

transcript

level 1

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Refugees

Jackie: For this weeks podcastsineenglish.com we're talking about Angelina Jolie and Jordan because on 20 June it's World Refugee Day.

Richard: So Jackie, what has Angelina Jolie got to do with World Refugee Day?

Jackie: Well, Angelina Jolie of course is most known for her films that's she's starred in, er... Tomb Raider, we saw Tomb Raider didn't we?

Richard: Yes, and um... Mr and Mrs Smith with er... Brad Pitt.

Jackie: Did you like that?

Richard: It was ok [laughs].

Jackie: Mmm, ok. So, obviously she's a famous film star but in fact since August 2001 Angelina Jolie has been a Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Refugee Agency, which is the UNHCR.

Richard: Yes, I think she started that when she filmed um... Tomb Raider because it was filmed in Cambodia.

Jackie: Right.

Richard: And I think um... when she was doing this in Cambodia she got involved with the UN, is that right?

Jackie: Yes, that's right. She actually approached the UNHCR and said that she would like to become more involved and asked what she could do and they suggested that she become an Ambassador and there are about eight... I think there are eight Goodwill Ambassadors at the moment and in general they're famous people and they help to tell the rest of the world what's happening with the refugees.

Richard: Oh ok, cos I thought um...she was just doing it as a little publicity stunt, it's quite an important job then is it?

Jackie: Yes, um... other... other ambassadors include Giorgio Armani and they use their... their fame to organise radio interviews, to be in magazine articles and to go on TV shows and they use... they use their celebrity to um... obviously to take... to have pictures taken of them with the refugees but it's actually quite an important role, they also have to meet world leaders, diplomats, teachers, local officials, so it's quite a serious job.

- Richard: Ok, so where has Angelina been then in her new role?
- Jackie: Er, well she's been doing it for now over six years and she's been in more than 20 countries, would you believe? Um... including Sierra Leone, Tanzania, she's done a lot of work in Chad, and Sudan, she's been to Jordan, Egypt, India, Costa Rica, lots of places.
- Richard: Oh ok, so she's quite serious about the job, then?
- Jackie: Yes, and she also gives a lot of money, obviously her and Brad Pitt are rolling in it, um... but she gives a lot of money to UNHCR and she's often one of the first private donors, when... when the charity asks people for money she's often one of the first people to... to give money to the charity and she's given already over 3 million dollars.
- Richard: Wow! What 3 million dollars of her own money?
- Jackie: Of her own money, and wherever she goes she pays for all her expenses.
- Richard: Wow, I didn't know that at all. Yes, so I remember um... Angelina got involved with the UNHCR when she filmed Tomb Raider in Cambodia, is that right?
- Jackie: Yes
- Richard: And also in addition to becoming a Goodwill Ambassador she also adopted a Cambodian child, didn't she?
- Jackie: Yes, a little boy called Maddox.
- Richard: Ok, and since then she's also adopted other children, hasn't she?
- Jackie: Mmm, um... from Vietnam, another little boy called Pax, and from an orphanage in Ethiopia a little girl called Zahara.
- Richard: Ok, and at the beginning of the um... the podcast you mentioned er... Jordan. Why did you mention Jordan?
- Jackie: Well, Angelina Jolie has been to Jordan and the reason for that is because there are many refugees there and in fact um... it has um... an enormous number of refugees mainly from Iraq, 750,000 refugees from Iraq, and also just under 2 million refugees from Palestine. But there is another reason for mentioning Jordan, but you can tell the listeners that Richard.
- Richard: [laughs] Yes, it's going to be our new home. We're not refugees but we're going to be moving to Jordan. So we've been interviewing a lot of people from Asia for our podcasts so perhaps in future podcasts they're are going to be more people from the Middle East that we're

going to be interviewing. Um... certainly from August when I take up my new job with the British Council.

Jackie: Yes, a few more weeks left in Thailand to enjoy the beaches, um... luckily we're going from a sunny place to another sunny place but a lot less rain I think.

Richard: [laughs] Yes, so yes we're off from the beaches of Thailand to the deserts of Jordan. See you there! Thanks very much, Jackie!

Jackie: Bye