



D.R. Congo Adoption Program Overview

The D.R. Congo has endured more than a decade of constant war and horrific internal violence. It is currently described as the second poorest nation on earth. Sexual violence, starvation, and disease are rampant.

Expected adoption processing time is 12 to 18 months. Congo is to be regarded as a pilot program.

Children Available: Children of all ages and siblings are in need of permanent loving families and a safe environment. Most are healthy by third world standards. Some have pre-identified special needs.

General Adoptive Parent Requirements: Congolese adoption requirements are fairly flexible.

- all parents must be over age 21
- parents must be at least 15 years older than the child to be adopted
- couples married for at least five years are preferred
- allowable number of children already in the home is flexible
- single women with adequate support and child care can apply

Adoption Process– The adoption process can appear overwhelming at first as a great deal of paperwork is involved. However, it is a step-by-step process and ABI will guide you. The first step in adopting from Congo is to have a **Home study** conducted by an agency licensed in your state of residence. The second step, which can be done concurrently, is to file your Immigration and Naturalization Paperwork: the **I-600A**. All Blessings International will assist you in all aspects of Immigrations for your child, both in the US and in Congo.

Dossier. The next step is the dossier. Dossiers for the Democratic Republic of Congo are relatively simple. ABI, Inc. will provide adopting families with exact directions about how to prepare their dossier and an up-to-date dossier document list for Congo adoptions. ABI Inc. will even manage dossier preparation, translation and domestic and international mailing!

Referral. The wait time for a referral from Congo will vary based on age, gender, and special needs of the child the family is requesting. Referral information includes as much detail as we receive from our overseas.

Travel. At least one parent must travel to the Democratic Republic of Congo to appear in the Immigrations office and bring your child(ren) home. The trip can be short – just a few days.

Post-Adoption. Following a child's placement for adoption, three reports must be completed by a licensed adoption agency (typically the same one that conducted the home study) during the first six months following placement. These are sent by ABI to Congo. After these reports the adoptive family is required to submit a written report once a year until the child's 18th birthday.