REFUGEE PROTECTION AT SEA

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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

- 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

- 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...