

COUNTRY UPDATES JUNE 2008

This Country Update brings you the most current and up-to-date information from our Program Coordinators to keep you informed of what is going on in the countries. For more information on any of our programs, contact us at info@carolinaadoption.org or 800-632-9312.

Bulgaria Program News...

Our new program in Bulgaria has continued to receive quite a bit of interest from prospective families. This is a wonderful option for singles, married couples and families wanting to adopt a child of either gender over a year in age. Older parents can also adopt from Bulgaria if they are open to an older child. We are currently seeking applicants for this program.



Bulgaria is a small picturesque country which is approximately the size of Tennessee. This beautiful country borders the Black Sea and countries such as Romania and Turkey. Children of Roma, Turkish and Bulgarian heritage reside in orphanages throughout the country. Children over a year in age are available for international adoption. CAS is pleased to be working with the Happy Child Association, a licensed adoption agency in Bulgaria, to unite many children who are without parents with loving, forever families from the United States.

ARMENIA

Currently there are two families waiting for their referrals any day. Once this happens momentum will build for them. Our Armenian attorney is also due to deliver her own child within a month. Her partner is handling things when necessary and he has been a great backup. There have been more inquiries for Armenian adoption over the past few months and a few families are in the process of first steps while others are nearly ready to send in their dossiers.



CHINA

Great News! Word has it that June's referrals are being mailed out by the China Center of Adoption Affairs (CCAA) and that the Log in Dates (LIDs) are January 13 through and including January 22. This means that 10 days of LIDs were processed. How exciting! Last month, the CCAA processed 3 days of LIDs with the dates being January 10th through January 12th. The current wait time from LID to referral is at least 36+ months.



GUATEMALA

Remaining families in process have had a difficult wait in the month of May. PGN/CNA placed a moratorium on releasing and approving any cases until the birthmothers could be interviewed again to confirm her intention to place her child for adoption. Birthmothers are given the option to reclaim their children at the interviews. Interviews began in May and continue at present. We are waiting for our remaining cases to receive summons and hope that they are successfully completed.



GUATEMALA

(cont'd)

PGN has indicated after the month moratorium they will begin releasing files that have completed interviews. We hope this is the case.

The new central authority is still moving towards setting up a Hague compliant system that will be acceptable to the United States. We hope that sometime in 2009 we can see adoptions between the U.S. and Guatemala began again.

The program is currently closed.

KENYA

There is good news to be celebrated in Kenya! One of our families received their adoption orders, and now will be completing the US Embassy part of the process to bring their child home! Another of our family's situation in court is becoming more optimistic as well, and we anticipate their adoption orders in the near future. We celebrate the movement in these two cases with these families, and await their return to the US with their children!

Due to the implementation of the Hague, we will only be able to continue processing Kenya Homestudy Verifications for families who have filed their I-600A before the deadline of April 1st, 2008. If you are interested in a verification, but filed your I-600A with CIS after that deadline, please speak with Little Angels Network about your case. If you have any questions, please call Robyn Johnson at Carolina Adoption Services at 1-800-632-9312.



KOREA

CAS welcomes families living in NC, SC, NJ, and VA to the Korea program, which is networked with Family & Children's Agency (FCA) of Connecticut. Families adopting in the Korea program must be open to gender and meet the requirements of the Korean Social Welfare Society (SWS). SWS provides excellent foster care for their children, and families are able to meet the foster family when in Korea.

Our representative from FCA recently traveled to Korea and was able to meet with the US Embassy, Korean government officials, Blue House staff, the Ministry for Health, Family & Welfare (MHFW) staff, and also the staff of SWS.



Due to the current timing of referrals and discussions with SWS, we estimate 5 to 7 months to receive a referral from the time the packet is sent to Korea. SWS is working to get referrals out as soon as possible and reports that there continues to be few girls available for adoption. Once accepting a referral, it has generally taken 3 to 4 months to get the child home. Due to the election of a new President, changes in structure of the ministry overseeing adoptions, new ministry staff and media stories, the Korea side of the processing is progressing more slowly. The legal documents have been taking much longer to receive from Korea. Additional time has also been added from the US side due to changes in the way the visa notification is being processed and sent to the US Embassy in Seoul. Given these longer processing times, we estimate the wait from acceptance to coming home to be closer to 4 months.

MOLDOVA

CAS welcomes home three families and their children in May! The children range in ages from one year to 12 years old. Recently, the Moldova Embassy Consular from Washington DC visited the home of four families. The Embassy staff are interested in the adjustment and welfare of children adopted from Moldova. CAS will be hosting official visitors from Moldova the last week of June. The agency facilitator will be coming to the CAS anniversary picnic along with other officials. Families who have adopted from Moldova are encouraged to attend.



PERU

On May 29, 2008, the Peruvian Congress passed a law to transfer the responsibility of the declaration of legal abandonment of children out of the SNA jurisdiction to the jurisdiction of the INABIF. As soon as the President signs the law, all abandonment procedures will be transferred to INABIF, which is the first step in the intentions of the Peruvian government for improving the adoption process. We hope this transfer of responsibility will mean that more children can be declared legally abandoned in a shorter amount of time.



The May matching session for MIMDES saw 18 matches of children to families. Of these 18 matches, 2 were to U.S. families. The other matches of children were to Peruvians and to other international countries such as Italy, France, and Spain. Peru does give preference in adoption first to Peruvians and then to mixed couples (one parent is Peruvian and the other parent is another nationality)

Our Peru program is currently at capacity and we are not accepting new applications at this time until we see some of our waiting families receive matches and travel.

Families need to be prepared for at least a 6-8 month wait for approval and at least 6 months or more for a match.

RUSSIA



The Russian Program continues to process adoptions in a timely manner. One family traveled the end of May for their first trip, and another family was scheduled for court in early June. Most referrals have been from Moscow and St. Petersburg and have been "MIR" referrals (minimal information referrals). Families who have traveled on their first trip with minimal information, have reported that they have been very pleased with services provided by Russian Pediatricians at the orphanages.

UKRAINE

The SPDARC continues to review and process



UKRAINE

submitted dossiers. Families with scheduled SDAPRC appointments continue to travel and are able to complete their adoption process. Families who are interested in adopting from Ukraine in 2009 are encouraged to submit applications and begin the homestudy process.

VIETNAM

We are excited to report that we had 7 families complete their adoptions in May. The average wait for I-600 approval continues to be at least 60-90 working days after the application has been submitted; approvals have continued to slow down as more I-600 applications have been submitted by all agencies

We have several families that have submitted their I-600 applications and are waiting for their approval to travel. In May, 15 families were matched with available children. We anticipate that we will continue to receive new medical evaluations on a regular basis.



In early June we encouraged families, staff and board members to take part in a national campaign initiated by The Joint Council on International Children's Services (JCICS), of which CAS is a member, to promote the establishment and agreement of a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) after the current one expires on September 1, 2008. It is hopeful that this campaign will result in the establishment of a new MOU so that adoptions from Vietnam may continue or resume in the near future. Although the US is working on establishing a new MOU there is a great deal of uncertainty regarding the feasibility of reaching a new agreement.

We are keeping everyone in the Vietnam program alert to new developments through our client-only distribution emails. As we learn more verifiable information, please be assured that we will pass it on!

CAS is not accepting new applications to the Vietnam Program.