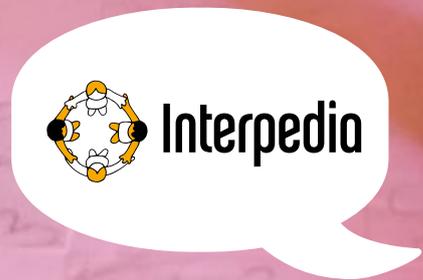
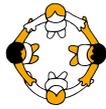


Interpedia 2019





Interpedia

- International adoption
- Development cooperation
- Global education

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With support from
Finland's development
cooperation



With cooperation we create a safety net for a child

The year 2019 showed us the scope and significance of our cooperation network once again. We at Interpedia are just a small thread in the net that will carry a child for hopefully a long time in his or her life.

A wide range of people affect the decisions concerning an adoptive child's life at a very early stage. There are authorities, healthcare professionals, caretakers, other employees of children's homes or foster families and possibly therapists. At some point they are joined by adoption authorities of the country of birth and adoption organisations' staff, and us from Interpedia. With this international network we cooperate confidentially for the best interest of the child.

Our adoption work here at Interpedia is supported by many parties in both Finland and Europe. There are authorities and financiers who supervise our work; colleagues in Finland and in other receiving countries, with whom we share knowledge and know-how; there are consulting physicians and social workers from adoption counselling who we work closely with during the process.

Finally, the most important network gathers around the child – a permanent family of his or her own and the family's entire inner circle.

Through post adoption service, we are sometimes in adopted children's lives even years later. Biological relatives may also enter their lives at some point, as an additional thread in this wide network of relationships.

In development cooperation, our partners are an essential link in our work for promoting good childhood. The most important relationships in a child's life are with his family, relatives and friends. We can, together with our partners, be there to support their lives towards a better future and give them new alternatives, often through education and/or rehabilitation.

We often work with children who are in the most vulnerable position in society. Changing their lives will not only have an impact on their life but benefit the entire community and we can play a vital part in this on the grassroots level.

All our donors, sponsors and funders bring their own significant thread into this work of ours as a part of a child's safety net.

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 to the Board and staff of Interpedia.

Special thanks to all the children! We are proud to be a small part in the vast networks of your life.

Anja Ojuva
Executive Director



International adoption work in 2019

Interpedia maintained its strong position as an intercountry adoption service provider, and the number of children adopted through the organisation increased from the previous year. In 2019, there were 52 children adopted to Finland through Interpedia (2018: 28). Interpedia's share of all the children adopted internationally through adoption agencies in Finland was 78 % (2018: 54 %). The number of children adopted to Finland through Interpedia now totals 2,236.

The children adopted to Finland in 2019 were aged 0–5 years. Most of them, 34, were at most two years old. The largest age group was one-year-olds (21). The numbers of boys and girls were 28 and 24, respectively.

At the end of the year, the number of customer relationships was 106 (2018: a total of 120). At the end of 2019, the number of applications in Interpedia's contact countries was 60 (2018: 73).

ADOPTIVE CHILDREN ARRIVING IN FINLAND THROUGH INTERPIDIA IN 2010–2019

	Bulgaria	South Africa	Ethiopia	India	Kenya	China	Colombia	Taiwan [China]	Thailand	Total
2019	–	23	–	3	–	1	9	2	14	52
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

Adoption work is cooperation

Adoption work has become increasingly individually oriented and tailored, and it requires extensive cooperation both in the contact countries and in Finland.

"In our work we need to be constantly present in the moment. We need to participate intensively in the lives of the children as well as every applicant family because big things in their individual lives are in the making. At the same time, we need look into the future. We have to take part in the discussion about the future of international adoptions and take responsibility for the entirety and continuity. We need to see, simultaneously, near and far."

Anja Ojuva 31 July 2019 in her blog post
"When is the time – the right time?"

In the contact countries there is a need especially for applicants who are capable of meeting the needs of a child with special needs. In our adoption service the staff members meet with applicants regularly during the waiting period to get acquainted with their situation as well as possible. Close collaboration with the consulting physicians and the social workers of the adoption counselling is also essential. It is in the best interest of the adoptive child and the sending country that our applicant families are well prepared for the adoption.

In 2019, we held 43 info sessions on international adoption and the contact countries, including some sessions in Swedish or English. The sessions were attended by around 400 people in total.

Together with other actors in the adoption field, Interpedia organised an Adoption Day and a seminar called The Growth Towards Adoptive Parenting, which included lectures by various experts. The traditional training session for adopted children's grandparents and other close ones was again very popular and the participants regarded it as very useful.

"Suddenly I realised that they were asking for me, too. They were interested in my stories and they came fishing and mushroom picking with me. They haven't stayed overnight yet unlike my grandchildren who have lived in their families since their birth. But otherwise I don't see a difference in the quality of grandparenting an adoptive or a biological grandchild. All my grandchildren are very dear, all too active, lovely personalities."

Adoptive grandfathers visited Interpedia's blog on Father's Day 10 November 2019 with their post "Thoughts from Adoptive Grandfathers"

In 2019, we continued holding adoption info sessions also outside Helsinki region: in Joensuu, Jyväskylä, Oulu, Pietarsaari, Tampere and Turku.

During 2019 we started regular post adoption follow-up calls to the adoptive families after the adopted child



Today at the office we held an info session "Picking up a younger sibling", where the children were packing suitcases for themselves as well as the younger sister or brother (**Interpedia on Instagram 4 March 2019**)

Greetings from Joensuu! Today our adoption service held an adoption info session, met families and social workers and visited Perheentalo (House of Families) in Joensuu (**Interpedia on Instagram 27 March 2019**)

has arrived in Finland. There has been an apparent need for these supportive calls and the feedback has been positive. We will continue this well-received practice also in the coming years.

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). Social Worker Sanna Alanko represented Interpedia in the Steering Group for Adoption Counsellor Activities of the organisation All Our Children.

The three adoption service providers operating in Finland (Interpedia, Save the Children, and the City of Helsinki) continued to engage in close collaboration.

International cooperation of the adoption service



During the year 2019, 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 and cooperation.

Our adoption service collaborates closely with both Finnish embassies in contact countries and their embassies in Finland. The embassies are visited regularly.

"Interpedia's senior adoption coordinators Ms Marika Elmeranta and Ms Eija Kiiskinen were on a business trip in Thailand last week. They headed first to the northern parts of the country, where they visited Vienping Children's Home. In northeastern Thailand they visited Udon Thani home for Girls in Udon Thani and Khan Thong Children's Home in Khon Kaen. In the end Ms Elmeranta and Ms Kiiskinen visited three children's home in Bangkok area: Pakkred Babies Home, Phya Thai Babies Home and Rangsit Babies Home, where they had good discussions with the psychologist and the social workers.

"The trip was very successful and strengthened even further our good cooperation with DCY", states Kiiskinen."

Interpedia's news release 27 March 2019 "Adoption service's business trip to Thailand"



This week our South African cooperation partner Abba Specialist Adoption and Social Services, i.e. Abba's directors Ms Katinka Pieterse and Ms Rene Ferreira meet all their European partners in a meeting hosted by Interpedia. Cooperation makes us stronger!

(Interpedia on Instagram 15 April 2019)

"Mutual trust and common principles are important in this work because international adoption is often seen as a controversial issue. Adoption is for some children a good way, sometimes the only way to get a forever loving family. It is important that we share this view", she said."

"The most important qualities of an adoption applicant are capability and willingness to commit to the child for a lifetime and openness to learning. Motivation is the key", added Ms Pieterse."

Interpedia's news release 25 April 2019 "Abba's Katinka Pieterse: "Long partnership reinforces mutual trust"



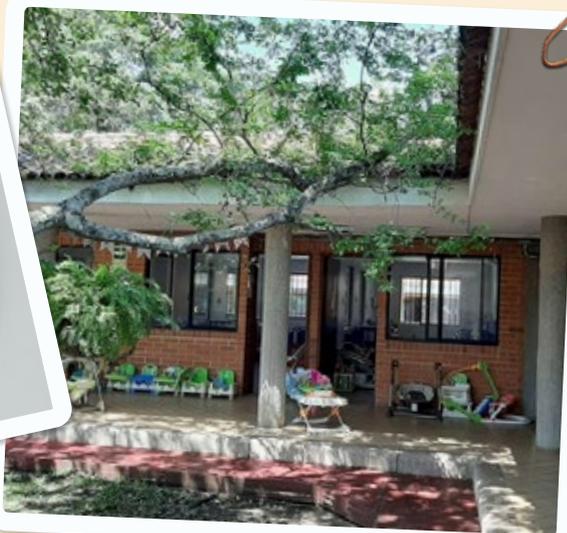
Greetings from adoption service's business trip to Thailand! We just visited Vienping Children's Home

(Interpedia on Instagram 18 March 2019)



Greetings from Taipei! Our adoption service is currently on a business trip to Taiwan

(Interpedia on Instagram 2 September 2019)



Greetings from our business trip to Colombia:

Yesterday we spent an interesting and fruitful day in Cali and Hogar Bambi Chiquitines Children's Home. We got acquainted with the latest changes achieved during the past year at Chiquitines. The practises of childcare and up-bringing are now even more child-centered and comprehensive than before. In addition, the number of childcare staff and other staff members has increased considerably.

We were truly impressed with the investment in the children's wellbeing. We also met with the children's home's new director, Mr Gonzalo Gutierrez Lleras. The staff of Chiquitines sent many greetings to Finland, to the children as well as to the parents

(Interpedia on Instagram 21 November 2019)

We visited the Finnish Embassy in Bogota and met with the staff. We discussed the adoption processes and the general situation in Colombia. We were warmly welcomed, as always, and the cooperation to help the adoptive families is working very well.

(Interpedia on Instagram 23 November 2019)

OUR EUROPEAN NETWORKS

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 Iceland in September, the focus was on the adoptees' experiences, post-adoption services and Nordic cooperation in this area. The EurAdopt conference was held in Austria, with current affairs of the member organisations as a key theme on the agenda.



Nordic Adoption Council, i.e. NAC's Board met in Helsinki today. They also met with the Central Authorities of the Nordic countries in their meeting, held in Helsinki as well.

(Interpedia on Facebook 24 May 2019)



Greetings from EurAdopt's (the umbrella organisation of adoption organisations in Europe) meeting in Vienna! This time we have discussed especially the future of international adoptions in the world of changes and the increasing need for post-adoption services.

Close cooperation with our European colleagues is useful and inspiring for all of us (Interpedia on Instagram 3 April 2019)



In the NAC conference we met with Professor David Brodzinsky, who lectured on the adoptees' adjustment and the importance of open communication in the adoptive families

(Interpedia on Instagram 19 September 2019)

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.

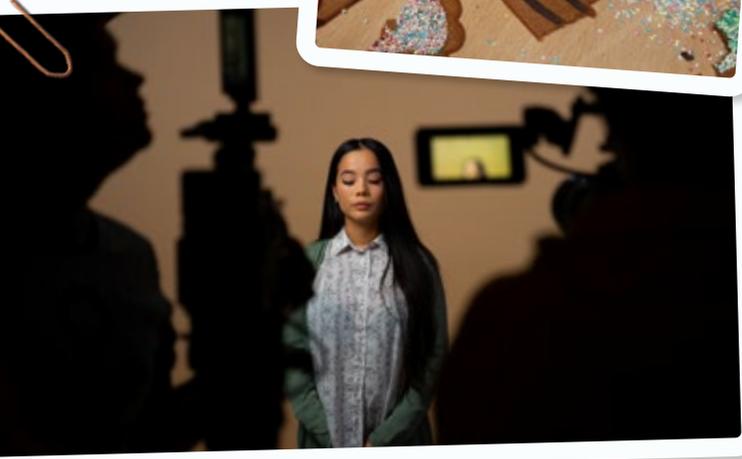
Post-adoption service can be helpful in many kinds of life situations. The service can, for example, provide information about the adoption documents in meetings at the office, request more information on the background from the adoptee's country of birth or support in organising a root-seeking trip. Both adoptees and their families are welcome in Interpedia's post-adoption service.

Post-adoption service also responds to queries coming from the birth country. In these cases 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 2019, we provided information about post-adoption service in six 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.

Interpedia's post-adoption service team organised a Christmas party for adoptive families yesterday

(Interpedia on Instagram 12 December 2019)



"Our cooperation contact in Thailand Department of Children and Youth (DCY) Adoption Center organised again the Nativeland Visit event in summer 2019. Nativeland Visit is a superbly organised and comprehensive root-seeking event for adoptive families. This time the event coincided with the 40 years anniversary of the Adoption Center. The programme was designed for both the families and the adoption professionals.

The highlights of the Nativeland Visit include visits to three children's homes in the greater Bangkok area. In Rangsit Children's Home the children and staff welcomed us warmly with dancing and drumming. Meetings between the adoptive children and their carers were heartwarming and emotional. Paying attention to each child, hospitality, great performances and Thai delicacies showed us how much the adoptees and their parents were expected in this visit to the birth country and the children's homes. The Director of the Adoption Center, Mrs Prapimdao Satake, said that she is delighted to see so many families from Finland participating in the Nativeland Visit in the 40 years anniversary of the Adoption Center!"

(Interpedia on Instagram 12 July 2019 and 17 September 2019)

"Today we publish a video about the post-adoption services at Interpedia. The purpose of the video is to explain what post-adoption service means and to encourage adoptees to contact our service in case they are interested in contemplating their background.

As the video states, everybody can decide for themselves whether looking into one's past is timely or necessary. You can contact the post-adoption service even if you don't know yet what kind of answers you would like to find. We hope that the video can also assist adoptive parents in opening a discussion with their children about what kind of support is available for filling in the gaps in the child's life story.

Reflecting one's past and life history is part of everybody's growth and life, but in the case of adoptees, there might sometimes be more questions to ask about one's own story than usual."

Sanna Alanko and Linn Ahlfors on 6 September 2019 in their blog post "Searching for Background – Post-Adoption Service at Interpedia"

#Adoptionilo (#AdoptionJoy) campaign

Interpedia, together with other actors in the field of adoption, organised the third #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 shared 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 2020.

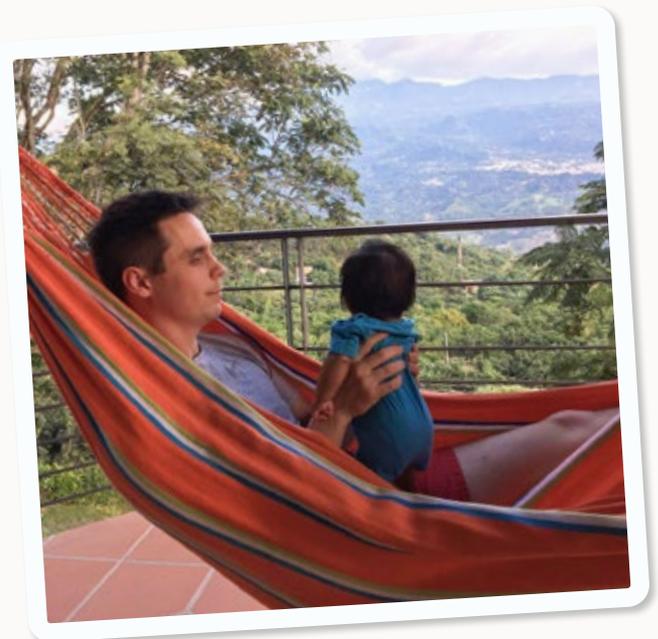
"Before the first pick-up trip, we were told that everything goes well if everybody comes home alive. This is a good piece of advice. The trip itself and life at the hotel is not the same as everyday life. When the normal everyday routines start, life will get a lot easier. At least our children need routines to make life easier. The more closely we follow the routines, the better the day goes.

Trust your own intuition. It is also perfectly normal and acceptable if you are having mixed feelings. The love for the child will grow to incredible heights when the attachment develops and strengthens."

Adoptive family visited Interpedia's blog on 15 March 2019 with their post "From the Storms of the Pick-up Trip to the Joy of Adoption"

"The pick-up trip as a whole was a big adventure and a dream come true. The most memorable moment was of course the moment we got to hold our little one in our arms. The seconds before we got him were beyond words, so terrible and so wonderful at the same time! All the excitement ended right there when he was in our arms. There was just wonderment, happiness, love. Our little family. "Can you believe that he is ours?" "How can he be so wonderful? We asked each other and we still do."

An adoptive family recently returned home from their pick-up trip (Interpedia on Facebook 14 March 2019)



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 (China):

- Christian Salvation Service (CSS), Taipei

THAILAND:

- Department of Children and Youth (DCY), Bangkok

Development cooperation in 2019

In 2019, Interpedia supported 15 projects and programmes improving the status of children and promoting child rights in seven countries, with 14 cooperation NGOs. One project with funding provided by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs for development cooperation projects continued in Nepal. Two new projects started, one in Nepal and one in Ethiopia.

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF FINLAND IN 2019:

COUNTRY	PARTNER NGO AND NAME OF PROJECT	DURATION
NEPAL	LOO NIVA & PATAN CBR: INCLUSIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE SCHOOLS – DEVELOPING THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT IN NEPAL	2017–2020
NEPAL	LOO NIVA: STRENGTHENING EDUCATION POLICIES AND ENSURING THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION IN NEPAL	2019 – 2022
ETHIOPIA	BERHAN LEHETSANAT: CREATING A SAFE AND EQUITABLE LIVING AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES IN ETHIOPIA	2019 – 2021

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.



Children with disabilities also have the right to education. In Nepal, in South-Lalitpur region, the work to ensure that the children with disabilities have access to education starts with finding the children and by mapping out their situation and needs. Sometimes the obstacles the NGOs face are physical, sometimes work needs to be done to change people's attitudes. *(Interpedia on Instagram 14 October 2019)*

Strengthening Education Policies and Ensuring the Right to Education in Nepal is a joint project run by Loo Niva Child Concern Group and Interpedia. The NGOs have previously cooperated in the Dadeldhura region, in the Far-West of Nepal. Dadeldhura is one of the least developed areas in Nepal, where vulnerable children such as girls, ethnic minorities and Dalits face discrimination and have lower access to education. The project enables quality education in the new provincial structure of Nepal and ensures better educational policies. In addition, the project will improve learning achievements and reduce dropouts in two municipalities, reaching over 4000 school-going children in 32 schools, their families and 60 teachers.



Creating a safe and equitable living and learning environment for children with disabilities in Ethiopia project is conducted in Debre Zeit and Dukem towns in cooperation with Berhan Lehetsanat. In Ethiopia disability is still a source of social and economic exclusion. The direct beneficiaries are over 200 children with disabilities and their parents, 60 children with disabilities in skills training as well as schools, government representatives and communities. The project enhances the overall wellbeing and integration of children with disabilities and their families

Monitoring trips were conducted twice to Nepal and Ethiopia and once to South-Africa during 2019. During these trips we evaluated the progress of the development cooperation projects, met partners from co-operating countries and visited Finnish Embassies.

At the end of 2019, Interpedia had one volunteer working at Loo Niva in Nepal. We also started our renewed School Sponsorship program in cooperation with Loo Niva in the Far-West region of Nepal.

Promoting children's education and well-being with support from sponsors

With the donations by Interpedia's 936 sponsors and monthly donors, we implemented 12 programmes in seven different countries in 2019.

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 the 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.

Co-operation with the NGO Promoting Human Rights and Education in Bangladesh (PHREB) ended during 2019.

We arranged school visits on **global education** in the Swedish-speaking schools in Pohjanmaa and a Nepal theme day in co-operation with the Arabia school in Helsinki.



Interpedia's global education team and interns ready for the Educa fair. Welcome!



This week Interpedia organizes workshops on child rights in the Swedish-speaking schools in Pohjanmaa.

(Interpedia on Instagram 9 April 2019)

Interpedia's development cooperation partners in 2019



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.



Interpedia's partner, German Church School in Addis Ababa, offers quality education to children from poor families and enables them to rise from poverty to middle class. Meals provided to the children at school strengthen their abilities to cope and learn. *(Interpedia on Instagram 11 January 2019)*



Mail from my Finnish sponsor! What a smile the girl had on her face when the employee of GCS told her she got mail from her sponsor from Finland. The sponsored children in GCS wanted to share their grateful greetings to the Finnish sponsors, whose donations enable them to study and fulfil their dreams. Many of the children also said they would be very delighted if they received mail from their own sponsor.

(Interpedia on Instagram 25 October 2019)

EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION FOR DISABLED CHILDREN Berhan Lehetsanat, Debre Zeit

Berhan Lehetsanat aims at improving the well-being and 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.

DAY CARE CENTRES AND EARLY EDUCATION FOR THE POOREST CHILDREN

Maedot, Addis Abebe

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.



In Interpedia's partner NGO Maedot's day care centre in Dilela, 23 children can spend their days in a safe environment while their mothers are working. At the centre these children of single parents get a free breakfast and lunch, prepared by a local women's group. The renovation of the day care centre will soon be finished, which enables the enrolment of new children. The bigger number of children requires more teachers. The monthly salary of a teacher is 60 €. Support the enrolment of these new children by becoming a monthly donor with 20 €. Thank you for your help! *(Interpedia on Instagram 18 October 2019)*



NEPAL

DEVELOPING THE CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM AND SCHOOLS

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.

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 the 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.



Loo Niva's social mobilizers have a lot of work to do during the next four years. Dadeldhura is one of the least developed areas in Nepal, where vulnerable groups such as girls, ethnic minorities and Dalits face discrimination and have lower access to education. In the joint project of Interpedia and Loo Niva basic education is developed by:

- educating children, teachers, parents and local officials on the child's right to education
- strengthening children's participation through child clubs
- establishing local action groups to promote goals of quality education
- promoting good educational practices
- promoting peaceful education and avoiding misuse of schools as an instrument of politics

(Interpedia on Instagram 18 April 2019)



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.



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.

"Shikha focuses now on taking care of girls reaching puberty. The girls who grow up in the children's home need special care during the sensitive time in their lives. 'I constantly have multiple roles – role of a mother, sister and a leader – I must be, according to the need, both understanding and strict', Shikha says."

Ilona Kalliola's blog post on 14 November 2019 "Bangladeshi children's home supports children on the tumultuous road to adulthood"



SOUTH-AFRICA

**SUPPORT FOR THE CHILDREN OF PLASTIC CITY SLUM
SA Cares for Life, Pretoria**

SA Cares supports families with children in hard conditions of the Plastic City slum by distributing i.a. food, clothes and hygiene products. The children are given access to medical services when necessary and the pre-school is supporting the start of the children’s education. The support from the Finnish sponsors is used to benefit the whole family and community.



Greetings from South-Africa! After Ethiopia, Interpedia’s monitoring trip headed to South-Africa’s capital Pretoria to meet our co-operating NGO SA Cares for Life. SA Cares has expanded their working area to the Plastic City slum area. The people in the slum live in very poor conditions with no running water, sewerage or waste management in the area.

(Interpedia on Instagram 22 and 24 January 2019)



INDIA

**EDUCATION FOR THE CHILDREN LIVING IN THE 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 centre provides rehabilitation services and special education for disabled children and support to their parents.



“South-African evening at Interpedia’s office today. Our South-African partner NGO SA Cares for Life’s managing director Sanet Fagan is telling about her home country and the work SA Cares does in the Plastic City slum, home to 7000 people. Safety, basic needs, sanitation, water, education – many things are lacking in Plastic City and the conditions are extremely difficult for children. SA Cares’s method is to bring change from within the community. ‘We invest in people, not in buildings’, Fagan says.

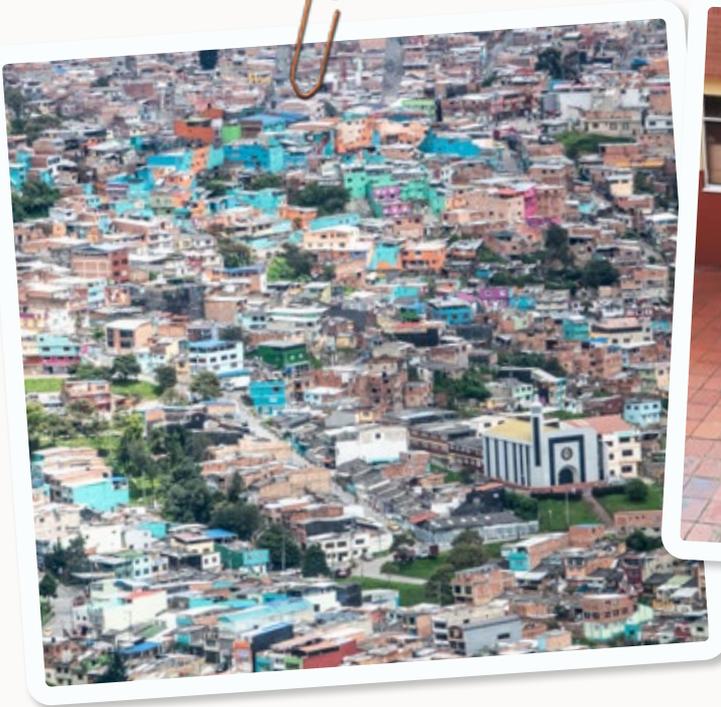
SA Cares has established a pre-school in the Plastic City slum. They couldn’t afford a school building, so they got a tarp, tables, chairs, tent toilets and boxes for the teachers’ materials. They educated 16 teachers from the community and now 200 children get pre-schooling. We are dreaming of having containers as school classes in the future.”

(Interpedia on Instagram 16 August 2019)



**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.



Greetings from a work trip to Colombia! We visited Jardín de la Niña María girls' home, one of our sponsored programs.

(Interpedia on Instagram 19 November 2019)



COLOMBIA

EDUCATION AND A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR GROWTH FOR GIRLS

Jardín de la Niña María (JNM), a girls' 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.



The girls had a week off from school and they made Christmas decorations. At the same time, something was also created for the enjoyment of the guests.

(Interpedia on Instagram 19 November 2019)



THAILAND

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

Project L.I.F.E. supports poor families in areas where no other NGOs work. Children's education and their families are supported so that the child would not have to drop out of school in order to work.

We are really glad that we got to visit our sponsored child and got to familiarize ourselves with the project in general. The experience was unforgettable and now being a sponsor feels even more meaningful."

The sponsor family visited Interpedia's blog on 12 February 2019 with their post "A sponsor family visiting Thailand"



The sponsors of Project L.I.F.E. visited the project location and met their sponsored child in Buriram.

(Interpedia on Instagram 12 February 2019)

UNELMANA NEPAL ILMAN LAPSITYÖTÄ

Mini documentary about the work done in Nepal to reduce child labour and the results of this work

Whose voice? Perspectives on Ethical Communications in Development Issues

During the first half of 2019, Interpedia continued the project 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 was to highlight how southern civil society has solved development problems and achieved changes, using the work done to reduce child labour in Nepal as an example. The project also sought new perspectives on the portrayal of extremely vulnerable children in communications in an ethical manner which respects their dignity.

In spring 2019, we shared information about the work done in Nepal to reduce child labour in our communications campaign and by publishing a mini documentary "Dreaming of Nepal Without Child Labour".

At the end of March 2019, we organised a Seminar on Ethical Communications and Journalism at the University of Tampere. In the seminar we discussed questions like: Is there a difference in privacy policy when reporting about children of poor countries? What kind of images is the media creating about developing countries? How to communicate ethically?

At the end of the project we published a checklist on ethical communications in Interpedia's blog and global education material on the themes of the project for secondary schools and high schools.



Whose voice? Dreaming of Nepal without child labour, part 2: Shanti Adhikari – long career in the field of women's and children's rights

The story of our partner organisation CWISH is, at the same time, the story of the progress of child rights in Nepal. Shanti Adhikari, the founder of the organisation, talks about the development of CWISH and the work that has been done in Nepal to defend the rights of child labourers in our blog: interpedia.fi/blog_post.

The list of the measures is impressive: The organisation has, for example, searched for child domestic workers from households, educated them, returned them to their own families, spread information on child rights, trained teachers, started a programme against sexual exploitation, sued employers, started a widely recognised green flag movement (indicates a child labour free zone/place), promoted employment of adult domestic workers and supported livelihood of poor families.

It is possible to have an impact on the improvement of child rights!
(Interpedia on Instagram 2 May 2019)

In our new global education material Whose voice? we ask questions like: What do the pictures tell? Is the privacy policy different to different people? What kind of images is the media creating about developing countries?



fingo

Communications

Interpedia's key communication channels in 2019 were the website, social media channels, e-mail newsletters, newsletters, the Annual Report, brochures and leaflets and participating in fairs and events.



facebook.com/interpedia



twitter.com/interpedia_ry



instagram.com/interpedia



www.youtube.com → Interpedia



interpedia.fi/blog_post



ADOPTION COMMUNICATIONS

In 2019, adoption applicants were sent eight newsletters, two leaflets about contact countries, two letters from the Executive Director and other brief e-mail newsletters. All the most important news were sent in both Finnish and Swedish.

During the year, we expanded especially the English language adoption website and published a brochure about our adoption service in Finnish, Swedish and English.

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION COMMUNICATIONS

During the year, sponsors were sent two general newsletters on development cooperation, programme highlights and greetings from the sponsored children. The sponsors also received our wall calendar 2020. Subscribers to Interpedia's electronic newsletter received five letters in Finnish and four in Swedish during the year.

Information about the results of development cooperation was shared in social media during monitoring trips. Our development cooperation, sponsor programmes and global education were also presented in the Educa Fair, World Village Festival and during school visits.

MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

In 2019, the members of Interpedia were sent two newsletters and the 2020 wall calendar with the theme Siblings.

The 2018 Annual Report was published in summer 2019 in Finnish, Swedish and English on our website, and the English translation also as a printed publication. During the year, we also published a general brochure about Interpedia in three languages.

Finance

In 2019, 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 232,100). 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 (Frame, Voice, Report) and project funding provided by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs for financial support for development cooperation projects by civil society organizations.

In 2019, the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs supported Interpedia's projects by EUR 336,000. The fundraising from sponsorship activities amounted to EUR 242,778, and

other donations received totalled EUR 14,200.

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

Interpedia's post-adoption service also received funding from the Gesellius Foundation and from William Thuring Foundation to visit country meetings for adoptive families. The Gesellius Foundation also supported our translation work from Finnish to Swedish. In addition, Interpedia received funding from Brita Maria Renlunds Minne Foundation for global education work at Swedish-speaking schools. A warm thank you to the Foundations for their valuable support to our bilingual work, post-adoption service and global education.



Organisation and administration

31.12.2019

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., B.Soc.Sc.

Social Worker

Sanna Alanko

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.

Organisation Officer

Jenni Ahde

M.Soc.Sc.

Members 2019

At the end of the year, Interpedia had 758 members (2018: 808). The share of Swedish-speaking members was 20 % (2018: 21 %).

Interpedia's country offices and representatives

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

Interpedia's Board 2019

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:

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 750 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 (China) and Thailand.



The 30th Anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and Interpedia's 45th Anniversary were celebrated in November 2019. Good childhood is every child's right!

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.

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