

W O M E N ' S  
C O M M I S S I O N  
for refugee women & children



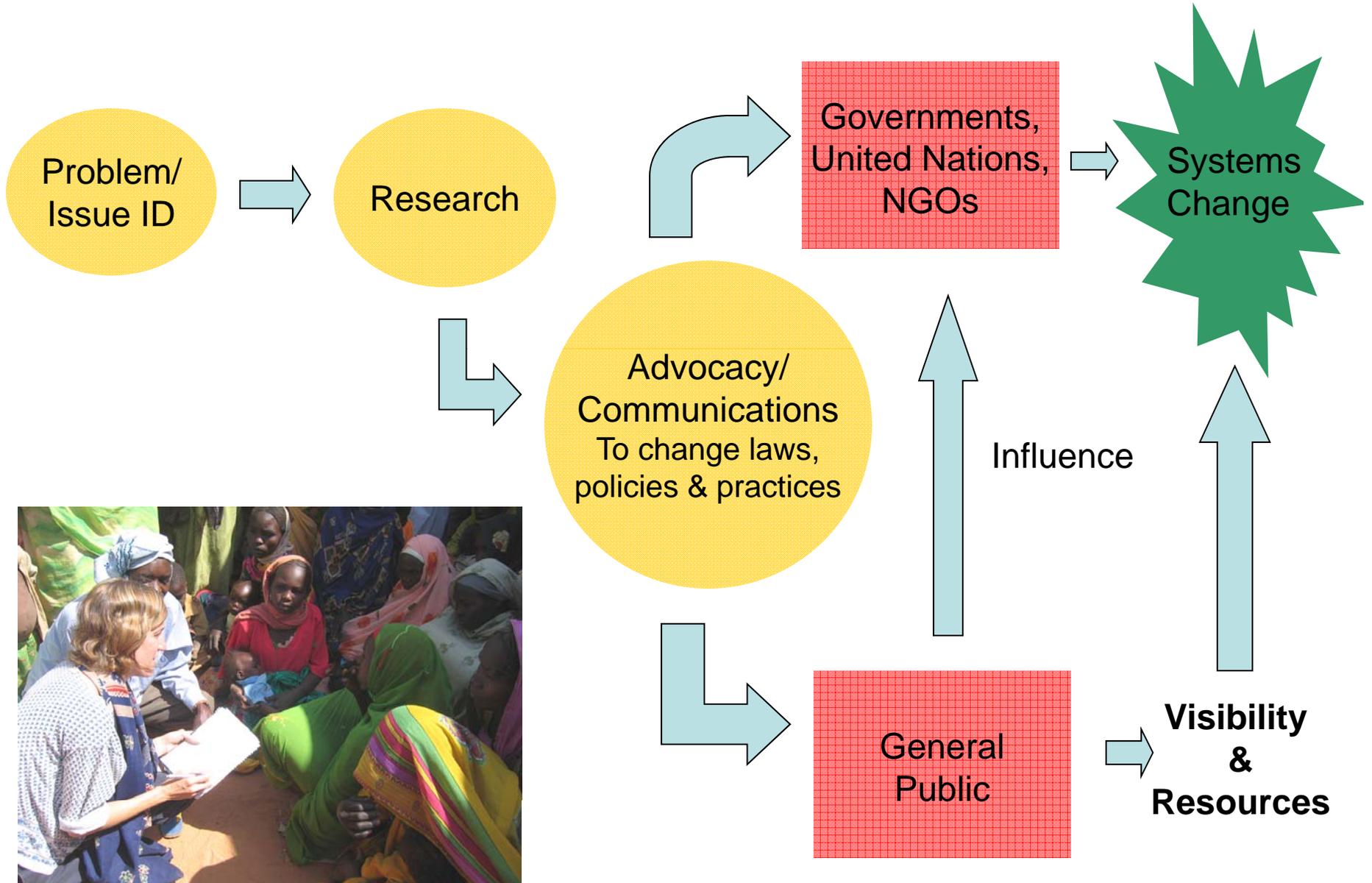
# Who are we?



**Founded in 1989, the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children works to improve the lives and protect the rights of refugee women and children.**



# Women's Commission "Business" Model





# Economic Opportunities

*(Livelihoods)*



# NEED

Humanitarian assistance agencies have learned little from development agencies

Current approaches – often *ad hoc*; little capturing of new learning

Little analysis of market demand – opportunities, challenges, and constraints

Lack of balance between increasing both market supply and market demand

Seldom capitalize on existing skills including women's non-monetized work skills

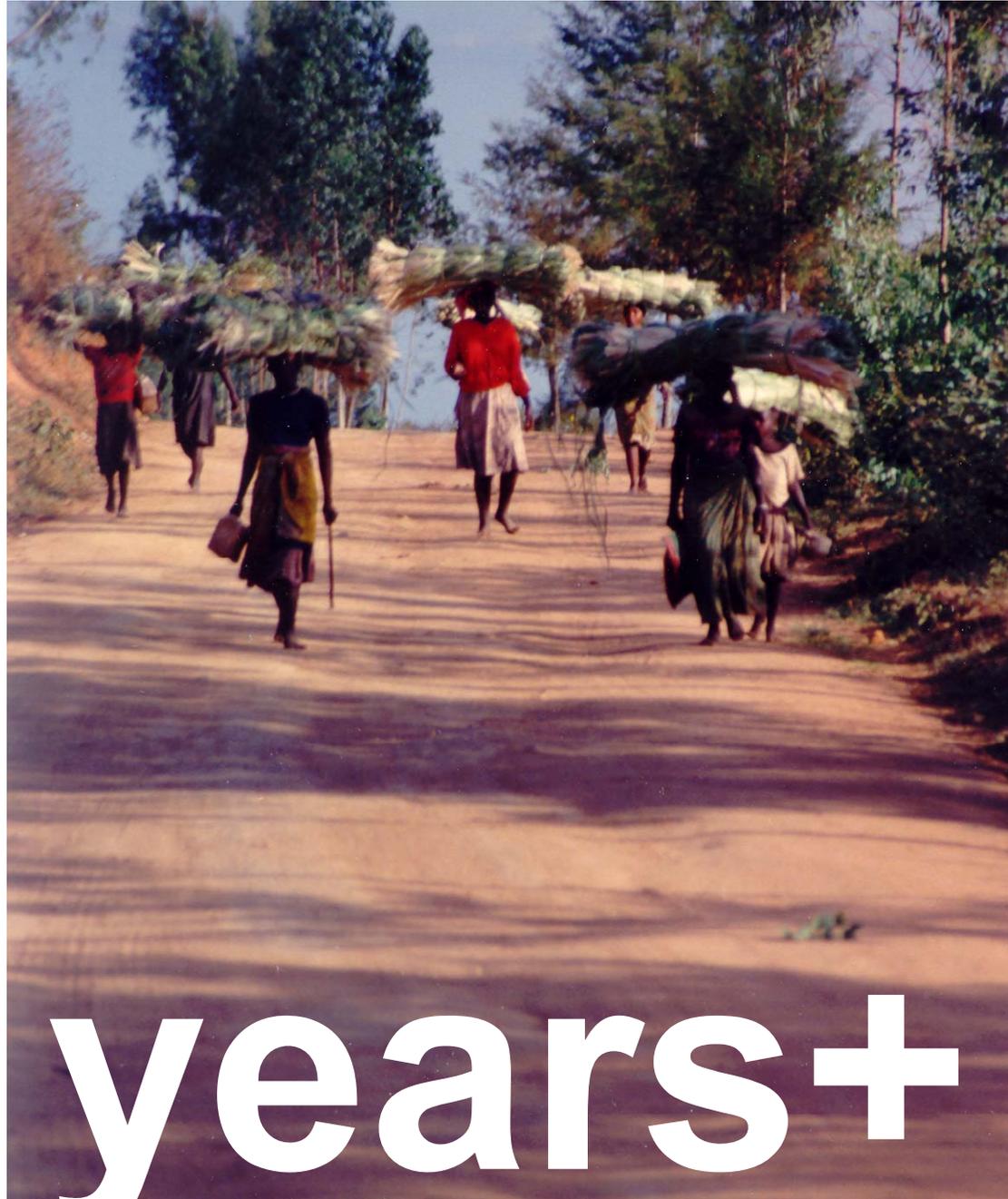
Changing nature of displacement



the majority  
refugees  
are displaced

17

years+



# AIM

To transform livelihood interventions that are designed and implemented by the humanitarian community to improve both quality and effectiveness in the context of displacement and early post-conflict return

Promote more strategic, comprehensive approaches based on individual needs

Include gender lens on livelihood approaches

Promote strategies that are market-driven, build on existing skills, and lead to sustainable income

# METHODOLOGY

Global desk research

10 field assessments covering a  
variety of contexts

6 pilot projects

Advisory Committee

# OUTPUTS

Case studies

Field manual inclusive of framework,  
interventions, and tools

Workshops

Advocacy – donor and practitioner



"We Want to Work":

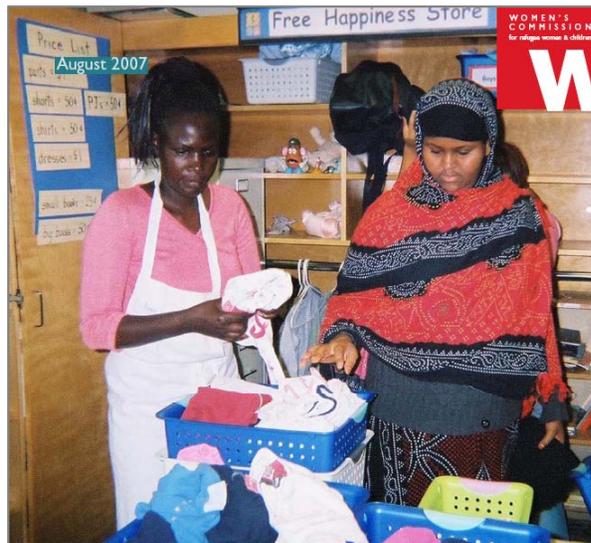
Expanding Livelihood Opportunities for Refugees in Thailand



Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children

September 2006

# Economic Opportunities *(Livelihoods)*



Rebuilding Lives:  
Refugee Economic Opportunities  
in a New Land



Build the Peace:  
Creating Economic Opportunities  
in Post-Conflict Liberia

# LESSONS LEARNED

Wasted opportunities during displacement

Need to identify current economic coping strategies - including migration and role of humanitarian assistance

Little understanding of changing gender roles in the context of displacement and the opportunities and challenges such presents

Still having difficulties targeting and including youth in interventions including micro-finance

Most interventions under-developed

Need to assist people diversify their livelihood activities and risks

Difficult to identify and prepare people for emerging markets – ones that provide new opportunities and are not yet gender-identified

Large scale food or cash-for work programs can be effective early interventions but need exit strategy

Need to build social capital and agency to prepare women and youth for “success”

Recognize need for vocational adjustment and applying new ways to build household income

Need to assist producers with adding value to raw products through, e.g., post-harvest food technologies

Recognize positive and negative impacts of remittances on livelihood strategies

Comprehensive, complementary, linked approaches are needed – seldom take complexity of interventions into account