

# Ethiopia

The Global Food Crisis in Ethiopia





As one of the oldest nations in the world, Ethiopia has a rich and proud history. It is the largest and most populated country in the Horn of Africa and its economy is heavily agricultural.

Decades of instability, famine and widespread disease have left millions of Ethiopians living in extreme poverty. Infant and child mortality rates are high, and malnutrition is common. Children frequently drop out of school or don't attend at all, particularly girls.



**ADDIS ABABA** 

## 1996

PARTNERSHIP WITH COMPASSION BEGAN



LOCAL CHURCH PARTNERS



**CHILDREN SUPPORTED** 

# **Primary Diet**

**INCLUDES TEFF, SORGHUM, VEGETABLES AND MEAT** 





# **Comparing countries**





Australia



**0.7% OF POPULATION** cannot afford a healthy diet

**2% OF CHILDREN** under 5 have stunted growth\*

642,500 PEOPLE facing undernourishment



**Ethiopia** 



**86.8% OF POPULATION** cannot afford a healthy diet

**35% OF CHILDREN** under 5 have stunted growth\*

**22.6 MILLION PEOPLE** facing severe food insecurity

\*Stunting, based on a child's height and age, is a measure of chronic nutritional deficiency. Source: Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), 2022





# No lunchbox, no school

In the small town of Dera in south-eastern Ethiopia, Birtukan likes to rise early to prepare her granddaughter's lunch box for school. She knows that 7-year-old Yeresen needs nutritious food to focus during class and have the energy to play with her friends.

But soaring food prices are choking Birtukan's budget, and the gap between what she earns and what her money can buy is growing wider each day. Like so many other local families, Birtukan is forced to choose which meal to cut out each day—breakfast, lunch or dinner?

### "I don't want Yeresen to go to school without food while her friends are eating," says Birtukan. "It's a difficult choice, but sometimes it's the only choice."

Staff and volunteers from the local church grew concerned that Yeresen, and many other children like her, were missing out on school because they didn't have enough to eat. So they took matters into their own hands. Using funds of their own and through support from Compassion, the local church began providing lunch for every child registered at their centre.

Birtukan and the other caregivers were overwhelmed with gratitude. They still rise early to help prepare food for their families, but now they take turns to cook a nourishing meal for one another's children to eat at school.

"No child should worry about missing school because they don't have lunch," says Project Director Bayush. "These little children deserve to be in school. They deserve to thrive."



# How is Compassion responding?

Compassion is leading a local-first response to the global food crisis through partnerships with over 8,500 local churches across four continents.

Our church partners are responding in two ways:



SHORT-TERM AID Meeting vulnerable families' immediate nutritional needs through the delivery of food packages.



**LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS** Equipping families with seeds, fertiliser, livestock and agricultural training to stop ongoing hunger.

The local church has decades of established community trust and is best positioned to assist in this crisis — it has been there before, will be there during and will remain long after the crisis.



# **Answer hunger with hope**

You can help ensure children and families in poverty have food to eat during the global food crisis.





### **GIVE TODAY**

Your tax-deductible donation will help provide short-term aid and long-term solutions.

To give, visit **cmpsn.co/stophunger** or scan the QR code.





### **EXPLORE MORE**

Deepen your understanding of the global food crisis through our interactive website.

To learn more, visit **cmpsn.co/explore** or scan the QR code.





### **GET INVOLVED**

Take on the 345 Challenge to fundraise for children facing severe food insecurity.

To sign-up, visit **cmpsn.co/challenge** or scan the QR code.







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