



Refugee Assistance in the DRC: Filling the Humanitarian Gap

Friday, July 22, 2011
9:30-11:30 am

Johns Hopkins SAIS
Bernstien-Offit Building
1717 Massachusetts Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Forum Details:

The Democratic Republic of Congo is host to 180,000 refugees and carries the second highest refugee burden world wide. The DRC is itself one of the world's largest sources of refugees, with thousands living in Burundi, Congo Brazzaville, Rwanda, Tanzania and other neighboring countries. Even these numbers are dwarfed by the 1.7 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the DRC. Such a high number of forcibly displaced people represents a massive need for humanitarian assistance both during displacement and at the time of their eventual return or relocation and integration within host communities. Tensions arise between refugees and the local population, particularly in eastern Congo, where Rwandan refugees are often associated with militia groups.

Elections at the end of the year further complicate the situation as millions of displaced people will want to vote. The needs of these people are enormous and the Congolese government and the international community struggle to adequately address them. What can be done to protect refugees and IDPs? How are humanitarian needs met? When will they be able to go home?

Speakers:

Wendy Henning

Program Officer, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, US Department of State

Mike Jobbins

Africa Program Manager, Search for Common Ground

Buti Kale

Deputy Regional Representative, UNHCR

Peter Orr

Senior Advocate, DRC and Sudan, Refugees International

Moderator:

Jackie Aldrette

AVSI-USA

Speaker Bios:

Wendy Henning

Ms. Wendy Henning is the Great Lakes Assistance Program Officer with the State Department Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration. Wendy works closely with international organization and NGO partners and other donors to further protection and assistance efforts as well as long-term durable solutions for refugees and other conflict victims. Wendy has worked overseas with the US Government and NGO relief and development programs in the Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda and Afghanistan. She holds an M.A. in International Relations from the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University.

Mike Jobbins

Mr. Mike Jobbins is a project manager and program advisor with six years of experience and particular experience in refugee reintegration and conflict resolution programming in Africa's Great Lakes Region. Currently, he is the Africa Program Manager at Search for Common Ground (SFCG), where he supports new business development, ensures grant compliance and reporting, and represents the Africa Program in Washington. He was previously SFCG's DRC Projects Manager based in Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In this role, he supported the development and management of SFCG's conflict resolution and governance programs across the country, overseeing the monitoring and evaluation section, developing funding for new programming, and supporting national media program managers. He opened and managed Programming and Operations in SFCG's first offices in northern Katanga and in North Kivu provinces and managed reintegration projects with UNHCR. He holds a MA in Conflict Resolution from Georgetown and a BA in Government from Harvard. He is fluent in English and French.

Buti Kale

Mr. Buti Kale has been working with UNHCR since 1992. He has held assignments in Burundi, Tanzania, the United States of America, Canada, Congo (DR) and Côte d'Ivoire. He has also undertaken several missions, including leading a team of lawyers to determine the status of Rwandan refugees in Angola. Mr Kale is a resource person for the UN Early Warning and Preventive Measures Capacity Building Course and has trained UN, Government and NGO officials in several countries, including Senegal, Papua New Guinea, Cameroon and South Africa. Before his reassignment to Washington DC, USA, in December 2009, as Deputy Regional Representative, Mr. Kale was the Deputy Representative for UNHCR Côte d'Ivoire and has served for several months as Representative ad interim pending the arrival of the newly appointed Representative.

Peter Orr

Mr. Peter Orr joined Refugees International in April 2011 as a Senior Advocate and focuses on the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Sudan. Previously, he was field coordinator and head of mission for Medecins Sans Frontieres in various contexts, including Ethiopia, the Gaza Strip, Haiti, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria and southern Sudan. Peter has also worked as an independent journalist. He has a B.A. from McGill University and a Master in International Affairs from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.

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