

# VOA Broadcasting to the Horn of Africa

The Horn of Africa service broadcasts to Ethiopia and Eritrea in three languages: Amharic, Afan Oromo, and Tigrigna. Amharic programming is meant for more than 100 million people living in Ethiopia and Eritrea, as well as diaspora communities throughout the world. Afan Oromo is directed at an estimated 37 percent of Ethiopians living in the Oromia region of Ethiopia, while Tigrigna is heard throughout the Tigray region in northern Ethiopia and in Eritrea. VOA audiences tune in to the radio programs via shortwave, satellite, and medium wave, in addition to digital and mobile platforms. The 60-minute 1800 UTC and a 30-minute 1730 UTC Afan Oromo radio programs can also be heard live on FM via VOA's Ahadu radio and TV affiliate in Ethiopia. A 15-minute Amharic "Healthy Living" TV program also airs on Ahadu TV on Mondays. The service broadcasts local, regional, U.S. and international news, as well as an array of programming about Ethiopian and American culture, politics, current affairs, economics, health, education, entertainment and more.

## Quick Facts

**Established:** Amharic, September 1982  
Afan Oromo, July 1996  
Tigrigna, July 1996

### Target Areas:

#### **Amharic and Afan Oromo:**

Ethiopia and the diaspora in East Africa, the Middle East and Europe.

#### **Tigrigna:**

Ethiopia, Eritrea and the diaspora in East Africa, the Middle East and Europe.

### Weekly Audience:

11.5 million, or 12.3%

### Radio Programming:

Amharic – 9 ½ hours per week  
Afan Oromo – 3 ½ hours per week  
Tigrigna – 3 ½ hours per week

### Broadcast programs and additional features are available at:

[www.amharic.voanews.com](http://www.amharic.voanews.com)  
[www.voafaanoromoo.com](http://www.voafaanoromoo.com)  
[www.tigrigna.voanews.com](http://www.tigrigna.voanews.com)

### Facebook:

[Voa Amharic](#), [Voa Oromoo](#), [Voa Tigrigna](#)

### Twitter:

[@VOAfaanOromoo](#)  
[@VOATigrigna](#)  
[@VOAamharic](#)

In addition to SW live broadcasts, the shows are later repeated via Eutelsat. The shows livestream on the web and social media. VOA Amharic and Afan Oromo air on Ahabu Radio 94.3 FM in Ethiopia. A 15-minute "Healthy Living" Amharic TV program airs on Mondays on Ahabu TV.

## Programs and Features

### **Amharic** (seven days a week, from 1800 to 1900 UTC)

**Call-In:** A bi-weekly (Saturday), 20-minute program featuring newsmakers and experts answering audience questions on topics of interest to Ethiopians.

**Democracy in Action:** A weekly (Wednesday) seven-minute feature on issues of democracy and governance, social and economic development, the rule of law and human rights.

**Crossfire:** A weekly (Friday) seven-minute program in which two guests offer differing views in a lively debate about issues that matter to Ethiopians.

**HEALTH:** A weekly (Monday) seven-minute program on health topics including the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Ethiopians in America:** A weekly (Wednesday) seven-minute program that features stories about Ethiopians living in U.S. diaspora communities.

**Gabina VOA:** a 30-minute, fast-paced radio show aimed at youth in Ethiopia and Eritrea. The program, which airs Monday through Friday at 1700 UTC, along with recap programs on Saturdays and Sundays, explores a range of topics that impact the lives of young people in the region and gives them a forum for discussion and expressing their views. Among the range of topics: migrants, health, entrepreneurship, technology and innovation, local governance, music, and life in America. *Gabina VOA* is also re-broadcast on medium wave at 1500 UTC and 1600 UTC.

### **Afan Oromo** (Monday – Sunday, from 1730 to 1800 UTC)

Afan Oromo broadcasts regional and world news, as well as an array of features on democracy, health, development, agriculture, American stories and more. It also presents reports and interviews of special interest to Oromo populations in Ethiopia and the diaspora, including a popular eight-minute weekly (Tuesday) program, **Did You Know This about Oromos?**

### **Tigrigna** (Monday – Sunday, from 1900 to 1930 UTC)

VOA Tigrigna airs news and features of particular interest to the Tigrigna-speaking listeners in northern Ethiopia and Eritrea. In addition to presenting features on a full range of topics, Tigrigna also offers a popular weekly (Wednesday) 10-minute program called **People to People**, in which Tigrigna-speaking Ethiopians and Eritreans discuss issues of mutual interest or concern. Other programs include the bi-weekly (Tuesday) seven-minute **Eritreans in America**, the bi-weekly (Tuesday) seven-minute **Life in America** feature, and the Saturday and Sunday, weekly **Call-In Show** on conflict and humanitarian crisis in Tigray.