Economic Strengthening to Mitigate Risk of GBV for Adolescent Girls in Emergencies
What do we mean by Economic Strengthening?

- Skills training
- Income-generation projects
- Cash transfers
- Agricultural development
- Small business development
- Financial education
- Microfranchising
- Microcredit
- Savings accounts
- Job development
- Cash-for-work
- Food-for-work
- Value chain development
- Labor saving technologies
- Etc.
ES is increasingly part of interventions for girls, but...

• Only at small scale
• Don’t know how
• Evidence base is thin
Why are we talking about ES for girls in emergencies?
Girls have economic lives
Adolescents value the economic contribution they make to the household.

Response to date

• ES is nobody’s mandate:
  • Adolescents not adequately served in youth ES
  • “Child labor” fears?
• ES is often an “add-on” component

• BCC, RH, etc. more successful when linked to livelihood programming

Baird (2011)
Hypothesis

Economic assets-based interventions for vulnerable girls, as part of an integrated approach to protection and empowerment, could play an important role in GBV prevention in emergency contexts.
Evidence linking ES to reductions in GBV is scarce...
...But

Financial education and asset accumulation can lead to:

• improved self-esteem
• increased school attendance
• reduced risky sexual behaviour

• Increased bargaining power
  Pronyk, P., et al. (2006)

• Reduced dependency on others
Risks of harm

Can cause children to miss school
Risks of harm

• Risk of GBV with changing patterns of movement and time-use (WRC 2009)

• ES programs without social capital component may increase exposure to GBV. (Pop Council 2012)
Minimum package

In addition to basic education...

- safe spaces
- interaction with mentors and peers
- life-skills education including SRH
- **vocational skills training**
- financial education
- a way to save money
Programming principles: ES for girls

- Market-based
- Gender-sensitive analysis of demand for labor and goods
- Ensure programs lead to safe, decent work
Draft Typology

- Rapid onset disaster
- Urban displaced
- Protracted, camp (Dadaab)
- Slow onset disaster
- Mass Influx, conflict related (DRC)
Rapid Onset Disaster

**Ages 10-13**
- Cash/vouchers for HH (esp. child-headed)
- Cash for work through mentoring
- Creation of safe spaces
- Connecting girls to other services

**Ages 10-13/14**
- No direct cash; cash for work depending on age
- Creation of safe spaces
- Connecting to other services
- IGA with cash and training
Urban Displaced

*Ages 15+

• Micro-franchising
• Job placement/training (link to private firms)
• Financial products
• VSLAs
• IDs and papers
• Business development center: “one-stop shop”, case management approach
• Childcare
• Literacy*
Next steps

- Scoping of research initiatives
- Typology of ES for girls
- Research agenda
- Advocacy brief
- Pilot programs in 5 countries