

Who is an internally displaced person?



Objectives

- **Provide a background to the global crisis of IDPs**
- **Outline the main features of the definition of IDPs**
- **Discuss the rationale for creating a specific category for IDPs, and the operational use of the definition**
- **Identify and map who are the internally displaced in your country**

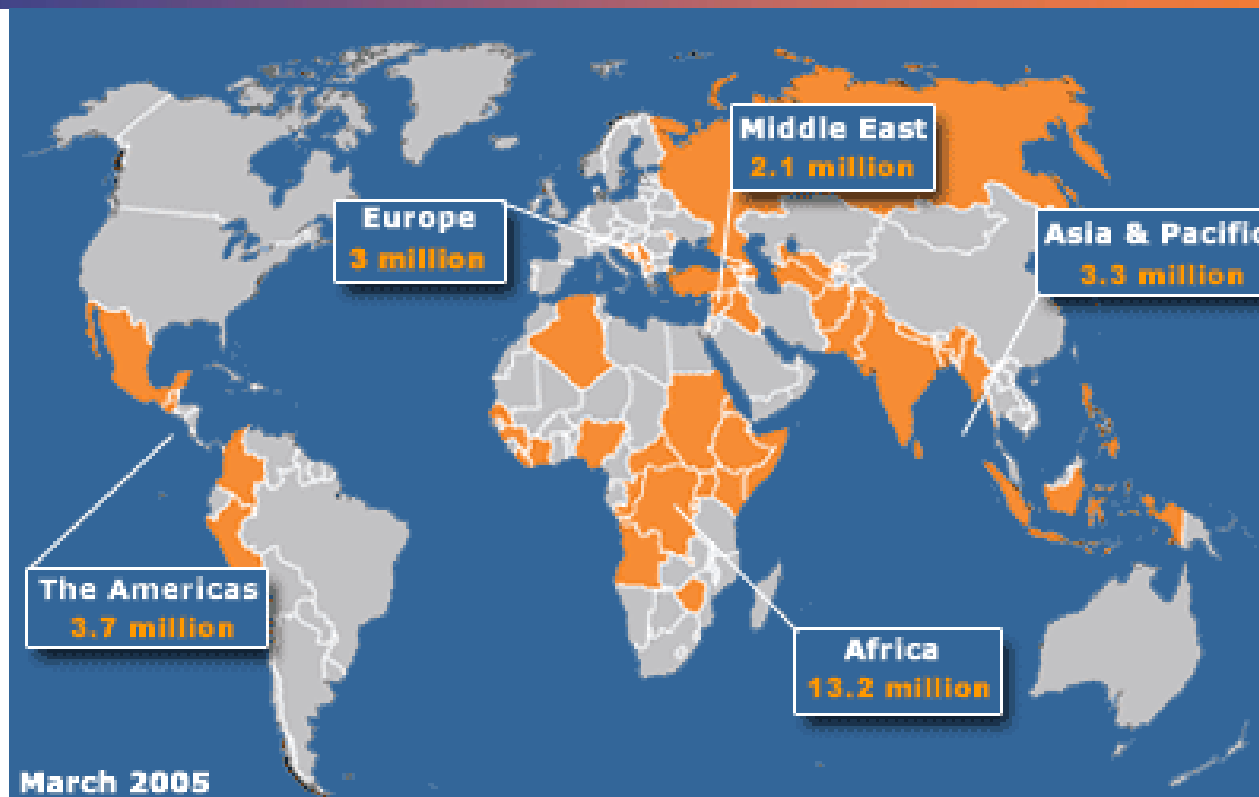
A Global Crisis



Refugees and IDPs

Year	Refugees	IDPs
1970	9 million	5 million
1980	14 million	9 million
2000	16 million	22 - 25 million
2004	13.2 million	25 million

Internal Displacement WORLD WIDE



Internal Displacement IN THE REGION

**Insert a relevant map from the website
of the Internal Displacement Monitoring
Centre:**

<http://www.internal-displacement.org/>

The UN Definition



“persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border.”

Refugee Definition

1951
Convention
on the Status
of Refugees

Outside his/her country of origin

Has a well founded fear of persecution because of his/her

- **Race, Religion, Nationality**
- **Membership in a particular**
- **social group, or**
- **Political opinion; and**

Is unable or unwilling to avail him/ herself of the protection of that country, or to return there, for fear of persecution.

Differences

- A refugee has crossed an **international border**
- The causes in the refugee definition do not include **natural disasters**
- The legal status of refugee is made according to an **internationally legally binding document**
- The status of refugees entitles the individual to **certain rights**

Why do we
need a special
category?



A special vulnerability

- **May be forced towards unhealthy or inhospitable environments**
- **Social organisation destroyed or damaged**
- **May experience profound psychological distress**
- **Removed from sources of income and livelihood**
- **Schooling disrupted**
- **May lack identity documents**
- **Lack of access for international organisations**
- **Protection and assistance needs have not been fully met**

A broad definition

It encompasses a wide range of possible displacement situations:

- **Displacement because of conflicts/disasters**
 - **Mass/individual displacement**
 - **Protracted/short-term displacement**
 - **Visible/hidden displacement**
 - **Spontaneous/organised displacement**
 - **IDPs with access or not**
- **... which all entail serious risks for safety of the displaced people**

A comprehensive picture

- **It is essential to assess the scope of the internal displacement in the country**
 - Numbers and locations of IDPs
 - Their conditions (humanitarian needs, human rights)
 - Use displacement as an indicator of *potential* vulnerability
- **National IDP status can be created for registration purposes**
 - Check whether status does not exclude IDPs arbitrarily

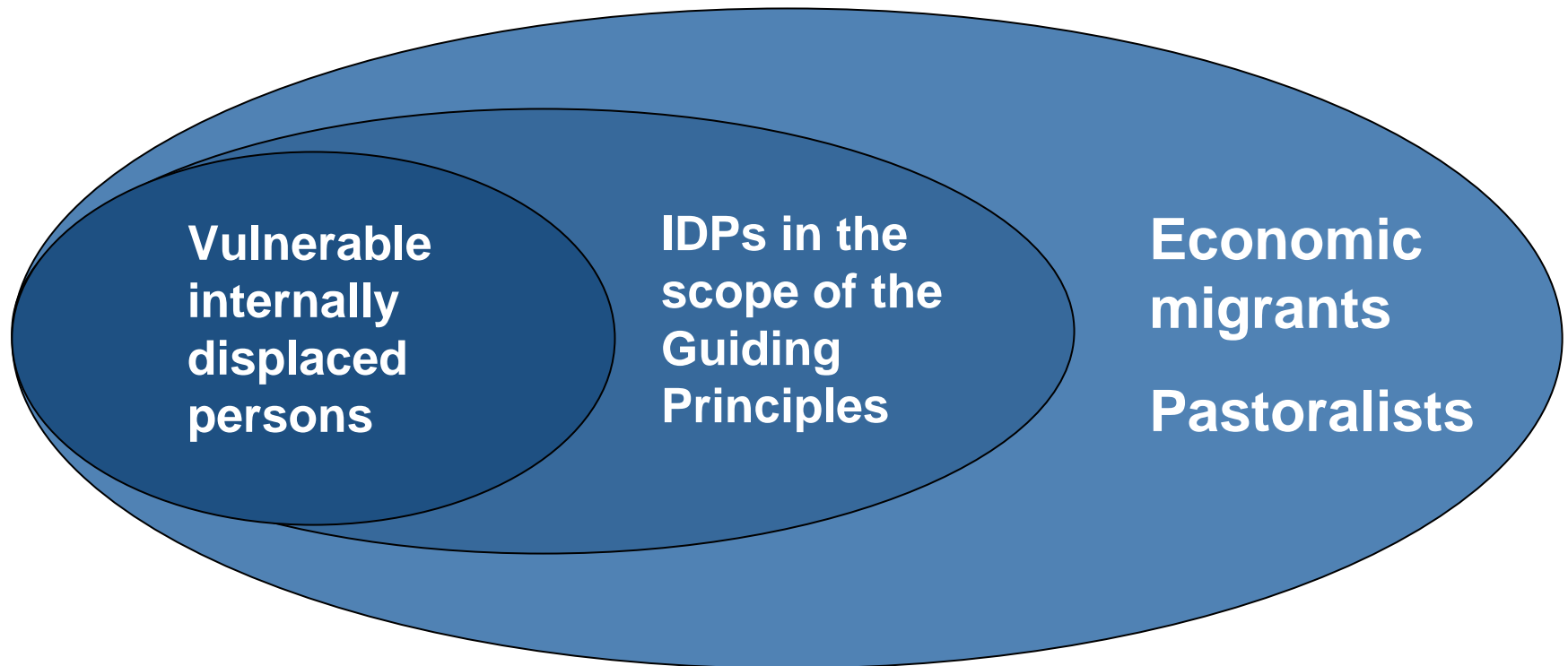
Should all IDPs receive assistance?

Different levels of vulnerabilities

- **Needs of host and return communities**
- **Limited capacity of authorities**
- **Lack of attention from donor states**

However: The level of vulnerability should not be presumed to the detriment of IDPs and should be assessed carefully on the ground

People on the move



In conclusion...

- **Two main components of the IDP definition:**
 - involuntary movement
 - within one's own country
- **Not a legal definition**
- **IDPs outnumber refugees**
- **Displacement should be used as an indicator of potential vulnerability**

Questions?

Questions for assessments (IDP mapping)

- **Where are the displaced in your area/country**
- **Where from?**
- **What are the causes of their displacement?**
- **Other information:**
 - **Types of settlement (shelter, camps...)**
 - **Ongoing movements (return, displacement)**