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Ethiopia, Population

## **Ethiopia, Understanding hunger issues and their possible solutions.**

### **Country: Ethiopia**

#### **Thesis:**

Do you know that a country with a higher population and a country with rich ancient culture can be exposed to hunger? Although, people believe that if a country is widely educated and has a wealth of culture, they won't be exposed to famine, the actual truth contradicts peoples' single story of famine. The country's population can be an exact determinant when it comes to analyzing hunger issues, and determining the population can be a great tool when solving a problem and finding an effective solution that can help the whole society.

#### **Introduction:**

Ethiopia is a country located at the horn of Africa. It is known to have the longest Nile river. Its beautiful ancient hand made architecture has made tourists flood into the country and has played an important role supporting the country's economy. Currently, there are 77 million people, with 21 percent of the population living in urban areas and 80 percent of its population living in rural areas. Every year, there will be almost two million people added to the country. Rural parts of the country's population have been dominant for the past few years. Not only has it increased but it has also caused many conflicts fulfilling its nations basic living needs, such as providing them enough food resources for their entire families. How does a country with a higher rate of poverty manage to increase their population? In Ethiopia, farmers rely on rain regularly, and people are still in the process of adopting different farming methods such as irrigation. To grow numerous crops, there should be sustained farming techniques. Not being able to modernize has led the country to experience famine. However, what's even more concerning is that when people started to live in the rural areas they will end up causing long lasting environmental problems.

Environmental problems have caused the population to experience famine at different times. In 1984, poverty crisis dominated rural parts of Ethiopia. This unexpected crisis killed over a million people. Families' lifestyle during that time was sustained until the crisis occurred. Some parts of their regions such as Tigray, Wello got into an economic crisis. The main cause of the famine was deforestation. As the population increased, they started to deforest the woods to make enough space for each of their families. Cutting down the forest and disrupting the environment caused them to experience a humanitarian food crisis. In the 1900s many countries around the world were in the competition to make strong militaries which in later times led to World War I. Mengistu Haile Mariam was the president of Ethiopia during the famine crisis. Instead of making strategies to get Ethiopia out of the crises, he focuses

more on building a strong military. As a result of his poor political strategy, he was called a “terrorist”. Since then, he has left the country .

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**Body paragraph:**

A traditional typical diet in Ethiopia contains food that is high in fiber. People usually eat carbohydrates such as maize, teff and potatoes. Most of the population feeds on a food called Injera. Injera is made out of teff flour and it has a spongy texture. You can eat it with traditional sauce. For the past few years living in Ethiopia has been a difficult decision to Ethiopian diasporas. Birr is losing value everyday. Black marketing has drastically increased, which has made Ethiopian Birr currency to decrease . In 2004 teff was about 200 birr. But, as their population increased, food stability turned out to be rare, only rich people who can afford the cost can buy food supplies and the rest of the people ended up struggling in hunger. In 2012, one hundred kilogram of Teff was about 2,000 birr. The situation where food supplies are expensive and limited is ongoing. People still complain to their government to decrease the cost of living, and strong responses have not been heard from the government.

As the population increases in Ethiopia, many students across the country graduate in a place where there are no job opportunities. In 2017 the Ethiopian News reported that there were 150,000 graduates and only 2.08 percent of them were hired straight out of college. As a result, Ethiopia gets into an unemployment economic crisis. Many high school students in Ethiopia fear not getting a job after spending 12 years of their life in school. The unemployment rate will have many consequences including increasing the refugee rate (Youth Unemployment Ethiopia Apr. 2021). Young adults flee their country to have a better life, wanting a stable education and job opportunities. According to UNHCR there were 56,000 Ethiopian refugees fleeing their country. The majority of the people left their country because of unemployment issues and not having access to basic needs.

Food insecurities in Ethiopia come along with environmental issues. The majority of Ethiopia’s population lives in rural areas, and people living in rural areas are exposed to hunger more than those living in urbanized areas. This part of the society conducts their everyday lives mainly by selling out livestock. As their population increases, more carbon dioxide is getting into the air, and as a result their air becomes polluted. Polluted air will create droughty land. Farmers attempted to grow a seed on their land, and it was nearly impossible. In 2015 rain failed to grow crops. This drastic change over 50 years has put the nations of Ethiopia at starvation risk. In this modern world, farmers in Ethiopia use inefficient farming techniques. They still use traditional farming techniques using oxen and cows to farm out their lands. In addition to the climate crisis, this technique takes longer to grow crops and to have the crops on time to consumers.

Societies living in the rural part of Ethiopia are by far the most suffered. The majority of people have no access to water and human sanitation. When the climate becomes too dry, the land is too dehydrated to source water. Millions of people don't have access to clean water. This leads to children suffering from diseases like seizure, obesity and blood pressure. Early marriage is one of the reasons that the country's population is reaching its peak. As the Coronavirus pandemic began, many childrens couldn't go to school. Apparently, schools were shut down. Since the children aren't doing much staying at home, their parents recruited them to early marriage. Ethiopians have higher respect for early marriage. A farmer from rural parts of Ethiopia who comes to the city for job purposes once said “ A priest is wanting my 7 year old daughter for marriage, I am hesitating on her education”. The farmer clearly explains early marriage being normalized in their society. Once they get

marry the first task the children have to complete to make their parents proud is to give birth to a child. These cultural motivations have led the population to grow overtime in Ethiopia.

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### **Solution and strategies:**

To cope with hunger issues in Ethiopia the first step to take is to determine the causes and the consequences of the hunger issue by analyzing Ethiopia's previous hunger crisis. In this case I will use the 1984 Ethiopian hunger crisis. Drastic change in population is the main cause of hunger in that time period. The land and the population are not in equilibrium. The land is smaller and can not support all of the people in Ethiopia. Which can give us a good idea of what causes hunger to be severe. After we determine the cause of the Issue we can assess what comes as a consequence. Drastic change in populations can cause social and economic problems. For example, as their population grows their value to their currency will decrease because it has so many consumers, Many people have no jobs and aren't paying their taxes properly. When the government doesn't have enough money to invest for food, people are in danger. Ethiopia's population was almost 37 million, which is much greater when we compare it to other African countries at the same time period. To survive this hunger crisis many have sold their home accessories and still haven't been able to buy food to feed their whole families.

Our next step after defining the causes and the consequences of hunger issues in Ethiopia, which in this case is the population, we have to transition to the next step. In this step we have to determine which region (kilil) has the highest population and determine the area of each region. By examining which region has the most population and identifying the area of each region, we will be able to tell what region we should focus on first. Even though Ethiopia is a big country we have to focus on each region one at a time. In this case our strategy is more likely to be planned and effective. Ethiopia has 9 regions, each with its own language and its own culture. The land that each region takes will be different from region to region. For example, Oromo is the largest region in Ethiopia and it takes more land than the other regions. By defining each region's area and population, we can place their statistics in one document and compare their population with their current area.

Knowing the area of each region and identifying each region's population will bring us to our third step. This step will focus more on correlating population and land area. When we compare these two statistics some regions might have wider lands and higher populations. On the other hand, some regions will have limited land but higher population. In these cases we have to pick the country that has limited land but a high population. When their land becomes limited and their population increases it's showing us a sign that their region is at a lower chance of surviving and that we should first give our attention to that particular region. According to Haramaya University, in 2018 the area of the Ormo region was 110,662 mile square and there are 35 million people in total living in the Ormo region of Ethiopia. On the other hand, According to Mekelle University, Tigray is 19,336 miles square and it has 5 million people in total living in that region.

After we identify and correlate the area and the population of each region we may start to pick a country to focus on in the first round. Tigray will be our first region to solve the hunger issues in Ethiopia. Tigray is located in the northern part of Ethiopia. Their population has enlarged for the past few years, and in the

1984 hunger crisis in Ethiopia, many died from this region. According to BBC news, 4.5 million people need emergency food and are waiting on food aid from other countries to be received in Tigray. Many people have fled their country to find food resources. Also, regardless of population being the main cause of hunger in this region, their environment plays a crucial role in getting them food. The region is pretty dry. Even though farmers work hard daily to grow crops, the rain barely comes and it is pretty exhausting and concedes farmers not to see a profit on their farming land.

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Now we have picked a country based on the area of their land and the population of their region. In order to decrease the poverty rate in this region we have to be able to decrease the population. Several attempts have been made to solve this issue, but the main reason that it did not have an effective outcome is because people did not keep up with the solution for a certain amount of time. They might do it for a couple of months, and try to move to another region but first we have to solve this issue no matter how long it takes in that particular region. We need advanced family planning education and birth control imported to the country. Birth control is rare in rural parts of Ethiopia and people still have severe stereotypes towards birth control. This stereotype includes after taking birth control their infertility rate might decrease. Their single story of birth control needs advanced awareness and this knowledge comes directly from young educated people. In America, there is advanced family learning and birth control. Specialists and medical students should have the responsibility of teaching the world about this new invention and new concepts. Individuals who have the capability of sponsoring students should invest their money covering their expenses and giving them a full ride to foreign countries to teach those in the dark. Investing in people's awareness in Tigray getting them to know about birth control and family planning can change the region by decreasing their population drastically.

Spreading awareness about family planning and birth control has solved our main cause of hunger, the instant growing of the population. The land and the population is in equilibrium now. The people started to value birth control and family planning. Our next task will focus on the environmental problems fixing the environmental problems that previously were damaged.

Tigray has dry environmental conditions. People have deforested the trees for living purposes. As people deforest the trees the water cycle is the main factor to be impacted. If rain falls in that region it is seen as if it is a miracle that will happen once in a lifetime. This puts a lot of pressure on the land not to grow any crops given. Water plays a crucial factor in growing any crop, and this natural resource can be damaged anytime by human activities. Planting new trees is a great idea for recovering dry farming lands. Deforesting woods should be considered a crime. When people deforest woods, there should be a law that should force them to plant a new tree replacing the one they cut down brutally. Not only plant it but also give the crop its basic needs for at least 3 months and if people fail to do this law they will have to pay 1000 Birr to the government. This new law will show society how deforesting trees can give us a long lasting problem. People will start to give more attention to growing new trees to recover from their environmental problems.

The final step of fighting hunger in Ethiopia would be irrigation. Now we have reduced the population, we know that the land and the amount of people are in balance. We plant trees to heal the environmental problems. Now we have strategic laws so people don't cut down trees unnecessarily. In order to grow the trees we planted earlier, we need a technique where we collect water in one place and distribute it when it's necessary. In Ethiopia, Tigray region it is difficult to get water efficiently, and when the

opportunity comes and it's raining we have to keep the rain prevently in one place so that farmers can use it whenever their crops need water. Irrigation is a new technique of farming and people in Tigray don't have much awareness about it. They will rely on the rain in the winter and when the rain disappears for natural purposes there is no second option but people will experience poverty. With Irrigation farming techniques we can build a big hole where we will be able to collect the water in the winter. When farmers try to grow crops at any time of the year, the only thing they need to do is to go to that hole and make a water tracing and the water reaches the plant efficiently. Since irrigation is a new technique people aren't used to it. With efficient techniques like tracing we can grow crops as much as needed.

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In regions like Ethiopia, people have ancient traditions that they proceed from their ancestors and their cultures and tradition has been the main source of tourist attraction. Even though Ethiopia became a historical place of all time, the first human being Luci is found in the Afar region of Ethiopia. These days the majority people's mindset is based on if a country is wealthy with culture and tradition they won't be exposed to such things like poverty. It's far from the truth, as United nations we should all focus on countries with higher populations no matter their back histories, because histories are outdated and they can give us needed information but can't really contribute to the world we live in at the moment. Many of us may think that the main cause of poverty is environmental problems, this is one of the effects of poverty but not really the main cause. We should pay attention to how poverty occurred for the last few years and, make analysis and find what causes the situation. After finding the cause we can move to predicting the effect such as the environment issues.

On the poverty analysis in Ethiopia, the main cause of poverty is drastic population growth after making an analysis on the 1984 poverty crisis. Population growth has controlled social and economic changes in Ethiopia. Since the poverty crisis has impacted many families, it's still a pretty sensitive topic to discuss in between societies. As a result people in rural areas still didn't get a strong response from their government and not a lot of people aren't even stable enough to help out those indeed. The main source to help out Ethiopia is by having diasporas to invest in those places and give young scholars the ability to teach about family planning and birth controls, and then after we control the population rate we can move to healing the environment. Disporasas should be able to cover all the expenses of students. This idea might be hard to even plan out, but if we work together to find all the disopras and qualified people I believe that we can cure the poverty crisis in a short amount of time.

Planning out things step by step will help us to be more organized in investing in those countries, and it will help us carve out good planning for a particular region that needs the most help. Matter of fact, investing in a country is a big commitment, helping one country financially can be a big commitment for individuals, that's why we should do deep down research on which countries will need the most help and which countries are the most impacted by humanitarian crises such as poverty. In our analysis of poverty we used real incidents that occurred in 1984 and this sample of real incidents helped us to create an effective solution in Ethiopian poverty. I predict that if the government in Ethiopia uses this step by step strategies their nations as well as their financial barriers will be solved. Over 50 percent of the poverty in Ethiopia will decrease with these effective strategies. For once when we look at the problem we might see it as an impossible problem to solve and especially if it impacts our society severely, we will start seeking help from every place. During Natural epidemics and disasters, countries' economies might get impacted, people might lose their families and over all a country won't be stable on doing anything, but when problems exist there is always an effective solution we just need to look for but it might take us longer.

Ethiopia is a country located at the horn of Africa. The Nile river originated in Ethiopia. Ethiopia has the highest population growth in sub-saharan nations, and it is predicted that every year there will be almost two million people added to the country. Rural parts of the country's population have been dominant for the past few years. Not only has it increased but it has also caused many conflicts fulfilling its nations basic living needs, such as providing them enough food resources for their entire families.

In 1984, the poverty crisis dominated rural parts of Ethiopia. This unexpected crisis killed over a million people. Families' lifestyle during that time was sustained until the crisis occurred. Some parts of their

A traditional typical diet in Ethiopia contains food that is high in fiber (Nutrition Country Profiles Apr. 2021). People usually eat carbohydrates such as maize, teff and potatoes. Most of the population feeds on a food called Injera

In order to decrease the poverty rate in Ethiopia there are 5 steps I came up with that we can follow that can hopefully help us recover Ethiopia from the poverty crisis.

The first step is to determine what's causing the poverty crisis and what the consequences are. With this strategy we can have a better understanding of the problem and set ourselves in a good position on finding a solution.

The second step is determine each region's land area and population. There are 9 regions in Ethiopia and we have to do everything one at a time, meaning we have to start with one region that's limited in land and has a higher population than most other regions. In this case I will start my case study on Tigray and Tigray is located in the northern part of Ethiopia.

The third step on finding a solution is working on decreasing the population rate in Tigray. The way we can do this is by having young scholars and food science students go to foreign countries and teach about birth controls and how useful they are in maintaining a healthy family. There is individuals and institution that has the capability of sponsoring students to have a visit on foreign countries. People still have bad stereotypes toward birth controls in Ethiopia and if we get rid of that there will be a massive change in population that we will be seeing see shortly.

The fourth step is to work on recovering the environment. The land which farmers grow their crops on has been mistreated by people and mainly deforestation has made the land dry over time. We should set a certain resurrection towards deforestation. And see deforestation as part of a crime for example people can't cut off a tree if they can't replace it with another tree in a certain amount of days and if they fail to do that they have to be charged and go through 2 weeks of plant and resources lesson.

The last step would be teaching farmers about new techniques of farming such as waterways and Irrigation. Farmers can collect water during the winter time in one place and use it throughout the year whenever it's needed. Supplying water efficiently in controlled farming land would have better results and in this way farmers can grow their crops efficiently in a limited amount of time. Specifically, Surface Irrigation is significant because it's all done underground and there is no other machine involvement, which makes it easier for farmers by costing them less. The money towards building irrigation should come from the individuals who sponsored young people to teach in foreign countries, starting this project sponsors are crucial interems of supporting the place financially.

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