



AMERICAN MORNING

World Refugee Day

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ROBERTS: Young adults in the west are beginning to pay attention to refugee crisis in Africa, and some are doing what they can, lending a helping hand to help those in need help themselves.

AMERICAN MORNING's Dan Lothian has that part of the story for us now.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

DAN LOTHIAN, CNN CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): Africans fleeing civil war and unrest in neighboring countries, living in Zambia's refugee camps. It's often overcrowded and depressing. But this is where 26-year-old Nicholas Talarico sees hope.

NICHOLAS TALARICO, FORGE DEVELOPMENT DIR.: Where people could just throw their hands up say everything is bad, my whole life is useless, they look at this new time as an opportunity to really change that around.

LOTHIAN: Talarico work with FORGE, a nonprofit organization working with the United Nations that matches Western university students or recent graduates with thousands of young Africans stuck in three Zambian refugee camps.

TALARICO: They don't have much to do besides sit around, stand around all day.

LOTHIAN: Not anymore. Talarico returned a month ago from Zambia where he took these pictures. He says FORGE and its volunteers are using books, computers, sports to educate refugees on everything from business and women's rights to AIDS prevention, and they've established what they say is the largest library in a refugee camp anywhere in the world, more than 20,000 books. For young and old, rare access to knowledge.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: We saw a truck, a full truck, coming with books. We was very happy.

TALARICO: A large computer center is next. Ten brand-new Toughbook laptops powered by three solar panels and brain new building.

LOTHIAN: Kjerstin Erickson, who is currently in Africa, started FORGE three years ago while a student at Stanford University. She saw a need during a visit to help and to partner with refugees, some of whom have been inspired to enroll in college.

TALARICO: Each project is a microgoal.

LOTHIAN: Talarico was working in his family's New Hampshire business within he decided to help, joining FORGE full time.

TALARICO: I have so many resources that I want to give back. I don't think that just doing for yourself is enough nowadays.

LOTHIAN: An investment in Africa's refugees, giving them the power to create social change, wherever they ultimately call home.

Dan Lothian, CNN, Boston.

(END VIDEOTAPE)