

Bush Returns from Trip Urging Continued Support for Africa

Returning from a six-day, five-nation tour of Africa in late February, President Bush asked Congress to double funding for his HIV/AIDS relief effort on the continent and urged presidential candidates of both parties to make con-

tinuing engagement with Africa an enduring priority of the United States.

Since taking office in 2001, the Bush administration has more than doubled U.S. development assistance from about \$10 billion in 2000 to \$23 billion in

2006, according to a report by *USINFO*, noting that the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) is now providing anti-retroviral drugs and other health services to more than 11.3 million Africans. When Bush visited the region in 2003, only 50,000 people were receiving medicine to treat HIV/AIDS, the report said.

Bush presented a slide-show report on his trip at the annual Leon H. Sullivan Foundation dinner in Washington, D.C. on February 26, defining initiatives in Africa as a "mission of mercy."

"This mission rarely makes headlines in the United States," he said. "But when you go to Africa, it is a visible part of daily life—and there's no doubt that our mission is succeeding. You see it when you hold a baby that would have died of malaria without America's support. You see it when you look into the eyes of an AIDS patient who has been brought back to life. You see it in the quiet pride of a child going to school for the first time. And you see that turning away from this life-changing work would be a cause for shame."

On the trip, President and Mrs. Bush visited Benin, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ghana, and Liberia. While in Tanzania, Bush announced an expansion of his administration's \$1.2 billion President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) with the distribution of more than 5.2 million mosquito nets—enough to protect every child in the country under age 5.

[Continued on page 2]

President and Mrs. Bush greet Ghanaian tribal chiefs during a visit to the International Trade Fair Center in Accra.

White House photo by Shealah Craighead



Calvin O. Butts Will Keynote ECDC Conference

Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III, pastor of the historic Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York City and president of the State University of New York College at Old Westbury, will deliver the keynote address for ECDC's 14th national conference on May 5 at the Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington, Virginia.

In addition to his pastoral duties at the church, Butts has played a major leadership role on a wide range of social and economic issues in New York, including homelessness, senior citizen and youth empowerment, cultural awareness and

ecumenical outreach. He was one of the founders of the Abyssinian Development Corporation in Harlem and helped establish the Thurgood Marshall Academy for Learning and Social Change. A graduate of Morehouse Col-

lege in Atlanta, he earned a Master of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Drew University.

The Abyssinian church was founded in 1808 by African Americans and Ethiopian merchants and sailors who rejected the segregation policies of white churches. Butts and his wife led an "Abyssinian Ethiopian Journey," including 160 members of the congregation, to Ethiopia last September, renewing the church's historic links to the African nation. He is a former president of Africare, a non-profit organization dedicated to the improvement of life in Africa, and is chairman of the board for the Harlem YMCA.

ECDC's conference May 5-7 will include plenary and workshop sessions addressing refugee protection and assistance efforts on the continent and provide informational and inspirational resources for service providers engaged in the nation's refugee resettlement program.



Dr. Calvin O. Butts

Inside This Issue

In My Opinion	2
Study Affirms IDA Values	3
Somali Wins 'Courage' Award	4
African Refugees in the News	5
News Briefs	6
USCIS Releases 'Toolkit'	7
Calendar/Resources	8

*In My Opinion...***A Tanzanian ‘Showcase’ for ‘72 Burundians?’**

Probably no group of African refugees humanizes more effectively the issues addressed in recent advocacy efforts to end the practice of “warehousing” than the so-called “1972 Burundians,” some of whom have been living in camps in western Tanzania for more than 30 years. They are survivors of what has been called “the first genocide in the Great Lakes region” of the continent, according to a backgrounder produced for refugee service providers by the Cultural Orientation Resource Center. An estimated 200,000 Burundians—principally of Hutu ethnicity—were killed during the Tutsi government’s campaign of violence and terror in 1972, with another 150,000 fleeing to nearby countries—principally Tanzania. Thousands more fled Burundi in succeeding years amid other spasms of ethnic conflict. Similar flows from other conflicts have created similar problems for many

other host countries, eroding what has long been heralded as a generous and compassionate traditional response to such crises by African nations.

Having been denied access to what UNHCR defines as the two most-favored durable solutions—repatriation to their homelands or integration in countries of first asylum—the United States is engaged in providing the third “durable” solution—resettlement to a third country—to some 9,000 of the ‘72 Burundians. That solution, of course, will always be available only to a few of the world’s refugees, making the new initiatives described in the article on page 7 so encouraging. For the commitments made in Dar es Salaam by High Commissioner Antonio Guterres and Tanzanian President Ja-



Tsehaye Teferra, Ph.D.

kaya Kikwete to become the “showcase” envisioned for other protracted refugee situations, everyone involved in refugee affairs must abandon what Merrill Smith, editor of the World Refugee Survey, has described as “a de facto fourth and all-too-durable solution:” refugee warehousing.

“Briefly put,” Smith wrote in his introduction to the 2004 edition of the Survey, titled “Warehousing Refugees: A Denial of Rights, a Waste of Humanity,” “condemning people who fled persecution to stagnate in confinement for much of the remainder of their lives is unnecessary, wasteful, hypocritical, counter productive, unlawful, and morally unacceptable.”

Achieving the “showcase” will also require a vastly expanded recognition and acceptance of the principles affirmed in Dar es Salaam regarding the burdens and challenges facing host countries, an issue addressed in a 2001 paper by Karen Jacobsen, then with the Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy at Tufts University. Titled “The Forgotten Solution: Local Integration for Refugees in Developing Countries,” the paper explored “an approach to protracted situations that addresses the human security needs of both refugees and the host country.

“As an alternative to camps and the warehousing model,” she argued, “the old and neglected durable solution of local integration can and should be revitalized, with modifications that will make it more acceptable to host governments.”

Required, too, for the “showcase” to become reality will be a continuing and expanded response by donor nations to fund the initiatives. In announcing the agreements in Dar es Salaam, UNHCR noted that it had launched an appeal in late February for \$34 million to help pay for both the repatriation of those Burundians who choose to return and to aid the naturalization and local integration of those who will be granted citizenship. So far, pledges totaling only \$9 million have been received.

Achieving the “showcase” goal through local integration is far more desirable than “warehousing.”

President Bush Returns From Africa Trip Seeking Additional Funding Aid

[Continued from page 1]

In Zanzibar, PMI has helped shrink malaria infection among infants from 20 percent to less than 1 percent. While in Ghana, Bush also announced a \$350 million initiative to target other, more neglected tropical diseases, such as river blindness and hookworm.

In Benin, Bush said, \$307 million in supplementary aid from the U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) is alleviating poverty and saving lives through improvements to the port of Cotonou, extending microcredit loans to small businesses and enabling the government to pursue judicial and land reforms.

“We’re treating African leaders as equal partners,” Bush said. “We expect them to produce measurable results. We expect them to fight corruption and invest in the health and education of their people and pursue market-based economic policies.”

Bush concluded a \$698 million MCC agreement with Tanzania, a bilateral investment agreement with Rwanda, and attended a USAID-sponsored trade fair in Ghana featuring companies benefiting from U.S. market access under the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

In Benin, Ghana and Liberia, President Bush and First Lady Laura Bush visited schools that have received scholarships, school supplies, textbooks, even entire libraries through the administration’s Africa Education Initiative, as well as ongoing support from the U.S. Agency for International Development.

“Laura and I are going to carry many fond memories from our trips to Africa,” Bush said as he concluded his presentation at the Sullivan Foundation dinner. “We will carry this clear conviction: with the continued support of America, the people of Africa can do more than survive. The people of Africa can succeed.”

At a press conference conducted on February 28, he commended a House committee for acting on his PEPFAR funding request, again urging approval by both houses of Congress.

“I’d like to sign it into law as quickly as possible,” he said.

New Study Affirms Role of IDAs in Aiding Self-Sufficiency

Participants in the federal Assets for Independence (AFI) program are successfully using Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) to acquire assets and become more economically self-sufficient, according to a two-part report issued in early March by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF).

Among the more than 53,000 families who have participated at more than 1,200 sites nationwide, 35 percent are more likely to become homeowners, 84 percent more likely to become business owners and nearly twice as likely to pursue post-secondary education or training, the study concluded.

To date, participants have saved more than \$38 million in their IDAs, and more than 14,500 have used their savings to purchase any of the three allowed long-term economic assets.

ECDC's Enterprise Development Group (EDG) is one of the participating agencies, having used a grant from ACF/ORR to aid refugees, and funding from other sources to help other low-income people in the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area. Two ECDC affiliates—the

Alliance for Multicultural Community Services (AMCS) in Houston, and the Alliance for African Assistance (AAA) in San Diego also offer IDAs.

Through grants from the Office of Refugee Resettlement and contributions from state and local governments, financial institutions and the philanthropic community, participating nonprofit organizations match savings up to \$2,000 to single clients, \$4,000 to heads of households for the purchase of such approved assets as a car, a home or to invest in job training or advanced education.

"We are promoting savings while bettering the life of the individual and their family," said Josephine Robinson, Director of the Office of Community Services. "By redefining participants' views and approaches to personal finances, we are enabling them to make positive changes that may help them achieve financial independence and security."

Such benefits extend beyond the individual participants, says the Corporation for Enterprise Development. In its publication *Building Assets for Stronger Families*,

Better Neighborhoods and Realizing the American Dream, CED credits Washington University Professor Michael Sherraden as a principal author of the IDA concept, citing his thesis that owning something has more than economic benefits.

"People saving for their future tend to take better care of what they have," Sherraden says. "They put more effort into maintaining their homes and neighborhoods, and they participate more in the community. They think more about their children's future. They are more politically active. People with a stake in a society will act like citizens."

ACF is accepting applications for grants to support new IDA projects through the Assets for Independence program, the report noted.

For more information about the AFI program and the evaluation report, visit: www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/afi/. Information about the EDG program is available at www.entdev.group.org; from AMCS at www.allianceontheweb.org; and from AAA at www.alliance-for-africa.org.

Chicago Bulls Star Luol Deng Pledges Scoring Support for Refugee Youth

UNHCR's campaign to bring education to millions of displaced children was center stage—make that center court—in mid-February as Chicago Bulls forward Luol Deng pledged to donate \$50 to nine-million.org for every basket he scores this season.

The British basketball star's donation will help provide education and schools for children in South Sudan, where Deng was born and from where he and his family fled civil war 20 years ago.

Bulls' vice-president of business operations, Steve Schanwald, "tipped-off" the team's fund-raising efforts by presenting a check for \$10,000 to UNHCR's Greg Millar, who was accompanied by a group of children from South Sudan.

"The donation from the Chicago Bulls is a great way to begin Luol's campaign to help provide education, sport and water for refugee children in southern Sudan," said Millar, UNHCR's regional private sector fund-raising officer.

"I thank the Bulls and Luol on behalf

of these children and hope many supporters will join the nine-million.org campaign. Every basket that Luol scores will make a difference in the lives of these children," he added.

The contribution from CharitaBulls, the Chicago Bulls' non-profit organization, will go toward building and equipping a classroom in a school, which Deng is building in South Sudan.

Deng was only three years old when his family fled Sudan's growing civil war for Egypt. It was there, he said, that he first picked up a basketball. Several years later, the family was granted political asylum in the United Kingdom and moved to London. Deng played in a local basketball league and his skills soon brought him to the attention of an American scout.

Speaking ahead of a game with the Miami Heat, Deng called on others to join him in supporting the nine-million.org campaign. "Twenty years of war in South Sudan has destroyed so much.

But today thousands of people are returning to their homes and communities. Now is the time to help."

Ninemillion.org is committed to giving refugee youth the chance to learn and play, recognizing that education and sport can improve their lives. The campaign is focused on all aspects of a child's educational needs, including school supplies, teacher salaries, recreational programs, nutrition and transportation.



Luol Deng

At State Department Ceremony...

Young Somali Refugee Receives ‘Women of Courage’ Award

A 25-year-old Somali refugee who works on gender issues in the Dadaab camp in Kenya, was among eight recipients of the 2008 International Women of Courage Awards presented at a ceremony on March 10 at the Department of State.

Farhiyo Ibrahim Farah was honored for her courageous efforts to end forced marriages and female genital mutilation; improve treatment for rape victims; and to provide better education for Somali girls in her highly conservative and patriarchal society. She was the only African winner among this year’s honorees.

The award program was established last year by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to recognize women around the globe who have shown exceptional courage and leadership in promoting women’s rights and advancement. The other women, from Fiji, Kosovo, the Palestinian Authority, Pakistan, Paraguay, Iraq and Afghanistan, were selected from 93 nominees submitted by U.S. embassies worldwide.

Farah has faced strong opposition from members of her community to her promotion of female rights in Dadaab, a camp well known to many African refugees who have been resettled in America in recent years. Located in the arid northeast section of Kenya close to the border with Somalia, Dadaab houses some 170,000 mainly Somali refugees, according to a report on her work by UNHCR.

“Dadaab’s isolation means exposure to the outside world is



Farhiyo Ibrahim Farah

extremely limited and life in the camps is especially harsh for women, who have traditionally played a subordinate role to men in conservative Somali society,” the report says. “But Farah doggedly carries on with her advocacy in the face of ostracism, buoyed, she said, by the dictum: “Whatever happens in life, one has to survive and life has to continue.”

She believes that her community should be supporting—rather than stigmatizing—rape victims, single mothers, divorcees and widows. “Once a girl has a child out of wedlock the mother is hated by her parents, rejected by the community and thrown out of the house,” Farah noted.

Due to travel restrictions imposed on refugees by the Kenyan government,

Dadaab is the only world Farah knows. This makes her views on female empowerment all the more remarkable.

“Women have no say in decision-making, but I want to break the silence. I don’t want the rights of girls to be dominated,” said Farah, who in 2005 attended an emerging leadership program in the western Kenyan town of Naivasha. It was the first time she had been allowed out of the camps.

Farah says she developed her ideas on female empowerment and the rights of women after her mother sent her to primary school in Dadaab, despite ridicule and criticism from members of the community. At the time boys outnumbered girls by 50 to one in the camp schools.

She skipped secondary school so that she could work for the international non-governmental organization, CARE. Farah says people abused her and threw stones when she disseminated information about reproductive health. “I didn’t care because I knew I had an important message for the community,” she said.

But her most dangerous role has been as a campaigner for the elimination of female genital mutilation, which is widely practiced in Somalia and other parts of Africa despite the grave health risks. Farah convinced her mother to spare her youngest sister the same pain and trauma that she herself underwent. Uncircumcised girls in the camps are targeted by the community.

Stephen Gacuchi, who worked closely with Farah at CARE, said he was impressed by her ability “to balance so many public roles, embrace causes and fight cultural battles, while also working as a social worker, peacemaker and counselor.” He added that she deserved the courage award “for being such a beacon of hope for Dadaab youth, Muslim girls and women.”

Farah believes the recognition from the State Department will help her cause. “This is a good start to my mission and for African women, particularly refugee women and girls. I have a lot to share with the world,” she said

In Memoriam

With sadness at news of her death on March 15, we gratefully acknowledge the enormous contributions Julia Taft made to the nation’s refugee programs and to victims of disasters and crises around the world. In her many leadership roles



Julia Taft
1942 — 2008

at the Department of State, Health and Human Services, AID and the United Nations, she demonstrated levels of compassion and commitment that remain a priceless legacy to all who had the privilege of knowing her and working with her. We have lost a rare and valued friend.

Tsehaye Teferra
President, ECDC

ACC Denver's African Extravaganza Celebrates Culture, Honors Refugees



Master Drummers of the Pan-Africa Group entertained several hundred guests at Denver event. Photo courtesy Neil Parker

A lively celebration of African food and culture is how ECDC's branch office in Denver described events conducted in late February at the Driscoll Student Center at the University of Denver. Featuring entertainment by the Pan-African Dance Group of Boulder, an African Market displaying jewelry, handcrafts and textiles from the continent and a photo exhibit titled "Faces of Refugees," the African Extravaganza was co-sponsored by the African Community Center and the University's International Student Organization. The photo exhibit included a "Voices of Refugees" component in which refugees from Sudan, Somalia, Burma and Iraq, who have been resettled in the Denver area, described their "remarkable stories of fear, courage and triumph." Photos taken by Barbara Vogel documented the experiences of refugees in Southern Sudan and Darfur, according to a report in the Denver Post by Daniel Smith.

African Refugees, Immigrants In the News...

Local Newspapers Report on Resettlement Trends, Support Efforts

"From modest beginnings in the 1960s, Nashville has grown into a top U.S. resettlement site for refugees," according to an article by Janell Ross, in the February 17 issue of the Nashville Tennessean. "It's the 33rd-most-frequent location out of about 200 cities measured in a study by the independent Brookings Institution."

Noting that more than 10,000 refugees have been resettled in the Nashville area since 1997, the report on a study by Audrey Singer of the Brookings Institution says that steady job growth and large stocks of affordable housing have made the area an attractive initial destination for refugee newcomers.

"Nashville is already home to an estimated 3,000 Somalis, 4,000 Sudanese and 5,000 to 7,000 Kurds," says the article, headlined: "Nashville may get new wave of refugees." It is available at: www.tennessean.com.

"Refugees find relocation help in Worcester," is the headline on a February 28 article in the Worcester Telegram describing the work of Mariam Gas and her staff at the Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center, an affiliate of ECDC.

"For refugees, adjusting to life in the United States goes beyond the difficult tasks of learning English, enrolling children in school and finding a job," says the article by Ashley Bishop. "Gaining an

understanding of the culture is often the most challenging aspect of resettlement, especially for those who move to Worcester from war-torn nations such as Iraq, Congo and Sierra Leone.

"As a result, the Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center, in a modest, 300-square-foot space in the Worcester Building at 340 Main St., is constantly struggling to help those with questions about all aspects of American life,"

The agency helped 100 refugees find housing and jobs in Worcester last year, Bishop reported, most from Somalia, Burundi and Burma. The article was

prompted by a visit to local refugee service providers by Richard Chacon, Director of the Massachusetts Office of Refugees and Immigration.

"From Sudan to Grand Island" is the headline on an article in the Grand Island Independent on February 1 by Tracy Overstreet, reporting on a panel discussion featuring four Sudanese refugees describing their experiences in refugee camps and in adjusting to a new life in Nebraska. It was hosted by the Grand Island Multicultural Coalition at Trinity United Methodist Church. The article is available at: www.theindependent.com.

DHS Extends TPS for Somalis Living in U.S.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has extended Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for nationals of Somalia for 18 months, allowing those who have already been granted such status to live and work in the United States through September 17, 2009. DHS also automatically extended the validity of Employment Authorization Documents (EAD) held by eligible Somalis for an additional six months from March 17, 2008, through September 17, 2008. This will allow sufficient time for eligible TPS beneficiaries to receive their new EAD without any lapse in employment. The extension of TPS for Somalia became effective on March 17, 2008, and will remain in effect through September 17, 2009. Nationals of Somalia who have been granted TPS must re-register for the 18-month extension during the 60-day re-registration period beginning March 12, 2008, and remaining in effect until May 12, 2008. More information is available from the USCIS National Customer Service Center toll-free number: 1-800-375-5283. TPS forms are available from the toll-free USCIS Forms line, 1-800-870-3676, or from the USCIS Web site at: www.uscis.gov.

NEWS BRIEFS

Surge in Citizenship Bids Extends Backlog at USCIS

A dramatic surge in naturalized citizenship applications last summer has created a processing backlog that will take almost three years for USCIS to clear, according to a report from the Migration Policy Institute (MPI).

The agency received 737,223 applications during May, June, and July 2007, a total of three-and-a-half times the number of applications received during the same period a year earlier, MPI reported, citing what it called previously unpublished figures obtained from USCIS.

As of October 2007, USCIS had almost 1 million applications pending approval. The surge caused the processing time to more than double, now standing at 16 to 18 months for applications filed during the summer of 2007.

The increase coincided with the agency's January 2007 announcement of a rise in the fee for adult naturalization (N-400) applications from \$330 to \$595 beginning July 30, 2007. Officials attribute the application increase to several other factors as well, including citizenship campaigns launched across the country, the charged political climate of the immigration debate, and the 2008 presidential elections.

Gerald Brown Named Head Of Utah Refugee Office

Gerald Brown, a former director of refugee services for the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, has been named director of a newly-created Refugee Services Office in Salt Lake City, Utah. Based in the state's Department of Workforce Services (DWS) headed by Kristen Cox, the office was established last November "to provide service coordination, accountability, advocacy and resource development for essential services to refugees in the State of Utah."

Brown has more than 25 years of professional experience working with refugees at the local, national and international levels, according to a DWS news release, including recent consultative work as a technical assistance provider to organizations receiving grants from the

Office of Refugee Resettlement..

UNHCR Resumes Assisted Return Effort in Ethiopia

UNHCR resumed its assisted return program for Sudanese refugees in western Ethiopia in mid-February as a convoy carrying 605 people left Bonga camp for South Sudan's Blue Nile state via the border crossing of Kurmuk.

It was the first Sudanese repatriation convoy from western Ethiopia since December 29. That convoy came two weeks after UNHCR resumed its return operations, which had been suspended for six months because of the rainy season. The refugee agency had planned to run another convoy in January, but this was delayed due to bureaucratic problems. UNHCR hopes to close Bonga and Dimma camps in April, leaving only two camps in the area.

Somali Refugees Struggle To Survive, ICRC Reports

Large numbers of families displaced by violence in Somalia are surviving on less than one meal a day and spending large proportions of their meager income buying drinking water, according to a March 11 report from Nairobi by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

An ICRC assessment team reported that shortages of food and water had

become life-threatening in the regions of Mudug, Galgadud, Nugaal and Bakool, among others.

Voicing concern over the worsening humanitarian situation in the country, the ICRC said while the media's attention had been riveted on other crises in Africa recently, the protracted armed conflict in Somalia had intensified, not only in Mogadishu but in other parts of the country.

Human Rights Leaders Urge Muslim Action in Darfur

Human rights advocates and religious leaders used a conference in the Senegalese capital Dakar to tell leaders of predominantly Muslim countries they are failing the people of Darfur, according to an early-March report from IRIN.

"It is the OIC's (Organization of Islamic Conference) responsibility to say 'enough is enough' and to put pressure on the government of Sudan to end the killing in Darfur," Amir Osman, international advocacy director for the Washington-based group Save Darfur, told IRIN.

Leaders of more than 60 Islamic non-governmental organizations urged the OIC to play a greater role in providing humanitarian assistance to Islamic countries. In what organizers called the first conference of its kind, the OIC pledged to create a center to analyze humanitarian needs in OIC countries. It also said it would establish more formal links with NGOs.

FY 2008 African Refugee Admissions

As of March 31, 2008 • Ceiling for FY 2008 is 16,000

Country of Origin	Refugees	Country of Origin	Refugees
Burundi	2,081	Mauritania	20
Cameroon	2	Niger	1
Congo	36	Nigeria	5
Dem. Rep. Congo	164	Rwanda	19
Eritrea	59	Sierra Leone	38
Ethiopia	180	Somalia	904
Gambia	2	Sudan	221
Guinea	2	Togo	24
Ivory Coast	21	Uganda	15
Liberia	821	TOTAL	4,552

Source: U.S. Department of State, PRM

UNHCR Launches New Effort to Serve ‘1972 Burundians’

As the U.S. refugee resettlement program continues to accommodate over the next several months another 4,000 to 5,000 of the “1972 Burundians,” renewed efforts are underway to meet the needs of several thousand more through



António Guterres meets Burundian refugees in Ulyankulu settlement.
UNHCR photo by E. Wolfcarius

durable solutions of voluntary repatriation and local integration.

In a March 11 meeting in Dar es Salaam, UNHCR António Guterres and Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete launched a two-year program to help end what is widely-recognized as one of the world’s most protracted refugee situations, involving some 218,000 Burundians who have been living in three settlements in western Tanzania for more than 30 years

“It is the moment for the international community to show solidarity with the government and people of Tanzania to solve the long-standing problem of Burundian refugees from 1972,” the High Commissioner said in Katumba before sending off a first group of 255 refugees, who were heading by train to the port of Kigoma and

then by road to Burundi.

He added that the program, especially its local integration component, could become a “showcase” for other nations faced with protracted refugee situations.

In a report for UNHCR from Dar es Salaam, Eveline Wolfcarius and Millicent Mutuli described the initiative as “one of UNHCR’s most important operations in Africa this year.” They said that more than 46,000 Burundian are expected to return to their homeland and 172,000 to achieve local integration.

The latter will include an estimated 76,000 over 18 years of age and eligible to register and apply for citizenship in accordance with Tanzanian laws, rules and procedures.

Among those being repatriated was Sophia Habonimana, 49, who said she had no relatives in Burundi, “but I am going back because I know the authorities there will help me when I arrive.” Habonimana arrived in Tanzania as a 13-year-old orphan and left as a widow and mother of eight.

Representative of those choosing local integration was Gabriel Baramizigiya, a father of 12 who plans to apply for citizenship.

“I like Tanzania. I will ask to remain here because I can farm,” he said.

USCIS’ Citizenship Toolkit Available to Groups

USCIS announced in mid-February that it is offering free copies of the Civics and Citizenship Toolkit to organizations that serve, or that are interested in serving, immigrants. The Toolkit includes immigration and civics publications, handbooks, multimedia tools and guidance on how to use these products to help legal permanent residents integrate into their local communities and American society.

Adult educators and volunteers who work with immigrants may use the publications, videos and curriculum in the Toolkit to teach American history, civics and citizenship in a classroom setting. Immigrants may also use the Toolkit as a self-study resource to learn more about the United States and prepare for the naturalization process.

More than 4,000 public libraries have already added the Toolkit to their collections, according to a USCIS press release. Recognizing that the Toolkit can be equally useful to other community and faith-based organizations, local government agencies, community colleges, schools and other groups that work with immigrants, USCIS has expanded registration to all immigrant-serving organizations in the United States.

Registration for the free copy is lim-

ited to organizations that serve or plan to serve immigrants only. Because there are limited copies, organizations must reserve their copy on a first-come, first served basis through the web at: <http://www.citizenshiptoolkit.gov>. Additional copies are available for purchase through the Government Printing Office.

African Refugee NETWORK

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CALENDAR

April 15-16 — Refugee Works will conduct an employment training institute at Catholic Charities of Fort Worth, Texas. Others are scheduled June 17-18 in Indianapolis, and for August 19-20 in Manchester, New Hampshire. For information, visit:

www.refugeeworks.org/about/calendar.html.

May 5-7 — ECDC's 14th National Conference on African Refugees and Immigrants will be held at the Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington, Virginia. For information, visit:

www.ecdcinternational.org.

May 6 — *Voices of Courage* is the theme of the 2008 awards luncheon to benefit the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children at noon at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in New York City. For information, visit:

www.womenscommission.org.

May 27-31 — *Community Health: Delivering, Serving, Engaging, Leading* is the theme for the 2008 International Conference on Global Health in Washington, D.C. For information, visit:

www.globalhealth.org/conference.

May 28-29 — The Office of Refugee Resettlement will host its annual national consultation at the Hyatt Regency in Crystal City in Arlington, VA. This year's theme is *Consultation, Coordination, and Collaboration*. The consultation will play a key role in increasing coordination and communication between Federal, State, and non-profit partners on refugee issues.

July 28-31 — The 2008 National Migration Conference co-sponsored by CLINIC and USCCB will be held at the Hilton Washington Hotel in Washington, D.C. For information visit:

www.cliniclegal.org.

RESOURCES

The Language Portal is a new digital library of nearly 600 resources relating to the use of language access services in social services and public safety agencies. Established by the Migration Policy Institute's Data Hub with support from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Portal provides "one-stop shopping" for local government administrators, policymakers, and others who are looking for ways to provide high-quality and cost-effective translation and interpretation services. For information, visit: www.migrationinformation.org/integration/language_portal.

Strategies for Naturalizing the Most Vulnerable Applicants is a new handbook from the Catholic Legal Immigrant Network (CLINIC), containing approximately 30 links to various references and resources such as USCIS policy guidance and sample letters. It is available at: www.cliniclegal.org.