

## COLOMBIA

### The applications

#### 1. The number of applications

According to the Central Authority for Colombia, they received 4 incoming return but no incoming access applications in 1999. Additionally, they made 7 outgoing return but no outgoing access applications in that year. Altogether, therefore, the Central Authority for Colombia handled 11 new applications in 1999, all of which were for return.

#### 2. The Contracting States which made the applications

The Colombian Central Authority received 1 application from each of 4 Contracting States; Germany, Panama, Switzerland and the USA.

### The taking person

#### 3. The gender of the taking person

1 taking person was male, 2 were female and 1 application involved two taking persons, 1 of each gender.

#### 4. The nationality of the taking person

In contrast to the global norm where 52% of taking persons had the nationality of the requested State, none of the taking persons in the applications to Colombia were Colombian nationals.

### The children

#### 5. The total number of children

There were 6 children involved in the 4 return applications.

#### 6. Single children or sibling groups

2 applications involved single children, and 2 applications involved sibling groups of 2 children.

#### 7. The age of the children

Age of the Children

	Number	Percent
0-4 years	4	67
5-9 years	0	0
10-16 years	2	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100</b>

There were no children aged between 5 and 9 years, which differs from the global norm where 42% of children were in this age category. 4 of the 6 children were under 5 years old.

## 8. The gender of the children

**Gender of the Children**

	Number	Percent
Male	2	33
Female	4	67
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100</b>

Unlike the global picture, a high proportion of children in the applications to Colombia were female, 67% as against 47% globally.

## The outcomes

### 9. Overall outcomes

3 applications were rejected and the fourth was still pending. Globally, 11% of applications for return were rejected whereas Colombia, admittedly based on very small numbers, rejected the highest proportion of applications. The second highest rejection rate was that of the Romanian Central Authority which rejected 6 out of 9 applications. It is interesting that no applications resulted in the return of the child. The pending application was still pending at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2001.

### 10. The reasons for rejection

1 application was rejected because the child was not located, and the other two rejections were because the child was located in another country. In one of these cases there was also a second ground for refusal because the applicant did not have rights of custody.