



Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc.

901 S. Highland St. ▪ Arlington, Virginia 22204 ▪ Tel. (703) 685-0510 ▪ Fax (703) 685-0529

Empowering refugees and immigrants since 1983

Reza Yawari
(703) 685-0510 ext.239
ryawari@ecdcus.org
Arlington, VA

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ECDC Welcomes President Obama's Decision to Resettle 110,000 Refugees in FY 2017

The U.S. government's decision to welcome 110,000 refugees in FY2017 to the United States is historical and demonstrates the humanitarian leadership of the United States during an unprecedented global migration and refugee crisis. There are more than 65 million people around the world displaced by conflict who are desperately looking for help. Among them are 21.3 million refugees over half of whom are under the age of 18.

While there are no simple solutions to the current refugee crisis, ECDC commends the U.S. government's efforts, particularly President Obama's leadership, for increasing the number of refugees to be resettled in FY2017 by nearly 30% compared to FY2016. ECDC is proud to be part of this nation's two hundred year plus tradition of welcoming immigrants and refugees from around the world who are escaping war and persecution and helping them to start their lives anew in America. The United States resettles the most vulnerable refugees, including those who cannot remain safely where they are, and families with children who cannot receive the medical care they need to survive.

ECDC calls on the international community and humanitarian organizations to increase support for the millions of refugees around the world, including those in critical need in Africa, thousands of whom have lived in refugee camps for decades in circumstances of great uncertainty.

Of the 110,000 refugees that the U.S. government plans to welcome in FY2017, 35,000 of them are from Africa. This is an extraordinary historical decision that for the first time such a large number of African refugees will be resettled in the U.S. This is a great step in the right direction, as this population comprises approximately one-third of the world's refugee population.

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ECDC is one of nine voluntary agencies working in partnership with the Department of State and the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) to provide initial placement and support services to refugees being resettled in the United States. With a special focus on African refugees, ECDC promotes cultural, educational and socio-economic development programs to assist refugees and immigrants in becoming productive members of their new homeland.



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