

Yearly Report

on activities in 2009



AC International Child Support
Denmark

What does AC International Child Support Stand for

AC International Child Support is a humanitarian organisation. It was founded in 1969 under the name Adoption Center for the purpose of giving orphaned and destitute children from other countries a home with a Danish adoptive family. Now the primary purpose of AC International Child Support is still to give destitute children a secure and permanent family; primarily in their own country, and subsidiarily in Denmark.



AC International Child Support stands out internationally with our approach to children's rights in both our adoption work and our project activities.

AC International Child Support bases its activities on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, among these particularly children's fundamental rights to a secure childhood in his or her own family, legal status, education, health, protection and influence, and AC International Child Support places special focus on the right to have a family of its own and to secure the child's right to its own history and culture.

In our adoption work as well as in our project work, we have a holistic family approach and a child rights based approach. Our adoption work is handled by the Adoption Department and our international development work is handled by the Project Department.

The project department works to help improve the conditions for children in destitute families through development projects and child sponsorships.

Project Department

The long term goal of AC International Child Support's development work is to secure vulnerable children a safe upbringing with dignity in a family, as well as influence on decisions affecting their own lives. We do this by supporting local partner organisations with funds, management capacity, and inspiration for social work methods, so that they might implement socially and culturally relevant projects for the most vulnerable children in their areas. We partner with a diverse group of organisations in various countries, but common for them all is the desire to see change in their communities, and a determination to promote the rights of children. This results in varied projects with different partners, as described below in more detail.

None of our partners discriminate against anyone in need based on gender, religion or race. All our partners base their social work on the internationally recognized rights of the child.

AC International Child Support receives the majority of its project funding through the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DANIDA), but it also grateful for funds from corporate donors. Finally, the child sponsorship programme, linking vulnerable children with private donors in Denmark, is invaluable in providing hope and a better future for a large number of children across the world.

BOLIVIA

Development Projects in Bolivia

Fundación San Gabriel

Fundación San Gabriel (FSG) began providing health services for poor people in 1967. AC International Child Support has been partnering with FSG since 1997, both through development projects but also with the specific goal of strengthening the capacity of FSG. In 2009, we started a five year project together. It includes components of institutional strengthening of FSG, a provision of alternative financing methods of health services of children from the poorest families, and the establishment of adequate health services related to chronic diseases of children in the three largest cities of Bolivia, namely Santa Cruz, El Alto and La Paz. The project also aims to fight maltreatment of children in these cities through education on children's rights.



Sociedad Católica San José

SCSJ was founded in 1878, when the organisation set up free schools for very poor people, and established a home for the elderly and the blind. In the 1980s, the organisation began to focus on children, youth and their families through social investment in poor neighbourhoods on the outskirts of the capital La Paz. AC International Child Support has been happy to partner with SCSJ since 2005.

In 2009, AC International Child Support and SCSJ continued cooperation on a development project entitled 'Reday for the Future'. The project started in 2008, and aims to strengthen the schooling of children and youth by improving their learning abilities through improved homework assistance and computer training. The project works with about 2.300 children and youth from 750 families in the poor areas of La Paz.

COLOMBIA

Development Projects in Colombia

AC International Child Support has since the late nineties carried out development projects together with our partner ORIENTAME in Colombia.

From 2006 we have, with support from Danida, been implementing "Project Respect – Prevention of social exclusion of young people, who have been exposed to violence, through recognition of and respect for their rights".



The project started in 2006 and runs for five years. Violence within families and in the society is an extremely serious hindrance for the development of children's potential in Colombia, and especially within poor families and communities in the suburbs surrounding Bogota.

The project covers two large communities, Bosa and Suba, each with around one million inhabitants. Besides working directly with the families in the communities (around 700 to 1.000 families, almost 3.000 individuals), the project works very intensively with around a total of 75 institutions. These institutions are all in their own way involved in some of the many initiatives, which focus on children's rights and the decrease of violence against children.

In 2009 the project has focused on the close collaboration with these institutions in order to support them in the inclusion of validated methodologies in their everyday work. The closer collaboration with the institutions moves the project much closer to its goal, and is a vital step in securing the long term impact of the project.

ECUADOR

Development Projects in Ecuador

In Ecuador AC International Child Support is working with disabled children and marginalized children in the poor suburbs around especially Quito, and to some extent Sta. Domingo. The work is done with our two partners, **Fundación Esperanza** and **Fundación Niñez y Vida**, through short projects and a small-scale sponsorship programme.



During the year, it has been possible to involve Fundación Niñez y Vida in our development projects in Bolivia with our partners, especially with Sociedad Católica San José, benefitting the strong profiles of both organisations. The support to FNV has been very carefully defined, meeting the necessities of FNV and, at the same time, strengthening the possibilities of interchange of experience relevant for the development work of AC International Child Support in other parts of the continent.

ETHIOPIA

Development Projects in Ethiopia

Integrated Family Service Organisation (IFSO)

AC International Child Support has been partnering with the Ethiopian NGO Integrated Family Service Organisation (IFSO) for more than a decade. In 2009, we were happy to begin a new three year project named 'Children's Safety Net'.

The project got off to a good start, and aims to create a social and physical environment that facilitates children's development and rights in the north eastern part of the capital city of Addis Ababa. The project works with parents, teachers and students at 6 primary schools around the Nebe river, and aims at rehabilitating and cleaning the environment around the river. This work creates a basis for strengthening the participation and rights of children and youth.



Another project, 'Children's Oases', was started in 2007 and continues till 2011. The project works with vulnerable children and families in the Entoto mountains on the outskirts of Addis Ababa. Here children from poor and vulnerable families are often denied their right to education, as they have to help provide income for their families. Families generate income by selling firewood in the city, but this activity degrades the environment on the mountains, leading to deforestation and soil erosion. IFSO works on rehabilitating the environment through education and tree planting with the local communities, alternative income generating projects, and on securing the right to education for the children by establishing 7 alternative basic education schools in the project areas.

(this young boy is tired – but not uninspired)



Sign Language Training and Social Service Association (SLTSSA)

In 2009 SLTSSA successfully completed a three year project to educate families and community representatives in sign language, and to increase public awareness on deafness. Lessons learnt in the project were documented, and SLTSSA has now in partnership with AC International Child Support begun a new project building upon this success.



The new project 'Include the Deaf', enables SLTSSA to facilitate the inclusion of deaf students in selected schools across Addis Ababa. This is a good example of how our partners gain increased capacity, and are able to use their new skills to expand their reach. From focusing on service delivery at one school in the previous project, SLTSSA is now focusing on facilitating the inclusion of deaf students at 6 other schools, by training parents, teachers, students and school management in sign language and appropriate teaching methods for deaf students.

Volunteers for Family Development (VOFAD)

Since 2004 VOFAD, Adopsjonsforum in Norway and AC International Child Support have collaborated on the the unique project 'Special Infant Care'. VOFAD takes care children who have been tested HIV positive in the adoption process. Local Ethiopian families volunteer to adopt the children, and are being carefully trained and prepared on the challenges of caring for a child living with HIV. The families get regular follow-up training, ongoing support and counselling. The families have a strong network between them based on their shared background in the Pentecostal movement, where they meet and support each other. The families are also supported financially, to be able to provide the needed diet and medication, and for sending the children to school. On the prevention part the project raises awareness in the communities on HIV/AIDS, and work closely together with religious institutions and relevant government bodies.

Currently there are 17 children in the project, all of them healthy and growing well. Impacts of the project clearly shows that if children living with HIV are provided with the adequate care, timely and consistent medication combined with a nutritious diet, good sanitation, and a loving and caring family environment, they can live a perfectly normal and happy life.

In 2009 one new child was placed with his new family and has integrated very well into the new family.

Development Projects in Nepal CHILDREN Nepal

In 2009, Children Nepal and AC International Child Support began a project together in a rural area of Nepal. The project, 'Children Creating a Safe and Inclusive Environment', aims at creating self help groups for children at 38 schools and child-care organisations.



Through these groups, children are taught about their rights, and issues of abuse and discrimination based on caste, gender or social status are addressed. Discrimination based on caste is officially illegal in Nepal, yet the practice is still ingrained in many of the rural areas. Therefore this project is important to teach both adults and children about the inalienable rights of every person, regardless of caste or ethnicity.

Sponsorships

AC International Child Support has sponsorship programmes in Ecuador, Bolivia, Colombia, Ethiopia and India. AC is happy to be able to provide a link for long term relationships between Danish sponsors and children in need. Sadly, there has been a slight decline in the number of sponsors in 2009 compared to earlier years, as people opt out of the programme due to the financial crisis.

In 2009 AC International Child Support reached a total of 1400 sponsored children in the following countries:

Colombia:	563
Ethiopia:	170
India:	609
Ecuador:	22
Bolivia:	36



Adoption Department

Total number of adoption applications received in 2009

In 2009 we experienced again a decrease in the number of applications for adoption. The total number of adoption applications totalled xxx for the two Danish placement agencies. AC International Child Support received 228 of these new applications, less than half the number of applications received four years ago.

	Total new registrations in Denmark	Registrations with AC International Child Support
1998 :	714	384
1999 :	763	447
2000 :	436	268
2001 :	661	422
2002 :	621	390
2003 :	633	444
2004 :	808	556
2005 :	774	467
2006 :	834	479
2007 :	590	331
2008 :	519	309
2009 :	388	228



Adoptions in 2009

Our adoption work is founded, legally and ethically, on the Hague Convention of 1993 about Protection of Children and Co-operation with regard to International Adoptions. We work to ensure that all efforts are made to give the child a secure childhood with its biological family. If this is not possible – or not in the child’s best interests – we believe that a local adoption is the next solution. International adoption comes in only as a third priority, but is a good option for a child where there is no possibility of finding a permanent family for the child in its country of origin.

The three options are described by the subsidiarity principle of the Hague Convention.

In 2009 we were happy to see an increase in the number of placements compared to 2008 – however at the same time we could note a significant decrease in the number of approved couples waiting for a child – it dropped from 714 at the end of 2008 to 589 at the end of 2009. This is mainly due – as we perceive it – in a decreasing hope from prospective adoptive parents in Denmark to actually be able to adopt the child, they wished to adopt due to increasing waiting times, complications in carrying out the adoption procedures etc. At present we are working at AC International Child Support to prepare the Danish prospective adoptive parents in order to open more up for special needs adoptions, for longer waiting times etc.

Adoption placements in 1999-2009

Below: The list of children placed through AC International Child Support for the past ten years:

Country of origin	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Bolivia	17	20	17	23	14	20	24	17	8	8	2
Brazil	17	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burkina Faso	4	0	2	0	4	0	0	0	1	3	3
Colombia	91	101	83	76	57	38	36	36	24	31	32
Ecuador	8	6	8	7	7	3	0	0	0	0	0
Ethiopia	26	23	22	20	40	41	30	38	33	51	58
Guatemala	2	2	3	1	1	2	4	1	1	0	1
Belarus	0	14	13	25	19	15	0	0	0	0	0
India	33	46	47	28	33	40	36	14	14	0	1
China	79	86	103	110	143	143	170	123	111	57	67
Latvia	2	0	1	0	0	0	0			0	0
Lithuania	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Madagaskar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
Mali	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
Mexico	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mozambique									2	0	0
Nepal	3	2	3	4	1	1	0	0	3	2	0
Nicaragua	0	0	1	0	0	0	0			0	0
Nigeria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	15
Peru	5	6	5	5	2	3	1	3	3	5	3
Russia	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Slovakia	-	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Africa						8	18	22	20	28	55
Sri Lanka									1	2	1

Thailand	13	15	17	8	6	10	9	7	10	14	13
Czech Republic	3	15	20	19	16	18	13	10	9	8	7
Hungary	24	14	9	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vietnam	17	20	27	46	11	13	46	18	23	10	8
Totally	355	376	383	376	356	356	389	290	265	226	275

During 2009 we are happy to have seen an increased number of placements of special needs children from China and other countries.

It is a great joy to help find good families for children with special needs, who do not have so many options in life.

At the same time, a number of countries have remained at the same level of adoptions as in previous years: Thailand, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Burkina Faso

Finally, a small number of children have arrived from the new contacts: Mali, Madagascar, Kenya, and Taiwan.

From only a few countries have we seen a decrease in adoptions: Bolivia, Peru, Vietnam, but even in those countries the decrease has been minor.

We are therefore hopeful when looking towards 2010 that adoptions will continue more or less at this level.

Bolivia

In 2010 we placed only 2 children from Bolivia, the lowest number ever.

Burkina Faso

Jette Würtz visited Burkina Faso in the beginning of the year, and in May 2009 a delegation from Burkina Faso visited Denmark. They were introduced to our Central Authority and the Adoption Board and the Danish social authorities in Copenhagen. The Embassy in Copenhagen invited the families with adopted children from Burkina Faso to a gathering where they could also meet the delegation. We hope to have further strengthened our relationships with our highly appreciated partners in Burkina Faso.

China

The adoptions from China reached an all-time low in 2009, where only 39 children were proposed for our families from CCAA. However, working with the special needs programme of CCAA, we have been able to find families for 18 children. It is a special joy to be able to find families for challenged children with special needs.

The waiting-time for the families on the waiting-list for China is increasing month by month, and this is a very difficult situation for the families to face, but for which no solution was foreseeable in 2009.

Our adoption counsellor on China, Annette Vest Kousgaard, stayed in Beijing for 3 months from April to June 2009 and gained a lot of knowledge about the problems and issues met by our team in China, and the workings of CCAA.

Colombia

ICBF

The number of children placed through ICBF Colombia has been a bit higher than expected in 2009 and consequently the increase in the waiting-time for families on the waiting-list stopped. We have been able to find families for a of 19 children from ICBF in 2009 and it has been a pleasure to note the good and

detailed information about the children and the fact that the children are being cared for very well by their foster families.

The private organisations

In 2009 we received a total of 13 children from the private organisations that we co-operate with in Colombia. Thus a decrease in adoptions is noted, which is fortunately primarily due to the fact that there has been an increase in applications for national adoption, which have naturally been given preference.

India

In 2009 we placed only one child from India. In 2009 Anne Mogensen and Jette Würtz visited India in order to explore the possibility of finding new partners to work with. We have established a co-operation with four organisations, who are all characterised by having a broad scope of activities towards vulnerable children and young people, handicapped and elderly people and mothers in specially difficult circumstances.

Ethiopia

We were able to find families in Denmark for more than fifty children from Ethiopia in 2009, Tove Vase visited Ethiopia in March, 2009, and in October, 2009, the Danish Adoption Board had again scheduled a visit to Ethiopia in their capacity as supervisory body to our overseas adoption work. Both visits reconfirmed the good cooperation between AC International Child Support and institutions and authorities in Addis Ababa.

In the summer of 2009 the Family Court in Addis Ababa requested an investigation of the adoptions undertaken by 5 children's homes in Addis Ababa. The investigation concluded that the adoptions from these 5 homes had been carried out according to the rules and regulations.

The Phillipines

We were extremely happy to welcome a delegation from ICAB to visit AC International Child Support in 2008. After the visit and having reached mutual understanding an agreement was signed with ICAB, the Central Authority in the Phillipines in 2009. .

Kenya

The first child from Kenya came to Denmark in 2009 and through this first adoption, AC established contact and a co-operation with KCH in Nairobi, and by the end of 2009 one more Danish family travelled to Kenya to be united with their child and await the finalisation of the procedure.

Mali

In 2009 three children arrived to Denmark from Mali, and two more children were proposed for our families at the end of 2009. Jette Würtz visited Mali in January 2009 to follow up on our co-operation with children's homes and the central authorities. She had the special pleasure of being present for the official opening of a covered terrace at the new school of ASE MALI – a terrace that we had contributed towards.



Madagascar

2009 started out with a turbulent political situation in Madagascar, but our recently established co-operation did not suffer due to the new political situation. We have a close and good co-operation with the Central Authorities, and Jette Würtz could further strengthen the ties with our partners during a visit to

Madagascar at the end of 2009 together with AdoptionsCentrum Sweden. At that time she had the pleasure of meeting the first 2 Danish families, who were in Madagascar to finalise the adoption of their child.

Nigeria

After our start with adoptions from Nigeria in 2007, we received 6 children in 2008 and in 2009 15 children from Nigeria came to Denmark with their new families. The work did not go without snags, however: in the first months of 2009 there was a temporary stop to adoptions while the authorities and the family court of Lagos State considered the application of the newly signed Child Rights Act, and whether there was a discrepancy between that act and the Adoption Act.

Towards the end of 2009, the authorities of Lagos State began considerations about some changes in the procedure for international adoption, and adoptions again came to a stop.

In November 2009, AC had a visit from Elvira Salleras, our representative in Nigeria, and Betty Obieri, the founder and manager of the children's home Living Fountain. From AC Jette Würtz visited Nigeria in March, 2009, together with Cathe Pedersen from our project department. They participated in the course for caretakers that we had funded and was carried out with by Lene Kamm, psychologist.

Taiwan

Since the start of our co-operation with Chung Yi Social Welfare Foundation in 2008, we have experienced a very positive development: in 2009 a total of 8 children were proposed for our families. Annette Vest Kousgaard visited Taipei in May, 2009, and could be present at the first meeting between a Danish family and their child. The staff of Chun Yi works with the child's best interests first and foremost and are very professional in their care for the children at the institution.

Peru

In 2009 we had the pleasure of a visit to Denmark in August by our representative Dra. Roxana Sotomario Cáceres. Roxana met with the families, who had adopted children from Peru, as well as the families on the waiting-list for Peru, and both meetings were welcomed and enjoyed. She could tell us that the Peruvian authorities are asking more and more that we in Denmark try to find families for older children (above 3 years) and special needs children.

Sri Lanka

The number of children that arrived from Sri Lanka to our Danish families in 2009 were as expected. We had anticipated a stronger relationship with Sri Lanka due to the obvious problems that the country is undergoing, and we hope to strengthen these relationships in the future since AC International Child Support has much backup for the possible cooperation with Sri Lanka due to our tight relationship with the country both as regards adoptions and relief projects.

South Africa

We were very happy to see more children than expected find parents in Denmark from South Africa in 2009. Again we must compliment our South African partners – both in Johannesburg and in Durban on their dedicated and wholehearted work with child care and adoptions.

Thea Jarvis from Love of Christ visited Denmark and AC International Child Support in September, 2009, and we exchanged views on the problems and challenges of international adoptions. It is always a great pleasure to meet Thea who is extremely dedicated to the care of challenged children and young people.

The Czech Republic

Again in 2009 there were changes in the adoption office in Brno, where a new director started on March 1, 2009. The new director re-organised the office and there were some changes in the staff during the year. Fortunately, one of these changes was the return of Stanislava Kopecka, with whom we have been

working for many years, and we were very happy about that. The adoption office also moved to new and larger premises.

Towards the end of the year, the adoption office introduced new procedures for the matching of children with families by a matching board consisting of the director, Stanislava and a psychologist. At the same time, the director informed that we can no longer send a paediatric consultant to the children's home to examine a child, in order to have the best possible information to present to the families.

All these changes meant that we received fewer matchings in 2009.

Thailand

We were happy to receive more or less as many children as expected from Thailand through our highly estimated partner in Thailand, Pattaya Orphanage

Towards the end of the year, we were informed that a new programme, Royal Project, aimed at improving the conditions for single mothers and their children, had been established by the crown princess of Thailand, urging the establishment of kindergartens at places of work. It is hoped that through this initiative, more single mothers will be able to care for their children, and Pattaya Orphanage expects to receive fewer abandoned children.

Vietnam

Only 8 children were placed through AC International Child Support in adoption from Vietnam in 2009. Margrethe Primdahl visited Vietnam in the spring of 2009 for meetings with the central authorities about the new adoption act that they are preparing in preparation for Vietnam acceding the Hague Convention. It was agreed during her visit that AC International Child Support would assist in arranging a seminar in Vietnam about the new laws, to be held in January 2010.

Nepal

In January, 2009, Nepal reopened for international adoptions after a stop of 1½ years, during which time a new adoption act was passed. Under the new adoption act, matching of children and families is done by the Ministry for Women, Children and Social Welfare. The Ministry is therefore introducing new procedures, but this work has taken time, and matchings have been few and slow. The Ministry is at present working to adjust Nepalese laws to the Hague Convention with a view to ratification by Nepal of the Hague Convention.

Anne Mogensen visited Nepal in November 2009. She met with staff at the Ministry for discussions and visited children's homes together with our representative Jeevan.

Guatemala

One child came to Denmark from Guatemala in 2009.

Guatemala has passed new laws according to the principles of the Hague Convention, and AC International Child Support is presenting our credentials, hoping to be accredited under the new laws. AC International Child Support was working with Casa Guatemala for almost 20 years concerning child care programmes and adoption on a small scale.

Haiti

AC International Child Support tried twice during 2009 to be granted approval by our central authority for initiating a co-operation with Oeuvres Notre Dame des Victoires in Haiti. The approval was not given due to the structure in the adoption area being too uncertain and the general security situation in the country.

However, we are maintaining contact with the children's home and hope that conditions will change so that we can re-apply for approval to place children from Haiti.

Nordic Approach

In September 2009 at the Nordic Adoption Committee meeting in Iceland, AC International Child Support presented some ideas about the best way to meet the current challenges in international adoptions. Our ideas were discussed by the Nordic adoption organisations and a paper was made out and adopted by all the organisations for their future work.

The Nordic Approach to Intercountry Adoption focuses on issues such as: the empowering of giving countries with weak economies and structures, adoption as a positive solution for children, networking and sharing of knowledge, limiting the number of placement agencies to highly professionalized NGOs, restricting receiving countries from putting undue pressure on giving countries and responsibility for Post-Adoption Services. We will advocate for research to have the proper focus on the rights of the child and try to be agenda-setting in the European and global context of international adoptions.

Training of caretakers at children's institutions

In keeping with our wide-spectred approach to the rights of children, we have within the last 3-4 years begun to develop a training course, aimed at improving the daily care for children in children's institutions. The training course is for caretakers at children's institutions, and the aim is to raise their awareness of the needs of children for contact and attention for their mental and physical growth, and to give the caretakers tools to improve the daily care of the children within the financial and staff framework of the institutions.

We started in 2007 with a course in Burkina Faso, which was followed by a similar course for the heads of the children's institutions in 2008 and in 2009. In March, 2009, a similar course was undertaken in Nigeria, headed by psychologist Lene Kamm together with Jette Würtz from the Adoption Department and Cathe Pedersen from our Project Department.

In 2009, we have been in the process of planning a model for training courses, running over 2 weeks with an interval of a couple of months between each week. This training course is being planned in co-operation with the Peter Sabro Training College in Aarhus, and is planned to take place in Nepal in March and May of 2010.

Post Adoption Services

At AC International Child Support we feel a responsibility for the adoptees in Denmark and for their families. Both for the individual persons and for the adoptees as a group.

The different aspects of AC International Child Support PAS-work comprise:

Guidance and Counselling as Regards Search for Roots

This applies for families who have adopted through AC International Child Support, adoptees who seek help to establish contact with their country of origin and/or to search for their biological family. Any contact from the biological family will be forwarded to the adoptive family or to the adoptee himself/herself, if he/she is above 18 years of age.

AC International Child Support has a small folder for adoptees who contact us in search of their roots. In the folder we take them through the steps involved in such a search, and the ethical considerations that should be applied. In addition we always counsel them personally.

On our homepage we have a question-and-answer box for adoptees, where they can ask any questions concerning life as an adoptee in Denmark, and receive guidance about where to seek further help and assistance.

The Post-Placement Service of the Danish Government

The post-adoption counselling service of the Danish government started in the 5 regions in 2007. It is available to adoptive families during the first 3 years after arrival with the adoptive child in Denmark. During the upstart of the programme, fewer families than expected made use of the offer, and therefore families, who had been in Denmark more than 3 years with their child, were allowed to make use of the service. During 2008 the service has been more and more widely used by the adoptive parents, and we are looking forward to the evaluation of the counselling service that will come in 2009.

This counselling service expires by the end of 2010, and we as well as the Danish adoptive parents' organisation "Adoption & Society" will be lobbying hard to make this offer permanent for the benefit of adoptive families and adoptees. In our opinion it is of the utmost importance to help the newly formed adoptive families in the integration process and to handle problems of integration and bonding in the early stages, where they are most easily addressed.

General Organizational Matters

Our Website

Our website (www.a-c.dk) had about 1500 visitors every day in 2009.

Annual Accounts

The total amount of adoption fees received from our adoptive families in 2009 amounted to DKK 25.192.000 and adoption related costs to 13,2 million DKK, donations amounted to 3,2 million DKK, administration costs in Denmark to approximately 9,5 million DK and approximately 1,5 million DKK were transferred to the aid project activities. After interests and monetary regulation, we had a result of approximately minus 1,56 million DKK, giving natural grounds for the raise of adoption fees again in 2010.

Adoption fee based on solidarity principle

The adoption activities of the organization are financed by the fees paid by the adoptive parents to the organization. The adoptive parents, upon arrival of the child in Denmark, receive a state subsidy to compensate for the adoption costs.

As a general rule the fees charged by AC International Child Support to the prospective adoptive parents are based on the principle of solidarity. The ideology behind this principle is trying to avoid putting a price tag on a child, and that the families should not suffer extra because they take a child from a country with a high level of costs or a high level of economical obligations for the institution in charge of the child, e.g. if the institution also carries out other aid projects in addition to adoption.

Some countries or institutions are – however – taken out of the solidarity principle. Either due to the fact, that the institution or country has a very high level of costs, which is commonly due to the fact that the institution or country has a very wide range of child care activities, which we naturally support as far as our means permit us to do so.

Our adoptive parents are aware, that according to the subsidiarity principle part of their contribution to AC International Child Support will be used for projects directed at the prevention of abandonment and projects aimed at increasing national adoption in our countries of origin.

Staff of AC International Child Support in 2009

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Board of Directors of AC International Child Support

Presentation of the Board of Directors of AC International Child Support (Denmark)

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