Gaining Child Protection Dividends through Livelihoods Programming
Research Objectives

1. To recognize youth contributions to household economies and identify challenges and needs in youth livelihood programming; and,

2. To understand how economic programs targeting adults impact child protection.
Displacement

- 28 million conflict-affected internally displaced persons
- 14 million refugees (inclusive of Palestinians)
- Average length of refugee displacement: 17 years
- Average length of civil wars: 10 years
Half of the world’s 39 million children who are out-of-school live in conflict-affected fragile states.

A country emerging from civil war faces a 44% chance of returning to conflict within five years if economic growth does not take off.
Large numbers of unemployed youth drive conflict and displacement

Displaced youth return home unable to contribute to the re-building of their lives and communities

Displaced youth miss out on years of school

Years spent displaced represent a wasted opportunity

Skills training programs that exist are not market driven
Rationale

- Among the most under-served of all people affected by conflict and displacement
- As a result of marginalization and social exclusion: highly vulnerable to recruitment, exploitation and abuse
- Often disadvantaged by disrupted schooling, lack of parental mentoring in traditional livelihoods, and limited employment opportunities
- Ill-equipped for the transition to adulthood
What is needed???

- Basic education
- Employment readiness
- Life Skills
Contributions

• Diversify household economic activities
• Vital contributions to household well-being
• Implications for school attendance / longer-term economic potential - “earning and learning”
• Implications for working young people’s health, well-being and development
• Potential implications for care of younger children
Assumptions

- Economic opportunities have many positive roll-on effects
- When women have income they are safer
- When households have income their children are more likely to be in school, more likely to be accessing health care, and are better fed
- Children, of any age, shouldn’t work
Potential Indicators

- School enrollment/attendance/retention
- Access to health care
- Nutritional status
- Consumption patterns
- Savings rates
- Provision of child care
Potential Learning

- Real impact of economic programs on households and communities
- Ability to measure impact based on improvements in child protection
- Child protection agencies implement economic programming inline with their missions
- Bringing together of two practitioner communities
- Begin development of an evidence base