



International Child Foundation

Hague Accredited, Licensed, Non-Profit Adoption Agency & Humanitarian Organization
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BURUNDI ADOPTION

BURUNDI ADOPTION Overview

International Child Foundation (ICF) began the Burundi adoption and aid program in 2013. In Burundi, adoption is conducted through the Central Authority, through the Ministries of Health and Solidarity, in accordance with the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption. All referrals of children to adoptive families are made through the Central Authority. Families adopting related children (nieces, nephews, siblings) are obliged to follow the same procedures as those adopting unrelated children.



Children Referred for Adoption

Children age five and older are in the greatest need of families, although it is also possible to be matched with younger children. Infant adoption is not possible, as Burundi requires a child be under care for at least one year before the child can be referred for adoption.

Older adoptable children may be part of a sibling group; others are single children. The age range for sibling groups may include children as young as one year and up to age fifteen. Burundi also needs families for special needs children; please let us know if you will consider a child with special medical needs.

Family Eligibility to Adopt

An adopting parent should be at least thirty years of age. A waiver of this requirement can be requested from the County Court. (There is no age requirement if adopting the child of a spouse).

An adopting parent must be a minimum of fifteen years older than the child to be adopted although waivers may be granted. If married, adopting parents must have been married five years.

Adopting parents must be found eligible to adopt a psychological-medical report and home study and have approval from USCIS to adopt from Burundi. Married couples or single women may adopt.

Adoptive families must complete at least ten hours of pre-adoption education in accordance with the Hague Convention on Intercountry adoption. This is typically completed while the home study is in progress. We encourage families to read many books on adoptive parenting throughout the process.

Timeframe and Steps in the Process

Adopting from Burundi will generally take a minimum of one year. The first step is the preparation of the dossier documents. This includes the home study and USCIS I-800A application and approval.

The dossier travels first to Bujumbura, where it is reviewed by our attorney, translated and then submitted to the Ministry of Solidarity for registration and review and then it is transferred to the Central Authority, for additional review.

After the Central Authority approves the family's dossier, the family is considered eligible for a proposed match. The time it takes to offer a proposed match varies, depending upon the request of the adoptive family, the circumstances and history of the children who have resided in shelters for a minimum of one year, and their potential for being granted an abandonment decree, relinquishment or termination of parental rights. Just as in the US, each case is different. Children may be without any known relatives, or their parents may be known but deceased or unable to care for them. Burundi takes particular care to ensure that preservation of the biological family is honored, both in the due diligence they do during the referral process and, in that there is a thirty day waiting period after the adoption decree is issued. This provides a final opportunity for a relative or Burundian to legally adopt the child.



Families may travel to Burundi only once, or more often. While one trip is a requirement, we strongly recommend that families (one or both spouses) consider traveling to Burundi earlier in their process and possibly, upon invitation, meeting with the Director of the Central Authority. The opportunity to get to know you, as a prospective adoptive family from the US, may enhance the chance of receiving a referral within a shorter time frame. To date, Burundi has been doing the majority of their intercountry adoptions with Spain and France. They are far less familiar with US families. A first trip is an opportunity for cultural exchange.

We know from experience that when families only travel to pick up their child, they have little time to actually get to know the culture or learn about their child's country of origin. They are focused on their new child and dealing with the details of the end stage of the adoption process. It is emotionally exhausting. Every adoptive family is an ambassador for all international families. If you have time to make a trip, for cultural education, prior to the end of your adoption, you will benefit yourself, your child, and the entire US adoption community.

Burundi has strict regulations in place that protect the interests of children and conform to the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption. We believe that their commitment to the principles of the Convention protect against corruption and child trafficking.

After a family is in agreement about accepting a proposed match, the Central Authority issues the formal referral, the “**Article 16**” report, with the child’s legal, social and medical history. Preparing the medical history of a child can take several weeks, as often there is scanty information and perhaps no medical records. Please keep in mind that resources are limited in developing countries and this can lead to delays in the collection of information. When the referral documents are completed and translated, they can be submitted to USCIS with the family’s I-800 form and other required documents. Preparation and translations of the child’s documents may take several weeks. Upon receipt of the I-800 form and accompanying documents, USCIS responds within two weeks.



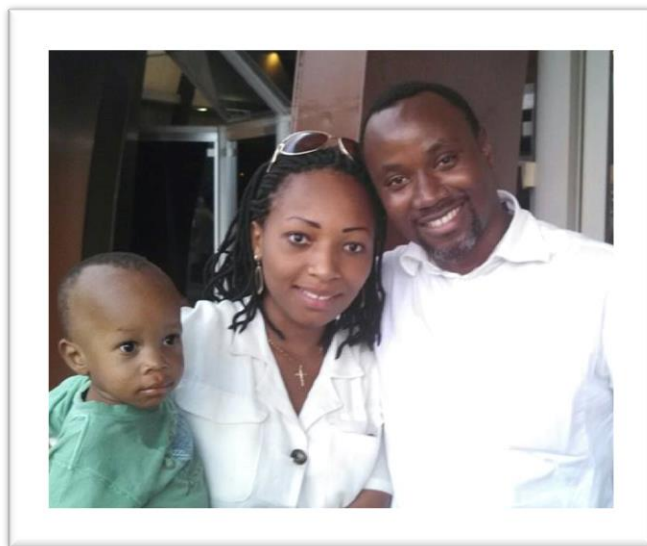
After the I-800 is provisionally approved by USCIS, the file is transferred to the US Embassy. The US Embassy initiates the visa application process with a Consular Officer, which requires additional documents from the family, including the DS 260. If the Consular Officer determines the child appears eligible to immigrate to the US, the Ministries will be notified, and this notification is called the “**Article 5**” letter. Prospective adoptive parents cannot move forward in the adoption process until the Article 5 letter is issued.

The final steps include... court/ministerial approvals, the thirty day wait, a new birth certificate and passport for the child and other documents as may be requested by the US Embassy. The US Consular Officer reviews the file and the Burundi Central Authority issues the “**Article 23**” certificate of Hague adoption. The family and child are then able to enter the final stage of the adoption. This will require at least one week in Burundi and involves a medical exam for the child or children by an Embassy approved doctor, an initial meeting at the US Embassy in Bujumbura and a final meeting at the US Embassy in Kenya, where the child’s visa is issued. The family may then travel home with their child.

Note:

- 1) Documents in English for presentation in Burundi must be translated to French and all documents in French re the child and adoption must be translated to English. This adds expense and time to the adoption process.
- 2) Families are obligated to provide post adoption reports per the requirements of the child’s country of origin and/or their state or agency. A minimum of three reports is required by ICF and an annual report until age 18. These are legal obligations and a pre-payment or deposit may be required.

Pierre Noel Nibigira
ICF’s Burundi Attorney &
Legal Representative
& Family



International Child Foundation, Inc.

BURUNDI ADOPTION FEES & ESTIMATED EXPENSES

Please review, sign and attach to the Adoption Services Agreement

.Please note: Fees are not refundable except as may be noted in the adoption services agreement or fee schedule. Fees are not waived or reduced except for relative adoption. Agency fees do not increase if clients are adopting sibling; Central Authority fees do. Agency and foreign fees are generally not subject to change except in the event of extra non-customary work. Clients will be informed in advance of additional fees or costs, such as for extra translation or changes in other fee schedules outside the control of the agency, or if the representative or attorney is required to travel to represent your case more often than anticipated. Any additional fees or costs in excess of \$1000 require specific consent by the adoptive parents. Fees are due and payable as noted.

Fee or Expense Estimate	Purpose; please note all fees are non-refundable except as noted	Amount	Phase Subtotal	Due as follows:
Phase I	Application Phase			
Application	Information; preliminary review of client; file set up	\$300		Due with Application
Home Study	\$1550 if provided by ICF; \$350 review fee if provided by other agency	\$1550 or \$350		Due with HS Agreement
Agency Administration Fee	Includes agency administration, operations, communications, marketing, general program development and oversight, US licensing and accreditation, data collection	\$3500		With International Adoption Agreement
Foreign Fee I	Includes in-country program administration, maintenance of in-country program; agency and personnel credentials and approval	\$1500		Due with Adoption Agreement
SUBTOTAL	Excluding Application & Home Study fee		\$5000	
Phase II	Home Study Phase			
Agency Case Management Fee	Includes case and file management, database technology, case communication, staff training and professional education	\$3000		Due with Home Study
Optional Visit Foreign Fee*	Includes in-country attorney guidance, cultural exchanges and meetings, 5-7 days	\$1000		Due when decided
SUBTOTAL	Excluding Home Study fee & Optional Travel		\$3000	
Phase III	Dossier Phase			
Foreign Fee II	Includes dossier review, communication with Central Authority and shelter directors	\$1000		Due with dossier
Ministry of Solidarity Aid	Required support for social welfare programs and court costs through Ministry of Solidarity	\$3500 per child		Due with dossier
Post Placement Administration	Covers translations and other costs associated with post-placement processing	\$500		Due with dossier
Post Placement Compliance Deposit	<u>Refundable</u> after ICF receipt of all post placement reports, final adoption decree and Article 23 certificate	\$750		Due with dossier
SUBTOTAL	Excluding certifications and translation		\$5750	

Phase IV	Referral Phase			
Foreign Fee III	Includes transmitting referral documents to ICF and follow up with Central Authority	\$1000		Due upon referral
General Shelter and Orphan Aid	Support for shelter and child welfare, including food, medical care, clothes, etc.	\$1500		Due upon referral
SUBTOTAL			\$2500	
Phase V	Court and Visit Phase			
Foreign Fee VI	Includes assistance with in-country stay; documents, escort to appointments/5 days	\$1000		Due when I-800 approved
Foreign Fee Nairobi	Includes assistance with in-country stay; documents, escort to appointments/2 days	\$250		Due when I-800 approved
SUBTOTAL	Does not include air transport, lodging, food		\$1000	
TOTAL	Agency & Foreign Fees & Humanitarian Aid— does not include optional travel cost of \$1000 and refundable deposit of \$750		\$16,750	

*Initial visit to Burundi to meet with Central Authority is recommended but not mandatory.

Note: All Fees are paid to ICF. Agency fees are \$7000 including post placement administration; general aid (Ministry of Solidarity) and orphan welfare total \$5000; Burundi foreign fees are \$4500 or \$5500 if family makes initial visit plus \$250 for assistance in Nairobi.

Third Party Expenses	Fees and Expenses paid to third parties or for separate services		Subtotal	Due as follow
Home Study	ICF International home study fee is \$1550; varies with other providers.	\$1550		Due upon services
USCIS I-800A & Biometrics	Paid to US Dept of Homeland Security; application \$720 & Biometrics \$85 per adult	\$890		With Application
Translations	Dossier	\$1150		With dossier
Translations	Referral and court/ministry documents	\$450		With referral
Adoption Education	Online vendor or other meeting Hague requirements	\$135		During home study
In-Country	Taxi/car, gas, incidentals (lunch) for escort	\$350		In-country
Child legal documents	New birth certificate and passport	\$150		After referral or in-country
Medicals/lab	For child by US Embassy approved doctor	\$120		In-country
Child visa	Obtained at US Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya	\$230		In Kenya
ESTIMATE			\$5025	

SUBTOTAL FEES & ESTIMATED EXPENSES without Travel: \$21,775

Travel			Subtotal	
Travel to meet and bring child home	Travel for one trip for 14+/- days (two adults airfare, child airfare, lodging, food, miscellaneous expenses or purchases); Parents may make more than one trip	\$6800		*Can take 2 shorter trips; adjust airfare accordingly
ESTMATE			\$6800	

TOTAL FEES & EXTIMATED EXPENSES WITH TRAVEL ESTIMATE: \$28,575

Post Placement Expenses

ICF requires adoptive families to provide a minimum of three post adoption reports and Burundi may request reports until the child reaches adulthood. The cost of reports will vary between providers. Typically your home study provider will also prepare the post adoption reports. ICF post adoption reports are \$350 for one child or \$400 for two children.

Adoptions take many months. Fees and costs are subject to change during the course of an adoption. Ask your tax preparer about the adoption tax credit; for 2013 it is close to \$13,000. Some employers and states also provide benefits or tax credits for adoptive families.

CHECKS OVER \$5,000 PREFERRED AS CASHIER OR CERTIFIED CHECKS or Bank Wires. Parent agrees to make payments as outlined above. Parent understands that cost for travel estimates are separate from agency fees, and airfare and lodging costs vary. Fees paid to US CIS and out-of-state home study providers are also separate. Post adoption reports are required and family agrees to provide reports in compliance with the agency and laws of the state and foreign country. Fees are subject to change.

International Child Foundation is a non-sectarian adoption agency, and welcomes families of every faith as prospective adoptive parents. In the event that a foreign government imposes specific requirements of families, or restrictions governing eligibility to adopt, International Child Foundation will to the best of its ability inform prospective parents as to the expectations of the foreign country.

Families understand that all parties are acting in good faith toward a successful adoption but that the outcome of the adoption process cannot be guaranteed, and that fees are paid for services rendered and for the maintenance of adoption programs, whether or not a child is placed with the adoptive family.

Parent Date

Parent Date

ICF Representative

Date

For more information, visit http://adoption.state.gov/country_information/country_specific_info.php?country-select=Burundi

We invite you to contribute to the International Child Foundation mission to support shelters and clinics caring for orphaned children.



All children are referred for adoption through the Burundi Central Authority. Donations have no effect on adoption processing or referrals. Donations are for the orphanage fund and cannot be directed toward a particular person.