Crisis and Vulnerability
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Crises affect different social groups differently...

- Employment and income opportunities shrink
- Productive assets are destroyed or made idle
- Access to goods and services is reduced
- General worsening of working conditions
- Increased strain on/or breakdown of formal and informal social protection systems
- Public order deteriorates and insecurity increases
Characteristics of Vulnerability

- Special groups that are most intensely affected by the crisis
- Less access to goods and services
- Victims of social exclusion
- Less access to employment and employment services
- Less social security
- Less opportunities for social dialogue
**ILO Working Definition**

**Vulnerable Groups...**

- Those at risk of socio-economic exclusion
- Groups that had a specific vulnerable position before the crisis
- Groups that became vulnerable due to the crisis
Vulnerable Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before the crisis:</th>
<th>After the crisis:</th>
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<td>Women</td>
<td>Pre-crisis groups</td>
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<td>Disabled</td>
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<td>Minorities</td>
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<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>Ex-combatants</td>
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<td>Certain regions</td>
<td>New minority groups</td>
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Unemployed

- Pre-crisis unemployment rates are important to measure the real impact of the crisis.
- Unemployment is, in the context of armed conflict, often one of the root-causes of war.
- Youth can in many countries be categorized as vulnerable due to unemployment.
- Unemployment rates always increase dramatically due to the crisis.
Crisis often create a situation in which many people are moved away from their homes and their work places.

They become therefore very vulnerable as they are strangers in the area they stay.

Displaced people camps give a good opportunity to collect data, to train people and to prepare them for the work awaiting them upon their return home.
Disabled

1. Pre-crisis disabled people often become more vulnerable as a result of the crisis.

2. Crises, especially armed conflicts, create large numbers of physically and mentally disabled people.

3. Although ILO promotes an inclusive approach, programmes have to ensure that their specific needs are addressed.
Although the ILO hardly ever targets minority groups exclusively, careful attention should be paid that they do not become more marginalized due to ILO interventions.

Social exclusion of minority groups can lead to armed conflict. The ILO should therefore use its approach of social dialogue as a preventive measure.
A demobilised soldier is unemployed…

Unemployment is a root cause of armed conflict
Gender Issues

- Crises increase feminization of poverty
- Women are affected differently than men
- Therefore, their needs may differ and must be taken into account
- Roles of men and women often change in times of crisis
- Post-crisis reconstruction can be used to increase equality in gender
Consequences

**DURING WAR**
- No access to the fields
- No access to workplaces
- No trade possibilities
- Social exclusion from families

**AFTER WAR**
- Social exclusion
- Extremely high numbers of female-headed households
- Very high numbers of teenage mothers
- Strongly reduced professional potential for victims
Should the employment promotion projects be only for a vulnerable group (like ex-combatants) or be open to all?
Targeting principles (example of armed conflict)

War-time categories should only be used for a short time

- War-time categories
- Peace-time categories
Targeting 3

We can choose...

- Inclusive Approach
  - Like all war-affected people

- Exclusive Approach
  - Like ex-combatants
Disaggregate data according to age, sex, family status, employment status, etc.

Specific needs and capacities must be assessed and addressed.