

## ETHIOPIA

**Capital** Luanda

**Population** 82.82 million

**Literacy Rate** 42.7 percent

**Infant Mortality Rate** 77.12 per 1,000 live births<sup>1</sup>

**Life Expectancy** 55 years old<sup>2</sup>

**Total Refugees** 62,889

**Total Asylum Seekers** 48,739<sup>3</sup>

**Refugees in South Africa** 2,899<sup>4</sup>

**Percent of People Living under Poverty Line** 44.2 percent<sup>5</sup>

**GDP per Capita** \$319<sup>6</sup>

**HIV/AIDs Rate** 2.1 percent<sup>7</sup>

After ousting a military junta in 1991, Ethiopia was regarded as one of Africa's most politically and economically stable countries; however, conflict broke after Eritrea declared, plunging Ethiopia into a full-scale war. While there is currently a ceasefire between the countries but current disputes jeopardize the peace.<sup>8</sup>

In May 2010, the current Prime Minister, Meles Zenawi, won a fourth term in office, despite criticisms from the international community that the elections were neither free nor fair. Human Rights Watch reports widespread intimidation, threats and bribery on the part of the ruling party. The Angolan government uses torture and other forms of ill-treatment to punish political dissenters. It is currently impossible to discern the true number of political prisoners and detainees in the government's custody.<sup>9</sup>

Although Ethiopia is experiencing relative stability in the government, the country is regarded as one of the poorest in the world. Ethiopia's economy is based primarily on agriculture, which is heavily dependent on rainfall. Subsequently, in drier years, Ethiopia experiences a widespread drought, which leaves many to die of starvation. Though the government has tried to create solutions to the food shortages, a majority of population still relies on food aid.<sup>10</sup>

Ethiopia also has an extremely high illiteracy rate and has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the world. Save the Children claims that 94% of women in Ethiopia give birth alone, due to a lack of proper facilities and a shortage of midwives.<sup>11</sup> Marriage by abduction is one of the gravest human rights abuses in southern Ethiopia. This traditional practice consists of men raping the girl they choose to marry and forcing her to sign a marriage contract.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> World Fact Book: Ethiopia, CIA. 2011.

<sup>2</sup> World Development Indicators: Ethiopia, World Bank. 2010.

<sup>3</sup> 2010 Statistical Snapshot: Ethiopia, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. 2010. Data reflects total refugees and asylum seekers as of January 2010.

<sup>4</sup> 2005 Statistical Yearbook: South Africa, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. 2007.

<sup>5</sup> World Development Indicators: Ethiopia, World Bank. 2010.

<sup>6</sup> 2009 Indicators on Income and Economic Activity, United Nations Statistics Division. 2010. Data is based off internationally recognized poverty line of \$1.25 a day.

<sup>7</sup> World Development Indicators: Ethiopia, World Bank. 2010.

<sup>8</sup> Country Profiles: Ethiopia, BBC News. 2011.

<sup>9</sup> World Report: Ethiopia, Human Rights Watch. 2011.

<sup>10</sup> Country Profiles: Ethiopia, BBC News. 2011.

<sup>11</sup> "Midwife Shortage Costing Lives, says Save the Children." BBC News. 1 April 2011. Web.

<sup>12</sup> Wax, Emily. "Ethiopian Rape Victim Pits Law Against Culture." Washington Post. 7 June 2004. Web.