

Conference IARMJ European Chapter

Brdo, Slovenia - 12 September 2022

REFWORLD

UNHCR's Global Law and Policy Database



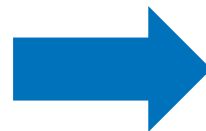
Riccardo Viviani (UNHCR Associate Legal Officer)

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- 1) Refworld and UNHCR's mandate
- 2) A brief history of Refworld: from the 1990s to the present
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- **Info gathering** to keep up to date with national legislation & practice
- Issuing of **guidance**, incl. comments on legislation and court interventions



REFWORLD

Refworld: history



- **Objective:** to provide access to **relevant** and **high quality info** with the overall aim of improving the **quality** of asylum decisions globally
- **Audience:** **asylum-decision makers**, UNHCR staff, judiciary, lawyers, legal aid providers, policy makers, scholars
- Maintained by RSD Section (*content publication*) + Digital Engagement Section (*technical support*)

1990s: COI database (CD /DVD)

2013: interface updated

2019: COI referral

2007: website launch

2018: new strategy

2022/2023: revamped Refworld

CONTENT

Total n. docs: 400,000 (EN+ES+RUS)

- EN **legal** docs: **35,000**, incl.
 - national legislation: 4,000 docs
 - case-law: 13,000 docs
- EN **policy** docs: 4,000
- EN **reference** docs: 7,000
- EN **Country of Origin Information (COI)**: 215,000

AUDIENCE

Users: **5.5 million**

Page views: **10.5 million**

Most viewed sections:

Case-law & UNHCR publications

Refworld revamp: strategy



2022 - Phase n. 1: Migration to new content management system → to launch revamped Refworld

- *Selection and mapping of content + new design*

2023 – Phase n. 2: Refinement of Refworld infrastructure and content → to full-fledged database

- *Elaboration of document collections + finetuning of functionalities*

as of 2024 – Phase n. 3

Continuous development on annual basis

Mission & Audience



Mission

to be the leading **global law and policy database on refugee law, statelessness and internal displacement**, providing **free, easy and speedy access** to comprehensive and **high-quality content** from **UNHCR and authoritative external sources**.

Audience

- UNHCR staff
- Judges
- Lawyers
- Legal aid workers
- Policy & lawmakers
- Academics & researchers
- General public

Languages

- Website: EN + ES + RUS
- Docs: various

- Legal instruments
- Case-law
- UNHCR Policy & Guidance
- Research & Reports



Search the leading source of case law, legislation and UNHCR guidance on refugees and stateless persons

- All
- Legal Instruments
- Case Law
- Policy & Guidance
- Research & Reports

Search tips

UNHCR In focus

View all

10 March 2021

Guide on Article 7 of the European Convention on Human Rights - No punishment without law: the principle that only the law can define a crime and prescribe a penalty

- Document source: Council of Europe : European Court of Human Rights
- Date: 31 December 2020

Human rights Education

Latest updates

View all

12 March 2021

Serbia : Law on Execution of Criminal Sanctions

- Document source: National Authorities
- Date: 23 March 2014

Law Criminal sanctions Informal document

9 March 2021

Written observations by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the case of A.H. v National Directorate-General/or Aliens Policing (11.K.706.750/2020) before the Budapest Capital Regional Court

- Document source: UNHCR
- Date: 25 March 2020

Access to procedures Entry / Exit

Browse by



Country

Document Source

Document Type

Keyword

Usability

Thematic areas

View all



COVID-19
Protection considerations in the pandemic.



Detention
Relating to conditions and freedom of movement.



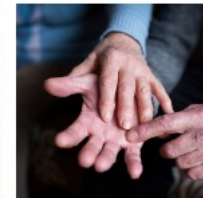
Gender Equality & Women
Legal, policy and guidance documents.



Internally Displaced Persons
Curated related materials.



Children & Youth
Guidance, policy and legal documents.



Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict
Selected key information.



Refugee Protection and International Migration
Legal, policy and guidance documents.



Refugee Status Determination
UNHCR's activities and policy framework.

Core Instruments

- 1951 convention relating to the Status of Refugees
- 1967 Protocol relating to the Status Refugees
- 1954 Stateless Convention
- 1961 Convention on reduction Statelessness
- 1969 OAU Refugee Convention
- 1984 Cartagena Declaration
- EJ Acute
- Status of UN Treaties

UNHCR Documents

- Handbook on Procedures and Criteria for RSD
- Guidelines on International Protection
- Country Guidance
- Court Interventions
- Comments on Legislation

UNHCR Tools

- Protection Manual
- Internal Refworld
- Legacy Refworld
- Glossary

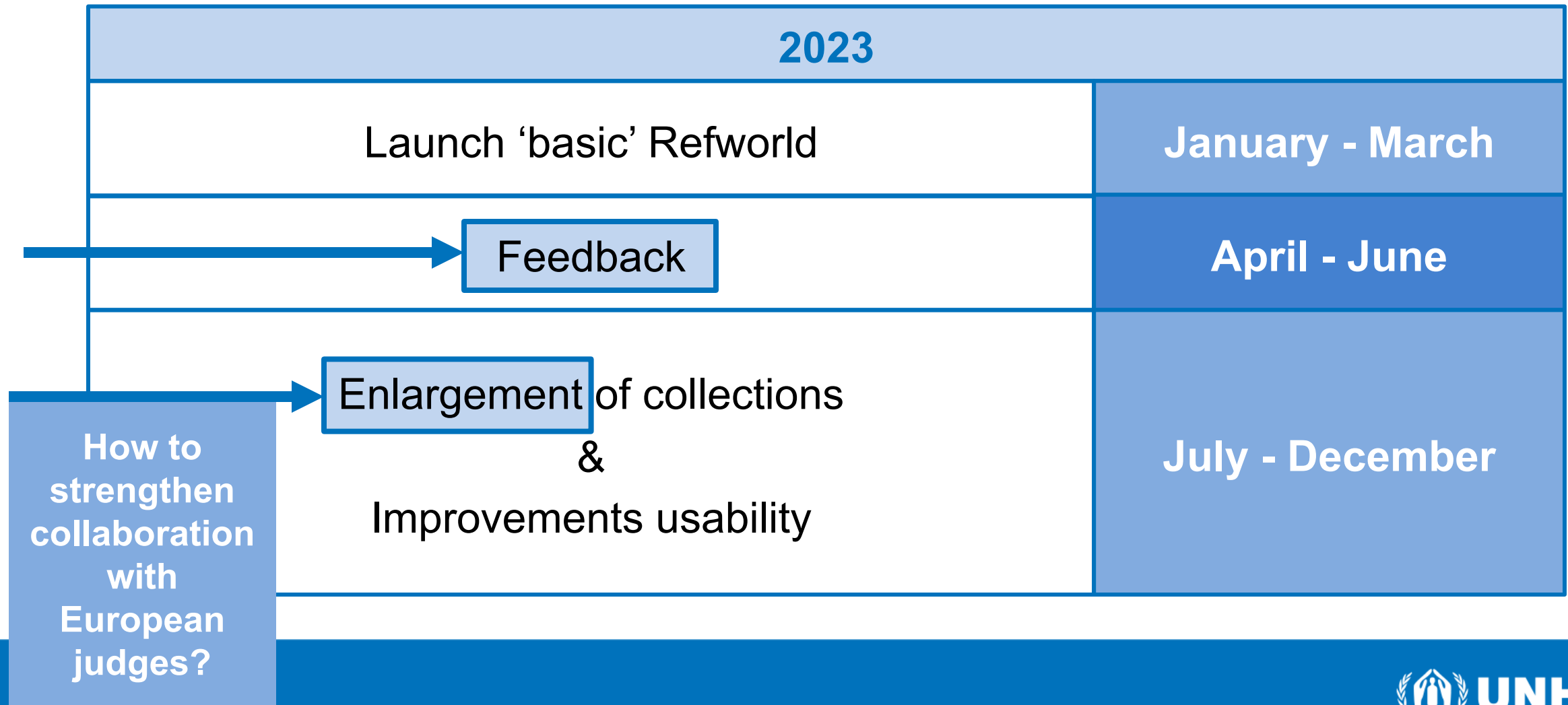
Country of Origin Information

Ecolnet

UNHCR Sites

- UNHCR
- Global Compact
- ACSE portal
- Global Protection cluster
- Statistics

Conclusion: feedback & collaboration



For more info and feedback on Refworld:

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THANK YOU - HVALA