

ETHICA'S ETHIOPIA TRANSPARENCY SURVEY

SURVEY FOR U.S. ADOPTION SERVICE PROVIDERS PLACING CHILDREN FROM ETHIOPIA

Response from Children's Hope International

Agency Name *Children's Hope International*

Website www.ChildrensHope.net – [www](http://www.blog.helpanorphan.org/) and <http://www.blog.helpanorphan.org/>

GENERAL QUESTIONS

What efforts does your agency employ to ensure ethical adoptions in Ethiopia?

1. As a Hague Accredited agency, we employ the same guidelines required for our Hague country programs to our Ethiopia program
2. Follow guidelines set down from the US and Ethiopia governments
3. Have established the highest degree of ethical practices
4. Have a board of directors set up in Ethiopia for oversight
5. We do not work with facilitators, but actual Children's Hope salaried employees in Ethiopia.
6. Receive reports back from our in country staff on how everything iare working in Ethiopia, and give feed back.
7. visits to the country
8. We are selective with the orphanage that we work with.
9. Communication and follow up with orphanage directors and officials about children's cases.
10. Constant communication with in country staff.

How long has your agency operated in Ethiopia? In what year is your license up for renewal?

3 yrs. Since April 2007 – Dec 2009, relicensed for another 3 yrs.

Does your agency partner with any US agency that is not currently licensed to process adoptions in Ethiopia?

No

How many Ethiopian adoptions has your agency completed for the years 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009?

Not licensed in 2006
2007 – 10 2008 – 75 2009- 110

How many waiting families, approximately, are currently in your program?

54

STAFF IN ETHIOPIA

What is the address of your agency's office(s) in Ethiopia?

Addis Ababa

What are the names of your in-country representatives?

Tsegay

Would you mind sharing pictures of your in country representatives?

N/A

Are your Ethiopian offices managed and run by your US office? If not, who runs them? Please explain.

Yes, managed under the jurisdiction of the US office. Ethiopia representative runs the incountry office under the direction and oversight of the US office.

What are the names of your agency's care centers/transitional homes? In what areas of the country are they located (zone or region) and what are the addresses (PO Box)?

Transition Home – House of Hope in Addis Ababa

Please give the number of people on staff at each center and whether they are full- or part-time, along with the average number of children cared for at any one time within the centers.

Staff numbers vary depending on # of children in care – 99 % are full time
House of Hope can accommodate up to 70 children

From what areas (zone or district) of the country do you receive children available for adoption? Do you have satellite offices there? If so, what are the addresses (PO Box)? Please give the name(s) of the person in charge of each satellite office and list the number of people on staff at each.

Addis Ababa, Awassa, Mekele, Oromia , Assela
There are no satellite offices and no staff in any location other than Addis Ababa

Do you use freelance social workers or recruiters in Ethiopia?

NO

Please list agency programs in any other African countries and briefly describe.

None

ORPHANAGES/FOSTER HOMES/NGOS

With which orphanages/foster homes/NGOs do you work? Does your agency have an exclusive contract with these orphanages/foster homes/NGOs? Does your agency donate money to assist these orphanages/foster homes/NGOs? Please note whether the orphanages/foster homes/NGOs are state run or private and in which city they are located, along with the director's name.

1. Bethzatha, (Awassa) , Hope Comm. Serv.(Mekele) , Biruh Zemen (Oromia & Addis), Enat,(Addis) and Numan (Assela)
2. We contract with orphanages and provide support for the care of the children and upgrading the orphanage

Please list any other facilities/organizations from which you are referred children available for adoption and include the name of the facility's director.

N/A

What kind of oversight does your agency provide in orphanages/foster homes/NGOs to ensure that they are acting ethically and children are being kept safe and healthy?

1. Frequent visits to the orphanage and children
2. Background information is checked to see that it meets the correct criteria and is accurate
3. Conversations with the various entities on what our agency expects in regard to running an ethical program.
4. Follow the guidelines set down by the US and Ethiopian Government
5. Board of directors set up in for oversight
6. give support of, formula, medical attention, clothing, etc., to see that children are cared for.

At what point in the adoption process are children moved from orphanages/foster homes/NGOs to your agency's care center?

Varies – sometimes after background information is obtained on the child, sometimes after court

BACKGROUND OF CHILDREN FOR ADOPTION

How does your agency assess the adoptability of each child? Please describe what sort of investigation is done. Are adoptive families permitted to pursue their own investigation of their referred child's background if they so choose?

1. By following and verifying the requirements set forth by the US and Ethiopian governments.
2. By asking additional questions if necessary
3. Families have the opportunity to have all questions answered as it relates to the child before referral acceptance, if answer can be obtained.

In what way, if any, does your agency assist prospective birth mothers with the relinquishment process? Are prospective birth mothers counseled as to options other than adoption? Do you accept children directly into your care from relinquishing mothers?

1. Our agency is not involved in the relinquishment process. Our first premise as an agency is to preserve the family, and keep them in tact if at all possible.
2. We do not accept children from birth mothers into our care.

What percentage of children is available for adoption as a result of relinquishment vs. abandonment?

varies

DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO PROSPECTIVE PARENTS

Do you provide medical information, social report, photos and video to adoptive parents upon referral? What specific medical tests are run on children being referred (please specify type of test)?

1. All are provided; however, video tapes are not with each referral - have been used when trying to assess additional information on a child for a family .

HIV – Elisa and PCR, Hep B, Hep C, Syphilis, and TB

Do you provide copies of your contract to prospective clients upon request and without charge?

Not sure of what specific contract is referred to here; however we are open to giving families any information requested and present many documents that are not requested.

Does your contract contain any gag clause? If so, why?

NO

Do you provide clients with a copy of Ethiopia law pertaining to adoption and adoption agencies?

yes or direct them to where they are located.

CONTACT WITH BIRTH FAMILY

Does your agency have any policy regarding contact between adoptive families and birth families either pre- or post-adoption?

Yes,

When adoptive families travel to Ethiopia to complete the adoption process, are adoptive families and children able to meet birth family?

Adoptive parents, not the children

Is birth family contact information shared with adoptive parents?

NO

Are adoptive families permitted to independently tape birth family meetings or have an independent translator available?

1. Translators are at each meeting
2. Children's Hope staff member accompanies families to meeting
3. Video taping is allowed

FEES AND DONATIONS FOR ADOPTION

Does your agency directly accept tax deductible donations on behalf of a specific adoptive family? Does your agency partner with or is it affiliated with any organization that accepts tax deductible donations on behalf of a specific adoptive family?

1. No

What fees charged to clients go directly to Ethiopia? How are these fees used in Ethiopia (care centers, orphanage support, etc)?

1. International Program Fee -, liaison with agency and government official, facilitation, adoption and travel coordination, social services, transition home, orphanage support, humanitarian aid, etc.
2. Incountry fees – visa, birth certificate, passport, medical testing,

Are adoptive families charged periodic fees for maintenance for the child?

NO

Do you advise prospective adoptive families about tipping individuals in Ethiopia such as nannies and lawyers? If so, what do you advise?

No tipping

HUMANITARIAN AID

What humanitarian projects does your agency participate in? Are these programs run through a separate organization or managed directly by your agency?

1. Bright Hope School project – which offers support not only to the school and students who attend the school, but also to the entire community
2. Skills Training and education for elderly orphans
3. Digging wells
4. Have done sponsorship programs, they continue in Mekele
5. Family Preservation projects
6. Formula projects

Programs are managed through Children's Hope International

How much money does your agency dedicate to humanitarian aid in Ethiopia per year?

Approx: \$123,265 -

How are your adoption and child service projects publicized in rural areas?

They are not

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Is there any other information your agency wishes to share about its programs in Ethiopia?

Children's Hope International is committed to operating the most Ethical program in Ethiopia and has established high standards for our staff and those whom we work with in Ethiopia. Our goal is to find Homes, Health and Hope for Children in Need, and aim to work with those who are likeminded. We provide Humanitarian Aid in all of the countries that we work in.