

# BHUTAN

**Major Languages:** Nepali (Tamang, Mongor, Rai, Limbu)

**Major Religion(s):** Hindu (some Christian and other religions also)

**Special Holidays, Activities or Traditions:** Dashian, Diwali and Lasar



## Bhutanese Community in Syracuse

ECBO President: Hari Adhikari

Additional Contact: Jai Subedi

### ECBO Activities/Programs:

- ESL classes
- Citizenship classes
- Nepali language class for kids & Youth engagement
- Cultural dance/music participation and celebration of cultural festivals
- Participating in all events/festivals in neighborhood (i.e. World Refugee Day)

### Top Three Concerns of the Bhutanese Community (according to community leaders):

- Literacy
- Citizenship
- Employment

## A Brief History

*“Situated between the emerging superpowers of India and China, the isolated Buddhist kingdom of Bhutan, hailed by some as ‘the last Shangri-La’, has generated one of the highest numbers of refugees in the world in proportion to its population (over one sixth).”*

*“The vast majority of the refugees are Lhotshampas, one of Bhutan’s three main ethnic groups, who were forced to leave Bhutan in the early 1990s. There is ample evidence, as documented by Amnesty International and other human rights organizations, that the expulsion of large numbers of Lhotshampas was planned and executed with meticulous attention to detail.”*

*“Over 105,000 Bhutanese have spent more than 15 years living in refugee camps established in Nepal by the UNHCR. Thousands more are living outside camps in Nepal and India, and some in North America, Europe and Australia. Since 2008 a resettlement process has seen many thousands of Bhutanese refugees from the camps in Nepal being re-settled primarily in the USA but also in Canada, Australia, Denmark, New Zealand, the Netherlands and Norway.”*

[Resource: [www.bhutanese-refugees.com](http://www.bhutanese-refugees.com)]



# SOMALIA

**Major Languages:** Kizigua, Swahili and Arabic

**Major Religion(s):** Islam

**Special Holidays, Activities or Traditions:** Ei Dul Fitn, traditional dancing, Ei Dul Adhaha

## **Original Somali Bantu Wazigua Community Organization of Central New York**

ECBO President: Osman Mohamed [Additional Contact: Osman Ramadham]

### **Activities/Programs (held at center located at 414 Pond Street, Mon-Fri)**

- After school youth program
- Adult ESL & citizenship classes
- Employment Assistance for Jobs Plus clients and their members

### **Top Three Concerns of the Wazigua Community** (according to community leaders):

- Grant assistance/ Program funding
- Literacy
- Meeting Space

## **African Immigrant and Refugee Center** (ECBO Contact: Jamal Shirwa)

## **Somali Community Association** (ECBO Contact: Liban Mohamed)

### ***A Brief History***

*“Somalia has been home to the world’s worst humanitarian crisis for many years. The most severe drought in 60 years has exacerbated an already complex humanitarian situation. Before the drought struck, years of conflict had already displaced nearly a quarter of the population...”*

*“... Over 463,000 displaced Somalis live in Dadaab, Kenya: the largest refugee camp in the world. To the north, roughly 143,000 more Somali refugees live in the Dollo Ado camps in Ethiopia with more arriving daily. In Dadaab, the Government of Kenya has suspended the registration of new refugees. For those that are registered and living in the camps, security is a daily concern...”*

[Resource: <http://refugeesinternational.org/where-we-work/africa/somalia>]

Note: Figures may be outdated due to the constantly changing nature of the situation. See [www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org) for more updated numbers and information.



# LIBERIA

**Major Languages:** English

**Major Religion(s):** Christian

**Special Holidays:** Liberia Independence (July 26) & Flag Day (August 24)



## **ECBO: Licos**

ECBO President: Michael Toe

### **ECBO Activities/Programs:**

- Celebration of country's independence (July 26)

### **Top Three Concerns of the Liberian Community** (according to community leaders):

- Citizenship
- Transportation
- Hall for Liberian community to have programs & office

## **A Brief History**

*"... The population includes 16 indigenous ethnic groups and various foreign minorities. Indigenous peoples comprise about 95% of the population.... Americo-Liberians, who are descendants of African-American settlers, make up 2.5%, and Congo people, descendants of repatriated Congo and Afro-Caribbean slaves who arrived in 1825, make up an estimated 2.5%..."*

*"... From 1989 to 1996 one of Africa's bloodiest civil wars ensued, claiming the lives of more than 200,000 Liberians and displacing a million others into refugee camps in neighboring countries. A peace deal between warring parties was reached in 1995..."*

*"Liberia (then) became internationally known as a pariah state due to (their leader's) use of blood diamonds and illegal timber... The Second Liberian Civil War began in 1999..."*

*"The subsequent 2005 elections (following the end of the peace deal in 2003) were internationally regarded as the most free and fair in Liberian history. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, a Harvard-trained economist and former Minister of Finance, was elected as the first female president in Africa."*

[Resource: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberia>]



# BURMA

(Myanmar)

**Major Languages:** Burmese, Karen, Chin and Kayah

**Tribes that are here in Syracuse:** Karen, Kachin, Burmese, Chin, Mon and Karini (Kayah)

**Major Religion(s):** Buddhist and Christian

**Special Holidays:** New Years Day, Independence Day and Christmas

## Karen Community

ECBO Leader: Ko Ko Lwin

### ECBO Activities/Programs:

- ESL Classes at 1501 Lodi Street (Tuesdays, 7-9pm) – coordinated by and held at Myanmar Baptist Church

### Concerns of the Burmese Community

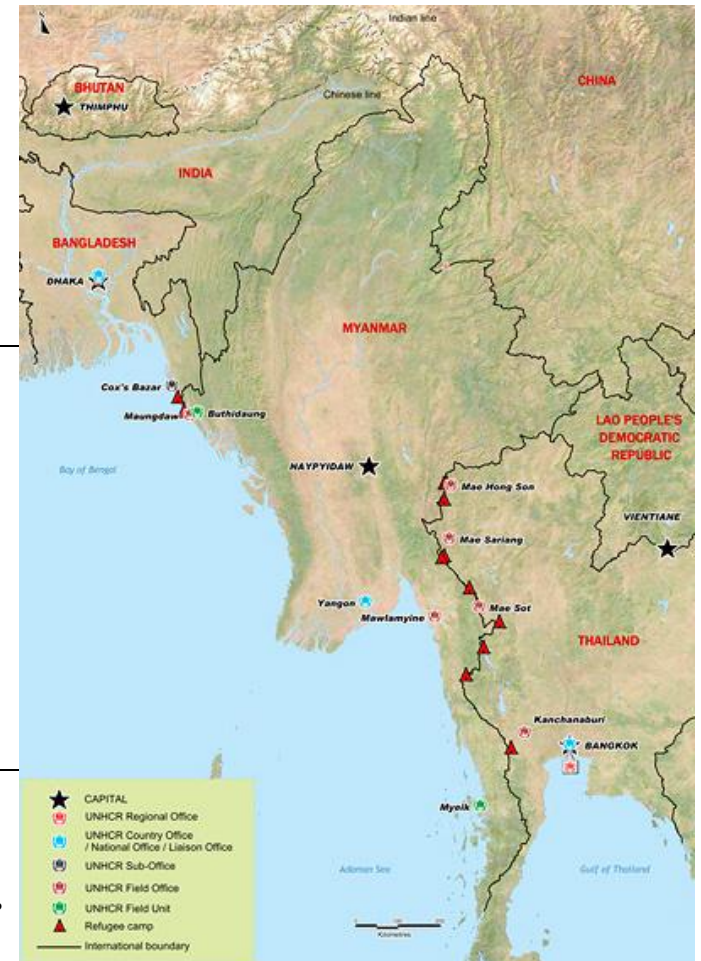
(according to community members present at meeting):

- Learner's Permit
- Public Assistance
- Academic help (homework, translation and interpreter)

## A Brief History

*"An estimated 500,000 people are displaced by conflict in eastern Burma and another 800,000 Muslims in western Burma, known as the Rohingya, are stateless and lack the most basic of human rights. A number of conflicts with ethnic armed groups persist and the government will need to invest significant political effort to translate various ceasefires into sustainable peace. Approximately 3 million Burmese have been forced to flee to neighboring countries. For refugees from eastern Burma, return to their homes may not be realized due to the extensive use of landmines by all parties to the conflict."*

[Resource: <http://www.refintl.org/where-we-work/asia/burma>]



Source: UNHCR at <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49e4877d6.html>



# SOUTH SUDAN

**Major Languages:** Arabic and English

**Major Religion(s):** Christianity and Islam

**Special Holidays:** Independence Day (July 9) and Marty Days (July 30)



## **South Sudanese Community of CNY, Inc.**

ECBO Leader: Santino Atak

### **Activities/Programs:**

- Social event including youth program at St. Vincent

### **Top Three Concerns of the South Sudanese Community** (according to community leader):

- Community Center
- Language skill training
- College Scholarship program for students

## **A Brief History**

*“The North-South conflict in Sudan stems from multiple different socio-economic and cultural factors... Some Sudanese scholars say that focuses on racial differences and slavery are too simplistic. They argue that the north-south divide was from a lack of shared culture and general mistrust. British policies during colonial rule favored the northern elites allowing them to dominate the country economically and keep the South subordinate. In addition to the lack of socio-economic development in the south, there was also a lack of a shared national identity, and projects to impose the Arabic language and culture only heightened latent tensions...”*

[Resource: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Refugees\\_of\\_Sudan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Refugees_of_Sudan)]

*“The Lost Boys of Sudan is the name given to the groups of over 20,000 boys of the Nuer and Dinka ethnic groups who were displaced and/or orphaned during the Second Sudanese Civil War (1983–2005); about 2.5 million were killed and millions were displaced. The name "Lost Boys of Sudan" was colloquially used by aid workers in the refugee camps where the boys resided in Africa.”*

[Resource: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lost\\_Boys\\_of\\_Sudan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lost_Boys_of_Sudan)]

