Human Trafficking and Disasters







Susan Martin
Georgetown University



Vulnerable Groups

- Homeless and displaced persons
 - In camps
 - Spontaneously settled in urban areas
 - Widows and women heads of households
 - Adolescents
 - Separated and unaccompanied children
 - Children caring for children



Forms of Trafficking in/from Disaster-Affected Areas

- Forced labor
- Domestic servitude
- Sexual exploitation and abuse
- Combat/Gang violence



Causes of Vulnerability

- Breakdown in law and order
- Breakdown in family structures
- Inadequate assistance
- Gender discrimination, particularly in access to employment and education
- Tolerance of gender-based violence
- Weak systems of accountability



Addressing Trafficking

Prevention

- Adequate assistance, protection and livelihoods for women and children affected by disasters
- Strong codes of conduct in delivery of aid

Prosecution

- Statutes that criminalize human trafficking
- Meaningful penalties against traffickers
- Prosecution of traffickers, not trafficking victims
- Prosecution of corrupt officials
- Penalties against aid agencies and workers that engage in sexual exploitation

Protection

- Protection against retaliation by traffickers
- (Re) integration assistance for trafficking victims
- Reproductive health and psycho-social programs to address aftermath of trafficking