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ICAO TRIP: USING TRAVELLER ID FOR STREAMLINED BORDER CONTROLS

Convention Travel Documents:

Travel documents for refugees
and stateless persons

Montreal, 23 October 2018





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Why are such travel documents needed?

- Refugees and stateless persons rely on their host State for travel documents
- Refugees have a well-founded fear of persecution in their country of origin and can therefore normally not seek a national passport without putting themselves at risk of harm
- Stateless persons are persons who are not considered as nationals by any State and therefore have no State to turn to for a national passport





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What are such documents used for?

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

A few examples:

- education
- work abroad
- family visits or reunification
- medical evacuations
- humanitarian admissions
- private sponsorships
- resettlement



What are the applicable standards?

- Machine-readability (as national passports)
- Joint guidance issued by UNHCR and ICAO (February 2017)

Annex 9, Standard 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.”*

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





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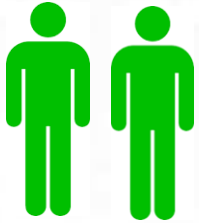
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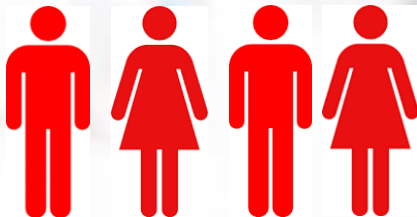
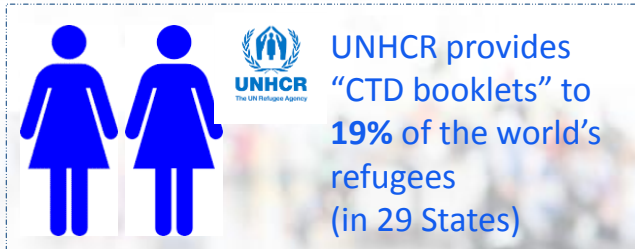
UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency



How is this implemented in practice?



- An estimated 20% of the world's refugees (3.2 mill) have access to travel documents issued in line with international standards

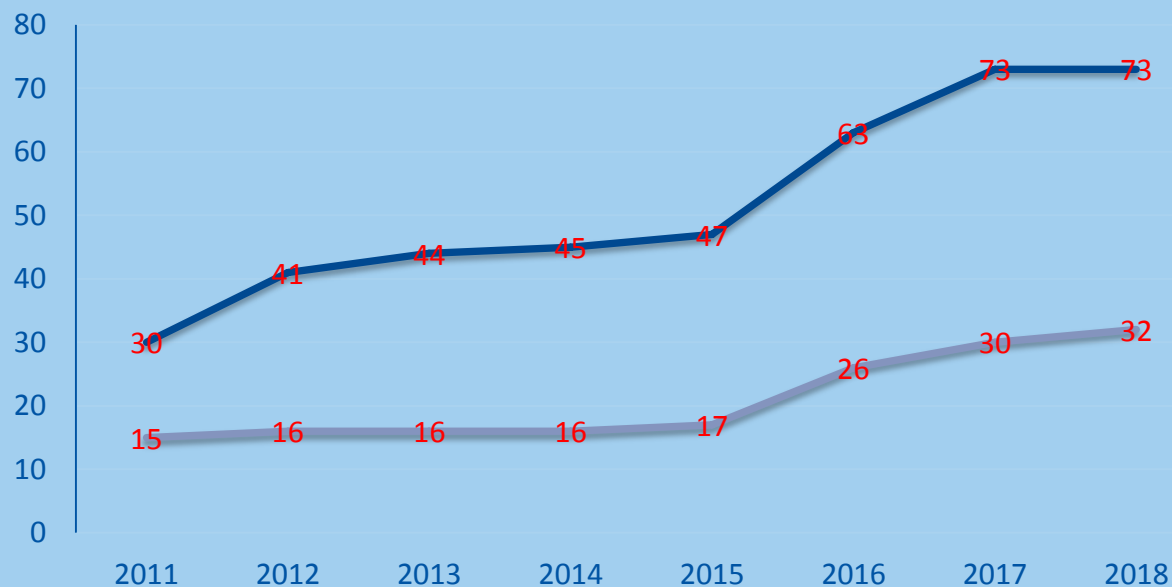


- 41% of refugees (6.9 million refugees) do not have access to travel document of any kind from their host State



- Seen a steady increase over the last 8 years
- Still a long way to go to reach global compliance in line with national passports

Compliance MRCTDs 2010 - 2018





The way forward:

- States which are **not yet** issuing machine-readable convention travel documents to refugees and stateless persons are encouraged to do so (Standard 3.12)
- UNHCR will continue to work with States to promote the introduction of MRCTDs, including through the provision of (start up) material support and technical support and guidance in cooperation with ICAO

Good practice for States:

Integrate travel documents of refugees and stateless persons into the tendering and procurement process for national passports





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Thank you



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