

Proposed Refugee Admissions for FY 2010 Remain at 80,000

While processing of Priority 3 family reunification cases remains suspended pending development of improved security and integrity procedures, the proposed U.S. Refugee Admissions Program for 2010 (USRAP) increases the ceiling for the African region by 3,500 slots for an overall target of 15,500.

In its annual Report to Congress released on September 17, USRAP main-

tains the overall ceiling of 80,000 that has been in effect over the past two years, with only modest adjustments among regions as shown in the chart on page 4.

Most of the anticipated arrivals—12-13,000—will come from East and Southern Africa, primarily Somalis in Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and South Africa, according to an analysis by the State

Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM).

Also included will be continued resettlement of Eritreans from the Shimelba Camp in Ethiopia and additional P-1 referrals of Congolese and Burundians in Tanzania and Zambia and possibly Rwanda.

From West and Central Africa, PRM expects about 2,000 admissions to be processed in Chad, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Gabon and Ghana. Outside of Sub-Saharan Africa, small numbers of African refugees are expected to be processed in Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

Responding to what the report described as "compelling indications of systemic fraud in the P-3 family reunification program" revealed through pilot DNA testing, processing of such cases was halted in the African region in March 2008, with a moratorium imposed on acceptance of Affidavits of Relationship (AORs) of all nationalities in October. Since that time, PRM, DHS/USCIS have been exploring ways to safeguard the security of the program.

"Revisions to the P-3 program and AOR were still under review in the final

'Arc of Crisis' Confronts Refugees In Africa, Asia Says Guterres at Start of Annual ExCom Meeting

Opening the 60th session of UNHCR's governing Executive Committee (ExCom) in Geneva on September 28, High Commissioner António Guterres said that providing humanitarian relief in an environment where the line separating the civilian from the military has become blurred is both "difficult and dangerous."

Recounting the deadly toll inflicted on UNHCR in Pakistan earlier this year, where over a six-month period three staff members were killed and one kidnapped and subsequently released, Guterres said the targeting of humanitarian workers "undermines not only the operations in question, but the very foundations of humanitarian action."

While the shrinking humanitarian space represents one of the greatest challenges the UNHCR faces, said Guterres, actions taken by some countries to limit access to their territories by asylum-seekers was effectively shrinking the "asylum space" in the developed world.

Guterres said practices by some countries to deny access to asylum procedures were not in keeping with international law, while other states had such low recognition rates for asylum-seekers as to render that access "meaningless."

Describing "an arc of crisis" stretching from southwest Asia to the Great Lakes of Africa, Guterres said two thirds of the

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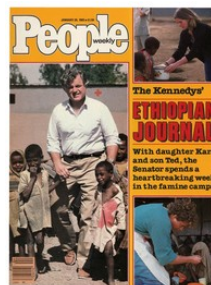
UNHCR Honors Senator Kennedy With 2009 Nansen Refugee Award

In recognition of his achievements as "an unparalleled champion of refugee protection and assistance for more than 45 years," Senator Edward Kennedy was announced in mid-September as the recipient of the 2009 Nansen Refugee Award "UNHCR is grateful it was able to inform Senator Kennedy of the Nansen Committee's decision in June," the announcement said, "and is deeply saddened by his passing." Kennedy died on August 25. The posthumous award ceremony is scheduled for October 28 in Washington, D.C.

Senator Kennedy's work in establishing the U.S. refugee admissions, resettlement,

and asylum programs directly helped millions of persecuted individuals to find protection and start new lives in the United States. He was the chief sponsor of more than 70 refugee related measures and was instrumental in codi-

People Magazine documented Sen. Kennedy's visit to famine-ravaged Ethiopia and Sudan in 1985.



fying international refugee obligations into law, UNHCR said.

In announcing the award, U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres said: "Senator Kennedy stood out as a forceful advocate for those who suddenly found themselves with no voice and no rights. Year after year, conflict after conflict, he put the plight of refugees on the agenda and drove through policies that saved and shaped countless lives."

Here's how a UNHCR press release described Kennedy's contributions:

"From his election in 1962, Senator Kennedy adopted a comprehensive ap-

[Continued on page 2]

*In My Opinion...****Senator Kennedy's Legacy of Compassion***

Like so many of his friends and admirers around the world who felt a deep sense of personal grief and loss at the death of Senator Ted Kennedy, I observed the outpouring of tributes and eulogies with renewed appreciation for his enormous contributions to public affairs and with a new awareness and gratitude for the consistency of his compassions. Everyone engaged in refugee and immigrant affairs knew about his leadership role in making America's promise real for millions of newcomers. In my own note of condolence and tribute to his family, I cited his leadership in passing refugee, asylum and immigration laws that preserved and extended the nation's heritage of welcome and hospitality.

Whenever and wherever violations of human rights surfaced, Senator Kennedy was the most powerful and effective voice urging action and aid. Though silent now, that voice will echo through future generations and his legacy of compassion, dedication and public service will long endure.

Senator Kennedy's sympathy was received by constituents through personal phone calls upon experiencing hardship, suffering or loss; by war victims receiving treatment at Walter Reed and other trauma centers; by children in impoverished neighborhoods receiving encouragement and inspiration as he read books and challenged them to achieve their full potential; by family members who depended on his strength and courage through so many shared tragedies. His unflinching principles lead his vigorous challenges to his political foes in the Senate chamber during the day and welcomed warmly to his home for friendly dinner



Tsehaye Teferra, Ph.D.

table discussions at night.

Citing the consistency of his father's compassion and commitments while acknowledging the presence of so many "friendly foes" present at the funeral, Ted Kennedy, Jr. recalled the Senator's counsel: "He told me that we should always be ready to compromise, but never compromise your principles."

The Christian Science Monitor noted the Senator's principles by saying: "Senator Kennedy's tactics varied and coalition partners shifted during his 47 years in the Senate, but the core principle he defended never varied: The U.S. is a nation of immigrants." Chronicling his impressive record of support for that principle, Daily Kos writer Dana Houle in her article titled *Ted Kennedy's Greatest Achievement. He Created Americans*, said that few accomplishments have had a more profound effect on America as the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965, the first legislative act he managed to passage.

As true as that may have been for immigrants, for African refugees his authorship of the Refugee Act of 1980 was even more impactful, allowing their participation for the first time in the resettlement program. For Ethiopians, his leadership and compassion were evident when he sponsored an extension of temporary protected status for those who had escaped the military junta in the early 1970s and were threatened with forced expatriation, and when he led humanitarian efforts during the terrible Ethiopian famine in the mid-1980s.

For those who were around when Senator Robert Kennedy was assassinated in 1968, the tributes surely brought to mind the memorable eulogy the then young Ted Kennedy delivered on behalf of his brother: "My brother need not be idealized, or enlarged in death beyond what he was in life; to be remembered simply as a good and decent man, who saw wrong and tried to right it, saw suffering and tried to heal it, saw war and tried to stop it." A legacy lived and shared by Senator Ted Kennedy.

Annual Nansen Award Honors Ted Kennedy

[Continued from page 1]

proach in his fight for refugee protection. He effectively utilized his influence in the United States Congress to advance refugee and asylum-related legislation and to raise awareness of refugee crises, the announcement said.

"Senator Kennedy met with governments at the highest levels, encouraging them to welcome refugees seeking protection in their territories. His work helped to raise public awareness of the challenges refugees face around the world. He also regularly met with refugees themselves, visiting refugee settings around the globe as well as in local communities. Throughout, he demonstrated a level of compassion and empathy for individual refugees and their communities unrivalled in the U.S. Congress.

"Senator Kennedy's interest in refugee protection did not stop at the U.S. border. He was the voice and the hope of persecuted and uprooted individuals worldwide. He brought attention to refugee crises in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and Latin America. Most recently, he played a critical role in drawing attention to the needs of Iraqi refugees."

The Nansen Refugee Award is given annually to an individual or organization for outstanding work on behalf of refugees. It consists of a commemorative medal and a \$100,000 monetary prize donated by the governments of Switzerland and Norway.

The monetary prize that accompanies the Nansen Award is intended to enable the recipient to pursue refugee assistance projects drawn up in consultation with UNHCR. To date, so-called Nansen Fund projects have benefited refugees in Cambodia, Botswana and Venezuela.

They have contributed toward the setting up of a special ward for refugee children in Pakistan, the building of schools at Katumba in Tanzania, and income-generation projects for people displaced by landmines in southern Lebanon. More than 60 individuals, groups or organizations have won the Nansen Refugee Award since Eleanor Roosevelt became the first winner in 1954.

'World Humanitarian Day' Honors Victims of Tragedies

Acknowledging that the inaugural commemoration of World Humanitarian Day on August 19 had deep personal meaning to him, Eric Schwartz, Assistant Secretary for Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) pledged continued efforts to maintain and expand America's historic support for refugees and other vulnerable populations.

"Some 42 million people around the



Eric P. Schwartz
Assistant Secretary of State, PRM

world have been uprooted by conflict and persecution," Schwartz said in a press briefing summarizing current issues embraced in the day of commemoration, "16 million of whom are refugees outside of their countries," and that number has probably increased by about 25 percent over the past seven or eight years. It also includes about 26 million internally displaced people."

The event commemorates the specific day in 2003 when the United Nations office in Iraq was bombed, killing 22 people including Sergio Vieira de Mello, a UNHCR veteran who was U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights and a Special Representative to the Secretary General at the time. Secretary Schwartz had assumed duties as Chief of Staff to Vieira de Mello shortly before the bombing and knew most of the other casualties. Schwartz described Vieira de Mello as "one of our generation's great humanitarians."

In addition to memorializing humanitarian workers killed in pursuit of their missions, the day also honors individuals and organizations engaged in providing international relief and humanitarian assistance.

Among those served by such workers are an estimated 235,000 people killed

last year in natural disasters, which impacted some 214 million others and created economic costs of \$190 billion, Schwartz said.

Describing as "remarkable" the consistent and generous support by the American people and Congress for high levels of humanitarian assistance, Schwartz said it is based on moral and policy imperatives and is vital in achieving the nation's goal of "promoting conditions of reconciliation, security and well-being in circumstances where despair, desperation and misery not only impact prospects for stability, but also can dramatically affect the interests of the United States."

As the end of the current fiscal year approached, Secretary Schwartz said in a later briefing on September 24 that the U.S. government's contributions to the United Nations and other international organizations this year would exceed \$3 billion, including some \$641 million to UNHCR.

Observing the day in Geneva, UNHCR António Guterres and staff assembled just hours after a bomb blast in Afghanistan killed two more U.N. employees who were engaged in helping to rebuild the country.

Speaking at the headquarters ceremony after observing a minute of silence, Guterres said the agency was acting to improve security for staff but noted that the danger for humanitarian workers was increasing.

"Humanitarian action is now sometimes not a source of protection, but a reason to be targeted," said Guterres, who spoke on the same subject at a later event in Geneva's Parc des Bastions organized by OCHA and the Sergio Vieira de Mello Foundation.

"It is important to raise the attention of the international community not only to commemorate and remember our colleagues but to make the international community assume its responsibilities for these situations."

Last year 260 humanitarian aid workers were killed, kidnapped or seriously injured in attacks, the highest yearly toll on record. The average number of attacks in the last three years has been three times the level of the previous nine years.

Resettlement Becomes More Vital as Options Diminish

[Continued from page 1]

world's refugees and three quarters of the 14.5 million internally displaced people assisted by UNHCR in 2008 resided in the area. In addition, nearly all significant internal displacement in 2009 had occurred there, notably in Pakistan, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

While some 600,000 refugees voluntarily repatriated last year, this represented a 17 percent decrease over the previous year and was the second lowest return figure in the past 15 years.

"Massive repatriation movements are decelerating as the situations in Afghanistan, southern Sudan, DRC and elsewhere are less and less conducive to return and reintegration," Guterres told delegates.

With opportunities for repatriation and local integration declining, the de-

mand for resettlement places is on the increase. Last year, UNHCR submitted more than 121,000 refugees for resettlement, twice as many as were put forward in 2006.

"While this represents just over 1 percent of the total number of refugees in the world," said Guterres, "it is already a larger number of refugees than there are places available." The importance of resettlement as a durable solution will only increase, he said.

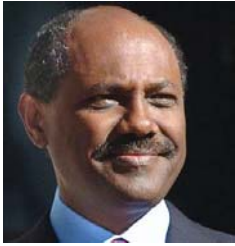
Contributing to the growing refugee crises, Guterres said, are such interconnected issues as population growth, urbanization, global warming, food, water and energy insecurity and migration.

The week-long annual meeting reviews and approves UNHCR's programs and budget, advises on protection issues and discusses a wide range of other topics.

Ethiopian Immigrant Nominated to Head Development Effort

Daniel W. Yohannes, an Ethiopian immigrant who came to the United States at 17 years of age with \$150 and high ambition, has been nominated by President Obama to head the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), a U. S. initiative dedicated to reducing global poverty through the promotion of sustainable economic growth.

Currently President and CEO of M&R Investments, LLC, a privately-held investment firm specializing in real estate, financial institutions and the green energy sector, Yohannes previously served as Vice Chairman of U.S. Bank for the Commercial Banking Group, and as Head of Integration for Community and Public Affairs. In this role, his responsibilities included leading the integration of U.S. Bank and Firststar, which resulted in the 6th largest bank in the country.



From 1992 to 1999, Yohannes was President and CEO of U.S. Bank (formerly Colorado National Bank), where he grew the Colorado franchise from \$2 billion to \$9 billion in assets.

From 1977 to 1992, he worked at Security Pacific Bank where he held a number of leadership roles.

Yohannes is on the Board of the National Jewish Hospital and Research Center, the Denver Art Museum, the University of Colorado Medical School and Project CURE, which provides medical supplies to 110 countries. Yohannes holds a B.S. in Economics from Claremont McKenna College and an M.B.A. from Pepperdine University.

In a profile published last year in *Museum Magazine*, writer Leah Arroyo notes that his interest in African art, history and culture led to his service as a six-year member of the Smithsonian Institution and his founding of the Daniel Yohannes Family African Gallery at the Denver Art Museum.

“I get a lot of my inspirations intellectually and culturally through art history, primarily through the museums,” he told Arroyo, describing the ambition and focus that have fueled his successes. Like so many refugees and immigrants, he started at the bottom of the economic ladder, earning his way through high school and college as a stock boy in a clothing store and later as a teller at a local bank in Los Angeles.

“It was my decision to come here,

not my family’s,” he told Arroyo. “I’ve always been a very adventurous person, ever since I was a child, so I made a decision early on that I wanted to make it on my own. I wanted to go to a place that provided that opportunity for someone like myself, an immigrant. I could not find any other place but here in the United States that provided all of that opportunity.”

About his continuing efforts to diversify and expand the Denver Art Museum’s African gallery with contemporary African artists and undiscovered African American artists, he said: “The most beautiful opportunity of being an American and coming from a different culture is the ability to bring something from the old country.”

ECDC President Tsehaye Teferra hailed Obama’s selection of Yohannes for the post, noting that the African continent is the largest recipient of MCC’s development assistance, both in the number of agreements and in the amount of assistance provided.

“Having someone so aware of the role poverty reduction and effective governance play in curbing refugee-producing conflicts and nurturing economic growth will be a source of great encouragement,” Teferra said.

Family Reunification Cases Remain Suspended as Review Continues

[Continued from page 1] months of FY 2009,” the report said. “PRM and DHS/USCIS will update the Congress when the revisions are complete and we are prepared to resume P-3 processing.”

When such processing is resumed, refugees from eight African nationalities are among the 18 approved for consideration. They are Burundi, CAR, DRC, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan and Zimbabwe.

While noting continued progress this year on several fronts for the continent’s refugee populations, the report says that there are still approximately 2.5 million African refugees, representing 20 percent of the global refugee population.

Among encouraging developments were large-scale repatriations for refugees from Sudan, Burundi, the DRC and

Mauritania, offset by new flows by those seeking escape from continuing violence in Somalia, CAR and DRC.

Organized repatriations to Liberia and

Angola were largely completed in 2007, the report said, but efforts continued in 2009 to find solutions for residual refugee populations.

PROPOSED REFUGEE ADMISSIONS FOR FY 2010					
Region	FY 2008 Arrivals	FY 2009 Ceiling	Revised Ceiling	Projected Arrivals	FY 2010 Ceiling
Africa	8,935	12,000	-0-	9,000	15,500
East Asia	19,489	19,000	20,500*	19,500	17,000
Europe/Central Asia	2,343	2,500	-0-	2,500	2,500
Latin America/Caribbean	4,277	4,500	5,500*	5,000	5,000
Near East/South Asia	25,148	37,000	39,500*	39,000	35,000
Regional Subtotal	60,192	75,000	80,000*	75,000	75,000
Unallocated Reserve		5,000			5,000
Total	60,192	80,000	80,000	75,000	80,000

*Revised allocations from the Unallocated Reserve were made to accommodate arrivals projected to exceed the original ceilings.

Compiled from data included in USRAP Report to Congress

UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Visits Dadaab; Urges Greater Support

By Sybella Wilkes, UNHCR
In Dadaab, Kenya

Visiting the Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya in early September, UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Angelina Jolie described it as “one of the most dire” refugee settlements she had ever visited.

Said Jolie: “If this is the better solution, what must it be like in Somalia?”

Around 285,000 people live in a space originally designed for 90,000. Led by UNHCR Field Officer Maeve Murphy, Jolie heard about the struggle the agency is facing to contain a humanitarian catastrophe. On her way to visit the new arrivals area, children ran to greet Jolie. A little boy taught her the Somali handshake and children were soon giggling and offering hands for her to grasp.

Jolie met a newly arrived young woman with her three small children, two of them infants. Their distended stomachs and running noses were clear signs of their misery. Sitting down under a tree, Murphy showed Jolie the signs of malnutrition, noting that the family would go to the nearest hospital for care later in the day.

“We walked for days to escape the fighting,” the mother told Jolie. Relatives came to join the party, providing relief to the young woman. One spoke English and told the acclaimed American actress, “We need space,” adding that the arrival of the young woman was stretching an already overcrowded home.

When Jolie asked if the situation had deteriorated in Somalia, the surrounding crowd said it had become “much worse.” The Goodwill Ambassador said she had heard “the situation in Somalia is only expected to worsen in the coming months.” Fresh fighting in recent months between rebel and government forces has caused tens of thousands to flee their homes.

Travelling through the three-camp Dadaab complex, Jolie looked out of the window of her vehicle at heaps of rubbish. “There is not even enough space for a trash dump, so people live amongst garbage,” she said. The car passed numerous water points with jerry cans lined up, waiting for water to arrive. Murphy explained that the huge numbers of people in the camp meant that water could only be given once every two days.

As she walked to meet another family, Jolie noticed a child pulling a water container along by a string. “We have stopped giving water containers that roll because we are so worried about contamination entering the water, spreading diseases like cholera,” explained Murphy. Earlier this year a cholera out-

break at Dadaab was contained thanks to huge teams of humanitarian workers. “With up to 7,000 people arriving each month, rain on the horizon, they say it will be impossible to contain the next outbreak,” warned Jolie.

Jolie chatted with UNHCR staff as they walked through the baking camp to meet the next family. Every home they passed was full of people. “There is no space left to offer, so we rely on the refugees to look after the new arrivals,” said Murphy.

The visitors stopped at a home cobbled together with branches and plastic sheeting – home to three families. Under the shade of a tree, one of the families sat waiting for Jolie. Zahra, the mother, arrived in the camp last month, loaded into a wheelbarrow with her youngest child, pushed by her exhausted husband. “Luckily we found our old neighbor Anab from Mogadishu,” she said, nodding to a smiling woman waiting in the doorway of a small room. “We don’t have a roof though, just a place to stay,” she noted.

Moving over to Anab, Jolie was invited into the small room, shafts of sunlight filtering through the dilapidated roof. After



UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Angelina Jolie meets Somali refugees in Kenya’s sprawling Dadaab camp.

UNHCR Photo by B. Heger

hearing Anab’s description of her daily struggle to survive, with 18 people living in her small shelter, Jolie said: “It is amazing that as more and more people come into the camp they continue to be generous with what little they have.”

Jolie and her UNHCR guides arrived at the next home to find three families all crammed into a small compound with a young woman lying under some shade, clearly sick. Surrounded by his children, the owner of the shelter, Mahmoud, was despondent.

“We get water every two days,” he complained. “Since the beginning of this year, I have had to look after two other families here, but with the same space and the same quantity of water.”

Before leaving Dadaab, Jolie met with UNHCR Representative to Kenya Liz Ahua, who told her: “If we don’t get more land soon, it will be impossible to avert a major humanitarian crisis.” Asked about her impressions, Jolie smiled warmly. “The Somali families I met today are full of warmth and affection. I wish more people could meet them, then they would have a stronger desire to help.”

Guterres said last month that UNHCR would provide an extra \$20 million to meet the needs of refugees and the host community in Dadaab. He called for a massive injection of funds from the donor community. As an emergency measure, UNHCR has started moving around 12,000 new arrivals to a camp in northern Kenya.

NEWS BRIEFS

Carmen Nazario Confirmed As New Director at ACF

Carmen Nazario, a native of Puerto Rico and a former Clinton administration official with broad experience in working with children and families, has been unanimously confirmed as the new Assistant Secretary for Children and Families at HHS, assuming oversight of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF).

Announcing her confirmation by the Senate in late September, HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said: "Carmen Nazario has a distinguished record of more than 40 years working in human services at every level of government, as well as in the private and non-profit sectors."

During the Clinton Administration, she held several high positions at ACF, including principal deputy assistant secretary. She is a former director of social services for the State of Delaware and administrator of the Administration for Children and Families for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Until her recent nomination, Nazario was an assistant professor at the Inter American University of Puerto Rico, where she taught social policy and coordinated the Social Work Practicum at the School of Social Work.

Secretary Clinton Pledges Focus on Women's Issues

"Women's issues will be the 'centerpiece of my term as secretary of state,'" Hillary Rodham Clinton told a gathering of female heads of state and foreign ministers who were in New York on September 25 for the opening of the 64th annual United Nations General Assembly.

"We know that investments in women yield very big dividends, and we want women to be given the tools so that they can make the most out of their own lives," Clinton said. "But what I have concluded over the years is that talent is universal, but opportunity is not. And in many places, opportunity is still out of reach for women."

Long a champion of respect for women and their full participation in eco-

nomie, political and social life, Clinton inspired women worldwide in 1995 with her famous speech in Beijing when she declared that "human rights are women's rights, and women's rights are human rights," said a report by Jane Morse of *America.gov*.

USCIS Award Honors ORR Director Negash

ORR Director Eskinder Negash was honored in mid-September with the *Outstanding American by Choice Award*, presented by USCIS to selected naturalized citizens who have made significant contributions to the United States and in recognition of "the common civic values that unite us as Americans," according to a staff announcement by David Hansell, acting assistant secretary at the Administration for Children and Families.

Arriving in America from his native Ethiopia, Eskinder "has worked for nearly 30 years as an advocate for fair and human policies for refugees and immigrants and to encourage their full participation in community life," the announcement said.

Prior recipients have come from more than 30 countries and have included such notable Americans as Carlos M. Gutierrez, former Secretary of Commerce; Indra K. Nooyi, Chairman and

Chief Executive Officer of PepsiCo; Elie Wiesel, Author and Nobel Peace Prize winner; Franklin Chang Diaz, former NASA astronaut; and General John Shalikashvili, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Rwanda's Paul Kagame Receives CGI Honor

Rwandan President Paul Kagame is among the honorees of the 2009 Clinton Global Citizen Awards, announced by the former president on September 23 on the eve of the fifth annual meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) in New York.

Kagame was cited for guiding his nation through an "unparalleled transformation" after leading the force that ended the 1994 genocide and assuming the presidency in 2000.

"From crisis, President Kagame has forged a strong, unified and growing nation with the potential to become a model for the rest of Africa and the world," said the award citation.

Other honorees this year were: Asha Hagi Elmi Amin, Chairperson, Save Somali Women and Children; Peter Bakker, Chief Executive Officer, TNT; Dr. Rola Dashti, Parliament Member, State of Kuwait; Ruchira Gupta, President, Apne Aap Women Worldwide; and Quincy Jones, Founder, Quincy Jones Foundation.

FY 2009 African Refugee Admissions			
As of September 30, 2009		• Ceiling for FY 2009 is 12,000	
Country of Origin	Refugees	Country of Origin	Refugees
Angola	8	Kenya	1
Burundi	762	Liberia	385
Cameroon	4	Mauritania	16
Central African Republic	59	Nigeria	3
Congo	293	Rwanda	111
Dem. Rep. Congo	1,135	Sierra Leone	51
Djibouti	3	Somalia	4,189
Eritrea	1,571	Sudan	683
Ethiopia	321	Togo	14
Gabon	1	Uganda	8
Gambia	10	Zambia	1
Guinea	3	Zimbabwe	10
Ivory Coast	8	TOTAL	9,669

Source: U.S. Department of State, PRM

‘Citizenship Day’ Ceremonies Welcome Many New Americans

More than 8,400 people became American citizens on September 17 during Citizenship Day ceremonies conducted by USCIS at 72 sites around the world. In Campbell, California, about 1,150 were naturalized, the largest number at any site in the U.S. Another 900 participated in Detroit, and 750 in Worcester, Massachusetts.

At the Yokosuka Naval Station in Japan, 98 spouses and family members became new citizens, the largest number to naturalize in one ceremony outside of the United States. Participants were born in 33 nations.

The National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2008 permits spouses and children of U.S. service members to receive their citizenship overseas where their spouse/parent is stationed, even though the child may never have been in the United States. Previous immigration law required spouses and children to be

physically present within the United States to naturalize.

The official name of the observance is Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, established through a joint resolution by Congress in 1952 and expanded in 1956 to embrace the week of September 17-23 as Constitution Week.

In his proclamation for this year’s observance, President Obama said “all Americans have a solemn obligation to participate in our democracy so that it remains vibrant, strong, and responsive to the needs of our citizens.

“The right to participate in self-government, and the many other freedoms guaranteed by our Constitution, inspire the dreams and ambitions of many inside and outside our borders,” the proclamation said. “These principles serve as a beacon of hope for Americans and those who seek new lives in the United States. Every day, we welcome

new and diverse stories and heritages into the great patchwork of our Nation. United by our devotion to the Constitution and to the civic engagement it inspires, Americans remain committed to the fundamental principles established over two hundred years ago.”

USCIS Launches New Website

USCIS launched a redesigned website in mid-September offering “a one-stop location for immigration services and information,” according to a press briefing conducted by DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano and USCIS Director Alejandro Mayorkas.

Available in English and Spanish, the site includes a service called My Case Status, which allows immigration customers to receive alerts on the status of their applications via text message and e-mail.

Other new features include a tool to guide users through the navigation process; local and national case processing times; an improved search engine; and a new “dashboard allowing users to access national immigration trends associated with immigration petitions and applications.”

The site is at: www.uscis.gov and www.uscis.gov/espanol.

USCIS Announces Citizenship Grants

Coinciding with the annual observance of Constitution and Citizenship Day on September 17, USCIS Director Alejandro Mayorkas announced grants totaling \$1.2 million to 13 organizations to support citizenship preparation programs for legal permanent residents (LPRs).

The award recipients are: Association House of Chicago; Catholic Charities of Dallas Inc.; Central American Resource Center, Los Angeles; Federation Employment and Guidance Service Inc., New York, N.Y.; International Institute of St. Louis; International Rescue Committee Inc., San Diego; Jewish Family and Children’s Services, San Francisco; Jewish Vocational Service of MetroWest Inc., East Orange, N.J.; Lutheran Family Services in the Carolinas, Raleigh, N.C.; OneAmerica, Seattle; Progreso Latino, Central Falls, R.I.; Saint Mark Roman Catholic Parish, Dorchester, Mass.; and Young Women’s Christian Association of Tulsa, Okla.

The funding will be used to expand the number of people served by programs that assist LPRs improve English language skills, gain knowledge of U.S. history and government, and prepare for

the naturalization application and interview process.

The funds may only be used to provide direct services to immigrants with legal status in the United States.

For more information on USCIS and its programs, visit www.uscis.gov.

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Clinton Global Initiative Spurs Corporate Refugee Support

Technology-based projects designed to improve the lives of tens of thousands of refugees in Africa and Asia were announced in late September during the annual Clinton Global Initiative in New York. The projects will be provided by UNHCR corporate partners Microsoft and EDP, Portugal's largest energy company.

The project with Microsoft will give refugees in 11 countries access to computers, while EDP will bring renewable energy solutions to benefit some 50,000 people in Kenya's Kakuma refugee camp.

The Community Technology Access (CTA) project, launched in partnership with Microsoft and PricewaterhouseCoopers, will allow refugees to use computer technology for education as well as business and livelihood purposes.

Three pilot CTA centers, using solar power and providing rugged PC solutions and Internet access, are being built at refugee camps in Bangladesh and Rwanda. Under the second phase of the project, starting in 2010, an additional 19 centers will be established at camps in nine more countries.

"The project shows that we recognize ICT [information and communications technologies] as being a crucial resource for facilitating knowledge and education, particularly in remote areas where teachers and education resources are scarce," said Olivier Delarue, UNHCR's senior corporate relations officer.

Pamela Passman, head of Microsoft's Global Corporate Affairs section, said the CTA program addressed the challenges of making technology work in remote and rugged refugee camp situations. "This provides not only a platform for improving education, it is also a path to developing valuable workforce skills for adult refugees."

The EDP project is expected to counter the rapid depletion of natural

resources around the Kakuma camp and create lasting personal and social benefits both for refugees and neighboring communities. EDP will help UNHCR install solar panels, improved diesel generators and solar ovens, while supporting social entrepreneurship and reforestation schemes that will reduce energy costs at the same time as helping to improving refugees' health, living conditions and livelihoods.



Former President Bill Clinton celebrates announcement of the Community Technology Access project with senior UNHCR and Microsoft officials.

Refugee Community Mourns Loss of Ken Bacon

The international refugee community mourned the loss of Ken Bacon, 64, president of Refugees International (RI), who died August 15 from aggressive melanoma. Under his leadership, RI doubled in size and became a more effective advocate for increased protection and assistance to displaced people around the globe, said a tribute on the RI website. He also launched new advocacy programs on peacekeeping and statelessness. In the last few months of his life, he turned his passion toward the growing threat of climate displacement, the tribute said.

"Just a few weeks prior to his death, he and his wife Darcy provided a generous donation to establish the Ken and Darcy Bacon Center for the Study of Climate Displacement."

Describing Bacon as "a



Ken Bacon
1945-2009

great humanitarian leader, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said he was a source of hope, inspiration and support for millions of the world's most vulnerable people. "We will miss Ken, but we will be inspired by the contributions he has made and the example he has set," she said.

CALENDAR

November 13 — *Preserving Child Maltreatment Prevention During a Time of Economic Crisis: A Research & Policy Conference* will take place at Princeton University. "Professionals working with refugee families may find this conference helpful as they work to improve their child welfare services, suggests BRYCS, ORR's technical assistance provider on refugee child welfare.

For more information, visit: <http://www.princeton.edu/prior/events/conferences/preserving-child-maltreat/index.xml>.

RESOURCES

World Refugee Survey 2009, the highly-valued annual publication from the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, includes refugee statistics, country reports and updated grades of the worst and best countries for refugees.

Thailand, South Africa, Gaza, Malaysia, Kenya, Egypt, and Turkey are among the worst places for refugees, the report says. Brazil, Costa Rica and Ecuador are judged "best."

Available at a cost of \$25, ordering information is on the website: www.refugees.org.

