



MIXED
MIGRATION
PLATFORM



MIXED MIGRATION
MONTHLY SUMMARY

MIDDLE EAST

OCTOBER
2016

This summary is produced by the Mixed Migration Platform (MMP) and covers inter and intra-regional displacement and displacement-induced mobility, drawing widely from available sources. Given the complexity of current migration trends in the Middle East, this summary gives a consolidated snapshot of mixed migration in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Turkey. Current mixed migration issues in Israel/OPT fall within the remit of the Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat (RMMS).

A note on terminology: Throughout the report the term 'refugees and other migrants' is used to include all persons in mixed migration flows (this may include asylum seekers, trafficked persons, refugees, migrants, and other people on the move). Any reference to specific groups is consistent with the original source.

INTRODUCTION

Conflict in Iraq and Syria remained the dominant drivers of mixed migration flows in the Middle East in October. Amid ongoing insecurity in the region, refugees and migrants continue to face significant barriers to movement. Rigid restrictions on the entry of Syrians to neighbouring Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon remain in force, leaving increasing numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs) stranded in border zones. The closure of borders along the Western Balkans route, and the implementation of the EU-Turkey Agreement, have reduced sea crossings to Greece, although October saw an increase in

attempted land crossings from Turkey to Greece. Meanwhile, returns from Europe, particularly of Iraqis and Afghans, continue to grow, whether the enforced deportation of failed asylum seekers or the voluntary return of migrants to their countries of origin.

The following sections of this report describe monthly developments related to mixed migration by country, including reported arrivals, departures, internal displacement relevant to cross-border movement and discussion of relevant policy changes.

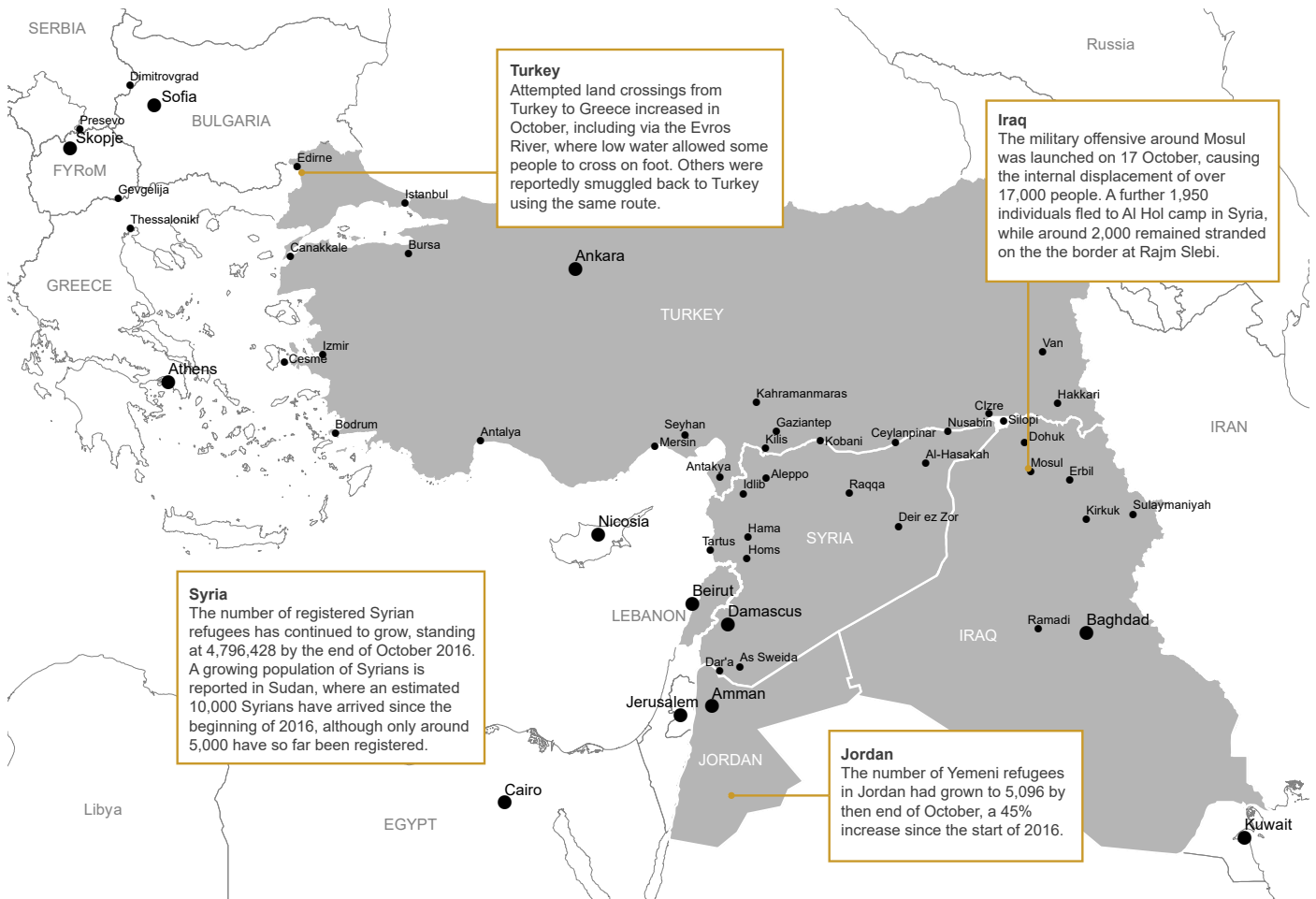


Figure 1: Overview of key developments across the Middle East

IRAQ

Arrivals: No figures were available on the number of new arrivals to Iraq from other countries in October. However, recent months have seen **growing** numbers of Iraqis **voluntarily returning** from Europe. A total of **3,607** people voluntarily returned to the country in 2015, while in 2016 some **7,087** voluntary returns were recorded as of 31 June. **Reasons** for return to Iraq include **closed borders**, **unemployment**, poor **living conditions**, and **disappointment** in Europe.

Departures: UNHCR reports that as of 17 October some 1,950 people, mainly women and children, had departed Iraq and arrived at the Al Hol camp in northeastern Syria, after fleeing the area around **Mosul** in anticipation of the imminent government-led offensive. An estimated **2,000** people were reportedly waiting at the border with Syria, a result of intensive **security procedures** aimed at preventing fighters from the so-called Islamic State from entering Syria. Those fleeing Mosul to the Al Hol camp in Syria must travel **200 kilometres**, primarily on foot, through mined territory.

As of 31 October, UNHCR figures indicate that **240,917** Iraqi refugees are hosted by neighbouring countries in the region. This marks an increase of 2,428 individuals (1%) from the previous **238,489** recorded on 31 August. Of those recorded in October, **60,067** Iraqi refugees were registered by UNHCR in Jordan, an increase of 871 people (1.5%) from **30 September**. Turkish Land Forces reported the apprehension of **1,006 Iraqis** entering Turkey by land in October. The most recent available figures indicate that there were **126,756** Iraqi ‘persons of concern’ registered in Turkey on 30 September. Of these, 99,140 were registered as asylum seekers and 27,616 as refugees. As of 30 June, UNHCR reported the presence of **24,027** Iraqi asylum seekers and refugees in Syria, with no more recent figures available. Some **45,000** Iraqi refugees were registered in Iran in 2015, but no updated figures have so far been released in 2016.

In October, UNHCR documented the arrival by sea of some **2,970** refugees and other migrants to Greece, **535** of whom were Iraqi according to the Hellenic Coast Guard. This figure marks an increase

of 7.6% from the 497 Iraqis who arrived in Greece in September. Despite this increase, the number of arrivals remains significantly lower than in early 2016. Prior to the implementation of the EU-Turkey Agreement, up to **11,964** Iraqis arrived in January 2016. Iraqis comprise **15%** of all sea arrivals to Greece so far in 2016, the third largest group. Recent reports from IOM and MEDMIG reveal that some of the key motivators for refugees leaving Iraq are security concerns, lack of social justice, political/economic instability, presence of the so-called Islamic State, and the risk of kidnapping by both state and non-state actors.

Refugees and other Migrants in Iraq: As of 31 October, UNHCR figures indicate **227,971** registered Syrian refugees in Iraq, marking an increase of 2,516 individuals (1.1%) on **30 September** figures. Despite this month-on-month increase, numbers remain lower than the 2016 peak of **249,395** Syrians registered in Iraq in June. The number of non-Syrian refugees in Iraq stood at **47,442** people in September, although nationalities were not disclosed.

Internal Displacement: Since the **start** of a government-led military offensive against Mosul on **17 October**, IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix reports that **17,748** Iraqis have been newly **displaced** (as of 31 October). The majority of people **displaced** in October fled **southward** toward Al Qayyara, though the movements are complex. Estimates predict that in the ‘**worst case scenario**’ the Mosul offensive could displace as many as **one million** people and push up to 100,000 to seek safety in Syria.

As of 31 October, **3,233,832** people have been internally displaced since January 2014 as a result of ongoing violence in Iraq. This figure is 49,416 individuals less than that identified on 28 September. IOM data also showed an increase in the number of recorded **returnees** from other parts of the country, reportedly exceeding **one million** individuals in October. According to UN figures, **1,792** Iraqis were killed by violence, armed conflict, and acts of terrorism in Iraq in October, 789 more than in **September**.

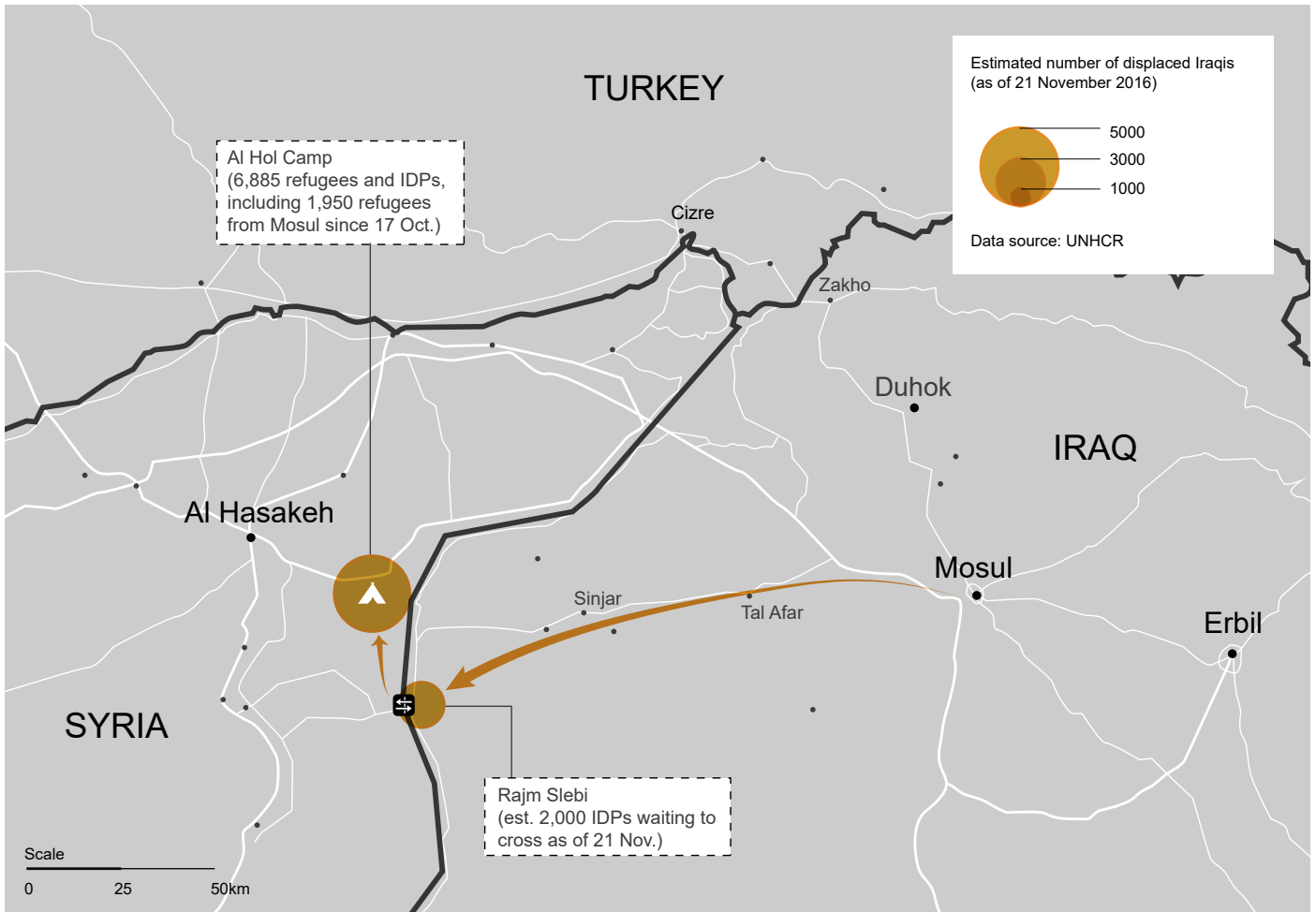


Figure 2: Displacement from Mosul towards the Syrian border

JORDAN

Arrivals: During the reporting period, no specific data on arrivals to Jordan was available. Since 21 June, the country’s northern and northeastern borders with Syria and Iraq have remained **closed militarized zones**, following a **suicide bombing** at the border near Rukban.

Departures: While there were no reports of departures from Jordan during the reporting period, previous **anecdotal accounts** from refugees at the Rukban area of the Syrian-Jordanian border indicated that in July an estimated 15 to 20 families were returning to Syria each day. **Human Rights Watch** also reported stories that Syrians were returning to Syria from the berm outside the Jordanian border in July,

though no exact figures were available. **UNHCR** has also reported sporadic returns from Jordan to Syria in 2016.

Refugees and other Migrants in Jordan: Jordan hosts refugees from some **44** nations with an estimated **87 refugees** per 1000 inhabitants, the second highest number in the world. The number of Syrians registered by UNHCR in Jordan stood at **655,716** individuals on 31 October, an increase of 233 people since 30 September. Jordanian **leadership** and the 2015 Population **Census**, however, indicate that roughly **1.3 million** Syrians are residing in the country.

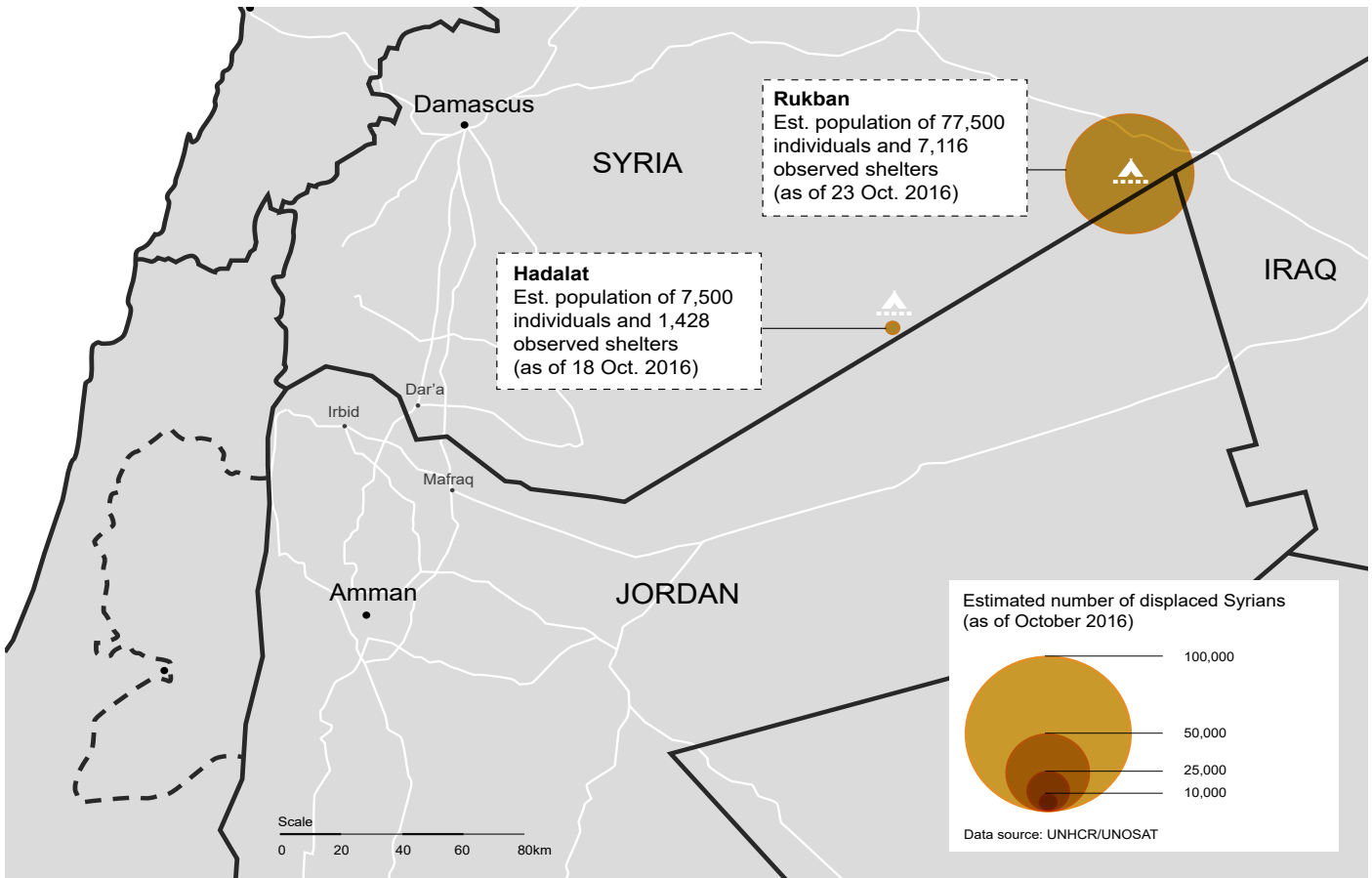


Figure 3: Estimated population of IDPs living in makeshift camps on the Syria-Jordan border

As of 31 October, UNHCR had registered 60,067 Iraqi refugees in Jordan, an increase of 871 individuals (1.5%) from 30 September figures. Additionally, UNHCR reported 5,096 Yemenis in Jordan on 31 October, an increase of 283 people (5.9%) since the previous figures from August, and an overall increase of 45% since the start of 2016. Some 3,222 Sudanese ‘persons of concern’ were also recorded at the end of the reporting period, an increase of 118 people since August. At the end of 2015, more than 2.1 million Palestinian refugees were registered by UNRWA in Jordan.

Syrians at the Border: In October, UNHCR estimated at least 85,000 displaced Syrians remained stranded at the militarized zone, known as the berm, at Jordan’s northeastern border with Syria. 77,500 people were estimated to be stranded near the Rukban border crossing and 7,500 near the Hadalat crossing. The number of people stranded at the berm is difficult to verify due to restricted access, though estimates generally begin at 70,000 to 75,000 individuals. As of 22 October, satellite imagery analysis identified 7,116 makeshift shelters near the

Rukban crossing and 1,428 at the Hadalat crossing. IDPs in makeshift camps near the Jordanian border crossings of Rukban and Hadalat lack access to medical care and basic sanitation, and have limited food, water, and shelter. Disease, malnutrition, starvation, and death have all been reported.

Despite ongoing reports that a “buffer zone plan” to distribute aid to Syrians a few kilometres away from the current makeshift settlements is in negotiations, no deal had been finalised by the end of October. IRIN reports that under the deal, aid would be delivered at a distribution point deeper into the demilitarized zone, seven kilometres northwest of the Rukban border in an effort to encourage Syrians to relocate away from the border. Protests against such relocation have occurred among Syrians at the berm. The last aid delivery to those stranded on the border came on 5 August, when UN agencies used a crane to deliver a month’s supply of food, medicine, and hygiene items across the border.

LEBANON

Arrivals: No specific data on arrivals to Lebanon was available during the reporting period. Lebanon effectively closed its borders and ended its ‘open door policy’ to Syrian refugees in January 2015, when restrictive visa entry requirements were introduced. Syrians can apply for one of seven visa categories, all of which require proof of purpose or a Lebanese sponsor to enter the country. According to the Lebanese Social Affairs Minister, the country is, in effect, no longer receiving refugees, though occasional reports indicate that some Syrians are crossing the border irregularly. Reports suggest Lebanon is also refusing entry to Syrians returning from Europe who had originally moved irregularly from Turkey to Europe.

Departures: No information on departures from Lebanon was available during the reporting period, nor has it been in recent months. Prior to January 2016 thousands of Syrians and other refugees and migrants transited through Lebanon each week, moving to Turkey by boat (via Tripoli) or plane and in many cases onward to Europe. This route was

effectively closed in January when visa requirements for Syrians entering Turkey from a third country by air or sea came into effect.

Refugees and other Migrants in Lebanon: The most recent available figures indicate that as of 30 September, UNHCR had registered a total of 1,017,433 Syrian persons of concern in Lebanon. The government of Lebanon does not recognise people fleeing Syria as refugees. OCHA estimates that the total number of Syrians in the country is closer to 1.5 million, making Lebanon the country with the highest concentration of refugees in proportion to its population in the world. The number of Syrians in Lebanon has declined from 2015 peaks as a result of the ongoing deactivation of refugee registration in Lebanon’s national refugee database and the government ordered suspension of new registrations on 6 May 2015. Prohibitive residency renewal fees have pushed many Syrians into becoming undocumented. A UNHCR report from June indicated that the majority (49%) of surveyed Syrians intended to stay in Lebanon and return to Syria when



Faten, Khoulood, Dia and Mazen have been in West Bekka, Lebanon for a year. Photo by: Leila Alaoui. Funded by ECHO.

conditions are safe, while 39% were interested in moving to a third country, and 7% wanted to return to Syria in the immediate future.

As of 31 October, OCHA reports indicated that 277,985 Palestinian Refugees from Lebanon (PRL) were in the country as well as 40,807 Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS). These figures have not altered from OCHA's June and September reports. According to ACAPS, entry for PRS into Lebanon is almost entirely limited to third country transit.

Political Developments: On 31 October, Michel Aoun was elected to the Lebanese presidency, following a 29-month 'presidential vacuum'. Concerns about the

president's potential 'anti-refugee agenda' have been fuelled by his references to informal settlements as 'security threats', and ongoing discussions, among Lebanon's political elite, of returning Syrians to a 'safe zone' inside Syria. This follows comments made by Lebanon's prime minister on 19 September, in which he stated that the country's priority is to repatriate displaced people from Lebanon, though he later stated that such relocation would not be forced. Increasingly harsh conditions for Syrian refugees in Lebanon, including curfews, evictions, and raids on informal settlements, are part of a policy of deterrence aimed at improving security and reducing the number of refugees in the country.

SYRIA

Arrivals: As of 19 October, some 1,950 Iraqis had arrived at the Al Hol camp in northeastern Syria after fleeing the area around Mosul in anticipation of a government-led offensive, which began on 17 October. An estimated 2,000 people were waiting at the Rajm Slebi border crossing, while UN officials expect that up to 100,000 people to flee Iraq for Syria or Turkey as conflict in Mosul continues.

The most recent available figures, from 30 June, indicate that 28,932 refugees and asylum seekers were in Syria. Of these, 24,027 were Iraqi, 1,521 Afghan, 910 Sudanese, 511 Somali, 179 Pakistani, and 1,784 individuals of other nationalities. An estimated 450,000 Palestinian refugees also remain in Syria. In June, UNHCR reported that the number of refugees in the country was decreasing as the security situation worsened, driving secondary displacement.

Departures: With conflict in Syria now in its sixth year, millions of Syrians continue to be displaced, both within and outside of the country. UNHCR figures from 31 October indicate that some 4,796,428 Syrian refugees are registered in countries neighbouring Syria and in North Africa. This marks an increase in registered Syrians in these countries of 0.4% (16,860 individuals) compared to the previous month. More than

200,000 Syrians have left the country since the beginning of 2016.

The most recent available figures indicate 227,971 registered Syrian refugees in Iraq, as of 31 October. 655,716 Syrians had been registered by UNHCR in Jordan by the end of October, while the number of registered Syrians in Lebanon stood at 1,017,433 as of 30 September. Figures from 26 October indicate that 2,758,409 Syrians were granted temporary protection in Turkey. As of 31 October, some 115,204 Syrians were registered by UNHCR in Egypt. In October, OCHA reported that Sudan has received at least 100,000 Syrian refugees since 2011, although only 5,515 had been registered by the end of August. Some unofficial estimates put the number of Syrians in Sudan at more than 250,000.

Very few legal routes allowing people to leave the country remain, due to growing restrictions on borders surrounding Syria. Their situation is characterised by tightly controlled land borders, strict visa requirements to enter Lebanon, a closed Jordanian border, visa requirements for entry to Turkey by sea or air, and the construction of a border fence along the Turkey-Syria border. Recent reports estimate that some 100,000 people have become stranded on the Syrian side of the border with Turkey, and at least 70,000 displaced Syrians

remained stranded at the militarized zone, known as the berm, at Jordan’s northeastern border with Syria.

En Route to Europe: Of the 2,906 arrivals to Greece by sea in October, recorded by the Hellenic Police and Coast Guard, a reported 979 were Syrian, a 13% increase from September. This increase comes despite an overall decrease in the number of people arriving in Greece from Turkey (see Turkey section). Syrians are also attempting to enter Greece by land via the northern border with Turkey. Greek police reported more than 200 Syrians were detained while crossing the Evros River in late September to early October. Between January and October, some 79,000 Syrians arrived in Greece.

Syrians make up the second largest group of the 7,070 refugees and other migrants stranded in

Bulgaria as of 29 September. This number has increased by 717% since March, before the EU-Turkey Agreement came into force.

Internal Displacement: As of October, OCHA estimates show roughly 6.1 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Syria. Ongoing violence in Aleppo and other governorates, has led to the displacement of some 374,697 people in Northern Syria since 1 February. As of 31 October, UNHCR reports that 225,132 people are displaced in Aleppo, 73,467 in Idleb, 61,130 in Hama, 7,340 in Homs, 4,959 in Ar-Raqqa, 1,237 in Lattakia, and 1,396 in Deir Ez-Zor. Additionally, as of 9 October, fighting in northeastern Syria has displaced 56,916 people in Al Hasakeh governorate since 1 February. In October violence intensified in Aleppo City, Idleb, and Rural Damascus resulting in child casualties, attacks on schools and hospitals, sexual violence, and further damage to civilian infrastructure.

TURKEY

Arrivals: In October, Turkish Armed Forces reported the apprehension of 42,342 people irregularly crossing the Turkish land border. Of these apprehensions, 41,001 were recorded at the Syrian

border, 1,006 at the Iraqi border, and 335 at the Iranian border. This marks a 22.5% decrease from the 54,610 people reportedly apprehended in September.

42,342

individuals were apprehended at the Turkish border in October 2016, according to national authorities

41,001

were apprehended at the border with Syria

1,006

were apprehended at the border with Iraq

335

were apprehended at the border with Iran

Figure 5: Individuals apprehended by Turkish authorities in October 2016

According to Turkey’s Director General of Migration Management, the number of Syrians granted temporary protection in Turkey stood at **2,758,409** individuals as of 26 October, an increase of 22,377 people (0.8%) from the **2,736,032** recorded by the same source on 29 September. Turkey remains host to the **highest** number of Syrian refugees in the world. In October, UNHCR also reported the presence of **125,593** Iraqi refugees and asylum seekers in Turkey (a decrease of 1,163 individuals since September), and **119,269** Afghan refugees and asylum seekers (an increase of 2,847 individuals). At the end of September, UNHCR in Turkey had also registered **29,502** people from Iran; 3,921 from Somalia; and 8,424 from various other countries.

Various **reports** indicate that some Syrians in Greece are paying **smugglers** to help them cross the **Evros River** to re-enter Turkey, while some are simply **swimming** or wading across. Syrians have cited **inhumane** conditions, camp closures, and restricted access to other European countries as reasons for returning to Turkey, with some intending to travel onwards to their country of origin. IOM and UNHCR are aware that people are returning from Greece to Turkey, though **no concrete** numbers are available. Prior to the attempted coup in July 2016, roughly **100** people were reportedly arriving at the border with Turkey each day, although the numbers have since decreased.

Departures: In October, the **Turkish Coast Guard** reported 61 ‘irregular migration incidents’ in the seas surrounding Turkey involving 2,437 ‘irregular migrants’. These figures represent 14 fewer incidents than the previous month, involving 988 fewer individuals. This reflects the lower number of recorded arrivals by sea in Greece, from Turkey (the Eastern Mediterranean Route), recorded by **UNHCR** (2,970) and the **Hellenic Police and Coast Guard** (2,906) in October. The Coast Guard figures show the arrival of 979 Syrians (a 13% increase from September), 535 Iraqis (7.6% increase), 405 Afghans (15.4% decrease), 214 Iranians (38% increase), 104 Pakistanis (79.7% decrease), and 660 individuals of other nationalities. UNHCR figures indicate that on average **96 people** arrived by sea in Greece each day in October, down from an average 103 arrivals per day in **September**. These figures represent a dramatic decrease from the **thousands** of refugees and other migrants arriving in Greece daily prior to the closing of the Balkan Route and the **EU-Turkey Agreement** on 20 March 2016. The

European Commission points to the “sharp and continued decline” in irregular arrivals to Greece as evidence of the “successful implementation” of the agreement.

Additionally, Cypriot police reported the rescue of a boat carrying 80 people off the coast of **Cyprus** on 21 October. The boat had departed from Mersin, Turkey. Authorities had previously recorded only **28 people** as having made this crossing in 2016.

New reports indicate an **increase** in the number of Turkish citizens applying for **asylum** in Germany since the failed Turkish coup in July. Between January and October, Germany received **4,437** asylum applications from Turkish citizens, more than 2.5 times the number received in 2015. German politicians **predict** these numbers will rise in the coming months.

Following the implementation of the EU-Turkey Agreement in March, Bulgaria has experienced an increase in arrivals of refugees and migrants by land from Turkey. IOM reported roughly 1,900 new **arrivals** to Bulgaria between 9 and 30 October, adding to the **7,070** refugees and other migrants reportedly stranded in the country as of 29 September. According to the Bulgarian Ministry of Interior, **14,656** migrants have been apprehended entering, exiting, or residing in the country in 2016. The majority of refugees and other migrants entering and stranded in Bulgaria originate from Afghanistan, followed by Syria, Iraq, and Pakistan. Most refugees and other migrants enter Bulgaria on foot through the country’s ‘**green border**’ with Turkey, though some cross at regular checkpoints by hiding in vehicles.

EU-Turkey Agreement: Under the **EU-Turkey Agreement**, **139 people** were returned from Greece to Turkey in October, bringing the total since March to 717 people. Among those **returned** to Turkey were citizens of Iraq, Afghanistan, Algeria, Pakistan, Morocco, Sri Lanka, and oPt as well as three Turkish nationals who had not applied for asylum. **UNHCR** has expressed concern over the return of 52 individuals (from Syria, Afghanistan, and Pakistan) from Greece to Turkey on 20 and 21 October. The ten Syrians were returned despite declaring their intention to seek asylum in Greece, while it is unclear if the Afghan and Pakistani individuals were given access to asylum procedures. Return numbers remain lower than expected under the Agreement,

although **Greece's migration minister** reportedly plans to significantly increase the rate of returns from December.

Under the EU-Turkey Agreement, refugees and migrants arriving 'irregularly' in Greece from Turkey, after 20 **March** 2016, will be **sent back** to Turkey if they do not claim asylum or their claim is rejected. For every Syrian returned to Turkey under the agreement, a Syrian in Turkey will be **resettled** in the EU. In turn, the **EU** has promised to provide Turkey with financial aid, reduced visa restrictions for the EU, and a 're-energised' bid to join the EU.

Vulnerability and Protection: IOM reported **two** deaths along the Eastern Mediterranean Route (from Turkey to Greece) in October, down from the **27** deaths reported in September.

Reports of violence at the Turkey-Syria border are common, though Turkish **authorities** deny accusations against them. On 4 October, a **15-year-old** Syrian boy was reportedly killed and two men were injured by Turkish soldiers while trying to cross the border into Turkey. This follows a string of reports by **Human Rights Watch** and **others** that detail violence and death at this border in recent months. The **Turkish government** maintains that the claims "do not reflect the reality." A recent **IOM report** highlights "reports of consistent abuse and violence towards people who have approached the border", citing reports that Turkish border guards allegedly killed 64 Syrians in the first half of 2016.

Violent '**pushbacks**' and corruption have also been reported at the Turkish-Bulgarian border where some informants from the border police indicate there is an order "not to let anyone through".

A **media report** indicates that Bulgarian authorities have admitted to the use of dogs and violent beatings against refugees and migrants at the 'green border' with Turkey, as well as a policy of sending people back to Turkey at unofficial border crossings. The **UN** has expressed concern over Bulgaria's detention regime as 'virtually all' people entering the country irregularly are subjected to detention. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights described the situation as "inhumane and unacceptable". He also cited concern over the rising **xenophobia**, reported 'pushbacks', and violence along this border.

Turkish Borders: Despite claims by **Turkish officials** that Turkey **maintains** an '**open door**' policy for **emergency situations**, border closures in **March 2015**, and strict **visa requirements** for Syrians entering by air or sea, have made the border very difficult, if not impossible, to cross **legally**. NGOs working along the Turkey-Syria border have reported that with only two of Turkey's 19 official border crossings with Syria open, only **critical medical cases** are being legally **allowed** into Turkey, with at most only **200 people** entering per day. **Media reports** indicate that some 100,000 people have become stuck on the Syrian side of the border in the past year. A concrete **border wall** is currently being **constructed** along Turkey's 900-kilometre border with Syria, and is meant to be completed by the end of February 2017. Construction of this wall began in **2014** to combat smuggling and irregular migration, and a **200-kilometre** stretch has already been completed. In addition to this, strict visa requirements, the implementation of the EU Turkey Agreement, and the closure of borders along the Western Balkans route have significantly **diminished** land arrivals to Turkey in 2016.

ISRAEL/OPT

Please see the **RMMS: Horn of Africa and Yemen – Monthly Summary** for more information on Israel, and the **ACAPS Palestine country overview**.

OTHER REGIONAL NEWS

EU-Afghanistan Deal: In early October, the EU formally signed an [agreement](#) with the Government of Afghanistan allowing EU member states to deport an unlimited number of Afghan asylum seekers to Afghanistan. Prior to this, a leaked memo indicated that aid to Afghanistan may become contingent on cooperation under the agreement. The EU [will pay](#) for the return of any Afghans not granted asylum in Europe.

Afghan Refugees Return from Pakistan: Since mid-July, entire communities of [Afghan refugees](#), who fled to Pakistan in the late 1970s, have been returning to [Afghanistan](#) amid increased political tensions between the countries, heightened police harassment, [arrests](#), and detention. Some [330,000](#) people have already [returned](#) to Afghanistan from Pakistan since July, and estimates predict that 800,000 people could return by the end of the year, deepening the [humanitarian crisis](#) in Afghanistan.

Exploitation on the Mediterranean Routes: To mark [Anti-Slavery Day](#) on 18 October, IOM released findings that showed some [71% of refugees](#) and other migrants who have taken the Central Mediterranean Route from North Africa to Europe have faced exploitation and/or human trafficking. The findings are based on 9,000 surveys conducted over the past 10 months with people on

the Central and Eastern Mediterranean Routes to Europe.

Middle East Migration Doubles: An October report from the [Pew Research Centre](#) claims that between 2005 and 2015 the number of migrants living in the Middle East has more than doubled. The majority of the migration surge was a result of armed conflict and forced displacement, primarily since 2011. The number of migrants in the Middle East has increased from around 25 million people in 2005 to around 54 million in 2015.

Refugees Sue Germany: According to the [Suddeutsche Zeitung](#) newspaper some [17,000](#) [asylum seekers](#), mostly Syrians, have successfully sued the German government for providing them “subsidiary protection” instead of refugee status. Their claim to refugee status was supported by the courts in 90% of cases.

Rescue Off Libyan Coast: On 3 October a rescue operation organized by Italian authorities rescued [6,055](#) people off the coast of Libya, and recovered nine bodies, in a 24-hour period. Most of the vessels were inflatable dinghies and some 200 children were rescued from one boat.

See also MHUB Monthly Trend Bulletins ([accessible here](#)).

NEW RESEARCH AND REPORTS

A recent [report](#) from the **Overseas Development Institute** (ODI) claims that the number of refugees and other migrants arriving in Europe by ‘[covert](#)’ routes (unknown or lesser understood routes including land crossings to Greece, and routes through Russia, Belarus, Moldova, and Ukraine), has been rising since the EU-Turkey Agreement in March. ODI figures show that in 2016, some [60%](#) of asylum applications in Europe came from people who arrived using ‘covert’ land routes, as compared to 40% who arrived using ‘overt’ sea routes. Findings show that only one third of covert arrivals in Europe are Syrian.

A new **Amnesty International** report, entitled ‘Tackling the Global Refugee Crisis: From Shirking to Sharing Responsibility’ ([accessible here](#)), provides an overview of the precarious situations faced by many refugees globally. The report focuses on various countries (primarily in the Middle East, Asia, and Africa) to highlight the often poor conditions in which refugees live, the burden on host countries, and the limited sharing that occurs in addressing major refugee crises.

In a project entitled ‘The New Age of Walls’ ([accessible here](#)), the **Washington Post** has produced a [3-part multimedia series](#) of interactive article ‘episodes’ detailing the modern rise of border barriers around the world, and the fears that drive the building of such barriers.

An October [report](#), published by **Aitima**, examines the detention of asylum seekers and other migrants in Greece based on detention monitoring from September 2015 to September 2016. The report, entitled ‘Forgotten: Administratively Detained Irregular Migrants and Asylum Seekers,’ details detention conditions and the decision making process for those claiming asylum in Greece.

Oxfam has released a new paper, which aims to highlight the voices of people on the move. Entitled ‘I Ask the World to Sympathize’ the [publication](#), released before two major world refugee summits, features the stories of people in host countries and those who have been forcibly displaced.

A new [policy brief](#) on the situation for displaced persons in Greece has been jointly released by 12 national and **international organizations** in Greece. Following the introduction of the EU-Turkey Agreement, and the closures of European borders, the report addresses the current situation of refugees and other migrants stranded in Greece for more than six months, and provides recommendations to EU states, the Government of Greece, UNHCR, and various other actors.

RMMS has released its October monthly summaries of mixed migration issues and news in the Horn of Africa and Yemen region ([accessible here](#)). Summaries from **West Africa** are available [here](#).



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