

# Education in Conflict Areas, Fragile States, and Emergencies



## 72 million children: no right to education

More than half of the world's out of school children live in conflict affected fragile states

Scope unknown: Education For All Development Index:  
*25 countries far from EFA, likely more*

Each year, there are on average 3 new major emergencies, each affecting half a million people, at least half of whom are children

This translates to an estimated 750,000 children caught up in new emergencies each year, disrupting their education for weeks, months, years, with many never entering or re-entering the classroom

# Why Education in Emergencies is Essential

- Education is a right, even in an emergency
- **Global Commitments: EFA, MDGs won't be met without sustained attention, funding for education in emergencies**
- Education is lifesaving and life-sustaining
- Quality, relevant education contributes to peace, stability, good governance and economic growth and can help to mitigate state fragility
- Education is what children, parents ask for during crisis and recovery

## Impact of conflict, emergencies on children:

- Loss of home, displacement, lack of stability and structure
- Bereavement, loss of family or friends
- Fear, trauma
- Increased risk of recruitment into armed groups, exploitation and trafficking
- Increased vulnerability to hazards, such as landmines, UXOs
- Destruction of the education system

Can result in self-destructive behavior, with frustration replacing hope, and leading to increased conflict: exposing children to violence and to committing violence

# What does education in emergencies seek to address?

- Psychosocial impact on children, communities
- Physical protection and well-being of children
- Emerging protection, health and hygiene issues
- The infrastructure/material needs of schools
- Life skills, new environmental hazards
- Insufficient teaching capacity
- Capacity of the community to support children, the school
- Weakened capacity of the authorities to support schools
- Cognitive development: return to learning

# *Is it really that different?*



YES!

Two main messages

Unique & Complex Challenges

&

Opportunities in Crisis

# Unique and Complex Challenges...

Changed Student Demographic

Teachers & Schools targets for attack

Teacher Issues!

Certification of student & teacher learning

Abuse & Exploitation

Disarmament & Demob & Large youth population

Government education system Issues!

Curriculum uncertainty & need to supplement

Infrastructure & teaching & learning materials

Mobile & displaced populations

Data Issues!

Inconsistent Funding

Coordination Issues!

*...on top of security, economic, & social problems*

# Challenges & Opportunities...

## Looking at West Africa...



### Emergency, Chronic Crisis & Refugee

- ☺ Refugee education – high achievement
- ☹ French not integrated into schooling

### Transition & Early Reconstruction

- ☹ Timing of funding transition from refugee to returnee => sexual abuse & urban migration
- ☹ No government recognition (SL)
- ☺ Cross-border teacher placement (LB)

### Post-Conflict Development

- ☹ Low Teacher Wellbeing = low quality ed (LB)
- ☺ More inclusive teacher training system (SL)