



Ethiopia

Country Fact Sheet 2025

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International Organization For Migration (IOM) Germany

Charlottenstraße 68
10117 Berlin
Germany
T. +49 911 43 000
F. +49 911 43 00 260

iom-germany@iom.int
<https://germany.iom.int/>

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For further information on voluntary return and reintegration, please visit the information portal www.ReturningfromGermany.de, or contact your local return and reintegration office.

© IOM July 2025 Information may be outdated due to dynamic developments in the country.

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1 Health Care

General information on health care

There are four ways to get health care service in Ethiopia, the first one is getting a health service from government health centres or hospitals with fair price/for free-if the returnee presents a certificate that testifies the individual is poor to cover his medical cost. The letter is from his/her kebele (lowest administrative unit in government system). The second option is that returnee can get health care service from private clinics/hospitals with higher service fees to be covered by his/her own self. The third option is that the returnee would join a private insurance company, which provides health insurance services. The insurance companies provide health insurances with full health coverage. To qualify for a life insurance policy that has high rewards, the insurance company checks the health condition of the person and fixes the premium accordingly. The last option comes in the form of a new initiative by the Ethiopian Ministry of Health to establish and implement a working health insurance system.

The government of Ethiopia has health insurance system known as "Tenamedhin. There are two types of health insurance systems in the country. The first type of health insurance system is Community Based Health Insurance (CBHI), which comprises the community engaged in the informal sectors of the economy. The second type of health insurance system is Social Health Insurance (SHI), which comprises the population engaged in the formal sectors of the economy. To enroll in this system individuals or households pay small contributions or prepayments to get health services at the time of

illness and to protect them from catastrophic health expenditures. In other words, health insurance is a prepayment system where small contributions are pooled together to insure citizens' access to health services by avoiding financial barrier. The private insurance companies provide health insurances with full health coverage. As an in-patient, a customer of the service benefits from complete coverage, even for some time after leaving the hospital. Included is also the possibility of arranging treatment abroad. The Ethiopian health sector provides services such as immunization, counselling, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis testing and treatment, as well as mother-child, antenatal care, delivery, transmission prevention free of charge. Except the above services, other services are provided with payment

Availability of medical facilities and doctors

There are private and state-owned hospitals in Ethiopia, on a woreda or district level, the primary level of care is comprised of a health posts, health centres and a primary hospital. The secondary level of care available are general hospitals, followed by specialized hospitals in the tertiary level. There are private and state-owned hospitals in Ethiopia, mostly located in the capital Addis Ababa. The specialized referral medical unit in Ethiopia is called Black Lion Hospital. The telephone number is + 251 1 111 1111. The doctor-to-patient ratio in Ethiopia remains critically low, with recent estimates suggesting roughly one physician for every 5,843 people. While there has been some improvement in recent years,

1 Health Care

with the ratio moving from one doctor per 20,000 people to the current figure, it still represents a significant challenge for the country's healthcare system.

Admission to medical facilities

To be admitted to the health centres or hospitals the admission should first be authorized by the doctors. No further requirements are needed. However, the patient has to pay a service fee.

Availability and costs of medication

Please use the below link to learn more about the available drugs and costs of medication in Ethiopia:

<https://haiweb.org/storage/2016/12/Price-Availability-Local-vs-Imported-Meds-in-Ethiopia.pdf>

Access for returnees

Eligibility and requirements: All type of insurances are open for all based on respective categories of work, either formal or informal.

Registration procedure: To enroll to public health insurance, the returnee should apply to Ethiopian Health Insurance Agency for him/herself and/or at household level and pay a specified (usually quite small) contribution every month.

Required documents: Local Kebele ID card, Employment ID or national ID.



Photo: IOM/ Olivia Headon 2019

2 Labour Market

General information on labour market

In Ethiopia, the vast majority of people were absorbed by the main sector of the country's economy, i.e., the agricultural sector. Total labour force in Ethiopia was reported at 51,449,891 in 2017, according to the World Bank collection of development indicators, compiled from officially recognized sources. The employment-to-population ratio in the rural areas is higher (84.4%) than in the urban areas (61.6%). This is mainly due to the huge employment generation by the agriculture sector in Ethiopia (MoLSA, 2015). The minimum age for wage labor is 14 years, and various laws protect children between the ages of 14 to 18 years, including restrictions that they may not work more than 7 hours per day. According to the 2013 labor force survey, unemployment is higher among women both in urban and rural areas, in terms of age composition, unemployment is essentially a youth phenomenon. Youths in urban areas are vulnerable to the problem of unemployment. The findings of the 2013 Labor Force Survey indicated that youth unemployment rate on average was almost 3 times greater than that of adults.

Finding employment

Learn more about employment opportunities for Ethiopians here: Ethiopian Ministry of Labour and Skills (MOLS) <http://www.mols.gov.et/> The links stated below lead to web sites publishing advertisements of vacancies in Ethiopia:

- <http://www.ethiojobs.net>
- <http://www.4icj.com/et>
- <http://www.employethiopia.com>
- <http://www.ezega.com>

- <http://www.thereporterjobs.com>
- <https://reliefweb.int>
- <https://etcareers.com>

Unemployment assistance

In Ethiopia, there is no unemployment support system that assists individuals with no employment opportunities. Employment via the various government offices is the major absorber of the large number of unemployed youth in the country. These public employment services are provided through regional offices linked to the Ethiopian Ministry of Labour and Skills (MOLS) <http://www.mols.gov.et/> The Micro and Small Enterprises (MSE) Development Agencies in all areas of the country, along with the combined engagement of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutes and the Micro Credit institutions, have the responsibility of organizing the unemployed youth, training them, and engaging them in various areas of work, mainly in the booming construction sector and construction materials production.

Further education and training

To browse the possibilities open to returnees, please refer to the website:

- <https://www.moe.gov.et/>

2 Labour Market

Access for returnees

Eligibility and requirements: The returnee should register as unemployed in his local kebele.

Registration procedure: Please contact the local kebele office.

Required documents: Valid ID card or national ID card.



Photo: Unsplash 2018/ Ibrahim Rifath

3 Housing

General information on housing

Generally housing is very expensive in Ethiopia. The high costs apply to both buying and renting. Just for vulnerable cases IOM Ethiopia provides a temporary accommodation in IOM's Assisted Voluntary Returnees' transit centres in Addis Ababa or through its partner organization which provides temporary shelter assistance. These transit centres help returnees prepare for their final destination. Migrants who arrive at these transit centres must be registered, profiled and briefed by IOM staff. Nonetheless, at these transit centres or shelters migrants are provided with basic assistance, and the time of stay cannot exceed one week. Except for this temporary accommodation service, there is no organization that provides housing assistance. The cost of housing decreases when you go out of Addis Ababa

In general, two options exist; renting one room in a compound where the owner is or alternately to rent a condominium. For condominium houses the price is as below:

- Studio, the cost ranges from ETB 10,000-ETB13,000,
- One bedroom, ETB 13,000-ETB18,000 f
- Two bedrooms, ETB 25,000-ETB 30,000.

Some links to assess the housing price in Ethiopia:

- <https://jiji.com.et/addis-ababa/houses-apartments-for-rent>
- <https://realethio.com/>

- <http://www.expatriate.com/en/housing/africa/ethiopia/houses-for-rent.html>
- <http://www.ethiopianproperties.com/>

Finding accommodation

Many people chose to use brokers and real estate agents. Most of these brokers real estate agents do not operate from a permanent office. They are normally reached informally either at their private home or via mobile phone. Brokers often charge 25% of the first payment of the rent for their work. One of the few important companies in the housing sector can be contacted at the following address:

Hello Dellala
Tel: 8104 (only in country)
+251 963 140 626 (mobile)
Habitat New Flower Homes
PLC real-estate Developer

Social grants for housing

The Ethiopian government started a housing project in 2013. The registration for this program ended in 2013, so new returnees will not be eligible for this program.

Access for returnees

Temporary housing assistance: None.

Social housing: None.

Required documents: Does not apply.

3 Housing



Photo: Unsplash / Moti Abebe 2019

4 Social Welfare

Social welfare system

In Ethiopia the existing welfare service are limited and mainly centered around the health needs of the population, the needs of handicap persons and homeless children and community development effort. The majority of these services are government sponsored and supported, although privately organized social welfare services are being to appear.

Pension system

Pensions apply for public servants and private organization employees. A certain amount of the salary is deducted every month and accumulated over the service year of the employee and will be paid after retirement as a pension. The amount of the pension depends on the salary. The Ethiopian pension scheme consists of four different pensions (Source: Public Servants Pension Proclamation 714/2011 and Private Organization Employees Pension Proclamation No. 715/2001): Based on the amount of saving history an individual gets monthly payment/salary after retirement.

1. Retirement Pension and Gratuity
2. Invalidity Pension and Gratuity
3. Survivors Pension and Gratuity
4. Employment Injury and Gratuity.

Access for returnees

Eligibility and requirements: There is no known requirement to be assisted in the welfare system of Ethiopia, Returnees in need of assistance can apply in their respective Kebele locality.

Registration procedure: Approach the Kebele (lowest administration unit) and apply in person.

Required documents: Kebele ID card or national ID card is the basic document for registration.

Vulnerable groups

In the Ethiopian context, vulnerable-groups include people with disabilities (Mental or physical) women, pregnant women, single mothers and lactating mothers, old persons, people with HIV, victims of trafficking, children <18 years of age, ethnic and religious minorities. There are governmental and non-governmental organizations which provide support for vulnerable migrants, returnees, especially for sexual abuse survivors and victims of trafficking. Provision of shelter, rehabilitation, psychosocial support and reintegration are some of the assistances provided by those organizations. Some such organizations and actors in this field are the AGAR charitable Society, GSA (Good Samaritan Association), Nigat, and others.

4 Social Welfare



Photo: IOM/ Olivia Headon 2018

5 Education

General information on education

Ethiopia's universities, colleges and technical institutions turn out professionals, semi-professionals and technically skilled workforce necessary for the country's development. Thousands of primary and secondary schools lay the foundation for human resource development. In October 2023, Ethiopia's minister of education, Berhanu Nega, disclosed several shocking figures on the outcomes of the 12th-grade national examination. Of the 3,106 schools that administered the 12th grade (secondary school leaving) examination for the 2022/23 academic year, 43% reported that none of their students had passed.

Additionally, for the second consecutive year, more than 96% of students who participated in the national school leaving examination scored less than the mark (an average of 50%) required to pass. This means that hundreds of thousands of students could not qualify for university education.

The Technical and Vocational Education and Training Policy are also aiming at providing the appropriate workforce that contributes to the country's economic development. Currently various international schools and national private schools offer kindergarten, elementary, junior high school, and secondary education at international standards; among these are International, English, French, German, Italian, Greek, Swedish and Indian community schools. For additional information on educational and research institutions, academic resources and courses in Ethiopia, please visit: www.Ethiopianeducation.com.

Cost, loans, and stipends

In Ethiopia education is for free in public schools until grade 12. However, in private schools the cost is expensive with good quality. In private schools the payment ranges from USD 100-USD 250 per month and in most schools one year has four terms. Concerning universities, there is a cost sharing programme, students got the education without payment but after the graduation and the student got a job, he/she will pay the cost on the monthly basis deducted from the salary. However, in the case of private universities, these need private payment; the approximate fee for one academic year is USD 500.

Approval and verification of foreign diplomas

To approve/continue education in country of origin, the returnee should bring the following listed documents: A letter of enrolment from the institute they were attending, a transcript and list of courses already taken during the course of enrolment at the university or college in the host country, an official recognition of the Degree or Diploma by the Ministry.

Access for returnees

Registration procedure: There is no special registration procedure for returnees. However, if returnees have started an education in the host country, they have to present their school certificate, which needs authentication by the host government and Ethiopian Embassy in host the country. Usually, the registration for school begins in May and ends in June.

5 Education

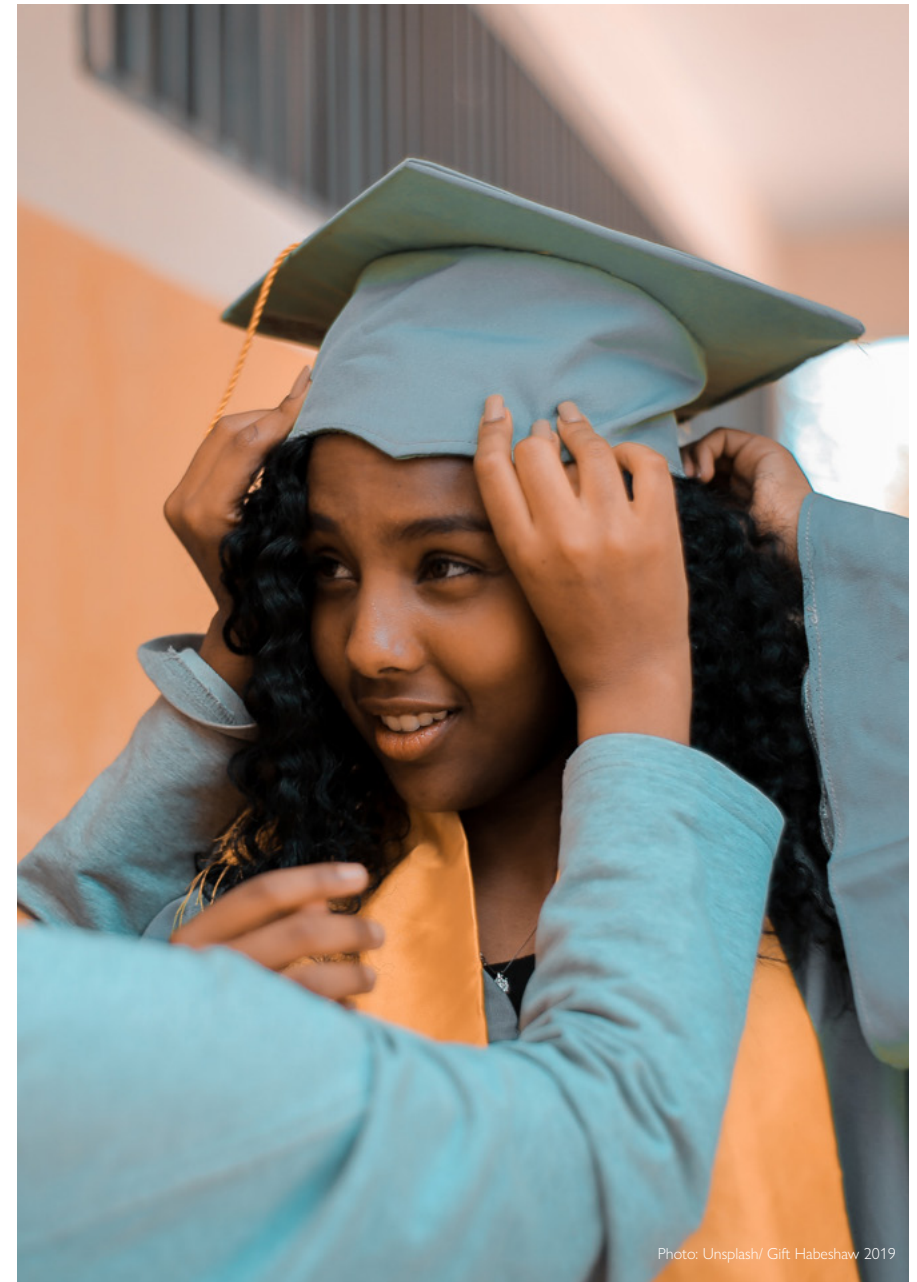


Photo: Unsplash/ Gift Habeshaw 2019

6 children

General information on children

Ethiopia has a young profile. A little less than half of its population, or about 49.5 million children, are under 18 years old, with 15.2 million children under five years old.⁹ The most recent demographic data on ethnic, linguistic and faith groups comes from the 2007 census which is not disaggregated by age or sex. The number of children who belong to these groups is therefore unknown. Ethiopia ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1991, its optional protocols in 2014, and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in 2002. The 1994 Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia has one article devoted to the protection of the rights and welfare of children. Ministry of Women and Social Affairs coordinates child rights and child protection nationally. While Ethiopia has made significant progress in reducing maternal and under-five mortality and combating HIV, malaria and other diseases, challenges remain. In general, children in Ethiopia are multi-dimensionally poor, meaning they are deprived of basic goods and services in at least three dimensions, says a new report released by the Central Statistical Agency and UNICEF. Evidence shows that maternal and child deaths have been in decline since 2000. Yet, maternal, and newborn mortality remain unacceptably high. Lack of access to quality antenatal, obstetric, and postnatal health services, especially in rural areas, hampers further progress in reducing maternal deaths. Reducing newborn deaths within the first 28 days remains a challenge. Every day, 480 children dying every day of easily preventable diseases.

Adolescent girls are highly affected by Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) and child marriage. The country has the second highest number of girls and women in the world having undergone FGM/C, with the absolute number of girls and women (aged 15–49 years old) being 23.8 million.

The Ministry of Women and Children coordinates child rights and child protection nationally, however, there are international and local non-governmental actors dealing with children's well-being and rights. Almost all organizations have programmes for children but some organizations are specialized on children only, such as UNICEF, Save the Children, OPRIFS.

(Non-) governmental actors dealing with children's well-being and rights

UNICEF works to support national efforts to ensure the realization of the rights of children and women through improved child survival, development and protection

Save the Children Ethiopia remains committed to ensuring the realization of Save the Children's dual mandate of equally supporting both development and humanitarian works. We work in seven main programmatic sectors in Ethiopia targeting vulnerable children and their families mostly in rural and remote, underserved areas.

OPRIFS (Organization for Prevention, Rehabilitation & Integration of Female Street Children) focuses on the promotion of safer migration of young women and girls.

6 Children

OPRIFS seeks to improve the economic livelihood of the poorest women and girls through self-help groups. They specifically reach out to those currently in domestic work who are amongst those likely to be migrating, to negotiate improved working conditions with employers. OPRIFS also provides specialist support services to returnees, organizes community dialogues and strengthens the collaboration of relevant stakeholders to improve the identification of returnees and potential migrant women and girls.

ChildFund Ethiopia focuses on child and maternal health services, nutrition, child protection, access to early childhood development services, orphan support, economic strengthening, water and sanitation, and parent and caregiver education.

Access for returnees

Entry requirements: If the returnee is an unaccompanied migrant child, he/she will be hosted in IOM's transit center until the family tracing is finalized, then he/she will be escorted by social worker and reunified to his/her family. This will be done in coordination with UNICEF and the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs.

Immediate steps upon return: In Ethiopia every child at age seven will enroll in grade one except if there are special circumstances. Most schools have an entrance exam to receive a new student for any grade. If the returnees have attended school in Germany, they have to present their school certificate and the certificate should be authenticated by Ethiopian Embassy in Germany.



7 Contacts

Association for Women's Sanctuary and Development (AWSAD)

Addis Ababa, Adama, Bole sub city, Woreda 4, H. No140
Tel.: +251116672290
Email: awsad950@gmail.com

Good Samaritan Association Addis Ababa, Gulele subcity 01 woreda, Shiromeda

Tel.: +251 111 242 952
Email: goodsamaritan1996@gmail.com
Internet: https://gsaethiopia.org

Agar Ethiopian Charitable Society Charity

Addis Ababa, Kirkos sub city, House no.383
Tel.: +251 930098695
Email: info@agarethiopia.com
Internet: https://agarethiopia.org/

Association for Forced Migrants (AFM)

Forced migration
Addis Ababa, Nefassilk Lafto Sub City, Woreda 3
Tel.: +251-113718712
Email: aadr@ethionet.et
Internet: www.afmethiopia.org

African Network for Prevention and Protection of Children Against Maltreatment and Neglect (ANPPCAN)

Child protection
Addis Ababa, Kirkos Sub City, Woreda 18, H.No. 743
Tel.: +251 911 640 739
Email: anppcan-eth@ethionet.et
Internet: www.anppcanethiopia.org

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

NGO
Bole Sub-City, K. 12/13 H. No. New, Addis Ababa
Tel.: +251-11 647 83 00
Email: addis_abeba.add@icrc.org
Internet: www.icrc.org

Organization for Prevention, Rehabilitation and Integration of Female Street Children (OPRIFS)

Children
Addis Ababa
Tel.: +25191112365410
Email: info@oprifs.org.et

UNICEF, Children Opposite German House, Addis Ababa Ethiopia

Tel.: +25115184013
Email: ethcommunication@unicef.org
Internet: www.unicef.org

Union of Ethiopian Women Charitable Associations (UEWCA)

Children
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Tel.: +251 911 407 136
Email: uewca@yahoo.com
Internet: www.uewca.org.et

Ethiopian Ministry of Health Health

Sudan Road (Ministry of Health), 6th floor
P.O. Box 1234, Addis Ababa
Tel.: +251 115 517 011

Bureau of Labour and Skill

Labour administration
Behind Lambert Ethiopian Technical and Vocational Institute
Tel.: +251 116 671792
Email: info@Mols.gov.et

Ethiopian Insurance Corporation

Insurance
Addis Ababa
Tel.: +251 11 551 24 00
Email: eic.mdxvs@ethionet.et
Internet: http://www.eic.com.et

Benishangui- Gumuz Micro Finance

Microfinance
Assosa
Tel.: +251 57-775 0 666
E-mail: bgmf@ethionet.et

Adeday Micro finance Microfinance

Mekelle
Tel.: +251 914 543 004

Save the Children

Children
Tel.: +251 11 372 8455-65
Fax: +251 11 372 8045
ethiopia.savethechildren@savethechildren.org

8 At a glance

Measures to be undertaken before return

- **Documents:** Make sure that he/she has a valid travel document. If the returnee does not have a valid passport or other travel document, he/she should contact the Embassy of Ethiopia in Germany for the issuance of a Laissez Passer. If the returnees have documents such as driving license, school certificates, diploma and degree, birth certificates, it should be authenticated by Ethiopian Embassy in the host country and respective ministries of the host country before their departure. Inform the Diplomatic/Consular Office of Ethiopia.
- **Accommodation:** Make sure that all necessary arrangements regarding permanent or temporary accommodation upon return are established.
- **Transportation:** Acquire all the necessary information concerning arrival details and onward transportation to the final destination.
- **Health:** Check vaccinations. Ethiopia requests yellow fever vaccination for entry. Bring medical history.
- **Security:** Due to the security concerns AVRR is fully suspended in the Tigray and Amhara regions and partially suspended in the Afar region. Therefore, IOM can not provide return assistance to those regions unless the migrant have a place to stay elsewhere out of these two regions after return. This can be done on case by case basis.

Measures to be undertaken immediately upon arrival

- **Entry:** Upon arrival the passport is stamped by the immigration office at Bole International Airport at the date of entry. The validity of the passport or other travel document has to be a minimum of six months until the collection of their second installment/getting local ID. for a valid ID.
- **ID:** The foremost thing to do after return is applying for national ID card. National /residential ID card is mandatory to process any activity in the country. Any returnee can apply for national ID without having to stay six months in the country. The service is available in any financial institution, banks, Ethiopian postal service offices and Vital event registration offices
- **Telephone:** The returnee can get a telephone number immediately after the return by applying local telecommunication in person.
- **Reintegration:** Returnees should contact the IOM office within one month following their return bringing their laissez-passer, and discuss about their reintegration plan. Assessing the market and feasible business opportunities will be also important for those who want to start micro business as part of their economic reintegration returnees. The cash assistance will be paid 6-8 months after their return.
- **Social integration:** Returnees should try to engage in different social activities (Idir, EkuB) that expedite their social integration.

9 Virtual Counselling

Migrant assistance in Ethiopia

The Virtual Counselling project is implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Germany. Migrants living in Germany who are considering a return are offered return and reintegration counselling by IOM staff in Ethiopia. Local IOM staff can be contacted in English and Amharic through online messengers.

This service aims to empower migrants to return in dignity by informing them about various return and reintegration options and assistance programmes.



Migrant assistance in Ethiopia

WhatsApp: +251 944 335 395
Thursdays from 12.30 to 3.30 p.m. (CET)