



WOMEN'S  
REFUGEE  
COMMISSION

# 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

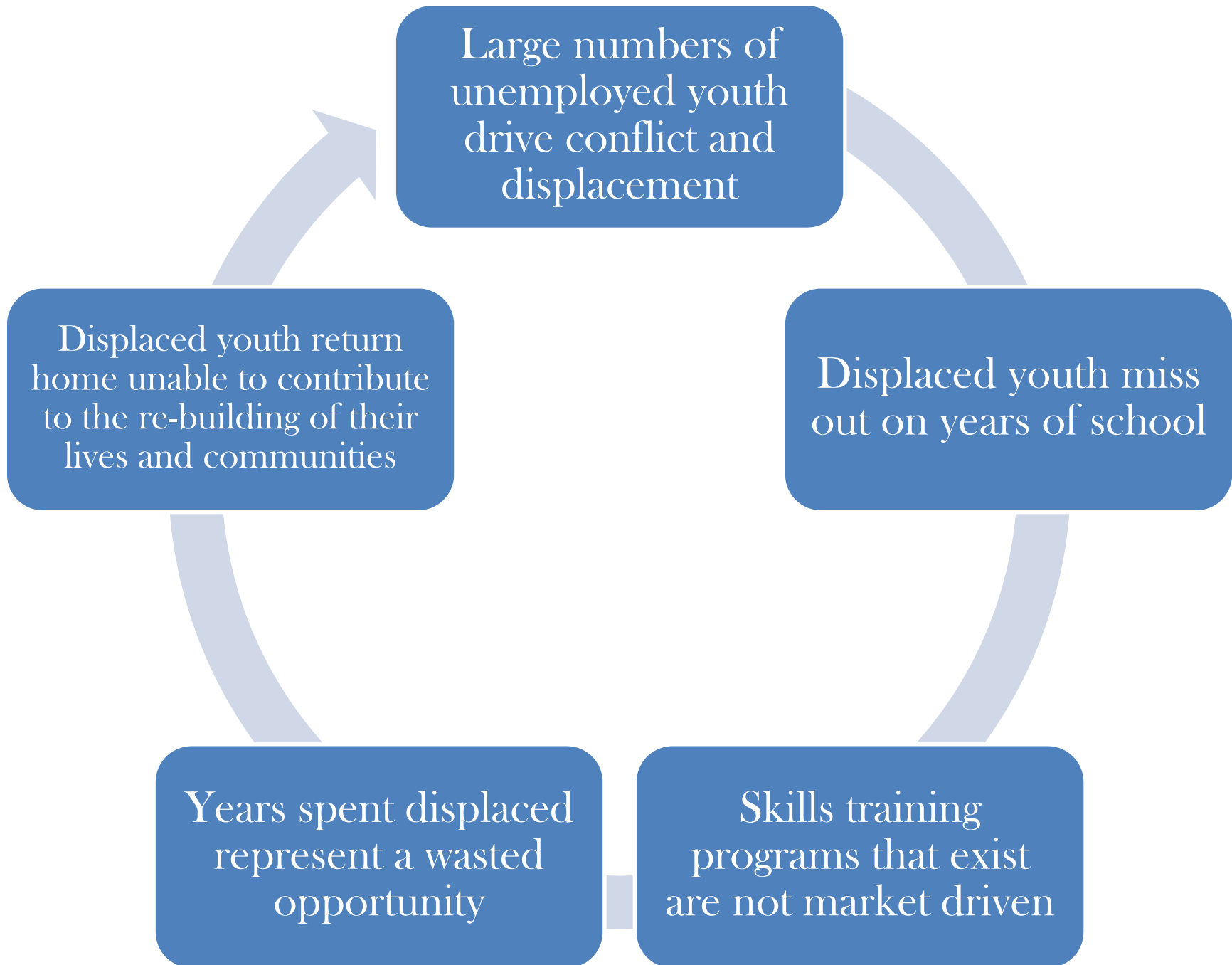
- 28 million conflict-affected internally displaced persons
- 14 million refugees (inclusive of Palestinians)
- Average length of refugee displacement: 17 years
- Average length of civil wars: 10 years



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.

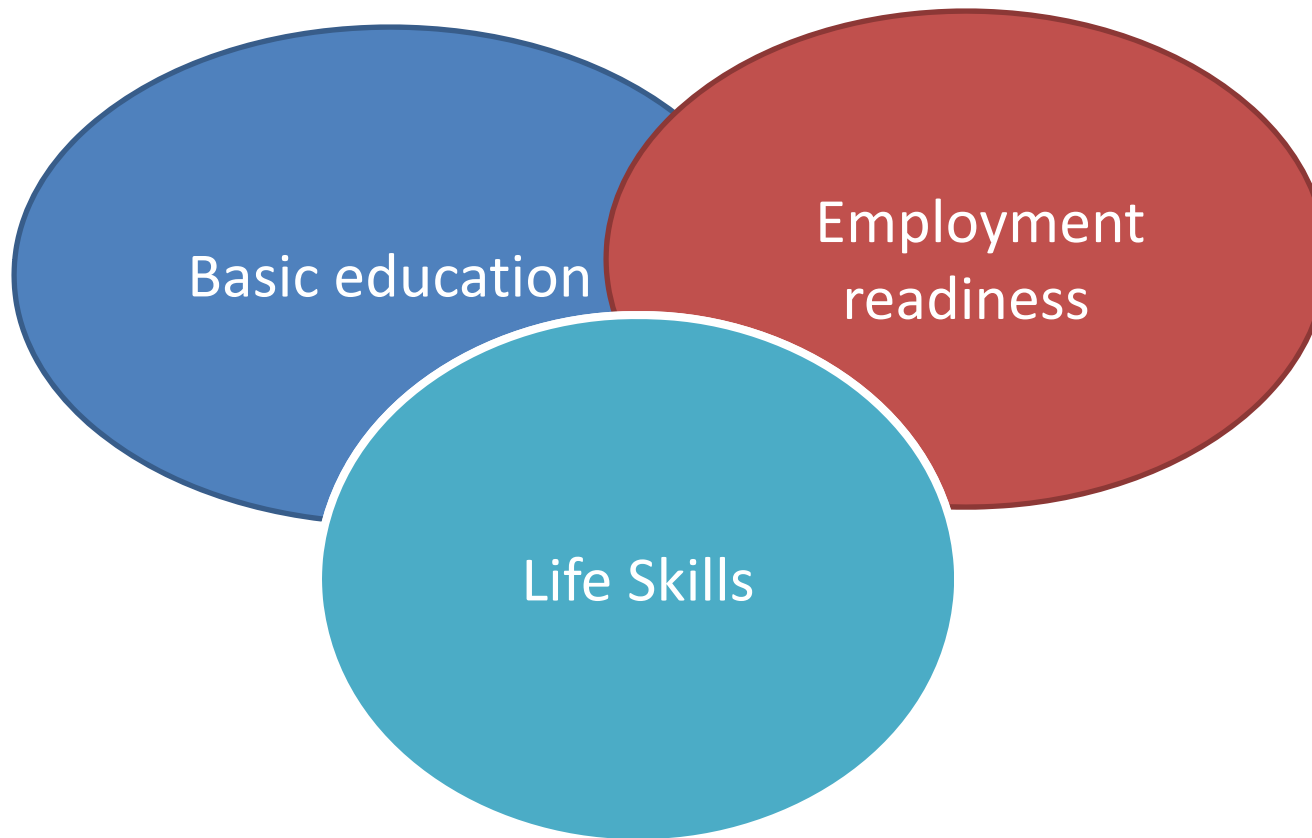




# Rationale

- 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???



# 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