



April 2022

# Oromia

## Regional Brief

### General Overview

Oromia is the largest region in Ethiopia and shares its borders with all regions of Ethiopia except Tigray.

The projected total population of Oromia is about 33.69 million<sup>1</sup>, over 85 per cent of which live in rural areas. Oromia is often referred to as the 'bread-basket' of the country as the majority of the population is engaged in agriculture with its crop production accounting for roughly 50 per cent of total national production. Coffee and khat (a mild stimulant) are the main cash crops produced in the Oromia region. In addition to agricultural production, people in pastoral and agro-pastoral areas rely on livestock and livestock products for their subsistence and as a source of income



Population data based on a projection from the 2007 census



**Total Population**  
22,536,999



**Capital: Addis Ababa**  
There are 20 administrative zones, eight town administrations 287 woredas and 46 towns.

# Programme Overview

## WASH

Access to improved water is expanding with about 17 per cent of water supply piped in the region. However, 28 per cent of households still spend more than 30 minutes fetching water. As in the rest of the country, the rate of households using improved sanitation facilities is improving very slowly with only 6 per cent of households using an improved toilet facility that is not shared with other households. Poor hygiene is another huge challenge contributing to disease outbreak, including diarrhoea.



**64%**

of households use improved drinking water sources.



**8%**

of households use improved sanitation facilities

## Health

Despite gains over the past decade, improving health outcomes for children and women is still a huge challenge. Since 2015, emergencies – intercommunal conflicts, droughts and disease outbreaks (measles, cholera and scabies) – have undermined health care. Although declining, child mortality remains high with 79 children under the age of 5 dying per 1,000 live births, mostly from preventable causes. Of particular concern is neonatal mortality which stands at 37 per 1,000 live births, falling only slightly between 2005 and 2016. Part of the problem is that 56 per cent of women give birth without any assistance during delivery. Vaccination rates are particularly low in the region.



The neonatal mortality rate is 37 per 1,000 live births.



The under-five mortality rate is 79 per 1,000 live births.



The infant mortality rate is 60 per 1,000 live births.

## Nutrition

There have been notable gains in nutrition, particularly in the community management of malnutrition in woredas prone to emergencies. Notably, over 90 per cent of the malnutrition cases have been managed in the community. Moreover, the recovery rate of children treated for severe acute malnutrition increased from 85 per cent in 2019 to 91 per cent in 2020. Vitamin A supplementation coverage has also increased from 72 per cent in 2019 to 85 per cent at the end of 2020. Yet, malnutrition among vulnerable groups remains high mostly due to poverty, poor sanitation leading to diarrhoeal diseases (including cholera), lack of knowledge, cultural norms and ongoing emergencies.



**35.6%** of children under 5 years of age are stunted.



**4.7%** of children under 5 years of age are wasted.



**6.1%** of children under 5 years of age are underweight



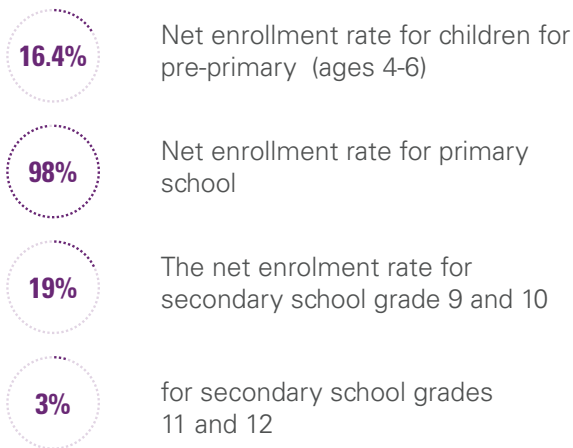
**13%** of children are given an adequately diverse diet



## Education

Enrolment in education has increased over the years in Oromia at all levels, yet huge challenges remain particularly in expanding early education, improving the quality of education, reaching school-age children in pastoral communities and keeping children in school, particularly girls.

The net enrolment in pre-primary education in Oromia at 16.6 per cent is well below the national level of 23.9 per cent, which is also low. Despite the regional government efforts to reach pastoral communities and remote woredas many pastoral children still lack access to, or stay in, education, especially girls.



## Child Protection

Although there has been a decrease in child marriage reported by women aged 20 to 24 years from 58 per cent in 1991 to 48 per cent in 2016, the rate is still above the national average of 40 per cent, and the reduction has been slower than in other regions where some girls marry at 15 or 16, and marriage at 13 and 14 is not uncommon. To end child marriage by 2030 and achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5.3, the reduction rate needs to be 6 to 10 times faster than it has been over the past 10 years.

Three out of four, or 75 per cent, of women aged 15 to 49 in Oromia are subjected to female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C), significantly above the national rate of 65 per cent.



**17.4Years** is the median age at first marriage among women now aged 20-49 years<sup>1</sup>



**75.6%** of women interviewed now aged 15-49 years underwent FGM/C (2016)



**21%** of children under 5 years of age had their births registered with civil authorities



**1.6%** had a birth certificate<sup>2</sup>



## Social Policy

Oromia had the biggest decline in food poverty in the country from 33 per cent in 2010 to 21 per cent in 2015/16. Yet, the multi-dimensional child deprivation (MCD) rate is high with 90 per cent of children under the age of 18, or almost 15 million in absolute numbers, lacking an average of 4.5 basic needs, services and rights. Housing (90 per cent) and sanitation (93 per cent) are the largest contributors to MCD. Among children under 5, deprivation in health (79 per cent) is the third largest cause of MCD, while among 5 to 17 year old, deprivation in health-related knowledge is 72 per cent.

Moreover, complex, persistent emergencies caused by drought, floods and intercommunal violence are pushing more children into poverty and leaving them without access to basic services.



**26.1%** live below poverty line




**90%** of children are deprived in 4.5 out of 5 basic needs

# Humanitarian Situation

In Oromia, based on the Meher assessment report, severe drought in 2021 extended to the lowland areas with 2.8 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. In the Zones affected by drought, massive death of livestock and depletion of livestock products was reported which directly impacts the nutritional status of children and women<sup>2</sup>.

## Key results achieved in 2021

UNICEF reached an estimated:

-  5,400,000 children with nutritional services
-  212,000 children with educational support
-  330,000 children with basic health services
-  1,400,000 children with basic WASH services
-  332,000 children and women with child protection
-  900,000 people with life-saving emergency assistance in response to conflict/drought/floods

## Key targets in 2022

UNICEF plans to reach an estimated:

-  5,500,000 children with nutritional services
-  600,000 children with educational support
-  350,000 children with basic health services
-  980,000 children with basic WASH services
-  325,000 children and women with child protection services
-  13,000 children and their families with social protection services
-  1,300,000 people with life-saving emergency assistance in response to conflict/drought/floods