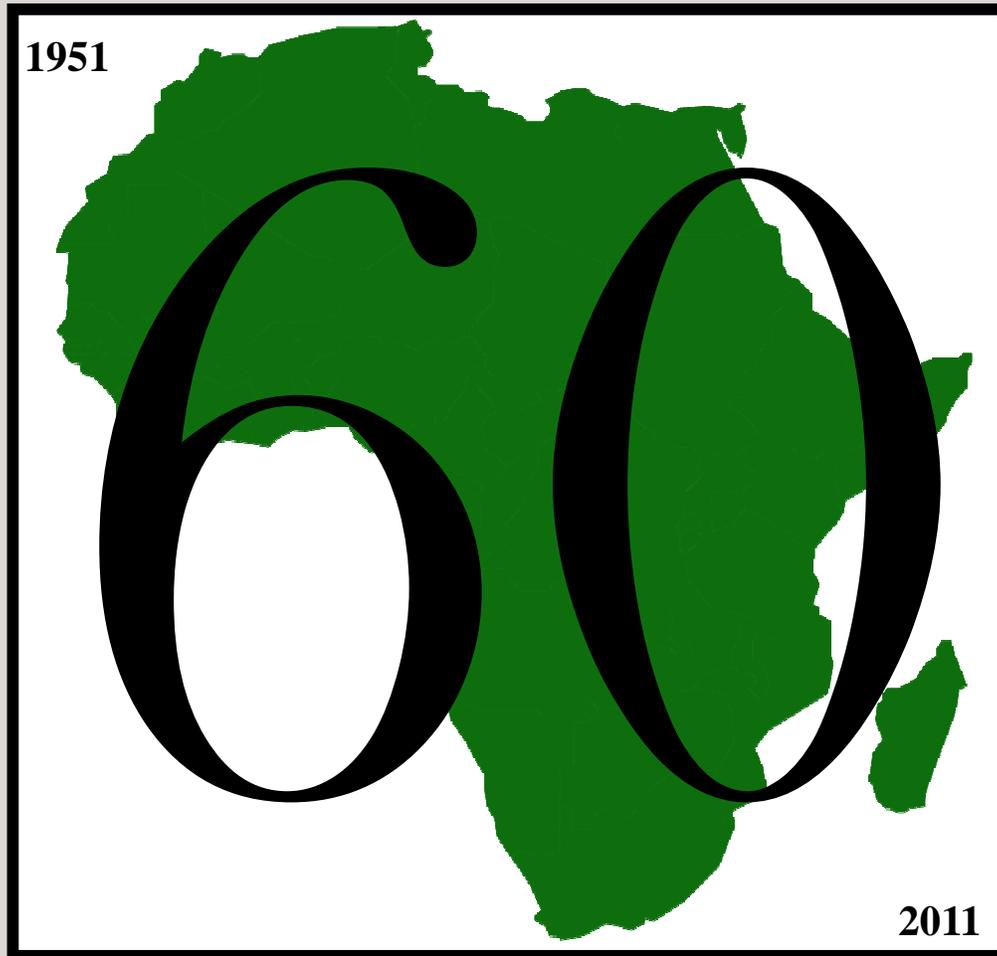


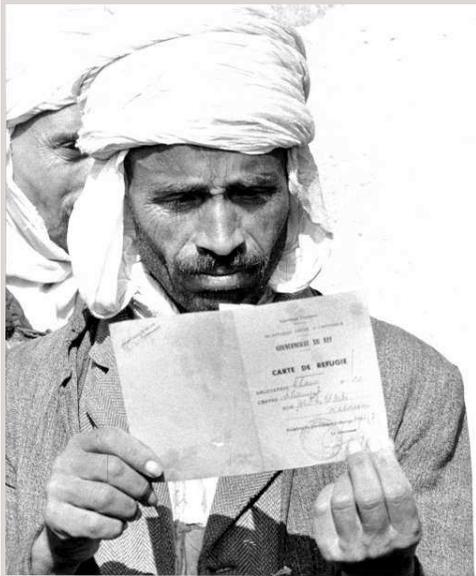
ECDC 17th National Conference



May 2-4, 2011 • Arlington, Virginia

*African Refugees and Immigrants
60 Years After the Refugee Convention:
Challenges and Opportunities*

Conference Program



Africa's first modern refugee crisis occurred in the late 1950s during Algeria's independence struggle against France. UNHCR/S. Wright

WELCOME

As we join other refugee and humanitarian organizations in observing the 60th anniversary of UNHCR's founding this year, we are reminded that while refugee flows have been a constant companion of the human experience, they have been increasingly prevalent on the African continent in recent decades, continuing today to spawn new flows of refugees and IDPs.

Through our conference theme and plenary and workshop sessions this week, we honor the leadership of those who created the U.N. Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the heroic work by UNHCR and its partner organizations over the past six decades.

To our sponsors, program participants, and those who helped plan and conduct this conference, I express profound gratitude.

Tsehaye Teferra, Ph.D.
President



Refugees from Côte d'Ivoire
UNHCR/G. Gordon

Conference Sponsors

ECDC's conference is made possible through partial funding from the Office of Refugee Resettlement and the sponsors listed below, for which we are most grateful.

Silver

International Rescue Committee

Bronze

Alliance for Multicultural Community Services

Partners

American Red Cross
Ethiopian Community Association of Chicago
Gilead Sciences, Inc.
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
World Relief

Friends

Alliance for African Assistance
Mapendo International
Refugee and Immigrant Relief Center
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants

Monday, May 2, 2011

7:30 a.m.	Registration and Coffee	Arlington Foyer
8:30—9:00 a.m.	Welcoming Remarks Tsehaye Teferra, <i>President, ECDC</i>	Ballroom
9:00—9:45 a.m.	Keynote Address Eskinder Negash, <i>Director, Office of Refugee Resettlement, Department of Health and Human Services</i>	Ballroom
9:45—10:00 a.m.	Break	
10:00—11:15 a.m.	African Refugees 60 Years after the Refugee Convention: The State of Affairs Kathleen Newland, <i>Co-Founder, Migration Policy Institute, Moderator</i> Vincent Cochetel, <i>Regional Representative, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</i> Susan Martin, <i>Executive Director, Institute for the Study of International Migration, Georgetown University</i> Eleanor Acer, <i>Director, Refugee Protection Program, Human Rights First</i>	Ballroom
11:15 a.m.—12:30 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions	
	A. New Refugee Groups from Africa: Spotlight on Darfuri Refugees	Glebe
	Sanja Bebic, <i>Director, Cultural Orientation Resource Center</i> Sarah Krause, <i>Cultural Orientation Coordinator, Refugee Support Center, Nairobi</i> Ann-Marie McGranagahn, <i>Resettlement Officer, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</i>	
	B. “I Used to be a Big Boss:” Helping Refugee Job Seekers Adjust to the American Workforce	Fairfax
	Amanda Bergson-Shilcock, <i>Director of Outreach and Program Evaluation, Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians</i> Yana Chernov, <i>Director of Employment Placement, Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians</i>	
	C. Communication for Integration	Wilson
	Burna L. Dunn, <i>Director, Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning</i>	
12:45—2:00 p.m.	Lunch	Ballroom
2:15—3:45 p.m.	Admission to the U.S.: Updates by Federal Partners Larry Yungk, <i>Senior Resettlement Officer, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</i> Larry Bartlett, <i>Acting Director, Office of Admissions, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, Department of State</i> Barbara Strack, <i>Chief, Refugee Affairs Division, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services</i>	Ballroom
3:45—4:00 p.m.	Break	

Monday, May 2, 2011 (Cont'd)

4:00—5:30 p.m. **Refugees in Africa: Historical Precedents, Current Perspectives** **Ballroom**

Heran Sereke-Brhan, *Research and Development Associate, Ethiopian Community Development Council, Moderator*
Sulaymann Nyang, *Department of African Studies, Howard University,*
Abdul Bangura, *Department of Political Science, Howard University*
Ambassador Ebrahim Rasool, *Embassy of the Republic of South Africa*
Ambassador Girma Birru, *Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia*

5:30—6:15 p.m. **Capitol Hill Preparation Meeting**

6:15—7:30 p.m. **Film: *Come un uomo sulla terra (Like a Man on Earth)* - 2008: 60 minutes** **Ballroom**

A documentary by Riccardo Biadene, Andrea Segre, Dagmawi Yimer
(Italian and Amharic with English subtitles)

Synopsis: Filmed in 2008, this documentary features the voice of Ethiopian refugees living in Rome and provides direct insight into the ways that Libya, aided by Italian and European funds, seeks to restrict and control the movement of people from Africa.

Tuesday, May 3, 2011

8:00 a.m. **Registration and Coffee** **Arlington Foyer**

8:30—9:15 a.m. **Current State of African Refugees** **Ballroom**

Reuben E. Brigety, II, *Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, Department of State*

9:15—10:00 a.m. **Forced Migration in Africa and Beyond: Causes and Remedies** **Ballroom**

Andrew Schoenholtz, *Co-Director, Center for Applied Legal Studies, Georgetown University Law Center*

10:00—10:15 a.m. **Break**

10:15—11:30 a.m. **Serving Refugees in the United States: Program and Updates from the Office of Refugee Resettlement** **Ballroom**

Ken Tota, *Deputy Director, Moderator*
Pamela Green-Smith, *Division Director, Division of Community Resettlement*
Ron Munia, *Division Director, Division of Community Resettlement*
Henley Portner, *Acting Division Director, Office of Budget, Policy Planning, and Analysis*

11:30 a.m.—12:45 p.m. **Concurrent Sessions**

A. Sustaining Ethnic Community-Based Organizations **Glebe**

Anne Goforth, *Program Director, International Rescue Committee*
Kit Taintor, *Executive Director, Colorado African Organization*
Gatluak Ter Thach, *Executive Director, Nashville International Center for Empowerment*
Koul Awan, *Southern Sudanese refugee*

Tuesday, May 3, 2011 (Cont'd)

11:30 a.m.—12:45 p.m. Concurrent Sessions (Cont'd)

B. Role of NGOs in Enhancing Overseas Identification and Referral of Refugees for Resettlement **Fairfax**

Marty Anderson, *Operations Manager, Mapendo International*
Mark Hetfield, *Senior Vice President for Policy and Programs, Hebrew Immigration Aid Society*
Vicky Knight, *Deputy Director of Programs, Church World Service, Immigration and Refugee Program*

C. Telling Your Story: Reframing Challenges **Wilson**

Jennifer Ralston, *Project Coordinator, Nationalities Service Center*
Patrick Hakizimana, *Nationalities Service Center*

12:45—2:00 p.m. **Lunch** **Ballroom**
Lavinia Limón, *President, U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants*

2:30—5:00 p.m. **Capitol Hill Visits**

6:30—11:00 p.m. **Banquet**

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

8:00 a.m. **Registration and Coffee** **Arlington Foyer**

8:30—10:15 a.m. **Partnering with Federal Agencies: Resources and Collaboration** **Ballroom**

Tessie Ajala, *Project Coordinator, Ethiopian Community Development Council, Moderator*
Rebecca Monroe, *Acting Director, Community Relations Services, Department of Justice*
Geoff Will, *Acting Supervisory Special Agent, Washington Field Office, Federal Bureau of Investigation*
Courtney Winship, *Community Relations Officer, Office of Public Engagement, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services*
Mi (Miki) Kim, *Senior Advisor to the Acting Director of the Office of Community Services, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services*

10:15—10:30 a.m. **Break**

10:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m. **Working Together to Help Refugees Resettle and Integrate** **Ballroom**

Gus Avenido, *Manger, Refugee Resettlement Office, Minnesota Department of Human Services, Moderator*
Dan Kosten, *Vice President of U.S. Programs, World Relief*
Gatluak Ter Thach, *Executive Director, Nashville International Center for Empowerment*

12:00—12:15 p.m. **Break**

Wednesday, May 4, 2011 (Cont'd)

12:15—1:30 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

A. Voices and Views: Newcomers Speak

Fairfax

Paulette Mpouma, *African Entrepreneur, creator of African Memory Game*

Johnson Kamulegeya, *Refugee Entrepreneur*

Suad Jama, *Program Specialist, Administration for Developmental Disabilities, Office of Program Support*

B. Orientation: Facilitating Adjustment and Integration

Glebe

Sanja Bebic, *Director, Cultural Orientation Resource Center*

Colleen Mahar-Piersma, *Associate Director, Cultural Orientation Resource Center*

C. U.S. Language Education for African Refugees

Wilson

Ann Githinji, *Department of Anthropology, University of Virginia*

Alexandra Worth, *Department of English, University of Virginia*

Kevin Meadowcroft, *Refugee Program Manager, Baltimore City Community College*

Diana Holden, *Instructor, Refugee Assistance Program, Baltimore City Community College*

1:30 p.m.

Conference summation and brown bag networking lunch

Ballroom

1:40 p.m.

Lunch meeting of ethnic community-based organization leaders to discuss joint advocacy

Glebe

2:30 p.m.

African CBO Meeting with the Director of ORR

Glebe

ANNOTATED AGENDA

MONDAY, MAY 2, 2011

7:30 a.m. Registration and Coffee

8:30—9:00 a.m. Welcoming Remarks

Tsehaye Teferra is a native of Ethiopia. Dr. Tsehaye Teferra received his undergraduate degree from Haile Selassie I University in Addis Ababa. He received an M.S. in Applied Linguistics and a Ph.D. in Sociolinguistics from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., where he also served as a Research Associate in the School of Languages and Linguistics. Dr. Teferra was an instructor at the Foreign Service Institute and was an Assistant Professor in the African Studies and Research Center at Howard University. He served as a cross-cultural instructor in the Peace Corps' in-country training program and taught at several institutions of higher learning in Ethiopia before coming to the United States as a UNESCO Fellow in 1972. Dr. Teferra is founder and president of the Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc. He is also active in civic, professional, and local community affairs. He was appointed by the Arlington County Board to serve as a founding member of the Arlington County, Virginia, Multicultural Commission; as well as a member of the County's Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Task Force for Arlington's Future, and the County's Diversity Dialogue Task Force. He currently serves on the Boards of InterAction and the Arlington, Virginia, Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization.

9:00—9:45 a.m. Keynote Address

Eskinder Negash is the Director of Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), within the Administration for Children and Families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. ORR provides people in need, including refugees, asylees, Cuban/Haitian entrants, victims of human trafficking, unaccompanied alien children, and survivors of torture, with critical resources to assist them in becoming integrated members of American society. Since the formation of the Office of Refugee Resettlement in 1980, ORR has provided benefits and services to many of the two million refugees who have resettled in the U.S. Mr. Negash brings 30 years of experience working on behalf of refugees and immigrants and managing non-profit social service agencies. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Negash served as the Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI), a non-governmental, not-for-profit international organization dedicated to addressing the needs and rights of persons in forced or voluntary migration worldwide. Before joining USCRI, Mr. Negash served as Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer of the International Institute of Los Angeles for 15 years. Founded in 1914, the International Institute is a non-profit, public benefit organization whose mission is to help immigrants and refugees adapt to a new culture and become self-sufficient. Mr. Negash has also served as a board member with several non-profit organizations, including two years as chair of the Joint Voluntary Agencies Committee of California; chair of the California State Refugee Advisory Council; member of Coalition for Human Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles and chair of the Finance Committee. Mr. Negash is a graduate of California State University, Los Angeles, California.

9:45—10:00 a.m. Break

**10:00—11:15 a.m. African Refugees 60 Years after the Refugee Convention:
The State of Affairs**

Refugee experts will offer insights on the status of African refugees as we mark the 60th Anniversary of the Refugee Convention.

Kathleen Newland is Co-Founder of the Migration Policy Institute (MPI) and directs MPI's programs on Migrants, Migration, and Development and Comprehensive Protection for Refugees. Her work focuses on the relationship between migration and development, governance of international migration, and refugee protection. Previously, at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, she was a Senior Associate and then Co-Director of the International Migration Policy Program (1994-2001). She sits on the Board of the International Rescue Committee and is a Chair Emerita of the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children. She is also on the Board of the Foundation for the Hague Process on Migrants and Refugees

and Kids in Need of Defense. Prior to joining the Migration Program at the Carnegie Endowment in 1994, Ms. Newland worked as an independent consultant for such clients as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Bank, and the office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. From 1988-1992, Ms. Newland was on the faculty of the London School of Economics. During that time, she also co-founded (with Lord David Owen) and directed Humanitas, an educational trust dedicated to increasing awareness of international humanitarian issues. From 1982 to 1988, she worked at the United Nations University in Tokyo, Japan. She began her career at Worldwatch Institute in 1974. Ms. Newland is the author or editor of seven books, including the first State of the World's Refugees for UNHCR in 1993, and *No Refuge: The Challenge of Internal Displacement* for the United Nations in 2003. She has also written 11 shorter monographs as well as numerous articles and book chapters. Ms. Newland is a graduate of Harvard University and the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University. She did additional graduate work at the London School of Economics.

Vincent Cochetel is the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' Regional Representative for the United States and the Caribbean, and is based in Washington, D.C. Mr. Cochetel joined UNHCR in 1986, initially working as a legal/protection officer in various duty stations, mainly in Eastern and Western Europe. He then managed UNHCR field offices in Central Europe, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East. Mr. Cochetel participated in several emergency missions in Asia, West Africa, and Europe (North Caucasus). In September 2002, he was appointed at UNHCR Headquarters in Geneva as director of the Investigation Unit of the Inspector General's Office. In May 2005, he became Deputy Director of UNHCR's Division of International Protection Services and was appointed in May 2006 as Director of the Resettlement Service. Before joining UNHCR, Mr. Cochetel worked for two years with the European Commission of the European Communities and then for the European Court of Human Rights as a legal adviser. Mr. Cochetel has written articles on numerous refugee issues and contributed to the drafting of several UNHCR training manuals related to staff safety, emergency management, protection, and durable solutions. Mr. Cochetel graduated from the Law Faculty of Tours (France), Paris II and Paris XI universities.

Susan Martin is the Donald G. Herzberg Associate Professor of International Migration and serves as the Executive Director of the Institute for the Study of International Migration in the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University. A long-time expert on immigration and refugee policy, Dr. Martin came to Georgetown after having served as the Executive Director of the U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform, which made its final report to Congress in September 1997, issuing recommendations to reform immigration policy, institute immigrant policies to help newcomers and communities in which they settle, reinvigorate U.S. leadership in refugee policy, and restructure the federal agencies responsible for implementing immigration policy. Prior to joining the Commission's staff, Dr. Martin was the Director of Research and Programs at the Refugee Policy Group, a Washington-based center for analysis of U.S. and international refugee policy and programs. She was Assistant Professor at the American Studies Department of Brandeis University and Lecturer for the History of American Civilization at the University of Pennsylvania. She has authored *Refugee Women*, as well as numerous monographs and articles on immigration and refugee policy. Dr. Martin received her B.A. from Rutgers University, and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania.

Eleanor Acer is the director of Human Rights First's Refugee Protection Program, Eleanor Acer supervises Human Rights First's pro bono representation program and works with HRF's Washington staff on matters related to domestic refugee policy. Under her leadership, Human Rights First has obtained asylum for more than 90% of the agency's refugee clients in the New York and Washington, D.C., metropolitan areas. Ms. Acer oversees a 1,000-member volunteer lawyer network; maintains the quality of legal service provision to asylum seekers from 88 countries; directs the program's training component; and guides Human Rights First's staff attorneys. She speaks and writes regularly on issues relating to U.S. asylum law and policy. Before coming to Human Rights First, she was an associate handling federal litigation at Kirkpatrick & Lockhart LLP and before that at Lord Day & Lord, Barrett Smith. She has coordinated mentoring programs and served on the International Human Rights Committee and Immigration Committee of the Association of the Bar of New York. Eleanor received her J.D. from Fordham University School of Law (1988) and her B.A. in History from Brown University (1984).

11:15—12:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

A. New Refugee Groups from Africa: Spotlight on Darfuri Refugees

Presenters will offer information and updates on the backgrounds, living conditions, and resettlement needs of U.S. bound refugees from Africa. Special attention will be paid to the Darfuri refugees in Chad and Somali refugees throughout Sub-Saharan Africa.

Sanja Bebic is the Director of the Cultural Orientation Resource Center at the Center for Applied Linguistics, a position she has held since 2003. Ms. Bebic has over 15 years of experience in the fields of refugee education and resettlement and has held positions with LIRS, USCRI, and ICMC, among others. Ms. Bebic has conducted trainings on cultural orientation in 10 countries and throughout the United States. She holds an M.A. in International Training and Education from the American University.

Sarah Krause serves as Cultural Orientation Regional Coordinator for RSC/Nairobi. In this role, she oversees the cultural orientation provided to refugees in East and South Africa. Prior to joining RSC/Nairobi, she served as the Deputy for Operations at the Overseas Processing Entity in Accra, Ghana. Ms. Krause has over eight years domestic resettlement experience, having served as a Sponsorship Developer, Caseworker and Program Coordinator for the Church World Service affiliate in Maryland and Director of the Refugee and Immigrant Services Program for the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service affiliate in Virginia. She has a Master's of Science in Nonprofit Management and has served as an Accredited Representative with the Board of Immigration Appeals.

Anne-Marie McGranaghan has been working with UNHCR Washington for the past seven years as the Associate Resettlement Officer. In this capacity, she assists in the development and promotion of refugee resettlement policy with U.S. government agencies and nongovernmental organizations. In addition, she oversees the Resettlement Unit casework, and is the focal point for African and South American resettlement cases. Ms. McGranaghan began her career with refugees while working as an ESL instructor and later at the Joint Voluntary Agency in Nairobi, Kenya. In 2003 she became an ICMC deployee to the UNHCR office in Ghana. Domestically, she has worked on both the local and national programs for the Ethiopian Community Development Council in Virginia. In her current position with UNHCR, she has worked for extended periods in the Syria office with the Iraqi refugees and conducts resettlement activities out of the Caribbean.

B. "I Used to be a Big Boss:" Helping Refugee Job Seekers Adjust to the American Workforce

Staff from the Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians will share lessons from of their seven years of success placing hundreds of refugee and immigrant jobseekers. Their clients have ranged from low-skilled workers with no literacy or English skills to professionals who want to become re-licensed as an engineer or doctor in the U.S.

Amanda Bergson-Shilcock is Director of Outreach and Program Evaluation at the Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians. She works with immigrant and refugee communities across the Philadelphia region to ensure that they have access to reliable information and guidance on career pathways and employment. She coordinates data collection and analysis, enabling the Welcoming Center to use hard evidence to support its decision making. She also handles inquiries from members of the media and researchers who need clear, factual information about immigration. Most recently, she worked with World Education Services and Drexel University to hold two Pathways to Success events to advise immigrant and refugee professionals in healthcare and engineering of their career options.

Yana Chernov is Director of Employment Placement at the Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians. She has more than a decade of experience in advising and placing immigrants and refugees in employment. She oversees a staff of six, which screens, trains and places more than 300 immigrant jobseekers every year. Ms. Chernov came to the U.S. as a refugee from Ukraine in 1993 and has a particular background in assisting immigrant and refugee professionals to realistically assess their career options and rebuild their professional lives in the U.S.

C. Communication for Integration

This interactive session will look at communication gone wrong and draw from the audience strategies for improving communication and listening. It will also identify challenges and opportunities for improving communication in the everyday situations in which refugees and service providers find themselves. Case studies will be drawn from the English Language Training Technical Assistance's program across the country and from the requests received for best practices in improving communications.

Burna L. Dunn has been the Director of Workforce Services at Spring Institute since 1991. She has extensive teaching experience overseas and in the U.S. At Spring Institute, she has conducted teacher trainings and served as coordinator for Spring's WorkStyles pre-employability training, ABE/ESL, and was the Director of the Ft. Dix ELT Program. She was a writer for a project to develop a vocational English series for a company in Saudi Arabia. In the past several years, Ms. Dunn has helped to develop and teach English classes in China and Mongolia. She also traveled to Bosnia to staff a United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (Civil Society Initiative). Last May Ms. Dunn was part of a team doing training at the U.S. Embassy in Yangon, Myanmar. Ms. Dunn has been a presenter at numerous state, regional, and national events.

12:45—2:00 p.m. **Lunch**

2:15—3:45 p.m. **Admission to the U.S.: Updates on Identification and Processing**

Leaders from key agencies will provide updates on the identification and processing of refugees admitted through the U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program.

Anne Marie-McGranaghan (See bio above.)

Larry Yungk is the Senior Resettlement Officer at the Washington Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). He began working with refugees in 1980, starting as a caseworker with the International Rescue Committee and later with Catholic Charities of Washington, D.C. Prior to joining UNHCR in 1987, he worked at Georgetown University. Over the last 20 years, Mr. Yungk has helped to coordinate UNHCR's global resettlement policies and programs with those of the U.S. resettlement program. He works closely with the Departments of State, Homeland Security, and Health and Human Services on a wide variety of resettlement matters. In addition to his work in Washington, he has been a trainer on resettlement for UNHCR staff in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East.

Larry Bartlett is Acting Director for the Admissions Office of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration. He is responsible for the management of overseas and domestic refugee processing, reception, and placement programs that resettle refugees in the United States. In fiscal year 2010 the refugee admissions program supported U.S. resettlement for over 73,000 refugees from around the world. Mr. Bartlett has over 25 years of experience in international development and refugee affairs, of which 15 years were served in less-developed countries. Mr. Bartlett joined the Department of State in 1999 during the Kosovo crisis. He served as a lead refugee officer for Kosovo before becoming Deputy Director for the Asia and Near East Refugee Office. As Deputy Director he had leadership assignments for refugees from Afghanistan, Iraq, and Lebanon, for which he received the Department's prestigious Warren Christopher Award. He also served in Iraq in 2003 as Senior Advisor to the Iraqi Minister of Displacement and Migration, helping guide ministry formation and refugee policy formulation. Prior to joining the Department of State, Mr. Bartlett served as a Peace Corps Country Director in Bulgaria, Macedonia, and Jordan. Mr. Bartlett has six years of experience working with non-governmental organizations in international education and earthquake relief. He served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Yemen Arab Republic, helping the Ministry of Health implement a national immunization campaign.

Barbara Strack joined U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services as Chief of the Refugee Affairs Division in November 2005. In that capacity, she oversees the Refugee Corps as well as enhanced headquarter

ters capacity to support the U.S. refugee admissions program overall. Her previous experience includes both the public and private sectors: she directed a project on immigrant integration at the National Immigration Forum; served in the policy office at the former Immigration and Naturalization Service; worked as counsel to a U.S. Senate subcommittee; and practiced law in Washington, D.C., at O'Melveny & Myers. Ms. Strack is a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School and Brown University.

3:45—4:00 p.m. Break

4:00—5:30 p.m. Refugees in Africa: Historical Precedents, Current Perspectives

Academics will reflect on historical developments in Africa impacting refugee migrations, while offering current insights. Embassy representatives will discuss how their countries are adapting, and responding to, refugee influxes.

Heran Sereke-Brhan is currently a Research and Development Associate at the Ethiopian Community Development Council, where she works on ECDC's international education projects. She was most recently a Post-Doctoral fellow at the Fredrick S. Pardee Center for the study of the Longer Range Future and is Visiting Researcher at the African Studies Center, Boston University. While at the Pardee Center, she conducted research on issues of intellectual property and culture production, with special focus on the Ethiopian fine coffee trademark registry. Dr. Sereke-Brhan earned a doctorate in African History with minor fields of study in African Art History and African-American and Caribbean History from Michigan State University (2002). Since then, she has initiated and participated in numerous projects that combine her interests in historical research with her passion for the arts and culture, including art exhibitions, performances, and publications on the arts.

She was Curatorial Assistant and Education Specialist at the National Museum of African Art during the exhibition *Ethiopian Passages: Dialogues in the Diaspora* (2003) and consultant and contributor to the exhibition *Continuity and Change: Three Generations of Ethiopian Artists* (University of Florida, Harn Museum (2007)). She recently spent four years in Ethiopia where she was Associate Professor at the Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa University and also served as Academic Director for the School for International Training's study abroad program in Ethiopia titled 'Sacred Traditions & Visual Cultures'. Her publications include, *Coffee, Culture, and Intellectual Property: Lessons from Africa from the Ethiopian Fine Coffee Initiative* (2010), *Gebre Kristos Desta – Expansive Pathway ... Lifetime Traveler* (2006) and "'Like Adding Water to Milk': Marriage and Politics in 19th century Ethiopia" (2005).

Sulaymann S. Nyang is professor of Political Science and Public Administration in the African Studies Department at Howard University in Washington, D.C. A former deputy ambassador and head of chancery of the Gambia Embassy in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Dr. Nyang has served as consultant to several national and international agencies and on the boards of the African Studies Association, the American Council for the Study of Islamic Societies, and the Association of Muslim Social Scientists. He has written extensively on Islamic, African, and Middle Eastern affairs. He holds a Master's in public administration and a Ph.D. in government from the University of Virginia. His research areas include: Islam, African systems of government, and African political thought. Among his publications are: *Islam in the United States of America* (Chicago, Illinois: ABC International, Inc., 1999); *A Line in the Sand: Saudi Arabia's Role in the Gulf War*, co-authored with Evan Hendricks (Washington, DC: P.T. Books, 1995); *Religious Plurality in Africa: Essays in Honor of John S. Mbiti*, co-authored with Jacob Olupona (Berlin & New York: Mouton de Gruyther, 1993); and *Islam: Its Relevance Today*, co-edited with Henry Thompson (Barrytown, NY: Unification Theological Seminary, 1990).

Abdul Karim Bangura is Professor of Research Methodology and Political Science at Howard University and Researcher-In-Residence on Abrahamic Connections and Peace Studies at the Center for Global Peace at The American University in Washington, D.C. He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science, a Ph.D. in Development Economics, a Ph.D. in Linguistics, and a Ph.D. in Computer Science. Dr. Bangura is the author of 61 books and approximately 500 scholarly articles and the winner of numerous teaching and other scholarly and community service awards. He is a member of many scholarly organizations and a former

president and then United Nations Ambassador of the Association of Third World Studies. Dr. Bangura is fluent in a dozen African and six European languages and is studying to strengthen his proficiency in Arabic, Hebrew, and Hieroglyphics.

Ambassador Ebrahim Rasool is South Africa's Ambassador to the United States of America. Before joining the Embassy, his most recent positions have included Member of Parliament in the National Assembly, Special Advisor to the State President of the Republic of South Africa and Premier (Governor of the Western Cape Province). Ambassador Rasool has a long history of involvement in the anti-apartheid struggle, starting at high school and including leadership in the United Democratic Front (UDF) and the African National Congress (ANC). He has had to make sacrifices such as spending time in prison and being under house arrest. His social and political involvement has consistently been faith driven. He has been involved in both the Islamic Movement as well as the Interfaith Movement, and has been active in mobilising Muslims and the broader faith communities for a deeper understanding of Islam and faith under conditions of oppression (under apartheid) and currently, under conditions of globalisation.

Ambassador Rasool has built up extensive experience in the Government of South Africa, having led various Departments such as Health, Welfare, Finance and Economic Development. As Premier of the Western Cape, he was instrumental in, among others, attracting foreign investment into the Province worth R8 billion (approximately \$1 billion) having the highest provincial economic growth rate, and making significant strides toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

For his contribution to South Africa, Ambassador Rasool has been the recipient of a number of leadership awards. In 2008 he was awarded the Visionary Leadership and Public Good Award from the World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists, and the Award for Commitment and Leadership in Fight Against Crime from Business Against Crime. In 2005, the London Financial Times awarded Ambassador Rasool the Foreign Direct Investment Africa Personality of the Year Award. He is also the recipient of the Nelson Mandela Award for Health and Human Rights presented to him by the Kaiser Family Foundation in 1998. Founder of the *World for All Foundation*, which rethinks the intellectual tools available to Muslims and faith communities and creates co-operative relations between faiths, cultures and communities at a global level, Ambassador Rasool is dedicated to overcoming the potential for conflict in the world. He is a prolific speaker on a range of topics covering politics, governance, religion, Islamic and cultural themes across the world. He received a Bachelor of Arts and a Higher Diploma in Education from the University of Cape Town.

Ambassador Girma Birru. Prior to his appointment as a Special Envoy to the U.S., Ambassador Birru had served his country in different high profile positions and capacities. Before he assumed his present post, he was the Minister of Trade and Industry of Ethiopia for nine years from October 2001 to October 2010. From August 1995 to October 2001, he was Ethiopia's Minister of Economic Development and Cooperation. Ambassador Girma Birru also served his country as the Minister heading the Ethiopian Revenue Administration Board. He was also the Deputy Minister of Finance, Administration and Logistics of the Ministry of National Defense from May 1992 to November 1994, after serving as the Chief Advisor to the Minister of Defense on Economic issues for 10 months. He started his professional public service as an economist, in the Office of the Council of Ministers beginning from 1982 after successfully completing his undergraduate studies, with Distinction.

5:30—6:15 p.m. Capitol Hill Preparation Meeting

Participants will receive preparation and instruction for Capitol Hill Congressional visits on Tuesday. Topics will include talking points for the visit, best practices for getting your point across, and logistical information.

6:15—7:30 p.m. Film: *Come un uomo sulla terra (Like a Man on Earth)* 2008: 60 minutes

[A documentary by Riccardo Biadene, Andrea Segre, and Dagmawi Yimer in Italian and Amharic with English subtitles.] Filmed in 2008, this documentary features the voice of Ethiopian refugees living in Rome and provides us with direct insight into the ways that Libya, aided by Italian and European funds, seeks to restrict and control the movement of people from Africa.

TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2011

8:00 a.m. Registration and Coffee

8:30—9:15 a.m. Current State of African Refugees

Deputy Assistant Secretary Brigety will discuss current refugee-related challenges and opportunities in Africa, and describe the policies and programs that the Department of State is undertaking in response.

Deputy Assistant Secretary Reuben E. Brigety, II, is the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration. In his capacity, he supervises U.S. refugee programs in Africa, assisting over 11 million people, manages US humanitarian diplomacy with major international partners, and oversees the development of international migration policy.

A native of Jacksonville, Florida, Dr. Brigety previously served as Director of the Sustainable Security Program at the Center for American Progress from January 2008 to November 2009 and as a Special Assistant in the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance at the U.S. Agency for International Development from January 2007 to January 2008. From November 2008 to January 2009, he also served as a Senior Advisor for Development and Security to the US Central Command Assessment Team in Washington and in Doha, Qatar.

Prior to his work in the policy arena, Dr. Brigety served as an Assistant Professor of Government and Politics at George Mason University and at the School of International Service at American University between August 2003 and April 2009. In addition, he was a researcher with the Arms Division of Human Rights Watch (HRW) from August 2001-May 2003, where he conducted research missions in Afghanistan and Iraq. Before joining HRW, Dr. Brigety was an active duty U.S. naval officer and held several staff positions in the Pentagon and in fleet support units.

Dr. Brigety is a 1995 Distinguished Midshipman Graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, where he earned a B.S. in political science (with merit), served as the Brigade Commander and received the Thomas G. Pownall Scholarship. He also holds a M.Phil. and a Ph.D. in international relations from the University of Cambridge, England. Dr. Brigety is a member of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, a Life Member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and a recipient of the Council's International Affairs Fellowship.

9:15—10:00 a.m. Forced Migration in Africa and Beyond: Causes and Remedies

Dr. Schoenholtz will discuss some of the causes of refugee migration across Africa and around the world while highlighting his own experiences in Africa.

Andrew Schoenholtz directs the Certificate in Refugees and Humanitarian Emergencies as well as the Center for Applied Legal Studies at the Law Center, and is the Deputy Director of Georgetown University's Institute for the Study of International Migration. He teaches courses on Refugee Law and Policy, Refugees and Humanitarian Emergencies, and Immigration Law and Policy. Prior to teaching at the Law Center, Dr. Schoenholtz served as Deputy Director of the U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform and practiced immigration, asylum and international law with the Washington, D.C., law firm of Covington & Burling. Dr. Schoenholtz has conducted fact-finding missions in Haiti, Cuba, Ecuador, Germany, Croatia, Bosnia, Malawi, and Zambia to study root causes of forced migration, refugee protection, long-term solutions to mass migration emergencies, and humanitarian relief operations. He researches and writes regularly on refugee law and policy. His publications include: *Refugee Roulette: Disparities in Asylum Adjudication* (co-author); *Refugee Protection in the United States Post-September 11th*; *The Uprooted: Improving Humanitarian Responses to Forced Migration* (chapter on "Improving Legal Frameworks"); and *Aiding and Abetting Persecutors: The Seizure and Return of Haitian Refugees in Violation of the U.N. Refugee Convention and Protocol*. Dr. Schoenholtz holds a J.D. from Harvard Law School and a Ph.D. from Brown University.

10:00—10:15 a.m. Break

10:15 – 11:30 a.m.

Serving Refugees in the United States: Program and Updates from the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR)

Officials from ORR will provide updates on programs and policies affecting U.S.-based refugee services.

Kenneth Tota currently serves as the Deputy Director for the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). As the Deputy Director, Tota serves as the senior advisor to the Director of ORR and provides oversight with regard to all program operations. Prior to this, he served as Senior Program Specialist at the Immigration and Naturalization Services where, as manager-in-charge, he was directly responsible for the orderly transfer of the Unaccompanied Alien Children's Program from the U.S. Department of Justice to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Before entering civil service, he was the Cuban Haitian Program Coordinator for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, D.C., and Miami, Florida. In this role, he helped to coordinate a series of mass migration response efforts from both Cuba and Haiti. Tota has a Master's in Public Administration from the American University in Washington, D.C.

Pamela Green-Smith has over a decade of experience in the domestic refugee resettlement program, Ms. Green-Smith serves as the Director, Division of Refugee Assistance, which contains the largest dollar line item budget in the Office of Refugee Resettlement. She directs the administration of a 40+ state-administered program that includes cash and medical assistance; the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program; formula social services and targeted assistance grants and discretionary grants to states, including older refugees, preventive health, targeted assistance, refugee school impact; and the largest federal discretionary grant of \$19 million for Cuban-Haitian refugees and entrants.

Ms. Green-Smith has over 34 years of service with the federal government. Prior experience in the field of human services includes the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Training Programs within the Administration for Children and Families. She has also worked for the Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration. She is a recipient of numerous awards and recognition as well as memberships on both intra- and inter-federal agency task forces, committees, symposiums, and workshops. She is frequently tapped as a guest speaker, moderator, and presenter to represent the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement at public functions nationwide and with international refugee resettlement visitors. She has developed and/or initiated interagency agreements and/or dialogue with other federal agency programs that impact the refugee program, including Head Start, the federal Department of Education, the Department of State and HHS's Administration on Aging. Ms. Green-Smith has a Bachelor of Science from Georgetown University, and a Master's in Special Education/ Learning Disabilities from the American University.

Ron Munia began work with refugees in 1980 during the Cuban Mariel Boatlift, first with adult males and later with the unaccompanied minors at Ft. McCoy in Wisconsin. He then went to Miami and set up a camp for Haitian unaccompanied minors, working there for nine months before coming to ORR headquarters. In later years, he was the point person in setting up processing centers for Iraqi Kurds (1996-1997) on Anderson Air Force Base on Guam; Kosovars (1999) at Ft. Dix, New Jersey, and with the Guam Asylum Project (2001) serving Burmese asylees. Munia has served as Project Officer for the Cuban/Haitian program, the Targeted Assistance program, as state liaison for a multitude of States as well as project officer for a number of discretionary programs. He organized the first national seminars on refugee employment known as "Refugee Works" - ORR sponsored training for job developers working with refugees. He was the program manager for the Matching Grant program and has served as master of ceremonies for many of ORR's national consultations. Currently, he is the Director of the Division of Community Resettlement, which oversees the Matching Grant, Wilson-Fish, Individual Development Accounts, MicroEnterprise, Supplemental Services, Survivors of Torture, Refugee Agricultural Partnership, Ethnic Self-Help, Preferred Communities, and Technical Assistance programs.

Henley Portner is currently a Program Analyst in ORR's Division of Budget, Policy and Data Analysis, where for the past three years she has handled formula allocations to States and budget-related work. Previously, she worked in ORR's Division of Community Resettlement, where she was a project manager for the Individual Development Account program, the microenterprise development program, and the alterna-

tive projects. She has also worked in the refugee State-administered program division where she was a State project officer and also handled budget-related work. Prior to starting work in ORR, she was a research analyst at the American Public Human Services Association and at the Economic Development Administration.

11:30 a.m.—12:45 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

A. Sustaining Ethnic Community-Based Organizations (ECBOs)

Based on a study Project SOAR is currently conducting, this session will look at case stories from different African ECBOs in order to explore the issue of ECBO sustainability, the various organizational models available, and the ways in which organizations have used strategic planning, leadership, mission expansion, partnerships, mentorships, technical assistance, fundraising, and/or ORR funding, to meet evolving community needs.

Anne Goforth is the Program Officer of International Rescue Committee (IRC) in New York. Ms. Goforth has worked with refugee, internally displaced, and other war-affected populations for almost 12 years. She began her career as a volunteer with a small human rights organization in Croatia, leading a project for elderly and disabled persons before joining IRC in 2000. She has served IRC in various countries, including Croatia, Bosnia, Indonesia, and Jordan, as well as in the U.S., as the HQ and donor focal point for IRC's Horn and East Africa programs. She has worked extensively in program development, coordination and grants management, as well as oversight of civil society and community development programs. Ms. Goforth recently joined IRC's U.S. Programs in New York to oversee Project SOAR. She has taught ESL in New York and Prague, where she was also an ensemble member of a repertory theatre company. Ms. Goforth has an M.A. in Theatre Arts from Northwestern University and speaks Croatian.

Kit Taintor is the Executive Director of the Colorado African Organization (CAO), which is both the umbrella organization for all individual ethnic and national associations in Colorado, as well as the gateway for the local receiving community into the African communities. Since Ms. Taintor joined in 2009, the first non-African member of CAO, the organization has added programs in health (including HIV/AIDS), citizenship, parent engagement, and social integration. Recently a local community leader remarked, "Never before in my twenty years living in the U.S. have I ever seen an organization do as much for the African community as CAO has done in the past year." CAO also seeks to transfer lessons learned in its organizing and development to newly arriving refugee communities, such as the communities from Burma and Bhutan. Prior to moving to Colorado, Ms. Taintor worked as a resource development consultant; the interim executive director for a small, local organization in Kampala that sought to professionalize and unify the traditional healing community in Uganda; and as a Peace Corps volunteer in Malawi. She holds a Master's in Public Health from Tulane School of Public Health and Environment and a Bachelor's in English Literature from the University of Virginia.

Gatluak Ter Thach is the founder and Executive Director of the Nashville International Center for Empowerment (NICE). Thach came to Nashville as a refugee from the Sudan 14 years ago and earned a Master's of Public Service at Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tennessee. He also received a B.S. in Computer Science from Tennessee State University. Thach serves on several boards, including the Board of Directors of Sudanese Human Rights Organization, Tennessee Immigrants and Refugee Rights Coalition, Advisory Committee of Tennessee Department of Children's Services, and Advisory Board Council for Nashville's Mayor on Refugees and Immigrants. He also serves on the Davidson Group and is a member of 100 Black Men of Tennessee. Thach co-founded the Sudanese Presbyterian Church in Tennessee. He has received numerous leadership and services awards, including the PCA Community Award, Tennessee Immigrant Leadership Award among others. He speaks fluent Nuer, Arabic, English, and other languages and dialects.

Kuol Awan was born in Southern Sudan in a small village called Chiir. His parents were killed in the war. In November 1987, when the war intensified between the government of Sudan and the Sudan People, the Liberation Arms/Movement led to attacks on villages, which forced Awan to flee his home and meet other young girls and boys along the way whose villages had also been burned down. They started a journey of thousands of miles searching for safety, which led them to Ethiopia, back to Sudan, Kenya and their cur-

rent home, the United States of America. Awan is one of The Lost Boys of Sudan who moved to the U.S. in June 2001. He lived in Salt Lake City, Utah, for seven years and is now in Arizona.

Awan has served his community of Lost Boys and Girls as a community organizer and leader in many capacities, starting in 1988 in Ethiopia when he was nine years old, where he led 11 Lost Boys. That leadership ability grew in years of struggling and group living with his fellow Lost Boys and Girls of Sudan. He served for four years as a president of Lost Boys Association in Salt Lake City, Utah, from 2001 to 2004, and then was elected to the National Lost Boys Association after the Lost Boys National Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. He served as a president of the organizing committee for 11 months during National Lost Boys Conference planning. Awan earned an undergraduate degree in psychology from the University of Utah and is currently working on his M.A. in Social Justice and Human Right at Arizona State University with emphasis on NGO Management.

B. Role of NGOs in Enhancing Overseas Identification and Referral of Refugees for Resettlement

The session will highlight and build upon some of the successes that NGOs have so far achieved in their efforts to enhance the identification and referral of refugees for resettlement.

Marty Anderson is the Operations Officer at Mapendo International's headquarters in Boston. Previously he worked in Mapendo's protection unit in Nairobi, from which he was seconded to a UNHCR field office in Mbarara, Uganda, to initiate a resettlement program for the camp's Somali population. Before joining Mapendo, Anderson worked for the RSC in Nairobi, first as a caseworker and later as a Supervisor of Operations. Prior to that, he helped to create an immigration services program at Kentucky Refugee Ministries. He has a Bachelor's in history from Northwestern University.

Mark Hetfield is the Senior Vice President for Policy and Programs at Hebrew Immigration Aid Society (HIAS) – his fourth non-consecutive position at the organization, for which he has worked in Rome, New York and Washington. Hetfield oversees HIAS's advocacy in Washington and also oversees programming to improve the protection of asylum seekers and refugees who identify as sexual minorities. For three years prior to rejoining HIAS in April of 2006, Hetfield was on the staff of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, where he was the Commission's senior advisor on refugee issues. He specialized in the intersection of religious freedom and refugee law and directed a Congressionally authorized study on the treatment of asylum seekers in Expedited Removal, a comprehensive study that was released in February 2005. In addition, He served for five years in the Immigration and Naturalization Service in Washington and at the U.S. Embassy in Haiti. He also practiced immigration law while associated with the Washington office of the law firm of Fulbright and Jaworski. Hetfield earned his Juris Doctor (JD) as well as his Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service (BSFS) from Georgetown University.

Vicky Knight is the Deputy Director for Programs at Church World Service's Immigration and Refugee Program. She is responsible for the management of both the overseas and domestic components of CWS's USRAP programs. She was previously the Director of the OPE in Accra and has nearly 10 years of experience with the USRAP. Before joining the OPE, Ms. Knight was a research anthropologist at University College, London, working on African diasporas and transnationalism.

C. Telling Your Story: Reframing Challenges

This session intends to help staff of refugee-serving organizations tell their agency's story in a way that captures community support, even in tough economic times. The session will cover effective case statements, innovative social networking strategies, and navigating the media to help an organization become an active agent in social change for African refugees.

Jennifer Ralston is the Project Coordinator for Nationalities Service Center (NSC) in Philadelphia, Pa. She came to NSC during her graduate studies in nonprofit administration at the University of Pennsylvania's Fels Institute of Government and later served as a Development Associate both in the Administration and Social Services Departments, as well as a Housing Specialist, before taking on the role of Project Coordinator. She continues her graduate work part time at the University of Pennsylvania, where she is completing her M.S. in Nonprofit and NGO Leadership for Social Change. Ms. Ralston looks for creative

ways to inspire others towards mission-driven action and believes that telling a compelling story can be one of the most effective tools in resource development.

Patrick Hakizimana was born in Rwanda and fled the country during the genocide at the age of 14. He joined a group of 200,000 displaced persons who fled into the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). He spent the next five years fighting to survive in refugee camps in the DRC. While seeking asylum, he was subjected to detention by the Congolese government's security forces because of his ethnicity and transferred to Kinshasa, where he faced many life threatening challenges. Now living in the United States, he has obtained a Bachelor's in political science from Eastern University and is completing his Master's in International Peace and Conflict Resolution at Arcadia University. Hakizimana currently works with Nationalities Service Center, helping new refugee arrivals find employment and achieve independence in their new country.

12:45—2:00 p.m. Lunch

Lavinia Limón is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI), a non-sectarian organization that has served refugees and immigrants since 1911. Its 50 community-based partner agencies country-wide provide refugee resettlement, immigration counseling, and other services to newcomers. USCRI's mission is to serve and defend the rights of refugees, immigrants, and displaced persons worldwide. Prior to coming to USCRI in August of 2001, Ms. Limón served as the Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement, Department of Health and Human Services during the Clinton Administration. She designed and implemented programs to assist newly arriving refugees in achieving economic and social self-sufficiency. She served simultaneously as the Director of the Office of Family Assistance for four years, helping to devise policies and strategies for implementing national welfare reform.

Ms. Limón has more than 30 years of experience working on behalf of immigrants and refugees. Beginning in 1975 when the first refugees from Southeast Asia were sent to Camp Pendleton, California, Ms. Limón has gained extensive knowledge of the domestic refugee resettlement process. She also worked in various capacities in overseas refugee camps located in Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, Costa Rica, and Saudi Arabia. In addition, as the Executive Director of the International Institute of Los Angeles for six years, Ms. Limón gained experience serving immigrant communities in such diverse programs as child-care, services to seniors, youth programs, and legal immigration services. She was also the Director of the Center for the New American Community, a project of the National Immigration Forum. Ms. Limón is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley.

2:30—5:00 p.m. Capitol Hill Visits

6:30-11:00 p.m. Banquet

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2011

8:00 a.m. Registration and Coffee

8:30—10:15 a.m. Partnering with Federal Agencies: Resources and Collaboration
Federal government agency representatives will discuss new and existing policies, programs, and joint collaborations that can impact refugee and immigrant communities across the country.

Tessie Ajala is the Project Coordinator for ECDC's Technical Assistance project. Ajala brings over 13 years of management experience which include six years of consulting, organizational training and development, capacity building, and strategic positioning initiative work with refugee service providers, CBOs and other non-profit agencies. He also has experience in crime prevention, technical training, program development, advocacy, program planning and management, evaluation, and resource development. He has developed and implemented more than 120 trainings, technical assistance and capacity building workshops to ethnic, local, and national non-profit agencies, in partnership with law enforcement agencies

across the country. Prior to this position, he served as acting director at the National Crime Prevention Council, overseeing the Outreach to New Americans (ONA) program, and as program director of SFCN Inc., a national technical assistance provider dedicated to the development of the capacities of Somali CBOs across the country. Ajala holds a Diploma in Computer Operations, Bachelor of Arts in Performing Arts, and a Master's in Education from Penn State University.

Rebecca (Becky) Monroe currently serves as the Acting Director of the Community Relations Service (CRS), a component of the U.S. Department of Justice, where she works with law enforcement and local government officials, community leaders, and federal agencies to support those leaders in addressing tension associated with allegations of discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin. CRS also works with these leaders to help communities develop the capacity to more effectively prevent and respond to violent hate crimes committed on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, or disability. Ms. Monroe joined CRS after working as Counsel at the Constitution Project, a non-partisan think tank and advocacy organization where she worked with law enforcement and military officials, political leaders, and community organizations on immigration and liberty and national security issues. Before the Constitution Project, she served as the Director of the Employment Rights Project at Bet Tzedek Legal Services in Los Angeles, California, where she represented low-wage immigrant workers and women who were trafficked for labor. Prior to her work with Bet Tzedek, she was a litigation associate at Strumwasser and Woocher, LLP, a public interest law firm in Santa Monica, California. A graduate of Georgetown University and Yale Law School, she served as a law clerk to Judge Richard A. Paez of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Geoff Will is the Acting Supervisory Special Agent, Washington Field Office (WFO), Federal Bureau of Investigation. He joined the Bureau in 2002 and currently works at the Washington Field Office.

Courtney Winship is a Community Relations Officer with the Office of Public Engagement at USCIS Headquarters. In this role, she works with Agency directorates and program offices to coordinate and direct dialogue with external stakeholders and to seek feedback regarding policies, priorities, and organizational performance reviews. Ms. Winship began her career with USCIS in 2007 as an adjudicator in the London, England, field office. She also worked in the Office of Transformation Coordination (OTC) and continues to work closely with OTC on its external stakeholder engagement. Prior to joining USCIS, Ms. Winship worked in education and as a small business consultant. Much of her work focused on community engagement, immigration, and social enterprise. She received her Bachelor's in American Studies from Tufts University, a Master's of Science in Education from the University of Pennsylvania, and a Master's of Science in Nationalism and Ethnicity from the London School of Economics.

Mi (Miki) Kim currently serves as the Senior Advisor/Special Assistant to the Acting Director of the Office of Community Services (OCS) at the Administration for Children and Families in the Department of Health and Human Services. OCS administers several block grants, including the Community Services Block Grant and Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, as well as discretionary community development and social services programs that total approximately \$8 billion. In this position, Ms. Kim serves in an advisory capacity on program and policy decision-making and strategic planning with a focus on collaboration across programs. She is also responsible for problem solving and managing the daily operations of OCS. Prior to OCS, Ms. Kim was a Special Assistant to the Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) where she was responsible for supporting the Director's executive level management and oversight of refugee and other humanitarian assistance programs. She provided counsel to the Director to ensure the accomplishment of ORR's mission and goals through strategic planning, program implementation, and efficient internal operations. Ms. Kim has a Master's in Social Work from the University of Maryland School of Social Work in Baltimore, Maryland; and lived in Belize for two years as a Peace Corps volunteer.

10:15—10:30 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m. Working Together to Help Refugees Resettle and Integrate

Representatives from refugee-serving agencies will offer insights and best practices for working collaboratively to help promote successful refugee integration.

Gus Avenido has been the Refugee State Coordinator for Minnesota since November 2001. He continues to lead one of the most active refugee programs in the country. Since 2001, Minnesota has resettled 24,401 refugees from at least 23 nationalities, excluding the hundreds of secondary refugee arrivals who seek a high quality of life, healthy and safe environment, stable jobs, and quality education for their children. To this day, Minnesota cities such as Minneapolis, St. Paul, Worthington and Lake Wobegon continue to welcome refugees and asylees.

“Like other state refugee coordinators, we have faced some of the most challenging circumstances that faced the U.S. refugee program - unpredictable arrivals, budget reductions, and program and policy changes. Our Minnesota program is unique because we operate a state administered program for families and a public private partnership program for those who are not eligible for TANF. I am fortunate to be working with a robust network of refugee service providers consisting of seven local Volag affiliates, 20 MAA-grantees, local LPH and welfare offices. I am also privileged to have the strategic support of our local and regional foundations which continue to fund programs which are critical to the rebuilding of refugee families,” says Avenido.

Under his leadership, Minnesota’s State Resettlement Programs Office is recognized for its web-based program management information system, six outcome domains and indicators, integrated refugee service delivery system, and commitment to independent evaluation and research. Avenido’s non-day job is interestingly varied. He is an accomplished handyman, management and OD consultant, strategic planning and process modeler. Whenever he can, he enjoys volunteer work for his church on youth and social justice projects. Every summer he takes a few days off to build a house for the local Habitat for Humanity.

Dan Kosten is the Vice President of U.S. Programs for World Relief. He has been with World Relief since 2001, and oversees World Relief’s work in the United States. He is also responsible for the technical units of a number of programs involving refugees and immigrants. World Relief is the humanitarian arm of the National Association of Evangelicals. World Relief has worked for more than 65 years with local churches. World Relief’s mission is to empower the local church to serve the most vulnerable. Operating in nearly 17 countries, and some 23 locations in the U.S., World Relief’s programs include disaster response, refugee assistance, immigration legal services, anti-trafficking services, HIV/AIDS, maternal and child health, child development, agricultural, and microenterprise development. Kosten was born in Taipei, Taiwan, and lived there much of his childhood. He worked for nearly 10 years in Africa, predominantly in the Democratic Republic of Congo and in Cameroon. He began in Africa as a member of the U.S. Peace Corps and then worked with Christian Blind Mission International. He has had a variety of responsibilities, including Project Administrator, Project Director, Country Coordinator, and Regional Advisor. He received his Master’s in Missions and Intercultural Studies from Wheaton College and his Bachelor’s from Calvin College.

Gatluak Thach (See bio above.)

12:00—12:15 p.m. Break

12:15—1:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

A. Voices and Views: Newcomers Speak Panel of African Refugees and Immigrants

Former refugees and asylees will share their personal stories and resettlement experiences.

Paulette Mpouma has spent much of her career building connections between African and non-African countries. In 2009, she invented the Africa Memory Game, a board game taking players on a journey of knowledge of the African continent. This board game was created to fill the gap of education and to help to erase the stereotypes attributed to Africa by the media. The board game was welcomed not only by the African Diaspora but also by educational institutions nationwide and overseas. In an attempt to establish international exposure, Ms. Mpouma is in the process of partnering with the following agencies: The Afri-

ca Channel; African Chamber of Commerce of Chicago; the National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian; the World Bank Info Shop; the Field Museum and DuSable Museum in Chicago; the Hue Mann Store in New York; Everyone's Place in Baltimore; and Alke Bulan Store in Nashville, Tennessee. She also worked with a program that allowed children to participate in African culture by promoting African games, stories, and music. Ms. Mpouma has helped facilitate cooperation between the Smithsonian museums and African art dealers. She now plans to devote time to building relationships between Africa and the world.

Johnson Kamulegeya was born in Kigali, Rwanda. In 1976, he migrated with his family to seek refuge in Uganda due to the genocide being perpetrated by the Hutu government at the time. He completed his elementary and high school education in Kampala, Uganda, where he started a small business selling cell phones, and he owned a pub called Kamz Pub. Johnson was an acquaintance of ex-president Bizimungu Pasteur. In 2004, the government of Rwanda sought to "punish" him for his association with the former president, while other supporters in his political enclave were arrested. As a result, Johnson fled to the United States and was granted asylum in 2007. Johnson's work experience in the U.S. includes customer service and small business management. In 2009, he was awarded a "Golden Customer Service" award at Edison Park Fast where he worked. In 2008, he opened a shoe and clothing business in a flea market for himself, and a similar business for his wife the following year with the help of Boat SOS Inc., and the ECDC Enterprise Development Group. Johnson's goal is to expand his business and to become fully self-employed.

Suad Jama was born in Somalia and grew up in the United Arab Emirates. She came to the United States in 2001 and petitioned for asylum with the USCIS office in San Francisco, which was in October 2001. Currently, Ms. Jama is a Program Specialist with the Administration for Developmental Disabilities (ADD) Office of Program Support. She serves as the Project Officer for the National Network of University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Services (UCEDD) Grants in Regions 1 and 4; the UCEDD Minority Partnership Initiatives; and the Protection & Advocacy Grants in Regions 1 and 5. She also works on the UCEDD and P&A Training and Technical Assistance contracts. Prior to her work with ADD, she was a Service Coordinator with the Fairfax County Community Service Board, the Early Intervention Programs. She coordinated early intervention services to eligible infants and toddlers who were developmentally delayed. She mainly worked with diverse, multicultural non-English speaking families. Ms. Jama is proud of her accomplishments to help the Fairfax County Infant and Toddler Programs modify their early intervention practices with families from Middle Eastern backgrounds in ways that are culturally responsive and relevant. She has more than seven years of mental health experience working with refugees, particularly those in the federally-funded Survival of Torture Programs, funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA). Ms. Jama has a Bachelor's in Educational Psychology from Damascus University, Syria, and a Master's in Social Work from San Jose State University, California, with a field concentration in community mental health.

B. Orientation: Facilitating Adjustment and Integration

This session will increase participants' knowledge about the overseas and domestic orientation refugees receive; make them aware of resources available to enhance orientation content and delivery; and facilitate discussion of how participants can use this information and local resources to strengthen the orientation delivered to their community members or clients.

Sanja Bebic (See bio above.)

Colleen Mahar-Piersma is the Associate Director at the Cultural Orientation Resource Center at the Center for Applied Linguistics in Washington, D.C., ORR's technical assistance provider on ORR client groups and community orientation, as well as PRM's technical assistance provider on new refugee groups and cultural orientation for Reception and Placement program clients. Her responsibilities at the COR Center include designing and facilitating workshops and presentations; developing an online repository of orientation resources for service providers; and facilitating the exchange of orientation-related information and promising practices between overseas and domestic partners. Prior to her work at the COR

Center, Ms. Mahar-Piersma served first as Field Support Coordinator and later as National Diocesan Development and Support Coordinator for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops/Office of Migration and Refugee Services. She has also worked on the Asia team at the National Endowment for Democracy, coordinating grants supporting democratization and human rights in the region. Ms. Mahar-Piersma has an M.A. in International Studies from the University of Washington in Seattle.

C. (i) Language Education for African Refugees living in the United States

According to several Burundian refugees, the pursuit of education for themselves and their children is their second most important priority upon resettlement in the U.S. The first is peaceful and secure permanent resettlement. This paper focuses on an ethnographic-intervention case study of the educational experience of a Burundian refugee family resettled in Virginia.

Ann Githinji was born in Kenya and came to the United States to pursue graduate studies. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Virginia. Her current research focuses on the processes of acculturation, education and kinship on social identity formation among Burundian refugees resettled in the U.S. Previously, Ms. Githinji worked as a research coordinator on an African Refugee Well-Being Intervention Program (ARWP) in New Mexico. ARWP was a community-based mental health intervention program that sought to understand and alleviate exile related mental health stressors of African refugees resettled in New Mexico. She has a Master's in Biology from New Mexico State University, a Master's Degree in Anthropology from University of Virginia and a Bachelor of Science from Moi University, Kenya.

Alexandra Worth was born in Bangkok, Thailand, to two State Department employees. Since then, she has lived in Burma, Guinea, Italy, Portugal, Germany, Ethiopia and the U.S. Having attended international schools for the majority of her life, Ms. Worth has participated in a variety of educational systems and has taken IGCSES, AS levels and completed the full International Baccalaureate diploma. Upon graduation from the International Community School of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, she began pursuing her higher education at the University of Virginia. During her fourth year at the University, she is double majoring in Languages and Cultures of Africa (an independently constructed major) and English Modern Studies. Ms. Worth's interest in refugees began while living in Ethiopia, where she volunteered for two years at the Refugee Community Center run by the Jesuit Refugee Services. While working there she oversaw aspects of children's education, fundraising, event planning and outreach. Having been touched by the warmth and generosity of the refugees with whom she worked, she continued her efforts in the application for and receipt of UVA's Double Hoo grant with her partner, Ann Githinji. With the help of the grant, they have been studying the education and assimilation of Burundian refugees in Virginia.

C. (ii) Adults' First Chance at School: The Administration and Teaching of ESL to Non-Literate Populations

This session will have two parts. The first will focus on the organization of a program that accommodates these learners directly by furnishing a succession of literacy-levels culminating in "mainstream" refugee ESL classes. Data on refugee arrivals, education levels, and best practices learned by trial and error will be provided. The second part will focus on adapting ESL instruction methods and classroom set up to with limited educational exposure. Throughout there will be a focus on how literacy instruction acts to integrate this vulnerable population.

Kevin Meadowcroft has more than a decade of experience as an administrator and teacher in educational programs for refugees and immigrants in Baltimore City. He holds a Master's in International Education Policy. Meadowcroft currently manages ESL and occupational skills programs for adults and after-school programs for refugee youth at Baltimore City Community College. The programs served more than 1,100 refugees and asylees per year.

Diana Holden, originally from India, taught EFL to high-school students and adults for 10 years in Bangkok, Thailand. She holds an RSA-CELTA and a Master's in Education in Curriculum and Instruction. She currently teaches literacy and job readiness to adult refugees at Baltimore City Community College.

1:30 p.m. Conference Summation and Brown Bag Networking Lunch

1:40 p.m. Lunch Meeting

Directors and members of ECBOs will meet to discuss strategies for mobilizing around their common advocacy goals.

2:30 p.m. African CBO Meeting with the Director of ORR

Directors and members of ECBOs will meet with the Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement to learn more about his vision for ECBOs, new policies and regulations, and best practices. ECBO leaders will also get the opportunity to voice their concerns and solicit feedback from the Director.

NOTES

Mission and Purpose

Headquartered in Arlington, Virginia, the Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc. (ECDC) was established in 1983 as a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization with a mission to resettle refugees, promote cultural, educational and socio-economic development programs in the immigrant and refugee community in the United States; and to conduct humanitarian and socio-economic development programs in the Horn of Africa.

ECDC was organized to respond initially to the needs of a growing Ethiopian community in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area and across the country. For 28 years, ECDC has been developing and providing programs and services that respond to the needs of clients from diverse cultural backgrounds while focusing on the African newcomer community. In Arlington, Virginia, Denver, Colorado, and Las Vegas, Nevada, ECDC branch offices offer educational, skills building and social service programs that help newcomers become self-sufficient, contributing members of their new homeland.

Since 1990, ECDC has been resettling refugees through its network of affiliated agencies located in Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maryland, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Wisconsin. Regionally and nationally, ECDC engages in efforts to increase public awareness about domestic and international issues affecting the lives of African refugees and immigrants; provides technical assistance to community-based organizations; and has taken a leadership role in creating a network among African community organizations around the country.

Internationally, ECDC focuses on cultural and educational development activities in Ethiopia and maintains an office in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Support for ECDC is derived from individual contributions, in-kind donations, corporations, foundations, faith-based organizations, and contracts/grants from federal, state and local government agencies.

E C D C
901 S. Highland Street
Arlington, Virginia 22204
Phone: (703) 685-0510 Fax: (703) 685-0529
E-mail: info@ecdcus.org
Website: www.ecdcinternational.org