND ERITREA
- 2006**  **ETHIOPIAN TROOPS ENTER SOMALIA** AND **ENGAGE IN FIGHTING** AS THE PRIME MINISTER STATED ISLAMISTS HAD DECLARED WAR ON HIS COUNTRY
- 2011**  DROUGHT IS DECLARED IN JULY RESULTING IN **MILLIONS OF PEOPLE REQUIRING EMERGENCY AID** INCLUDING REFUGEES FROM SOMALIA
- 2016**  WORST **DROUGHT** TO AFFECT THE COUNTRY IN DECADES RESULTS IN **SEVERE FOOD SHORTAGES**  
 ACCORDING TO THE UNITED NATIONS MORE THAN **20 MILLION PEOPLE IN EAST AFRICA**, PARTICULARLY IN ETHIOPIA, SOUTH SUDAN, KENYA AND SOMALIA **ARE AT RISK OF STARVATION**. THIS EFFECTIVELY TRANSLATES AS THE **GREATEST GLOBAL CRISIS** SINCE 1945 AND THE AFTERMATH OF WORLD WAR 2  
 NEARLY **THREE MILLION PEOPLE** DO NOT HAVE RELIABLE ACCESS TO FOOD. THIS FIGURE INCLUDES OVER 300,000 CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OLD  
 THE UN ESTIMATES THAT THE **NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE** WHO ARE ACUTELY MALNOURISHED WILL RISE TO 850,000 IN 2017  
 TO COMPOUND THIS FURTHER AN **ARMYWORM INFESTATION** HAS SPREAD THROUGH CROPS IN SIX REGIONS ACROSS ETHIOPIA AND CONTINUES TO **CAUSE HAVOC**. THE MAIN MAIZE GROWING AREAS OF THE COUNTRY ARE IN NEED OF PROTECTION TO MITIGATE FURTHER DEVASTATION OF CROPS



## KEY WORDS

- **Drought:** a prolonged period of abnormally low rainfall, leading to a shortage of water
- **Food Insecurity:** being without reliable access to a sufficient amount of affordable, nutritious food
- **Malnutrition:** lack of proper nutrition, caused by not having enough to eat, not eating enough of the right things, or being unable to use the food that one does eat
- **Starvation:** suffering or death caused by lack of food
- **Armyworm:** an African moth which is capable of decimating entire crops over the space of a few short weeks
- **El Nino:** an abnormal weather pattern that is caused by the warming of the Pacific Ocean near the equator



The world must work together to help achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1, 2 and 13 in Ethiopia

## GOAL 1 ZERO POVERTY

What can be done to ensure that people have access to adequate housing and a sustainable income?  
End poverty in all its forms everywhere



## GOAL 2 ZERO HUNGER



What can be done to ensure that every child has sufficient and nutritious food in order to grow up healthy?  
End hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

## GOAL 13 CLIMATE ACTION

What can be done to accelerate the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions?  
Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



## DROUGHT IN ETHIOPIA

In 2016 Ethiopia experienced the effects of the worst **El Niño** impact in the past 50 years with the southern and southeastern parts of the country most effected.

A combined effort on the part of the Ethiopian government and donor partners contributed to averting a major humanitarian catastrophe. The impacts of climate change have never been more evident.



A group of children collecting water in the Amhara region, Ethiopia 2016.  
Photo Kieran McConville



# What are Concern doing?



Concern Worldwide has been working on the ground in Ethiopia since 1973 and is currently working with individuals and communities by building resilience based programmes in response to the effects of continued erratic weather patterns, including severe droughts and floods. In certain parts of the country, Ethiopia remains vulnerable to food shortages as a result of this.

The period 2015-2016 bore witness to Ethiopia's worst ever drought in recorded history. This drought was experienced in the highland areas and has since progressed to the lowland areas of the country.

Concern's emergency response work in Ethiopia significantly increased in 2016 with 700 staff reaching over 20? million people in 34 districts (woredas) spread across 4 regions of the country. Interventions included providing emergency nutrition and distributing non-food-items to those affected by flooding in particular.

2017 has seen nearly 6 million people facing food insecurity and in need of emergency food assistance as a result. This has led to the further expansion of Concern's work in additional regions across the country. Concern is working in conjunction with government programmes to provide nutrition and health education, water and sanitation projects, and livelihoods' support and training.



## Want to Learn MORE?

Concern Worldwide's Active Citizenship Team run workshops for students during the academic year. If you are interested in exploring and critically examining global issues in the classroom please contact us on [schools@concern.net](mailto:schools@concern.net)

 Follow us on twitter @**concernactive**

 Follow us on Instagram @**concernactive**

 Add us on Snapchat @**concern.net**

### READ



'Land restoration in Ethiopia: 'This place was abandoned... This is incredible to me'

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2017/jun/21/land-restoration-in-ethiopia-this-place-was-abandoned-this-is-incredible-to-me>

### WATCH



**Videos** of the programmes we deliver and projects we are working on

### ACT



Raise awareness about Ethiopia in your school and local community

WRITTEN BY: Geraldine Carroll - Active Citizenship, Concern Worldwide