



Country fact sheet for the CRC

COUNTRY: COLOMBIA (reviewed by a local contact)

REPORT N°	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fourth and Fifth Combined Periodic Report on the Convention on the Rights of the Child
PRE-SESSION/SESSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-sessional: 68th (16-20 June 2014) Sessional: 68th (12-30 January 2015)
LAWS (THC-1993, GUIDELINES, DOMESTIC LAWS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HC-1993 ratified on 13 July 1998; <i>Código de la Infancia y Adolescencia</i> [Childhood and Adolescence Code] – Law N° 1098 (2006)
GENERAL SITUATION OF CHILDREN DEPRIVED OF THEIR FAMILY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poverty, political and social/domestic violence have had an impact on family dynamics in the country, leading to abandonment and displacement; Maintenance of children with their family of origin is promoted in the relevant legislation (Childhood and Adolescence Code); Existence of support programme for pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, developed in the framework of the provisions of the Childhood and Adolescence Code (ICBF; for further information, see: http://www.icbf.gov.co/portal/page/portal/Descargas1/02MadresGestantesyLactantesRes6025.PDF). <p>Sources: ICBF (http://www.icbf.gov.co); UNICEF (http://www.unicef.com.co); ISS/RELAF Report 2012.</p>
ALTERNATIVE CARE OPTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family-type measures: <i>hogar de paso</i> (max. 8 days) and <i>hogar sustituto</i> (max. 6 months; 14,408 children in these in April 2013, of which 2,590 had a disability) with registered foster families; Still widespread use of residential care and occasional existence of macro-institutions (with a high number of children); Programme of affective reference persons (i.e. care of a child by an emotional reference person during a specific period of time, either in Colombia or abroad, during the holidays or at weekends, depending on the case), which raises some concerns as to an attachment being created with some adult that may ultimately not be declared suitable to adopt; Colombia also had a 'holiday programme', which also raises concern as to the emotional impact that these stays with families may have on the child once he goes back to residential care and if the adoption does not proceed. <p>Sources: ISS/RELAF Report 2012; ICBF <i>busca mil 500 nuevos hogares sustitutos para niños</i>, La Patria, http://www.lapatria.com/nacional/icbf-busca-mil-500-nuevos-hogares-sustitutos-para-ninos-30185.</p>
ADOPTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Over-use' of adoption, despite many children still having a family; Long history of intercountry adoption in Colombia (since the 1970s). Although until recently, the number of intercountry adoptions seemed to be higher than that of domestic

	<p>adoptions (in particular among those undertaken via private homes), for 2013, ICBF reports a higher number of domestic adoptions (612) than intercountry adoptions (513), and it is worth mentioning that both include 629 children with special needs (and 496 children without special needs). For further details, see: ICBF, Adopciones, http://www.icbf.gov.co/portal/page/portal/PortalICBF/Bienestar/Programas/ProgramaAdopciones/ESTADISTICAS%20P.%20ADOPCIONES%20AL%2021-03-2014.pdf;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Current suspension of foreign applications for healthy children between the ages of 0 and 6 years without special needs; ▪ Recent move for better control of costs: linked to humanitarian aid through adoption, those requested by accredited adoption bodies and donations; ▪ Recent promotion of better preparation, assessment and selection of families and submission of their psycho-social reports. <p>Sources: ISS/RELAF Report 2012, Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar; Resolution Nº 4274 of 6 June 2013.</p>
STATISTICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adoptable children in institutions: 11,729 (at 27 July 2012); ▪ Domestic adoption (2013): 612; ▪ Intercountry adoption (2013): 513; ▪ Adoption of children with special needs (2013): 629; ▪ Over 80 foreign accredited adoption bodies from 13 countries (2014). <p>Sources: ICBF, Adopciones, http://www.icbf.gov.co/portal/page/portal/PortalICBF/Bienestar/Programas/ProgramaAdopciones/ESTADISTICAS%20P.%20ADOPCIONES%20AL%2021-03-2014.pdf; ICBF, http://www.icbf.gov.co/portal/page/portal/PortalICBF/Bienestar/Programas/ProgramaAdopciones; ISS/RELAF Report 2012.</p>
RISKS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strong involvement of the private sector in adoption (through the children's homes) although on the decrease (ICBF adoptions (2013): 942; private homes (2013): 183); ▪ Important funds enter the country via adoption, in particular through the children's homes (ISS/RELAF Report 2012); ▪ Adoptability declared for many children, who still have a family (ISS/RELAF Report 2012); ▪ Recent criticisms of the adoption system and the ICBF in the media, causing a national debate on the issue (see, for example: <i>Niños "made in Colombia"</i>, Caracol TV, http://www.noticiascaracol.com/informativos/septimodia/video-261949-ninos-made-in-colombia). <p>Sources: ICBF, Adopciones, http://www.icbf.gov.co/portal/page/portal/PortalICBF/Bienestar/Programas/ProgramaAdopciones/ESTADISTICAS%20P.%20ADOPCIONES%20AL%2021-03-2014.pdf; ISS/RELAF Report 2012.</p>
POTENTIAL QUESTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Efforts to better promote domestic adoption, including of children with special needs? ▪ How is discrimination addressed in child protection, alternative care and adoption (children from African descent, whose parents have health problems, children with special needs, etc)? ▪ How is the Government planning to ensure the implementation and assessment of recent regulations on measures aimed at adoption not depending on funds provided from abroad? ▪ How is the Government planning to further promote the implementation of alternative care measures other than residential care?