



April 2022

SNNPR

Regional Brief

General Overview

Southern Nations, Nationalities, and People's Region (SNNPR) is one of the most populous parts of Ethiopia, with a density of about 151 people per square kilometer. An estimated 88.9 per cent of the total population lives in rural areas, while 11 per cent can be found in urban areas.

The region is home to 56 ethnic groups, with their own distinct geographical location, language, culture and social identity. The region is divided into 15 zones, with its capital in Hawassa town. It is subdivided into 114 woredas (districts) and six special woredas. There are 43 town administrations. The woredas are subdivided into 2745 rural and 291 urban kebeles (sub-districts). The main livelihood is Coffee, cassava and sweet potatoes; cereals such as Teff, wheat, barley maize, and sorghum; and agro-pastoralism and pastoralism.



Population data based on a projection from the 2007 census



Total Population
17,500,000



Capital: Hawassa
There are 20 administrative zones, eight town administrations 287 woredas and 46 towns

Programme Overview



WASH

Despite improved water infrastructure and availability, many households still lack access to drinking water and use unprotected water sources. Moreover, 36 per cent of households take on average over 30 minutes to reach the nearest water source to fetch water compared to 32 per cent at national level¹. This burden falls mostly on women and girls².

The region has one of the country's highest rates of improved sanitation at 8 per cent, but this is still very low and 35 per cent of households practise open defecation; it is considered normal in the region. According to qualitative data from key informants at the woreda level for the 2017 UNICEF knowledge, attitudes and practices study, lack of awareness and poverty are the main reasons that sanitation is given a low priority with households prioritizing other basic needs. Poor hygiene is widespread, contributing to regular outbreaks of acute watery diarrhoea.



59%

of households use improved drinking water sources.



8%

of households use improved sanitation facilities



Health

Over the past decade, there has been notable progress in healthcare in the region, particularly with the increased coverage of high impact, globally proven and cost-effective maternal and neonatal child health interventions. As a result, the infant mortality rate has declined from 78 per 1,000 live births in 2011 to 65 per 1,000 live births in 2016.

Yet, there are wide disparities in this vast region due to physical and social barriers. The neonatal

mortality and the under-five rates remain high; most children still die of preventable diseases; diarrhoea being one of the main child killers in the region. Along with Sidama and Amhara regions, SNNPR has the highest rate of children under 5 years with diarrhoea (14 per cent).



The neonatal mortality rate is 35 per 1,000 live births.



The under-five mortality rate is 88 per 1,000 live births.



The infant mortality rate is 65 per 1,000 live births.



Nutrition

SNNPR is one of the few regions in Ethiopia that reported a decline in the wasting incidence among children under 5 years between 2011 and 2019, from 8 per cent to 6 per cent. In 2019, the region had the fifth lowest incidence of wasting after Addis Ababa, Harari, Oromia, and Dire Dawa. Also the rate of underweight children under 5 years at 20 per cent is just below the national average, and has been declining. Anaemia among children under 5 years is at 50 per cent, which is lower than the national average of 57 per cent.

However, like other regions, stunting at 36 per cent is a huge challenge. Poor access to basic sanitation and poor hygienic practices lead to frequent episodes of diarrhoea. Young children also lack access to diversified and fortified food. Families lack awareness about the importance of a diversified diet and have certain taboos and cultural practices around nutrition that contribute to stunting.



36%

of children under 5 years of age are stunted.



6%

of children under 5 years of age are wasted.

1 the Ethiopia Socioeconomic Survey 2017

2 UNICEF, Integrated WASH/MUS/CBN Programme Baseline and Midline Survey Report, 2017

3 Sitan, 2019.

4 EDHS, 2016



20% of children under 5 years of age are underweight



13% of children are given an adequately diverse diet



Education

Only 33.1 per cent of children have access to pre-primary, which is critical preparation for primary school. It is the right of every child and a Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 4).

Although the primary school net enrolment rate is high at 99.1 per cent, many children start school late. The pupil-teacher ratio is relatively high for Grades 1 to 4 at 1:48, which could compromise student learning particularly if the teacher is unqualified. The overall quality of education is a concern. Some 23.4 per cent (2016/17) of students drop out of school in the region, particularly from the pastoral communities. Others dropped out following the school closures for seven months (March-October 2020) due to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as due to recent emergencies, notably flooding and intercommunal conflict³.



Net enrollment rate for children for pre-primary (ages 4-6)



Net enrollment rate for primary school



The net enrolment rate for secondary school grade 9 and 10



Dropout rates for Grades 1-8



Child Protection

Apart from Addis Ababa, SNNPR has the lowest child marriage rate among women aged 20 to 24 years in the country with a median age at first marriage of 18.2 years. However, progress in

reducing child marriage in the region needs to be four times faster than it is to eliminate child marriage by 2030 and achieve SDG 5. The female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C) prevalence rate at 62 per cent among women aged 15 to 49 years is slightly below the national average and is less common among the younger age groups. However, to meet SDG 5.3 and eliminate FGM/C by 2030, SNNPR needs to reduce the percentage of girls aged 15 to 19 years who have undergone FGM/C by 26 per cent every year.

Child labour is another major challenge and is often linked to trafficking. The percentage of orphaned children in SNNPR of whom one or both parents are dead is high (8 per cent). The percentage of children who are not living with their parents, but whose parents are alive is the fourth highest in the country (11 per cent). There are also many children with disabilities who are excluded from school.

In 2016, only 3.4 per cent of children under 5 years had their birth registered with civil authorities in SNNPR and only 1.6 per cent had a birth certificate.



18.2 Years is the median age at first marriage among women now aged 20-49 years⁴



62% of women interviewed now aged 15-49 years underwent FGM/C⁴



3.4% of children under 5 years of age had their births registered with civil authorities⁴



1.6% had a birth certificate⁴



Social Policy







Along with Afar and Amhara, SNNPR has the highest multi-dimensional child deprivation rate in Ethiopia: 91 percent of children under 18 or over 8 million children are deprived of an average of 4.5 out of 5 basic needs, services and rights. The main deprivation among all children in the region is sanitation and housing.

Humanitarian Situation

In Southern Nations Nationalities and People's Region (SNNPR) and Sidama, a total of 49,997 SAM cases in SNNPR and 13,185 in Sidama region were admitted to OTPs and SCs. Compared to the previous year, SAM admission in SNNPR and Sidama increased by 32 per cent over the course of 2021. The increase in SAM cases can be partly attributed to the change in admission criteria, as well as the deterioration in food security in both regions⁵.







Key results achieved in 2021

UNICEF reached an estimated:

-  2,227,257 children with nutritional services
-  32,129 children with educational support
-  589,713 children with basic health services
-  128,375 children with basic WASH services
-  57,072 children and women with child protection
-  3,057,935 people with life-saving emergency assistance in response to conflict/drought/floods

Key targets in 2022

UNICEF plans to reach an estimated:

-  387,264 children with nutritional services
-  28,416 children with educational support
-  541,813 children with basic health services
-  201,447 children with basic WASH services
-  99,825 children and women with child protection services
-  500,000 people with life-saving emergency assistance in response to conflict/drought/floods