

# Understanding Adolescents and Youth & Key Principles of the IASC Youth Guidelines

## - Session 2 -

This presentation refers to Section A and B



**Compact for  
Young People**  
in Humanitarian  
Action



**unicef**   
for every child



**NORWEGIAN  
REFUGEE COUNCIL**



## QUESTION 1

What do **YOU**  
understand by  
adolescents  
and youth?



“Adolescence is a unique defining stage of human development characterized by rapid brain development and physical growth, enhanced cognitive ability, the onset of puberty and sexual awareness and newly emerging abilities, strengths and skills. Adolescents experience greater expectations surrounding their role in society and more significant peer relationships as they transition from a situation of dependency to one of greater autonomy.”

### UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

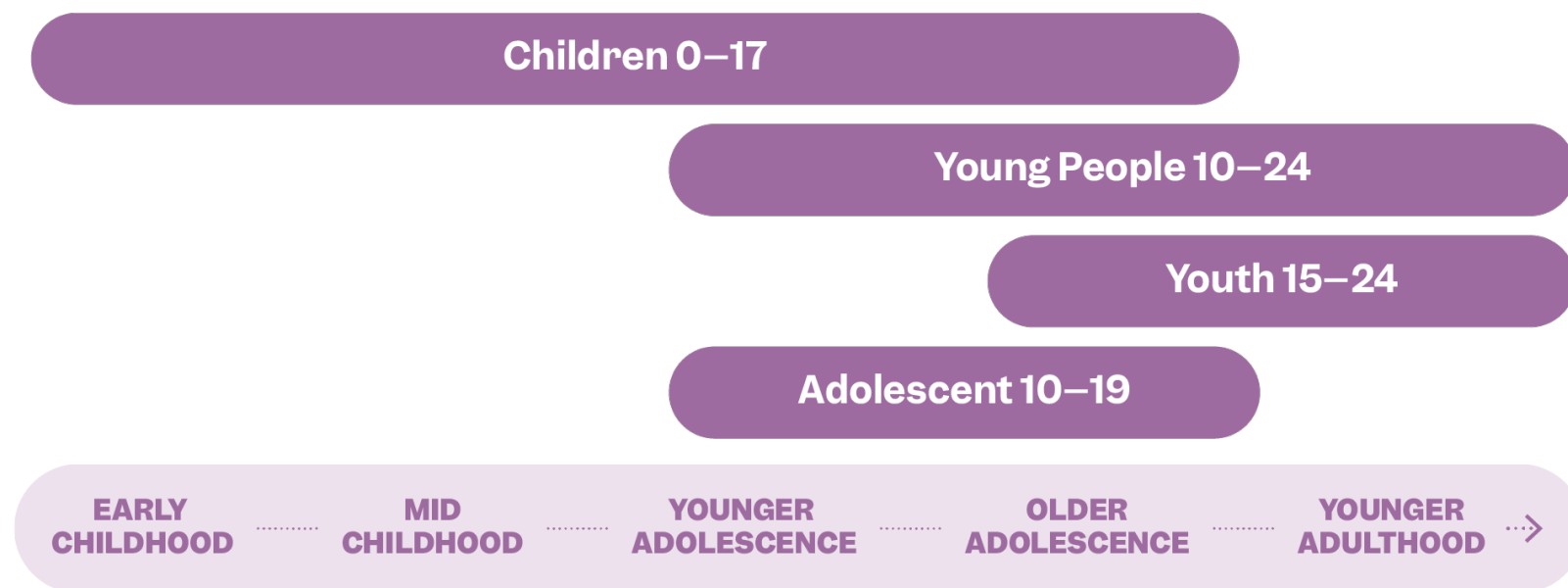


"Youth is best understood as a period of transition from the dependence of childhood to adulthood's independence and awareness of our interdependence as members of a community. Youth is a more fluid category than a fixed age-group."

UNESCO

# DEFINING TERMS

These IASC guidelines use the term ‘young people’ to include adolescents and youth (ages 10–24 years, inclusive). All of these terms are mapped to ages in *Figure 2*, including the distinction between younger adolescents (age 10–14) and older adolescents (age 15–19).







## QUESTION 2

What do **YOU** perceive to be the main issues for adolescents and youth?





# FACTS AND FIGURES



# STATISTICS: YOUNG PEOPLE IN EMERGENCIES

- **408 million** youth aged 15–29, or **23%** of the global youth population, are affected by violence or armed conflict.
- **9.7 million** young people aged 15–24 living in internal displacement because of conflicts, violence or disasters at the end of 2019, of those, **3.1 million** under 18.
- **175 million** children annually will be affected by natural hazards attributed to climate change.
- **70.8 million** people have been forced from their homes, among them nearly **25.4 million** refugees, over half of whom are under the age of 18.
- Internal migration peaks among those in their 20s, who often migrate to learn new skills or make the most of those already acquired.
- **225 million** youth in the developing world (20% are not in education, employment or training (NEET)).
- Nearly **3 in 10** youth (aged 15–24) in countries affected by conflict or disaster are illiterate.
- Enrolment in secondary level education has risen among refugees from **23 to 24%** in the past year.

# Key issues - facing young people in [insert your region here]

- insert issue 1
- insert issue 2
- insert issue 3





# WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

- Investing in young people **breaks cycles of poverty, violence and discrimination** that pass from one generation to the next
- **Benefits are enjoyed through generations** - the present, into adulthood and also by the next generation
- Adolescence, specifically ages 9–14, represents a **‘second window of opportunity’** for nurturing rapid learning and brain development
- Growing research shows brain development still happening into your early 30s



# HOW DO WE MAKE THE CASE FOR WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE?



Young people's fundamental rights



Often overlooked, seldom acknowledged



Differentiated needs



Adolescent girls and young women



# Key Principles for Programming With & For Young People in Humanitarian & Protracted Crises

- Youth as positive assets and rights-holders
- Meaningful Participation
- Giving away power
- Commitment
- Equity, non-discrimination and inclusion
- Accountability
- Do No Harm
- Safeguarding



**INCLUDE REGIONALLY-SPECIFIC RESOURCE  
HERE**





# QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS