

Coming to Australia

My name is Elema I was born in Ethiopia, I left Ethiopia when I was about 8 years old and fled to Kenya with my aunty and her 4 little children because of the civil war that made it unsafe and dangerous for us to live in there. During that time living in Ethiopia was one of the most dangerous things for very many people. Many people were assassinated, and many others were jailed for an allegation of supporting anti-government rebellion known as OLF. We planned our escape to live the country and fled to Kenya to find a place of sanctuary. There journey from Ethiopia to Kenya was not easy at all. It was exhausting, and extremely risky.

Kenya seemed like a whole different world to me. I felt so lost and confused like monkey in the desert not knowing what step to take next to adapt to this new life in this new nation.

Each day had a challenge of itself and life seemed more and more complicated. A good Samaritan offered to help my family and took all 5 of us (my aunty, her three children and I) too UNHCR and we registered there as a refugee. The registration had many processes.

After six good years of hardship and difficulties in Kenya we finally received a phone call and we were told that Australia has accepted our application. It was one of the great news that we have ever encountered in our life. We were all overwhelmed with joy.

On 18th of April 2017, we woke up very early in the morning filling extremely excited and nervous as well.

We had that Australia is a great continent this made us more overwhelmed with joy. We headed to Jomo Kenyatta airport and around 11 pm we embarked the plane and flew on the air. After 3 days on flying we finally arrived in this great land. On 20/04/2017 we arrived in Hobart.

At the final stop in davenport a young lady came and greeted us with friendly and welcoming smile. She introduced herself and I stood there transfixed to the ground thinking what a nice place.

After two weeks I joined school. My day at school I was very nervous and shy. My little English that I knew from Kenya all evaporated even saying hello could take me a minute.

After 1 years we all settled in very well and we were so grateful to be in this great country.