Convention Travel Documents for refugees and stateless persons:

- Update and key challenges

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Strengthening Aviation Security through Improved Traveller Identification

Travel documents for refugees and stateless persons

- Refugees and stateless persons rely on their host country for travel documents, as they do not normally have access to travel documents from their country of origin and/or nationality

- Issuing CTDs is a legal obligation for all State Parties to;
    - 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees
    - 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons

- CTDs facilitates freedom of movement, the right to education, work and maintaining family relations, and durable solutions

New ICAO Standard (Annex 9, para. 3.12):

"Contracting States shall ensure that travel documents for refugees and stateless persons ("Convention Travel Documents") are machine readable, in accordance with the specifications of Doc 9303."
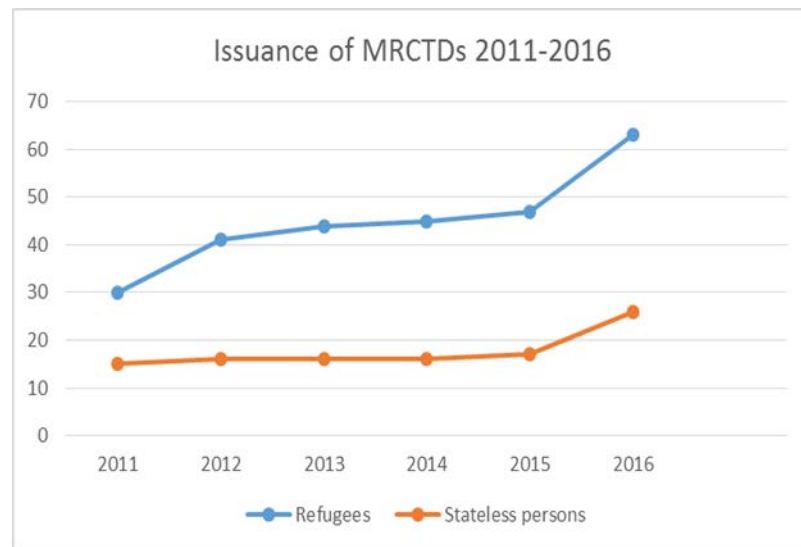
Note. – "Convention Travel Documents" are provided for in the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (cf. respective Article 28 of both Conventions)

Update on compliance:

- 63 State Parties reported to issue MRCTDs to refugees

- 26 State Parties reported to issue MRCTDs to stateless persons

- Significant progress over the last 5 years, in particular for refugees

Issuance of MRCTDs 2011-2016
— Refugees   — Stateless persons

UNHCR
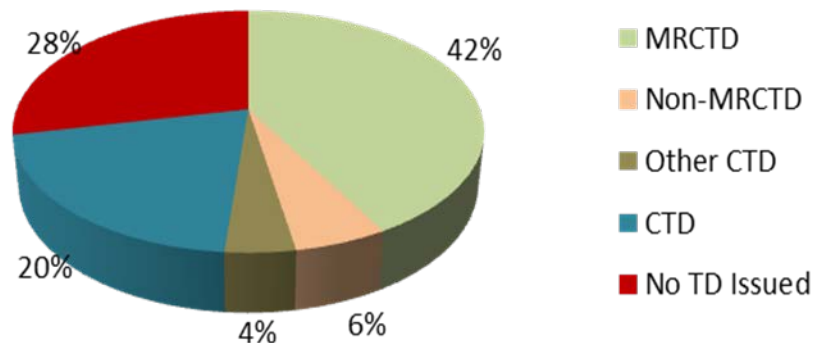The UN Refugee Agency

Travel documents for refugees:

- The number of states issuing MRCTDs have doubled since 2011

  Still significant concerns about the large number of States not issuing any kind of CTDs (40 State Parties)

  In addition, 29 State Parties are still requesting the issuance on (non-machine readable) CTD booklets

Refugee Convention & Protocol

- 42% MRCTD
- 6% Non-MRCTD
- 4% Other CTD
- 20% CTD
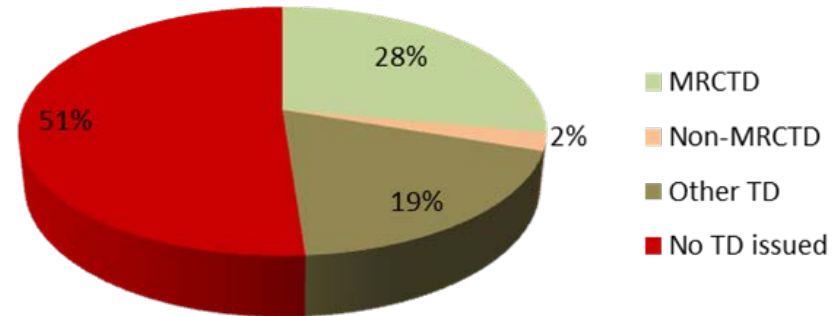- 28% No TD Issued

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Travel documents for stateless persons:

- The majority of State Parties still do not issue any form of travel documents to stateless persons

- Particular challenges in accessing documentation

Statelessness Convention

- MRCTD — 28%
- Non-MRCTD — 2%
- Other TD — 19%
- No TD issued — 51%

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Key challenges:

- Lack of documentation (also foundation documents)
- Identity management in large scale emergencies (importance of reception and registration)
- Technical capacity of hosting states
- Funding constraints (vs. smaller caseloads)
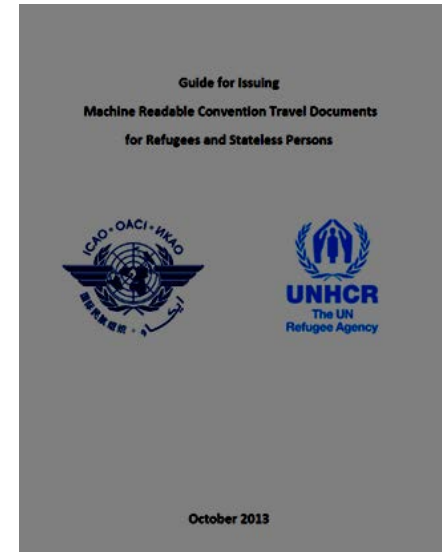- Administrative and legislative barriers
- Security

Way forward:

States encouraged to take steps towards introducing MRCTDs, including;

- *legal and administrative structures;*
- *cooperation between refugee/passport authorities;*
- *integrating CTDs in tendering for national passports.*

Continued cooperation between UNHCR and ICAO to offer technical support in implementation

Guide for Issuing
Machine Readable Convention Travel Documents
for Refugees and Stateless Persons

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The UN
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The UN Refugee Agency

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