

Ethiopia-Country profile-

- The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is located **in the north-eastern part of Africa commonly known as the Horn of Africa.**
- It is the **oldest independent country in Africa** and one of the oldest in the world.
- It is the **10th largest country in Africa and** 2nd most populous country in Africa after Nigeria.
- It is bordered by Sudan in the west, Somalia and Djibouti in the east, Eritrea in the north and Kenya in the south.
- It is **composed of 9 National Regional States (NRS)** and two administrative councils – Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa.
- The **official currency of Ethiopia is the Ethiopian Birr (ETB).**
- From the north and running down the center are the Abyssinian highlands.
- To the west of the chain the land drops to the grasslands of Sudan, to the east to the **deserts of the Afar.**
- South of Addis Ababa, the land is dominated by the Rift Valley Lakes.
- The Ethiopian peoples comprise about eighty nationalities of which the **Amhara and the Oromo constitute the majority**, with about 60 percent of the total population.
- The most **famous Ethiopian river is the Blue Nile or Abbay**, which flows a distance of 1,450 kilometers from its source to **join the White Nile at Khartoum.**
- **Amharic or Amharigna** is the official language of Ethiopia.
- **Other main languages including** Oromigna and Tigrigna are also widely spoken.
- The **oldest remains of a human ancestor ever found**, which have been dated as being some five million years old,

were discovered in the Awash Valley in Ethiopia.

- This beats the discovery of “Lucy”, a 3.2 million year old skeleton, who was unearthed in the same area in 1974.