



2021
ICAO
VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM

TRIP

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Travel Document is a Right

- Article 28 the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (1951 Convention)
- Article 28 of the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (1954 Convention)
- the 1969 OAU Convention (Article 6)

TDs are essential to freedom and liberty of movement- Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Travel document enables the exercise of other human rights:

- the right to work
- the right to education
- the principle of family unity

Travel Document was a life changer for Hannah

Hannah who fled
Syria in 2012, now
studies at the
University Paul
Valery in Montpellier
on a scholarship
granted by the
French authority
after living for 5
years as a refugee
in Jordan



Ines- Burundian
Refugee in
Rwanda was one
of the first refugees
who received a
MRTD



'It was a very emotional moment ... I felt that now I definitely exist'

- Alternatives to resorting to irregular means and dangerous onward movement- which may expose refugees and stateless persons to exploitation, abuse, violence and human trafficking
- Facilitate the acquisition and retention of skills that can help refugees attain a sustainable solution in the future

TD is Vital component of civil registration and documentation

“leave no one behind”

- New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants
- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



UNHCR Priorities

- Support the transition to MRCTDs
- Machine readable alternative documents for refugees and stateless persons hosted in States that are not parties to the 1951 Convention (and/or its 1967 Protocol) or the 1954 Convention
- International cooperation and responsibility-sharing.



UNHCR Biometric Identity Management System - BIMS

“I can be someone now. I am registered globally with the UN and you’ll always know who I am” 43Y-old Conglolese refugee Olivier Mzaliwa, registered through BIMS in Malawi’s Dzaleka refugee camp.

Timely and effective registration and documentation of refugees and stateless is key- reducing the risk of fraud, and facilitating global and reciprocal acceptance of travel documents

Challenges

- The pressure on some host States: Need for financial resources and technical support
- Protection of personal data
- Covid-19 travel regulations