

IASC South Asia Earthquake Task Force*
Policy Statement on the Use of the Term “Internally Displaced Persons”

The IASC Task Force notes that a significant number of people have been affected by the earthquake in Pakistan of which an, as yet undetermined, number should be regarded as internally displaced persons in line with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.

The problem of accurate figures notwithstanding, the Task Force recognises the need to identify the specific protection and assistance needs that the internally displaced may have on account of their displacement and that may be distinct from those of the broader affected population.

The Task Force notes that such recognition does not confer preferential status on the internally displaced *vis-à-vis* the broader affected population and that the humanitarian response must be implemented by all relevant actors in an equitable manner and on the basis of the identified needs of the overall earthquake affected population, including the internally displaced.

Geneva, 14 November 2005

* N.B. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) is comprised of both members (FAO, OCHA, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP, WHO) and standing invitees (ICRC, ICVA, IFRC, InterAction, IOM, SCHR, RSG/IDPs, OHCHR, and the World Bank). ICRC, a standing invitee, maintains its independence from policy statements issued by the IASC and its subsidiary bodies.