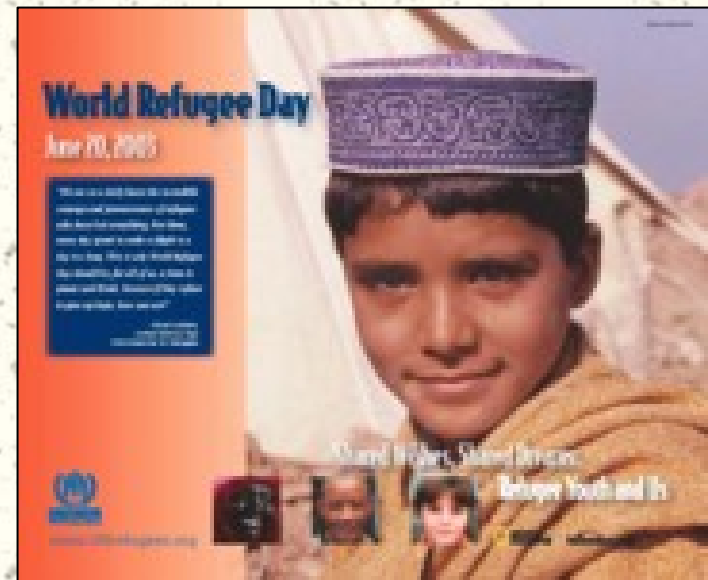


World Refugee Day June 20, 2003

"Refugee Youth -
Building the
Future"



Why focus on refugee youth?

- # Refugee youth (10-18 years old) are amongst the most vulnerable of refugee populations due to separation from their loved ones, exploitation, abuse, violence, and/or additional burdens of responsibility.
- # HIV/AIDS, military recruitment, and extremely limited access to education are very real threats to refugee youth.

"The World of Children at a Glance"*

**United Nations High
Commissioner for Refugees, 2001*

- # Ten million children under the age of five die each year, the majority from preventable diseases and malnutrition.
- # As many as 10,000 children per year continue to become victims of land mines.
- # More than 300,000 youths (including girls) are currently serving as child soldiers around the world. Many are less than 10 years old. Many girl soldiers are forced into different forms of sexual slavery.

"The World of Children at a Glance"*

**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2001*

- # **AIDS** has killed more than 3.89 million children and orphaned another 13 million. In the last five years HIV/AIDS has become the greatest threat to children, especially in countries ravaged by war. In the worst affected countries, it is estimated that as many as half of today's 15-year olds will die from the disease.
- # An estimated **45,000 households** in Rwanda today are **headed by children**, 90 percent of them girls.

Florida Refugee Health Program

Bureau of TB & Refugee Health

- # Offers a **health assessment** and **immunization services** (at no charge) to persons eligible for refugee services, within 90 days of their arrival in the U.S.
- # **Refugee**: someone who has fled his or her country of origin due to a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, social group or political opinion.

Statistics

Florida receives more persons eligible for refugee services than any other state, averaging approximately 21,000 eligible new arrivals each year.

Florida receives approximately two times as many new arrivals than received by California and three times as many received by New York State.