Adjustment of country policy for the return of unaccompanied children to Ethiopia and Gambia

Recent research commissioned by the IND concluded that one reception facility in Ethiopia and two facilities in Gambia meet the prescribed requirements: provide shelter to the child until the age of 18 (or until family care is possible), food, clothing, hygiene, education, and medical care.

When assessing the possibility for return, the IND considers the following elements:

- reunification with parents;
- relatives up to the fourth degree (parents of grandparents);
- an adult in the country of origin who can demonstrably provide shelter;
- suitable reception facility in the country of origin.

Based on this research, the IND can assume that unaccompanied children from Ethiopia and Gambia can return, if their asylum application is rejected. In each individual case, the DT&V must ensure that the accommodation is arranged in practice upon arrival.

Source(s)

- Government | Rijksoverheid (9 September, 2025), Aanpassing landenbeleid Ethiopië en Gambia voor alleenstaande minderjarige vreemdelingen [Adjustment of Ethiopia and Gambia's country policy for unaccompanied minor foreigners], https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/asielbeleid/nieuws/2025/09/09/aanpassing-landenbeleid-ethiopie-en-gambia-voor-alleenstaande-minderjarige-vreemdelingen

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