Topic: **Alternatives** to **Camps** –
Displacement in an **Urban Context**

Objective: Be aware of forms of displacement and reconstruction involving urban areas, its particular demands and challenges on shelter solutions

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Unlike IDPs **in camps** who are more **easily identified** and **assisted**,

IDPs **in urban areas** comprise a **hidden population.**

Aid agencies and governments have **difficulty identifying them** and understanding their **[relation to host population]**

Relatively **little is known** about their precise **numbers, demographics, basic needs** and **protection problems**.

"Guidance on Profiling Internally Displaced Persons"

- Tool to **estimate** the **number** and **distribution** of **IDPs** living in **urban settings**;

- Gather **information** about **assistant** and **protection needs**;

- **Case studies** in **Khartoum** (Sudan), **Abidjan** (Côte d'Ivor) and **Santa Marta** (Colombia) between 2006 and 2008;

Feinstein International Center at Tufts University in collaboration with Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), Geneva

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There are **3 different possibilities** where **shelter** support is linked to **urban context**:

- **reconstruction** in urban areas after war or natural disaster

- **transitional shelter** in urban areas (temporary)

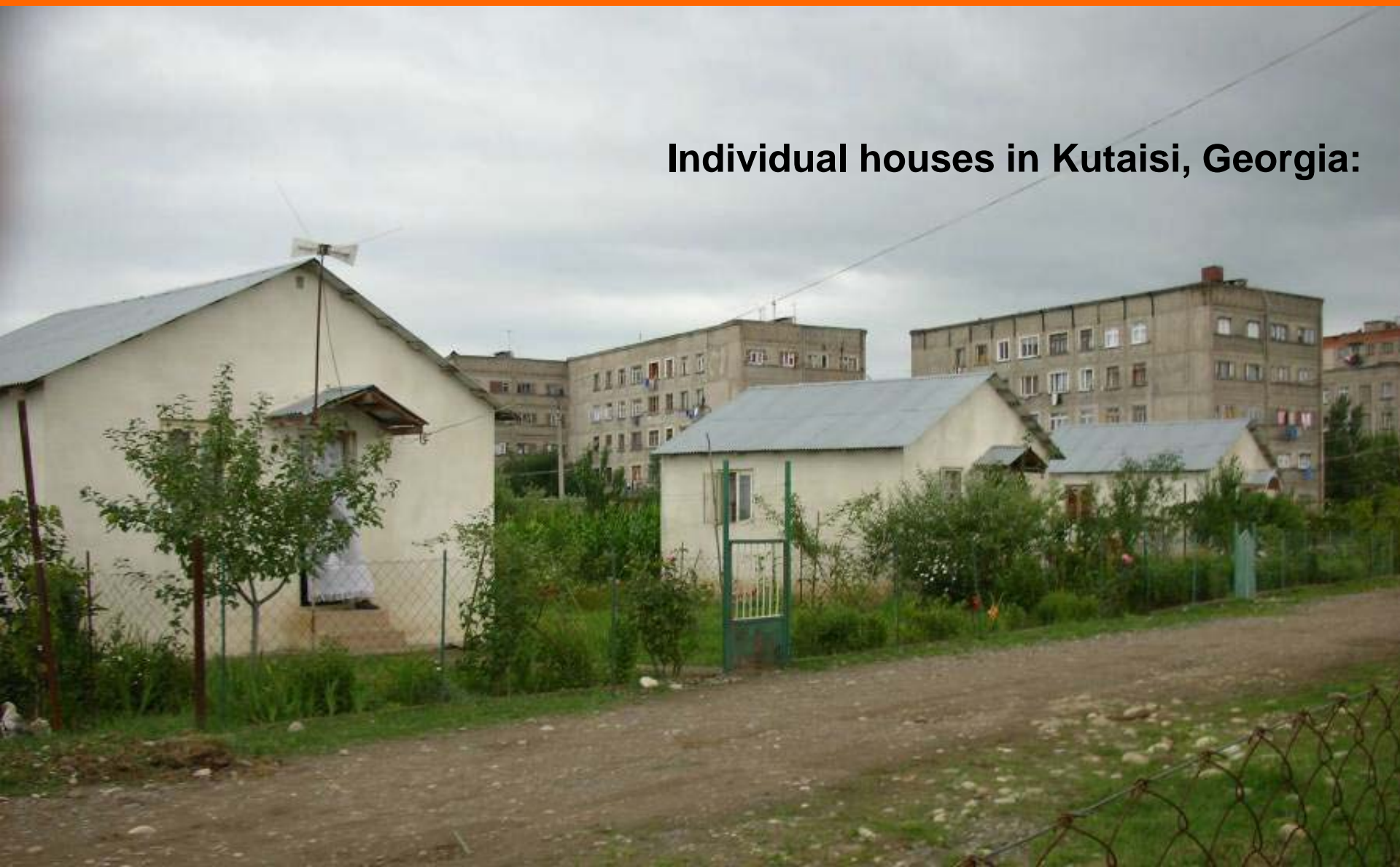- **durable solution** in urban areas (resettlement)

Abkhasia-Georgia, 2005

**Collective Centre,
Georgia, 2005**

Individual houses in Kutaisi, Georgia:

Collective Centre, Beirut, Lebanon, 2008

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Southern Lebanon, 2008

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Mohajareen Area, Nahr al Bared Camp, Tripoli, Lebanon, 2008

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What kind of guiding document exist?

 first UNHCR policy on refugees in urban areas, 7 May 1997 (IOM25/97FOM30/97)

- promoting **self-reliance** of refugees
- **advocating** for integration of refugee **assistance** into **national programs**

- policy **lacks focus** on refugee **protection** as the central consideration (stated in the DRAFT of UNHCR POLICY on REFUGEES and ASYLUM-SEEKERS in URBAN AREAS, 2008)

- **new** "UNHCR Policy on Refugees in Urban Areas" on 12 December 1997(IOM/90/97/FOM/95/97)

- addressing **urban protection issues** in more comprehensive fashion.

- still **lacking guidance** in core protection issues

- **need** for yet **another new policy framework** which would address critical protection challenges in **urban settings**.

→ **UNHCR POLICY on REFUGEES and ASYLUM-SEEKERS in URBAN AREAS, (DRAFT Geneva 2008)**

UNHCR POLICY on REFUGEES and ASYLUM-SEEKERS in URBAN AREAS (DRAFT), 2008

- primary **responsibility** of the **State** to ensure … adequate accommodation

- In urban situations, many … do manage to find their **own accommodation**

- certain parts of urban centers … rise to **slum-like** conditions of living

- <u>Various options</u> … existing public structures, or paying incentives to private home owners to expand their houses

- <u>Initiatives</u> … negotiations with landlords to reduce rents, … ensure security of tenure; support for short term stay in economical hostels; shared accommodation schemes, … and small subsidies

Source: Chapter V, PROTECTION INTERVENTIONS AND STRATEGIES , page 27, 9) Accommodation, Draft UNHCR POLICY ON REFUGES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS IN URBAN AREAS, Geneva 2008

Why are IDPs/Refugges coming to Urban Areas (**Push/Pull Factors)**

- social, economic, social status, ... generell urbanisation related factors

- frustration with lack of livelihood options in the camps
- reunification with family members (already in the city)
- lack of adequate protection provided in rural camps

A number of people also fled directly to urban areas at a time when official IDP camps had **not yet been established**

Source: Refugee Law Project, Faculty of Law, Makerere University, Briefing Paper December 2007, WHAT ABOUT US? THE EXCLUSION OF URBAN IDPS FROM UGANDA`S IDP RELATED POLICIES AND INTERVENTIONS

How to Distinguish between an Urban IDP and a Urban Poor?

may be **reluctant** to **give conflict** as the **reason** for coming because

- they do **not** wish **to be defined as IDPs/refugees**, or are fearful of repercussions (→**hidden population** that seeks **anonymity**)

- they may have come to the city for **work related reasons**, even though they were **initially displaced** by **conflict** and/or **food insecurity**

- tend to **live alongside** the **urban poor** and **economic migrants**
  (in Khartoum concentrations range from 5% to 57%)

Source: Internal Displacement to Urban Areas: the Tuft s-IDMC Profi ling Study Khartoum, Sudan: Case 1, Karen Jacobsen, Feinstein International Center, Tufts University in collaboration with Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, Geneva

Aspects of urban displacement

- Future migration intentions

  50% intend to **remain** in Khartoum, **Only 22%** expressed the **desire to go "back home".**

- Registration and Profiling

  Beside the basic data, m**igration plans**, mobility, **type of livelihood** for both IDP and host population, education are important to assess

•Source: Internal Displacement to Urban Areas: the Tuft s-IDMC Profi ling Study Khartoum, Sudan: Case 1, Karen Jacobsen, Feinstein International Center, Tufts University in collaboration with Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, Geneva

Reference:Chapter V PROTECTION INTERVENTIONS AND STRATEGIES , page 27, 8) Food, water and other essential items; financial and material assistance, Draft UNHCR POLICY ON REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS IN URBAN AREAS, Geneva 2008

Aspects affecting Shelter Planning

- Tracking

Difficulty of accessing **detailed maps of slum areas** to keep track of IDPs/refugees living among host population. **Flow monitoring** of inner urban migration.

- Various support mechanism

Type of **vocational and live skills** needed in an urban context. **Land ownership** and protection. **Food distribution.**

Aspects affecting Shelter Planning

- **Employment**

  The study states that 25% were self-employed, and 18% were housewives

- Building materials

  The study states that 48% lived in mud houses, 39% lived in brick houses, 9% in concrete houses, **just 3% in temporary dwellings** (or shacks)

Source: Internal Displacement to Urban Areas: the Tuft s-IDMC Profi ling Study Khartoum, Sudan: Case 1, Karen Jacobsen, Feinstein International Center, Tufts University in collaboration with Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, Geneva

Aspects affecting Shelter Planning

- Mobility and forced evictions

  The study states that **56%** of all our respondents had **moved within Khartoum**

- Addressing beneficiaries

  In urban situations, voluntary repatriation often takes place **on** an **individual** or **single family basis;** general **problems of addressing and access the community**
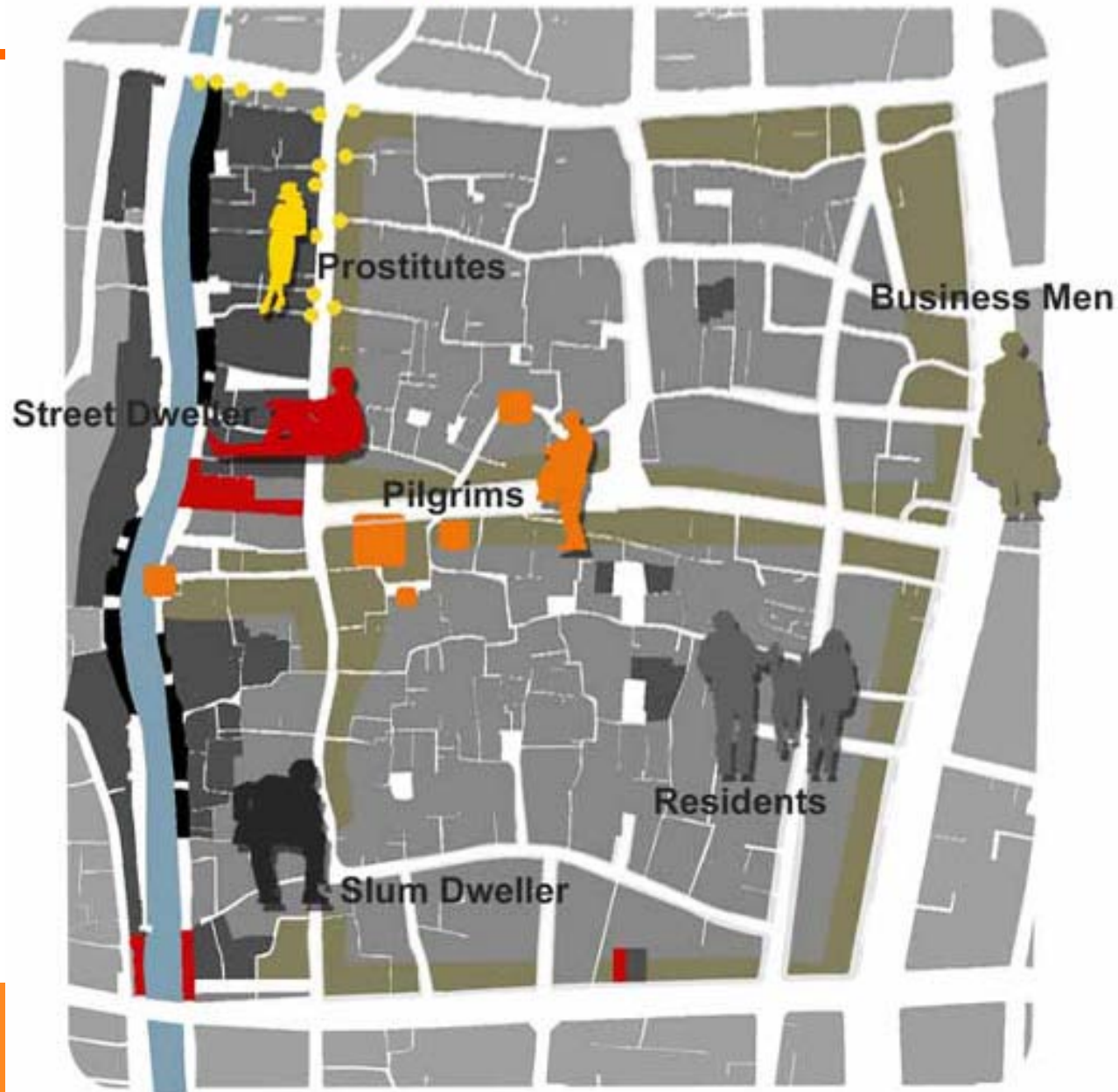
Source: Internal Displacement to Urban Areas: the Tuft s-IDMC Profi ling Study Khartoum, Sudan: Case 1, Karen Jacobsen, Feinstein International Center, Tufts University in collaboration with Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, Geneva

Specific Urban Conditions

Different to rural settings, the social structure is in an urban context often reflected in the spatial distribution of dwelling spaces

>> Social Structure

- Pilgrim
- Business Men
- Residents
- Street Dweller
- Slum Dweller (authorized)
- Slum Dweller (unauthorized)
- Prostitutes (CSW)

Prostitutes
Business Men
Street Dweller
Pilgrims
Residents
Slum Dweller

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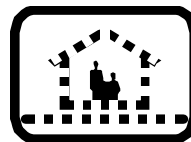NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL

The end of displacement

• decisions on **when displacement ends** have tended **to be** *ad hoc* **and varied**.

• we may judge urban IDPs as **integrated** into their **"new" local communities** and therefore no longer in need of assistance.

•can living in **slum conditions** be **accepted** as a **durable solution**?

Source: Walter Kälin (the UN Representative of the Secretary-General on Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons), together with the Brookings-Bern Project on Internal Displacement, and the Institute for the Study of International Migration at Georgetown University
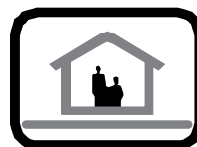
Discussion:

What do we have to consider when dealing with the variuos

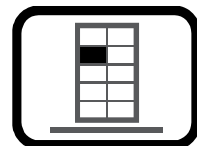Settlement Options?

 Occupancy with no legal status

 House tenant

 Apartment tenant

 Land tenant

 Apartment owner-occupier

 House owner-occupier

Source: Shelter Centre, Shelter Training 08b

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