

ETHIOPIAN ALIYAH FACT SHEET

- Jewish Federations, through their partner The Jewish Agency for Israel, have facilitated Aliyah (immigration to Israel) for more than 97,000 Ethiopian immigrants since the early 1950s.
- In 1953, The Jewish Agency appointed Rabbi Shmuel Be'eri as the organization's first emissary to Ethiopia. Today, The Jewish Agency has several emissaries on the ground in Ethiopia, led by Adane Tadela.
- In the 1980s, some 8,000 Ethiopian Jews made Aliyah to Israel through "Operation Moses," and in May 1991, 14,300 Ethiopian Jews were airlifted to Israel in just 36 hours through "Operation Solomon."
- In the early 2010s, more than 7,000 Ethiopians immigrated to Israel through "Operation Dove's Wings."
- Most recently, between December 2020 and March 2021, 2,150 Ethiopian olim (immigrants) arrived in Israel through "Operation Rock of Israel."
- In the past 10 years, The Jewish Agency has chartered nearly 200 flights from Ethiopia to Israel.
- As of 2021, there are an estimated 159,000 Jews of Ethiopian origin living in Israel, about 44 percent of whom are Israeli-born children of Ethiopian parents*. Ethiopian Israelis account for approximately 1.7% of the overall population in Israel.



Vadia and her children made Aliyah from Ethiopia in 2006, moving to Bet Shemesh in Israel. But Vadia's father, Zigala, had to stay behind, awaiting approval from the Israeli government to move to Israel. For 13 years, not a day would go by without Vadia thinking of her father. She would press her hand to the large photograph of Zigala hung in her home and wonder if he was okay and ask when she would see him again.

Finally, in February 2019, through Operation Yehudith, The Jewish Agency was able to bring Zigala to the Jewish homeland and reunite this long-separated family. Now Vadia and her family can see Zigala every day in real life, and not just in a framed photo.

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- Ethiopian Israelis have a high level of academic achievement. In 2019-20, 92% of Ethiopian Israeli 12th graders took their matriculation exams*. In academic year 2020-21, 3,782 Ethiopian Israelis were enrolled in higher education, a 59.4% increase compared to academic year 2011-12.
 - In 2016 (the most recent figures available), the Israel Defense Forces reported that 88.2% of Ethiopian Israeli men and 64.9% of Ethiopian Israeli women enlist.
 - As of November 2021, there are 4,800 Ethiopian olim – including 1,680 children – living in one of The Jewish Agency’s Absorption Centers.
 - As they integrate into Israeli society, Ethiopian immigrants often remain in a Jewish Agency absorption center for 2 to 3 years. They are provided with services dedicated specifically to the needs of Ethiopian immigrants, as well as Hebrew and vocational training for adults, academic enrichment and after-school activities for the children, and social and recreational activities for all.