

ETHIOPIA



2,277 Ethiopian children were adopted by Americans in 2009, according to US State Department statistics.

The Ethiopian Ministry of Women's, Children's, and Youth Affairs recently announced their intention to reduce inter-country adoptions by 90% beginning March 10, 2011. This will likely seriously impact the future of Ethiopia adoptions.

Ethiopia is currently one of the most popular adoption programs. Ethiopia is located in eastern Africa. Seventeen years of civil war has left the country in financial ruin and left thousands of orphaned children. Diseases related to poverty also claim the lives of many young parents leaving their children orphaned. Most of the children available for adoption are healthy. All children are tested during the process for HIV, Hepatitis B, tuberculosis, and sexually transmitted diseases.

The wait time from dossier to referral varies from agency to agency. Two trips to Ethiopia are now required so that adoptive parents can meet their child or children prior to adoptions.

Ethiopia - Requirements:

- Single women and couples (with or without children) may apply.
- Couples must be married for two years.
- There cannot be more than forty-three years difference in age between the youngest adopting parent and the child.
- However, there are exceptions for older children, children with special needs, and sibling adoptions.