

Country Disease Outlook

Ethiopia

August 2023



World Health
Organization

African Region

Background

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is a large country in East Africa. It's landlocked and bordered by Djibouti, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan. It is a low-income with a GDP per capita US\$ 1,028 (2022) and has a population of 105,1 million (2022).

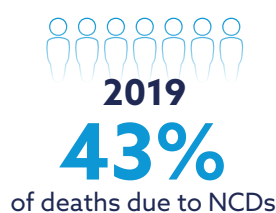
Key points

- ◆ Ethiopia is making steady progress in reducing HIV and TB mortality and is close to achieving the 95-95-95 goals for HIV.
- ◆ Ethiopia has successfully reduced its malaria incidence rate since 2015 and has met the global targets between 2016 and 2021.
- ◆ Ethiopia is endemic for all five NTDs amenable to preventive chemotherapy through mass drug administration, reaching 78% of the 31.6 million people targeted for treatment (2021).
- ◆ A significant challenge is to increase the vaccination coverage rates and implement catch-up strategies to reach the large cohorts of under-immunised and zero-dose children (1.4 million and 1.2 million respectively in 2021).

UHC/CN

Universal Health Coverage/Communicable
and Non-communicable Diseases
WHO Regional Office for Africa





Broad disease outlook

The country has a high burden of both communicable (such as malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS) and non-communicable disease (NCDs). The latter was estimated to have caused 43% of deaths in 2019.

Communicable diseases

Malaria

Malaria remains a public health problem in Ethiopia. Malaria morbidity has shown significant reduction over time. The number of confirmed malaria cases decreased by 47% between 2016 and 2019. Based on the HMIS reports (2016-2019), malaria related admission has significantly decreased. In particular, the decline has been significant in 2019 with 15,307 admissions down from over 30 thousand admissions in 2018. Similarly, malaria attributed death has declined annually. Accordingly, death due to malaria has decreased by 58%, from 510 to 213 between 2016 and 2019. But, driven by the continued fallout of pandemic-related programme disruptions, armed conflict, and displacement, Ethiopia recorded a 32,5% increase in confirmed malaria cases between 2021 and 2022, from 1,1m to 1,5m. To date in 2023, reported malaria cases have increased by 150% and 120%, respectively, compared to the same periods in 2021 and 2022.

Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS

Ethiopia is one of the 30 high burden countries for TB and TB/HIV in the world. There were an estimated 143,000 TB cases in the country with annual incidence 119/100,000 in 2021. Ethiopia has achieved the 2020 milestone of achieving the TB incidence rate and made significant progress in reducing the TB mortality rate (19/100,000) the country has been transitioned out of the global list of high RR/MDR TB cases for year 2021-2025. WHO support in coordination and follow up on recommendations made by the annual GLC and GDF missions has contributed a lot in improving access to mWRDs (molecular WHO rapid diagnostics) and new WHO guidance.

The current prevailing drought, ongoing conflict, and huge population movement pose a substantial risk of TB transmission in the country and requires serious attention and support in addressing this key and vulnerable populations for tuberculosis.

On the performance of the 95-95-95 global HIV targets, the country is lagging on the first 95 HIV target

while the second and third 95s HIV targets.

are progressing very well.

- ▲ 84% of people living with HIV that know their status.
- ▲ 98% of people living with HIV who know their status are on treatment.
- ▲ 92% of people living with HIV and on treatment who are virally suppressed.

Approximately 505,000 people were receiving anti-retroviral treatment in 2022.

Neglected tropical diseases

Ethiopia is endemic for all five of the NTDs amenable to preventive chemotherapy through mass drug administration (MDA), namely lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, soil-transmitted helminthiasis, schistosomiasis and trachoma. In 2021, there were 31.6 million people targeted for MDA, and 24.5 million were treated for at least one NTD..

Other notable NTDs that remain endemic are dracunculiasis (Guinea worm disease), leishmaniasis (cutaneous and visceral), dengue, chikungunya, scabies, leprosy and rabies.

Non-communicable diseases

NCDs are a major health problem in Ethiopia. The age-standardised mortality rate across four major NCDs (Cardiovascular Disease, Chronic Respiratory Disease, Cancer and Diabetes) was 631 per 100,000 in males and 549 in females in 2021.

Ethiopia has implemented efforts on the NCD progress indicators related to NCD policy and plan, NCD guidelines, physical activity guidelines and all of the indicators related to tobacco. Alcohol taxes are regularly revised, with more limited policy on trans fats policies, salt policies and marketing to children.

The Government of Ethiopia has committed to the prevention and expansion of NCD services through an integrated people-centred approach through its Health Sector Transformation Plan (HSTP II 2020-2025).

Childhood Immunization

Ethiopia's coverage rates of vaccination in children have historically been suboptimal, with the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine peaking at 71% in 2020 and to reduce to 65% in 2021 (WUENIC). Similarly, the measles vaccination coverage for the first dose was 54% in 2021, declined to 60% in 2020. Measles is endemic in Ethiopia, and often outbreaks are reported from regions, requiring reactive vaccination responses every year. The low coverage rates in combination with its large population size have resulted in an estimated 1.4 million under-immunized children and 1.2 million zero-dose children in 2021. It is important for Ethiopia to urgently consider the implementation of catch-up vaccination strategies to protect these populations from vaccine-preventable diseases and reduce the probability of outbreaks.

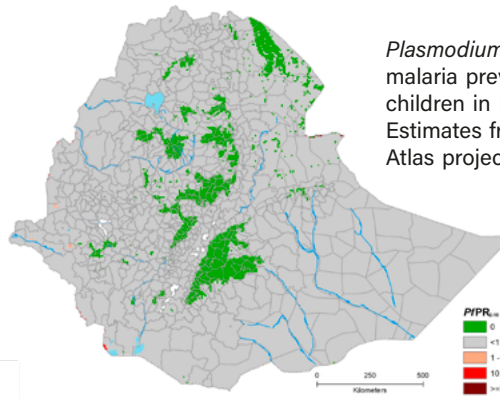
Child survival

Based on the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME) estimates, the under-5 mortality rate has fallen from 62 to 47 per 1000 live births between 2015 and 2021, it is still above the SDG target of 25 per 1,000 live births. Similarly, neonatal mortality fell from 109,340 to 101,951 in number and 32 to 26 per 1,000 live births in the same period, although it remains above the SDG target of 12 per 1,000 live births.



MALARIA

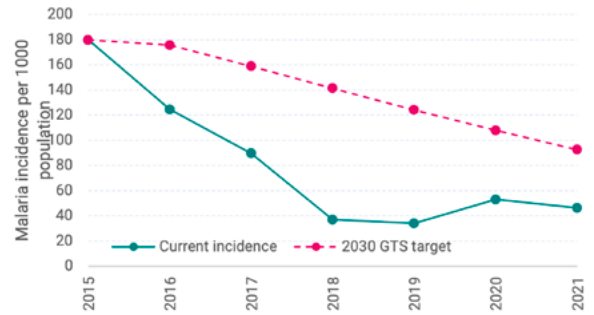
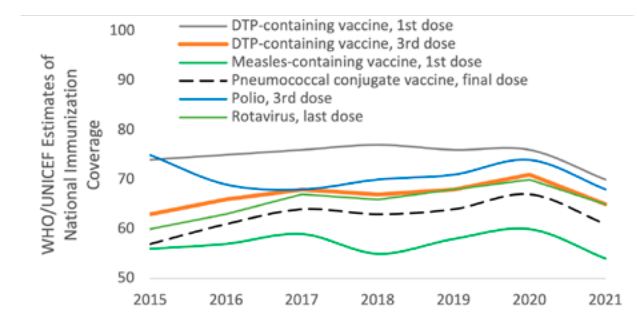
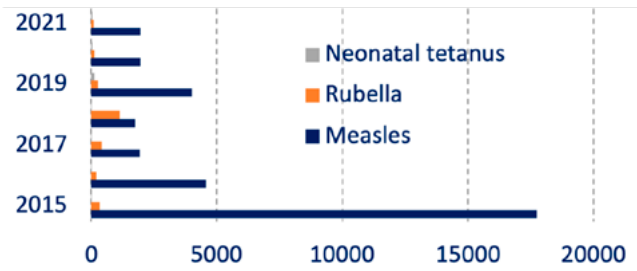
POPULATION AT RISK IN 2022	TOTAL MALARIA CASES IN 2022	TOTAL MALARIA DEATHS IN 2022
101.5 million people	1.6 Million	180



Plasmodium falciparum malaria prevalence in children in Ethiopia in 2020. Estimates from the Malaria Atlas project

Malaria incidence since 2015 compared to GTS targets shows that the country is on track to achieve targets for disease reductions.

EXPANDED PROGRAMME ON IMMUNIZATION IN CHILDREN



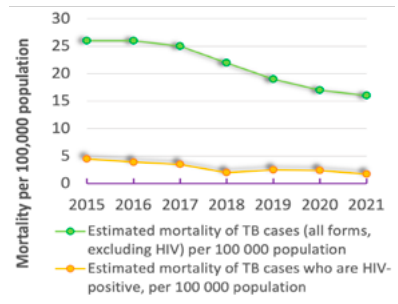
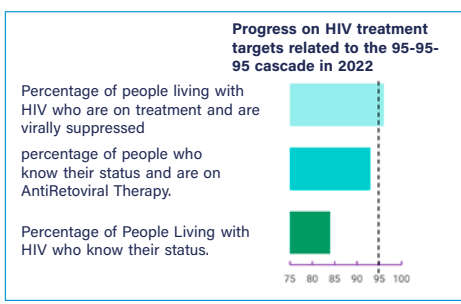
Zero dose children 1.2 million Under-immunized 1.4 million

WUENIC estimates show that vaccination coverage has been <80% for most basic antigens with measles first dose averaging 57% over the 7-year period. Highlights the need to improve the low coverage of basic vaccines such as measles.

There was a major outbreak of measles in 2015 (17,745 cases reported) and in 2021 1,953 cases of measles were reported.

HIV AND TUBERCULOSIS

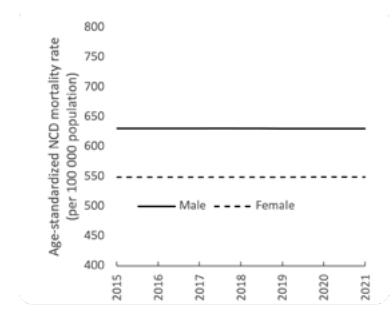
- 480,264** people receiving antiretroviral therapy in 2021
- 68%** TB cases
- 76%** of children (aged < 5 years) household contacts of bacteriologically-confirmed TB cases on preventive treatment
- 10%** Domestic funding for TB
- 5%** Domestic funding for HIV



- Indicator 1 - Targets
- Indicator 2 - CRV Mortality
- Indicator 3 - Surveys
- Indicator 4 - NCD policy and Plan
- Indicator 5A - Tobacco taxes
- Indicator 5B - Tobacco smoke free/polution
- Indicator 5C - Tobacco health warning
- Indicator 5D - Tobacco advertising ban
- Indicator 5E - Tobacco media campaign
- Indicator 6A - Alcohol availability
- Indicator 6B - Alcohol advertising restrictions
- Indicator 6C - Alcohol taxes
- Indicator 7A - Salt policies
- Indicator 7B - Trans fats policies
- Indicator 7C - Marketing to children
- Indicator 8 - Physical activity awareness
- Indicator 9 - NCD guidelines

NCD PROGRESS INDICATORS

- Achieved**
- Partially achieved**
- Not achieved/Unknown**



NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES

- Endemic NTDS requiring Preventive Chemotherapy (PC)**
- Lymphatic filariasis
 - Soil-transmitted helminthiasis
 - Schistosomiasis
 - Trachoma
 - Onchocerciasis

PC-NTDs treatment in 2021
284,343 Million targeted for MDA
264,905 Million treated with MDA

- OTHER MAJOR NTDS**
- Dracunculiasis
 - Leishmaniasis (cutaneous and visceral)
 - Taeniasis and cysticercosis
 - Leprosy
 - Rabies