



# Ethiopian News

April 2020

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Coronavirus: Ethiopia Situation Update.....	2
Embassy launches urgent Coronavirus appeal for Ethiopia.....	3
Ethiopia declares State of Emergency to curb transmission of Coronavirus.....	5
Addis Ababa’s Millennium Hall converted into COVID-19 makeshift hospital.....	7
#STAYATHOMESOUP by Chef Yohanis.....	12
Lovegrass Ethiopia Scoops Gold at UK FreeFrom Food Awards.....	14
Ethiopia to plant 5 billion tree seedlings.....	15
Ethiopia Opens Up Mobile Money Services to Local Firms.....	17
Visit Ethiopia: Stay home today, #TravelTomorrow.....	18
The deaf workers weaning a capital city off plastic bags.....	21

## CONNECT WITH US



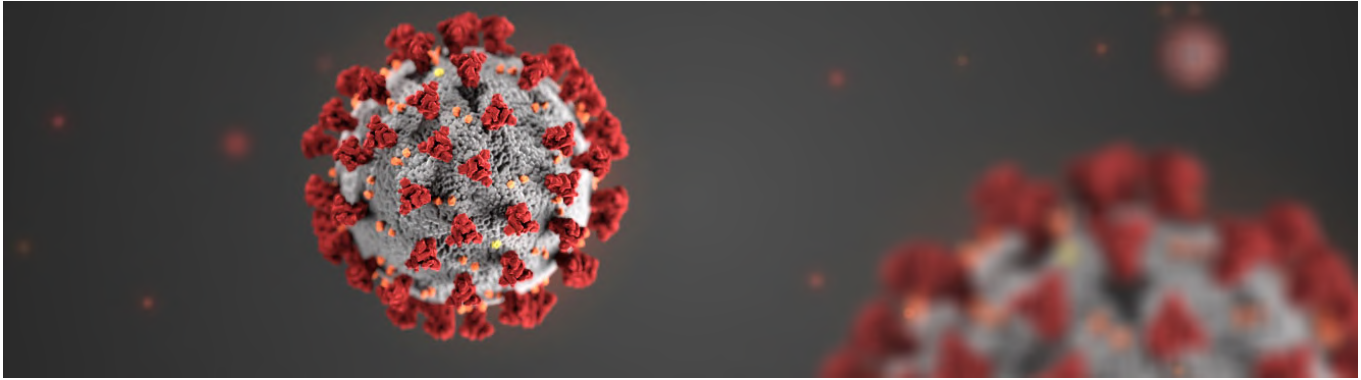
@EthioEmbassyUK

## LOCKDOWN SPECIAL #STAYATHOME: THINGS TO DO Page 9

# Ethiopia rallies to combat spread of COVID-19

Ethiopians at home and in the Diaspora respond to nation’s call  
for support during pandemic





## Coronavirus: Ethiopia Situation Update

Ethiopia confirmed its first case of COVID-19 on Friday 13th February. As we go to press (1<sup>st</sup> May), 18,754 laboratory tests have been conducted and the total number of positive cases has risen to 133, 66 of whom have recovered, and three have died. Since the beginning of the crisis, Ethiopia has focused its strategy on the need for proactive interventions to curb the potential spread of the virus, while putting in place the necessary infrastructure to ensure critical preparedness and capacity within the Health sector.

The first round of actions that the government took included:- the allocation of an emergency budget; the mandatory quarantining, for 14 days, of all travellers arriving into Ethiopia; the closure of schools; limiting the majority of the Federal workforce to working from home; the postponement of large public gatherings, including sporting events; releasing prisoners who had committed minor crimes and those whose probationary period was nearing its end; the closure of all bars and nightclubs and the expansion of public information and media campaigns to raise Coronavirus awareness.

However, relying on the above measures alone will not prevent further spread of the virus. As time goes by, the number of cases continues to rise, other vigorous decisions needed to be made. The government Cabinet decided to decree a State of Emergency that will last for five months. The purpose of the emergency decree is to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and control and minimize the damage it causes. When the Prime Minister announced the Government's decision to declare the State of Emergency, he described it as one made "in the interest of safeguarding current and future generations."

Following its approval by the Council of Ministers, Proclamation 3/2020, also known as the "State of Emergency Proclamation Enacted to Counter and Control the Spread of COVID-19 and Mitigate its Impact", made its passage through the House of Peoples' Representatives on Friday 10th April. It was also announced that the State of Emergency, and the associated measures for its implementation, could be revised at any point by the Council of Ministers, based on the prevailing circumstances at the time.

To mitigate the adverse economic impact of COVID-19, the government has given critical attention to taking measures which will help protect employment and income, scaling up safety-net programmes to the most vulnerable, maintaining the supply chain of basic commodities, and providing support to producers. To sustain food security, the government is working to ensure agricultural productivity by providing uninterrupted supplies of fertilizers, improved seeds, and pesticides.

The Government has also launched a nationwide resource mobilization campaign, asking Ethiopians to help out in any way they can. An appeal has also been made to the diaspora and the rest of the international community to reach out at this critical time and provide support. The diaspora community are providing assistance through donations and in various other forms, such as medical support.

Although many Ethiopians at home and members of the Ethiopian Diaspora have begun to heed the call of the National Appeal, the task of dealing with the Covid-19 outbreak entails further efforts and continued engagements.

# Together, we will prevail!

## A call for donations

አስቸጋሪውን ጊዜ አሸንፈን እንሻገር!  
የወገን ለወገን ጥሪ

### Embassy launches urgent Coronavirus appeal for Ethiopia

Further to the calls made by the Government of Ethiopia in launching the COVID-19 National Resource Mobilisation Initiative, the Embassy, on 7<sup>th</sup> April, launched an appeal to galvanise the Ethiopian community and friends of Ethiopia in the United Kingdom to give urgently to confront the spread of the Coronavirus in Ethiopia.

The appeal is aimed at mobilising critical financial, human and material resources in the fight against Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Ethiopia.

Your donations will help provide essential support to the vital work that the Government of Ethiopia is doing to safeguard the health and wellbeing of the people of Ethiopia.

#### How to make a Cash Donation

The Embassy has opened a dedicated bank account to mobilise all monetary donations from the Ethiopian diaspora in the UK. All donations should be made out to:

**Account Name:** Embassy of Ethiopia

**Account No:** 43178968

**Sort Code:** 30-65-41

#### How to donate Material Items

The Embassy will be accepting donations of essential medical equipment critical to the fight against COVID-19.

The Embassy (17 Princes Gate, London SW7 1PZ) will be open every **Thursday between 11:00 am – 1:00 pm** for donations. Visit [our website](#) for details.

#### How Medical Professionals Can Contribute to the Effort

Current or retired medical professionals seeking to contribute to the fight against COVID-19 in Ethiopia are strongly encouraged to get in touch with the Embassy on the following phone numbers **07455 029562** and **07950 581507** or by email at [business@ethioembassy.org.uk](mailto:business@ethioembassy.org.uk).

Since the launch of the Ethiopia Coronavirus Appeal on 7<sup>th</sup> April, Ethiopians and Friends of Ethiopia in the UK have come together to raise **£23,442**. This generosity notwithstanding, much more is yet needed to confront and overcome this pandemic. Donate today and support Ethiopia in her time of need. With your vital contribution, together, we will prevail!

# thanks a million!

From all of us at  
the Ethiopian Embassy in London

*We join the global community in recognising the tireless efforts of all healthcare professionals and key workers - in Ethiopia, the UK and around the world - working around the clock, and in sometimes very difficult circumstances, to keep us going during these very difficult times.*

*Thank you!*

## Embassy Emergency Contacts

Due to the impact of the Coronavirus and Government guidance advice, most of our staff are working remotely until further notice.

Please note the following contact details for any urgent enquiries during this time:

Consular Section: 020 7838 3898  
General Enquiries: [info@ethioembassy.org.uk](mailto:info@ethioembassy.org.uk)  
Diaspora Affairs: 020 7838 3873 | 0203 846 6682 | 0207 838 3886  
Press / Media Enquiries: 020 7838 3883 | [press@ethioembassy.org.uk](mailto:press@ethioembassy.org.uk)  
Trade & Investment: 020 7838 3870 | [business@ethioembassy.org.uk](mailto:business@ethioembassy.org.uk)

## Consular opening hours

Until further notice, the Consular Section will be open on **Tuesday and Thursday only, from 10:00am-12:00pm (midday)**, and will only be **providing essential services**.

Read our COVID-19 approach in full via our website at <https://bit.ly/COVID19-EEUKv2>.

# Ethiopia declares State of Emergency to curb transmission of Coronavirus



In accordance with Article 93 of the Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Government has declared a 5-month State of Emergency in an effort to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Following its accession into law, the Federal Attorney General, H.E Adanech Abebe, issued regulations to further define the measures associated with the State of Emergency including:

- The banning of all public gatherings of more than four people. Where the gathering is of a group of four people, individuals will be expected to ensure that they are 2 metres apart at all times.
- Funerals and other essential functions can take place based on exceptional approval on a case-by-case basis from the relevant authorities.
- Greetings by handshake are banned.
- All movements at land borders, except for the flow of cargo and essential goods, will be banned.
- Transportation service-providers are to reduce passenger loads by 50% for all national and local journeys. Additionally, train services within Addis Ababa, and on the Addis Ababa-Djibouti route, are to operate passenger capacity at 25% on all journeys.
- Landlords are banned from evicting or increasing rents on private tenants for the duration of the State of Emergency.
- All commercial and private employers bound by the Labour proclamation will be prohibited from reducing their workforces or prematurely terminating employment contracts.
- Students and teachers are banned from meeting but can connect online or by other means that do not contravene social distancing measures.
- Although lawyers will still be able to confer with their clients in correctional facilities with the necessary precautions in place, going forward, all other visitations to these facilities will be prohibited.
- Sporting activities at all levels are prohibited.
- Children's playgrounds and other such venues will be closed.

Any person failing to comply with these obligations will face up to three years imprisonment or a fine of between 1,000 and 200,000 Ethiopian Birr (£25.00 – £5,000.00).

The State of Emergency and the associated measures for its implementation can be revised at any point by the Council of Ministers based on the prevailing circumstances at the time.

# WFP launches Ethiopian Government-supported Air Hub for COVID-19 response

The Government of Ethiopia and United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) have opened a new hub inside Addis Ababa's Bole International Airport from which COVID-19 supplies, equipment and humanitarian workers will be transported by air across Ethiopia and Africa.

The Addis Ababa Humanitarian Air Hub is part of a United Nations initiative move to scale up procurement and distribution of protective equipment and medical supplies for the COVID-19 response. With guidance and support from the Government of Ethiopia, WFP set up the hub in Addis Ababa and has begun operations.



Steven Were Omamo (3<sup>rd</sup> left), WFP's country director in Ethiopia with other Ethiopian officials attend the launch of the UN Airport Hub for Humanitarian shipments to combat the coronavirus at Bole International Airport in Addis Ababa on April 14, 2020.

"The Government is proud to host this hub in Ethiopia on behalf of the global community, said H. E. Admasu Nebebe, State Minister in the Federal Ministry of Finance.

**"We are honoured to be contributing this way to the global endeavour to tackle the Coronavirus disease."**

The first cargo flight arrived in Ethiopia on 13<sup>th</sup> April from the United Arab Emirates loaded with aprons, face shields, gloves, goggles, gowns, masks and thermometers procured by the United Nations World Health Organization (WHO) for distribution to 32 African countries.

"Thanks to the Government of Ethiopia, WFP worked with airport and customs authorities to establish this air hub in days," said WFP Ethiopia Country Director and Representative Steven Were Omamo.

**"Ethiopia has proven its willingness and agility to act as a regional caregiver in this time of crisis."**

A team of 25 WFP aviation and logistics staff are based at Bole International Airport in Addis Ababa, managing the 24-hour operation.

"This partnership between the Government of Ethiopia, WFP and WHO is aligned with the vision of the United Nations in Ethiopia and highlights the value of collaboration in responding to the needs of millions of people," said United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Ethiopia Catherine Sozi.



Ethiopian Airlines is playing a vital role in distribution of medical equipment across Africa

Following further discussions with the Government of Ethiopia, WFP is planning to organize and process flights for humanitarian personnel through the Addis Ababa hub as well as medical evacuations.

## CORONAVIRUS: NEWS IN BRIEF

### Addis Ababa's Millennium Hall converted into COVID-19 makeshift hospital

The Ministry of Health has built a makeshift COVID-19 treatment centre inside Millennium Hall to help Ethiopia deal with extreme eventualities of the pandemic.



The treatment centre is designed to accommodate 1,000 patients.

Prime Minister Abiy, who visited the treatment centre, said "I am pleased at how quickly the site was transformed to a hospital setup. The preparedness for any extreme eventualities in similar spaces will continue."

### FM Gedu holds virtual meeting over COVID-19 with Heads of Mission

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, H.E. Gedu Andargachew, on 11<sup>th</sup> April held a video teleconference with Ethiopian heads of mission in Europe, the Middle East and the Americas. Ambassador Fesseha took part in the meeting from his home in London.



The meeting deliberated upon ways to coordinate the missions' efforts in gathering support from governments, non-governmental organizations and members of the Ethiopian Diaspora to fight the COVID-19 pandemic at home.

Minister Gedu briefed the Ambassadors and Heads of Missions about key measures the Government is undertaking to curb the spread and minimize the effect of the scourge.

He also applauded Embassies and Ethiopians in the Diaspora for their commendable success registered so far in mobilizing resources to fight the pandemic in Ethiopia.

### UK Delivers Medical Supplies to Assist Ethiopia COVID-19 Response

Procured by UNICEF Ethiopia with financial assistance from the Department for International Development (DfID), the first consignment of medical supplies arrived at Addis Ababa Bole Airport on 17<sup>th</sup> April.



H.E. Lia Tadesse receives the humanitarian supplies from UNICEF

The medical supplies include masks, surgical gowns, face shields, coveralls and others medical equipment, UNICEF Ethiopia tweeted.

The medical supplies will be delivered to the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) to assist Ethiopia's coronavirus (COVID-19) response.

## CORONAVIRUS: NEWS IN BRIEF

### Addis Ababa launches door-to-door Covid-19 screening

On 13<sup>th</sup> April, Addis Ababa began door-to-door mass COVID-19 screening across the city as part of efforts aimed at identifying infected patients and curbing a potential virus spread within communities.

The door-to-door screenings are being conducted by more than 1,200 retired health professionals, who responded to government's call to join the national fight against the coronavirus pandemic.

### Courts to handle domestic violence cases as urgent

Federal courts in Ethiopia will listen to domestic violence cases that arise from the stay at home order enforced by the State of Emergency declaration.

Chief Justice Meaza Ashenafi disclosed the measure on Twitter saying: "Considering the possibility of an increase in domestic violence during the #StayAtHome period, a decision is made for federal courts to entertain charges of domestic violence as an urgent type of case."

On 18<sup>th</sup> March, the federal courts announced partial closure as a means of containing spread of the Coronavirus. The courts were not to accept new files except cases requiring urgent attention.

### Companies in Hawassa Industrial Park begin face mask production

Companies in Hawassa industrial park have begun producing face masks as part of efforts to halt the spread of Coronavirus.

Currently, they are "producing 10,000 face masks a day, to increase to 50,000 a day" said Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed in a tweet.

"Our industries are adapting to the times. Companies in Hawassa Industrial Park are shifting operations to meet immediate needs," he added.

The PM called on others to follow suit.

### Life insurance for health workers

The Ethiopian government is due to buy life insurance for health professionals in direct contact with Covid-19 patients. Health Minister Lia Tadesse said that the government reached an agreement with the Ethiopian Insurance Corporation.



Ethiopian doctors attend training to use mechanical ventilators for COVID-19 patients at the American Medical Center (AMC) in Addis

According to the ministry, the life insurance grant is aimed at encouraging health experts who are the most vulnerable to the deadly coronavirus. Members of the Rapid Response Team will also benefit.

The Health Ministry is also preparing temporary residential homes for health workers over fears that physicians could carry the virus back home.

### Ethiopian Athletics Federation approves fund to help athletes amid Coronavirus pandemic

The Ethiopian Athletics Federation (EAF) has approved more than ETB4 million (£97,000) from its savings to help active athletes overcome financial difficulties during the coronavirus pandemic.

The approval was announced after the EAF Executive Committee held a meeting regarding the issue. Among the other beneficiaries of the fund are coaches and other professionals working with athletes.

The EAF also intends to give complete training materials to 267 athletes, so that they can maintain their form and return to competition after the pandemic has ended.



# #STAYATHOME:

## THINGS TO DO

*Now that you have gone through all your favourite shows, make the most of lockdown and dedicate some of that extra time to learning something new...from cooking to virtual tours and new books, we have you covered ...and we have put an Ethiopian twist on it!*

### Visit Ethiopia



While travel has come to a near standstill during the Coronavirus pandemic, technology is allowing us to visit almost any place on the planet.

#### Getting to Know Ethiopia's Gelada Baboons

A virtual visit to the highlands of Ethiopia is more fun than a barrel full of monkeys in that you will meet one of the world's most fascinating primates — the Gelada baboons.



The baboons have a dynamic and complex social structure, second only to man's, making them a fascinating animal to watch. And these days - with most of us self-isolating and working from home - taking a break to enjoy a slice of nature provides the perfect antidote to long days in the house.

To that end, *Great BIG Nature's* latest video — featuring the gelada baboons — doesn't disappoint. Shot in the Simien Mountains of Ethiopia 3,000 metres above sea level, we meet a group of baboons carrying on and cavorting.

These baboons are easily identifiable by a patch of bare skin on their chests, which glows red when ready to mate and has given rise to a nickname — bleeding heart monkeys.

The baboons are also unique in that they are the only surviving species of grazing monkey. They spend up to 60% of their day feeding - more than any other primate.

As night descends, the baboons descend the cliffs at the edge of their grazing areas to sleep on tiny rock ledges until the sun rises, and grazing begins once again.

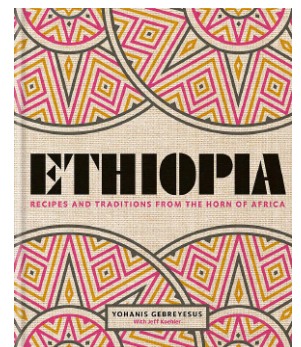
Once we recover the pandemic, make sure to book a ticket and visit Ethiopia, the Land of Origins. For now, visit Ethiopia's Simien Mountains virtually at <https://youtu.be/saK06Wd6lOA>.

### Cook Ethiopian



Cooking is wonderfully therapeutic. Take your culinary prowess up a level by learning how to cook Ethiopian food. Not only is Ethiopian food delicious, it is also unique.

In his stunning debut cookbook, *Ethiopia: Recipes and Traditions from the Horn of Africa*, renowned chef, Yohanis Gebreyesus, takes the reader on a journey through all the essential dishes of Ethiopia, telling wondrous stories along the way.



There are recipes for all types of diets, including vegans and vegetarians – from the famous *Doro Wat*, chicken slowly stewed with berbere spice; to *Yeassa Alich*a, curried fish stew; and *Siga Tibs*, flash-fried beef cubes.

The cookbook also boasts a wealth of vegetarian dishes such as *Gomen*, minced collard greens with ginger and garlic; *Azifa*, green lentil salad; and the most popular, *Shiro Wat*, spicy chickpea flour stew.

Complete with photography of Ethiopia's stunning landscapes and vibrant artisans by Peter Cassidy, this volume demonstrates why Ethiopian food should be considered as one of the world's greatest, most singular and most enchanting cuisines.

Published by Hachette (UK) and Interlink Publishing (North America), Chef Yohanis' cookbook is available at most online stores.

### **#STAYATHOMESOUP by Chef Yohanis**

Comfort in a bowl of soup! Chef Yohanis discovered this soup at a fish market on Lake Hawassa's eastern shore. Apparently, the soup has some medicinal properties!



## **Asa Shorba**

(Doctor Marsano's Fish Soup)

Serves 4

### **Ingredients:**

- 2 ¼ lb (1kg) fish bones, heads, or small fish of white-fleshed, non-oily variety
- 2 tbsp finely chopped garlic
- 2 tbsp grated or finely chopped ginger
- 2 tbsp finely chopped jalapenos or other hot fresh green chili
- 1 tbsp ground turmeric
- 2 medium whole fish, such as sea bream, tilapia, or red snapper (about 1 lb/450 g each) cleaned; or 4 fish steaks or generous-size fillets
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- Cornbread, to serve

### **Method**

Place the fish bones in a large soup pot, cover with 8 1/2 cups (2 litres) of water and bring to a boil. Skim off any foam.

Meanwhile in a food processor, blend the garlic, ginger and jalapenos with a touch of the simmering fish stock, to make a thick paste, or mash with a pestle and mortar. Blend in the turmeric and spoon it all into the pot. Partly cover the pot with a lid and simmer for 15-20 minutes.

Make a diagonal slit in the side of each fish and season with salt and pepper. Carefully lower the fish into the liquid and simmer for 4-8 minutes, depending on the size of the fish, until done.

When cooked, with a slotted spoon transfer the whole fish to a large plate and fillet, discarding the spines and heads.

To serve, place a piece of fillet in each soup bowl and ladle on plenty of broth. Serve with cornbread.



**STAY HOME**  
**SAVE LIVES**

## Keep Fit at Home



Keeping your physical and mental fitness levels up has never been more important!

### Weekly workouts by Great Ethiopian Run

During recent weeks, the Great Ethiopian Run (GER) has been encouraging people to stay at home and do short periods of exercise.

Backed by a campaign led by long distance legend, Haile Gebrselassie, and other famous Ethiopian athletes, the GER has launched its free weekly exercise classes and is asking people to sign up.

Though it has had to cancel some of its race events, plans are also afoot to stage, in June, a virtual 5km race in place of the annual road relay. "We want to play our part in fighting the spread of the pandemic," explained GER Operations Manager Dagim Teshome, who came up with the idea of the virtual race where participants post their activity on the GER Facebook page using an app to record their performance.

"This race will encourage people to go out and exercise while at the same time keeping their physical distance from others."

Weeks 1 and 2 of the home workouts are now live on GER's YouTube page. Take part online at <https://bit.ly/GERxWorkouts>. The Embassy will also re-share the exercise videos across our social media platforms: @EthioEmbassyUK.

### Ethiopian Virtual Run

Grand African Run will be hosting an Ethiopian Virtual run on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2020 at 3.00pm BST (10.00am EDT) and is inviting everyone to take part!

Joining you will be some of Ethiopia's legendary athletes who want to help keep our spirits up and to say "Stay safe and stay strong. We will get through this together."

You can take part in the Ethiopian Virtual Run on Zoom, Facebook live and YouTube live. Run, jog or walk in your living room, garden or treadmill with others from all over the world.

### Ethiopian Virtual Run የኢትዮጵያ ሸርቻል ሩጫ



Registration now open at [www.africanrun.com](http://www.africanrun.com). Proceeds from the event will be donated to Ethiopia-based NGOs helping out the COVID-19 mitigation effort.

### Learn a new language - Ge'ez (ግዕዝ)



Dr Logan Williams, a lecturer from Durham University, will be running an online Ge'ez (ግዕዝ) course via Zoom from 8<sup>th</sup> May for 20 weeks.

Ge'ez is the classical language of Ethiopia which is still used as a liturgical language by Ethiopian Christians. The earliest known inscriptions in the Ge'ez script date to the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC.



Ancient Ge'ez texts are deeply important to the history of ancient Judaism, early Christianity and Christianity in Ethiopia. Yet unfortunately studying them in their original language is neglected.

This 20-week course seeks to remedy that problem by going through the basic morphology, grammar and syntax of Ge'ez in an accessible way.

Throughout the course you will read 1 Enoch 1–5 in Ge'ez, and after finishing the course, students will have the option of staying on to read Matthew 1–5 and 1 Enoch 45–57 together.

The 20-week course runs from 8<sup>th</sup> May for one hour a week and is free. But for those able and willing, donations are welcome.

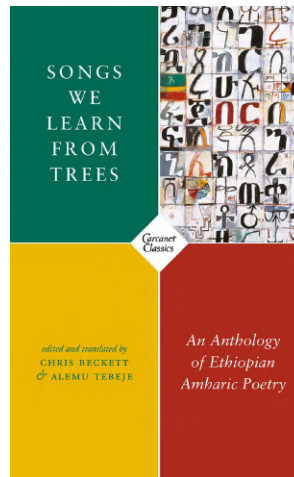
For enquiries, please contact Dr Logan by email on [logan.a.williams@durham.ac.uk](mailto:logan.a.williams@durham.ac.uk).

## Read a new book



As we look into more productive ways to spend time at home, reading is on the top of many people's lists. Reading has many benefits and has been proven to help reduce stress and boost wellbeing.

### Songs We Learn from Trees: An Anthology of Ethiopian Amharic Poetry



Edited and translated by Chris Beckett and Alemu Tebeje, this is the very first anthology of Ethiopian poetry in English, packed with all the energy, wit and heartache of a beautiful country and language.

From folk and religious poems, warrior boasts, praises of women and kings and modern plumbing; through a flowering of literary poets in the twentieth century; right up to thirty of the most exciting contemporary Amharic poets working both inside and outside the country.

The book can be purchased online at [www.carcenet.co.uk](http://www.carcenet.co.uk). **Exclusive 25% off RRP is available by using the following discount code: ETHIOPIA25.**

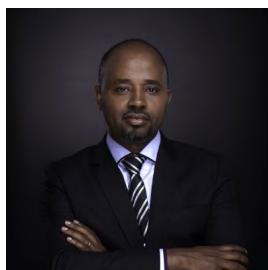
## Listen to a Podcast



Invest Africa, a leading UK-based pan-African business and investment platform that promotes trade and investment in Africa, has launched a series of podcasts, Invest Africa Insights, which explore Africa's key economic trends and the issues facing businesses and investors across the continent.

For Ethiopia, H.E. Dr Eyob Tekalign Tolina, State Minister of Finance, and Gebeya Inc., an Ethiopian tech start-up, are featured.

## Meet the Minister - H.E. Dr Eyob Tekalign Tolina, State Minister of Finance for Ethiopia



Invest Africa sits down with H.E. Dr Eyob Tekalign Tolina, Ethiopia's State Minister of Finance for insight into how Ethiopia is combating coronavirus, the current state of the economic reform agenda and an update on Ethiopia's upcoming elections.

Listen on: [Apple Podcasts](#) | [Spotify](#) | [Google Podcasts](#)

## Meet the Entrepreneur - Amadou Daffe, CEO & Co-Founder of Gebeya Inc.

The word Gebeya means “market” in Amharic, Ethiopia’s national language.



Invest Africa Insights sits down with Amadou Daffe, CEO & Co-Founder of Gebeya Inc., to talk about the company's monumental rise. From early beginnings to the mega seed-funding round led by Partech and Orange, Gebeya exploded onto the African tech scene, to create a self-sustainable ecosystem that trains, hires and cultivates top talented African Software Engineers.

We examine Gebeya's standing as an incubator and accelerator for techpreneurs operating across the continent, the importance of African-led training academies and advice for fellow entrepreneurs looking to raise funding in a post-Corona world.

Listen on: [Apple Podcasts](#) | [Spotify](#) | [Google Podcasts](#).

## Watch an Ethiopian Film



There's no doubt that we are watching a lot more TV at the moment. While terrestrial ratings are up, streaming services have been surging.

### Ethiopian film, *Enchained* (Quragnaye), available on habeshaview

Online streaming service habeshaview is inviting audiences around the world to enjoy the award-winning movie *Enchained* (ቁራጎንዳ) from the comfort of their own home.



*Enchained* is easily accessible by downloading the habeshaview app. After a one-time purchase, viewers will have access to the movie on any of their favourite smart devices.

*Enchained* is a historical and fictional drama set in 1910 that explores the traditional justice system and its effects. It was selected as the Opening Movie of the prestigious 2020 New African Film Festival in the United States.

The Ethiopian production won the top prizes at the Alem Cinema Awards and Lizzo Awards. The film has been screened internationally in London, Addis Ababa, New York and Washington.

Visit [habeshaview.com](https://habeshaview.com) for more information.

## ETHIOPIA IN UK

# Lovegrass Ethiopia Scoops Gold at UK FreeFrom Food Awards



Lovegrass Ethiopia, an Ethiopian Teff brand based in London and Addis Ababa, won the Gold medal in the 'Breakfast Foods' category for Crispy Teff Flakes at the thirteenth annual FreeFrom Food Awards.

The Awards, the UK's only industry awards for freefrom food, were started

in 2008 by FoodsMatter to encourage innovation and celebrate excellence.

Lovegrass Crispy Teff Flakes are made with wholegrain Ethiopian Teff, golden linseed and a touch of coconut blossom nectar for a crispy, crunchy, delicious breakfast high in iron, prebiotic fibre, magnesium and a good source of calcium.

Founder Yonas (aka Yilikal) Alemu said the award realises the mission to put a competitive Ethiopian brand in the global food market. "Even more pleasing as it is a brand which is 100% owned, created and promoted by an Ethiopian team. A team that fully believes Ethiopia can trade itself out of poverty by branding, value adding and directly competing in the global market," he said.

The win was announced on 28<sup>th</sup> April, after the decision of judges from across the food sector in a 'blind' tasting, on quality, usefulness, cleverness and nutritional profile. Judges also make comments that could be helpful to the manufacturers.

Judges said: "Lovely ingredients. A delicate-looking but firm flake, full of texture and crunch – slightly nutty taste and texture – delicious."

### ...Powered by Teff

Multi-award-winning *Lovegrass Ethiopia* produces and distributes gluten free, healthy food products made from the Ethiopian super grain - *Teff*.



File photo: Business Diplomacy Minister Counsellor Nardos Ayalew with Lovegrass Founder, Yonas Alemu

Their range includes Teff Flour, Teff grain, White Teff Fusilli Pasta, Crispy Teff Flakes and Teff Pancake and Waffle Mix.

Along with being gluten-free, Teff is high in iron, vitamins, protein, minerals and calcium, and super tasty. It is now dubbed the new superfood and the new quinoa. For thousands of years Ethiopians have used Teff as the main ingredient for Injera – Ethiopia's staple, pancake-like flatbread – which serves as a base for its rich cuisine.

For more information about *Lovegrass*, including recipes, visit [thelovegrass.com](http://thelovegrass.com). **White Teff Fusilli Pasta is currently being offered at 25% off!**

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

#PLANTYOURPRINT



# GREENING ETHIOPIA

ONE SEEDLING AT A TIME

## Ethiopia to plant 5 billion tree seedlings

Ethiopia is to plant 5 billion tree seedlings this year to help fight climate change and deforestation.

The announcement was made following Prime Minister Abiy's visit to a tree seedling nursery in Sodere. The 5 billion seedlings are being nurtured in 38,000 sites across the country as part of the annual planting season, which will start in mid-June this year, if Ethiopia manages to curb the spread of the Coronavirus.



According to the Prime Minister, up to 20 billion seedlings will be planted over the next four years.

This ambitious campaign is part of PM Abiy's Green Legacy Initiative which, last year, resulted in 4 billion trees (40 trees per person) being planted.



On 29<sup>th</sup> July 2019, Ethiopia made history by planting a record 353 million tree seedlings in 12 hours!

## Ethiopia secures £24m UK grant to support refugees

Ethiopia has secured a £24 million grant from the United Kingdom to support refugees in two regions.



The grant agreement was signed by Admasu Nebebe, State Minister of Finance, and Dr Christian Rogg, head of DFID in Ethiopia, at a virtual authorization ceremony.

The grant, for promoting refugee self-reliance, will be used for a project in Ethiopia's Somali and Gambella Regional States, to improve quality of life and reduce the vulnerability of refugees, host communities and migrants and will directly benefit 200,000 refugees and host community members.

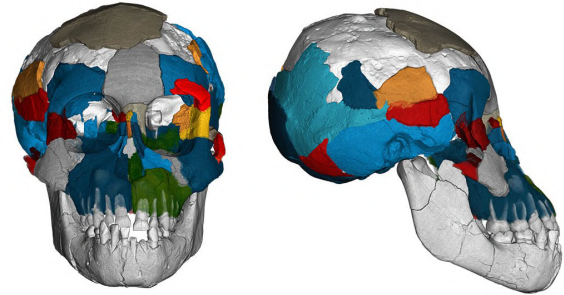
Ethiopia hosts almost a million refugees from neighbouring countries. From last year, a historic new refugee law allows refugees to obtain work permits, access primary education, obtain drivers' licences, legally register births and opens up access to national financial services.

## Our ancient ancestor 'Lucy' had a small brain just like humans

A new study, led by paleoanthropologists Philipp Gunz and Simon Neubauer from the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Germany, reveals that Lucy's species, *Australopithecus afarensis*, had an ape-like brain.

Prof Zeresenay Alemseged from the University of Chicago was also an author on the study. He says, "Lucy and her kind provide important evidence about early hominin behaviour. They walked upright, had brains that were around 20% larger than those of chimpanzees, and may have used sharp stone tools."

*Australopithecus afarensis* was made famous by a skeleton known as Lucy, found in 1974 in Ethiopia. Lucy proved her species - one of our early human relatives - walked on two legs.



Brain imprints in fossil skulls of the species *Australopithecus afarensis* shed new light on the evolution of brain growth and organization. Image by Philipp Gunz.



*A. afarensis* lived in East Africa more than three million years ago. Understanding these early humans is important because it helps us understand how we - *Homo sapiens* - evolved as well. Lucy's fellow hominins are likely to be our ancestors.

The researchers used scanning technology to analyse the skull of 'the Dikika Child', also known as Selam, who lived in Ethiopia 3.3 million years ago, as well as scans of Lucy and other fossils from Hadar in Ethiopia.

The Dikika Child' - the remains of which were discovered in Dikika, Ethiopia in 2000 - is the earliest child ancestor discovered so far. She belonged to the same species as Lucy.

Remains of both Lucy and 'the Dikika Child' show the brain of this early species was organised like that of an ape, but grew over time at a rate more comparable to humans.

The findings are published in the journal *Science Advances*.



### **Ethiopia Opens Up Mobile Money Services to Local Firms**

Locally-owned non-financial institutions will be allowed to start offering mobile money services as Ethiopia seeks to boost cashless payments.

The move will give companies, like state-run Ethiotelecom, the opportunity to compete with banks.

Currently, only banks and micro-finance companies are allowed to offer mobile-money services, meaning that it was rare for people to do transactions via their mobile phones.



Licence requirements include minimum capital of 50 million birr (\$1.5 million), ownership by Ethiopian nationals or people of Ethiopian origin and a minimum of 10 shareholders, the National Bank of Ethiopia said in a statement on its website.

Ethiopia is in the midst of massive economic reforms, spearheaded by PM Abiy, including the privatization of state-owned telecoms monopoly Ethiotelecom. Foreign telecom operators, including Kenya's Safaricom and South Africa's MTN, have expressed interest in bidding for telecoms licences.

### **\$1.8 billion earned from exports**

According to the Ministry of Trade and Industry, exports over the past eight months generated \$1.8 billion, 79% of its target, which was \$2.3 billion.

The revenue surpassed by \$171 million the \$1.6 billion earned in the same period last year.

### **150MW geothermal power plant to be constructed**

A 150MW geothermal power plant will be constructed in Ethiopia following a power purchase agreement signed between the Ethiopian Electric Power (EEP) and the Corbetti Geothermal project developers.

The deal will be one of the first privately developed, owned and operated geothermal IPPs in Ethiopia and will see 50MW of power generated when the first phase is completed in February 2023, rising to 150MW at full completion in 2025.

“Geothermal enhances our energy security by providing constant output power to support industrialisation,” PM Abiy Tweeted, adding that it was the first such power purchase agreement to reach such an advanced stage in the country. When complete, it will enable Ethiopia to meet 18% of its 2025 geothermal generation target.

### **Nasa Garment first Ethiopian company in Hawassa to export to Canada**

Nasa Garment Plc has become the first Ethiopian company from the Hawassa Industrial Park to export its products to Canada. On 8<sup>th</sup> April, a container left with 21,000 units of apparel, including shirts, trousers, active wear and sweaters.

With 30 production lines, Nasa can make 30,000 pieces of clothing a day, employing 340 workers, and is expected to hire 2,100 more when it becomes fully operational.

Set up with an investment of \$5 million, Nasa is preparing to venture into the second phase of investment at Bole Lemi Industrial Park. Expected to cost \$11 million, the plant will be fully operational in 2022 and will manufacture denim.

During the past eight months of this fiscal year, Ethiopia's textile and garment industry generated \$129 million from exports, a 32% increase over the same period last year.

## TRAVEL AND TOURISM



### **“By staying home today, we can travel tomorrow”, and Ethiopia looks forward to welcoming you soon!**

“By staying home today, we can travel tomorrow”. This message is from the UN’s World Tourism Organization in response to COVID-19. Tourism will be the hardest hit of all economic sectors. But tourism has shown an unparalleled ability to recover from crisis and is uniquely positioned to lead wider societal recovery, driving economic growth, creating jobs and transforming lives.

UNWTO has launched a new online campaign, **#TravelTomorrow**, which encapsulates this message of solidarity and hope, through which it is calling for shared responsibility among travellers and the tourism sector around the world in dealing with the Coronavirus pandemic.

When we #TravelTomorrow, we will do so for the right reasons:

- For the **solidarity** we are witnessing today across the world.
- To learn from **different cultures** and to return home enriched.
- To support the **jobs** which go hand in hand with tourism as a sector that reaches every level of society.
- To advance development and promote **sustainability**.
- For the opportunities that come with **discovering** the world around us.

---

### **Ministry adopts tourism recovery strategy**

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism has adopted a national tourism recovery strategy aimed at mitigating the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

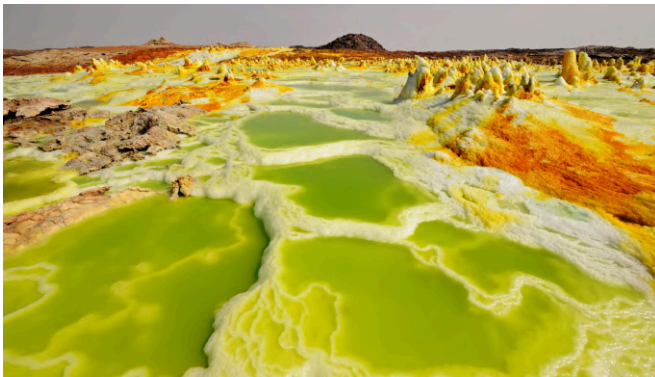
Minister of Culture and Tourism, Dr Hirut Kassaw, said the strategy was referred to stakeholders for discussion, and incorporated recommendations of the tourism committee and regional offices.

The strategy helps international tourists adjust their visit plans to Ethiopia, and have a clear view of tourist destinations will be after the Coronavirus is contained at global level, Dr Hirut said.

The strategy is adopted in compliance with recovery measures recommended by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) to mitigate impacts of Coronavirus in the world tourism economy.

### It's one of the harshest places on Earth – and travellers love it

It's been called one of the most alien places on earth — a “gateway to hell” and, in the words of British explorer Wilfred Thesiger, a veritable “land of death.”



The Danakil Depression is so other-worldly that scientists use it to study the possibility of life on other planets. © Pascal Boegli

The sulfurous hot springs, acid pools, steaming fissures and salt mountains of the Danakil Depression resemble scenes from a science fiction movie. But the area is very real — and it's one of Ethiopia's top attractions.

One of the hottest places on earth as well as one of the lowest (400 feet below sea level), the Danakil Depression entices three main types of people to the area: salt miners, scientists and travellers.

As they have done for centuries, miners travel hours by camel caravans to extract salt slabs from the flat pans around Lake Afar. Salt is the region's “white gold” and was a form of currency in Ethiopia until the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



A camel caravan, with salt mined by hand, travels across a salt plain in the Danakil Depression. Carl Court

Scientists are attracted to the conditions. In the 1960s, the area was used to study plate tectonics, but more recently astrobiological exploration is the larger scientific draw.

In the spring of 2016, researchers from the University of Bologna, Italy's International Research School of Planetary Sciences and Ethiopia's Mekelle University studied whether microbes can withstand Danakil's scorchingly inhospitable environment (it turned out they can). Scientists wonder whether if extremophiles, as they are known, can survive there, they can survive on Mars too.



Erta Ale's interior lava lake is one of only eight in the world. SeppFriedhuber

Travellers are lured to the Danakil Depression for an altogether different reason. It's a sweltering, foul-smelling, punitive place, which is exactly why people cross continents to see it. Despite its intensity, those who make the trek give it stellar reviews.

The sulfur springs of Dallol are a particular draw, with its stupefying shades of neon green and yellow that hiss forth from the rocky terrain. Ethiopia's most active volcano, Erta Ale (“Smoking Mountain” in the local Afar language) is another, with its cartoon-like molten center, one of only eight lava lakes in the world.

**The Danakil Depression really is one of the most incredible natural wonders in the world. It is one of the most alien places on earth, and with Ethiopia growing in popularity as a destination, we are seeing more and more travellers.**

Henok Tsegaye  
ETHIOPIAN TOUR GUIDE

Read more at <https://bit.ly/DanakilDepressionET>

## #WishIWasThere: 12 places Wanderlust readers can't wait to get back to

Ethiopia was featured among destinations that Wanderlust travel magazine readers can't wait to get back to.



Diana wants to be in Ethiopia's Simien Mountains

"In Ethiopia in the Simien Mountains – here's Ras Dashen, which I should have been climbing right now... On the positive side, I have a few more months now to remain excited about visiting." - Diana Maynard.

Read more: <https://bit.ly/WishIWasThere>

### Unique Experiences in Africa on a Budget

You could visit the African continent a hundred times and still be left awestruck by a completely new experience every time – that's part of its charm.

#### Go soul searching in Ethiopia

There's something about Ethiopia that sets it apart from most other African travel destinations. Here, in the midst of ancient histories, religious fervour and some of the most soulful people you'll ever meet, it's only natural to want to do some soul searching of your own.

Ethiopia doesn't disappoint when it comes to unique experiences, boasting a myriad of interesting places, like Axum, said to be the home of the real biblical Ark of the Covenant; Danakil Depression, one of the lowest, driest and hottest places on earth; Lalibela with its rock-cut churches; Bahir Dar, home to the thundering Blue Nile Falls, and so many more.



Bete Giyorgis (St George's Church), Lalibela

Many of these activities are relatively budget friendly and thanks to the country's growing tourism sector, it's becoming easier to visit and explore without breaking the bank. Oh, and you'll be blown away by the rich flavor of their food too.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/Visit-Ethiopia>

### Where is the Ark of the Covenant today and what is Indiana Jones: Raiders of the Lost Ark about?

Harrison Ford stars in Indiana Jones: Raiders of the Lost Ark, which was aired on BBC One on 10<sup>th</sup> April.

The film follows the archaeologist as he repeatedly risks his life to find the treasured Ark of the Covenant.

#### Is the Ark of the Covenant real and where is it today?

Yes, the Ark of the Covenant is a real artefact that allegedly contained the Ten Commandments.

It's not known when the religious artefact is today.

However, there is rife speculation that the Ark is kept in the Church of Our Lady Mary of Zion in Ethiopia.

It's believed that the ark was brought to Ethiopia 3,000 years ago by a man called Menelik. Legend states that he was the son of the Queen of Sheba and King Solomon.



Indiana Jones fights to find the Ark of the Covenant in Raiders of the Lost Ark

The queen was from Ethiopia but met the king and was seduced by him while visiting Israel. She returned home before giving birth to Menelik.

As he grew older, Menelik returned to Israel to study with his father, but during one trip, he stole the ark and took it back to Ethiopia, where it reportedly remains.

The security who guard the ark at the Church of Our Lady Mary of Zion have allegedly been trained to kill with their bare hands.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/LostArkEthiopia>

## Signing on: The deaf workers weaning a capital city off plastic bags

What do you say to a business owner who has heard it all before? Answer: Don't speak, use sign language. At least that's the novel approach taken by Teki Paper bags, an Ethiopian enterprise developed by deaf women.

They certainly have the numbers to back it up. With almost a million handmade paper bags sold, the

organisation is slowly weaning the country's bustling capital, Addis Ababa, off plastic bags while simultaneously empowering the deaf community.



Teki's employees arrange a paper bag display. Photograph: Nils Adler

Clement Piguet, Teki's co-founder, says: "With our paper bags we want to provide people with the opportunity to change the lives of deaf people, and through this, create an alternative way to fight plastic."

Today Teki has 18 full-time deaf employees and two interpreters, and services more than 50 clients. It has recently moved to a more central location, making it easier for clients and employees to visit.



Lunchtime at Teki. Photograph: Nils Adler

**“Our dream at Teki is to initiate the hearing impaired, not just in Africa, but all around the world to fight plastic.”**

Read more at <https://bit.ly/TekiBagsET>

## Ethiopia taps army of women health workers to fight coronavirus

Masks and hand washing may help stem Coronavirus but in Ethiopia health officials are busy deploying another key resource: women.

An army of community health workers - many of them women who in the 2000s helped reduce maternal mortality - are now trying to stop the disease spreading in the east African country.

In sprawling cities and remote villages this women-led workforce of 40,000 is tasked with improving hygiene, monitoring new cases, and dispelling myths about COVID-19, which has infected over 10,000 people in Africa.

"The trust they have built through the years will help us reach communities as early as possible," said Temesgen Ayehu of Ethiopia's health ministry.

Among these women health workers are newly-graduated students in their twenties and educated mothers who have experience teaching reproductive health to families.

"The community have known these women and been listening to them for years ... They have probably helped a woman when she was pregnant, when she had kids, for immunization. So they already have a relationship," said Misrak Makonnen, country director of public health NGO, Amref Health Africa.

Thousands of women are being trained to spread awareness about the disease, identify people with symptoms and trace those whom they may have had contact with.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/HEWxCOVID19>

## What African Economies Need to Survive the Coronavirus

In his latest Op-Ed for Bloomberg, PM Abiy calls for a collective approach to minimising the impacts of Coronavirus in Africa: "We can start by exploring immediate debt relief for all of Africa...The continent's debt-service payments to bilateral creditors in 2020 amount to about \$14 billion. Africa welcomes all debt-alleviation initiatives coming from multilateral financial institutions, notably the World Bank and International Monetary Fund...More will be needed, however."

**"No country will come out unscathed in this pandemic. However, there are real, life-saving measures that the world can take to help Africa and, in turn, its populations. We are optimistic about our long-term future, and realize we must take action. Now."**

Read more at <https://bloom.bg/2XuPjLk>

CONNECT WITH US



@EthioEmbassyUK

Published by the Public Diplomacy Department, Embassy of Ethiopia, London SW7 1PZ  
To receive a copy by email, please send an email to [press@ethioembassy.org.uk](mailto:press@ethioembassy.org.uk).  
A copy is also available online on our website: [www.ethioembassy.org.uk](http://www.ethioembassy.org.uk).

