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Travel documents for refugees and stateless persons:

*How Machine-Readable Convention Travel Documents (MRCTDs) can Help
Combat Fraudulent Documents and Methods*

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What are Travel Documents for refugees and stateless persons?

- Refugees and stateless persons often rely on their host country for travel documents, as they normally cannot access such documents from their country of origin or nationality
- A right for all refugees and stateless persons who wish to travel and are lawfully staying on the territory of States which are parties to:
 - the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and/or its Protocol;
 - the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons





What are the benefits for refugees and stateless persons?

- Facilitates durable solutions (resettlement and voluntary repatriation) and enables opportunities provided through complementary pathways, such as:
 - education or work abroad
 - family unity
 - private sponsorships
 - medical evacuations
 - humanitarian admissions





What are the benefits for refugees and stateless persons?

- Strengthens self-reliance and resilience, the ability of refugees and stateless persons to lead more independent and stable lives
- Supports safe and regular movement of refugees and stateless persons and reduces the risks of travel through dangerous sea and land journeys, exposing refugees and stateless persons to exploitation, abuse, violence and human trafficking





What are the benefits for States?

- Increased security features: machine-readable travel documents are more secure (significant reduction in forgery and alteration)





What are the benefits for States?

- Appliance of ICAO standards facilitates universal and reciprocal recognition of travel documents between States, which is essential to effective and safe border management and air travel





What are the benefits for States?

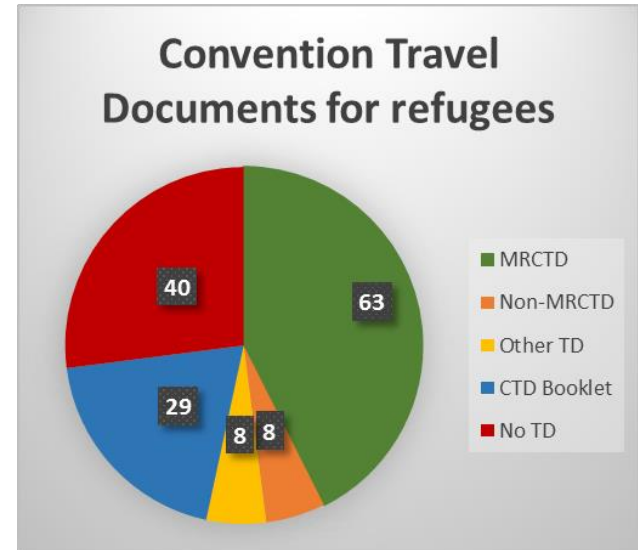
- The issuance of travel documents to refugees and stateless persons further facilitates international responsibility- and burden-sharing through resettlement and complementary pathways





Current implementation: refugees

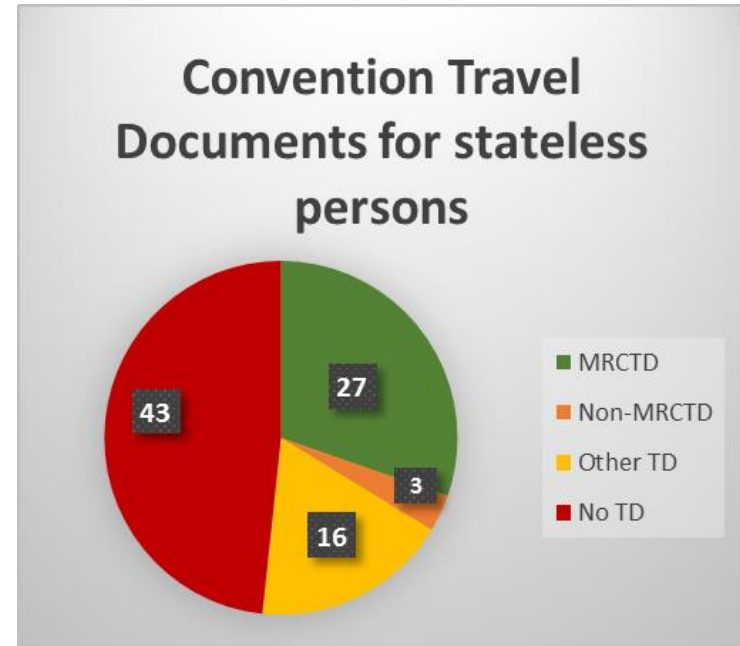
- 63 States Parties to the 1951 Convention and/or its Protocol reported to issue machine readable CTDs to refugees (43%)
- A significant number of States do not issue travel documents to refugees (27%)
- A number of States remain reliant on CTD booklets, which are non-machine readable and therefore not in line with ICAO Standards (20%)





Current implementation: stateless persons

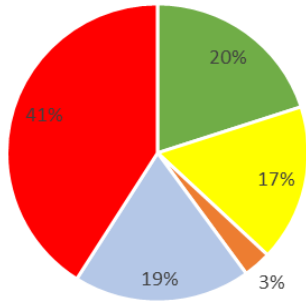
- 27 States Parties to the 1954 Convention reported to be issuing machine readable CTDs to stateless persons (30%)
- A large number of State Parties are not issuing travel documents to stateless persons (48%)





Global coverage – by refugee population

% of the world's refugee population that has access to travel documents



- 20% of all refugees have access to MRCTDs
- 19% of all refugees have access to CTD booklets (provided by UNHCR)
- 17% of all refugees have access to non-MRCTDs
- 3% of all refugees have access to other TDs
- 41% of all refugees have no access to TDs



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