

Who is an internally displaced person?

Based on presentation prepared by Rhodri C. Williams, Researcher, Åland Islands Peace Institute (www.peace.ax)

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Overview

- The IDP definition
 - Case studies
 - Profile
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Definition of IDPs

- Guiding Principles, Introduction, para. 2:

IDPs are “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.”

Definition of IDPs

- Compare to the standard refugee definition:

A refugee is “any person who ... owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country;”

Definition of IDPs - IDP vs Refugee

□ Who?

- Refugee: “any person”
- IDP: “persons or groups of persons”

□ Where?

- Refugee: “is outside the country of nationality”
- IDP: “have not crossed [a] state border”

□ How?

- Refugee: legal definition (treaty)
 - IDP: descriptive definition
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Definition of IDPs - IDP vs Refugee

□ What?

- Refugee: “persecution ... for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion”
- IDP: “the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters”

□ By what standard?

- Refugee: “well-founded fear”
 - IDP: “forced or obliged to flee ... as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of ...”
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Definition of IDP - Core Elements

- “Internal”: within national borders
 - Distinction from refugees
 - Questions: IDPs sur place? Repatriated IDPs?
 - “Displacement”: involuntary movement
 - Distinction from economic migrants
 - Direct or indirect coercion (“forced or obliged”)

 - Test: possible to return?
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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
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Thank you!

Questions?

Discussion case 1

- “Betty”, a Beta, fled to the West Beta Republic after fighting in her village near Firstville in 1991. While there, she was able to work and saved a considerable amount of money. She was repatriated in late 2008 and found her home occupied by a hostile Alpha family. She complained but the police told her the family was too politically connected to be moved. She now lives with her sister in Secondville.

 - Is Betty an IDP?
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Discussion case 2

- “Bob” a Beta shepherd, fled his village in northeastern the area was shelled continuously and access to nearby pastureland Ruritania in 1990. Although the village was never directly attacked, was blocked. Currently, conditions of security have been restored and Bob’s home stands empty. He has been offered government assistance in either returning home or resettling in the nearby town he was displaced to.

 - Is Bob an IDP?
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Discussion case 3

- “Biff” fled to Ruritania as a refugee from a conflict in the East Beta Republic in the mid-1980s. He married a local woman and began to settle down, but never got around to applying for Ruritanian citizenship. Biff and his wife fled in 1989 when a catastrophic mudslide destroyed their village and the security situation has prevented their return ever since. They now live in a camp.

 - Is Biff an IDP?
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Discussion case 4

- ❑ “Belilah” moved from a relatively peaceful part of northern Ruritania to Firstville in 2007 in order to get a better job. She had been there for nine months when local ethnic conflict back home got worse. The business of her family was burned down in a riot and her father and brother disappeared and have not been seen since. Although fighting has stopped, the situation remains tense.

 - ❑ Is Belilah an IDP?
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Discussion case 5

- “Allen”, an Alpha, grew up in a rural area dependent on subsistence agriculture. At age 18, he moved to Firstville for a wage labor job. Over the following decade, unbroken droughts all but destroyed the agricultural economy in his area of origin. The topsoil has disappeared in windstorms and the area is now gripped by famine. “Allen” and others from his area have been ordered to return by the provincial authorities, who are concerned about the presence of outside labor driving down wages.
 - Is Allen an IDP?
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Profiling IDPs

What is IDP profiling?

- ❑ Identifying groups of displaced people or individuals through data collection, including counting and analysis
 - ❑ In order to take action (advocacy, protection, assistance, solutions)
 - ❑ A collaborative process
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IDP profile

Core data:

- Number of IDPs, disaggregated by age and sex
- Locations

Additional information:

- Causes of displacement
 - Patterns of displacement
 - Protection concerns
 - Humanitarian needs
 - Potential solutions
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Why profile IDPs?

- ❑ Better understanding of situations of displacement
 - ❑ Improved quality of advocacy and programming on behalf of displaced people
 - ❑ Better resourced and more targeted means to protect displaced people
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When to profile IDPs

Whenever statistics on displaced people are unclear, unreliable, out of date
(information outdated, numbers inflated or too low)

Who should profile displaced people

- National authorities
 - UN RC/HC
 - Field based managers or local committees
 - A commonly-agreed process
 - Need for expertise (professional demographers)
 - Consultations with the displaced communities
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Protection issues

- Ensure IDP/host community
 - Voluntariness
 - Confidentiality
 - Profiles of profiling team members
 - Reach out to:
 - Invisible IDPs
 - IDPs on the move
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How to profile?

Desk review

- ❑ The first step in any profiling project
 - ❑ Review available information (locally and internationally available information)
 - ❑ Identify gaps and priorities for further data gathering
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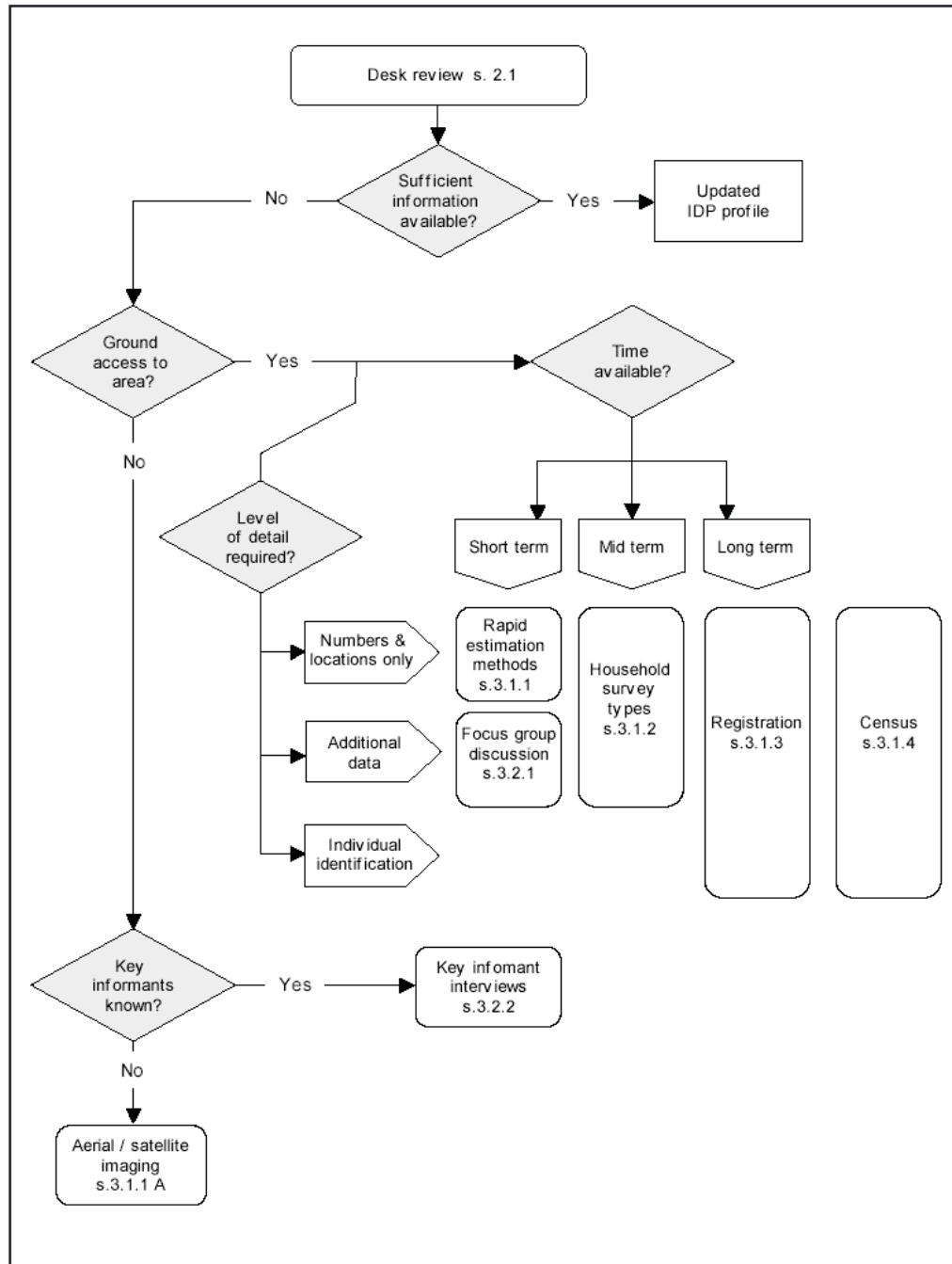
Quantitative methods

- ❑ Rapid populations estimates
- ❑ Household survey
- ❑ Registration
- ❑ Population census

Qualitative methods

- ❑ Interviews
 - Focus group discussions
 - Key informants interviews
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Which methodology is most suitable?



Area survey using aerial/satellite imaging

- To identify movements of all sizes of population groups, direction of movements, modes of transports, proximity to natural/man made hazards
 - For areas with difficult ground access or too large for a quick ground based profiling
 - **Limitations: expensive (plane, satellite imagery), security (flying above conflict area), limited information**
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Flow monitoring

- ❑ Place enumerators at all significant entry and/or exit points (for comprehensive or spot monitoring of movements)
 - ❑ Questioning of IDPs possible
 - ❑ For situations that are or may become unstable, resulting in sudden population movements
 - ❑ Limitations: resource intensive, may not be possible to organise in time, risks for enumerators
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Dwelling count

- ❑ Counting each habitation in an area at a particular time, whether occupied or not.
 - ❑ For situations where population is located in a geographically well defined area (camp, settlement)
 - ❑ Limitations: labour intensive (in large areas), false population estimates, not appropriate when population is mobile), intrusive
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Headcount

- ❑ Systematically count everyone in a given area
 - ❑ For situations where the population is located in a geographically well defined area (camp, settlement, distribution point)
 - ❑ Limitations: when counting cannot be concluding within a 2-6 hour timeframe, when implemented during wrong time of day, not appropriate when population is mobile, risk of exclusion of groups with specific needs (disabled, elderly, single mothers), intrusive
 - ❑ Headcounts/dwelling counts using sampling methods (less costly, but reliability risks)
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Household surveys

- ❑ Allows for more in-depth gathering of population characteristics and additional data
 - ❑ Can help detect protection risks; relevant to uncover difficult-to-identify IDPs (in host families, marginalised groups); where necessary to interview a cross section of the population to compare the difference of vulnerability between IDPs and local population
 - ❑ Limitations: protection risks, intrusive, difficult methodology, create expectations
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Registration

- ❑ Recording individual or household information
 - ❑ Relevant to plan a comprehensive assistance/protection response
 - ❑ Limitations: misuse of individual data, not appropriate in volatile situations, creates expectations, definitional issues, risks of exclusion, resource intensive
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Population census

- ❑ Obtaining information about every member of the population, usually conducted by governments, at intervals of five to ten years
 - ❑ IDPs can only be identified through specific questions
 - ❑ Limitations: useful if less than two years old; IDPs reticent about being singled out.
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Qualitative methods

Focus group discussions

- With representative segments of the IDP community (women, men, elders, idp leaders)

Key informants interviews

- With people considered as relevant or representative to the IDPs (leaders, elders, selected households)

Limitations: Information on perceived size of IDP population and age/gender composition, or approximate data; data not reliable unless verified by other sources

IDP Profiling Guidance

- ❑ Available under www.internal-displacement.org/profiling
 - ❑ JIPS - Joint IDP Profiling Service
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