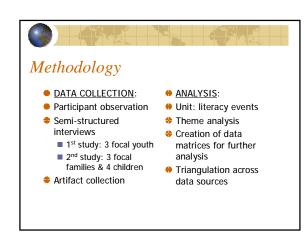


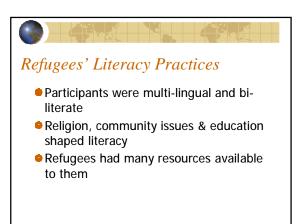
knowledge and have access to

resources











## Chol: A (not so) Lost Boy

- Separated from family at age 4
- Refugee camps in Ethiopia & Kenya
- New family units:
  - Elders & foster parents in Kakuma camp
  - Brothers' Union in Michigan



## Chol: Educational Support in Michigan

- Social service agencies
  - Case workers
  - Educational funding: tutoring, computers, tuition
- American mentors
  - Academic tutoring, computer help, driver's education



- Parents with limited education
- 2 years in U.S.
- High-achieving kindergartner



## Remaz: Educational Support in Michigan

- Church community
  - Family sponsors
- Extended family—many "aunties"
  - Older cousins in school
- Support for parents
  - Translation for parents
  - "Best teacher" for mother



#### Viola: Sudanese Parent

- Elite Southern family
- Earned law degree
- Community leader
- Mother of 4 boys





## Viola: Literacy Support in Michigan

- Church community
  - Religious book group
  - Computers at church
- Other American literacy brokers
  - Sweepstakes junk mail
- Support from children
  - Texts that came home from school



## Insights & Implications

- Refugees have a wide variety of supportive resources available
  - Often more than are available to "regular" immigrants
- Refugees are incredibly resourceful
- Focusing on community shows that refugees may not be so "deficient"



# Strategies for Educators

- Think beyond traditional family literacy models
  - Parents learn from children
  - Siblings learn from each other
- Tap into families, broadly defined
  - Older siblings, cousins, ethnic communities
- Access community resources
  - Social workers
  - Church groups/sponsors
  - Tutors