

A photograph of a man and a woman in a small wooden boat on a river. The man is in the front, and the woman is in the back. They are both wearing white shirts. The boat is on a river, and there are buildings in the background. The text is overlaid on the image.

Gender and Regional Frames for the Processes of Environmental Induced Migration

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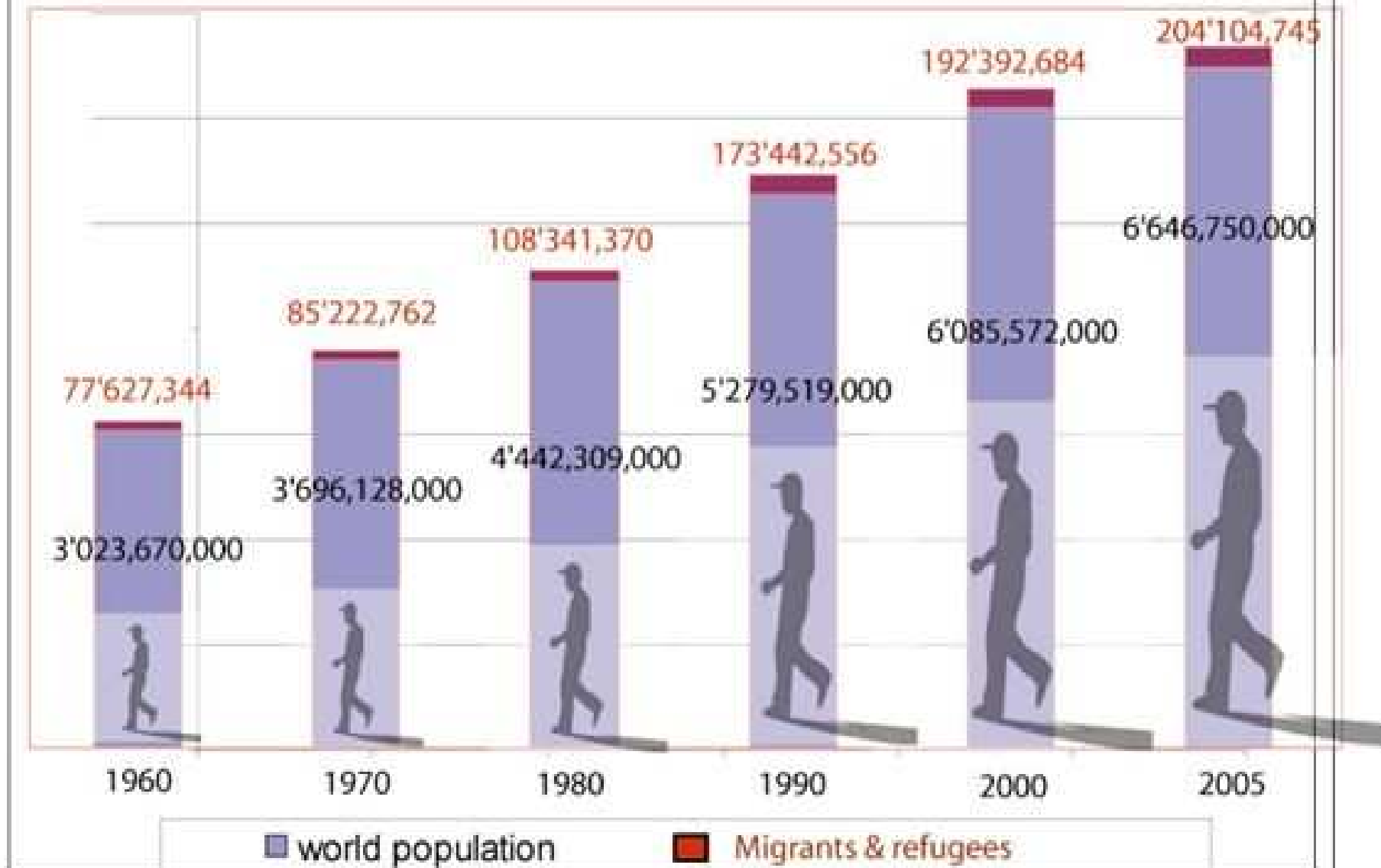
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1. Definition of EIM

- The International Organization of Migration (IOM) offered an operational definition of EIM. *“Environmental migrants are persons or groups of persons who, for compelling reasons of sudden or progressive changes in the environment that adversely affect their lives or living conditions, are obliged to leave their habitual homes, or choose to do so, either temporarily or permanently, and who move either within their country or abroad”* (IOM, MC/INF/288 2007: 2).

2. International migrants & refugees (1960-2005)



Refugees and EIM in the World

1. Refugees in foreign countries:

- 2006: 9,9m
- 2007: 11.4m

2. Internally displaced people:

- 2006: 24.6m
- 2007: 26m

3. EIM due to disasters: 2007: 67m

Source: UNHCR, 2008

3. Climate Change in Mexico



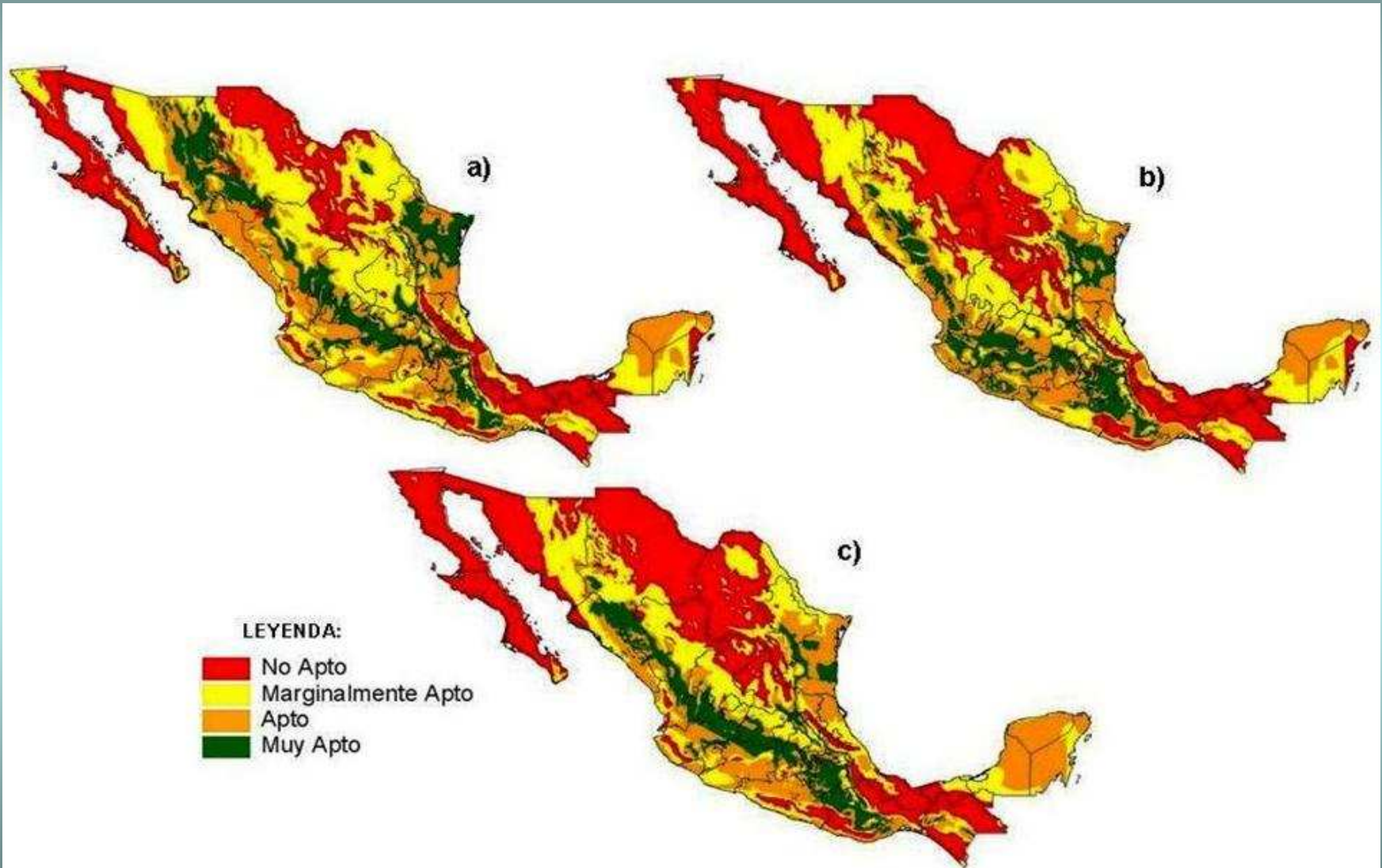
Possible Outcomes of CC in Mexico

1. Sea level rise between 18 and 59 cm on both 11,000 km of coasts: Pacific and Atlantic
2. Extreme heat and cold waves, floods, drought and hurricanes are also expected, that produce regionally crop yield reductions and an increase in plagues and disease of plants, animals and human beings
3. Reduction of water availability and its pollution with hydro-meteorological hazards is increasing vector-borne illnesses such as malaria, dengue, esquistosomiasis, cholera, salmonella, hepatitis
4. Desertification, loss of soil fertility and biodiversity, failure of harvests and food scarcity with high prices on food items
5. Simulation for corn production –the basic food basket- indicate that in 2050 the aptitude for corn production will be reduced between 13 to 27% and corn growing will get lost in these regions

4. Who, Where and How Many are Migrating in Mexico?

1. Mexico, seriously affected by climate change and a source country for migration.
2. In the **north and north-east** EIM is related to desertification processes, salinization of agricultural soils, crop yield decline, water scarcity and pollution and failed agricultural policy
3. In the **south and south-east** sea level rise, floods, hurricanes, salinization of soils and aquifers and loss of harvests are the drivers
4. In the densely populated **high plateau** land slides, reduction of crop yield averages in rain-fed corn production, polluted air in the mega city and its surroundings, often coupled with public insecurity, drug violence and kidnapping is pushing people out.

Affectation of Corn Production



Monterroso, A. G, Rosales, 2006.

Desertification, Erosion, Loss of Fertility & Biodiversity

+ Higher temperature of soil

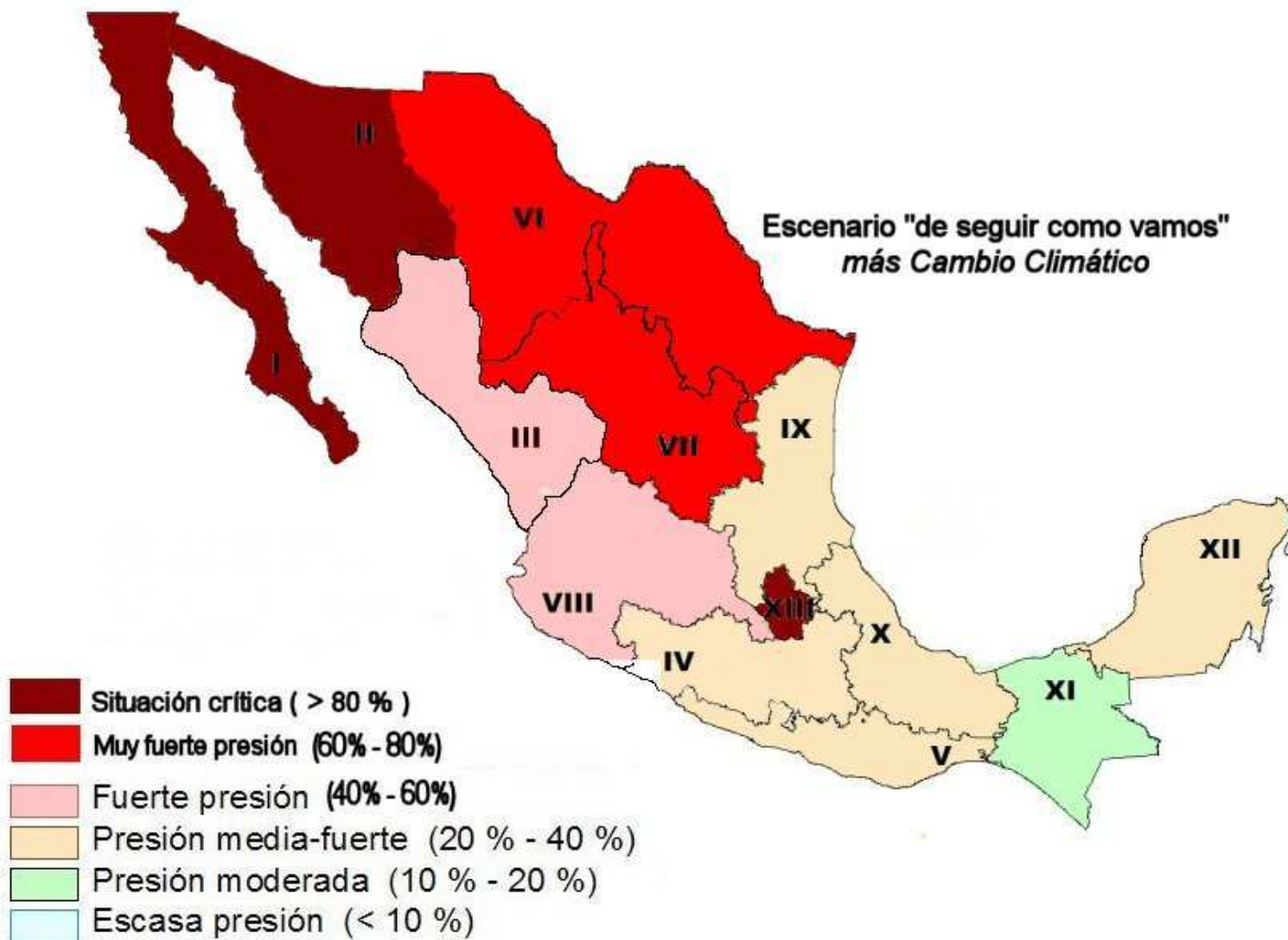
+ Descomposition of Organic Material
+ CO₂ Emission

+ Loss of O. M. due to erosion



- Loss of: water recharge
- soil fertility
- productivity
- air pollution

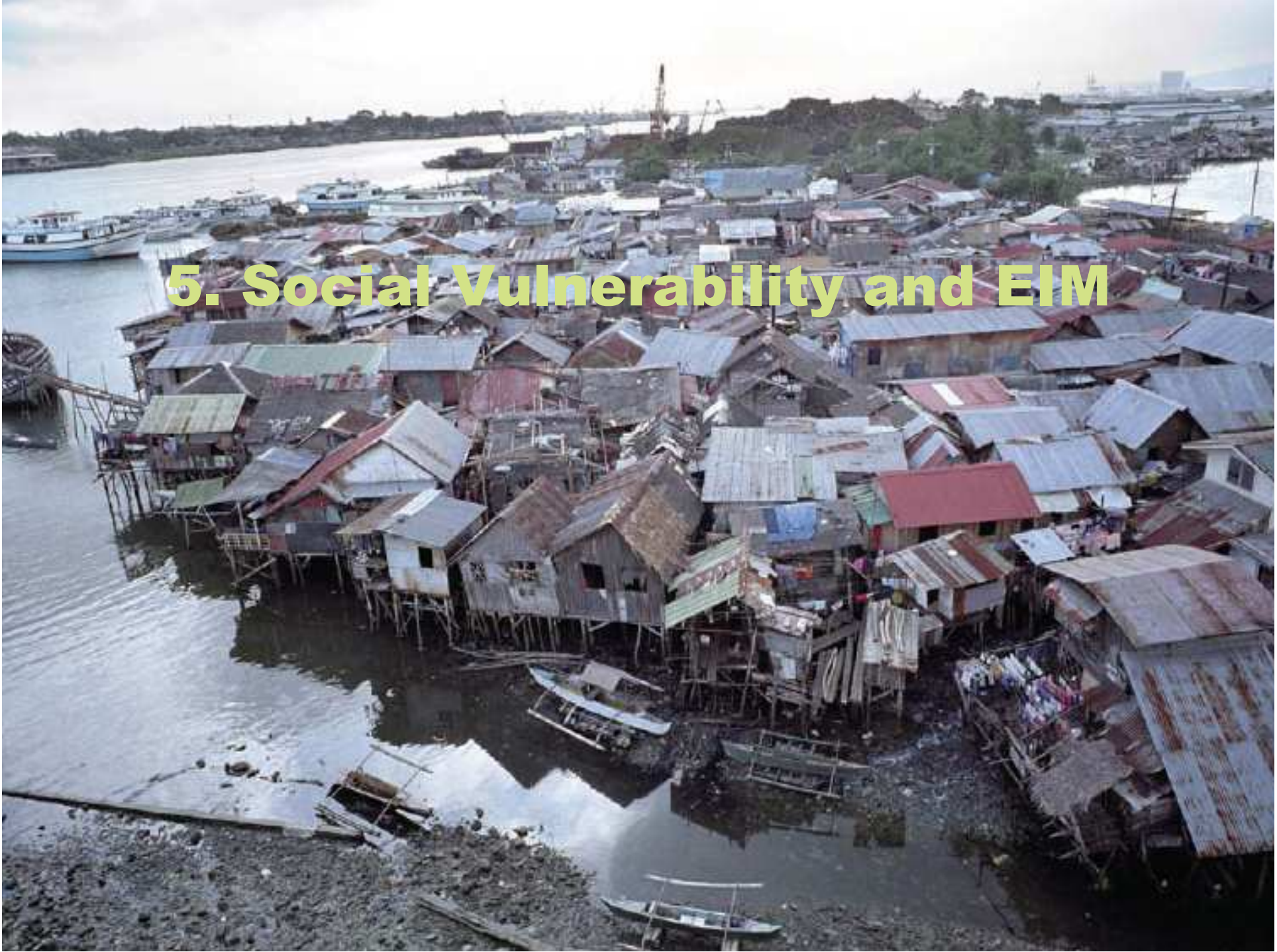
Water Scarcity



How Many May Migrate Due to CC?

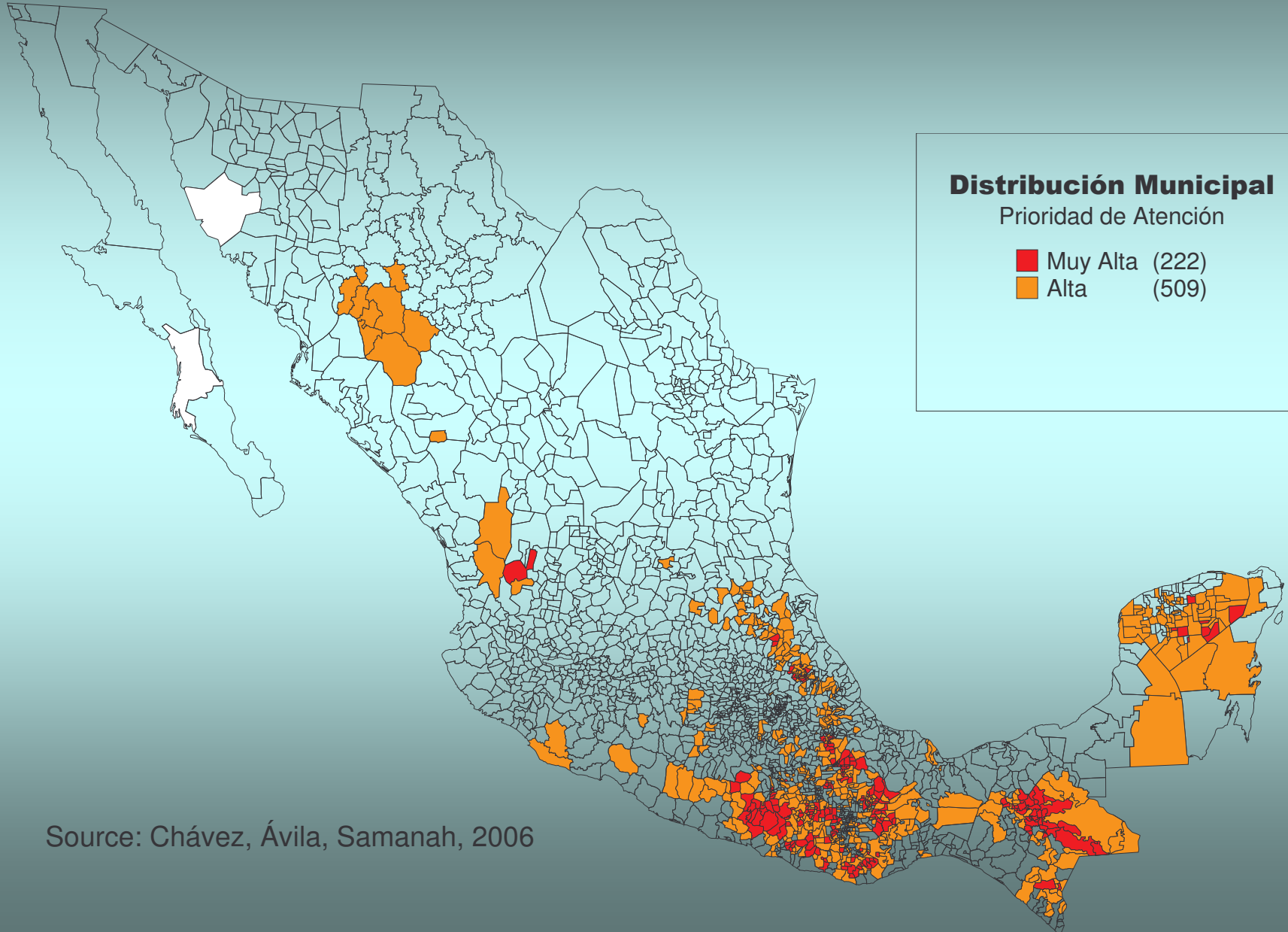
1. Between 3.25 and 6.75 millions of small peasants will be pushed out of their land and become EIM due to loss of corn production and desertification.
2. An additional 40 million people are at very high and high risks due to natural hazards (SEGOB 2004).

5. Social Vulnerability and EIM



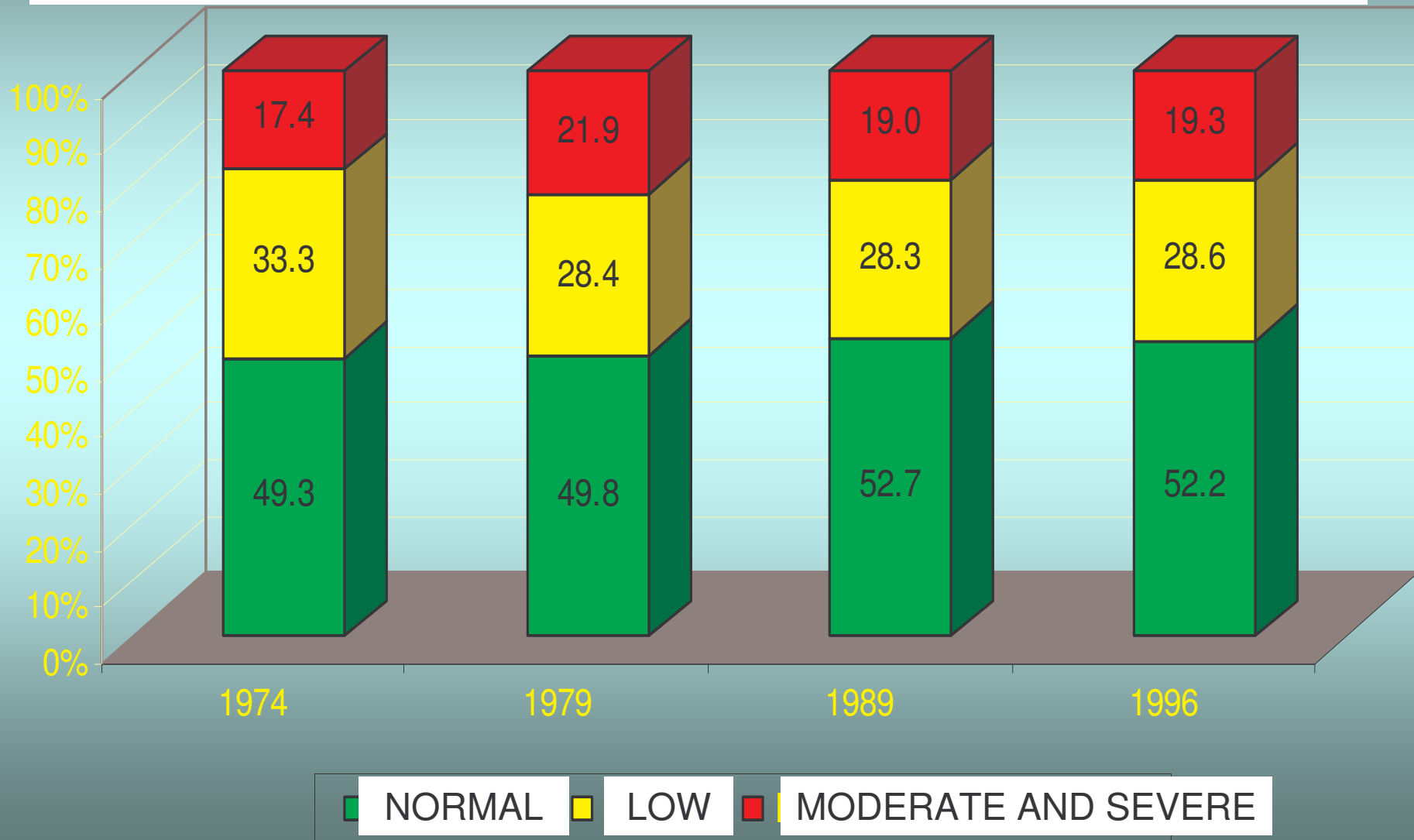
- Social vulnerability as “the characteristic of a person or group and their situation that influence their capacity to anticipate, cope with, resist and recovery from the impact of a natural hazard” (Wisner et al 2004:11)
- More complex societies with unsustainable consumption pattern: changes of natural landscape and lack of land planning, exhaustion of natural resources, greater demand, scarcity & contamination of water, emission of greenhouse gases, pollution, destruction of biodiversity by land use changes, food insecurity, famine, and food speculation (biofuel crops), highly instable livelihood conditions.
- People depend on old infrastructure, that is badly maintained in megacities and in rural areas
- Social vulnerability rises among marginal, discriminated and neglected, where violence rises due to social gaps within and between countries.

Very High and High Marginalization: Mexico

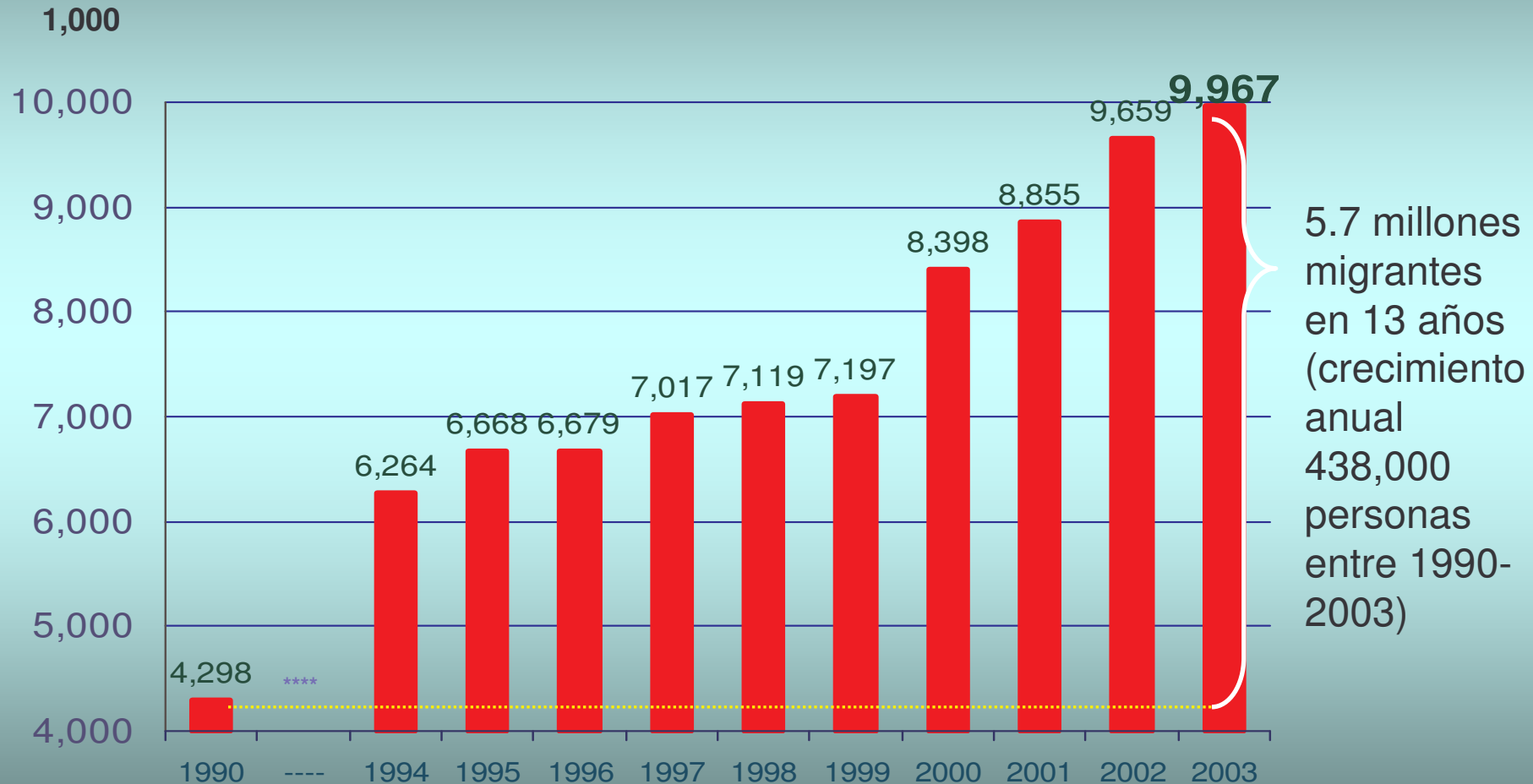


Source: Chávez, Ávila, Samanah, 2006

State of Nutrition of Children Under 5 Years: Weight/Age

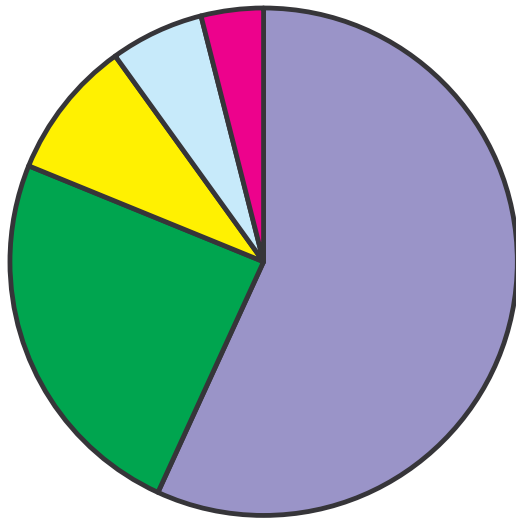


Migration to the USA from Mexico 1990 – 2003 (in 1000 Persons)



Source: Public-use files from the US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March Supplement, elaborated by Fernando Lozano, 2005

Illegal Immigrants and Origin (Total 10.3 million, March, 2004)



- Mexico (5.9 millones)
- Latin America (2.5 millones) without Mexico
- Asia (1 millon)
- Europe and Canada (0.6 millones)
- Africa and others (0.4 millones)

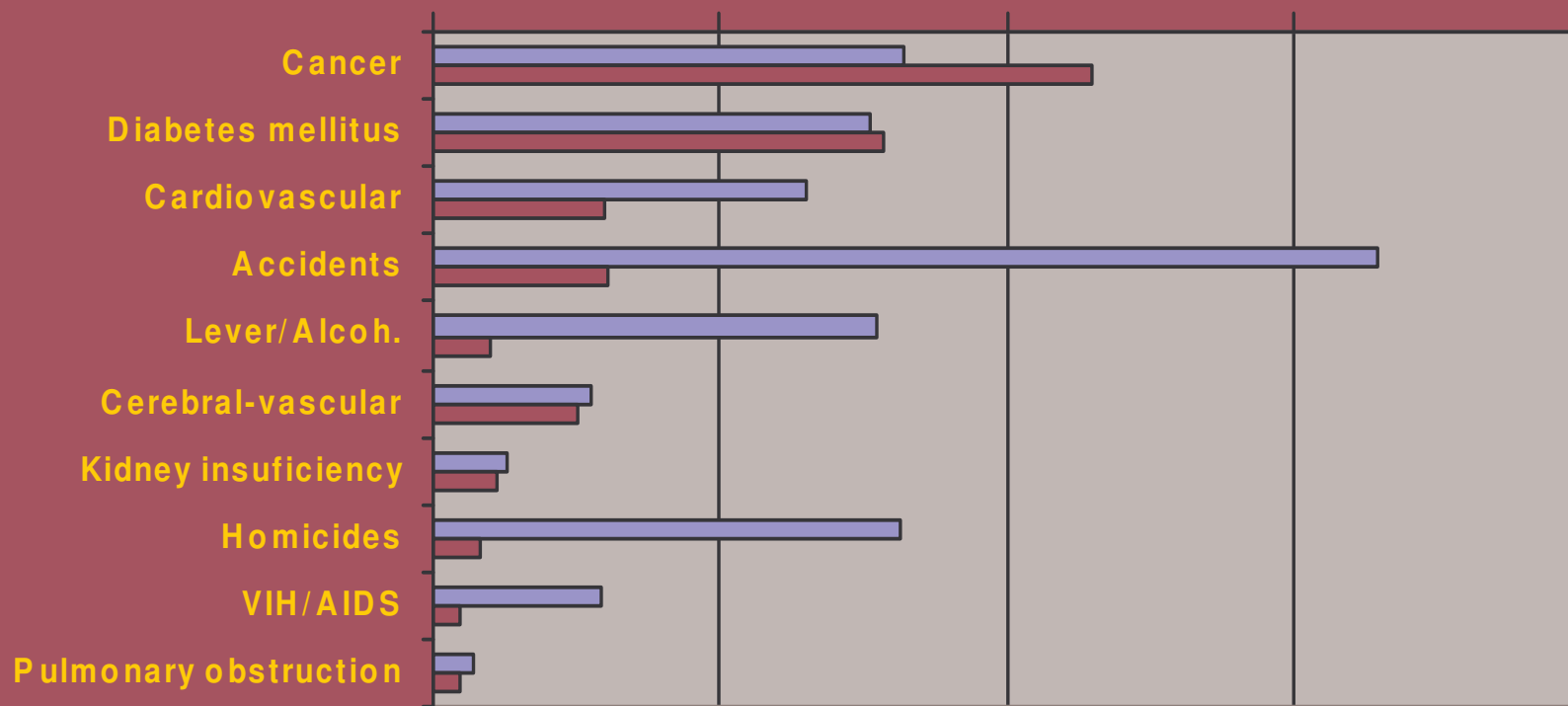


6. Gender Security as an Issue of CC

- Gender security refers to the **process** of socialization to 'become' a gendered human being; a man or a woman, depending on the position of social structure.
- GS is **socially constructed** and systemic within the present society. It is normally taken for granted. The relations are linked to a gender status –ethnicity/race, sex; poor and rich– in relation to model of reference.
- Equity and identity are the **values at risk**
- The **source of threat** comes from the hierarchical and violent order, characterized by exclusive, dominant, and authoritarian institutions, non-democratic governments, churches, and elites; secondly, from the established and developed social relations of violence and prejudice **within family and society**.

Selected Causes of Death by Sex in México

0 20 40 60 80



Rate per 100,000 people

Source: SSA Anuario Estadístico, 1999

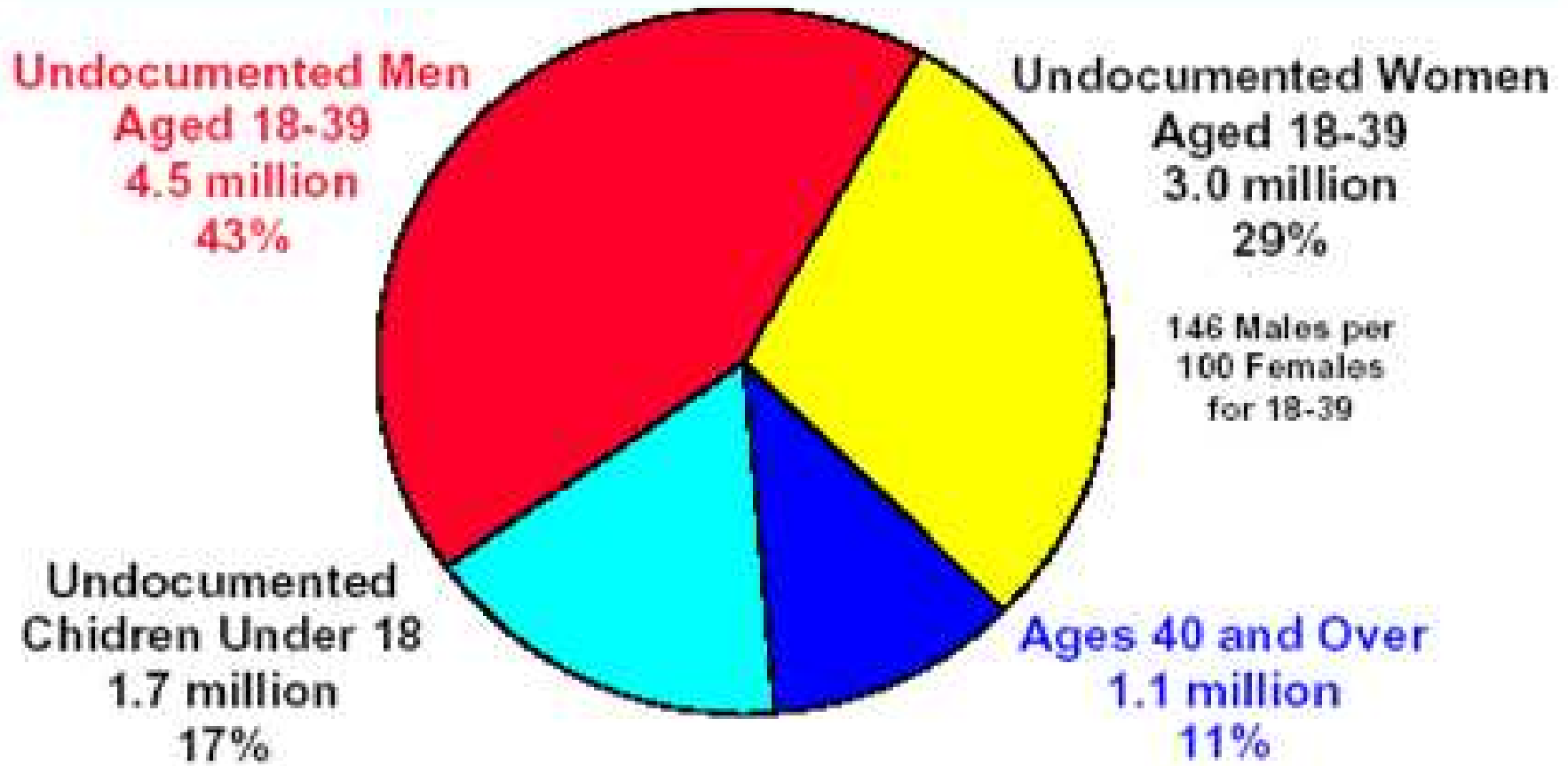
Main Reasons for Dead by Sex in Mexico

- Alcohol
- Prostate cancer
- Car accidents
- Homicides
- Liver illnesses, alcoholism
- Maternal mortality
- Mammary, cervical-uterine cancer
- Intrafamily violence/feminicides
- Mental health: depression, food intake alterations

Gender Insecurity

1. During migration from Mexico to the USA, between **70 to 80%** of women are raped and an important group finishes up in prostitution (Catholic Church, 2008) with high risks of HIV-AIDS (Klot/DeLargy, 2007).
2. More than 500 feminicides only in one border town: Juárez (2008: 57)
3. EIM is related to trafficking of humans (also children), human organs, drugs and arms

Undocumented are Children and Younger Adults



10.3 Million in March 2004

Children's Insecurity

1. In the USA **17% of undocumented Latinos** are children.
2. Jan-Sept. 2008, more that **90,000 children were deported**, mostly without their parents; often expelled on the other side of the country, where they tried to enter with family.
3. Children joining their parents in the USA, when they are deported, they are returned **to** the Mexican side of the border. There exist in this region **123,500 kids** surviving by begging, prostitution and illegal activities (drugs, smuggling; Chamber of Deputies in Mexico, 2008).
4. For each **three** adults that are deported, there is **one** Mexican child abandoned within the USA, trying to survive in adverse conditions.
5. In any of the mentioned cases, the practices conflict with the **International Conventions on the Rights of the Child**, that were signed and ratified by both countries.



7. Fences Increase Social and Gender Vulnerability

Legal Framework for EIM

- **Convention on EIM** to account for a legal instrument that enables any country to deal with probably **massive migrations** in the future
- **International support** during disasters and rebuilding phases
- Interchange of **science and technology** for clean energy such as solar thermal and photovoltaic to generate the required energy without emissions of GHG
- **Ethical business** and **public private partnership** not oriented to short term profit, but interested in long-term quality of life for the whole planet

8. Conclusions at Internacional Level

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9. Mexico/USA confronted with EIM

- Mexico with existing, and potential growing number of EIM, due to effects of CC on food sovereignty; more frequent and serious hazards; 11,000km coastal lines with salinization of land and aquifers due to sea level rise; loss of fertile coastal land.
- Prevention, mitigation and adaptation to the coming conditions and the probably rapid changes require efforts never undertaken before.
- To cope with these risks and threats a combined top-down preventive behavior and a bottom-up resilience-building are necessary to deal with the upcoming unknown situations.

9. Mexico/USA confronted with EIM

- Latin America is remaining poor with numerous young unemployed people
- USA working population is aging and shrinking
- Migration is both lucrative and dangerous
- During 2007/08 a great change happens: flow of migrants to USA is shrinking
- Border Patrol arrests: 2006 less 8% (1 million); 2007 less 50%; 2000 1.64 m arrested
- Reasons:
 - Hostility and xenophobia to migrants
 - Massive deportation of illegal migrants
 - 2008: 12 billion to grant border against job seekers (terrorists)
 - 20,000 agents, drones, high technology, long metal fence
 - Deportation considered as criminal with risk for jail
 - Hazards in deserts (temperature, snakes, dehydration)

Alternatives

- **National level:** Adaptation and coping strategies: early warning, environmental restoration and protection, massive reforestation and rigorous territorial, ecological and urban planning, recovering of mangroves and protection of corral reefs that mitigate impacts of CC, reduce economic losses and protect human lives and ecosystems, job creation, education.
- **Adaptation at the local level :** socio-environmental strategies with participative governance could avoid conflicts of land and water, and increase resilience and mitigation capacity, training of young people and women gives society second opportunity.

EIM: A HUGE Security Issue

- **Human, Gender and Environmental Security** understood as ‘freedom from fear, from want and from hazard impacts’ is only achieved when EIM is safe and people left at home account for secured livelihood.
- To achieve this goal the existing social vulnerability must be countered through preventive behavior on livelihood, environmental security, adaptation on changing socio-environmental conditions and improved social and gender security, in synthesis a **HUGE** challenge for Mexico.



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