

Annual Report on Intercountry Adoption

REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
UNITED STATES CENTRAL AUTHORITY UNDER
THE HAGUE CONVENTION ON PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND CO-OPERATION
IN RESPECT OF INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION

July 2021

SUBMITTED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 PURSUANT TO
SECTION 104 OF THE INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION ACT OF 2000





United States Department of State

Secretary of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Reader,

Every child needs and deserves a permanent, loving family. The Department of State recognizes that for many children around the world, family reunification or domestic adoption may not be possible. We strongly believe that intercountry adoption must remain a viable option for these children when it is in their best interests. To ensure that intercountry adoptions are conducted in an ethical, transparent way, we support the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (Convention) that provides the safeguards and framework for international co-operation on intercountry adoption. We work closely with the U.S. adoption community - adoption service providers, advocacy organizations, Congress, and other stakeholders - who share our commitment to protecting children, birth parents, and adopting parents, and helping connect children with families who will cherish and nurture them.

It is a known fact that, over the past decade, the number of children adopted through intercountry adoption has declined on a global basis, due to a wide variety of factors. Improved economic conditions and greater acceptance of domestic adoptions in many countries is a positive development; in contrast, governments that unilaterally prohibit adoptions for political reasons only serve to hurt defenseless children. In 2020, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic had a drastic effect on intercountry adoptions, as health-related restrictions on travel and government operations made the intercountry adoption process difficult if not impossible. We recognize that delays due to COVID have placed a strain on waiting families, and we have the utmost respect for their commitment to children in need of their love and protection. We also recognize the valuable work done by adoption service providers in providing the moral and operational support that helps families weather these unprecedented circumstances. We continue to assist families to bring their children home, as this report demonstrates.

Within the Department of State, the Office of Children's Issues takes the lead on engaging with foreign governments and domestic stakeholders. Our dedicated employees overcame many challenges over the last year, including restrictions on travel and communication difficulties, to ensure continued, productive engagement with our counterparts and contacts, and to maintain close coordination with our

overseas embassies and consulates. We held bilateral meetings, international workshops, and training sessions virtually, and continued to acquire and share information on country conditions with our stakeholders. These efforts, and our commitment to intercountry adoption, will continue – whether virtually or in-person - with the goal of providing children in need with the loving, permanent family they deserve.

Sincerely,

Antony J. Blinken
Secretary of State

Annual Report on Intercountry Adoption

The U.S. Department of State (the Department) serves as the U.S. Central Authority (USCA) under the *1993 Convention on the Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption* (Convention). The Department submits this annual report to Congress, as required by Section 104 of the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (IAA), to provide data on intercountry adoption to and from the United States and highlight our continuing efforts to establish or maintain intercountry adoption as a viable option for children in need of permanency around the world. The reporting period for the 2020 annual report is the fiscal year (FY) from October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020.

FY 2020 Overview

Intercountry adoption remains one of the Department's highest priorities. Our mandate to strengthen intercountry adoption practices and procedures for children and adoptive families involves proactive engagement with Department leadership, U.S. embassies and consulates overseas, the adoption community, key stakeholders, and governments across the globe.

In FY 2020, expanding engagement activities with the adoption community quickly became a crucial part of our efforts to help adoptive families navigate complex adoption processes and procedures during one of the most challenging times in our history, the global COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the challenges presented during the pandemic, the Office of Children's Issues (CI) adoption team worked to assist families, open lines of communication with adoption stakeholders, and improve the viability of intercountry adoptions to and from the United States. The early 2020 re-organization of the single Adoption Division into two divisions with separate mandates led by two new Division Chiefs brought new ideas as well as administrative efficiencies. Collectively, both divisions established and implemented initiatives aimed at strengthening intercountry adoption by increasing coordination and communication with adoption stakeholders. The Bilateral Engagement Division expanded outreach efforts with foreign governments officials, many at the highest levels, which helped families complete their adoptions and return to the United States despite the logistical and travel constraints caused by the pandemic. Below are some of the principal ways the Bilateral Engagement Division works to strengthen intercountry adoption:

- Engage with foreign officials at all levels, non-government organizations, and interagency partners involved in child protection, in conjunction with the Special Advisor for Children's Issues.
- Provide training and consultations for countries considering or newly acceding to the Convention.
- Coordinate with foreign central authorities to improve submission of post-adoption reports and other adoption-related procedures.

- Provide information to the public on our website concerning important updates and changes in intercountry adoption.

The Adoption Oversight Division and the Intercountry Adoption Accreditation and Maintenance Entity, Inc. (IAAME) increased communication with adoption service providers to enhance the effectiveness of monitoring and oversight. Some of the principal ways in which the Adoption Oversight Division works to strengthen intercountry adoption include:

- Produce technical guidance and other resource material for ASPs on relevant U.S. regulations, including country-specific information as appropriate.
- Assist ASPs by seeking clarification from foreign authorities about the authorization process to provide intercountry adoption services in specific countries.
- Coordinate with relevant federal agencies, such as the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to clarify and update information on intercountry adoption procedural matters.
- Facilitate coordination between U.S. state child welfare authorities and foreign adoption authorities on issues of adoption instability, secondary placements, child protection, and specific cases of disruption or dissolution.

The Department undertook several productive engagements aimed at strengthening intercountry adoption during the fiscal year. In late 2019, before travel restrictions began, representatives from the adoption team traveled to Guyana, South Korea, Honduras, Nigeria, Ukraine and Vietnam to meet with adoption authorities to discuss intercountry adoptions between the United States and their respective countries. We trained Guyanese and Honduran officials on the U.S. Convention process, including accreditation of adoption service providers, determining the suitability of U.S. prospective adoptive parents and more. In South Korea, we sought to address concerns regarding pre-1990s Korean adoptees in the United States who may not have acquired citizenship as a result of their adoption and discussed the landscape for intercountry adoption from South Korea to the United States. And in Vietnam, we discussed changes to Vietnam's adoption regulations and Vietnam's interest in lifting limitations on the categories of children eligible for adoption to the United States.

When the option for in-person meetings was no longer available, we continued to engage virtually, conducting productive meetings with officials in Jamaica, the Philippines, and Canada, among others. We continued to explore options for engagement in the post-pandemic era as the fiscal year came to a close.

In FY 2020, there were 1,622 intercountry adoptions to the United States, a decline from 2,971 in FY 2019. We believe the overall 45 percent decline in adoptions can be largely attributed to

the impact of the global pandemic on operations in countries of origin worldwide, travel restrictions, and the Department's unprecedented Level 4 "Do Not Travel" global travel advisory. Court and government office closures in countries of origin made it increasingly difficult, and often impossible, for families to file paperwork and obtain official documents required to complete an adoption. Despite such challenges worldwide, the Department worked closely with our U.S. embassies and consulates to explore all possible options to expedite pending adoption cases. The Department also coordinated with foreign authorities emphasizing intercountry adoptions as a humanitarian priority, focused on overcoming existing barriers, and assisting families with pending cases.

FY 2020 also saw outgoing adoptions, where families outside of the United States adopted 42 children from the United States, to six countries: Canada, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, and Austria. During the pandemic, the Department strengthened its bilateral relationship with many of the countries listed above by assisting several of these adoptive families who were waiting in the United States in obtaining U.S. passports for their adopted children during a time when passport services were extremely reduced.

Department Coordination and Overcoming Challenges of the Pandemic

In FY 2020, the Department actively focused on engagement with the adoption community to support adoptive families and service providers caught in the wake of COVID-19 related logistical challenges. The Department demonstrated its deep commitment to stakeholder collaboration by hosting teleconferences with ASPs and prospective adoptive families to provide a forum to discuss challenges and related solutions. These well-attended calls, which provided open dialogue between the Department and the adoption community, included representatives from both CI and the Department's Visa Office and ensured ASPs had timely information on various topics related to the crisis, including updates on I-604 investigations in non-Convention cases, communicating with USCIS on filing for humanitarian parole, and CI's coordination with the Department's Office of Authentications to ensure timely processing and return of documents needing expedited attention.

In March and April, the Department faced many obstacles, including travel restrictions, quarantines, and government and other office closures. At the outset, CI implemented procedures to collaborate closely with our embassies and consulates overseas and foreign governments to work through challenges and increase communication efforts with the adoption community and families. The Bureau of Consular Affairs worked to ensure adoption cases were the top priority where immigrant visa processing remained possible. Through the many challenges presented, we remained steadfast in our commitment to assist ASPs and adoptive families and keep them informed and consistently updated with the latest information and helpful resources. Although we faced steep challenges early in the pandemic, assisting adoptive

families remained one of the Department's top priorities. Below are some highlights of the Department's efforts to support adoptive families during the pandemic.

In **China**, the Department, in cooperation with Chinese authorities, expedited adoption-case processing for several families who traveled at the beginning of the pandemic, the last ones before China imposed a temporary suspension on all adoptions globally. Many of these cases involved children who were close to aging out of adoption eligibility under Chinese law, which only permitted adoptions until age 14 at that time. The Department provided comprehensive services to these families, including guidance on quarantines, travel and transit restrictions, and healthcare protocols. The Department actively engaged with Chinese adoption authorities to encourage China to reopen adoptions as soon as the pandemic allows.

In **Colombia**, 11 families with pending adoption cases were in country when most government offices closed due to COVID-19, including the Colombian court system. As a result of coordination between U.S. Embassy Bogota and Colombia's Central Authority, *Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar* (ICBF), the President's Office in Colombia issued a decree to allow adoptive families to file their petitions through the Attorney General's office during the courts' suspended operations. All of the children adopted from Colombia during this crisis are now in the United States with their adoptive families.

In **Haiti**, after President Moise closed Haiti's border on March 19, consular officers and local staff coordinated with ASP staff to unite 38 newly adopted children with their adoptive families in the United States. Between March 19 and June 30, 2020 when Haiti's border reopened, these adopted children departed Haiti on repatriation flights and joined their new families in the United States.

When **India** announced a 21-day national lockdown in March, Embassy New Delhi was assisting four U.S. families in-country to complete their adoptions. Though nearly all Indian government institutions suspended operations, the Indian Central Authority, the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), expedited all required Indian documentation for the adopted children. This situation was also a test of innovation and collaboration for Mission India, as the U.S. Embassy in Delhi and the Consulates in Hyderabad and Mumbai proactively stepped in to assist the families with their travel back to the United States, despite widespread travel restrictions within India.

In **Uganda**, following a mid-March announcement that the airport would close within 24 hours, Embassy Kampala acted swiftly to bring several long-pending cases to completion. Following a presidential proclamation that Ugandan citizens were not allowed to leave the country, many adopted children were unable to board their flights. Embassy Kampala immediately engaged the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and arranged for the children to depart on the first repatriation flight organized by the Department.

In **Ukraine**, Embassy Kyiv overcame travel restrictions in coordinating the departure of four adopted children to the United States. Due to close cooperation between U.S. Embassy Kyiv, Ukrainian Border Guard officials, and ASP local staff, and utilizing a Department-chartered repatriation flight and special flights organized by a Ukrainian airline, these children arrived to meet their adoptive parents waiting in the United States.

Accrediting Entity Coordination

From the beginning of the pandemic, the Department-designated accrediting entity IAAME took a responsive approach with ASPs by offering multiple flexibilities and developing contingency plans to maintain accreditation and renewal review processes while keeping the safety of both ASP and IAAME employees at the forefront. IAAME reassessed the effects of the pandemic on its operations every 30 days and provided frequent updates to the ASP community and the Department. IAAME adjusted nearly all due dates for ASP submission of required self-reports, applications for accreditation/approval renewal, semi-annual reporting of complaints, and evidence in response to complaint reviews. IAAME also provided accreditation extensions for eligible ASPs, ranging from one-month up to one year, with twelve ASPs ultimately receiving such extensions. IAAME also sought and received waivers from the Department to adjust their procedures for reaccreditation site visits to conduct them virtually during the time of the pandemic with follow-up visits to be performed on-site on a discretionary basis once it is deemed safe to do so. During FY 2020, IAAME renewed the accreditation/approval of 18 ASPs and accredited two new ASPs. Of those 20 ASPs, IAAME performed four of the required on-site reviews virtually. During FY 2020, IAAME also conducted multiple virtual on-site reviews for ASPs whose accreditation decisions will be made in FY 2021. Many ASPs reported having multiple positive experiences in their accreditation renewal process in FY 2020.

IAAME made adjustments to recognize the financial burden experienced by ASPs as a result of the pandemic by providing ASPs the option to pay accreditation/approval renewal fees in installments. IAAME also offered certain flexibilities in connection with annual financial self-reports filed by ASPs. IAAME continued to take action immediately when concerns of child safety were raised. For its most recent COVID-related guidance see <https://www.iaame.net/resources/>.

IAIA Reporting for FY 2020

As required by the Intercountry Adoption Information Act of 2019 (IAIA), the Department is providing the following information on intercountry adoption to the United States and the Department's efforts to encourage the resumption of adoptions where prohibited.

The Department has identified four countries that established or maintained a significant law or regulation preventing or prohibiting adoptions involving immigration to the United States. See Table 8. Most countries have limitations on intercountry adoption that restrict the categories of prospective adoptive parents who can seek to adopt from the country (for example based on age, religion, or dual nationality), but do not prohibit all adoptions to the United States. Other countries do not routinely process adoptions to the United States, though such adoptions may be possible. Still other countries have cultural or religious norms that do not recognize the legal concept of adoption as forming a permanent parent-child relationship following the termination of a prior parent-child relationship. Information on such limitations is available to the public on the Department's [Country Information](#) webpages.

The reasons a country may prohibit or prevent intercountry adoptions vary, but often they arise from a determination to place children with families within their country of origin, or in response to tragic cases involving adoptees to the United States. The Department encourages the resumption of intercountry adoption with these countries by both improving confidence in the U.S. intercountry adoption and child welfare systems and direct bilateral engagement to address specific concerns. Strengthening monitoring and oversight of adoption service providers and the Department-designated accrediting entity bolsters foreign government confidence in the U.S. system and its protections for adopted children. Improved understanding of the U.S. intercountry adoption system and its significant safeguards for children and families, as well as child welfare protections in the United States, can help address concerns for the welfare of adopted children. International Visitor Leadership Programs (IVLPs) focused on U.S. adoption laws and procedures, sharing information on the detrimental effects of long-term institutionalization, and one-on-one conversations at the working and senior levels are some of the tools available to address specific concerns with intercountry adoptions to the United States. The Department prioritizes the processing of cases of intercountry adoptees eligible to immigrate to the United States under U.S. immigration law. Prior to the reporting period the Department concluded that in some countries systemic issues of fraud prevent the proper adjudication of immigrant petitions and visas based on an intercountry adoption. In some instances, suspension of processing based on those systemic issues remain in place, for example in Nepal and Cambodia. The Department did not take such actions during the reporting period.

There are instances when the Bureau of Consular Affairs determines there are systemic issues that prevent the issuance of Hague Adoption Certificates (HACs) and immigrant visas on a case-by-case basis. Most often this arises when a country joins the Convention prior to having established an authority to perform central authority functions under the Convention. In April 2020 the Department announced it could not yet process adoptions under the Convention with the Republic of the Congo. We are aware that the Republic of the Congo is working to establish Convention procedures and authorities that will permit the Department to adjudicate HACs on a case-by-case basis in accordance with U.S. law. Following all such determinations, the Department offers training on the U.S. Convention process and relevant requirements of

U.S. law to countries developing their Convention procedures and, upon request, offers feedback on proposed legal frameworks for Convention implementation. We also engage applicable U.S. interagency departments and offices in conducting the training. When delays occur in connection with a country newly joining the Convention, the Department works diligently to ensure cases in process prior to the country's entry into force date are completed under pre-Convention procedures.

The Department has noted Congressional interest in the costs of accreditation and the potential impact this has on U.S. families seeking to adopt internationally. We note Congress' particular interest in ensuring that the accrediting entity's fee schedule does not present an undue financial burden on low-income families, families seeking to adopt sibling groups, and families seeking to adopt children with disabilities. We review accrediting entities' proposed fee schedules prior to approval to ensure that fees collected reflect appropriate consideration of the relative size and geographic location and volume of intercountry adoption cases of the agencies or persons it expects to serve and the fees it expects to collect do not exceed the costs of accreditation services. The Department has limited regulatory authority to control the overall costs of adoption, which are largely a combination of costs set by countries of origin and private fees set by individual ASPs. Costs vary greatly from country to country, agency to agency, and with the amount of adoption services provided in a given case. Information regarding various costs of adoption, to the extent available to the Department, is detailed below.

IAAME's fees charged to ASPs are broken down into fees related to accreditation and approval decisions and fees related to monitoring and oversight. IAAME's accreditation/approval fee encompasses a set initial or renewal application fee and a tiered accreditation fee based on the average number of cases where the ASP acted as a primary provider. Accreditation/approval fees are charged to ASPs approximately every four years for their accreditation/approval renewal and range from \$8,000 to \$20,000 (which represents \$2,000 to \$5,000 in fees per year). IAAME's monitoring and oversight fee is \$500 per case. The impact of IAAME's fees on a family is dependent upon the extent to which the ASP directly passes the costs on to their clients and the number of adoptions facilitated per year. The Department estimates the total impact of IAAME's fees per adoptive family is between \$568 and \$1129. In FY2020, ASPs reported charging between \$0 and \$20,040 for all adoption services, with half charging less than \$5,271 and half charging more. Table 5 reports median fees for country-specific services, including foreign country program expenses, contributions, care of child expenses, and travel/accommodations reported by ASPs for Convention countries. There are also other costs incurred by families as part of the adoption process and these vary by ASP and from case-to-case.

The Department does not have additional information on the impact of IAAME's fees for low-income families seeking to adopt internationally, families seeking to adopt sibling groups, or families seeking to adopt children with disabilities because the Department does not track data

on specific categories or characteristics of adopted children, including sibling groups or disability status, nor does it track data related to the income status of adoptive families.

Although many things have changed as a result of the COVID-19 global pandemic and many challenges remain, the Department is encouraged by the possibilities ahead and will continue to view intercountry adoption as one of its highest priorities. We remain committed to maintaining and strengthening intercountry adoption as a viable option for children in need of permanency around the world.

INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION

Bureau of Consular Affairs • U.S. Department of State



FY 2020 Annual Report on Intercountry Adoption

42 USC 14914 Report Elements:

- **§104(b) (1):** Tables 1 and 2 report the number of intercountry adoptions in FY 2020 involving immigration to the United States, regardless of whether or not the adoption occurred under the Hague Adoption Convention.
- **§104(b) (2):** Table 3 reports the number of intercountry adoptions in FY 2020 involving emigration from the United States, regardless of whether or not the adoption occurred under the Hague Adoption Convention.
- **§104(b) (3):** In FY 2020, adoption service providers (ASPs) reported ten disrupted placements in Convention adoptions, i.e., cases in which there was an interruption of a placement for adoption during the post-placement (but pre-adoption) period. Table 6 summarizes this information.

In addition, Table 7 summarizes information received from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) pursuant to §422(b)(12) of the Social Security Act regarding disruptions and dissolutions involving children who were adopted through the intercountry process and subsequently entered state custody. Each state provided this information to HHS about Child and Family Services Plan goals and objectives through the Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR). Table 7 provides an overview of the information each state reported related to the number of disruptions and dissolutions, the time period, and reporting capabilities.

- **§104(b) (4):** Table 4 reports the average time required for completion of a Hague Convention adoption.
- **§104(b) (5):** The current list of agencies accredited and persons approved is available on the Department's intercountry adoption website at http://adoption.state.gov/hague_convention/agency_accreditation/agency_search.php.
- **§104(b) (6):** The Secretary did not temporarily or permanently debar an agency or person in FY 2020.
- **§104(b) (7):** In FY 2020, ASPs reported charging between \$0 and \$20,040 for country specific services, with half charging less than \$5,271 and half charging more. Table 5 reports on median fees for country specific services including foreign country program expenses, contributions, care of child expenses, and travel/accommodations as reported by ASPs for Convention countries.
- **§104(b) (8):** Fees for accreditation of agencies and approval of persons ranged from \$8,000 to \$20,000 in FY 2020. The Intercountry Adoption Accreditation and Maintenance Entity's (IAAME's) accreditation fee is based on a tiered fee schedule according to the average number of adoptions for which the agency served as the primary provider. Accreditation and approval fees are typically paid every four years. IAAME's fees are found at the following link: [Intercountry Adoption Accreditation and Maintenance Entity Fees](#)
- **§104(b) (9) – (10):** Table 8 lists countries that established or maintained in FY 2020 a significant law or regulation that prevents or prohibits all adoptions involving immigration to the United States and the implementation date of such law or regulation.

- **§104(b) (11):** For the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the Department engaged in discussions with the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Gender, Family, and Children, and the Immigration Authority (DGM) who confirmed that international adoptions are suspended and have been suspended since the 2016 Family Code update per article 923a. The Department continues to work with the DRC government to discuss the impact on the cases involving children adopted after 2016, but according to DRC officials these adoptions are in violation of DRC law.

For the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Department continues to engage with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to seek clarification regarding the status of intercountry adoption cases that were in process before the Ethiopian Parliament passed the 2018 legislation banning adoptions by foreigners, and the appearance of post-ban cases being approved by the Ethiopian Federal First Instance Court.

For the Republic of Kenya, the Department engaged with Kenyan officials during an International Visitor Leadership Program and discussed the 2014 Kenyan moratorium on adoptions. We understand the Kenyan government is in the process of developing implementing legislation through the Children's Bill, which includes guidance on intercountry adoptions.

For the Russian Federation, there was no significant engagement between the Department and the Russian Federation on adoption matters in FY 2020.

- **§104(b) (12):** In FY 2020, the Department determined that it could not yet issue Hague Adoption Certificates for adoptions from the Republic of the Congo (ROC) following the ROC's accession to the Adoption Convention in April 2020.
- **§104(b) (13):** The Republic of the Congo (ROC) does not yet have implementing legislation authorizing the designated central authority to carry out its responsibilities under the Convention. As a result, consular officers will not be able to issue Hague Adoption Certificates or Custody Certificates, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) cannot approve Form I-800, *Petition to Classify Convention Adoptee as an Immediate Relative*, under the Convention for a child from the ROC. The ROC government is working on legislation to fully implement the Convention and designate central authority functions. The Department productively engaged with multiple government agencies in the ROC to offer information on the U.S. Convention process, resolve questions regarding the ROC accession, and coordinate processing of intercountry adoption cases started before the Convention entered into force. Through diplomatic notes and official meetings, the Department and U.S. Embassy Brazzaville repeatedly offered assistance and stated their commitment to work with the Republic of the Congo on intercountry adoption. The Department invited a senior Congolese official working on adoptions to participate in the International Visitor Leadership Program on Promoting Transparent and Ethical Intercountry Adoptions.
- **§104(b) (14):** The impact of IAAME's fees on a family varies depending on the extent to which the ASP directly passes the costs on to their clients and the number of adoptions facilitated per year. The Department estimates the total impact of IAAME's fees per adoptive family is between \$568 and \$1129. In FY2020, ASPs reported charging between \$0 and \$20,040 for all adoption services, with half charging less than \$5,271 and half charging more. Table 5 reports median fees for country-specific services, including foreign country program expenses, contributions, care of child expenses, and travel/accommodations reported by ASPs for Convention countries. There are also other costs incurred by families as part of the adoption process and these vary by ASP and from case-to-case. The Department does not have data related to the specific impact of IAAME's fee schedule for low-income families, families seeking to adopt sibling groups or families seeking to adopt children with disabilities.

Table 1: Incoming Adoptions by Country of Origin				Country or Territory of Origin	Adoptions Finalized Abroad	Adoptions to be Finalized in the U.S.	Total Adoptions	Country or Territory of Origin	Adoptions Finalized Abroad	Adoptions to be Finalized in the U.S.	Total Adoptions
Country or Territory of Origin	Adoptions Finalized Abroad	Adoptions to be Finalized in the U.S.	Total Adoptions	Guinea	4	0	4	Romania	4	0	4
				Guyana	7	0	7	*Samoa	3	1	4
				Haiti	96	0	96	Serbia	4	0	4
Albania	1	0	1	Honduras	7	0	7	*Sierra Leone	13	0	13
*Algeria	0	1	1	Hong Kong S. A. R.	0	11	11	South Africa	8	0	8
*Bangladesh	0	11	11	Hungary	17	0	17	*South Sudan	0	3	3
Belarus	2	0	2	India	103	0	103	Sri Lanka	1	0	1
Belize	0	5	5	*Iran	0	7	7	*Taiwan	42	0	42
Brazil	20	0	20	*Jamaica	23	7	30	*Tanzania	2	0	2
Bulgaria	99	0	99	*Korea, South	188	0	188	Thailand	3	20	23
Burkina Faso	6	0	6	Kyrgyzstan	7	1	8	Togo	1	0	1
Burundi	17	0	17	Latvia	20	0	20	*Tonga	3	1	4
*Cameroon	7	1	8	*Lebanon	1	0	1	*Uganda	15	0	15
China	202	0	202	Lesotho	1	0	1	*Ukraine	192	19	211
Colombia	137	0	137	*Liberia	29	0	29	Venezuela	0	1	1
*Congo, Democratic Republic of	1	0	1	*Libya	0	1	1	Vietnam	15	0	15
				Lithuania	3	0	3	Zambia	3	0	3
Costa Rica	10	0	10	Madagascar	1	0	1	Total	1443	179	1622
*Dominica	1	0	1	*Malawi	7	1	8	<i>*Country not party to the Convention</i>			
Dominican Republic	6	0	6	Mexico	11	0	11				
Ecuador	4	0	4	*Morocco	0	17	17				
*Egypt	0	1	1	*Nicaragua	1	0	1				
El Salvador	1	0	1	*Nigeria	81	2	83				
*Ethiopia	6	0	6	*Pakistan	0	28	28				
*Gambia, The	0	1	1	Philippines, The	0	39	39				
Georgia	2	0	2	Poland	3	0	3				
Ghana	1	0	1	*Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI)	1	0	1				

Table 2: Incoming Adoptions by State			
State	Adoptions Finalized Abroad	Adoptions to be Finalized in the United States	Total Adoptions
Alabama	55	0	55
Alaska	2	0	2
Americans Overseas	4	0	4
Arizona	17	4	21
Arkansas	8	0	8
California	108	22	130
Colorado	41	1	42
Connecticut	6	1	7
Delaware	1	1	2
District of Columbia	6	1	7
Florida	74	9	83
Georgia	42	5	47
Hawaii	3	0	3
Idaho	14	1	15
Illinois	67	12	79
Indiana	45	5	50
Iowa	17	1	18
Kansas	18	2	20
Kentucky	27	4	31
Louisiana	6	0	6
Maine	4	0	4
Maryland	45	9	54
Massachusetts	19	12	31
Michigan	32	6	38

State	Adoptions Finalized Abroad	Adoptions to be Finalized in the United States	Total Adoptions
Minnesota	50	6	56
Mississippi	14	0	14
Missouri	33	4	37
Montana	7	0	7
Nebraska	13	0	13
Nevada	1	2	3
New Hampshire	2	0	2
New Jersey	30	7	37
New Mexico	5	0	5
New York	70	7	77
North Carolina	66	7	73
North Dakota	1	0	1
Ohio	36	0	36
Oklahoma	9	1	10
Oregon	20	3	23
Pennsylvania	49	3	52
Rhode Island	4	0	4
South Carolina	23	3	26
South Dakota	2	0	2
Tennessee	60	4	64
Texas	113	16	129
Utah	19	3	22
Vermont	1	0	1
Virginia	58	5	63
Washington	57	4	61
West Virginia	2	2	4
Wisconsin	29	3	32

State	Adoptions Finalized Abroad	Adoptions to be Finalized in the United States	Total Adoptions
Wyoming	8	3	11
Total	1443	179	1622

Table 3: Outgoing (Emigrating) Adoptions		
Receiving Country	U.S. State from which the Child Emigrated	Number of Outgoing Adoption Cases
Austria	Florida	1
Brazil	Maine	2
Canada	Arizona	1
	Arkansas	3
	Florida	12
	Nevada	1
	South Carolina	1
	Washington	1
Dominican Republic	New Jersey	1
Netherlands	Florida	4
	Georgia	1
	Mississippi	1
	New Jersey	1
	Pennsylvania	8

	South Carolina	2
Switzerland	Louisiana	1
	Nevada	1
Total:	42	

Table 4: Convention Adoptions and Average Number of Days to Completion by Convention Country		
Convention Country	Number of Convention Cases	Average Days to Completion
Albania	1	304
Belarus	2	588
Belize	5	554
Brazil	20	275
Bulgaria	99	481
Burkina Faso	6	184
Burundi	17	933
China	202	465
Colombia	137	339
Costa Rica	10	380
Dominican Republic	6	585
Ecuador	4	305
El Salvador	1	810
Georgia	1	484
Ghana	1	955
Guinea	4	609

Convention Country	Number of Convention Cases	Average Days to Completion
Haiti	93	1096
Hong Kong S. A. R.	11	550
Hungary	17	298
India	103	553
Kyrgyzstan	5	560
Latvia	21	467
Lesotho	1	253
Lithuania	3	405
Madagascar	1	271
Mexico	10	607
Philippines, The	39	717
Poland	3	1056
Romania	4	507
Serbia	4	337
South Africa	9	487
Sri Lanka	1	714
Thailand	23	580
Togo	1	845
Venezuela	1	1288
Vietnam	15	348
Zambia	3	755

Table 5: Median ASP Convention Adoption Fees			
Convention Country of Origin	Median Fees	Convention Country of Origin	Median Fees
Albania	\$8,485	India	\$5,053
Armenia	\$3,156	Kazakhstan	\$2,500
Belize	\$0	Kyrgyzstan	\$6,557
Brazil	\$7,158	Latvia	\$6,585
Bulgaria	\$5,271	Lesotho	\$9,300
Burkina Faso	\$3,524	Lithuania	\$10,614
Burundi	\$7,289	Madagascar	\$9,333
Canada	\$1,750	Mexico	\$7,802
China	\$5,829	Moldova	\$3,000
Colombia	\$6,154	Peru	\$7,700
Congo, Republic of the	\$2,051	Philippines, The	\$3,931
Costa Rica	\$2,063	Poland	\$7,815
Dominican Republic	\$1,730	Romania	\$3,561
Ecuador	\$8,725	Serbia	\$3,417
El Salvador	\$5,865	South Africa	\$4,000
Georgia	\$7,933	South Korea	\$20,040
Ghana	\$5,580	Sri Lanka	\$0
Guinea	\$5,456	Taiwan	\$7,000
Guyana	\$9,000	Thailand	\$6,865
Haiti	\$10,090	United Kingdom	\$0
Honduras	\$3,500	Vietnam	\$6,600
Hong Kong	\$447	Zambia	\$1,007
Hungary	\$2,639		

Table 6: The Number of Convention Placements for Adoption in the United States that were Disrupted

Country from which the Child Emigrated	The Age of the Child at Placement	The Date of Placement for Adoption	The reasons for the disruption	The Resolution of the Disruption	The Agency that Handled the Placement	Plans for the Child
Philippines, The	13	5/6/2018	PAP unable to meet child's needs.	Child remained in the United States.	Hand in Hand	Placed with another family.
Latvia	15	2/28/2019	Child did not want to be adopted.	The child remained in Latvia.	CCAI	Not specified.
Latvia	15	9/4/2019	Child did not want to be adopted.	The child remained in Latvia.	CCAI	Not specified.
Colombia	3, 4, 5, 6	11/6/2019	PAPs unable to meet needs of one child in sibling group of four; disrupted all four placements to keep siblings together.	The children remained in Colombia.	Lifeline Children's Services	Returned to foster care.
Colombia	5	11/24/2019	Prospective adoptive parent (PAP) health concerns.	The child remained in Colombia.	A Love Beyond Borders	Not specified.
Hungary	7	8/10/2017	Failure to attach.	Child remained in Hungary.	Lifeline Children's Services	Returned to foster care.
Hungary	5	2/28/2020	Failure to attach.	Child remained in Hungary.	Lifeline Children's Services	Returned to foster care.

Table 7: State-Reported Data for Children who Entered Foster Care after Intercounty Adoption

State	Number of Children Adopted through the Intercounty Process Who Entered Foster Care in FY2020	Additional Information
Alabama	1	The state reports 0 cases in FY2019 and 1 case in FY2018.
Alaska	State did not report data	The state reports 0 cases in FY2019.
Arizona	5	No additional information.
Arkansas	0	No additional information.
California	State did not report data	The state reports 0 cases for FY2019 and FY2018. California Department of Social Services (CDSS) continues to track quarterly data that is required to be submitted to CDSS by agencies using the AD 202B Intercounty Adoption Program Quarterly Statistical Report. The AD 202B quarterly reports provide intercountry adoption data on applications, home study assessments, placements, finalizations, disruptions, dissolution, post-adoption services and on the emigration of children to be adopted abroad. Along with the AD 202B, CWS/CMS is used to gather data when children from any disrupted or dissolved intercountry adoptions enter the foster care system.
Colorado	State reports data is unavailable	There is not a requirement to ask if the children/youth were adopted from other countries. Colorado Department of Human Services does not have reliable data on children/youth that were adopted from other countries and entered Colorado's child welfare system. Efforts to address this gap in data collection include a change in the statewide database to create a mandatory data field to capture this

		information.
Connecticut	State reports data is unavailable	At this time, Connecticut is not able to identify the number of children who were adopted from other countries and entered state custody.
Delaware	0	No additional information.
District of Columbia	The District did not report data	The District reports 0 cases for FY2019 and 1 case in FY2018.
Florida	3	The Department of Children and Families receives two to three reports of international adoptees removed due to abuse, abandonment, or neglect per year.
Georgia	State did not report data	The state reports 0 cases in FY2019.
Hawaii	State reports data is unavailable	No additional information.
Idaho	State did not report data	The state reports 4 cases for FY2019.
Illinois	State reports data is unavailable	The state does not have a way of tracking children who are adopted from other countries.
Indiana	State did not report data	The state reports 2 cases for FY2019.
Iowa	0	No additional information.
Kansas	1	Kansas reports as of April 2020, there were a total of 8 children in foster care who were previously adopted through the intercountry process.
Kentucky	State reports data is unavailable	At present, Kentucky does not have a mechanism for tracking the number of children who enter foster care following the disruption of an international adoption. Anecdotal reporting indicates that this number of children is extremely small; and in many reporting years, the anecdotal information suggests that no such children entered the state foster care system.

Louisiana	State did not report data	No additional information.
Maine	State did not report data	The state reports 0 cases for FY2019.
Maryland	0	No additional information.
Massachusetts	State did not report data	The state reports 3 cases for FY2019.
Michigan	State did not report data	No additional information.
Minnesota	State did not report data	The state reports 2 cases for FY2018.
Mississippi	State did not report data	The state reports 0 cases for FY2019.
Missouri	State did not report data	The state reports 0 cases for calendar year 2019.
Montana	2	Montana reports that during FY2019, the state closed a facility where several internationally adopted children were residing as a result of parental placements. Two children who were previously adopted internationally were placed and remain in foster care in Montana.
Nebraska	State did not report data	The state reports 0 cases for FY2019.
Nevada	0	An informational memorandum will be developed and distributed to the regions including how to document them in Unified Nevada Information Technology for Youth (UNITY) to ensure the regions are aware of this requirement. The projected completion date for this policy is January 2021.
New Hampshire	State did not report data	The state reports 0 cases for FY2019.
New Jersey	State did not report data	The state reports 1 case for FY2019.
New Mexico	0	The state reports 0 cases for FY2019.
New York	State did not report data	The state reports 7 cases for FY2019.
North Carolina	3	North Carolina reported FY20 data for the timeframe of April 2019 - March 2020. The state reports 4 cases for

		FY2019.
North Dakota	State did not report data	The state reports 1 case for FY2019.
Ohio	State did not report data	In Calendar Year 2019, Ohio reported out of 643 children in foster care who had been previously adopted, 10 were born in countries other than the United States and 429 did not have a country of birth listed.
Oklahoma	0	The state reports 1 case for FY2018. The child entered trial adoption on December 21, 2018 and finalized on June 28, 2019.
Oregon	State reports data is unavailable	No additional information.
Pennsylvania	State did not report data	The state reports 0 cases for FY2019.
Puerto Rico	0	No additional information.
Rhode Island	State did not report data	The state reports 1 case for FY2019 and 10 cases for FY2018.
South Carolina	State reports data is unavailable	Currently, South Carolina does not have a system to track and gather regarding intercountry adoptees who enter foster care but is in the process of developing a method to track this information for future reports.
South Dakota	1	No additional information.
Tennessee	State did not report data	The state reports 0 cases for FY2019.
Texas	State did not report data	The state reports 20 cases for FY2019.
Utah	State did not report data	The state reports 5 cases for FY2019.
Vermont	State did not report data	The state reports 0 cases for FY2019.
Virginia	3	No additional information.
Virgin Islands	State did not report data	No additional information.
Washington	State did not report data	The state reports 1 case for Calendar Year 2019 and 3 cases for Calendar Year 2018.

West Virginia	State did not report data	The state reports 0 cases for FY2019.
Wisconsin	State did not report data	The state reports 9 cases for FY2019.
Wyoming	State reports data is unavailable	No additional information.

Table 8: Countries with a Significant Law or Regulation that Prevented or Prohibited Adoptions Involving Immigration to the United States

Country	Implementation Date
Democratic Republic of the Congo	July 15, 2016
Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia	February 14, 2018
Republic of Kenya	November 27, 2014
The Russian Federation	January 1, 2013