

# 2010 Report on Children's Services in Ethiopia

## Key Findings

**31 Joint Council partner-organizations provided services to children and families in Ethiopia in 2010**

**Over 1.6 million children and families received services by Joint Council partner-organizations in 2010**

- 1.4 million received or had access to health care services
- 103,721 through direct or indirect orphan care
- 54,687 through community development
- 17,243 through family preservation and empowerment
- 15,172 received educational opportunities
- 7,929 were provided with HIV/AIDS prevention or treatment
- 1,178 (less than 0.1%) through intercountry adoption
- 1,307 through permanent guardianship, kinship and foster care

**Total services in 2010 provided exceeded \$14 million USD**

Estimated total services in 2011 is expected to reach \$16 million USD

**Services focused primarily on community development including;**

- Medical Care
- Health Clinics
- Family Empowerment & Preservation
- Education
- Foster Care & Kinship Care

**100% of Adoption Service Providers affiliated with Joint Council in Ethiopia are Hague Accredited**



Zemzem relinquished one child years ago, but after completing Wide Horizons for Children's Family Empowerment Program, she has a thriving business and the resources to raise her children.

## The 2010 Study on Children's Services in Ethiopia

During 2010 Joint Council conducted a bi-annual study of services provided to Ethiopian children and families. This study was exclusive to non-profit organizations affiliated with Joint Council as a partner-organization.

The study provided data which showed the Joint Council community collectively serving 1.64 million children and families in 2010 with less than 0.001 percent being served through intercountry adoption. The model being used by Joint Council's non-profit partner-organizations in Ethiopia differs dramatically from earlier models in countries such as Guatemala where up to 1.0% of newborns were adopted internationally.

This new model, developed in concert with the Ethiopian government, differs not only in design and function but most importantly

*(Continued on page 2)*



(Continued from page 1)

in results. When looking at children’s services in Guatemala in 2007, over \$80 million USD provided services to fewer than 5,000 Guatemalan children—all of whom were serviced by intercountry adoption. This compares to the \$14 million being used to serve 1.64 million Ethiopian children and families in 2010 with 1,178 of those being intercountry adoption. This dramatic improvement resulted from broader visions and increased community based services.

Beginning in 2007, Joint Council partner-organizations increased services with a primary goal of preventing abandonment and relinquishment. Programs have included family empowerment, counseling and kinship care. The incorporation of these programs has been significant with over 18,580 children and families impacted by these services in 2010 alone. Preventing children from orphanhood has also been achieved through community development, including education sponsorships and infrastructure development such as hospital, school and medical clinic construction. Community development programs have seen the largest impact on Ethiopian families with over 1.5 million receiving services.

The prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS has also seen an increase in attention and results. In 2010, 7,929 children and families received medical care related to HIV/AIDS. Clinics have been established to provide care in a manner which allows children to live with their family with medium and long-term care centers for children who cannot remain with their family on a continual basis. Intercountry adoption was also used to provide services to children with HIV/AIDS with approximately 28 children being placed with permanent families in the United States.

2010 also saw an expansion of foster-care, permanent guardianship and kinship care. Foster-care was thought by many child welfare professionals as being incompatible with Ethiopian culture. However foster-care and permanent guardianship now provides provide family life for 1,217 children.

One of biggest changes from previous models used by the Joint Council community is the inclusion of organizations which do not conduct intercountry adoption. Of the 31 partner-organizations working in Ethiopia, 52% provide intercountry adoption services (down from nearly 100% in 2006). Of the 16 organizations providing intercountry adoption, 100% provide other services including community development, education sponsorships and family preservation.

Budgets saw an average increase of almost 20% against 2009 and totaled \$14.3 million USD in 2010. With a wide range of organizational scope and size, the low end of budgets began at \$5,000 USD with the high end topping out at \$3.1 million USD. Aggregate budgets for 2011 are expected to approach \$16 million USD.

## Ethical Children’s Services

While this study did not focus on ethics or best practices, stringent attention must always be given to ensuring that all services, regardless of the type, are conducted in the best interest of children.

Joint Council is not a regulatory body but is committed to ethical conduct and best practices. Through partnerships and collaborations with governments and non-profits we work to eliminate the potential for abuse and encourage action by the proper authorities against those found to be engaged in corruption or abuse.

To that end, Joint Council published its Standards of Practice—2nd Edition in 2009 (all partner-members licensed to conduct intercountry adoption in Ethiopia have agreed to adhere to these Standards). Additionally, a formal Grievance Procedure is available to any individual or entity which believes a partner-member has violated s Standard of Practice. The Grievance Procedure was used in 2009-2010 as part of a 10-month review and assessment of intercountry adoption practice in Ethiopia.

In 2010 Joint Council included a Code of Conduct on corruption and bribery as one of the requirements for membership.

**Joint Council on International Children’s Services:** an international non-profit with a mission of ensuring that every child lives in a safe and permanent family.

Collectively, the Joint Council coalition of members and partners:

- Serve over 2.1 million families and children annually
- Provide \$670 million in programs, services and aide each year
- Work in 72 countries
- Embody more than 6,000 professionals and 62,000 volunteers and supporters