



Ethiopia is a vast and diverse East African country located in the Horn of Africa between Kenya, Sudan and Somalia. It has the second largest population in Africa and is home to some of the oldest sites of human life in the world. Despite its cultural and historical importance, Ethiopia remains one of the poorest and least developed countries in the world. In fact, 44 percent of the population lives on less than \$1 a day. Due to instability in the region, Ethiopia currently hosts about 170,000 refugees who have fled their homes to avoid war. More than half of these refugees are from Somalia.







Issues Facing Adolescent Girls

Girls in Ethiopia face challenges such as lack of access to education, harmful practices such as child marriage, and health risks such as high maternal death rates and HIV infection. In rural areas, girls have to spend hours fetching water every day, leaving no time for school or homework.

Refugee adolescent girls are some of the most marginalized girls in the world. Refugee families living in Ethiopia are not allowed to work, resulting in poverty that often means girls are unable to go to school. Many families cannot afford the costs of school uniforms and books. They prioritize essential needs such as food and shelter, as well as sending boys to school over girls' education.

Did You Know?

-  One in five girls in Ethiopia is married before the age of 15.
-  Only 38 percent of girls and young women ages 15-24 are literate, compared to 62 percent of boys and young men the same age.
-  Only 24 percent of the population has access to clean drinking water. On average, rural villagers – often girls – spend four to six hours per day collecting water.
-  Ethiopian girls ages 15-19 are seven times more likely to be HIV positive than their male peers.

▼ ABOUT ETHIOPIA

- Located: East Africa
- Population: 90 million
- Capital: Addis Ababa
- Official Language: Amharic
- Fun Fact: Other African nations often adopted the colors of Ehtiopia's flag (red, green and yellow) following their independence!

WHAT IS GIRL UP DOING IN ETHIOPIA?

Girl Up supports adolescent girls in Ethiopia by funding United Nations (UN) programs that deliver an integrated and holistic package of services. Ninety-five percent of funds raised through Girl Up go directly to support programs in Girl Up's focus countries. UN agencies work closely with government partners and non-governmental organizations to ensure a community-based response in supporting the hardest-to-reach girls.

WORKING WITH THE UN

In Ethiopia, Girl Up invests in UNHCR and UNFPA.





The UN Foundation has a long history of supporting programs for girls. In 2005, we helped support the launch of Berhane Hewan and Biruh Tesfa, two projects in Ethiopia led by the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Population Council that worked to delay child marriage and improve girls' education in the rural Amhara region of Ethiopia and in the slums of Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia. The projects provide direct services to adolescent girls and engage communities in dialogue about issues impacting girls' lives. More than 12,000

girls have benefited from Berhane Hewan, and girls participating in the program are less likely to be married, more likely to be in school, and know more about health issues than other girls.

With Girl Up's support, the UN launched a new project in Ethiopia in 2011 that will expand our reach to benefit Somali refugee girls who have been displaced from their homes due to conflict and are living in refugee camps in the Jijiga zone of Ethiopia. This project will focus on girls' education, health and empowerment.

Where Do Girl Up Funds Go?

To ensure girls in Ethiopia have the chance to reach their full potential, 95 percent of funds raised through Girl Up support:

-  **Access To Education.** Programs like Berhane Hewan and UNHCR's work in the refugee camps help support girls' education by providing girls with school supplies that many families cannot afford. In addition, UNHCR is providing girls with scholarships for secondary school and solar lamps to study at night when girls otherwise wouldn't be able to due to the lack of electricity.
-  **Improved Health Services.** To improve girls' access to health information and services, Girl Up programs in Ethiopia teach girls about issues like child marriage and HIV, give girls an annual health check up, and provide toilets and access to water in schools in the refugee camps to keep learning environments safe and healthy.
-  **Safe Spaces And Protection.** Girls clubs in each of the programs provide girls a safe space to study, learn, and play with other girls.
-  **Leadership Opportunities.** Girls participating in programs supported by Girl Up become leaders in their communities by speaking out about issues impacting their lives in special dialogues with community members, leading study groups for other girls, and going throughout refugee camps to recruit other girls to go to school.