



**The Lost Boys &  
Girls of Sudan**

THE NATIONAL NETWORK

**Lost Boys and Girls of Sudan Summer Conference  
Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, CA  
June 19-21, 2009**

**Lost Boys and Girls Life History Project**

During 2004, the AZ Lost Boys Center (AZLBC) negotiated with Swedish Save the Children (SSC) to bring a digitized database containing a searchable archive of approximately 18,000 files for Sudanese refugees to AZLBC for archiving and dissemination. Each file contains a photograph of the refugee along with critical information collected during an extensive interview, including the refugee's full name, village of origin, circumstances of their departure, escape routes and travel partners, family members left behind, and the names of travel companions who may have perished along the way and the circumstances of their death.

The information contained in the database is critical for those who want to reconstruct their personal histories, gain an understanding of and reconciliation with the last experiences of deceased loved ones, or try to reconnect with those they sojourned with. This is especially important for Lost Boys and Girls who, as unaccompanied minors, came into refugee camps traumatized and suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. Many have only poor recollections of their home and of their experiences, and their files may be the only foundation from which to reconstruct these. Conference attendees were able to look through this database for themselves and loved ones.

**David Turkon** is an Associate Professor of Anthropology at Ithaca College. He has researched political and economic change in Lesotho since 1987, and in 2004 began working to formulate sustainable, community focused intervention strategies to reduce the transmission of HIV and mitigate the impact of AIDS in Lesotho. David also works on community capacity building among Sudanese refugees and is presently a senior advisor to the Sudanese Lost Boys of Syracuse Cow Project. David has been an elected member of the Board of Directors for AZ Lost Boys Center, and a member of the steering committees for the Samaritan Center Resettlement Program of Ithaca, NY and the Immigrant Rights Coalition of Tompkins County, NY. David is now Chair Elect for the AIDS and Anthropology Research Group and an elected board member and program editor for the Association for Africanist Anthropology.

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