

# Impact of the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoptions in African Countries by United States Citizens, with Special Comparison on Kenya and Ethiopia



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# Project Background and Goals

Motivation: Three previous summers in Kenya working in the New Life Homes, learning about the adoption process, and implementing documentation processes led to my decision to craft my Public Policy Honors Thesis around adoption policies in East Africa.

Implementation: Nine weeks in Kenya performing key informant interviews and serving as a participant observer, coupled with key informant interviews and documentary research in the USA upon my return.

Background Information:

- Hague Convention is a policy intervention governing adoption for signatory countries with a goal of minimizing human trafficking and prioritizing the safety of orphans.
- Minimal comprehensive empirical data exists documenting trends in adoption rates, supply, or demand. So, what are the effects of the Hague Convention?
- What are the differences in trends in adoption between nations that are or are not parties to the Hague Convention?



# Project Results

## Methods:

- Study eight African countries – four Hague signatory countries, four non-Hague signatory countries - with the highest annual average number of U.S. citizen adoptions
- Special emphasis on specific legislation, trends, and practices of Kenya and Ethiopia
- Conduct key informant interviews selected through purposive sampling with adoption agencies, social workers, adoption lawyers, government administrators, and orphanage directors
- Performed documentary research – past, current, and pending legislation

## Overview of Findings

- Still conducting research as part of the year-long Honors Thesis process
- The Kenyan adoption process is more time-consuming and expensive; but, instances of trafficking, corruption, or fraud in the adoption process are fewer
- The Ethiopian adoption process is faster and more accessible, allowing more children to be placed in families. But, instances of deception, corruption, and trafficking are higher

