

# CONFERENCE PROGRAM



## African Refugees:

The Faces  
Behind  
The Numbers



Photos by UNHCR/H. Caux and UNHCR/B. Heger

ECDC/ARN  
TWELFTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE

MAY 8-10, 2006  
MARRIOTT CRYSTAL CITY HOTEL  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

## WELCOME

Just a week ago today, the front page of The Washington Post featured a large photo depicting a sea of faces assembled on the Mall for the Rally to Stop Genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan. It was one of more 20 similar events around the country organized by the Save Darfur Coalition, an alliance of about 160 organizations engaged in refugee and humanitarian affairs. As impressive as were the large numbers gathering to plea for more effective responses to the ongoing tragedy, the message they sought to deliver was most profoundly communicated by individual victims who described their personal experiences of fear, intimidation, sacrifice and loss. The faces behind the numbers made the pleas more poignant, the challenges more compelling, the emotions more emphatic.

It is that goal we pursue this week as we assemble for our twelfth national conference under the theme *African Refugees: The Faces Behind the Numbers*. Plenary and workshop sessions will address issues of concern with a special focus on how policies and programs impact individuals who bring to their common experiences a wide diversity of cultural, ethnic, racial and religious backgrounds.

It is also in recognition of your diverse interests and responsibilities that we have designed a program dealing with a wide array of themes and topics. To assist you in making choices about what concurrent sessions best respond to your unique needs, we have included in your welcome packet a sheet briefly describing the planned content.

With gratitude to the Office of Refugee Resettlement, Tides Foundations and the co-sponsors listed below, and with deep appreciation for the contributions by program participants, conference planners and all who have assisted in preparations, let me welcome you to what we trust will be a rewarding experience of inspiration, renewal and fellowship.

Tsehaye Teferra, Ph.D.  
President

## CONFERENCE CO-SPONSORS

The conference is made possible through the funding support of the Office of Refugee Resettlement, Tides Foundation and cosponsors listed below.

Alliance for African Assistance  
Alliance for Multicultural Community Services  
American Red Cross  
Bank of America  
Church World Service  
Episcopal Migration Ministries  
Ethiopian Community Association of Chicago  
International Rescue Committee  
Institute for Social and Economic Development  
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service  
Jesuit Refugee Service/USA  
Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center  
Sierra Leone Community Association of Chicago  
Southern Sudan Community Association  
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, Inc.  
United Methodist Committee on Relief  
United States Catholic Conference of Bishops  
World Relief

## African Refugees: The Faces Behind The Numbers

**MONDAY, May 8**

<b>7:30 a.m.</b>	<b>REGISTRATION AND COFFEE</b>	<b>Potomac Ballroom Foyer</b>
<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</b>  Tsehaye Teferra, <i>President, ECDC</i> Ken Tota, <i>Chief of Operations, Office of Refugee Resettlement, ACF, Department of Health and Human Services</i>	<b>Potomac Ballroom</b>
<b>8:45 a.m.</b>	<b>KEYNOTE ADDRESS</b>  Mawi Asgedom, <i>Former Refugee and Author "Of Beatles and Angels"</i>	<b>Potomac Ballroom</b>
<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>THE FACES BEHIND THE NUMBERS: PROTECTION, ASSISTANCE AND RESETTLEMENT OF AFRICAN REFUGEES</b>	
<b>Moderator/Presenter</b>	Kenneth Bacon, <i>President, Refugees International</i>	
<b>Presenters</b>	Thomas Albrecht, <i>Deputy Regional Representative to the U.S. and the Caribbean, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</i> Ellen Sauerbrey, <i>Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, Department of State</i> Barbara Strack, <i>Director, Office of Refugee Affairs, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security</i> Martha Newton, <i>Director, Office of Refugee Resettlement, ACF, Department of Health and Human Services</i>	
<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>BREAK</b>	<b>Potomac Ballroom Foyer</b>
<b>11:15 a.m.</b>	<b>HIV/AIDS IN AFRICA: COMMITMENT AND ACTION</b>	<b>Potomac Ballroom</b>
<b>Moderator/Presenter</b>	Chinua Akukwe, <i>Chair, Technical Advisory Board, Africa Center for Health and Human Security, George Washington University Medical Center</i>	
<b>Presenters</b>	Clarence S. Hall, <i>Deputy Director, Office of Health and HIV/AIDS, Africare</i> Rose Khasiala-Amolo, <i>Advisor, HIV/AIDS Program, The Centre for Development and Population Activities</i> Sarah Martin, <i>Advocate, Refugees International*</i> Ann-Louise Colgan, <i>Director for Policy Analysis and Communication, Africa Action*</i>	
<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>LUNCHEON PRESENTATION</b>  Princeton N. Lyman, <i>Ralph Bunche Senior Fellow and Director of Africa Policy Studies, Council on Foreign Relations</i>	<b>Potomac Ballroom</b>
<b>2:30 p.m.</b>	<b>CONCURRENT SESSIONS</b>	
	<b>A. MEETING THE RESETTLEMENT CHALLENGES OF LONGSTAYER POPULATIONS</b>	<b>Monticello A</b>
<b>Presenter</b>	Martin Ford, <i>Associate Director, Maryland Office for New Americans</i> Meintje Westerbeek, <i>Director, Center for English as-a-Second Language, Baltimore City Community College</i>	
	<b>B. UNDERSTANDING AND RESPONDING TO SECONDARY MIGRATION</b>	<b>Monticello B</b>
<b>Moderator/Presenter</b>	Joseph Moseray, <i>Program Officer, Refugee Resettlement Division, ECDC</i>	
<b>Presenters</b>	Svetlana Brajdic, <i>Processing and Placement Manager, Episcopal Migration Ministries</i> Ron Munia, <i>Co-Division Director, Division of Community Resettlement, Office of Refugee Resettlement, ACF, Department of Health and Human Services</i> Nadia Kasvin, <i>Vice President for Programs, US Together Inc.</i> Scott Robbins, <i>Refugee Housing Program Manager, Mercy Housing</i>	

## African Refugees: The Faces Behind The Numbers

**MONDAY**, May 8 (continued)

### C. THE REFUGEE FAMILY AND MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT: LESSONS LEARNED

Monticello C

**Presenters** Kimberly Haynes, *Program Developer, Strengthening Refugee Families and Marriages, MRS, USCCB*  
Loren Bussert, *Office of Refugee Resettlement, ACF, Department Of Health and Human Services*

**4:00 p.m.** **BREAK** Potomac Ballroom Foyer

**4:15 p.m.** **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

### A. WELCOME TO AMERICA: REFUGEE ORIENTATION PROGRAM

Monticello A

**Moderator/Presenter** Sanja Bebic, *Director, Cultural Orientation Resource Center, Center for Applied Linguistics*

**Presenters** Emily Russ, *U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program, Overseas Processing Entity/Accra, Ghana*  
Shawn T. Webb, *Educational Services Director, Refugees, Asylees, and Victims-of-Human-Trafficking, YMCA International Services*

### B. STARTING UP A COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION: MANDATES, PROMISES AND PITFALLS

Monticello B

**Moderator/Presenter** Reed Coughlan, *Professor, Empire State College*

**Presenters** Louise B. Bennett, *Medical Director Refugee Health Program, Westside Health Service*  
Otieno Kisiara, *Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Director of Multicultural Studies Program, Nazareth College*  
Sokhom Tauch, *Executive Director, Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization*  
Rukia Mohammed, *Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization*

### C. POINTS OF WELLNESS: REFUGEE HEALTH PROMOTION AND DISEASE PREVENTION INITIATIVE

Monticello C

**Presenter** Louise Peloquin, *Refugee Mental Health Program, Center for Mental Health Services, Department of Health and Human Services*

**5:45 p.m.** **NETWORKING/HILL VISIT PREPARATION** Crystal View

**Presenters** Amy C. Shannon, *Associate Director, Enlaces América*  
Dwede J. Tarpeh, *Project Specialist, Center for African Refugees and Immigrants, ECDC*

**7:00 p.m.** **TOWN HALL MEETING**  
**INTER-IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY DIALOGUE**

Crystal Forum

**Moderator** Emira Woods, *Co-Director of Foreign Policy In Focus, Institute for Policy Studies*

**Presenters** Kassahun Bisrat, *Executive Director, Alliance for Multicultural Community Services*  
Doua Thor, *Executive Director, Southeast Asia Resource Action Center*  
Oscar Chacón, *Director, Enlaces América*  
Parry Karadaghi, *Executive Director, Kurdish Human Rights Watch*

**8:30 p.m.** **MOVIE SCREENING “Rain in a Dry Land” USA — 2006, 83 min.** Crystal Forum

**Presenter/  
Discussion Leader** Anne Makepeace, *Director and Producer*

## African Refugees: The Faces Behind The Numbers

**TUESDAY, May 9**

- 7:30 a.m. REGISTRATION AND COFFEE Potomac Ballroom Foyer**
- 8:30 a.m. STATE OF DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN AFRICA: THE U.S. PERSPECTIVE Potomac Ballroom**
- Presenter** Linda Thomas-Greenfield, *Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of African Affairs, Department of State*
- 9:00 a.m. SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES: THE STATE OF DEMOCRACY, GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN AFRICA**
- Moderator/Presenter** Sulayman S. Nyang, *African Studies Department, Howard University*
- Presenters** Richard W. Soudriette, *President and CEO, IFES*  
Gerald Gahima, *Guest Scholar, Jennings Randolph Fellowship Program, United States Institute of Peace*
- 10:00 a.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS**
- A. DEVELOPMENT AID AND REFUGEE PROTECTION: MAKING IT WORK Monticello A**
- Moderator/Presenter** Merrill Smith, *Editor, World Refugee Survey, U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants*
- Presenters** Thomas Albrecht, *Deputy Regional Representative to the U.S. and the Caribbean, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees\**  
Sylvain A Browa, *Program Manager, InterAction*
- B. THE WOUNDS OF WAR: INTERVENTIONS FOR THE SURVIVORS OF TRAUMA AND TORTURE Monticello B**
- Moderator/Presenter** Evelyn Lennon, *Social Worker, New Neighbors/Hidden Scars Project, Center for Victims of Torture*
- Presenters** Alice Tindi, *Social Worker, Center for Victims of Torture*  
Yeshashwork Kibour, *Licensed Clinical Psychologist/Researcher, Center for Mental Health Services*
- C. UNSEEN FACES, UNMET NEEDS, EXPLORING NEW APPROACHES TO REFUGEE PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE Monticello C**
- Moderator/Presenter** Erku Yimer, *Executive Director, Ethiopian Community Center of Chicago*
- Presenters** Khadra Mohammed, *Executive Director, Pittsburgh Refugee Center*  
Hadera Ts fay, *Consultant, World Food Program*  
Getachew Begashaw, *Associate Professor of Economics, Business and Social Science Division, Harper College*
- D. LANGUAGE ACCESS REQUIREMENTS & TITLE VI Crystal View**
- Moderator/Presenter** Kevin R. Cunningham, *Interpreter Services Manager, Catholic Charities Maine*
- Presenter** Peter Chan, *Regional Manager, Office for Civil Rights, Department of Health and Human Services*
- 11:30 a.m. BREAK**
- 11:45 a.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS**
- A. AFRICAN MIGRATION: REMITTANCES AND BRAIN DRAIN Monticello A**
- Moderator/Presenter** Dovelyn Rannveig Agunias, *Associate Policy Analyst, Migration Policy Institute*
- Presenters** Dilip Ratha, *Senior Economist, World Bank*  
Damtew Teferra, *Director, Center for International Higher Education, Boston College*  
Gumisai Mutume, *Reporter, Africa Recovery, Department of Public Information, United Nations*

## African Refugees: The Faces Behind The Numbers

**TUESDAY, May 9** (continued)

### **B. REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT AND MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM BEST PRACTICES: MODELS OF SUCCESS**

**Monticello B**

**Moderator/Presenter** Dan Kosten, *Director of Refugee Programs, World Relief*

**Presenters** Barbara J. Day, *Domestic Resettlement Section Chief, BPRM, Department of State*  
Ron Munia, *Co-Division Director, Division of Community Resettlement, Office of Refugee Resettlement, ACF, Department Of Health and Human Services*  
Ed Silverman, *Illinois State Refugee Coordinator*

### **C. RECOGNIZING AND DEALING WITH GANG VIOLENCE, STEREOTYPING, AND INTERGENERATIONAL DISCONNECT IN REFUGEE COMMUNITIES**

**Monticello C**

**Presenters** Tessie Ajala, *Training Coordinator, Outreach to New Americans, National Crime Prevention Council*  
Kathleen Batalden, *Youth Coordinator, ECDC African Community Center*  
Lauren Swain, *Director, Mind's Eye Productions*

**1:00 p.m.** LUNCH **Potomac Ballroom**

**2:30 p.m.** CAPITOL HILL CONGRESSIONAL VISITS

**7:00 p.m.** DINNER BANQUET — *Celebrate Africa*

**WEDNESDAY, May 10**

**7:30 a.m.** REGISTRATION AND COFFEE **Potomac Ballroom Foyer**

**8:30 a.m.** REFUGEE AND ASYLUM ASSISTANCE: PAST AS PROLOGUE? **Potomac Ballroom**

**Moderator/Presenter** Tsehay Teferra, *President, ECDC*

**Presenters** Mark Franken, *Executive Director, Migration and Refugee Services, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*  
Richard Parkins, *Executive Director, Episcopal Migration Ministries*  
Gideon Aronoff, *President and CEO, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society*

**10:00 a.m.** CONCURRENT SESSIONS

### **A. SPOTLIGHT ON AFRICA: REGIONAL UPDATES OF REFUGEE AND IDP FLOWS**

**Potomac Ballroom**

**Moderator/Presenter** Gregory Chen, *Director of Policy Analysis and Research, U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants*

**Presenter** Larry Yungk, *Resettlement Director, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*  
Kelly Gauger, *Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, Department of State\**  
James Lassiter, *Chief, Training and Program Integrity, Office of Refugee Affairs, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Department of Homeland Security*  
Geraldine Owens, *Coordinator, International Programs, Church World Service*  
Lori Seymour, *Operations Officer, International Organization for Migration*

### **B. ACHIEVING FINANCIAL SECURITY: THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINSTREAM BANKING PART I**

**Monticello B**

**Moderator/Presenter** Sowsan Deifallah, *Program Officer, US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants*

**Presenters** Arjan Schutte, *Associate Director, Center for Financial Services Innovation*  
Christopher Tan, *Program Officer, Local Initiatives Support Corporation*

## African Refugees: The Faces Behind The Numbers

**WEDNESDAY, May 10 (Continued)**

### C. THE MEDIA, THE MESSAGE, AND YOU – HOW TO USE THE MEDIA TO INFLUENCE PUBLIC OPINION

Monticello C

**Moderator/Presenter** Christopher D. Cathcart, *Executive Director, One Diaspora Communication*

**Presenters** Yanick Rice Lamb, *Lecturer, Johnson H. Johnson School of Communications, Howard University*  
Keith Alexander, *Reporter, The Washington Post*  
Sheryl Flowers, *Executive Producer, The Tavis Smiley Show*

**11:30 a.m. BREAK** Potomac Ballroom Foyer

**11:45 a.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

### A. THE FACES BEHIND THE SERVICES: MEETING NEEDS WITH SENSITIVITY AND CULTURAL COMPETENCE

Monticello A

**Presenters** Erin Efaw, *Employment Community Development, ECDC African Community Center*  
Allison Myers, *ESL Tutor, Humanities/Intercultural Communications, University of Colorado at Denver*

### B. ACHIEVING FINANCIAL SECURITY: ACCESSING NONGOVERNMENTAL RESOURCES PART II

Monticello B

**Moderator/Presenter** Sowsan Deifallah, *Program Officer, U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants*

**Presenters** Niyi Robbin-Coker, *Vice President, Global Payments Market Manager, North America Corporate & Public Sector, Citigroup*  
Carol Wayman, *Senior Legislative Director, Corporation for Enterprise Development*  
Lisa Campbell, *Project Officer, Office of Refugee Resettlement*  
Julianne Ramic, *Director of Resettlement, Nationalities Service Center*  
Andrew Tulchin, *Director, ECDC Enterprise Development Group*

### C. AFRICAN REFUGEES AND THE RURAL INITIATIVE PROGRAM

Monticello C

**Moderator** Ben Turner, *Consultant, Institute for Social and Economic Development*

**Presenters** Gladys Vaughn, *Director, Office of the Secretary for Civil Rights, USDA*  
Larry Laverentz, *Office of Refugee Resettlement, Department Of Health and Human Services*

**1:00 p.m. LUNCH** Potomac Ballroom

**2:00 p.m. AFRICAN REFUGEE INTEGRATION: THE HOLISTIC APPROACH** Potomac Ballroom

**Moderator/Presenter** Myrna Ann Adkins, *President, Spring Institute*

**Presenters** John Tuskan, *Program Director, Refugee Mental Health Program, Center for Mental Health Services, Department of Health and Human Services*  
Cheryl Hamilton, *Consultant, RefugeeWorks, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service*  
Scott Robbins, *Refugee Housing Program Manager, Mercy Housing*  
Lynn Morland, *Program Officer, BRYCS, Migration and Refugee Services, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*

**3:30 p.m. SUMMATION AND ADJOURNMENT** Potomac Ballroom

Tsehaye Teferra, *President, ECDC*

\*Invited

# Mission and Purpose

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

ECDC was organized to respond initially to the needs of a growing Ethiopian community in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area and across the country. From the beginning and for the last 23 years, ECDC has been serving a diverse community of refugees and immigrants from around the world while focusing on the African newcomer community locally and nationally. ECDC is headquartered in Arlington, Virginia, and is a major community-based service provider in the Washington, D.C., area. ECDC offers educational, skills building, and social service programs to refugees at its branch offices in Arlington, Virginia, Denver, Colorado, Las Vegas, Nevada, and Washington, D.C., that help people achieve economically self-sufficient lives in their new homeland.

Regionally and nationally, ECDC engages in efforts to increase public awareness about domestic and international issues affecting the lives of African refugees and immigrants. ECDC also provides technical assistance to community-based organizations and has taken a leadership role in creating a network among African community organizations around the country.

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

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

## **E C D C**

Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc

901 S. Highland Street

Arlington, Virginia 22204

Phone: (703) 685-0510 Fax: (703) 685-0529

E-mail: [info@ecdcinternational.org](mailto:info@ecdcinternational.org)

Website: [www.ecdcinternational.org](http://www.ecdcinternational.org)