Achieving Protection at Sea

Sumbul Rizvi

Head, Asylum & Migration Unit Division of International Protection UNHCR

12 February 2015



Mixed Movements by Sea 2014

Over 378,000 took to the sea. Over 4,500 dead/missing



Gulf of Aden

- ✓ Over 90,000 arrivals in Yemen
- ✓ 246 reported deaths

Europe

- ✓ Over 218,000 arrivals
- ✓ Over 3,500 estimated deaths

The Caribbean

- ✓ Over 5,200 involved in incidents
- ✓ 73 casualties/missing

South-East Asia

- ✓ Estimated 63,000 departures
- ✓ Estimated 750 deaths



An issue bigger than UNHCR

¹/₂ of those arriving on the Central Mediterranean Route are Persons of Concern

Traditional and nontraditional partnerships required

UNHCR Global Initiative on Protection at Sea

- Catalyse and support action to prevent further loss of life
- Ensure comprehensive and protection-sensitive responses
- Develop consensus on rescue-atsea issues, safe and predictable disembarkation and responsibility sharing.

The High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection at Sea

December 2014, Over 450 participants (governments, non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, academia, shipping industry, other stakeholders)



Available at: http://www.refworld.org/docid/53abd14d4.html



2015 Follow-up to High Commissioner's Dialogue

1. Search, rescue and disembarkation

- a. Various regional initiatives:
- Central Mediterranean Sea Initiative (<u>http://www.unhcr.org/531990199.html</u>)
- Sana'a Declaration (<u>http://www.refworld.org/docid/530483644.html</u>)
- Jakarta Declaration (<u>http://www.refworld.org/docid/530db94f4.html</u>)
- Caribbean (Brazil Declaration <u>http://www.refworld.org/docid/5487065b4.html</u>)



b. Development and dissemination of Rescue at Sea: Guide to Principles and Practice as Applied to Refugees and Migrants (January 2015) (http://www.refworld.org/docid/54b365554 .html)

2. Expanded Partnerships

 Collaborate and foster dialogue between shipping industry and relevant parties



2015 Follow-up to High Commissioner's Dialogue

3. Improve data on movements

- UNHCR's Maritime Movement Monitoring Unit in South-East Asia
- RMMS (<u>www.regionalmms.org/</u>) and MMTFs for coordination



- 4. Improve postdisembarkation reception and treatment
 E.g. Mobile Response Teams
- 5. Strengthen engagement in migration-related initiatives
 Migrants in Countries in Crisis

6. Alternative pathways

Humanitarian admission, community based private sponsorships, medical evacuation, humanitarian visas, admission of relatives, academic scholarships, labour mobility schemes, etc.



Key documents

Selected Reference Materials:

- UNHCR, *Rescue at Sea, Stowaways and Maritime Interception: Selected Reference Materials,* December 2011, 2nd Edition, <u>http://www.refworld.org/docid/4ee087492.html</u>
- UNHCR, *Refugee Protection and Mixed Migration: The 10-Point Plan in Action*, February 2011, http://www.refworld.org/docid/4d9430ea2.html
- UNHCR, Refugees and Asylum-Seekers in Distress at Sea how best to respond? Summary Conclusions ('Djibouti Conclusions'), 5 December 2011, <u>http://www.refworld.org/docid/4ede0d392.html</u> [Expert Meeting Conclusions]
- UNHCR, *Co-chairs' Summary: International Workshop on the Protection of Irregular Movements of Persons at Sea Jakarta*, Indonesia, <u>http://www.refworld.org/docid/53882cb34.html</u> [International Workshop, 21-22 April 2014]
- UNHCR, Co-Chairs' Summary: "Mapping Disembarkation Options: Towards Strengthening Cooperation in Managing Irregular Movements by Sea", 4 March 2014, <u>http://www.refworld.org/docid/5343abe64.html</u> [Regional meeting Thailand, March 2014]
- UNHCR Central Mediterranean Sea Initiative (CMSI): EU solidarity for rescue-at-sea and protection of refugees and migrants, 13 May 2014, <u>http://www.refworld.org/docid/538d73704.html</u>

Regional Reports:

- South-East Asia: <u>http://storybuilder.jumpstart.ge/en/unhcr-imm</u> and report on irregular movements, November 2014, <u>http://www.unhcr.org/53f1c5fc9.pdf</u>
- Europe: So Close, Yet So far From Safety , December 2014, http://www.refworld.org/docid/547c31934.html