



# Intercountry Adoption in Ireland: Ethiopia Summary

January 2025

## Overview

- Between 1991 and 2013, 308 children were adopted into Ireland from Ethiopia.
- This is about 6% of Ireland's total current intercountry adopted population.
- The numbers peaked in 2010 with 85 adoptions into Ireland from Ethiopia, and quickly decreased before stopping completely in 2013. There have been no adoptions into Ireland from Ethiopia since then.



## Context

- Ethiopia is:
  - a developing, landlocked country in northeastern Africa
  - a federal parliamentary republic since 1995
  - Home to over 115 million people
  - Split across 11 regional states since 2022
  - Home to two chartered cities- the capital city, Addis Ababa, and Dire Dawa
- Most Ethiopians claim either Oromo (34.9%) or Amhara (27.9%) ethnicity.
- From the late 1990s, Ethiopia faced a HIV/AIDS pandemic which resulted in an orphan crisis.
- In the late 2000's, there was an increase in international adoptions from Ethiopia.

## What do we know about the people adopted from Ethiopia into Ireland?



At the time of their adoption:

- They were on average 9 months old
- 57% were registered as “female” and 43% were registered as “male”
- Most were adopted to Dublin or Cork

This group of Ireland's intercountry adopted population currently range in age from 11 – 40 years old, with an average age of 16.

Compiled by the AAI Research Team

*If you are an intercountry adopted person, and would like to take part in research with the AAI,  
please let us know, we'd be really happy to hear from you!*

*You can email us on [aai\\_research@aai.gov.ie](mailto:aai_research@aai.gov.ie)*