



U.S. Agency for International Development

Bureau for Global Health

COUNTRY PROFILE

HIV/AIDS

ETHIOPIA

By the end of 2002, a total of 1.7 million Ethiopians had died from AIDS-related causes. Ethiopia is now among the most heavily affected countries, with the sixth highest number of HIV/AIDS infections in the world. The current national HIV-prevalence estimate is 6.6 percent; thus, 3.0 million people in Ethiopia are presently living with HIV.

Population	70.7 million
Adult HIV Prevalence	6.6%
Estimated HIV Prevalence in Urban Areas	13.7%
Estimated HIV Prevalence in Rural Areas	3.7%
Estimated Population Living with HIV/AIDS	3.0 million
Estimated Number of Children with HIV/AIDS	230,000
Cumulative Number of AIDS Orphans	1.2 million

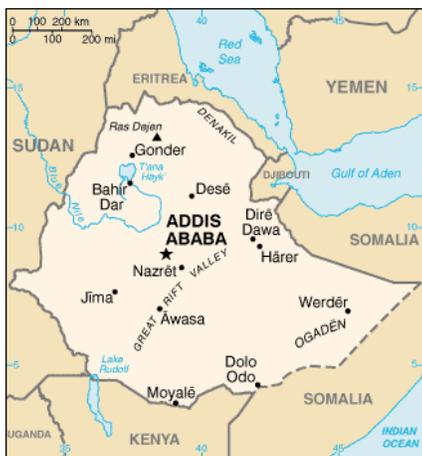
Source: USAID/Ethiopia

HIV infection rates of this magnitude severely affect Ethiopian health and economic progress. HIV/AIDS-related deaths negatively impact overall life expectancy. Despite anticipated improvements in the health sector, it is projected that with an HIV epidemic by 2014, Ethiopians' will live to 50 years rather than 59 years.

Heterosexual transmission is responsible for most infections. Highest infection rates are concentrated in the 15–24 age group. Within this group, prevalence among females is three times greater than that among males. Mother-to-child transmission contributes the second highest number of new HIV infections each year. In addition, a small number of new HIV cases are due to medical transmission, i.e., transfusions of contaminated blood and unsafe medical and injection practices.

Current sources estimate that the number of children orphaned by AIDS is between 990,000 and 1.2 million. The number of children living with HIV and AIDS is estimated to be 230,000. HIV/AIDS has reversed progress made in infant mortality and child survival.

Ethiopia is one of 14 countries designated for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are heavily engaged in expanding prevention and care programs to also include treatment.



Map of Ethiopia: PCL Map Collection, University of Texas

USAID RESPONSE

USAID first launched its HIV/AIDS programs in 1992. The Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, and nongovernmental organizations collaborated with USAID to carry out several pioneering activities. Included were efforts in information, education, communication, and behavior change; syndromic management of sexually transmitted infections; and the promotion of condom use. At present, HIV/AIDS activities are undertaken in all urban and peri-urban areas nationwide. Approximately 4 million people are covered, with additional programs and beneficiary numbers expanding rapidly.

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Current USAID activities include:

- **Capacity building** of Ethiopian governmental and nongovernmental organizations to implement HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and support interventions among vulnerable populations. Target groups include sex workers; out-of-school youth; high-risk men, including military, and male transport and migrant workers; orphans and vulnerable children; and people living with HIV/AIDS. Activities are multisectoral and are integrated into existing USAID programs.
- Active promotion of initiatives focused on **abstinence and faithfulness**.
- Support of **faith-based organizations** to raise HIV/AIDS awareness, and to increase care and support services for the general population.
- Provision of **community-based care** for people affected by HIV, their families, and AIDS orphans.
- Collaboration with the Addis Ababa Health Bureau at seven sites to establish 22 **voluntary counseling and testing** centers.
- Work on the **Djibouti/Addis Ababa Transport Corridor** to promote behavioral change communication, care and support, and condom social marketing services for sexually transmitted illness.
- The **prevention of mother-to-child transmission** through appropriate infant feeding, counseling, and prenatal and postnatal care.
- Support of a variety of **youth activities**, including the training of youth facilitators, setting up youth networks, and advocating for a National Youth HIV/AIDS Policy.
- Development of pilot interventions that will minimize the influence of **stigma** related to the use and provision of HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and support programs.
- Promotion of correct and consistent condom use through **social marketing** and increased awareness of HIV/AIDS, including increasing condom use for military personnel.
- Implementation of HIV/AIDS prevention programs in the **workplace and private sector**.
- Support of **advocacy** activities to increase awareness and commitment by high-level policymakers and leaders.
- Collaboration with the HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Office to finalize the **monitoring and evaluation** framework for the national response to AIDS in Ethiopia
- Addressing issues of **democracy and governance**, including the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS and the rights of children orphaned due to AIDS.

The USAID/Ethiopia HIV/AIDS program is undergoing rapid expansion as one of the 14 countries focused upon in the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. USAID/Ethiopia's HIV/AIDS program in the next five years (2003–2008) will focus on addressing high-risk behavior among target groups through the ABC approach (Abstain, Be faithful, or use a Condom); preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV; expanding care and treatment for people living with HIV and AIDS, including making antiretroviral therapy accessible; increasing support services for orphans and vulnerable children and working to improve the knowledge base for HIV/AIDS programming. Gender and stigma are important components that will be addressed throughout USAID/Ethiopia's HIV/AIDS program.

For More Information

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U.S. Embassy Website: <http://usembassy.state.gov/ethiopia/>

*Prepared for USAID by TvT Global Health and Development Strategies/Social & Scientific Systems, Inc.,
under The Synergy Project*

For more information, see http://www.usaid.gov/pop_health/aids or www.synergyaids.com.

December 2003

