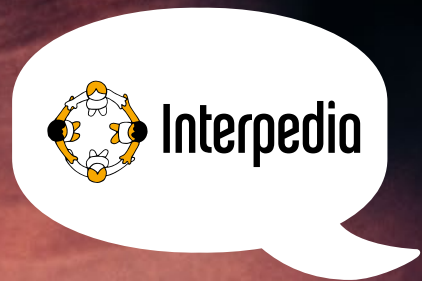


# Interpedia 2018



# As part of the community of the world's children

*"A small baby is given a name in a baptism ceremony and the whole family has gathered together to celebrate the occasion. I was invited to this emotive event as someone not part of the family, because a long time ago, I was a social worker involved in the adoption process through which the child's father arrived in Finland. I am touched by this honour, that I get to be a small part of this community which has welcomed the child."*

Last year, we talked much about communal parenthood. An adoptive child does not join the nuclear family only; relatives and family friends, teachers and other education professionals, sometimes also healthcare professionals, will also influence the child's life and development. How very important it is for the child to become a part of a larger entity, to be seen from different perspectives. Jukka Mäkelä, a child psychiatrist, has discussed the importance of an approving gaze. It is something we all need, and children most of all.

An adoption worker is a professional responsible for ensuring that the process is conducted in compliance with law and with the best interests of the child in mind. Delivering a professional service does not mean that we have moved all emotions aside. It is a special characteristic of this work that each child leaves a mark on us service providers as well. This becomes evident when for example a child comes to visit us at the office, when we see with our own eyes the little child of whom we have only seen information on paper, photos and/or a video. We see a child who recognises its parents, knows to seek shelter with them, perhaps with a new kind of brightness in its eyes. This is when we know we are on the right track. "This work has magic," as our Indian representative Gireeja Rajesh said in an interview.

## SPONSORS CHANGE THE WORLD

We often see magic in our development cooperation as well. Last year, we focused in particular on investigating the position of child labourers in Nepal in our project Whose voice? Perspectives on Ethical Communications in Development Issues. During this project we have seen that with persistent effort, it is possible to address social evils and make a difference. The number of children working in domestic service in the valley of Kathmandu has decreased significantly, and they receive help in many ways. Nepalese organisations have joined forces and influenced the country's new constitution, which now takes proper account of children's rights.

In our sponsorship programmes, we see continuously new examples of how education can change the life of a child and the entire family, or how support and advice on income generating activities help single parents to escape the cycle of poverty. It is a pleasure to be involved in this work which Interpedia has been doing for 40 years now, ever since the first sponsorship programme was launched in India in 1978.

## MEMBERS ARE THE FOUNDATION OF OUR ORGANISATION

Membership in a non-governmental organisation (NGO) has changed in nature over the decades. NGOs are now discussing meaningful forms of membership in this millennium.

Interpedia has also changed from an association established by families into a professional organisation with obligations towards public authorities. Where do members fit in this equation? How could we convey how extremely important our members are to our activities?

Even if involvement only takes the form of paying the annual membership fee, the knowledge that we have this community behind us brings us security and motivation. With membership fees we can for example ensure that we can maintain relations with our partner countries even at difficult times, when funding is uncertain and social conditions cause a lull in cooperation. Continuing the connection at such times is important for maintaining the relationships that help us continue our work when circumstances change. Connections also support our ever-growing post-adoption service activities and our sustained effort for change in development cooperation. All of this work is work for a good childhood. Thank you for being part of it!

A big thank you for the past year to all Interpedia's customers, monthly donors, sponsors, adoption and development cooperation partners, financing organisations, cooperation networks and also to the Board and staff of Interpedia. Special thanks to all the children touched by our work. Your stories also touch us, and I am glad that I get to be a part of this story.

Anja Ojuva  
Executive Director



- International adoption
- Development cooperation
- Global education

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With support from  
Finland's development  
cooperation



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# International adoption work in 2018

**Interpedia maintained its strong position as an intercountry adoption service provider, even though the number of children adopted through the organisation decreased from the previous year. In 2018, there were 28 children adopted to Finland through Interpedia (2017: 40). Interpedia's share of all the children adopted internationally through adoption agencies in Finland was 54% (a total of 52 children; 2017: 70/57%). The number of children adopted to Finland through Interpedia now totals 2,184.**

The children adopted to Finland in 2018 were aged 0–6 years. Most of them, 22, were at most two years old. The largest age group was one-year-olds (11), and the second largest group consisted of children aged less than one year (6). The numbers of boys and girls were 13 and 15, respectively.

At the end of the year, the number of customer relationships was 120 (2017: a total of 127). At the end of 2018, the number of applications in Interpedia's contact countries was 73 (2017: 58).



*"The number of children adopted through adoption agencies has decreased to the level of the early 1990's. At the same time, there has been lively public debate on the alarming decrease in the number of births. These increasingly common obstacles to family formation have now started to affect international adoption as well", says Ms Anja Ojuva, Interpedia's Executive Director.*

*Interpedia's news release 3 January 2019 "In 2018, there were 28 children adopted to Finland through Interpedia"*

**At the end of the year, the number of customer relationships was 120 (2017: a total of 127). At the end of 2018, the number of applications in Interpedia's contact countries was 73 (2017: 58).**

ADOPTIVE CHILDREN ARRIVING IN FINLAND THROUGH INTERPEDIA IN 2008–2018										
	Bulgaria	S Africa	Ethiopia	India	Kenya	China	Colombia	Taiwan	Thailand	Total
2018	–	10	–	6	–	2	6	1	3	28
2017	–	20	–	5	–	4	8	2	1	40
2016	–	13	–	5	–	4	9	–	9	40
2015		29	1	5	3	11	5		4	58
2014		20	3	7	2	15	16		8	71
2013		20	3	8	4	19	2		8	64
2012		12	3	8	6	16	7		4	56
2011		19	11	7	8	14	7		1	67
2010		14	10	3	9	11	10		10	67
2009		16	16	7		14	10		15	78
2008		12	14	2		7	13		15	63

## Self-assessment, info sessions and encounters



Adoption work has become increasingly individually oriented and tailored. Interpedia's adoption service staff meet with applicants as regularly as possible during the waiting period, and collaborate closely with the consulting physicians.

Info sessions on adoption and the contact countries continued to be a key part of the adoption service activities. In 2018, Interpedia held 43 info sessions, including some sessions in Swedish or English. The sessions were attended by around 430 people in total. As before, info sessions on adoption were held not only in the Helsinki region but also elsewhere: in Jyväskylä, Oulu, Pietarsaari, Tampere and Turku.

We continued to actively assess and develop our activities, utilising feedback obtained from customers and partners. In this work we received valuable support from the ARTSI project funded by the Funding Centre for Social Welfare and Health Organisations (STEA).

Together with other actors in the adoption field, Interpedia organised an Adoption Day which included lectures by various experts. The traditional training session for adopted children's grandparents and other close ones was again very popular.

The three adoption service providers operating in Finland (Interpedia, Save the Children, and the City of Helsinki) continued to engage in close collaboration. Social Worker Malla Jauhiainen represented Interpedia in the Steering Group for Adoption Curator Activities of the organisation All Our Children.

*Together with other actors in the adoption field, Interpedia has long campaigned for an increase in adoption grants. The increase will finally happen at the beginning of next year. The new grant will apply to families assigned a child after 1 January 2019. The grant for those adopting a child from Interpedia's contact countries will increase by EUR 2000 – EUR 6000.*

*Interpedia's news release 20 December 2018 "Adoption grant to increase"*

Thank you, Oulu and the Northern-Finland regional office of Save the Children, for a lovely info day and great collaboration! (Interpedia on Instagram 17 September 2018)

The Finnish Adoption Board operates under the control of the National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health (Valvira), and Interpedia is a member of the Board's plenary session. Interpedia was represented in the session by Ms Salla Hari, Director for Adoption Program, with Executive Director Anja Ojuva as deputy member. Ms Ojuva was also a member of the Consultative Committee for Preventive Child Welfare of the Central Union for Child Welfare in Finland (LSKL).

In 2018, adoption applicants were sent eight newsletters, two brochures about contact countries, and country-specific and event-related newsletters by e-mail. Adoption applicants also received two letters from the Executive Director (at Midsummer and at Christmas).

*"I first met my child in the play room of the children's home on the Wednesday after May Day. I and my husband sat down on the floor among the children, and straight away our own child came to us. We were nervous and excited and the child was, too. During that day we laughed and cried several times.*

*In the evening at the hotel, the child fell asleep on my chest and slept there until the morning. The following day at the court we all felt moved by the beginning of a new family. Now writing this I have been a mother for five days. The five happiest days of my life."*

*Noora Friman, a guest writer in Interpedia's blog 13 May 2018: "Five days as a mother"*

Funding from the Brita Maria Renlunds minne foundation enabled the production of Swedish language adoption communications material.

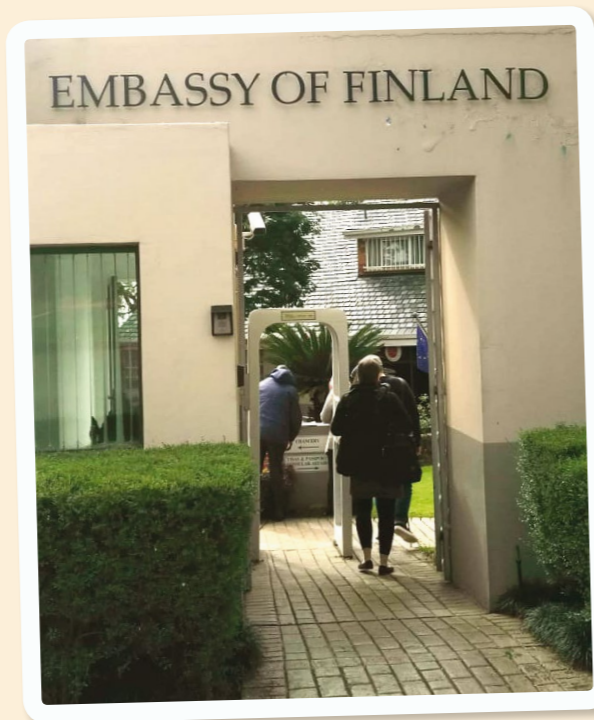


# Close collaboration and business trips

During the year, staff members of Interpedia's adoption service visited several contact countries, carried out negotiations with partners and met with authorities responsible for adoption issues. Visits to Finland by partners in the contact countries are also important and reinforce mutual trust.



Greetings from India! Members of our adoption service staff on a visit to India met with the country's central authority and our representative, and also visited children's homes. (Interpedia on Instagram 11 January 2018)



Visit to South Africa continues: Yesterday, it was time to pick up the adoptive family's passport from the Finnish embassy in Pretoria and to meet with the passport officer (Interpedia on Instagram 17 May 2018)



Greetings from South Africa! The first day at the Abba office: we conducted fruitful and important discussions. (Interpedia on Instagram 15 May 2018)



Gireeja Seth Rajesh, the representative of our adoption service in Delhi, came to Finland on a business trip in early August and spent an intensive week with us: info sessions, meetings with families, discussions with the staff, and a quick trip to Lapland for the summer meeting of families with children adopted from India.

A delegation of Department of Children and Youth (DCY), our partner in Thailand, visited Finland as a guest of all adoption service providers.

Our adoption service also collaborates closely with both Finnish embassies in contact countries and their embassies in Finland.



At the end of November, we received a visit from Ana Maria Fernandez and Jairo Correa Meija, our representatives in Colombia, and Lorena Vargas, the adoption coordinator of our adoption partner La Casa de la Niño y la Madren (LCMN). Besides Interpedia staff, our visitors met with families with children adopted from Colombia and adoption applicants looking to adopt from Colombia, and held an info session on Colombian adoptions. The fiesta organised by the Colombian embassy offered Fernandez, Meija and Vargas and the Interpedia staff an opportunity to meet many familiar families and happy children. This was also an opportunity for the children to meet and play and romp around on the warm beach.

*"The food was really good and it was great to play football. I was happy to see I am not the only one with dark skin. Good that Jairo spoke Spanish, as that is the language spoken in Colombia, that's what I remember from the speeches."*

– Karen 10 v.

*This meeting has been a long-standing dream of the Colombian ambassador Mrs Betty Escorcía Baquero. The fiesta was a success and left the participants with heart-warming memories. A warm thank you to the Colombian embassy for organising this great event; we hope to see you at a similarly happy get-together again some time!"*

**Interpedia's news release 5 December 2018 "The business trip of Interpedia's visitors from Colombia culminated in a merry fiesta"**

Interpedia has been an active member in the activities of the Nordic Adoption Council (NAC) and EurAdopt from the very beginning. Interpedia's Senior Adoption Coordinator, Ms Marika Elmeranta, represented Finland in NAC, and Interpedia's Director for Adoption Program,

Ms Salla Hari, was elected as vice representative of Finland in the EurAdopt council.

At the NAC conference held in Denmark in 2018, the focus was on post-adoption service and Nordic cooperation in this area. The EurAdopt conference was held in Italy, with post-adoption service also as a key theme on the agenda.



The 13th EurAdopt conference was attended by representatives of 24 countries. Lecture topics included post-adoption service and adoptees' right to roots.

Nordic and European cooperation has become a necessity for exchanging information and experiences. Close collaboration at the practical level also takes many forms, for example arranging visits by authorities from contact countries is often a joint effort.



Fruitful networking experience at the NAC (Nordic Adoption Council) meeting. Tak, det var dejligt! (Interpedia on Instagram 29 September 2018)

## Post-adoption service at Interpedia

The need for post-adoption service increased further. Together with other Finnish adoption service providers, Interpedia received funding from the appropriation granted by the government to Valvira (National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health) for this purpose. Thanks to this support, we can expand the range of our post-adoption service activities and develop new forms of service.

Adoptees and adoptive families contact the post-adoption service when they wish to know more about their background or when they need support in organising a root-seeking trip. Information about the background is provided to customers at meetings at the office; where necessary, we will also request more information from the adoptee's country of birth.

Post-adoption service also responds to queries coming from the birth country. In this case Interpedia contacts the adoptee and supports him or her in receiving the information. We also inform adoptive families of any changes in the practices of the sending countries, and ensure compliance with the statutory obligation to maintain archives.

In 2018, we provided information about post-adoption service in four info meetings during country meetings for adoptive families. In addition, we held an info session on post-adoption service for adoptees in cooperation with other actors in the adoption field.

During the year, we held an info session for those adopted from Ethiopia, and a post-adoption service Christmas party to which we invited adoptive families. We also distributed information about post-adoption service at the fiesta for families with adoptive children from Colombia.



Spirits were high at the Colombian Fiesta on Ruoholahti Beach, a big thank you for all organisers and participants for a great day! Interpedia's post-adoption service team was also there to talk about post-adoption service opportunities to those interested (Interpedia on Instagram 2 December 2018)



Interpedia's post-adoption service team organised a Christmas party-themed meeting for adoptive families on 11 December 2018. The programme included a brief introduction to post-adoption service opportunities and to different ways of supporting children in dealing with their emotions in different situations and at different ages.

## Interpedia's summer camp for internationally adopted children and adolescents

Interpedia held a summer camp for internationally adopted Swedish-speaking children at the Pörkenäs recreation camp in Pietarsaari. Seven adoptees attended the camp, which took place between 30 July and 1 August 2018.

The aim of the Interpedia summer camp was to support the identity of internationally adopted children, adolescents and young adults through peer support. According to feedback, this aim was well achieved.

An opportunity for adoptees living in different part of Finland to meet and provide peer support, the camp was an important part of post-adoption service.

The camp served as a Swedish-language pilot.

*"Thanks to the Brita Maria Renlunds Minne foundation for making this camp possible."*

*"At the camp, we got to ride on a zipline, balance on a wire course among trees, eat waffles, go to sauna, swim, play volleyball on the beach, and lots of other things."*

*Linn Ahlfors on 7 August 2018 in her blog post "Interpedia's summer camp 2018 for international adopted children and adolescents"*

## #Adoptionilo campaign

In the area of adoption communication, Interpedia together with other actors in the field of adoption organised the second #Adoptionilo/#Adoptionsglädje (Adoption Joy) campaign in connection with the Adoptees' Day in March. The purpose of the campaign was to demonstrate that adoptive families and adoptees mostly lead a perfectly normal daily life. During the week, adoption organisations, adoptive families and adoptees shares stories of their everyday life in social media. Like the year before, the campaign was a success, and a decision was made to continue the campaign in 2019.

*"Friends, the other adoptive parents. They understand from just half a word what happiness is. It is the permission to be a mother and a father. It is something so amazing that you can't describe it in words. If it is possible for bright, pure joy to exist in this world, this is what it feels like. The joy of adoption."*

*Hanne-Kaisa Mikola visited Interpedia's blog during the campaign on 15 March 2018: "The joy and great secret of adoption"*

### #Adoptionilo in Fredrikagruppen

*Fredrikagruppen is an unofficial group for all those going through the adoption process and those who have already completed it. The group started in 2011 on the initiative of a some adoptive mothers in the Pietarsaari region who wished to exchange experiences during the waiting period. Today, the group serves as a social network for adoptive families in the region, with some twenty adoptive and future adoptive mothers as members. The group meets around once a month. We also hold annual happy family get-togethers where the children quickly find company and immerse themselves in play.*



*Our meetings and the network have meant a lot for many of those who have gone through the adoption process. One of the strengths of the group is that the members are at different stages of the process – this means that there is a lot of experience in the group, and it can offer a wide range of support. It is an enriching experience to go through the process steps together, and when setbacks happen, to share them with people who do not need explanations to understand you. The "child proposal meetings" are the highlights of the group. We celebrate each child proposal, and the joy shared at these meetings is hard to describe! Following the process of one another from beginning to end is a great experience and ties us together in a special way. When we see the long-awaited children playing together at the family meetings, this further reinforces our sense of community.*

*We are happy that we get to be part of Fredrikagruppen and wish new members welcome. Shared joy of adoption is multiple joy of adoption #adoptionilo!*

*(Families in the Pietarsaari region on Interpedia's Instagram 14 March 2018)*

### INTERPEDIA'S FOREIGN ADOPTION PARTNERS APPROVED BY THE FINNISH ADOPTION BOARD

#### BULGARIA:

- Family National Association (FNA), Sofia

#### SOUTH AFRICA:

- Abba Specialist Adoption & Social Services (Abba), Pretoria

#### INDIA:

- Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA), New Delhi

#### PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA:

- China Centre for Children's Welfare and Adoption (CCCWA), Beijing

#### COLOMBIA:

- Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar (ICBF), Bogotá

- La Casa de la Madre y el Niño (LCMN), Bogotá

- La Fundación Ayuda a la Infancia Hogar Bambi Chiquitines, Cali

- La Fundación CRAN (Centro para el Reintegro y Atención del Niño), Bogotá

#### TAIWAN:

- Christian Salvation Service (CSS), Taipei

#### THAILAND:

- Department of Children and Youth (DCY), Bangkok



## Development cooperation

In 2018, Interpedia supported 15 projects and programmes improving the status of children and promoting child rights in seven countries, with 14 cooperation NGOs. Two projects with funding provided by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs for development cooperation projects continued in Nepal and Ethiopia. In 2018, project funding granted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs amounted to EUR 206,766.

Inclusive and Accountable Schools – developing the school environment in Nepal is a joint project run by Loo Niva Child Concern Group, Patan Community Based Rehabilitation and Interpedia, aimed at promoting opportunities for access to school and continued school attendance of children living on the margins of society in Southern Lalitpur. The project is particularly targeted at children with disabilities, children without a caste, and girls.

School for all – continuation project on creating access to education for children with disabilities is a joint project of Berhan Lehetsanat and Interpedia in Ethiopia. The main goal is to improve the access of disabled children to basic services and education in the Debre Zeit area. High-quality, inclusive schooling of disabled children is a particular focus of the project.

Interpedia submitted four applications to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs during the spring 2018 application round for financial support for development cooperation projects by civil society organizations.

### DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF FINLAND IN 2018:

COUNTRY	PARTNER NGO AND NAME OF PROJECT	DURATION
ETHIOPIA	BERHAN LEHETSANAT: SCHOOL FOR ALL – CONTINUATION PROJECT ON CREATING ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES	2017–2018
NEPAL	LOO NIVA & PATAN CBR: INCLUSIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE SCHOOLS – DEVELOPING THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT IN NEPAL	2017–2020

The Ministry granted funding to two projects:

- Berhan Lehetsanat – continuation project on creating access to education for children with disabilities, Ethiopia (2019–2021)
- Loo Niva – development of education and advocacy work in Western Nepal, Nepal (2019–2022)

Interpedia's director for development cooperation visited Ethiopia and Nepal in spring 2018, and Nepal and Bangladesh in the autumn. The purpose of the trips was to monitor the progress of development cooperation projects, meet partners in contact countries, and visit Finnish embassies.

Among Interpedia's contact countries, there was civil unrest in Ethiopia and Bangladesh in 2018, which complicated activities in these countries. Efforts to help Rohingya refugees continued in Bangladesh. In Ethiopia, a third day care centre in the town of Dilella was opened in cooperation with Maedot. At the beginning of the year, Interpedia had one voluntary worker working with Patan CBR in Nepal.

## Promoting a good childhood with support from sponsors

With the donations by Interpedia's 993 sponsors and monthly donors, we implemented 12 programmes in seven different countries in 2018.

The programmes focused on supporting the children's opportunity to education. In addition, some programmes included training for children, parents and the whole community on issues such as disability and the rights of children. Small business and various income generating activities were also supported. Some programmes included therapy and social services provided for the families and organized various free-time activities and child care services. Some programmes supported activities of, for example, a children's home.

### Will my donation reach its target? Will it be used sensibly?

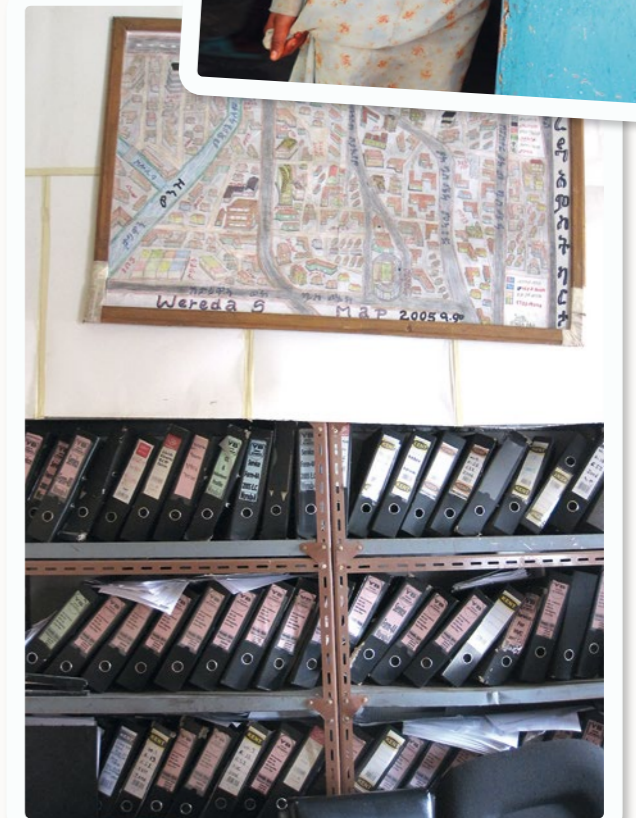
Many people wonder how they can know if their donations reach the target, whether the money is spent sensibly and how this is monitored; how we ensure the quality of our work and rational use of funds; and how for example Interpedia's Board, our auditors, public authorities and sponsors monitor our spending.

Effective, fruitful work is built on careful planning and a wide range of professional expertise. For example, our work in Ethiopia necessitates knowledge of the specific context and current situation in the country, and expertise in the key areas of our work – education, child protection and disability services. We always act through local partner organisations, and expertise in these is largely based on their competencies as well. We plan activities together, and the work is monitored by means of regular reports, monitoring trips and occasional third-party assessments.

*Ilona Kalliola's blog post on 2 March 2018 "Ethical fundraising and good governance"*

During the year, sponsors were sent two general newsletters on development cooperation, programme highlights and greetings from the sponsored children. Subscribers to Interpedia's electronic newsletter received six letters during the year.

Information about the results of development cooperation was shared in social media during monitoring trips, and in blog posts after the trips. We also published #Etelänvahvatnaiset, a series of blog posts about the work of our cooperation partners.



Files, reports, planning, assessments, red tape. Are they needed?

*"Teachers have also been important influences in my life. A close-knit community gives me strength. I think everyone should give something to their community. I want children to have a good life. My mother taught me that you do not need to be rich to help others."*

*Director of Berhan Lehetsanat in an #Etelänvahvatnaiset blog post 15 February 2018: "Etenesh Wondmagegnehu wants to promote the status of children with disabilities in Ethiopia"*

# Interpedia's development cooperation and sponsorship activities in 2018



## ETHIOPIA

### OUT OF ULTIMATE POVERTY THROUGH FAMILY SUPPORT Bethlehem Family Development Programme (BFDP), Debre Zeit

The focus on BFDP's work is in supporting families and guiding them to survive independently. Family support also makes it possible for the children to go to school.

### SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL AND DESTITUTE FAMILIES German Church School & Social Center (GSC), Addis Ababa

The students in Addis Ababa School Center come from destitute families who would not otherwise be able to educate their children. The families of the students also get support in difficult life situations.

*"Sihum is lucky – in Ethiopia, only around 4 per cent of disabled children get to go to school. For the school to provide the right kind of support for learning is even less common. As I listen to Sihum, I understand even more tangibly how important it is to promote the education of disabled children and girls. A wealth of potential will go to waste if we do not work for equal and inclusive education."*

*Ms Marja Utela's blog post on 8 March 2018  
"Blind feminist turns into a legal counsel"*

### EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION FOR DISABLED CHILDREN Berhan Lehetsanat, Debre Zeit

Berhan Lehetsanat aims at improving education opportunities of disabled children in the project area. The organisation also implements educational work in the communities about, for example, the true causes of disability and how to prevent them.



"Disability is not inability"

For almost ten years now, Interpedia and Berhan Lehetsanat have worked in various ways to promote the rights of disabled children in the town of Debre Zeit and its environs. A lot of progress has been made during this time.

Last week in Debre Zeit, we visited a school providing special teaching for disabled children. We have supported the school's activities over the years. (Interpedia on Instagram on 19 March 2018)



Abera, 17, has a hearing disability. His father died a few years ago, by which time he had already lost his mother. His elder sister married a year ago and moved away from the home, after which Abera has been alone with his younger brother. He is now responsible for his family.

Abera has just finished tenth grade. Going to school was not easy for the boy – because of this hearing disability, he always had to sit at the front of the class and try and lip-read what the teacher was saying. School got easier a few years ago when he received a hearing aid, thanks to the joint project of Interpedia and Berhan Lehetsanat. Now Abera has registered at a vocational college and waits for his studies to start. He will become an electrician.

Abera and his brother farm the land they inherited from their parents and run a small kiosk. Life looks good now: he has an opportunity to generate an income, support from the project behind him, and a future as a student and full member of his community.

### DAY CARE CENTRES AND EARLY EDUCATION FOR THE POOREST CHILDREN

#### Maedot, Addis Abeba

Maedot does impressive work among the children of destitute families in Addis Ababa and the surrounding countryside. Together with Maedot, we have established a total of three day care centres in the poverty-stricken area of Addis Ababa, Woliso and Dilela.



## NEPAL

### DEVELOPING THE CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM Children and Women in Social Services and Human Rights (CWISH)

CWISH promotes the realization of child rights by education and advocacy work. CWISH has also worked long for the rights of child labourers. The NGO aims at supporting the capacity of child protection actors in Nepal and creating a well-functioning child protection system on a local level.



Interpedia's monitoring trip to Nepal continued with a visit to our long-term partner CWISH. We reviewed the results of our project aimed at developing a child protection system, which ended last year, and the third-party assessment report on the project. We also discussed plans for future collaboration. (Interpedia on Instagram 19 April 2018)



Children at the day care centre in Woliso have gathered inside for a nap

### OPPORTUNITY FOR CHILD-FRIENDLY EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN OF DESTITUTE FAMILIES

#### Loo Niva Child Concern Group Nepal

Loo Niva supports the education of children from destitute families in Lalitpur near the capital, Kathmandu, and in Dadeldhura in the Far West. Children's opportunities for participation are improved by supporting child clubs in schools. The status of children is improved by supporting their school-going and by developing the quality of basic education and school environment. One objective is also to improve the administration of schools in Nepal.



Interpedia's monitoring trip to Nepal in spring 2018 began with a visit to Chandi Devi school, which is part of Loo Niva and Interpedia's sponsorship programme.

Schoolchildren at Chandi Devi school include children sponsored by Interpedia, and the school also has a dedicated sponsor school in Finland.

Interpedia's sponsorship programme has provided support to individual schoolchildren at Chandi Devi, children's clubs, further training for teachers, and study materials. (Interpedia on Instagram 16.4.2018)

**REHABILITATION AND EDUCATION FOR DISABLED CHILDREN Patan Community Based Rehabilitation Organization (Patan CBR), Nepal**

Patan CBR engages in raising awareness of issues of disability to encourage parents to apply for rehabilitation for their children and to secure their education. Patan CBR also offers day care, tuition, development of manual skills and physiotherapy for children.



Patan Community Based Rehabilitation (Patan CBR), a small Nepalese organisation supporting people with disabilities, is Interpedia's newest partner NGO in development cooperation. Collaboration with Patan CBR began in January 2017 when we received funding from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to a cooperation project with Patan CBR and Loo Niva in the rural areas of Southern Lalitpur.

In the project, Patan CBR focuses on improving the status of children with disabilities. In early April, we arranged for a seven-day physiotherapy training course together with local authorities. (Interpedia on Instagram 18 April 2018)



**BANGLADESH**

**HOME AND EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN IN DHAKA Families for Children (FFC), Dhaka children's home**

There are over 120 children in the children's home, some of whom are disabled. FFC covers the cost of their education and assists the children to find a suitable career.

*"Over the years, nearly one thousand children have grown up in the FFC children's home, and the majority feel it is their home. Long-term employees find it important that most of the children stay in touch also as adults. Some remain close by on a permanent basis, like Liton. During his studies Liton once again lives and works at the FFC centre. He shares a two-room apartment on the ground floor with three teenaged boys, for whom he is responsible."*

*"I never hide my background at job interviews, for example; I always talk directly about my life at the children's home. I have had a good childhood, and my background is nothing to be ashamed of. I want to convey this to the people I meet."*

*Ms Ilona Kalliola in her blog post 8 October 2018: "Liton has returned home – the FFC children's home in Dhaka has seen almost one thousand child reach adulthood"*



The Families for Children (FFC) children's home in Dhaka is one of Interpedia's most long-standing partners. Interpedia's sponsors have supported FFC Dhaka since the 1970's.

The FFC's children's home in Dhaka currently provides a home for around one hundred children and adolescents. The children go to the centre's own school until fifth grade, and then continue to middle school outside the children's home.

Many of the children at the Dhaka children's home have disabilities. The school at the centre provides special education for these children.

**EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN IN POOR AREAS Promoting Human Rights and Education in Bangladesh (PHREB), Chittagong**

PHREB works to improve the situation and education of especially girls in the southern coastal areas of Bangladesh where their situation is exceptionally poor.



**SOUTH AFRICA**

**A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR GROWTH FOR THE CHILDREN OF MABOPANE SA Cares for Life, Pretoria**

In the Mabopane family support programme, the support is used for the benefit of the whole family. For most families, an intensive support of 12 months is sufficient to help them to independent living.



**COLOMBIA**

**EDUCATION AND A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR GROWTH FOR GIRLS**

**Jardín de la Niña María (JNM), a children's home in Bogotá**

The aim is to provide vulnerable girls the opportunity for a safe environment for growth and an education. The girls come from poor and restless districts of Bogotá.



**INDIA**

**EDUCATION FOR THE CHILDREN LIVING IN SLUMS OF DELHI AND REHABILITATION FOR DISABLED CHILDREN Delhi Council for Child Welfare (DCCW)**

DCCW supports the education of poor families through providing scholarships, tutorial classes and information. The DCCW's Bal Chetna center provides rehabilitation services and special education for disabled children and support to their parents.



Established in 1952, the Delhi Council for Child Welfare (DCCW) promotes child rights in the Delhi area. DCCW is one of Interpedia's most long-standing partners in the area of development cooperation.

DCCW's activities include supporting the education of destitute children in Delhi and maintaining support centres for children with disabilities and a children's home.

Our visit to DCCW started with a meeting with the executive manager Ms Sandhya Bhalla and an introduction to the organisation's activities. (Interpedia on Instagram 8 April 2018)

*"During my visit, four young girls, all of whom have Finnish sponsors, dropped in at the DCCW office with their carers to meet me. Each girl was previously at a risk of having to drop out of school due to various misfortunes experienced by their families. For many years now, they have been able to focus fully on their studies, thanks to the support of their sponsors."*

*Ms Ilona Kalliola in her blog post 23 April 2018 "Sponsor activities in India"*



*"At the DCCW centres, the needs of children with disabilities are taken seriously, and teachers have familiarised themselves with the methods of special education for children with disabilities. The centres provide children with individual, specialised care."*

*The DCCW's goal is to help each child to grow up as a self-sufficient, active and able adult."*

*Ms Ilona Kalliola in her blog post 18 June 2018 "Children and adolescents with disabilities as part of Indian society"*

**SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR GROWTH FOR ABANDONED CHILDREN**

**Families for Children (FFC), Podanur Children's Home, Coimbatore**

There are approximately 480 children of different ages in the children's home, of whom over 100 have disabilities. The programme also supports children's education.



**THAILAND**

**BREAKING THE CYCLE OF POVERTY WITH EDUCATION PROJECT L.I.F.E. FOUNDATION**

Project L.I.F.E. supports poor families in the Buriram area. Children's education and their families are supported so that the child would not have to drop out of school in order to work.





## Whose voice? Perspectives on Ethical Communications in Development Issues

In summer 2018, Interpedia launched the Whose voice? Perspectives on Ethical Communications in Development Issues, as part of the Frame, Voice, Report programme funded by the EU and managed by Fingo.

Our goal is to highlight how southern civil society have solved development problems and the changes achieved, using the work done to reduce child labour in Nepal as an example. The project also seeks new perspectives on the portrayal of extremely vulnerable children in communications in an ethical manner which respects their dignity.

As part of the project, Interpedia's communications officer and director for development cooperation visited Nepal in 2018 with Mr Tuukka Ervasti, a photographer, and Ms Eeva Simola, a journalist. During the trip we conducted several interviews related to child labour, filmed a mini-document and arranged a workshop on ethical communication and journalism with our Nepalese partners. In autumn 2018, we posted information about work done in Nepal to reduce child labour and on ethical development cooperation and journalism.

The use of child labour has decreased considerably in the Kathmandu valley. The trip reinforced our belief that it is possible to reduce social evils. Interpedia's partner organisations have played a significant role in this work.

"Sarita used to be very quiet and not able to speak for herself; now she speaks for others, too." This is what a CWISH social worker told us after we had interviewed Sarita (in the picture), who worked as domestic help as a child, and her mother Rita during our business trip to Nepal.

Sarita is a good example of how child clubs set up at schools with support from CWISH can promote child rights. The clubs have helped many girls to find the courage to speak for themselves and support for their dreams, and also learn their rights. (Interpedia on Instagram 11 October 2018)

Small photo: How to communicate ethically about vulnerable children? This was a question we discussed with Nepalese colleagues and journalists at a workshop in Kathmandu

*"Each child is an individual with a unique story. Since every case is different we all need to consider carefully what is the best interest of the child. We need to ask ourselves at least:*

- *Is the message/image respectful of the dignity of the child portrayed?*
- *Do you have the permission from the parents/guardians to use the image/story?*
- *Does it hurt the child or put them at risk?*
- *Can the children be recognised in the photos? Can they be traced?"*

**Ms Marja Utela in her blog post 22 November 2018:**  
*"The privacy of the child was one of the topics discussed at the ethical communications and journalism workshop in Kathmandu"*

## Events and school visits

At the beginning of the year, the development cooperation team attended the Educa trade fair for education and pedagogy, and the World Village Festival in May.

In 2018, we visited Swedish-speaking schools in Pohjanmaa, the Eestinkallio school in Espoo, and held a theme day on Nepal with the Arabia school.

We also participated in advocacy work by development cooperation organisations aimed at promoting education as a key theme in development cooperation.

## Communications

Interpedia's key communication channels in 2018 were the website, social media channels, e-mail newsletters, and leaflets.



[facebook.com/interpedia](https://facebook.com/interpedia)



[twitter.com/interpedia\\_ry](https://twitter.com/interpedia_ry)



[instagram.com/interpedia](https://instagram.com/interpedia)



[www.youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) → Interpedia



[interpedia.fi/blog\\_post](https://interpedia.fi/blog_post)

During the year, members received two newsletters. Towards the end of the year, members and sponsors were sent the 2019 wall calendar with the theme Children have the right to a good childhood. The 2017 Annual Report was published in summer 2018. Our partners around the world contributed to our Christmas calendar on Instagram with their season's greetings messages.

## Finance

In 2017 Interpedia's adoption service activities were financed through adoption service fees and targeted funding for adoption service provision granted by the Funding Centre for Social Welfare and Health Organisations (STEA) (EUR 228,000). STEA manages funding granted for projects which promote health and wellbeing from the gaming revenue of Veikkaus Oy. Post-adoption service received funding from the appropriation granted by the government to Valvira (National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health) for this purpose.

Development cooperation activities are financed through private sponsors and monthly donors, other donations, project funding from Fingo, funding granted by various foundations, and project funding provided by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs for financial support

for development cooperation projects by civil society organizations.

In 2018, the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs supported Interpedia's projects by EUR 206,766. The fundraising from sponsorship activities amounted to EUR 269,370, and other donations received totalled EUR 12,683. The decrease in project funding necessitated adjustment of the development cooperation activities.

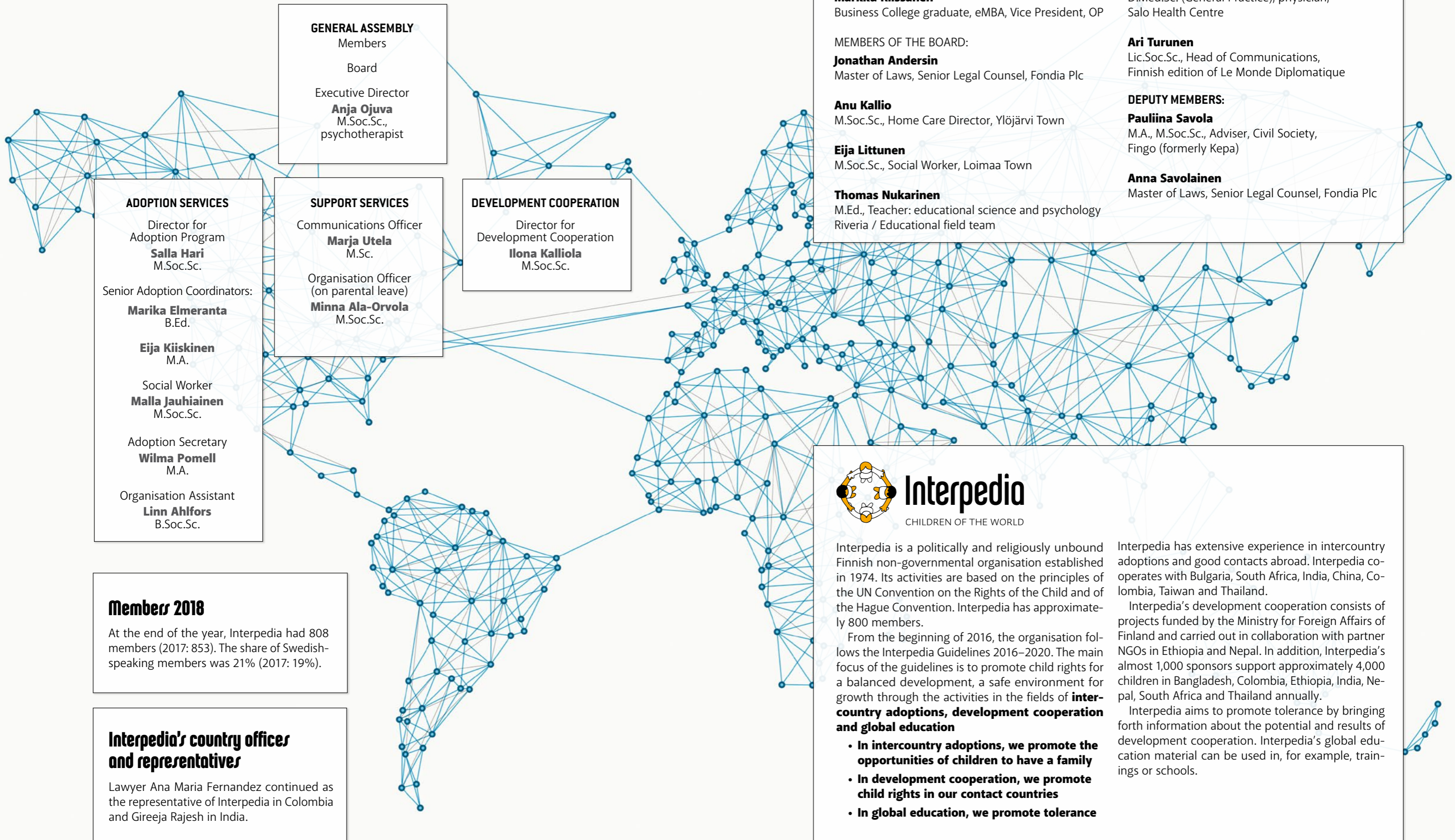
The funding for adoption activities provided by Veikkaus Oy and the funding for development projects by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs are significant for the organisation's financial operation.

Interpedia also received funding from the Brita Maria Renlunds minne foundation for global education work at Swedish-speaking schools and for post-adoption service.



# Organisation and administration

31.12.2018



## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Members

Board

Executive Director

**Anja Ojuva**

M.Soc.Sc.,  
psychotherapist

## ADOPTION SERVICES

Director for  
Adoption Program

**Salla Hari**

M.Soc.Sc.

Senior Adoption Coordinators:

**Marika Elmeranta**

B.Ed.

**Eija Kiiskinen**

M.A.

Social Worker

**Malla Jauhiainen**

M.Soc.Sc.

Adoption Secretary

**Wilma Pomell**

M.A.

Organisation Assistant

**Linn Ahlfors**

B.Soc.Sc.

## SUPPORT SERVICES

Communications Officer

**Marja Utela**

M.Sc.

Organisation Officer  
(on parental leave)

**Minna Ala-Orvola**

M.Soc.Sc.

## DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Director for  
Development Cooperation

**Ilona Kalliola**

M.Soc.Sc.

## Interpedia's Board 2018

CHAIRMAN:

**Markku Riissanen**

Business College graduate, eMBA, Vice President, OP

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:

**Jonathan Andersin**

Master of Laws, Senior Legal Counsel, Fondia Plc

**Anu Kallio**

M.Soc.Sc., Home Care Director, Ylöjärvi Town

**Eija Littunen**

M.Soc.Sc., Social Worker, Loimaa Town

**Thomas Nukarinen**

M.Ed., Teacher: educational science and psychology  
Riveria / Educational field team

**Lasse Rantala**

D.Med.Sc. (General Practice), physician,  
Salo Health Centre

**Ari Turunen**

Lic.Soc.Sc., Head of Communications,  
Finnish edition of Le Monde Diplomatique

DEPUTY MEMBERS:

**Pauliina Savola**

M.A., M.Soc.Sc., Adviser, Civil Society,  
Fingo (formerly Kepa)

**Anna Savolainen**

Master of Laws, Senior Legal Counsel, Fondia Plc



# Interpedia

CHILDREN OF THE WORLD

Interpedia is a politically and religiously unbound Finnish non-governmental organisation established in 1974. Its activities are based on the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and of the Hague Convention. Interpedia has approximately 800 members.

From the beginning of 2016, the organisation follows the Interpedia Guidelines 2016–2020. The main focus of the guidelines is to promote child rights for a balanced development, a safe environment for growth through the activities in the fields of **inter-country adoptions, development cooperation and global education**

- In intercountry adoptions, we promote the opportunities of children to have a family
- In development cooperation, we promote child rights in our contact countries
- In global education, we promote tolerance

Interpedia has extensive experience in intercountry adoptions and good contacts abroad. Interpedia cooperates with Bulgaria, South Africa, India, China, Colombia, Taiwan and Thailand.

Interpedia's development cooperation consists of projects funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland and carried out in collaboration with partner NGOs in Ethiopia and Nepal. In addition, Interpedia's almost 1,000 sponsors support approximately 4,000 children in Bangladesh, Colombia, Ethiopia, India, Nepal, South Africa and Thailand annually.

Interpedia aims to promote tolerance by bringing forth information about the potential and results of development cooperation. Interpedia's global education material can be used in, for example, trainings or schools.

## Members 2018

At the end of the year, Interpedia had 808 members (2017: 853). The share of Swedish-speaking members was 21% (2017: 19%).

## Interpedia's country offices and representatives

Lawyer Ana Maria Fernandez continued as the representative of Interpedia in Colombia and Gireeja Rajesh in India.

# SUPPORT OUR WORK:

## AS A SPONSOR or MONTHLY DONOR

you're supporting **children's access to education**. Your support promotes especially girls', disabled children's and child domestic workers' education. Developing **child protection** and supporting **families** is also our work.

As Interpedia's **MEMBER** you **contribute to our work**, you can **participate in decision-making** and you get **discounts** from our products. Note! Adoptive applicants or sponsors are not automatically Interpedia's members.

**Good childhood  
is every child's right.**

## AS A CORPORATION SUPPORTER

you're supporting the most vulnerable **children's access to education** and you're implementing **corporate social responsibility**.

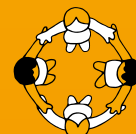
With **ETHICAL GIFTS** you're supporting **children and families** in Interpedia's partner countries.

## ON YOUR SPECIAL DAY

you can wish that your friends support children through Interpedia instead of material gifts.

Leaving a **LEGACY** gift to support our work makes good childhood possible

You can also support our work through **ONE-TIME DONATION!**



**Interpedia**

CHILDREN OF THE WORLD

[www.interpedia.fi](http://www.interpedia.fi)