

# SNNPR

**Southern Nations Nationalities and  
Peoples Region, SNNPR**

## **Demography and Health**

**Aynalem Adugna, January 1, 20201**

[www.EthioDemographyAndHealth.Org](http://www.EthioDemographyAndHealth.Org)

# SNNPR

Suggested citation:

SNNPR:

Demography and Health

Aynalem Adugna

January 1, 2021 [www.EthioDemographyAndHealth.Org](http://www.EthioDemographyAndHealth.Org)

SNNPR is one of the largest regions in Ethiopia, accounting for more than 10 percent of the country's land area [1] and an estimated population of 20,768,000 (May 2018) almost a fifth of the country's population. The mid-2008 population was estimated at 16 million. With less than one in tenth of its population (8.9%) living in urban areas in 2008 the region is overwhelmingly rural. "The SNNPR region is divided into 13 administrative zones, 133 Woredas and 3512 Kebeles, and its capital is Awassa." [1]

## Population by Region: 1994 and January 1<sup>st</sup> 2021

Region	1994 Census*				January 1, 2021
	Urban	Rural	Total	Percent	Total
<b>Tigray</b>	2,667,789	468,478	3,136,267	5.9%	6,853,970
<b>Afar</b>	980,705	79,868	1,060,573	2.0%	2,323,380
<b>Amhara</b>	12,568,982	1,265,319	13,834,301	25.8%	<b>30,087,766</b>
<b>Oromiya</b>	16,762,437	1,970,088	18,732,525	34.8%	<b>40,524,973</b>
<b>Somali</b>	2,761,479	437,035	3,198,514	6.0%	6,970,138
<b>Benishangul Gumuz</b>	424,432	36,027	460,459	0.9%	1,045,520
<b>Sidama</b>				3.8%	4,420,334
<b>SNNPR</b>	9,672,210	704,818	10,377,028	15.7%	18,232,613
<b>Gambella</b>	154,438	27,424	181,862	0.4%	646,675
<b>Addis Ababa</b>	28,149	2,084,588	2,112,737	4.0%	4,646,759
<b>Dire Dawa</b>	78,676	173,188	251,864	0.5%	580,045
	46,099,297	7,246,833	53,346,130	100.0%	<b>116,401,322**</b>
*Source: <a href="http://www.irpps.cnr.it/etiopia/pdf/MigrationChap2.PDF">http://www.irpps.cnr.it/etiopia/pdf/MigrationChap2.PDF</a>					
**Source: <a href="http://countrymeters.info/en/Ethiopia">http://countrymeters.info/en/Ethiopia</a> (For January 1, 2021)					

Click [HERE](#) to access a Regional map of Ethiopia's Demographic and Health Survey Results and then click Amhara or any other region

Also see the population density map below:

[Click HERE](#) to access an interactive population density map based on the 2007 census and zoom into the Amhara region (the darker the shade, the larger the population size of Weredas).

The discrepancies between the numbers in the map and the tables above reflect the level of population undercounts in the 2007 census\*. Use the back arrow on the web browser to return.

Click here to return to the main page → [www.EthioDemographyAndHealth.Org](http://www.EthioDemographyAndHealth.Org)

"The SNNPR is an extremely ethnically diverse region of Ethiopia, inhabited by more than 80 ethnic groups, of which over 45 (or 56 percent) are indigenous to the region (CSA 1996). These ethnic groups are distinguished by different languages, cultures, and socioeconomic organizations. Although none of the indigenous ethnic groups dominates the ethnic makeup of the national population, there is a considerable ethnic imbalance within the region. The largest ethnic groups in the SNNPR are the Sidama (17.6 percent), Wolayta (11.7 percent), Gurage (8.8 percent), Hadiya (8.4 percent), Selite (7.1 percent), Gamo (6.7 percent), Keffa (5.3 percent), Gedeo (4.4 percent), and Kembata (4.3 percent) .... While the Sidama are the largest ethnic group in the region, each ethnic group is numerically dominant in its respective administrative zone, and there are large minority ethnic groups in each zone. The languages spoken in the SNNPR can be classified into four linguistic families: Cushitic, Nilotic, Omotic, and Semitic. The majority of the ethnic groups in the region are from the family of Omotic language, and ethnic groups belonging to the Nilotic language family are mostly minority. Among the largest ethnic groups, the Gaino, Goffa, and Wolayta are members of the Omotic linguistic family. While the Hadiya, Kembata, and Sidama are from the Cushitic linguistic group, the Gurage and Amhara belong to the Semitic language family ...." [2]

## Major Ethnic Groups

The following paragraphs are based on online entries regarding the major ethnic groups in SNNPR and their way of life [3]:

**The Basketo:** Are ensete growers with additional cultivation of maize, tuber roots, millet and vegetables. Domestic animals are kept in small numbers. "Traditionally, the Basketo were organized as a segmentary clan society headed by a divine king, the kati. The ethnic religion of the Basketo knew a duality of the sky-god Tsosii and the earth-mother Qacharunde. Under Ethiopian rule they mostly adopted Ethiopian Orthodox Christianity. Their homeland became part of the expanding territory in 1893 [3].

**The Daasanach:** Occupy territories in Ethiopia, Kenya and the Sudan their main homeland being the Debub Omo Zone surrounding the North end of Lake Turkana. Though traditionally pastoral, the Daasanach have in recent years become primarily agro-pastoral. Having been dispossessed of "...their traditional Kenyan lands, including on both sides of Lake Turkana, and the 'Ilemi Triangle' of Sudan, they have suffered a massive decrease in the numbers of cattle, goats and sheep". As a result, large numbers have relocated closer to the Omo River as settled agriculturalists. Tropical vectored diseases are widespread including trypanosomiasis transmitted by the tsetse bite. The Daasanach are known to be highly egalitarian "...with a social system involving age sets and clan lineages - both of which involve strong reciprocity...." [3]

"The Daasanach language is a Cushitic language notable for its large number of noun classes, irregular verb system, and implosive consonants (for instance, the initial D in Daasanach is implosive, sometimes written as 'D')." [3]

**The Dorze:** The Dorze "... live primarily in the southern region of the country, though some have migrated to Addis Ababa and other regions". A significant number of Dorzes live in villages near the cities of Chench and Arba Minch located in the Semien Omo Zone (formerly in the Gamu-Gofa Province). "Weaving is a primary profession for many Dorzes." The Dorze practice a system of cultivation based on ingenious terracing of the mountainsides and around their huge bee-hive-like huts they tend small gardens with vegetables, spices, Enset and tobacco. [4]. In the words of an intrigued visitor to the region:

"The Dorze people are famous for their huge huts, resembling a giant beehive. Although these huts look fragile, they can last up to 60 years. The huts can also be transported to another location, thanks to the structure made of vertical poles. Every hut has a sort of "nose" at its south side, serving as reception room. After our eyes were accustomed at the rather darkness, coming from the full sunlight, it was interesting to see the construction of the hut from the inside. It's surprising the large space in the hut when outside it looked so small. In the middle of the hut there is an open fire for cooking. There are also low benches to sit around the fire. Along the walls are located sleeping places and places for storage. " [4]

**The Gurage:** The Gurage live in southwest Ethiopia, about 150 miles southwest of Addis Ababa having settled generation ago on a semi-fertile, semi-mountainous part of the region. "Their homeland extends to the Awash River in the north, the Gibe River (a tributary of the Omo) to the southwest and to Lake Zway in the east." Three distinct regional entities form the Gurage ethnic group are made up on three distinct regional entities - Northern, Eastern and Western. The largest group - the Eastern subgroup, known as the Silt'e - have, traditionally, not considered themselves to be Gurage, and "in a referendum in 2000 they voted unanimously to break away from the Gurage Zone within the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples Region, forming their own autonomous region" [3]

The historian Paul B. Henzep traced their origins to traditions of military expeditions to the south during the last years of the Axumite Kingdom which left behind military colonies that in due course became isolated from both northern Ethiopia and from each other [3]. The majority of Gurages are Orthodox Christians, and 40 % are Moslem. In the 1994 census, people self- identifying as Gurage constituted about 4.3% of the total Ethiopian population.

The Gurage are sedentary agriculturalists practicing "a complex system of crop rotation and transplanting. Ensete is consumed as the main staple crop, but other cash crops are grown including coffee and chat. Animal husbandry is practiced, but mainly for milk and for dung. Other foods consumed by the Gurage include green cabbage, cheese, butter, and roasted grains, meat consumption being very limited. The Gurage, the writer Nega Mezlekia notes, 'have earned a reputation as skilled traders' [3].

"Well-known for their hard work and skill as traders, many of the men own shops in Addis Ababa and other cities, returning to their home area only for a few days each October to celebrate Meskel (for Orthodox Christians - commemorating the finding of "the true cross") or Arefa (for Muslims), the most important Gurage holidays....Gurage houses are famous for their neatness and symmetry, circular structures held together without the use of nails, wooden spokes protruding from a center pole to support the thatched roof. Locally-made pottery hangs around the inside wall in neat rows. Near the center is a fireplace used for cooking and heating the house. The people take pride in their hospitality and often serve coffee (boiled in a large clay pot and traditionally flavored with salt and butter) and roasted grain to 30 or more guests at a time. This provides socialization for neighbors and refreshment for passers-by. Often a small section on one side of the house is equipped for livestock (cows, sheep or goats, and perhaps a horse), which are kept in the house during the night and put out to pasture in the daytime." [5]

Click here to return to the main page → [www.EthioDemographyAndHealth.Org](http://www.EthioDemographyAndHealth.Org)

**The Hadiya:** From the 13th to the 16th centuries the Hadiyya constituted one of the most important political entities of Northeastern Africa [6]. Their contiguous territorial block of settled agricultural life was then broken apart by invading forces. This resulted in its inhabitants being absorbed into other peoples of heterogeneous ethnic stock of the south. Today, the descendants of the old Hadiyya are identified as belonging to five different linguistic clusters: the Hadiyya proper, to which they themselves, however, object. Sub-tribes including "... the Maarako, Leemo/Baadoogo, Sooro, Shaashoogo, and Baadawwaacco" inhabit a territory between Lake Zway and River Omo (also known as Gibe)" [6].

**Hammer:** The Hammer (also spelled as Hamar) are a tribal people in southwestern Ethiopia. "They live in Hamer Bena woreda (or district), a fertile part of the Omo River valley, in the Debu Omo Zone of the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples Region" [3]. The Hammer are largely pastoralists with significant vales placed in the cattle they keep. Based on the 1994 census, the Central Statistical Authority estimated the population of the Hammer language speakers at 42,838 out of a total population of about 53 million, or about 0.1% of the population [3]. Regarding the educational level of the Hammer "The Assistant Administrator of Hammer Bena Ato Imnet Gashab has commented that only six tribal members have ever completed secondary education" [3]

**Sidama:** The Sidama speak a language called Sidaamu-afoo. The majority are adherents of native African religions, some are born-again Christians, a few are Orthodox Christians and a very small proportion are Muslim. Historically, there were Sidama kingdoms in the Gibe region. "Nearly 95% of the Sidama live a life centered [on] agriculture. An important staple food is the wesse plant, or Ensete. Other crops are also grown and they breed cattle. An important source of income is coffee. An economic importance of the Sidama, coffee is immense and it contributes a high percentage of export coffee for the central government, only second to the Oromia region. The Sidama farmers were affected by hunger caused by sinking world market prices for coffee, despite supplying the popular coffee chain Starbuck's with the majority of their coffee products from the region.(coffee crisis according to the pretext of Central the government)" [3]

**Silte:** The Silte are a Muslim people who saw their homeland being incorporated into the Modern Ethiopian State in the late 19th century. For generations, they were thought of as part of the Gurage by other Ethiopian nationals and by successive governments. More recently, however, they were accorded a "nationality" status under the federal state system and have been recognized by the ruling party as the "Silte Nationality" distinct from the Gurage.

"It is believed that the origin of the Silte dates back to the 16th century, when Imam Ahmad ibn Ibrahim (or "Ahmad Gran" in the context of Abyssinian history) conducted a massive military expedition against Christian Abyssinia. According to the Silte oral tradition, a religious leader called Hajj Aliye who was born in Harar followed the expedition until he was asked to settle in a place called Umnan. He married with local women, and his last son called Gan-Silte is believed to be the ancestor of the Silte." [10] Later, warfare over land and water rights was a common occurrence between the Silte and the surrounding groups (Sebat Bet, Kistaneand Arsi Oromo) before the end of 19th century.... By the 1930's, the Silte were playing important roles in Sidama coffee markets and established the trade route up to Addis Ababa" [10].

## **Welayita:**

Welayita Sodo is located about 400 kilo meters south west of Addis Ababa at 6° 49' N latitude and 39° 47' E longitude and at an altitude of about 1900 m. "The area has moderately drained, acidic red soils (nitosols)." The monthly average temperature ranges from 11.9°C in August to and 26.2°C in January. The mean annual temperature is 18.9°C. The annual rainfall averages 1100 mm and is bimodal with a short rainy season from February or March until April and the long rains from June until September or October [11]. Land is used intensively with a cropping system adopted to maximize yield. This includes intercropping which is practiced commonly. "Major food crops include, in order of importance, maize, sweet potato, enset (false banana), teff (*Eragrostis tef*), haricot bean, taro, sorghum, Irish potato, yam and cassava. The main cash crop is coffee. "Some farmers use chemical fertilizer, mainly diammonium phosphate, on food crops such as teff and maize." [11]

"About 93% of the farmers are engaged in livestock production in addition to cropping. The average livestock holding per household is 3.6 cattle, 0.74 sheep, 0.25 goats, 0.13 donkeys, 0.02 mules, 0.02 horses and 2.09 poultry. The predominant breed of cattle is the local zebu. Animal manure is applied on garden crops; livestock also provide draught power for important farm operations. Crop residues are mainly used as dry-season feed for livestock. It seems that there is a strong positive interaction between crop and livestock production" [11]

## **Agriculture in SNNPR**

"SNNPR boasts all of the inhabited environments seen elsewhere in Ethiopia: arable highlands (dega), midlands (woina dega) and lowlands (kolla), and pastoral rangelands (bereha). But the most characteristic environment of the Region is a relatively fertile and humid midland which contains the densest rural populations of Ethiopia. The majority of woredas have more than 100 people per square kilometre, many have over 200 ppkm<sup>2</sup>, several over 300 ppkm<sup>2</sup> and one, Wenago in Gedeo Administrative Zone, as many as 600 ppkm<sup>2</sup>.

The most characteristic product of SNNPR is enset, a food unique to Ethiopia, and in modern times at least, largely confined to southern Ethiopia as a staple. Enset (*Ensete ventricosum*) is sometimes called 'False Banana' because its leaves are so similar to those of the banana plants to which it is related; but it is the starchy base of the plant – the corm and the leaf-sheaths – which provides the foodstuff. This is eaten in various forms: boiled corm (amicho), or a fermented product in the form of a bread (kocho), or the best-quality product from mature plants (bulla) in the form of pancakes, porridge or dumplings. Enset may be planted in clusters around the compound, or in dense fields. As a perennial, maturing at around four years and grown up to seven years, enset acts as a food store which can be used at any time of year; it is a relatively drought-resistant plant, and the leaves provide fodder for livestock as well as twine for rope-making. However, enset is virtually never the sole food-source of households and is rarely their chief marketed item. Cereals are ubiquitous, and are dominant in relatively high- or low-altitude arable areas, together with smaller amounts of pulses and oilseeds. Annual root crops are important especially in midland areas, and include sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, taro and cassava – the last of which may also be a perennial. But the varied ecologies of SNNPR also offer greater or SNNPR Livelihood Profiles Regional Overview December 2005 Regional Overview 9 lesser niche areas for important cash-crops, of which the biggest is coffee." [7]

Additionally, important cash crops such as ginger, chilli pepper, and the mild stimulant drug leaf called chat (*Catha edulis*) are grown and traded to raise supplementary cash. Honey from the lowlands, and a localized banana production on irrigated plots also add to the mix of income generating crops. Whereas the cardamom-like spice aframomum is still a more localized product (notably in Basketo Melo Coffee Livelihood Zone), wild spices from the forests of the far west of the Region where honey is also collected constitute an important addition to local agricultural production [9]. Urban building activities have spurred a spike in demand for Eucalyptus logs widely marketed for use as scaffolding. "Finally there are livestock, not only amongst pastoral groups in the rangelands of the south-west, but in crowded agricultural areas where cattle are

Click here to return to the main page → [www.EthioDemographyAndHealth.Org](http://www.EthioDemographyAndHealth.Org)

often hand-fed, and butter is an important marketed item, and oxen are fattened for the meat market." [9].

## Population Distribution

The most populous Wereda in 2008 was Shebedino with an estimated population of over half a million. With over 500 persons per square kilometer its density is also one of the highest in the Region and in the country. Eight other Weredas had a population of 300,000 or higher. A total of fourteen Weredas had a population of at least a quarter of a million. Eighteen Weredas had a population of 100,000 or less.

**Estimated Population Sizes of Weredas in SNNPR (July, 2008)**

WEREDA	Population	WEREDA	Population	WEREDA	Population
Shebedino	535,057	Chena	197,402	Dirashe S.W.	115,684
Awasa	454,078	Damot Weyde	190,209	Chencha	113,232
Dale	393,194	Kedida Gamela	180,825	Makeka Gena	112,145
Limo	388,127	Kindo Koysa	178,824	Yeki	110,900
Soro	366,065	Yirga Chefe	176,500	Bule	103,067
Konteb	365,672	Arbegogna	172,069	Lanfro	102,491
Aleta Wendo	343,123	Omo Sheleko	160,440	Zala Umbale	97,558
Boloso Sore	319,898	Dalocha	157,280	Telo	96,906
Gumer	304,867	Kacha Bira	152,727	Melokoza	95,099
Maskanena Mareko	294,252	Belti	150,119	Delcha	95,007
Damot Gale	287,092	Gesha	148,774	Menjiwo	90,816
Bench	266,860	Cheha	147,444	Kokir G.G.	85,881
Bako Gazer	265,866	Offa	141,595	Yem S.W.	82,292
Sodo Zuria	262,614	Nonke	139,024	Hamer Bena	75,406
Enemorna Leaner	248,938	Dita Dermallo	138,668	Ela	66,864
Wenago	243,987	Sodo	138,450	Kuraz	61,366
Alba	240,532	Dara	134,284	Masha Anderacha	60,115
Bensa	237,117	Ginbo	130,538	Burji S.W.	50,058
Hula	227,094	Kucha	130,246	Sheko	45,920
Badawacho	224,540	Boreda Abaya	127,130	Meinit	45,629
Gofa Zuria	214,490	Kemba	126,596	Basketo	43,112
Ezhana Wolene	208,229	Amaro S.W.	125,092	Surma	30,284
Kochere	205,364	Humbo	122,908	Dizi	29,284
Arba Minch Zuria	203,636	Aroresa	120,471	Selamgo	17,308
Konso S.W.	200,644	Isra Tocha	117,822		
Angacha	197,569	Loma Bosa	117,694		

## Population Density

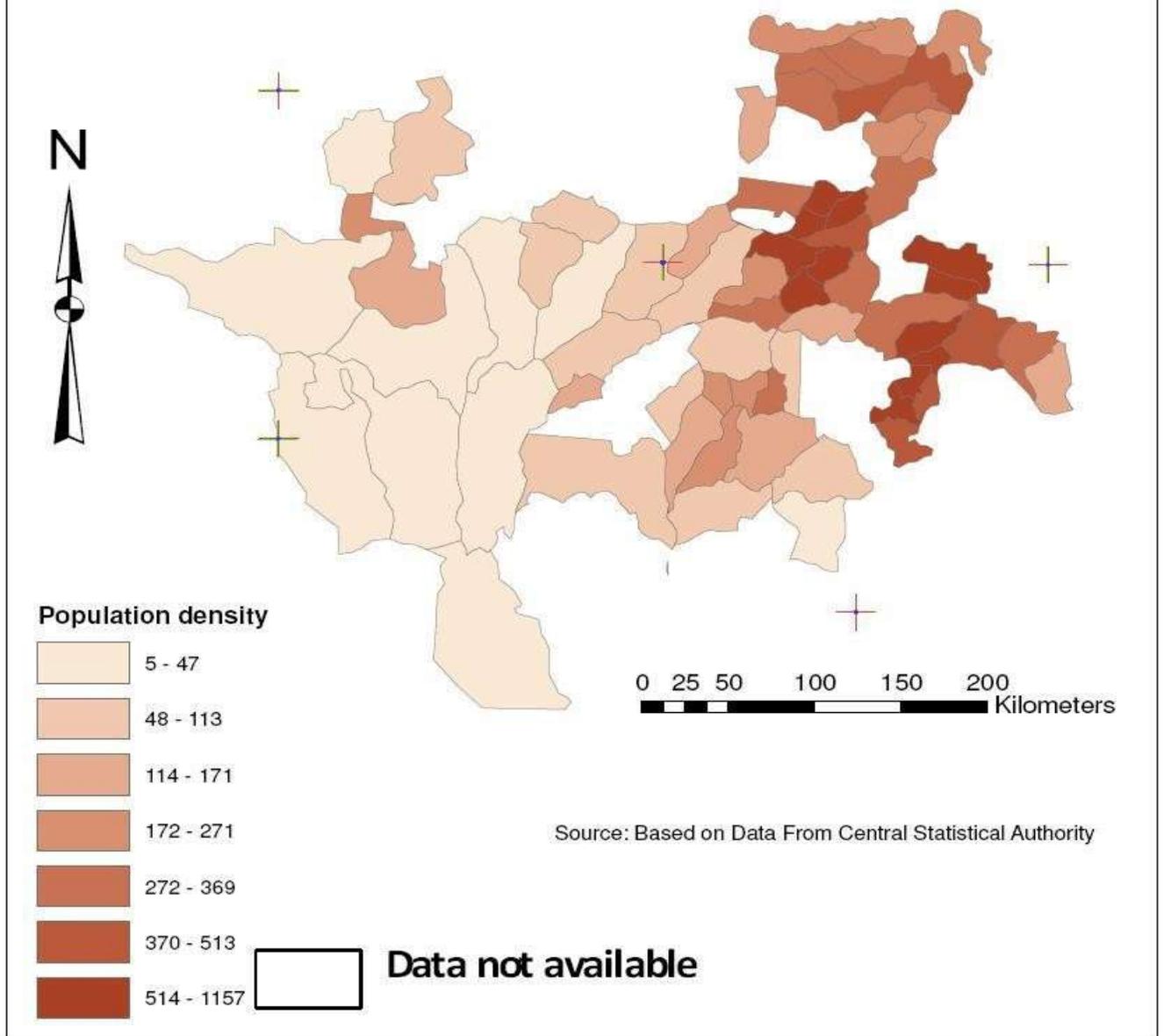
The most densely populated Wereda in Ethiopia - Wenago - with nearly a 1000 people per square kilometers, is located in SNNPR. The presence of several Weredas with densities over 500 persons per square kilometer, indicate the high level of population concentration in the region (see Table below). Ten Weredas in SNNPR are in this category. Other high density Weredas include Damot Gale, Aleta Wendo, Yirgachefe. Dara, Kacha Bira, Sodo Zuria, Angacha, Shebedino, Kedida Gamela and Boloso Sore. Four other Weredas - Awasa, Badawacho, Gumer, and Kochere - have a density of over 400 (see Table - Wereda densities in descending order - and SNNPR's density map below).

Two thirds of the 75 Weredas listed have densities over 100 persons per square kilometer. There are low density Weredas aswell, confirming the unevenness of the population distribution. This finding is presented graphically using the Lorenz Curve (below) calculated (go back to the main page and click on "calculate demographic rates" to learn about Lorenz Curves).

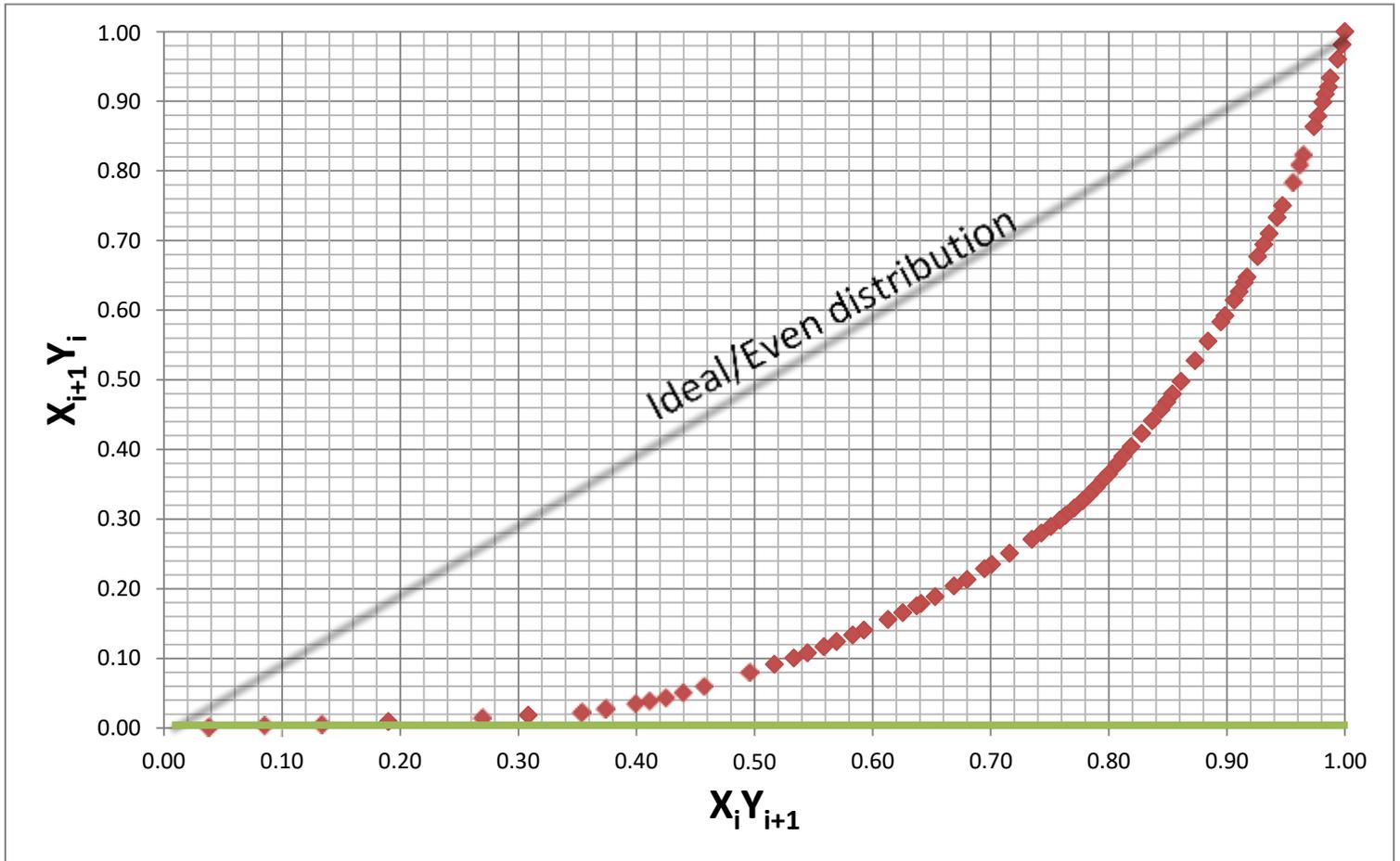
### Population Density of Weredas in SNNP, July 2014

WEREDA	Population	WEREDA	Population	WEREDA	Population
Wenago	956.2	Cheha	268.2	Boreda Abaya	96.2
Damot Gale	648.1	Ezhana Wolene	255.3	Kucha	94.1
Aleta Wendo	612.2	Alba	247.0	Konso S.W.	88.1
Yirga Chefe	586.2	Enemorna Leaner	244.4	Menjiwo	86.1
Dara	550.9	Damot Weyde	242.8	Amaro S.W.	81.5
Kacha Bira	550.4	Offa	240.8	Telo	81.3
Sodo Zuria	545.7	Kindo Koysa	230.3	Dirashe S.W.	75.8
Angacha	542.7	Lanfro	226.8	Zala Umbale	74.9
Shebedino	516.7	Dalocha	218.8	Isra Tocha	64.1
Kedida Gamela	514.8	Dita Dermallo	211.8	Gesha	62.4
Boloso Sore	505.6	Dale	206.4	Bako Gazer	62.1
Awasa	481.9	Yeki	183.6	Loma Bosa	59.4
Badawacho	434.7	Nonke	174.3	Melokoza	58.9
Gumer	411.5	Sodo	166.7	Masha Anderacha	39.4
Kochere	407.3	Kokir G.G.	161.0	Burji S.W.	37.9
Hula	389.0	Humbo	145.2	Delcha	33.4
Limo	387.3	Aroresa	141.2	Ela	29.7
Bule	383.3	Makeka Gena	128.1	Kuraz	12.2
Arbegogna	363.0	Bench	125.4	Meinit	10.5
Omo Sheleko	343.3	Gofa Zuria	124.7	Hamer Bena	8.5
Maskanena Mareko	337.3	Yem S.W.	123.5	Sheko	7.3
Chencha	310.2	Arba Minch Zuria	121.1	Surma	6.2
Konteb	298.5	Kemba	109.0	Dizi	5.1
Soro	296.5	Chena	105.5	Selamgo	4.1
Bensa	293.9	Ginbo	102.4		
Belti	280.6	Basketo	102.4		

## SNNPR Population Density, 2008 (Persons per sq. km.)



## Lorenz Curve SNNPR, July 2008



## Demographic Characteristics

The following table provides a brief glimpse into the socio-demographics characteristics of SNNPR. It features the variables listed below [14]:

- Household and respondent characteristics
- Fertility levels and preferences
- Knowledge and use of family planning
- Childhood mortality
- Maternity care
- Childhood illness, treatment, and preventative actions
- Anaemia levels among women and children
- Breastfeeding practices
- Nutritional status of women and young children
- Malaria prevention and treatment
- Marriage and sexual activity
- Awareness and behaviour regarding AIDS and STIs
- Harmful traditional practices

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Household and respondent characteristics</b></li> </ul>	<p>At 74. 8% the SNNP represents the third highest percentage of children (after Somali and Afar) living with both parents.</p>
	<p>This is the highest percentage for a non-nomadic agrarian population, indicating the high degree of family cohesion</p>
	<p>among household members in SNNP. After Somali and Afar</p>
	<p>it also has the third lowest percentage of children with one</p>
	<p>or more deceased parents; Addis Ababa has the highest (21%)</p>
	<p>66% of women and 32% of men have never been to school .</p>
	<p>Only 1% percent of females and 2.8 percent of males</p>
	<p>completed elementary schooling or above. This is true of</p>
	<p>both men and women, with a slight male advantage.</p>
	<p>The net primary school attendance ratios of 37% and 31% for</p>
	<p>males and females represent the lowest enrollment ratios</p>
	<p>for a predominantly non-nomadic agricultural population.</p>
	<p>Only Somali and Afar have lower ratios. The number of males</p>
	<p>and females who should be in secondary schools and are in</p>
	<p>Fact in secondary schools, is only 14.2 and 9.6 percent for males</p>
	<p>and females respectively.</p>
	<p>The proportion of respondent to the DHS 2005 in the five wealth</p>
	<p>quintiles were 10.7, 19.5, 24.2, 26.9, and 18.6 percent from</p>
	<p>lowest to highest showing a picture of relatively “well-off”</p>
	<p>population. These numbers change dramatically depending on</p>
	<p>the timeliness and quantity of rainfall which, in turn, affects</p>
	<p>productivity and a sense of wellbeing.</p>

Source: Based on [14]

• <b>Fertility levels and preferences</b>	<b>The total fertility rate of 5.6 is almost identical to the national average</b>
	<b>At 10.2% the proportion of women "currently"</b>
	<b>pregnant (at the time of the survey) matched Beni Shangul's</b>
	<b>which is the highest in the country.</b>
	<b>The Percent distribution of non-first births in the five years</b>
	<b>preceding the DHS survey by number of months since the</b>
	<b>preceding birth shows that the highest percentage (33.5) of births took</b>
	<b>places is in the 20-35-months before the DHS 2005</b>
	<b>For various five-year age groups of women aged 25 to 50 at</b>
	<b>the time of the 2005 survey the median age at the birth of the first child</b>
<b>Varied little (19.0 to 19.6.). At 8.1 percent SNNPR had the second lowest</b>	
<b>proportion of teenage girls who have given birth.</b>	

Source: Based on [14]

• <b>Knowledge and use of family planning</b>	<b>The proportion of women using any method of contraception</b>
	<b>(11.9%) is less than the national average. Questions on media</b>
	<b>exposure revealed that 18.2% of women have heard about birth</b>
	<b>control methods on radio, 3.7% on TV, and 4.5% from news-</b>
	<b>papers/magazines. Over four-fifths of SNNPR women did not have</b>
	<b>exposure to modern media, and there for new nothing about</b>
	<b>contraception or relied on what they learned from family and</b>
	<b>friends for information on availability and access. Over 80% of</b>
	<b>women using contraception were doing so with full knowledge of</b>
	<b>husbands. 12.3% reported that their husbands had objections.</b>

Source: Based on [14]

<b>• Proximate determinants of fertility</b>	Polygyny can affect fertility by limiting the frequency of
	intercourse per an individual wife who has to share her
	husband with one or more other wives. Almost a fifth of SNNPR
	women have such a relationship with their husbands.
	Age at first marriage determines the start of childbearing, and is
	often a predictor of total fertility. Early age at
	marriage is invariably linked to a higher fertility than late age
	at marriage. In SNNPR the median age at marriage increased by
	almost three years when older women (aged 45-49 at survey) are
	compared with the 25-29 age group.
	The median ages at marriage for the two groups were 19.5 and
	16.6 respectively.
	Given that for women the onset of sexual activity
	coincides with marriage, it is not a surprise that the median ages
at first intercourse are almost the same as the median ages at	
marriage for the two cohorts mentioned above, and those in	
between. Another proximate determinant of fertility is	
postpartum amenorrhoea. Its median duration was estimated	
for SNNPR at 17 months.	

Source: Based on [14]

<b>• Fertility preferences</b>	As can be expected in a very traditional society, only 5.2 % of
	women who haven't had birth yet wish to remain childless.
	15% of those with one child gave a similar response as, as did 17.2
	percent of those with two children. A quarter of women with three
	children stated a desire not to have any more children. The
	percentages begins to rise sharply starting with the group that has
	Had four children (38.4%), five children (50% of women), and those
	with 6 or more children (two-thirds of the women). Over a third of
	the women (37.3%) have an unmet need for family planning.
	Only 24.6% of women who needed family planning actually got it.
This is also reflected in the ideal family size among	
women which was 4.7 births (about one child below the actual).	

<b>• Infant and child mortality</b>	<b>Only one of the many childhood mortality indicators is below the national average – neonatal mortality rate – in SNNPR.</b>
	<b>It was 36 per thousand births. The national average (NA) is 41. The</b>
	<b>The Post-neonatal mortality rate was 49 per thousand births (NA = 40) and the infant mortality rate was 85 per thousand (NA=80)</b>
	<b>The child mortality and under-five mortality rates were 80 per thousand and 157 per thousand respectively*</b>
	<b>* (NA = 56 and 132 respectively).</b>

Source: Based on [14]

<b>• Maternal health</b>	<b>Calculation of the proportions of a live births in the</b>
	<b>five years preceding the 2005 DHS by antenatal care provider</b>
	<b>during pregnancy showed a very low level of use. Only 30% of</b>
	<b>SNNPR women received such care from a health provider and</b>
	<b>68.5% received no help at all. 12% of those who sought help</b>
	<b>were given vitamin A tablets, and 5.0% took intestinal parasitic</b>
	<b>drugs. Two-thirds of them were weighed and about 16% each gave</b>
	<b>blood and urine samples (well below the national average for these</b>
	<b>two services, of around 26%). A third of the women took two or more</b>
	<b>tetanus toxoid injections. 62% of the women were not protected,</b>
	<b>at all, from the various pregnancy risks faced by a mothers and their</b>
	<b>unborn children. Nearly all (95.6%) delivered at home with assistance</b>
	<b>from traditional birth attendants (14.8%) and relatives and others</b>
	<b>(68.6%). Use of postnatal care is very low, with 95.1 percent of</b>
	<b>women reporting no postnatal check-ups at all.</b>

Source: Based on [14]

<b>• Child health</b>	Nearly a fifth of mothers described the size of their new born as very small, and only 20.3% of new born babies had taken a
	complete doses of the recommended childhood vaccinations.
	14.4% of children under-five had symptoms of acute respiratory
	infection (ARI), and 23.5 percent had fever (the highest for any region in
	in the country). The region also reported the highest percentage of
	children under five with diarrhea (25.1 percent). Only half of the children
	with diarrhea received treatment (the other half didn't) and nearly three
	were given less fluid (not more), or no fluid at all.

Source: Based on [14]

<b>• Nutrition of children and women</b>	Almost all babies (96.4%) were breastfed with a median duration of
	26.1 months. At 57.4 percent mothers in SNNPR represented the
	highest percentage of women who reported consuming fruits and
	vegetables rich in vitamin A but they tied Somai women for the lowest
	percentage of women who consumed meat, poultry, and shelfish in
	the days before the survey (7.9%). Nearly half of households in SNNP
	consumed salts with no iodine content and tests showed that
	another 35.6% consumed salts with insufficient iodine content. Only
	18.5 percent consumed salts with adequate iodine content. At 46.2
	percent the prevalence of anemia is the lowest for any predominantly
rural region. 20.7% and 23.5% percent of children between 6 and 59	
months of age have mild and severe anemia respectively. With 23.5	
percent showing any signs of illness, anemia is less prevalent among	
women when compared to the above percentages among children.	
80% of children under five years of age are at least two standard	
deviations below the normal height for age and more than a third are	
two standard deviations below normal weight for age. The picture	
among adults (women) is some what better in that less than half fall	
in the category of thin (26.7%) and severely thin (18.5%)	

Source: Based on [14]

## References:

1. <http://www.rippleethiopia.org/page/snnpr>
2. Dennis P. Hogan and Betemariam Berhanu. *Social Identity and Community in the Fertility of southern Ethiopian Women*, in Samuel Agyei-Mensah and John B. Casterline. (eds.) *Reproduction and social context in sub-Saharan Africa*. 2003.
3. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern\\_Nations,\\_Nationalities,\\_and\\_People's\\_Region](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Nations,_Nationalities,_and_People's_Region)
4. [http://www.pbase.com/sergio\\_pes/dorze\\_people](http://www.pbase.com/sergio_pes/dorze_people)
5. Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples Region (SNNPR LIVELIHOOD PROFILE), Regional Overview. FEWSNET, USAID, Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC), the Government of Ethiopia. December 2005.
6. [http://www.sethiopia.org/se/index.php?&MMN\\_position=1:1](http://www.sethiopia.org/se/index.php?&MMN_position=1:1)
7. <http://www.carolynford.org/gurage/index.shtml>
8. Steven A. Brandt et.al. The “Tree Against Hunger” Enset-Based Agricultural Systems in Ethiopia. American Association for the Advancement of Science with Awassa Agricultural Research Center Kyoto University Center for African Area Studies and University of Florida. 1997.
9. Southern Nations Nationalities and People’s Region (SNNPR) LIVELIHOOD PROFILES. Regional Overview. USAID
10. Makoto NISHI. Making and Unmaking of the Nation-state and Ethnicity in Modern Ethiopia: A study on the History of the Silte People. *African Study Monographs*, Suppl. 29: 157-168, March 2005
11. <http://www.fao.org/wairdocs/ILRI/x5519B/x5519b19.htm>
12. [http://www.csa.gov.et/text\\_files/national%20statistics%202006/Population.pdf](http://www.csa.gov.et/text_files/national%20statistics%202006/Population.pdf)
13. Central Statistical Authority, 2001, Statistical Abstract pp. 26 - 4
14. Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey 2005 Central Statistical Agency, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, RC Macro, Calverton, Maryland, USA, September 2006