



## AUSTRIAN RED CROSS

### ETHIOPIA



**AutRC project area:**  
West Arsi, North Gondar,  
Benishangul Gumuz

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	Ethiopia	Austria
Area in km <sup>2</sup>	1,100,000	83,871
Population (millions)	78,6	8.3
Rural population in %	83	33
UNDP Human Development Index	171	14
<b>Society</b>		
Languages	Amharic, English, regional languages: Oromo, Tigrinya, Somali, more than 70 tribal languages	German Regional languages: Slovenian, Croatian
Religions	43.5% Ethiopian Orthodox Christian, 33.9% Muslim, 18.6% Protestant, 0.7% Cath. Christian, 3.3% natural religions and other	73.6% Catholic, 4.7% Protestant, 4.2% Muslim, 2.2% Orthodox, 0.1% Jew, 12% without religious denomination
<b>Health</b>		
Life expectancy	54,7	79,9
Doctors per 10,000 inhabitants	<1	37
Infant mortality per 1,000 babies	80,8	4
Child malnutrition (< 5 years) in %	34.6	0
Adults with HIV/AIDS in %	2.1	0.2
Access to safe drinking water in %	42	100
Access to sanitary facilities in %	11	100
<b>Education</b>		
Literacy rates in %	42.7	~ 100
<b>Economy</b>		
Main export products	Coffee, gold, leather products, animals	Machines, automotive industry, paper, metal, iron, chemicals, textiles
GNP/capita/year in USD	779	37,370
% of the population living on < 1,25 USD/day	39	0
Unemployment in %	no data	3.9
Inflation in %	44.4	3.2

Sources: UNDP United Nations Development Report 2009, German Federal Foreign Office, [www.cia.gov](http://www.cia.gov), [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)



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### ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia is not only one of the least developed but also one of the most disaster prone countries in the world. Recurring droughts and floods entail insufficient crop production and thus chronic food shortage. Poverty of people is exacerbated by the global rise in prices of food and fertilizers as well as by the disruptive impact of the ongoing armed conflict in the Ogaden region. Political instability in the Horn of Africa and Sudan makes for an insecure environment for any aid operation.

The Austrian Red Cross (AutRC) was active for the first time with a major project in Ethiopia during the acute food crisis in 2008. In addition to food distributions to 40,000 people in need, bean seeds and sweet potato cuttings were provided in order to enable people to grow their own basic foodstuffs.



#### Water and Health

2009 marked the beginning of a long-term cooperation with the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) in the water & sanitation and health sectors.

The project in West Arsi zone provides safe and clean water for a community of 8,210 persons through 15 improved water sources (springs and hand dug wells) and assists the target population in the building of latrines.

Further activities involve CBHFA (Community Based Health and First Aid) and PHAST (Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation) as well as capacity building of this recently founded Branch.

Project duration Jul 2009-Jun 2010  
Cost € 208,000



A similar approach has been developed for an intervention in Benishangul Gumuz which addresses the needs of 11,400 vulnerable households in terms of sustainable water supply and sanitation. The introduction of basic water resource management will enable communities to use water for small scale productive purposes (family gardens) and thus contribute to an increase in diversity of food.



Project duration 2011-2016  
Cost € 2,311,000

This project is co-financed by the European Union



#### Disaster Risk Reduction

Rural communities have an important role to play as custodians of the environment. The project in North Gondar raises the level of awareness of the local population on disaster risk reduction related to health and hygiene practices. Best practice examples are compiled and used for institutional learning of the Red Cross, but also for evidence-based advocacy statements to influence climate and WatSan sector-related policy formulation in favour of the most vulnerable.

Project duration Dec. 2010-Dec. 2013  
Cost € 531,000



The projects in Ethiopia are co-financed by:  
AutRC regional branch of Upper Austria

