

Sports Abroad

Ethiopian athletes

As well as being football lovers, Ethiopians are famous for their long distance running. They have set many world records and won many Olympic medals. In Ethiopia children learn to run from an early age. For many it is the only way to get around since cars and public transport can be limited. Walking quickly or running is part of many people's everyday life, with children walking long distances to get to school.



Ethiopia at a glance

- Ethiopia is Africa's oldest independent country and the second largest in terms of population with about 1.5 times the population of Great Britain.
- Ethiopia is one of Africa's poorest states. Many Ethiopians depend on food aid from abroad, currently 3.2 million people are in need of emergency food assistance. The economy revolves around agriculture. The country is one of Africa's leading coffee producers, with more than 15 million people working in this industry.
- In schools, class sizes are high and they often work on a shift system, with pupils attending for four hours on either the morning or the afternoon shift. They have few computers and even share books.



- Children in Ethiopia want to learn and behave well at school. They are ambitious, many wanting to be doctors, teachers and engineers.
- The Birr is the unit of currency in Ethiopia. It is the second-most-used currency in Africa with 88 million users, after the Nigerian naira.
- The gross domestic product (GDP) is the value of all final goods and services produced in a given year, for each country. The UK's GDP is more than a 100 times that of Ethiopia. GDP is often used as an indicator of a country's standard of living. In the International Monetary Fund table of 183 countries, the UK ranks 22nd and Ethiopia sits at 179th.