

REFUGEE AFFAIRS

# Adapting Graduation for Persons of Concern



Since 1979, Trickle Up has helped people living in extreme poverty and vulnerability advance their economic and social well-being. Through a bottom-up and community-based approach known as Graduation, Trickle Up focuses on families facing multiple levels of exclusion, including refugees and other persons of concern. We drive large-scale change by partnering with government, institutional partners, and NGOs.

*“Graduation taught us how to save money, so we can attain what we deserve.”*

SOLANGE\*

Mother, Graduation Participant, and Refugee from the DRC, living in Meheba Settlement, Zambia for 3 years



Monica\* (second from right), a Graduation participant, Colombian refugee, and entrepreneur, in her Salon with her three employees and their children, in Quito, Ecuador.

Most refugees remain displaced for years in host countries, many of which are already struggling to address poverty and internal migration. Without support to earn a livelihood, Persons of Concern, such as refugees, host community members, internally displaced people, and others affected by displacement, face extreme poverty and remain dependent on under-resourced host countries and humanitarian programs.

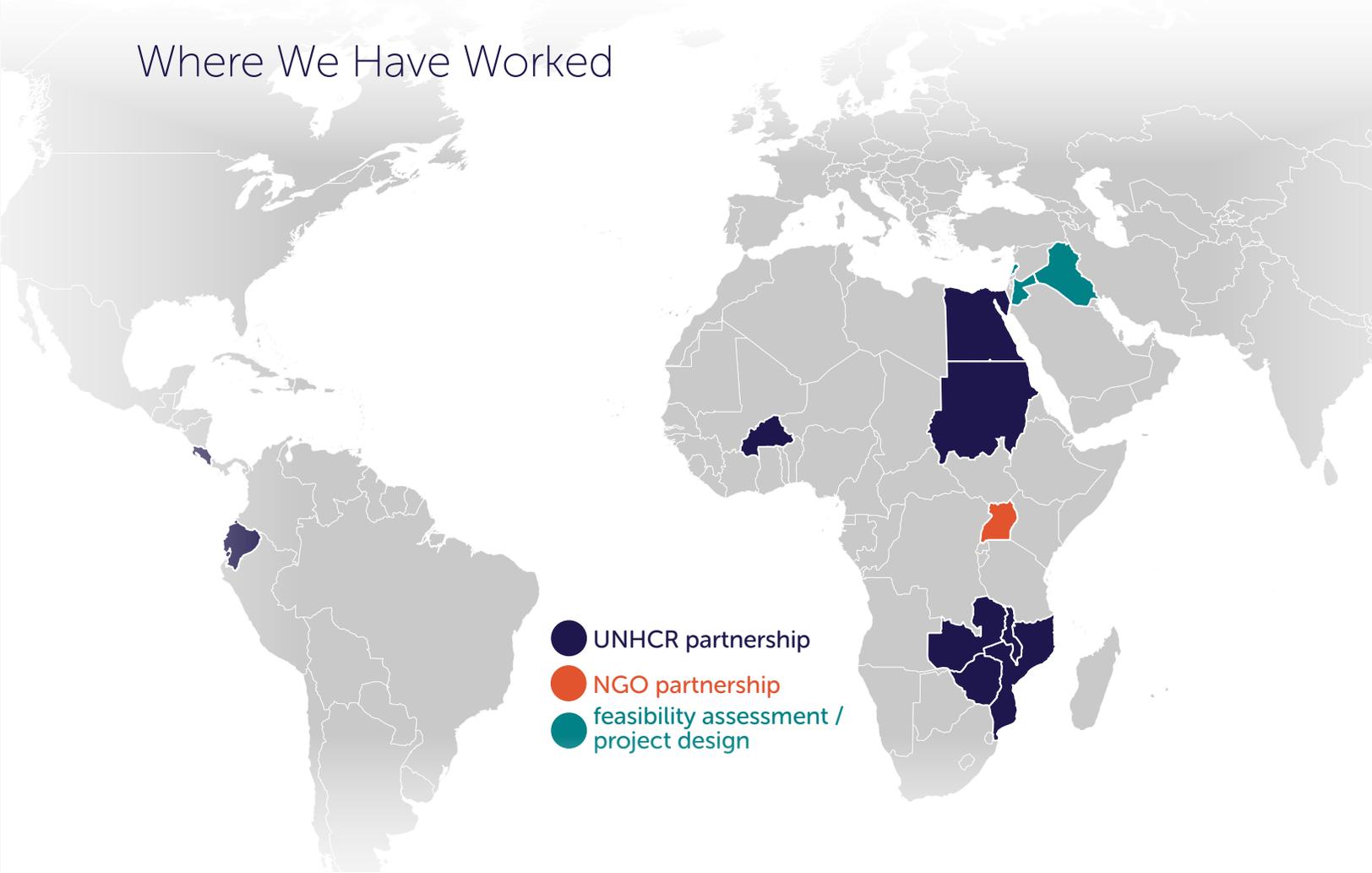


25.9 of 70.8 million forcibly displaced people around the world are refugees



84% of refugees are hosted by developing countries

# Where We Have Worked



# Current and Past Partners

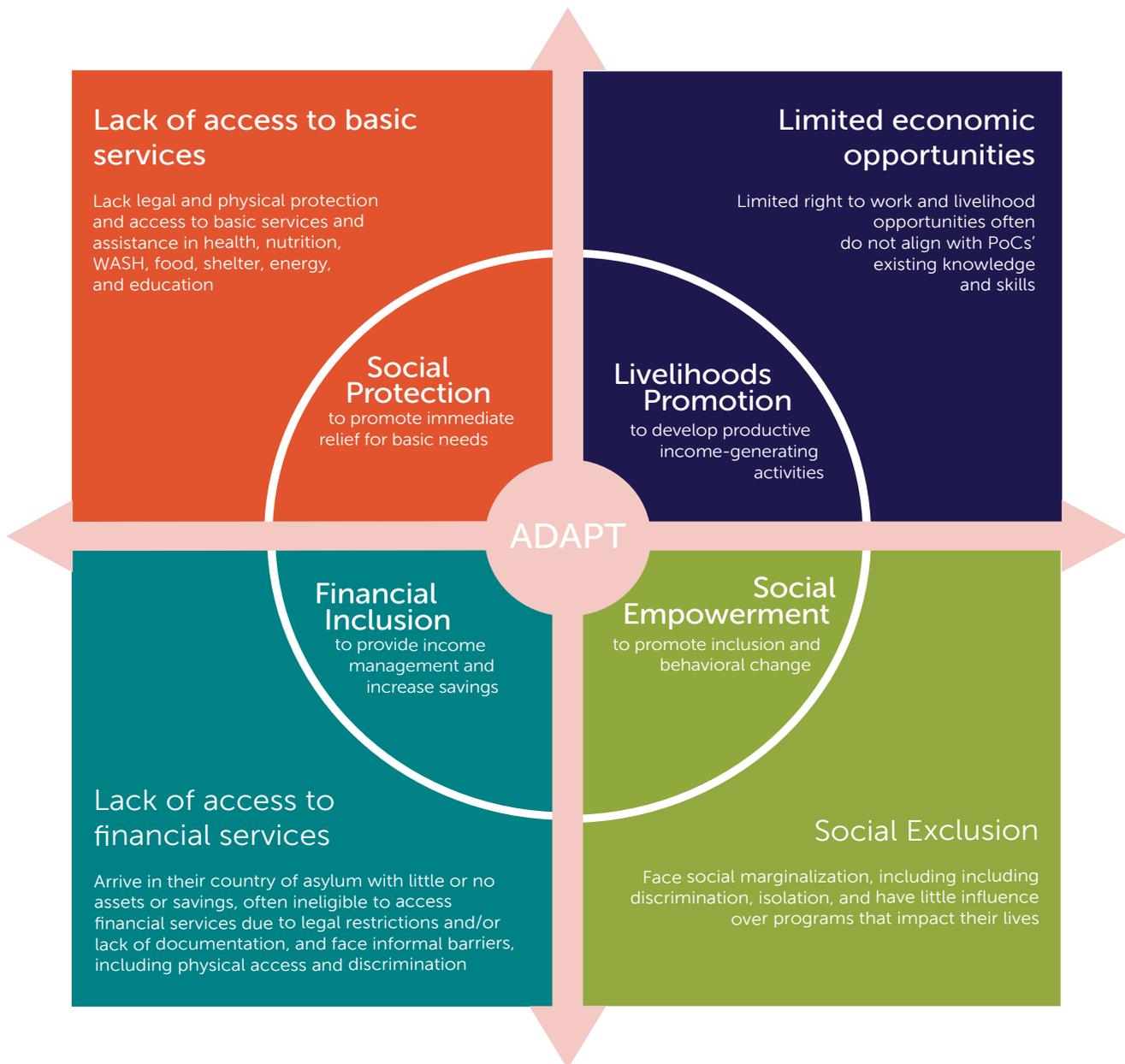


# Why Graduation for Persons of Concern

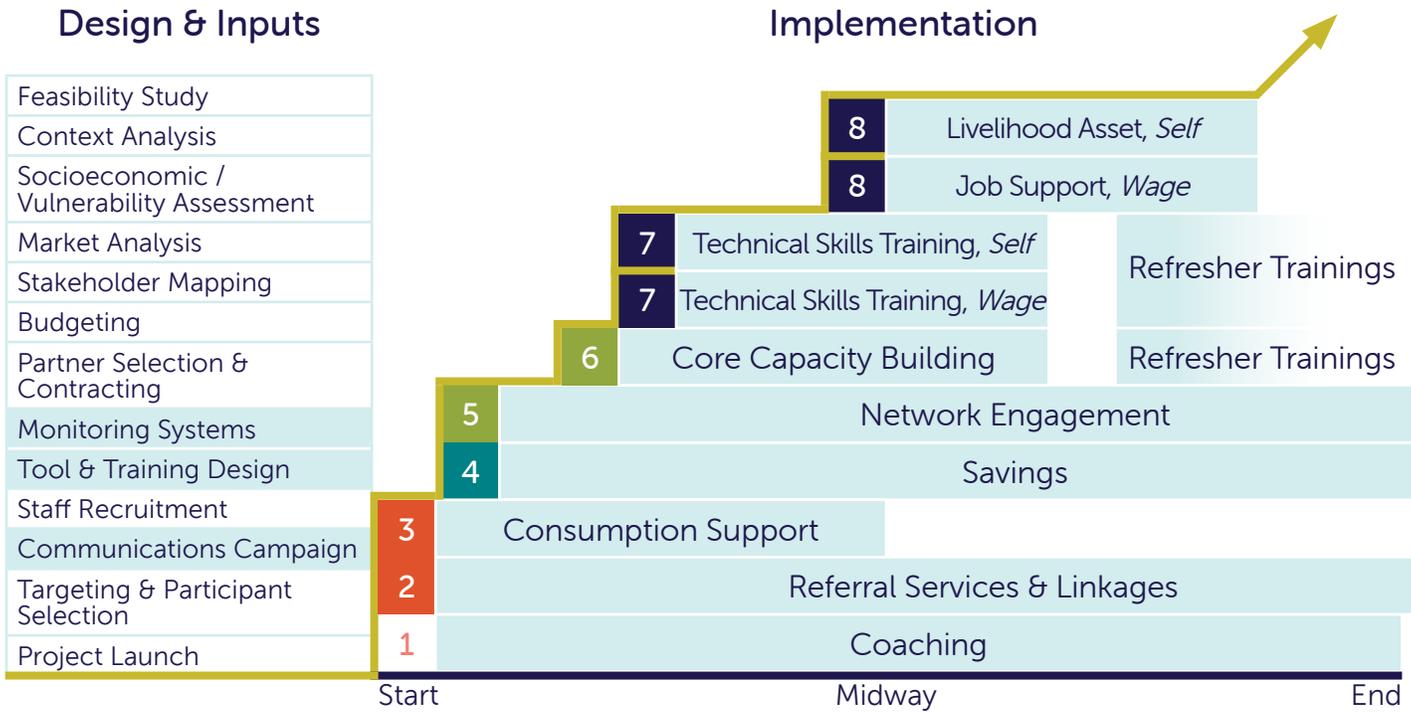
While the number of Persons of Concern around the world and the length of time spent in displacement continue to increase, the amount of humanitarian funding and aid available pale in comparison to this need. More must be done to build self-reliance among the poorest of refugees. Developed over the past decade to address the unique needs of **vulnerable people living in extreme poverty**, the Graduation Approach is a **sequenced** and **time-bound** intervention that aims to help such people build **resilience** and engage in **sustainable livelihoods**.

The Graduation Approach is uniquely adaptable to the local context, with innovations for rural, urban, camp, and settlement settings, as well as wage and self-employment livelihoods. Many humanitarian and development organizations are already offering several of its components. However, through a participant-centered delivery, Graduation ensures that the right participant gets the right services at the right time. Additionally, Graduation is more cost-effective over time when compared to traditional humanitarian programming.

The **4 pillars of Graduation**, adapted from BRAC's foundational pillars, address the **vulnerabilities faced by Persons of Concern**.



# How it Works



a participant's path out of poverty

Monitoring Systems, Tool & Training Design, and Communications Campaign continue throughout implementation. There is often significant overlap between the pillars during implementation.

## Trickle Up's Services

Trickle Up partners with governments, NGOs, and institutions to support the design and implementation of high-quality Graduation programming.

Before the "start" of a Graduation project, Trickle Up supports implementing partners as they design the project and build their own capacity for Graduation. This includes, but is not limited:

- Feasibility study
- Market and socio-economic assessments
- Targeting and selection support
- Design mission
- Regularly scheduled remote assistance to discuss any adjustments made to project design
- Training of Coaches trainings and support
- Remote launch support

Throughout implementation, Trickle Up provides technical assistance remotely as needed, and ideally conducts two support and learning missions, the first being 6 months into implementation, and the second being 12 months into implementation.

These various touch points and continued technical assistance allow for modifications, adaptations, and learnings that can inform necessary changes to a Graduation pilot, in preparation for a project's scale up.

**You can't do  
Graduation alone.**

– Agnes Chama, Fmr. Project Coordinator, Self-Help Africa



# Selected Resources



## DESIGN MISSION

With a contextualized **Facilitation Guide** and **Tools**, the team designs an effective Graduation program with the implementing partner through an interactive process that usually takes 9-18 months. The process starts with an in-person design mission.



## TRAINING OF COACHES

During a Training of Coaches or Training of Trainers session, the team facilitates learning around the coaching visit process and shares **Coaching Tools**, such as a Graduation Map, a Self-Assessment Tool, and a Household Visit Checklist, and a **Coaching Guide**.



## STANDARDS

This **Standards** document provides practitioners planning or implementing Graduation programs for Persons of Concern with guidance around how to design, adapt, and implement the Graduation Approach for Persons of Concern.



## MONITORING & EVALUATION

This **Guide** and **Toolkit** for livelihoods practitioners planning or implementing Graduation programs for Persons of Concern aim to capture and leverage good practices and lessons learned to build an adequate and useful M&E system.

\*all names changed to protect confidentiality