

Central Ethiopian Region/*Kilil*

The Central Ethiopia Regional State or *Kilil* is an amalgam of Zones and *Weredas* left over following public referenda that created three new *Kilils* that have splintered from the previously much larger Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region (SNNPR). It was created by default when the central portion of the old SNNPR split off to become the Southern Ethiopian *Kilil*. The South West *Kilil* and Sidama had previously declared their “*Kilildom*” following public referenda.

The Central Ethiopian *Kilil* is the largest (by population size) of the four newly formed *Kilils*/Regions with an estimated January 2024 population of 9,382,700 (Table 1). As the Guraghe constituted slightly more than half of the population in the 1994 census (the 1994 census was used to obtain the January 2024 estimates) in weredas and zones that formed the Central region, they may be expected to have maintained the slight majority status over the past 40 years. The other ethnic groups in the Central Ethiopian region include the Hadiya (population estimated at nearly 2.5 million) and the Kembata/Timbaro/Alaba (population estimated to be approximately 1.7 million).

Table 1. *Kilil* Population (January 1, 2024)*

REGION/ <i>Kilil</i>	Census_1994	PERCENT_94	Jan1ST_2024	
Addis Ababa	2,112,737	3.95	4,956,700	
Afar	1,060,573	1.98	2,488,200	
Amhara	13,834,301	25.87	32,456,300	Excludes populations of Wolkait and Raya
Benishangul Gumuz	460,459	0.86	1,080,300	
Central	3,999,307	7.48	9,382,700	
Dire Dawa	251,864	0.47	590,900	
Gambella	181,862	0.34	426,700	
Hareri	131,139	0.25	307,700	
Oromiya	18,732,525	35.03	43,947,900	
Sidama	2,044,836	3.82	4,797,300	
South	3,294,026	6.16	7,728,100	
South West	1,038,859	1.94	2,437,200	
Somali	3,198,514	5.98	7,503,900	
Tigray	3,136,267	5.86	7,357,900	Incudes populations of Wolkait and Raya
Total	53,477,269	100.00	125,461,800	

*Extrapolated based on zonal population percentages in the 1994 census.