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## Livelihoods and Protection for Conflict-affected Children and Youth

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### 1. Introduction of Theme

Children and youth's ability to survive and thrive in the wake of a conflict is dependent on the capacity of themselves, their families and their communities to provide for their needs. Exacerbated conditions during conflict undermine the ability for families and communities to address these needs by devastating people's ability to generate income and secure a sustainable livelihood that can help protect them from future shocks. Conflict conditions devastate household livelihoods, exacerbate poverty and deplete the resources necessary to ensure children's safety, health and development. The lack of a livelihood makes households vulnerable and threatens child protection. In the wake of a conflict, many families do not have the resources to restore their source of income and children may be forced to drop out of school, to participate in dangerous labor practices, forced into early marriage, or revert back to involvement in armed groups as a way to establish a livelihood and gain the protection they are not getting in their households.



**Child protection:** preventing and responding to violence, exploitation and abuse against children – including commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking, child labor and harmful traditional practices, such as female genital mutilation/cutting and child marriage.

Source: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

**A livelihood** comprises the capabilities, assets (both natural and social) and activities required for a means of living; a livelihood is sustainable which can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, both now and in the future, while not undermining the natural resource base.

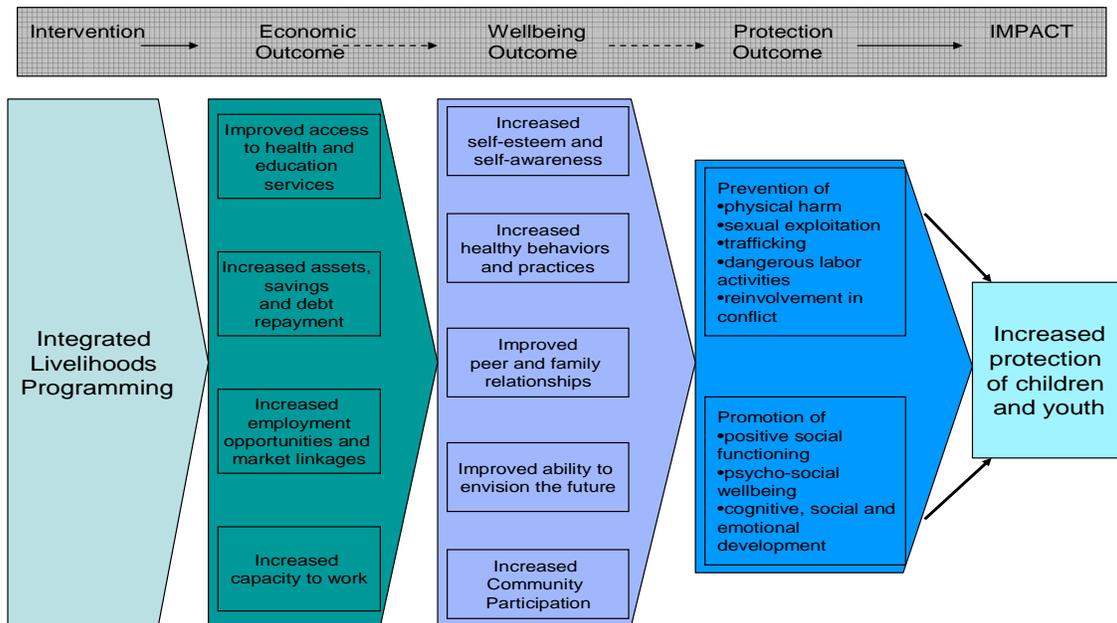
Source: United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

Over the past two decades, post-conflict relief activities have evolved from basic needs to a more comprehensive package of goods and services. In the past, practitioners and donors have responded to the emergency and post-conflict period with only the provision of basic relief goods. These activities, despite not meeting greater needs, may “inadvertently distort private sector markets and unintentionally create vulnerabilities and dependency”. Furthermore, long-term development has been considered a “second-stage activity.”<sup>1</sup> More recently, the livelihood needs of children and youth are being addressed in a more systematic way. Through frameworks such as the sustainable livelihoods approach, practitioners are able to grasp “the main factors that affect poor people's livelihoods and the typical relationships between these factors” and adapt them for local contexts and circumstances.<sup>2</sup> As the field evolves towards more evidence-based improvements that address needs in a more holistic and comprehensive way, relief

programs can reach people in more complex circumstances and sustainable change can be realized.

In terms of programming innovations in post-conflict period, limited evidence is found. There is some evidence from promising practices that suggest that post-conflict programming that goes beyond economic inputs and addresses a wider range of needs as presented by the livelihoods framework can contribute to protection by reducing the threat of physical harm, preventing sexual exploitation, trafficking, dangerous labor and income generating activities and re-involvement in conflict. The prevention of these activities not only reducing the threat of physical harm but contributes to positive social functioning, psycho-social wellbeing, cognitive, social and emotional development. Because these programs are newer, more integrated and increasingly complex, there is a lack of rigorous evidence to prove their impact on child protection either in preventing physical harm or promoting well-being. It is the goal of this paper to examine the evidence that does exist and to advocate for the collection of more evidence to support the claim that integrated livelihood programming can increase the protection of children and youth in the post-conflict period.

This paper encourages an integrated approach to programming which includes components that address both the livelihoods and protection needs of children and youth in post-conflict situations. Our research aims to strengthen the claim that integrated livelihood programs, those that link economic inputs with complimentary programs that address the complex nature of families needs during the early post-conflict phase, is a powerful tool that can increase the protection of children and youth and reduce exploitive and harmful situations. By examining integrated livelihood interventions targeting, through rigorous evaluation, have shown an increased protection for youth and children, this paper provides a working understanding of the conceptual and practical link between livelihoods and child protection in order to strengthen the connections between the two fields and to inform future programming.



## 2. Background

The damaging effects of wars and armed conflicts put children around the world at risk everyday. The nature of today's conflicts, whether they be regional, intra-state, ethnic or military, are occurring on ambiguous battlefields with unclear definition of combatants and non-combatants. This has led to increasing violence against civilian populations and a high rate of violence against children.<sup>3, 4</sup> In their wake, these conflict leave populations displaced, infrastructure and social structures broken down, services interrupted, and value systems eroded. More protracted conflicts produce a post-conflict environment marked by a culture of violence, weak governance, and an absence of accountability.<sup>5</sup> As a result, children become the victims of sexual violence, they can be exploited as combatants and they often bear witness to indiscriminate acts of violence. In addition, conflict exacerbates the conditions that lead to malnutrition and disease. In the post-conflict period children's health status deteriorate at high rates and they face additional threats their development due to the lack of protection and the scarcity of services.<sup>6</sup>

In order to rehabilitate communities and encourage lasting peace, there is a need for the international community to protect the health and development of children and youth during conflicts and in the post-conflict period through innovative, comprehensive programming. The past two decades have seen progress in the international community's acknowledgement of children's rights to protection and has led to the increased implementation of child protection initiatives in conflict countries. Along with these reports and initiatives, there have been increases in funding sources, donor awareness, organizational response and innovative programming:

1989: The **Convention on the Rights of the Child** is written which outlines the fundamental rights of children, including the right to be protected from economic exploitation and harmful work, from all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse, and from physical or mental violence, as well as ensuring that children will not be separated from their family against their will.

1996: Graça Machel in her UN Report “**The Impact of Armed Conflict on Children**” wrote, “Concern for children has brought us to a common standard around which to rally. In the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the world has a unique instrument that almost every country has ratified. The single most important resolve that the world could make would be to transform universal ratification of this Convention into universal reality.”

2000: Through adoption of the **Millennium Declaration**, the world’s countries resolved to encourage the ratification and full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its optional Protocols on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

2005: “**Free Children from War**”, an international conference held in Paris, hosted countries from every region, international organizations and NGOs who made steps towards their goal of protecting children from the unlawful recruitment or use by armed forces.

Parallel to the evolution of child protection policy and programming, livelihood thinking has developed into an equally robust and active area of policy and practice. Developments in the literature on livelihoods date back to the work of Robert Chambers and others in the mid-1980s, who developed a sustainable livelihoods framework through a research program undertaken by the Institute of Development Studies at Sussex involving work in Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Mali<sup>7</sup>. What is today known as the livelihoods approach places poor people at the center of a web of inter-related factors that affect the strategies they develop to create a livelihood for themselves and their households.<sup>8</sup> This approach has been broadly adopted by the Department for International Development (DfID) and a range of other governmental and non-governmental development agencies. Although this approach seeks to understand the changing modes of livelihood in a dynamic and historical context and can be adapted to fit most setting, it has commonly been applied to rural poor populations. More recently, innovative livelihoods programs have targeted children and youth and some have targeted populations in conflict and post-conflict situations.

Recently, there has been a heightened awareness about the importance of applying the livelihood framework to more challenging contexts. Leading the way is Tufts University’s Feinstein International Center. The Center’s goal is to “prioritize research and development of life-saving response strategies for meeting basic needs (e.g., shelter, food, water, sanitation, wider public health measures, and protection), while at the same time promoting a more balanced approach that respects and builds on local efforts and supports local priorities in order to protect livelihoods and save lives.” Through

conferences, research initiatives and publications, the Feinstein International Center is building the evidence-base for the field of livelihoods programming in war, natural disaster, post-conflict and forced migration environments.

In favor of the integration of livelihoods and protection, funding strategies have also begun to shift to accommodate the advocates of integrated programming. In January 2007, USAID/OFDA released a funding guidance report for Darfur, Sudan that stated an interest in protection programs that include “*training programs for income generation, livelihoods skills, and health and hygiene promotion that focus on women, youth, and children*”. As the international relief and development community moves towards more integrated programming, it is vital that donors raise their awareness of the innovations on the ground and respond accordingly.

In addition, integrated programming has been cited as an important development tool in research done by the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) and Population Council. In a recent paper by ICRW, authored noted that “approaches aimed at improving only one aspect of youth’s lives are unlikely to have a lasting impact on overall well-being of young people.”<sup>9</sup> Through innovation like the livelihoods approach, professionals, donor and beneficiaries are demanding linked programs that efficiently and effectively improve the lives of young people. As researchers at the Population Council stated in their, “the field has moved far beyond addressing the question of “why livelihoods for adolescents?” to refining “how best to provide livelihoods” answers.”<sup>10</sup> With innovative research being conducted by groups like ICRW and Population Council, a greater evidence base for effective practice can be achieved.

### 3. Purpose

This paper provides an overview of current concepts and promising practices in the area of integrated livelihoods programming that have an impact on the protection of children and youth in the post-conflict period. Despite programmatic movements towards integrated field work, the evidence base is scarce. The current literature does not offer a great deal of evidence on the impact of livelihoods and child protection programming in the context of post-conflict and reintegration phases. In an effort to explore and promote more evidence-based programming in the early post-conflict period, this paper offers a selection of exemplar livelihood interventions that target children and youth, their families or their communities and provide evidence regarding their impact on child protection.

The list of promising practices used as exemplars is not exhaustive; it is meant to demonstrate the link between livelihoods and protection as well as illustrate innovative methodologies to evaluate that link. Relatively few evaluations of livelihoods programs in the post-conflict period actually exist and evidence of program impacts on child and youth lives is not widely reported. Because of the limited evidence base, only a few of the promising practices presented in this paper are from programs in post-conflict countries. Many of the exemplar programs come from countries with conditions analogous to the post-conflict period which can offer insights into post-conflict programming – resource-

poor settings, urban slums, and natural disasters. Through the presentation of these programs, this paper aims to examine the state of the field of practice and explore the potential effectiveness of programs that take on an integrated approach.

The paper will also serve as the central discussion piece for a workshop organized by Columbia University's Program on Forced Migration which will convene experts and others to give their input on the state of the knowledge base and the next steps for the field.

#### 4. Methodology

In an effort to survey the current field of practice and set a program learning agenda for the future, the methods used to collect the data that informed this paper included an independent search through relevant on-line databases and an experts' consensus nomination. The independent database search scanned published materials in on-line peer-review journals and agency websites for relevant names that came up most often as authors or in reference sections of articles on livelihoods and protection.

Through this process, a list of 55 knowledgeable scholars and practitioners was generated. These people were contacted and asked to nominate 1-3 of the most relevant people in this area of research to include themselves. From this, a short list of experts was nominated and asked to participate by suggesting 1-3 promising programs that focus on livelihoods and protection for conflict-affected children and youth. The programs that were suggested were then evaluated based on their relevancy to our research questions and a short list of promising practice was used to inform the analysis in the paper. The complete list appears in Annex 1.

There are some limitations to this methodology. We acknowledge that our search process favors material that has been published on-line and that is picked up in search engines. The list generated disfavors program evaluations that have not been published and may not include relevant field practitioner knowledge that may offer valuable insight. But this process seemed like a reasonable way to proceed in our goal of understanding the key program learning needs and of informing the applied research learning agenda that Columbia University and others hope to pursue together.

#### 5. Promising Practices

The innovative and ambitious programs highlighted below are not model programs, but serve to demonstrate the concept of integrated programs that encourage livelihoods activities and result in child protection impacts.

##### **Livelihoods and Children's Health and Nutrition**

*Freedom from Hunger Credit with Education in Ghana and Bolivia*<sup>11</sup>

Freedom from Hunger designed the Credit with Education model which includes a combination of micro-finance, health and business education services for rural women. The goal of the program is to improve child nutrition status by raising household incomes through access to credit and increasing health and nutrition knowledge by conducting

learning sessions. The rationale is that if families have more income and are offered guidance on how to best use that income to impact the health of their children, money will be spent on more nutritious foods and caring practices will improve which will result in healthier children. With these activities, the program takes into account the complex web of interrelated and complex factors that affect child nutritional status including poverty, childhood disease incidence, inadequate food intake and care practices.

The impact of microfinance program on child nutrition has been measured by a handful of studies with mixed results. Freedom from Hunger conducted two multi-year studies from programs in Ghana and Bolivia that assessed children's nutritional status and women's economic capacity, empowerment and adoption of healthy child care practices. The program was randomized to half of the targeted communities until the evaluation research was completed to maximize the ability to assess the impact of the program. The quasi-experimental study included baseline data collection, surveys, anthropometric measurements and interviews with participants. The magnitude and direction of the change was assessed by comparing participants to non-participants.

The results indicated that the Credit with Education program had an impact on children's nutritional status although the results were dependent on the quality of the program. Likely a result of the improved economic capacity of women in both countries, the quality of food and the caloric intake of children increased significantly in both countries. But the study results indicate that children in Bolivia did not experience the same positive impact from the program as the children in Ghana. In Ghana, participant households experienced greater food security and children of participants showed significant improvements in nutritional status compared to non-participants. In Bolivia, no evidence was found for improved household food security or nutritional status until results were disaggregated by the quality of the education received. The quality and appropriateness of the education received by participants influenced the extend to which information was retained and behavior change occurred.

These findings indicate that microfinance may result in increased economic capacity of a household and provide women with more self-sufficiency, but credit alone does not necessarily translate into food security or improvements in children's nutritional status. Oftentimes, microfinance programs end their evaluations at improved household economic capacity and assume that more money equals more food and therefore better nutrition for children. Improved access to credit can have powerful implications on the empowerments of women and ability to increase household assets through income-generating activities, but this study suggests that the combination of quality health education for women and access to credit translate into more impact in terms of children's health and nutrition.

### **Livelihoods and Sexual and Reproductive Health of Youth**

*K-Rep TRY Program in Kenya*<sup>12</sup>

There is increasing evidence that microfinance programs coupled with reproductive health education can have an affect on girls' empowerment in terms of sexual and reproductive health based on evidence that increased income and information

can give a girl more leverage in relationship negotiations and lead to positive behavior change. In addition, “young people engaged in livelihoods are more likely to have a ‘capacity to protective action’ or take ‘protective actions’” and young people’s “capacity to protective action or actual protective actions are stronger when combined with livelihood programs than when it is not”.<sup>13</sup> Tap and Reposition Youth (TRY) is a multiphase initiative undertaken by the Population Council and K-Rep Development Agency (KDA), the oldest and largest microfinance institution in Kenya, which targets low-income and slum areas of Nairobi, Kenya, where rates of HIV infection are alarming and where young women are disproportionately affected. TRY is an integrated program combining savings, micro-credit, training in business and life skills, reproductive health (RH) education, and mentoring by adults from the community. TRY used a modified group-based micro-finance model to extend integrated savings, credit, business support and mentoring to out-of-school adolescents and young women. The objective of the program was to reduce the vulnerabilities of out-of-school adolescent girls and young women aged 16–22 to adverse social and reproductive health outcomes, including HIV infection, by improving their livelihoods options.

The impact of the TRY project on participants in Kenya was assessed by comparing enrolled girls to a group of suitable controls who had not been exposed to the project. The study consisted of a longitudinal study of participants with a matched comparison group identified through cross sectional community-based studies, undertaken at baseline and endline to enable an assessment of changes associated with the project. TRY participants were interviewed upon entering and leaving the program. Each participant was matched to a control of approximately the same age, education, marital status, parenthood status, and employment status that lived in the same neighborhood. Controls were identified through house-to-house surveys taking place in the vicinity of the participants’ homes. Comparison of participants and their controls allowed researchers to assess changes in the TRY participants that may be associated with the project activities. The evaluation assessed whether participation in the TRY program

- (1) Contributes to increases in individual income;
- (2) Increases the individual’s savings
- (3) Increases members’ material assets
- (4) Increases girls’ mobility and exposure to non-familial social networks
- (5) Increases girls’ ability to gain control over sexual relations, including their ability to negotiate safer sex.

The results of the evaluation indicate that TRY girls had more than doubled their savings and the mean savings they had accrued was significantly larger than that of the control group. Whereas only about one-fourth of TRY members and the control sample reported saving in a bank at baseline, by end line, TRY girls were considerably more likely to save in a bank, compared with the control girls (42 percent and 24 percent, respectively). In terms of sexual and reproductive health, TRY girls’ responses showed that they were significantly more likely than girls in the control sample to refuse sex. TRY participants were more than 1.7 times more likely to be able to refuse to have sex with their partners and nearly 3 times more likely to be able to insist on condom use,

compared to control girls. Similarly, although condom use was not statistically significantly higher among TRY girls than among controls, their participation in the decision to use a condom was higher.

For this evaluation, there was a low response rate at endline (68%). Nearly one third of TRY participants could not be located for follow-up interview, largely those who dropped out of the program. It is possible that girls that were not interviewed may have been less successful participants, which may have biased the results. In addition, the rate of drop out was especially high amongst younger adolescents, suggesting that the model requires further examination and adaptation to respond to the realities of younger girls living in risky settings. In addition, the program designers based the microfinance program component on an adult lending model that had never been offered to adolescents before. Tailoring programs to meet the specific needs of youth is vital to successful programs that truly accomplish protection benefits for youth

This study highlights the challenges of reaching adolescents in resource-poor areas for livelihood and reproductive health interventions who are often the most in-need of protection and the least targeted population in terms of programming. One benefit of the TRY project is that girls may have been initially attracted by the possibility of improving their economic status and may have been more likely to enroll in the integrated program than in programs that only offered the sexual health education component.

### **Livelihoods and Child Labor**

#### *Child Labor Eradication Program (PETI) in Brazil<sup>14</sup>*

In an effort to combat high rates of child labor in the rural areas of Brazil, the Brazilian government developed Child Labor Eradication Program (PETI) which was based on the rationale that if household income increased and children had an alternative to dangerous work during after-school hours, child labor would be reduced. The program targeted areas of the country with high incidence of risky child labor, particularly in agriculture which accounts for 90% of rural working children. The program was based on *Bolsa Escola*, another government program targeting children in urban areas. *Bolsa Escola* tied a transfer payment to school attendance of children aged 7-14. However, the PETI program included a requirement for attendance at an after-school educational program that was meant to reduce the likelihood of child labor. The federal government, who funded the grants and part of the after-school program, had a particular focus on limiting the worst forms of child labor, interpreted as labor that involved health risks including agave and sugarcane production and fishing.

The PETI provided income transfers to poor households in exchange for an agreement that the child would attend school at least 80% of the time. In addition, the child had to attend an after-school program that effectively doubled the length of the school day. The program included an experimental evaluation design. In each state, data were collected from 6 municipalities. The six municipalities were divided into two groups. The treatment group was composed of three municipalities (Pernambuco, Sergipe and Bahia) which were in the PETI program. The control group included three

municipalities of like socioeconomic status that did not receive the intervention. There was concern that limited child labor in participating municipalities may have adverse affects on non-participating children in that they would have to work more hours to make up the difference. Special attention was paid to this possibility during implementation and the evaluation.

The program increased time in school, reduced labor force participation and hazardous work, and increased academic success for children in the program. Five indicators of program impacts on children were collected. Those include school enrollment, labor participation, hours of work, sector of employment, and highest grade attained. These indicators were collected for both program and other children in the sample. The results of the evaluation indicated that children in participating school spent more time in school, less time at work, less time in risky work, and progressed in school at a faster rate. The evaluation showed that as a result of participating in the PETI program, the probability of working fell between 4-7 percentage points in Pernambuco, close to 13 percentage points in Sergipe and nearly 26 percentage points in Bahia which has the highest child labor force participation rate in Brazil at 38%.

The evaluation indicated that PETI appears to be less successful in lowering the incidence of working more than 10 hours than it was in lowering the probability of working overall. This finding suggests that PETI was more successful at removing part-time child workers from the labor force than it was at removing more dedicated child laborers from their jobs. PETI decreased the probability of children working in higher risk activities. The probability of being in the lowest risk group rises and the probability of being in higher risk groups falls. An interesting finding was that even though the after-school program was available to all households in PETI municipalities, only children in households that received the cash transfer spent significantly more time in school. This suggests that offering an after-school program alone does not provide enough incentive for children to stay in school instead of participating in labor. Also, households may not be able to afford to remove children from the labor force without the subsidy. The integration of the education program and the subsidy results in a greater impact on the reduction of child labor.

### **Livelihoods and Early Marriage of Girls**

*Kishori Abhijan in Bangladesh*<sup>15</sup>

Based on the idea that young people's education and work opportunities are linked to their decisions about the timing of marriage and their reproductive health, the *Kishori Abhijan* program provides rural Bangladeshi girls with life skills and livelihoods opportunities through three program components: mentorship, gender, health and rights education, training and linkages with credit and micro-enterprise organizations. The program was funded by UNICEF and implemented by Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) and the Center for Mass Education and Science (CMES).

The main objectives of the program were to increase the median age at marriage of girls involved in the project by at least two years and to increase by at least 30% the independent economic activity of adolescent girls involved in the project in the 15-18

year age group. Additional objectives included increasing school enrollment and completion rates of adolescent girls and to increase the visibility of adolescent girls as a special interest group in the media and in national programs. An impact assessment was conducted and the report stated that researchers took great care to insure that the sampled population would represent the larger adolescent population in the region.

The quasi-experimental design of the assessment meant that of the 90 villages that were included in the baseline collection, 75 of them were randomly selected to receive the program while 15 served as control villages. The report addresses the issue of selection bias that may have affected the results of the evaluation including characteristics of participants who chose to join the intervention program and geographic distribution of selected villages. Because certain characteristics were different between those who did and did not join the intervention, researchers decided to do a propensity-score matched pair analysis in order to control for this potential bias.

The results of the evaluation indicate that this program did not achieve a significant reduction in marrying age overall but did achieve delayed marriage in younger adolescent girls. In addition, more significant results were seen in the poorer villages suggesting that those in poorer areas have the most to gain from such interventions. The results may have been affected by the fact that participants were involved in a number of other interventions and education programs offered by BRAC and CMES. In addition, the evaluation stratified results by matched and unmatched members and non-members and also BRAC Library members. The program affects may have been diluted and/or the findings may have been unclear. These results, although limited, inform future actions for practitioners in terms of programming changes and evaluation techniques.

### **Livelihoods and Conflict-affected Youth Reintegration**

#### *GTZ Education for Young People in Sierra Leone*<sup>16</sup>

In the wake of civil war, young people are left displaced, disoriented, violence prone and at risk of disease and drug abuse. Often young people feel like that have no clear way to participate in civil society. GTZ established a program in post-civil war Sierra Leone that addresses these issues faced by war-affected youth and aims to get young people involved in civic life through employment. The program offers general education, health education and vocational programs including apprenticeships in local businesses and craft enterprises. Some apprenticeships included training with local tradespersons such as car mechanics, electricians, metal workers, carpenters, tailors, caterers and cosmeticians. The curriculum was developed specifically for young people traumatized by war. The programs were provided to both boys and girls through community education centers in Freetown, Koidu and Kailahun.

The results of the program indicate that this comprehensive package of services for young people was successful in getting more young people participating in the job market and taking advantage of additional training. Of the 247 young people (ages 16 – 20) that participated in the apprenticeship program, 70% were still employed by the enterprise they trained in 6 months later. An evaluation survey revealed that 54% of them desired to stay in their current place of employment indicating satisfaction with job

placement. Another 17% expressed a desire to set up their own workshop indicating an enterprising spirit and self-confidence. Of particular importance is that 58% of those young people in the apprentice program were female. Many of these female participated in male-dominated trades like metal working and car mechanics

The education classes, which included basic education, health education (with particular attention to HIV/AIDS and drug abuse prevention) and civic education, resulted in 76% of the students passing the West African Council National Primary School Examination, of which 36% were female. In addition, 97% of those who passed enrolled in junior secondary school; their tuition was paid for by the program.

Another program component included training peer educators and setting up sessions for the peer educators to work with war-affected youth in the community education centers. Over 1,700 young people, assisted by the 180 youth peer educators, have worked to develop concrete plans for their futures. In addition, through the promotion of social participation and active input from participants, the group came up with ways that the young people themselves can contribute actively to the country's reconstruction.

A key indicator that suggests programmatic success is the low drop-out rate. The program designers had built in specific mechanisms to address the common reasons for dropping out. In particular, the program focused on conflict resolution methods which lead to the quick resolution of conflict between the young people and their family members. The program also encouraged young mothers and orphans to join through outreach and flexibility. For young mother, child care was offered for young mothers. This attention to detail and additional support allowed young people to keep focused and become successful in their apprenticeships and education classes.

## 6. Conclusion

The plight of children affected by war has become a priority in the field. Practitioners, donors and beneficiaries have been struggling to identify the best services and program that address the complex web of needs of children and youth during that the post-conflict period. Innovations such as the livelihoods framework have become important tools in the creation of promising program. But without empirical evidence from current practice to inform program learning, the field will not progress. At this stage, it is necessary to gather information on what we know, what we think we know and what remains knowledge gaps in the field in order to pave the way for future program learning that will lead to more effective practice.

### *What we know:*

- Children and youth's ability to survive and thrive in the wake of a conflict is dependent on the capacity of themselves, their families and their communities to provide for their needs.
- Great strides of been taken by both livelihoods and child protection advocates to advance knowledge and practice in responding to these needs.

- The livelihoods approach provides an important tool for all fields to map out the complex web of needs of children and youth to include protection.
- Integrated programming is increasingly being used to improve the lives of children and youth in resource-poor settings.
- Rigorous impact evaluations are necessary to assess the achievements of integrated programming for children and youth.

*What we think we know:*

- Livelihood programs can result in protection benefits for children and youth – although not enough evidence exists to prove the impact of livelihoods programming on children and youth in the post-conflict period.
- Children and youth, or their families, who gain access to increased income or assets alone may not realize the full protection benefits that would result from integrated or “linked” programming.
- Integrated programs – economic interventions paired with complimentary protection programs - that have shown some success in resource poor setting can inform similar programming for children and youth in post-conflict environments.
- Complimentary programs that seem to provide the most benefit are educational in nature and encourage the recipient of the economic intervention to maximizing the benefits of their increased income to impact the protection of children and youth.

*Remaining knowledge gaps:*

- The state of the practice depends upon empirical evidence and thorough evaluations – particularly impact evaluations. Throughout this research, it has become evident that the paucity of impact evaluations for integrated programs is slowing down progress in the field. Without clear evidence of outcomes, key components and overall impact, it is difficult to improve programming and to make progress in the profession.
- There is a need for consensus on the terms used in literature and practice. Livelihoods can refer to income, economic wellbeing, household assets, sustainable survival techniques, or food security. Child protection can refer to social protection, physical security, protection from exploitation, or protection of the right to health and education.
- Integrated programming requires integrated fields. The separation between livelihoods and child protection researchers and advocates affects the way programs are built, implemented and funded. In the end, the two fields share similar objectives and the research and knowledge of each will add value to the other’s work.

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