

Country of Origin Information, Refworld

RSD/RST workshop for Eastern Europe

Tbilisi, Georgia, 5-8 April 2016



UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

What is COI?

- Country of Origin Information (COI) is information which is used in procedures for determining international protection needs
- COI supports in the evaluation of the situation in the applicant's country of origin, including:
 - the human rights and security situation
 - the political situation and the legal framework
 - cultural aspects and societal attitudes
 - the humanitarian and economic situation
 - events and incidents
 - geography

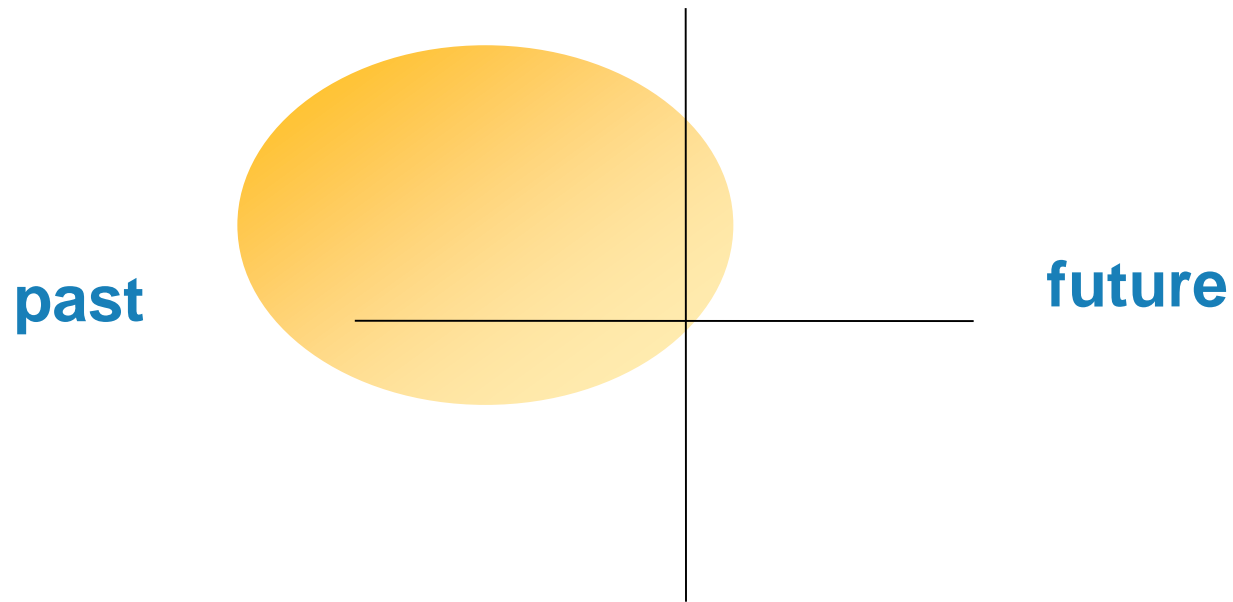
What is COI?

To qualify as COI it is essential that the source of the information has no vested interest in the outcome of the individual claim for international protection.

- ACCORD Training Manual on Researching Country of Origin Information

The field of COI in RSD

general country situation



applicant's personal circumstances

Use of COI in RSD procedures

Protection-related questions

Inclusion assessment

- Well-founded fear / availability of state protection
- Availability of internal flight alternative / internal relocation alternative (IFA / IRA)

Exclusion assessment

Credibility questions

- Determine the truthfulness of the applicant's factual statements by checking for consistency with available COI.
 - Pose COI questions to the applicant to test the truthfulness of particular aspects of his/her claim. (Such questions may themselves be unrelated to the core of the applicant's claim.)

COI quality standards

Relevance

Reliability and balance

Accuracy and currency

Transparency and traceability

Balancing COI



COI assessment

How do we know that a source of COI is **reliable**?

- Is it a primary source?
Does the source present first-hand information?
- Is the source independent, impartial and objective?
Does the source have a “hidden agenda”?
- Does it use a sound methodology?
Does the source use an appropriate method for obtaining and presenting information?

Note that reliability is often not a black-or-white question.
The reliability of a source may be assessed on a sliding scale.

COI assessment

Methodology

- Transparency about **how** the information was obtained, analyzed and presented
- Transparency about **who** provided the information
 - Sometimes sources cannot be cited because their identity must be protected

COI assessment

Beware of scenarios that give a false impression of corroborated information

- “Round-tripping”
Secondary sources cite each other
- “Corroboration mirage”
Secondary sources all cite the same primary source.
(Note that this can be difficult if not impossible to verify, particularly if sources do not cite the primary authority.)

This is why we should always try to go to the primary source to verify the information

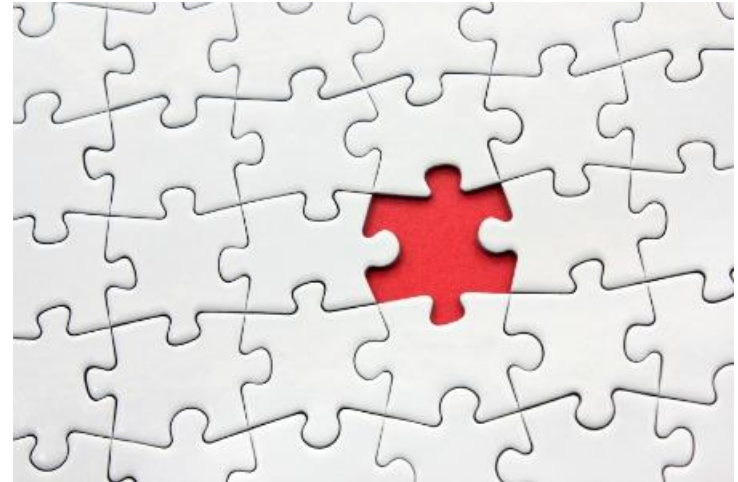
COI limitations

There may be relevant COI available, but this information may be “old”:

- Note: sometimes “old” information is in fact still current, whereas in other cases “old” information is out-of-date.
- In any given case, it may be hard to tell whether the available COI is still current.
- The date of publication of COI is an important indicator of whether COI is still current, but it is not decisive.

COI limitations

COI may be **incomplete**:
it may not be possible to
corroborate (all of) the
applicant's statements.



Note that the absence of COI does **not**
automatically imply that the applicant is not
credible.

Where do we find COI?

- www.refworld.org – UNHCR’s protection information database
- www.ecoi.net – the country of origin information system of the Austrian Red Cross
- www.google.com (or other search engines)



In Focus

08 May 2015

Summary of Deliberations on Credibility Assessment in Asylum Procedures, Expert Roundtable, 14-15 January 2015, Budapest, Hungary

Expert Roundtable on Credibility Assessment in Asylum Procedures in Budapest, Hungary on 14-15 January 2015, convened by UNHCR and organized with the Hungarian Helsinki Committee (HHC) as part of the "CREDO" projects.

[View all »](#)

Search Refworld

by keyword

and / or country

[Advanced Search](#) | [Search Tips](#)

Latest Refworld Updates



8 June 2015

- DR Congo: UN voices support for Government offensive against militia
- UN mission in Central African Republic opens investigation into sexual abuse claims
- UN envoy 'mustering' required support for consultations to resolve Yemen conflict
- Concerned over potential violence in Burundi, UN chief urges resumption of dialogue
- Security Council condemns South Sudan violence, expresses concern over expulsion of UN relief coordinator
- Central African Republic: UN chief to launch independent inquiry into sexual abuse case
- Libya: UN envoy meets political actors and activists on reaching final agreement to end crisis
- UN rights office calls on Myanmar to release jailed columnist and guarantee free expression

[More updates »](#)

UNHCR Protection Manual

UNHCR's repository of protection policy and guidance

Top Countries of Origin*

UNHCR Governments

- Myanmar
- Iraq
- Afghanistan
- Ethiopia
- Sudan
- South Sudan
- Islamic Republic of Iran

What is on refworld?

- Information from a wide variety of reliable sources
 - Balanced selection
- Drawn from sources generally recognized as authoritative and reliable
- Country information, legal, policy and reference documents



The toolbar

A powerful tool to locate the information you need.

Discover:

- The collection of national and international legislation
- Judicial decisions on refugee matters and UNHCR's court interventions
- Training resources
- Personalize Refworld



Advanced Search

Advanced Search

Find results

with **all** of the words

with the **exact phrase**

with **any** of the words

without the words

with **all** of the words in **title**

in **category**

from **publisher**

with **document type**

from **start date**

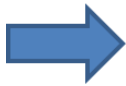
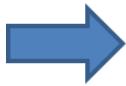
to **end date**

Country of origin

Country of asylum

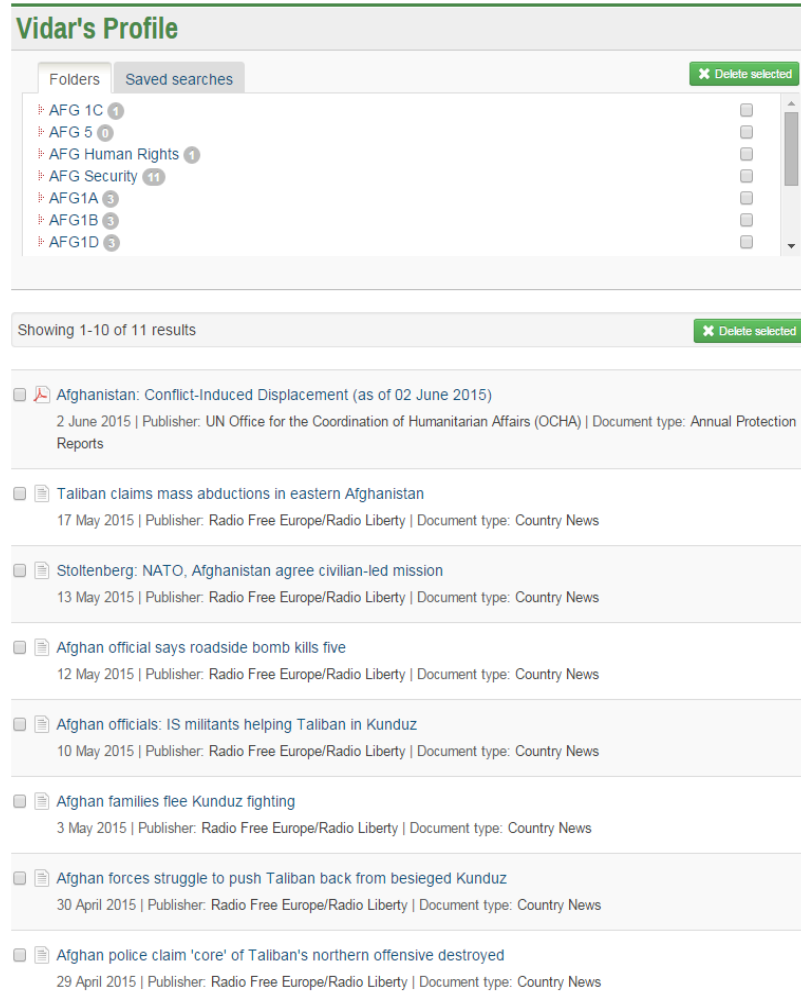
Language

Citation



Register a profile

- Registering on Refworld allows you to save documents in folders and to save specific searches
- Useful tool for ongoing research











Vidar's Profile

Folders Saved searches ✕ Delete selected

- AFG 1C (1)
- AFG 5 (0)
- AFG Human Rights (1)
- AFG Security (11)
- AFG1A (3)
- AFG1B (3)
- AFG1D (3)

Showing 1-10 of 11 results ✕ Delete selected


-  Afghanistan: Conflict-Induced Displacement (as of 02 June 2015)
2 June 2015 | Publisher: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) | Document type: Annual Protection Reports
-  Taliban claims mass abductions in eastern Afghanistan
17 May 2015 | Publisher: Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty | Document type: Country News
-  Stoltenberg: NATO, Afghanistan agree civilian-led mission
13 May 2015 | Publisher: Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty | Document type: Country News
-  Afghan official says roadside bomb kills five
12 May 2015 | Publisher: Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty | Document type: Country News
-  Afghan officials: IS militants helping Taliban in Kunduz
10 May 2015 | Publisher: Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty | Document type: Country News
-  Afghan families flee Kunduz fighting
3 May 2015 | Publisher: Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty | Document type: Country News
-  Afghan forces struggle to push Taliban back from besieged Kunduz
30 April 2015 | Publisher: Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty | Document type: Country News
-  Afghan police claim 'core' of Taliban's northern offensive destroyed
29 April 2015 | Publisher: Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty | Document type: Country News

Upcoming Refworld UNHCR Guidelines:

- Eligibility Guidelines on Afghanistan
- Somalia: Position on Returns
- Eligibility Guidelines on Religious Minorities in Pakistan
- Eligibility Guidelines on Honduras
- Eligibility Guidelines on SOGI
- Nigeria International Protection Considerations (Update II) Eligibility Guidelines on Iraq

The RSD CoP

Help Search



UNHCR
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

[UNHCR Protection...](#)

REQUEST AN ACCOUNT



Sign In

User Name:

Password:

Remember me at this computer
[Forgot your Password?](#)


Browse —

-  UNHCR Protection Communities
-  Statelessness Community of Practice

Tags —

2014/2015 ba'ath **chronologies**
coi exclusion idp **iraq**
party political structure

[View All](#)




UNHCR Protection Communities
UNHCR Protection Communities

Search Content and
Members

Content & Member Profiles ▾

All Content Discussions Knowledge Blogs Favorite Websites Experts & Members

Show All | Filtered By 

No items found.