REFUGEE PROTECTION AT SEA

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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?

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

- 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 ... 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 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...