



# **Interventions Addressing Issues of Women and Children Migrants in Crisis Situations**

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# + I. Crisis Migration : The New Normal? (1)

- Over the last 2 decades , the number of recorded natural disasters has doubled from 200 to over 400 per year.
- Nine out of every 10 natural disasters today are climate related ;
- 20 million people have been displaced by climate induced sudden onset natural natural disasters in 2008 alone;
- Environmental degradation , desertification recurrent flooding ;



## + Crisis Migration (2)



- Extreme natural hazards causing massive destruction of lives and infrastructure;
- Man made disasters such as nuclear accidents where whole communities are affected
- Global pandemics that cause high levels of mortality and morbidity

## + Crisis Migration (3)



- Violent conflict triggered by decrease in essential resources water , land, oil etc ;
- During the Libyan crisis , more than 800,000 migrant workers and their families from 120 nationalities crossed the border into neighboring countries or were evacuated to their countries of origin;

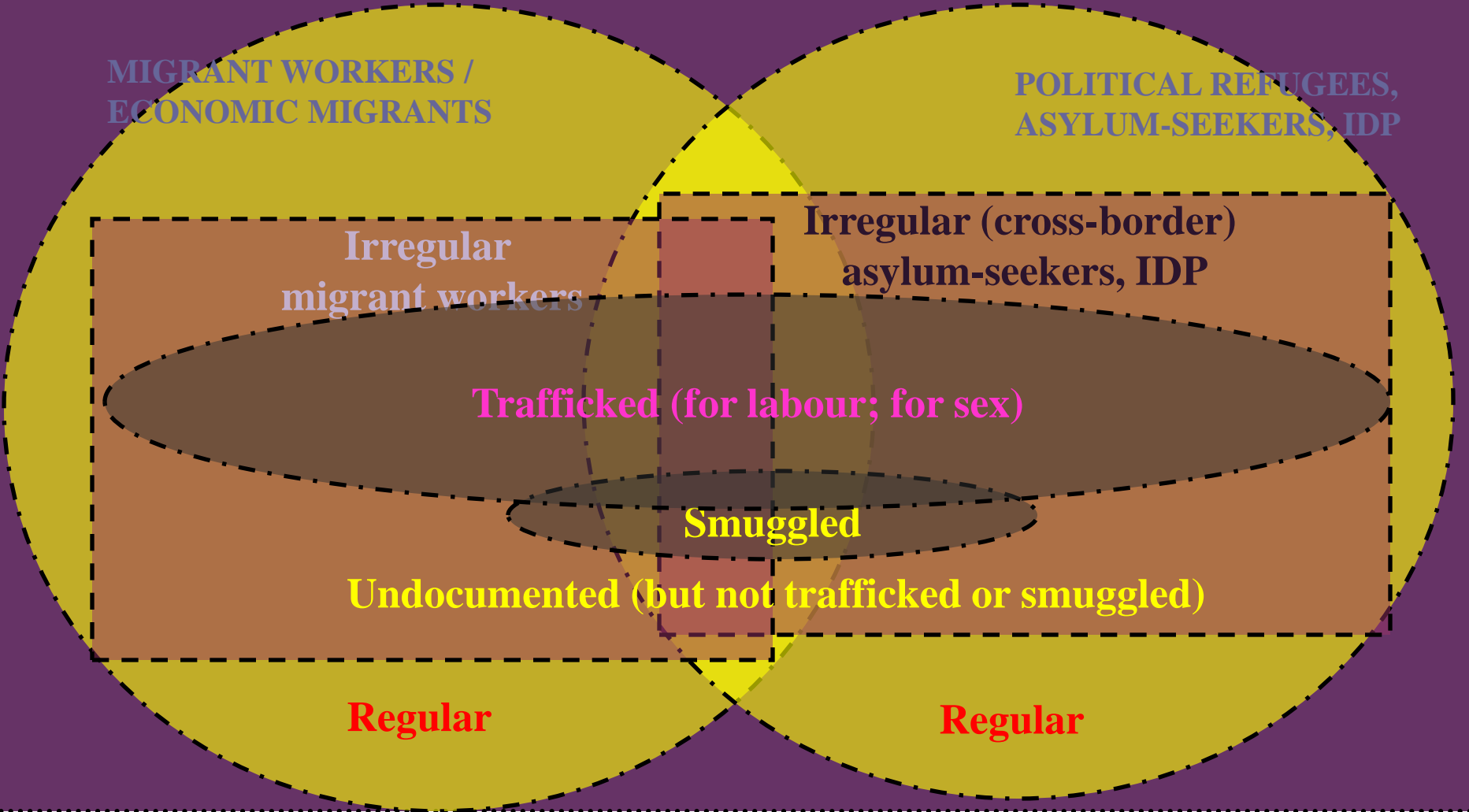
# + What is Crisis Migration ?



- Refers to movement either within or across national borders ; movement that is temporary or permanent ; movement in anticipation of future emergencies ;
- Movement of people triggered due to acute crises or by slow onset of changes to environment (sinking islands)

# + Documented, Irregular, Trafficked Migrants (Varona 2005)

MOBILE POPULATIONS (crossing international or internal borders)



## + II. Extreme Vulnerabilities of Women Migrant Workers Trapped in Conflict Situations (1)

- Trapped in houses left by their employers , domestic workers find themselves in life threatening situations like: a) bombardment and getting caught in the crossfire between warring camps; b) Rape and sexual violence by armed groups on either side or by rogue and hired killers; c) Starvation and isolation in conflict areas; d) Inability to access immediate support from consular assistance and or services from beleaguered host countries;



# + Vulnerabilities in Conflict Situations (2)

- Without passport which are often kept by employers , migrant women workers are unable flee wars and conflicts and cross national borders to seek refuge and safety;
- Irregular migrants maybe excluded from humanitarian assistance if they are not registered by the country of origin or by the country of destination . The migrants may not want to register altogether for fear of deportation;(IOM, 2012)





## + III. Interventions in Protecting Migrants in Crisis Situations (1)

- There is no single legal framework that ensures comprehensive protection of migrants in times of crisis although various international instruments such as human rights law, Refugee Law, Nationality Law , Optional Protocol on Trafficking of Persons ; UN SC Resolution 1325;
- In cases of conflict, international humanitarian law also applies to migrants as civilians .
- There are non binding multilateral and bilateral agreements that respond to crisis situations such as Guiding Principles of Internal Displacement –which applies to “persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence “.





# Interventions to Address WMW in Crisis Situations (2)



- Integration of a gender responsive perspective in migration management and humanitarian programs;
- Evacuation and international migration assistance must contain **NON REFOULEMENT GUARANTEES**;
- Countries of origin must consider Preparation for large scale migrant returnees caught in major conflicts particularly from Libya, Syria , must be part of the migration management program ;

## + Interventions (3)

- Preparedness and contingency planning ;
- Admission and border management systems in crises;
- Consular assistance ;
- Protection and assistance *in situ* (Migrants in Times Crisis : An Emerging Protection Challenge (IOM ,Intl Peace Institute , 2012)



## + Conclusion : Need to Develop Creative Initiatives to Address Protection Gap

- Nansen Initiative –led by Sweden and Norway , a state led consultative process to address the needs of people who are displaced by natural disasters ;
- Harmonization of mandates and operational systems of different organizations dealing with emergencies.

