

David Bassiouni, Sr. Keynotes ECDC Conference

Former Senior United Nations Official and Sudan Minister of Agriculture, David Bassiouni, Sr., will deliver the keynote address at ECDC's 18th national conference. As an international development veteran and career diplomat, Dr. Bassiouni's experience spans a wide range across humanitarian affairs and assistance, conflict and crisis resolution, sustainable development and natural resource development, among others. He has served in various senior capacities in the U.N. for over two decades.

In his role as Principal Officer and Chief of the Humanitarian Policy Section of UNICEF's Office for Emergency Programmes, he introduced several policy initiatives, including a successful review of UNICEF's Core Commitments for Children, now in practice in the field. In 2005, Dr. Bassiouni served as Rapporteur to the Humanitarian Response Review (HRR), which was commissioned by the Undersecretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (USG/ERG). He assessed and evaluated the global response capacity of humanitarian agencies such as the UN, the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, the International Organization for Migration, and non-governmental organizations.

Dr. Bassiouni served as the UNICEF Representative in Egypt, Ethiopia, Occu-

pied Palestinian Territory, Somalia, and Sri Lanka. While in Ethiopia in 2003, he created and won the appreciation of staff and donors with the "Out-of-Addis Drive" in which he challenged and mobilized staff to spend more than 40% of their time in the field, implementing and monitoring programs for children and women in drought affected regions. He continued to champion the cause of women's and children's health and their prioritized place in the national development agenda while serving as UNICEF Representative in Cairo and the Occupied Palestinian Territory of Jerusalem, Israel.

Dr. Bassiouni has also participated in several high-level teams helping to achieve synchronized responses to global humanitarian crises in countries such as Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Sierra Leone, Somalia, and Sudan. He has actively contributed to exerting pressure led by Inter-Agency Standing Committee members to compel the Burundi government to reverse its policy of forced displacement (Regroupement) and develop major humanitarian policies on internally displaced persons (IDPs) and

the gap in post-conflict integration.

He was appointed by the U.N. Security Council as the first U.N. Humanitarian Coordinator in the U.N. system and assigned to Somalia at the height of the civil war in 1992 to oversee the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance. Dr. Bassiouni led negotiations with the governments of Eritrea, Ethiopia and Kenya to provide asylum to Somali refugees and allow unhindered movement of humanitarian assistance through the Mogadishu seaport, which he successfully negotiated to have reopened.



David Bassiouni, Sr.

Dr. Bassiouni's career reflects his broad understanding of the long-term cost of conflict and its aftermath: "Humanitarian crisis is disrupted development. We must therefore do everything possible to reach all victims of crisis, especially women and children, to remove them from peril and place them on the path to recovery, development, and prosperity."

Currently, he is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of The Bassiouni Group, a firm in New York that helps global organizations to develop sustainable solutions and manage complex strategic issues and global challenges.

Entrepreneurship in the Camp: How we Live Conference Film—Thursday, 12:30 p.m.

This short film is one of four documentaries released by FilmAid International's Participatory Video Project (PVP) in 2010. Innovative in its approach, the PVP is a commitment to include hitherto unheard voices and perspectives in the discourse on refugee camp life. FilmAid selected 30 youth from diverse backgrounds and cultures to participate in an extensive training program in Kakuma Refugee Camp in northwest Kenya. Equipped with basic skills, the youth then proceeded to film

what they considered to be representative stories of daily life in Kakuma.

Featured in *Entrepreneurship* are refugee men and women who have established successful small businesses in response to the needs of the community. Some own shops that sell clothing, food, and other necessities, while others provide services such as bicycle transportation or brewing traditional drinks for sale. This intimate look into the dynamic business activities of the camp conveys

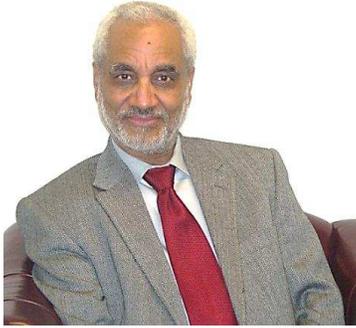
the agency and resourcefulness of those caught in difficult circumstances.

FilmAid International was formed in 1999 when a group of film professionals decided to alleviate the psychosocial effects of conflict among Kosovo refugees in Macedonia. Their experience proved that films restore hope, educate, and inspire. In the fall of 2001, UNHCR and the International Rescue Committee invited FilmAid to work in Africa where they launched programs in informational workshops, evening screenings, and community-based film production. Today, screenings in Kenya draw an average of 10,000 people a night.

In My Opinion...

Why ECDC's Annual Conferences Matter

ECDC was established in June 1983, and three months later, we conducted our first national conference. It was held in September, focused on Ethiopian refugees, attracted speakers and attendees from across the country, and received support from D.C., Maryland, and Virginia State Refugee Coordinators, as well as from the Office of Refugee Resettlement. This year represents our 18th conference on African refugees.



Tsehaye Teferra, Ph.D.

I have long felt that this strong and stimulating experience that brings African leaders and newcomers together with those engaged in making the policies, developing the programs that serve refugees, and providing the domestic social services is an integral part of who ECDC is and what we are about.

We are proud of this *tradition* that transmits the concerns and challenges faced by African refugees, introduces best practices to improve the quality of their lives, and gives attendees an opportunity to learn, understand, respect, and value the real-life experiences, perspectives, and struggles that zero in

on overseas conditions and lives lived after resettlement in the U.S. Yet despite their success, why do these conferences matter?

The conferences are a powerful public education tool. The topics and presenters each year represent the best and the brightest. The conferences enable attendees to participate in our annual Advocacy Day trip to Capital Hill. This is civic engagement and American democracy in action. Participants are able to interact with their Congressional representatives, senators, or staff members—to bring to their attention and discuss with them issues African community organizations and leaders share in common and matters related to their respective locations. In fact, regular public education, civic participation, and advocacy efforts are the weapons against complacency, indifference, and anti-immigrant sentiments. They are the means for introducing important topics that ultimately result in changes that improve current conditions.

One such topic that is of great importance to ECDC is the annual admissions number for African refugees. As of April 10, 2012, the U.S. Refugee Admissions program has resettled only 4,576 Africans of the 22,929 refugees resettled so far this year. Last year, Africans represented only 13.62 percent or 7,685 of the total 56,424 refugees resettled. African admissions over its 21-year history total is 264,541 as of March 31 this year. Yet close to 9 million people are of concern to UNHCR in Africa, with 8.8 of them in Central, East and the Horn of Africa. Why then is the number of Africans identified for resettlement and resettled in the U.S. so small in comparison to the number of Africans of concern to UNHCR, especially those who have been warehoused in refugee camps for years and sometimes decades?

The conferences represent ECDC's obligation and commitment to bring the stakeholders involved in African refugee resettlement in the U.S. together to talk, to listen, to learn, and to take action. The conferences are the chance for case managers and ethnic community leaders to meet with members of Congress, to learn best practices, to network, to voice their thoughts, and to challenge the status quo. The conferences also enable attendees to network and build relationships; and to learn how to improve service delivery and staff performance.

Without ECDC's annual national conference on African refugees and immigrants, case managers, health care workers, ethnic community leaders, and all the others engaged in refugee affairs, from UNHCR to U.S. government officials, members of Congress, and volunteers, are just names in a case file or vital unknowns. When they come together here, they move from being involved to being partners. This is why ECDC's conferences matter.

White House Highlights Dr. Teferra as a *Champion of Change*

On January 30, 2012, the White House Office of Public Engagement and the Secretary of State's Office of Global Partnerships honored Dr. Tsehaye Teferra, founder and President of the Ethiopian Community Development Council, and 14 other African professionals as *Champions of Change*. This event featured leaders in American Diaspora communities with roots in the Horn of Africa who have helped to build stronger neighborhoods in communities across the country and to mobilize networks across borders to address global challenges.

Each week, the White House Office of Public Engagement collaborates with various federal agencies and national organizations to select awardees. Those honored range from educators to entrepreneurs and community activists and others who empower and inspire members of their respective communities to 'Innovate, Educate, and Build.'

According to the White House, the *Champions of Change* recognition program was launched in the Fall of 2011 with the 'What's your story?' video challenge. The challenge aimed to highlight the personal stories of Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders across the country who have impacted their community through their dreams, experiences, and dedication to a cause. The White House received over 200 videos and 35 essays in response. Nine inspiring leaders were selected and the program has since become a weekly event.

Deputy National Security Advisor Denis McDonough states in the White House press release for this event: "These men and women are American leaders we want to celebrate... We commend the innovative practices, achievements and leadership that these change makers bring not only to their communities around this country—but also to the development of and diplomacy with their countries of origin."

To watch the live recording of *Champions of Change* visit:
www.whitehouse.gov/champions.

Anne Richard Confirmed as Assistant Secretary of PRM

On March 29, 2012, Anne C. Richard was confirmed by a voice vote in the Senate to serve as Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration. She was first nominated by President Obama on November 4, 2011. As Assistant Secretary, Ms. Richard will oversee the Administration's efforts to provide protection, ease



Anne C. Richard

suffering, and resolve the plight of persecuted and uprooted people around the world.

Ms. Richard earned a B.S. in Foreign

Service at Georgetown University in 1982 and an M.A. in Public Policy at the University of Chicago in 1984. Richard started her career in public service as a presidential management intern. She was a fellow of the Robert Bosch Foundation in Germany from 1985 to 1986. Upon returning to the U.S., she took a job as a budget examiner in the Office of Management and Budget, where she worked until May 1990. Following that, she began her three-year service with the Department of State Office of Resources, Plans and Policy, working as an Advisor from May 1990 to October 1993.

From October 1993 to January 1995, Richard was an International Affairs Fellow of the Council on Foreign Relations and was part of the team that created the International Crisis Group. Returning to the State Department in January 1995, she served as a Senior Advisor in the Office of Resources, Plans and Policy until August 1997, when she began working for the Peace Corps, of which she was deputy chief financial officer until March 1999. From March 1999 to January 2001, Ms. Richard was the chief adviser for budget and planning for Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

After George W. Bush was inaugurated as president in 2001, Ms. Richard left

government service and moved to Paris, where she wrote about and consulted on international aid for think tanks, the private sector, and international organizations, including the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). She joined the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in 2004 as Vice President of Government Relations and Advocacy, leading the IRC's relations with the executive branch, Congress, and the NGO community. She also met with senior UN and government officials and visited refugees

and IRC staff in Afghanistan, Burma/Myanmar, Haiti, Jordan, Kenya, Liberia, Pakistan, Sudan, South Sudan, Syria, Thailand, and Uganda,

Ms. Richard is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and serves on the boards of the Henry L. Stimson Center and the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition. She has been a non-resident fellow at the Center for Transatlantic Relations since 2003. She is the author of *Fighting Terrorist Financing: Transatlantic Cooperation and International Institutions* (2006).

Somali Foundation, Inc. Leads by Example

ECDC is pleased to welcome the Somali Foundation, Inc. of Kansas City, Missouri, as the newest member of its refugee resettlement affiliate network.

The Somali Foundation is no stranger to working with refugees. Its founders, Farah Abdi, Ali Abdullahi, and Mohammed Hussein were themselves refugees from the Somali Civil War. The organization began serving the Somali community in 1999 and has served the wider immigrant and refugee community ever since. Resettlement is only the latest development in the organization's long history of meeting refugee and immigrant needs.

Farah Abdi has served as the Somali Foundation's Executive Director since 2004. He has been instrumental in obtaining the Department of State's approval for the resettlement program and establishing its services. Farah and his staff resettled its first refugee family on March 29, 2012.

Farah considers the addition of the resettlement program a significant contribution toward what the Somali Foundation already stands for in the community. Since two other agencies have been resettling refugees in the Kansas City area for years, he observes that it is particularly inspiring to see an organization that is itself founded and run by refugees and immigrants now providing these same services. Farah emphasizes how important it is for young people to

grow up witnessing the success of such organizations as the Somali Foundation, which demonstrates future opportunities available to both individuals and community-based organizations.

Since the work of gaining approval for the resettlement program began, partnerships with service providers and other community organizations have quickly expanded. Offering resettlement services



Farah Abdi

is a significant development that will further enhance the Somali Foundation's capacity to serve the community.

Indeed, the story of the Somali Foundation reflects the mission of ECDC. As one of the largest community-based organizations in the country, ECDC seeks to support and empower others to be leaders in their own communities. ECDC looks forward to a long partnership with the Somali Foundation as they work together to impact the lives of refugees and immigrants who will call the United States home.

Trends in Refugee Arrivals



Photo: Thierry Falise, IOM, 2007

In 2010, the U.S. government implemented the Inter-Agency Check (IAC) as a part of refugee resettlement processing. Due to security concerns in 2011, the government placed IAC holds on numerous cases. This affected primarily Iraqi and Somali refugees. As Iraqis comprise a significant portion of overall refugee arrivals, these holds markedly impacted arrivals to the U.S.

Between FY 2010 and FY 2011, the U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program experienced a 23 percent decline in refugee arrivals. Correspondingly, ECDC experienced a 21 percent decline in its affiliate network arrivals for the same time period. The impact of the holds continues in FY 2012. For this fiscal year, the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) approved ECDC to resettle 4,440 refugees. However, in the first two quarters, ECDC has resettled less than 25 percent of its PRM-approved numbers.

In FY 2010, the U.S. resettled 73,311 refugees and ECDC resettled 3,547. In FY 2012, the U.S. resettled 56,424 refugees of which ECDC resettled 2,801. As of April 10, 2012, the U.S. has resettled 22,929 refugees and ECDC resettled 1,215 refugees.

While IAC holds may eventually clear later this year, it may take some time for cases to actually arrive to the U.S., as they must also clear other security and medical checks that have since expired or will expire in the near future. Current arrival estimates for FY 2012 are between 50,000 to 60,000 refugees.

FY 2012 Refugee Arrivals by Region

As of March 31, 2012*

Region	Cases	Refugees	Percent of Total Arrivals
Africa	2,367	4,406	20%
East Asia	3,095	6,305	28%
Europe	203	586	3%
Latin America/Caribbean	375	813	4%
Near East/South Asia	4,725	9,726	45%
Total	10,765	21,836	100%

*Source: U.S. Department of State

Refugee Success Story...

From Congo to Colorado

After fleeing war in Eastern Congo (DRC), Nana Mwajuma spent 12 years at refugee camps in Tanzania and Mozambique and arrived in Denver on September 28, 2010.

"The day I left the camp to come to the United States, I was happy and sad at the same time to be leaving all of my family behind in Mozambique.



Nana Mwajuma

When I arrived here, I was happy. The day that I left the camp, it was not like when I left the war in Congo, when I was running. When we were coming from the camp to here, there were people to welcome us. There was a plan: they had an apartment ready, and they helped me get a job."

Nana works as a housekeeper at an airport hotel and is happy to have steady employment. She looks forward to a bright and promising future and aims to learn English and become an educator.

As she reflects on her past, she alludes to the vulnerability of those caught in conflict: "If someone calls me a refugee, it doesn't make me upset. For me, a refugee is someone who doesn't have peace, whether from the constant risk of being killed and buried because of war and insecurity, or from the lack of food. If someone doesn't have that peace, then they are a refugee."

FY 2012 African Refugee Admissions

As of March 31, 2012 • Ceiling for FY 2012 is 12,000

Country of Origin	Refugees	Country of Origin	Refugees
Burundi	60	Nigeria	2
Central African Republic	45	Rwanda	88
Chad	9	Sierra Leone	1
Congo	23	Somalia	2,088
Dem. Rep. Congo	783	South Africa	1
Eritrea	535	Sudan	382
Ethiopia	290	Tanzania	2
Gabon	1	Togo	8
Gambia	2	Uganda	14
Ivory Coast	27	Zimbabwe	1
Kenya	9	TOTAL	4,406
Liberia	35		

Source: U.S. Department of State, PRM

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