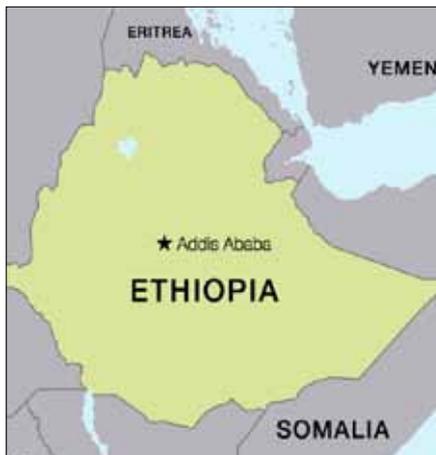


# OXFAM IN ETHIOPIA

In Ethiopia Oxfam focuses on sustainable livelihoods, water and sanitation, agriculture, climate research, gender and humanitarian responses



## THE SITUATION

Oxfam has been working in Ethiopia since 1974, and was one of the first Non Governmental Organisations to work in the country. Ethiopia is one of Africa's poorest nations – half of its 77 million people live below the poverty line. Child malnutrition is the highest in the world.

After more than three decades of civil war and external aggression, Ethiopia has been drained of its scarce resources, and had its agricultural production

interrupted. Large numbers of people have been forced to leave their homes. Drought, environmental degradation and conflict have been major characteristics of the country since the mid-1980s.

## IN NUMBERS\*

**1,200,000**  
total people helped



Photo: Tom Pietrasik

With Oxfam's support Bayush and 30 other women have set up a small co-operative which jointly owns and farms a plot of land where they grow crops such as sesame.

## SCALING UP AGRICULTURE

We help rural smallholder farmers, particularly women, facilitating private and public sector engagement to open up access to markets and high value commodity opportunities. Targeting 1 million smallholder farmers in Amhara, Oromiya, and Benishangul Gumuz regions, we work with more than 100,000 direct and 200,000 indirect beneficiaries.

Our agricultural programme focuses on the development of produce such as soy beans, sesame, coffee, bee-products, malt barley and horticultural crops. We work with local and international NGOs, national and regional level government institutions, research and academic institutions, co-operatives and marketing offices. We also work with the private sector, existing service institutions, training and research agencies as well as informal self-help groups of men and women.

## SUPPORTING PASTORALISTS

Ethiopian pastoralists represent 9 to 10 million people (12-13% of the population). These communities are particularly vulnerable because of marginalisation, harsh climatic conditions, poor basic services and conflict over pasture and water resources, coupled with recurrent droughts. To help, Oxfam has a 15-year pastoral programme in place.

Working with partners, we focus on education, health, market development, and small business co-operatives in the major pastoral areas of the country (Somali, Afar, South Omo zone in SNNPR and Borena zone in Oromia regions).



Photo: Maite Alvarez

A pastoralist woman collects water with her donkey in Ethiopia's Somali region

## HUMANITARIAN

About 85% of the population in Ethiopia live in rural areas and depend on agriculture to produce enough food to survive. Recurrent droughts, floods and conflicts have exacerbated their vulnerability, affecting large numbers of people each year.

We help communities become resilient, prepared for and able to cope with the recurrent droughts, through water development and by rehabilitating land, restocking animals and providing basic animal health service training to community members.

We also have programmes containing and preventing the spread of diarrhoea.

Below: people collect water from a newly built water point provided by Oxfam in Somali region



Photo: Helen O'Neill