



# REFUGEE PROTECTION AT SEA

**SUMBUL RIZVI**

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**HEAD, ASYLUM & MIGRATION UNIT,  
DIVISION OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION**

**UNHCR**

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Refugees

Asylum-seekers

Stateless people

Returnees

IDPs

# Global displacement

42,500

displaced by conflict and persecution  
**per day** in 2014

20 million

**refugees** worldwide (at mid-2015)

86%

of refugees hosted by **developing**  
**countries**

# Crisis?

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Perhaps, but maybe not the one you are thinking of...

- Syria conflict alone has led to almost **5 million refugees** (as well as some 6.5 million IDPs)
- Turkey is hosting over 2.7 million Syrian refugees
- Lebanon – over 1 million registered Syrian refugees
- Pakistan – approx 1.5 million refugees (Afghans)

# Refugees and migrants at sea



- **Mediterranean**
  - **Central Mediterranean**
  - **Eastern Mediterranean**
- **Southeast Asia**
- **Caribbean**
- **Gulf of Aden ... the forgotten route?**

# Refugees and migrants at sea

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- Along many routes today, majority are **refugees** fleeing conflict or persecution
- Why should that matter?
  - SAR = Saving lives at sea
  - Access to asylum / international protection
  - Ongoing ‘drivers’ of dangerous sea journeys

# Protection at sea



# Protection at sea

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- Protection at sea ... begins with protection on land
  - Saving lives at sea – what are the gaps?
  - ***Non-refoulement*** and the right to seek and enjoy asylum
  - Humane treatment of rescued persons



# Protection at sea

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- Protection at sea also *ends* with protection on land
    - **safe** disembarkation arrangements
    - first assistance and reception
    - access to asylum procedures and other services
    - protection from further risks – trafficking, SGBV, family separation...