

# Algeria\*

**Official name:** People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

**Form of state:** Unitary republic

**Head of state:** President Abdelaziz Bouteflika

**Last election:** April 2004 (presidential), next legislative elections due May 2007

**Population:** 30,8 million

**GDP:** US\$50,583 billion

**GDP growth rate (2001):** 3,6%

**Net ODA from all donors (2001):** US\$182m

**Life expectancy at birth:** 71 years

**Poverty (Percentage of population living on less than US\$1 a day):** 2%

**Estimated no of adults living with HIV/AIDS:** 13,000

**Illiteracy rate:** 32%

**History:** During the 16th century Algiers became the centre of Ottoman rule in North Africa. French troops invaded in 1830, beginning more than a century of French rule. The war for independence began in 1954 and lasted seven and a half years. The conflict forged a deep-rooted sense of national identity. The Front de Libération Nationale (FLN) led the struggle against France and became the country's only legal political party after independence in 1962. FLN leader, Ahmed Ben Bella became head of state and implemented socialist policies. He was deposed by a military *coup d'état* in June 1965, by his minister of defence, Colonel Houari Boumedienne. After Mr Boumedienne's death in 1978, Colonel Chadli Benjedid became president and introduced a number of economic reforms to end centralised state socialism. Continued economic austerity and political in-fighting culminated in rioting in Algiers in October 1988. Thereafter, a series of reforms were introduced leading to the country's first multiparty elections on 12 June 1990. The Islamist party, the Front Islamique du Salut (FIS) dominated these municipal polls. After the FIS won the first round of voting in legislative elections in December 1991, the government cancelled the election and banned the FIS. Since then the country has suffered from severe political violence and economic stagnation. Retired army general, Liamine Zeroual, was appointed head of state in 1994. He was replaced by Abdelaziz Bouteflika in April 1999. Mr Bouteflika was re-elected in April 2004.†

\* Indicators sourced from the World Bank Africa Database 2003.

† Economist Intelligence Unit, *Country Profile 2003: Algeria*.

# Ethiopia\*

**Official name:** Federal Republic of Ethiopia

**Form of state:** Federal republic

**Head of state:** President Girma Wolde-Giorgis (largely ceremonial role)

**Head of government:** Prime Minister Meles Zenawi

**Last election:** May 2000 (federal and regional) next elections due in May 2005

**Population:** 65,8 million

**GDP (2001):** US\$7,933 billion

**GDP growth rate (2001):** 7,7%

**Net ODA from all donors (2001):** US\$1,080m

**Life expectancy at birth:** 42 years

**Poverty (Percentage of population living on less than US\$1 a day):** 31%

**Estimated no of adults living with HIV/AIDS:** 1,900,000

**Illiteracy rate:** 60%

**History:** The modern Ethiopian state was created by highland rulers in the latter half of the 19th Century. Ras Tafari Mekonnen became ruler as crown prince in 1916, and was enthroned as Emperor Haile Selassie in 1930. He was driven into exile by the invasion of fascist Italy in 1936. Following the country's liberation by allied forces in 1941, Haile Selassie returned. Eritrea was federated with Ethiopia in 1952. In 1962, Ethiopia annexed the federal Eritrean state, provoking a protracted war. In January 1974, a series of strikes and mutinies in the armed forces evolved into a *coup d'état* by army officers. Haile Selassie was ousted from power and murdered in September 1974 and the Derg began 17 years of military rule. The military government proclaimed Ethiopia a socialist state. By November 1977, Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam had established control of the Derg. A coalition dominated by the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPFL), together with Eritrean forces, defeated Mengistu's army in 1991. Eritrea gained *de facto* independence and a transitional government of Ethiopia was formed under TPLF leader, Meles Zenawi. Following a series of elections, the Federal Republic of Ethiopia was proclaimed in August 1995. Relations between Eritrea and Ethiopia deteriorated rapidly, and full-scale war erupted in 1998.†

\* Indicators sourced from the World Bank Africa Database 2003.

† Economist Intelligence Unit, *Country Profile 2003: Ethiopia*.

# Ghana<sup>\*</sup>

**Official name:** Republic of Ghana

**Form of state:** Unitary republic

**Head of state:** President John Agyekum Kufuor

**Last election:** December 2000 (presidential and legislative), next due 2004

**Population:** 19,7 million

**GDP:** US\$8,297 billion

**GDP growth rate (2001):** 4%

**Net ODA from all donors (2001):** US\$652m

**Life expectancy at birth:** 57 years

**Poverty (Percentage of population living on less than US\$1 a day):** 45%

**Estimated no of adults living with HIV/AIDS:** 330,000

**Illiteracy rate:** 27%

**History:** After centuries of contact between the Ashanti kingdom and European traders, Britain invaded in 1874 and declared the Gold Coast a British colony. Early African nationalist movements were dominated by lawyers and other educated élites, and after World War Two by other social groups, such as ex-soldiers. By 1949, the nationalists had split into moderates and radicals, with the radicals supporting the Convention People's Party (CPP) led by Kwame Nkrumah. The CPP won the country's first election in 1951, and led Ghana to independence in 1957. The new government introduced socialist economic policies and introduced a one-party state in 1964. Ghana went through nine changes of government, including four military *coups d'état*, between 1957 and 1981. A *coup d'état* in 1979 brought Flight-Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings to power as leader of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC). The AFRC handed over to a civilian administration later that year, but staged a second *coup d'état* on 31 December 1981. In the late 1980s Mr Rawlings held "party-less" local elections, then in 1992, he won the first multi-party elections in more than a decade. The 1996 elections were a closer contest, but it was only in 2000 that the 20-year rule of Mr Rawlings ended. Leader of the New Patriotic Party (NPP), John Kufuor, became the first president of post-independence Ghana to replace an incumbent government through the ballot box.<sup>†</sup>

\* Indicators sourced from the World Bank Africa Database 2003.

† Economist Intelligence Unit, *Country Profile 2003: Ghana*.

# Kenya<sup>\*</sup>

**Official name:** Republic of Kenya

**Form of state:** Unitary republic

**Head of state:** President Mwai Kibaki

**Last election:** December 2002, next presidential and legislative due in 2007

**Population:** 30,7 million

**GDP:** US\$9,993 billion

**GDP growth rate (2001):** 1,1%

**Net ODA from all donors (2001):** US\$453m

**Life expectancy at birth:** 47 years

**Poverty (Percentage of population living on less than US\$1 a day):** 27%

**Estimated no of adults living with HIV/AIDS:** 2,300,000

**Illiteracy rate:** 17%

**History:** Kenya was declared a British protectorate in 1895, and colonial settlement started in the early 1900s. The African nationalist movement, the Kenya African Union (KAU), was established in 1944, with Jomo Kenyatta as its president. After the Mau Mau rebellion in the 1950s, a constitutional conference was held in London in 1960. The Kenya African National Union (KANU) won legislative elections in 1963 and independence was declared. Kenya became a republic in 1964, with Jomo Kenyatta as the first president. After three presidential terms, Kenyatta died in 1978, and the presidency passed to Daniel arap Moi. In 1982 a constitutional amendment officially made Kenya a one-party state. Section 2a of the constitution was repealed in 1991, allowing the emergence of opposition parties. However, the opposition was divided and unable to challenge KANU effectively in the 1992 and 1997 elections. In July 2002, Moi announced his chosen successor, Uhuru Kenyatta, son of Jomo Kenyatta. Internal dissent within KANU followed, resulting in the formation of the Rainbow Alliance. The Alliance broke away from KANU in October 2002, and merged with opposition group, Ford People, to contest the presidential and legislative elections as the National Rainbow Coalition. They defeated KANU in the election of 27 December 2002, and formed a new government with former vice-president Mwai Kibaki as president.<sup>†</sup>

\* Indicators sourced from the World Bank Africa Database 2003.

† Economist Intelligence Unit, *Country Profile 2003: Kenya*.

# Nigeria\*

**Official name:** Federal Republic of Nigeria

**Form of state:** Federal republic

**Head of state:** President Olusegun Obasanjo

**Last election:** April 2003 (presidential), next election due in 2007

**Population:** 129.9 million

**GDP:** US\$33,440 billion

**GDP growth rate (2001):** 3.9%

**Net ODA from all donors (2001):** US\$185m

**Life expectancy at birth:** 47 years

**Poverty (Percentage of population living on less than US\$1 a day):** 70%

**Estimated no of adults living with HIV/AIDS:** 3,200,000

**Illiteracy rate:** 35%

**History:** The state of Nigeria was created in 1914 by the amalgamation of the British protectorates of Northern and Southern Nigeria. The territory has more than 250 separate ethnic groups and as many languages. In 1954 Nigeria became a federation of three regions – Northern, Eastern and Western – reflecting the three main ethnic groups: the Hausa-Fulani, Yoruba and Igbo. Independence was achieved in 1960, and Nigeria became a republic three years later. Ethnic and regional tensions led to the Biafran War in 1967, which lasted two and a half years and killed an estimated 1 million people. A succession of military *coups d'état* followed during the 1970s and 1980s, broken only by a brief period of civilian rule, from 1979 to 1983. After a bloodless *coup* in 1985, General Ibrahim Babangida announced a timetable for a return to civilian rule, aiming for full democracy by October 1990. Elections were delayed, however, and when Chief Moshood Abiola seemed poised to win the presidential election in June 1993, the election was annulled. General Sani Abacha took power in November 1993 and imposed full military rule. The deaths of both General Abacha and Chief Abiola in 1998 paved the way for General Abdulsalami Abubakar (as the new head of state) to unban political parties, release political prisoners (including General Olusegun Obasanjo) and return Nigeria to civilian rule. General Obasanjo won national elections in February 1999, and was re-elected for a second term of office in April 2003.<sup>†</sup>

\* Indicators sourced from the World Bank Africa Database 2003.

† Economist Intelligence Unit, *Country Profile 2003: Nigeria*.

# Senegal\*

**Official name:** République du Sénégal

**Form of state:** Unitary republic

**Head of state:** President Abdoulaye Wade

**Last election:** April 2001 (legislative), March 2000 (presidential), next legislative elections due in 2006, presidential in 2007

**Population:** 9,8 million

**GDP:** US\$6,140 billion

**GDP growth rate (2001):** 5,7%

**Net ODA from all donors (2001):** US\$419m

**Life expectancy at birth:** 52 years

**Poverty (Percentage of population living on less than US\$1 a day):** 26%

**Estimated no of adults living with HIV/AIDS:** 24,000

**Illiteracy rate:** 62%

**History:** By 1641, France had established a permanent presence in what is now Senegal. In 1895, the country became the centre of French West Africa. In 1959, Senegal joined French Soudan to form the Federation of Mali. The federation gained independence from France in April 1960, after which it split and Senegal became a republic under President Léopold Senghor. By the mid-1960s, Senegal had become a *de facto* one-party state under the ruling Union Progressiste Sénégalaise (UPS). In 1974, multi-party politics were restored with the recognition of two opposition parties, including the Parti Democratique Sénégalais (PDS). In 1981, President Senghor retired and was replaced by his prime minister, Abdou Diouf. He and his party won the 1983 and 1988 elections, although the latter was marred by violence and allegations of electoral fraud. PDS presidential candidate, Abdoulaye Wade, was arrested and briefly detained. A government of national unity was formed in 1991, with several opposition leaders, including Wade, accepting ministerial posts. Mr Diouf won the 1993 election by a narrower margin. After polling only 50% of the vote in legislative elections in 1998, the ruling party amended the electoral code to improve its chances of success. In the presidential election of February 2000, Mr Diouf won only 41% of the vote and Mr Wade 31%, prompting a second round of voting. Forming an alliance with the third most popular candidate, Moustapha Niassé, Mr Wade was elected president with 58,5% of the vote. The PS lost its ruling majority by a landslide in the April 2001 legislative election.†

\* Indicators sourced from the World Bank Africa Database 2003.

† Economist Intelligence Unit, *Country Profile 2003: Senegal*.

# South Africa<sup>\*</sup>

**Official name:** Republic of South Africa

**Form of state:** Federal republic

**Head of state:** President Thabo Mbeki

**Last election:** 14 April 2004, next election due in 2009

**Population:** 43,2 million

**GDP:** US\$175,901 billion

**GDP growth rate (2001):** 2.2%

**Net ODA from all donors (2001):** US\$428m

**Life expectancy at birth:** 48 years

**Poverty (Percentage of population living on less than US\$1 a day):** 12%

**Estimated no of adults living with HIV/AIDS:** 4,700,000

**Illiteracy rate:** 14%

**History:** Centuries of white domination in South Africa began with Dutch settlement at the Cape in 1652. British colonial rule of the Cape Colony and Natal in the 19th Century co-existed with the creation of two Boer republics of Transvaal and the Orange Free State. Following the Anglo-Boer War, the four territories were united by the Act of Union in 1910. Exclusion of black interests from the Union prompted the formation of the South African Native National Congress (later known as the ANC) in 1912. The rise of Afrikaner nationalism in the 1930s and 1940s led to an election victory by the National Party in 1948. The imposition of systematic racial segregation was met with resistance, beginning with the Defiance Campaign of the 1950s. Decades of apartheid policy, with increasing political repression and resistance, ended with the unbanning of the ANC and other political parties and prisoners in February 1990. A transition period followed, with negotiations between the ANC and the National Party. The main challenge to the transition process came from the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), which had been engaged in an undeclared war with the ANC since the mid-1980s. Nelson Mandela became president after the first democratic elections held in April 1994. He stood down after one term of office, and was replaced by President Thabo Mbeki in 1999. President Mbeki was re-elected after a resounding ANC victory in the elections of April 2004.<sup>†</sup>

<sup>\*</sup> Indicators sourced from the World Bank Africa Database 2003.

<sup>†</sup> Economist Intelligence Unit, *Country Profile 2003: South Africa*.

# Uganda\*

**Official name:** Republic of Uganda

**Form of state:** Unitary republic

**Head of state:** President Yoweri Museveni

**Prime Minister:** Apolo Nsibambi

**Last election:** 2001 (presidential and legislative), next due in 2006

**Population:** 22.8 million

**GDP:** US\$8,086 billion

**GDP growth rate (2001):** 4.6%

**Net ODA from all donors (2001):** US\$783m

**Life expectancy at birth:** 42 years

**Poverty (Percentage of population living on less than US\$1 a day):** 55%

**Estimated no of adults living with HIV/AIDS:** 510,000

**Illiteracy rate:** 32%

**History:** In 1894, all the territory between Lake Victoria and the Indian Ocean became a British protectorate. This territory was separated into Uganda and Kenya in 1902, and Uganda became independent in 1962. The period from 1962 to 1986 was violent and unstable, and much of the violence was ethnically directed. The first government after independence was a coalition of north-south interests. The king of Buganda, a southerner, was president, and Milton Obote, a northerner, was prime minister. Mr Obote seized power in 1966, then was ousted in 1971 by the army chief, General Idi Amin. The incompetence and violence of Amin's regime brought Uganda to the brink of collapse. The Tanzanian army, backing a force of Ugandan emigrés, deposed Amin in 1979. A flawed general election in 1980 restored Milton Obote and the Uganda People's Congress to power. This second administration under Obote was unpopular among southerners and was overthrown by a military *coup d'état* in 1985. In 1986, the National Resistance Army (NRA), a rebel group under the leadership of Yoweri Museveni, seized power, following a protracted armed struggle. Museveni won presidential elections in 1996 and 2001 by large margins, although the 2001 election was tainted by allegations of fraud and intimidation by the government.†

\* Indicators sourced from the World Bank Africa Database 2003.

† Economist Intelligence Unit, *Country Profile 2003: Uganda*.

