



**MIXED MIGRATION
MONTHLY SUMMARY**

**MAY
2017**

MIDDLE EAST

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.

Cover photo: REACH

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INTRODUCTION

Ongoing conflict in Iraq resulted in the continued flight of Iraqis into both Syria and Turkey in May, with the number of Iraqis received at Syria's Al-Hol camp increasing by more than 1,800, while more than 1,000 Iraqis were apprehended attempting to cross the border into Turkey. Meanwhile the number of Syrian refugees in Iraq increased by 0.7% in May compared to April figures. Internal displacement in Iraq, where more than 3.02 million are displaced, led UNHCR to open its twelfth Iraqi camp in May. Internal displacement similarly continued in Syria, with 166,000 people newly displaced in the northern governorates, and more than 14,000 in the southern governorates in May alone. The number of Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries continued to grow in May, reaching 5,057,499 by the end of May. More than 2,110 people travelled from Turkey to Greece by sea in May. While Syrians and Iraqis comprised the largest percentage of arrivals, diversity continues to increase compared to 2016. People from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Algeria have made up 6.3% and 6.1% of arrivals in 2017, respectively. Turkish citizens are also

continuing to seek asylum in Europe following the attempted coup in July 2016, though reports indicate that Turks attempting to cross the Evros river into Greece are being 'pushed back'. As the number of people and shelters along Syria's southern border with Jordan reportedly grew in May, conditions continued to deteriorate. Reports of Syrians being deported from Jordan also continued in May, alongside an increase of more than 3,000 persons of concern in the country. As of 1 May some 8,000 to 12,000 Syrians in Lebanon had been forcibly evicted from informal settlements in the Bekaa Valley, without plans for relocation. Roughly 4,300 had resettled elsewhere in the Bekaa Valley as of mid-May, though thousands more are unaccounted for or struggling to relocate.

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.

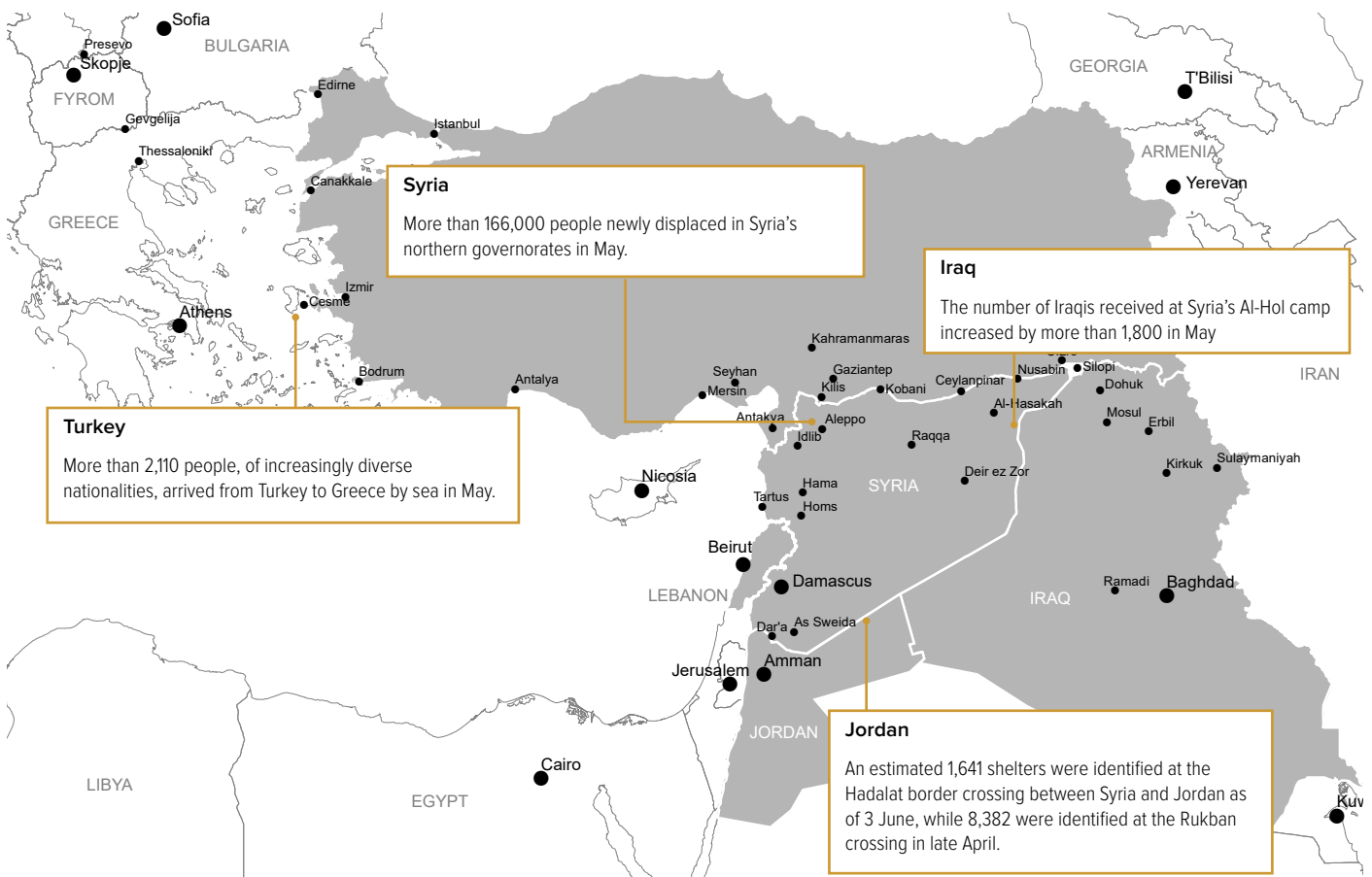


Figure 1: Overview of key developments across the Middle East (May 2017)

IRAQ

Arrivals: Information on new arrivals to Iraq is not regularly reported. In recent months, there have been indications that people are returning to Iraq, particularly from **Turkey** and **Europe**, however, there were no updated figures on returns to Iraq in May.

Departures: Conflict in Northern Iraq has driven cross-border displacement to Syria, particularly since October 2016. As of 30 May 2017, the number of Iraqis received in Al-Hol refugee camp in Syria's Al-Hasakah governorate had increased by 1,817 to **17,282** compared to 30 April. This is more than double the increase in the number received at Al-Hol reported in April (**700**), and almost double the increase in March (**941**).

The number of apprehensions reported by Turkish Land Forces at the border with Iraq has varied significantly in recent months. In May, **1,021** apprehensions were reported to have been made upon entry to Turkey from Iraq, compared to **87** in April. In March, the figure was **1,355**, and in February, it was **1,577**. In January, however, only **234** apprehensions on entry were reported. The reasons for such variation are not clearly reported.

The number of Iraqi refugees hosted in neighbouring countries in the region did not change in May compared to April, and remains at **253,992**. No change in the number of Iraqi refugees and asylum seekers in Turkey, which remains at **133,632**, was reported in May. Until March, the number had been **increasing steadily** in 2017.

63,034 registered Iraqis were reported to be in Jordan as of 31 May, an increase of just 0.3% compared to April. **28,260** Iraqi refugees were registered in Iran

as of early 2016. Updates are infrequent and no new data was available in May. In December 2016, the Syria Humanitarian Needs Overview estimated **24,970** Iraqi refugees were in Syria, but this number is likely to have grown due to recent displacement from Iraq to Syria's Al-Hol camp.

In May, Iraqis entered the **top ten** most common nationalities arriving by sea in Europe, as reported by UNHCR, representing 3.1% of overall arrivals. In Greece alone, Iraqis have been the third most common nationality to arrive by sea, accounting for **12.9%** of total arrivals. As of 31 May, a total of **1,382** Iraqis had arrived by sea in Europe in 2017, compared to **1,007** as of 30 April. Arrivals in Greece account for almost all of this monthly increase. Here, the number of Iraqis arriving by sea in May was **375**, almost double the **185** arrivals reported in April. However, the number of Iraqi arrivals as a proportion of the total monthly sea arrivals in Greece did not change significantly from April (16%) to May (17.7%).

Refugees and Other Migrants in Iraq: In line with steady growth since September 2016, the number of Syrian refugees registered in Iraq continued to increase, although it remains below the peak of **251,690** recorded in July 2015. In May 2017, **241,406** Syrian refugees were registered in Iraq, an increase of 0.7% compared to April figures (**239,639**).

Between January and April, the numbers of non-Syrian refugees in Iraq also grew slightly, from **42,548** to **43,303**. This trend continued in May, when the number of non-Syrian refugees in Iraq totalled **43,438**. The number of stateless people reported in Iraq remained constant in May compared to April, at **48,500**.

Refugees and other migrants in Iraq


	Syrian	Other nationalities	Stateless
 Population of concern (as of May)	241,406	43,438	48,500
% change since April	0.7%	0.3%	0%

Figure 2: Refugees and other migrants in Iraq (source: UNHCR)

Internal Displacement: As of 30 May, the overall number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Iraq identified by IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) was **3,020,034**. Overall displacement numbers

in Iraq have remained above three million since January 2017. However, the overall number of IDPs reported on 30 May was 45,468, (1.5%) less than the number reported on 30 April. Meanwhile, the number of

returnees grew by 36,858 (2.1%) in May to 1,813,680. In April, by comparison, returns increased by 8.4% on the previous month.

In Mosul, **377,952** people were reported to be internally displaced as of 30 May, 38,394 more than on 30 April. This represents an increase of 11.4% in May, compared to a 10.4% monthly increase in April. Humanitarian actors continued to **construct camps and expand sites** in May to cope with the dynamic displacement situation. **UNCHR** reported the opening of its twelfth camp on 12 May.

OCHA reported on 28 May that **774,026** people have been cumulatively displaced since operations to retake Mosul began on 17 October 2016. At **501,270**, UNHCR figures from 30 May, are significantly lower. These figures are higher than the current IDP total as reports indicate that many people have returned to east Mosul. However, **REACH assessment findings** indicate that, as of May, many returnees lack purchasing power, and correspondingly lack access to basic needs, despite making the decision to return.

JORDAN

Arrivals: Throughout May, UNHCR **reported** providing medical assistance to 20 to 30 patients **per day** at the Rukban border crossing in the militarised zone between Syria and Jordan known as “**the berm.**”¹ **Increasing numbers** of war-wounded Syrians continue to seek access to Jordan at the Rukban border due to the deteriorating security situation along Syria’s southern border with Jordan. Reports indicate an **increased presence** of so-called Islamic State militants and foreign military troops in the area.

A **shelter density map** published by UNOSAT on 3 June shows an estimated 1,641 shelters at the Hadalat border crossing of the berm, suggesting a **17.5% increase** from the previous month’s **figures**. The most recent UNOSAT data available for the Rukban border crossing, updated on 29th April, indicated the presence of approximately **8,382** shelters at the Jordanian-Syrian border. Limited humanitarian access at the berm, due to **security-motivated closures** in 2016, has resulted in increasingly acute conditions for those stranded at Jordan’s border. According to one **source**, only one food shipment has been delivered to the

¹ This area covers the entirety of the Northern Jordanian border with Syria, occupying the space between the Jordanian border wall and Syrian territory, dubbed by Amnesty International as “no man’s land” in 2016.

At the end of May, an estimated **180,000** people remained stranded in the Old City of Mosul, where fierce fighting was ongoing. The continued presence of civilians amidst military operations, which **intensified on 4 May**, are of major humanitarian concern.

Displacement also continued elsewhere in May, particularly in and around **Tel Afar**. Populations also remain **stranded** in the area, where they **lack humanitarian assistance** and access to protection. Hawiga district is **controlled** by the so-called Islamic State and as of 26 May, UNHCR reported that displacement out of **Hawiga and Shirqat** was ongoing.

Vulnerability and Protection: April 2017 was the first month since December 2012 that less than one thousand civilian casualties had been recorded in a given month in Iraq. That trend was sustained in May, when a total of **874** civilian casualties were reported, according to the UN. Nonetheless, **human rights groups** continued to highlight serious threats to civilians in May due to ongoing conflict, particularly in west Mosul.

Rukban camp since January 2017. **80%** of the residents were comprised of women and children as of mid-2016. **Deaths**, survival sex and abusive management by tribal militias have been unofficially reported. Such vulnerabilities are exacerbated by the lack of health facilities and humanitarian access. Discussions of the construction of a “buffer zone” along Jordan’s northern border with Syria continue to **emerge**, a move which would require the relocation of internally displaced people (IDPs) residing along the border areas, pushing back by four to six km.

Departures: **Reports** of increased **deportations**, including children and those with health concerns to Syria continue, though the government has made no official comment regarding this. The latest available data from UNHCR reported **104** ‘spontaneous departures’ to Syria from Jordan between March and April, however more recent data is not available.

Refugees and Other Migrants in Jordan: The most recent figures released by UNHCR in June place the total number of persons of concern in Jordan at **736,396**, demonstrating an increase of 3,186 from April. This includes **659,593** registered Syrians, up by nearly 2,000 from the previous month. The number of Iraqis officially registered rose by 579 to **63,024** from April to May, as did the number of Yemenis, from 7,441

to **7,916**. The number of Yemenis is likely higher due to the reported tendency of this community to **avoid** regular registration channels, seeking assistance instead from unofficial Yemeni support communities. An additional **101** Sudanese refugees were registered with UNHCR since April, totalling **3,567** and eight Somalis, totalling **799** by May. Another **1,497** other unspecified nationalities were registered by UNHCR

from April to May.

As of 31 May, **88.4%** of Iraqis were registered in the urban centre of Amman, with 4.1% in Zarqa, whereas the registered Syrian population also occupy governorates closer to the southern Syrian border, with **27.7%** in Amman, 20.8% in Irbid, 12.1% in Mafraq and 12.1% in Za'atari Camp.

Refugees and other migrants in Jordan

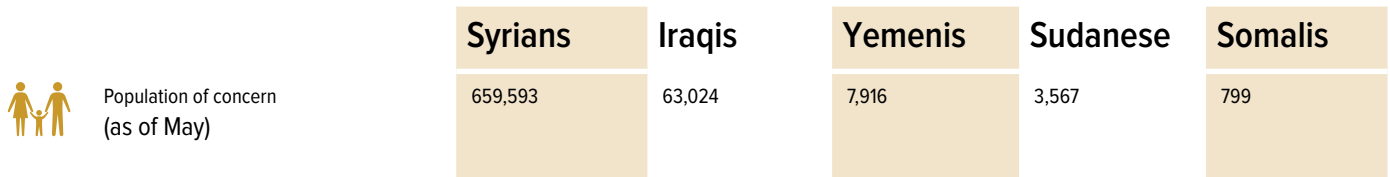


Figure 3: Refugees and other migrants in Jordan (source: UNHCR)

LEBANON

Arrivals: In January 2015, the Lebanese government introduced new **visa restrictions** which have, in effect, suspended the registration of new refugees. No new or updated information on arrivals has been released since then. In April however, **Al Monitor** reported that Syrians continued to enter the country through informal channels. No new figures or updates exist for May.

Departures: 'Humanitarian corridors', a joint-initiative of religious associations assisted the first Syrian family to arrive in Italy from Lebanon. Between February and March 2017, it facilitated the resettlement of nearly 700 Syrian refugees from Lebanon to Italy. Between April and December 2017, the programme plans to relocate **200** refugees from Lebanon to Italy. No new data from the programme was reported in May.

In May, the Philippine Embassy's Assistance-to-Nations (ATN) section reported having assisted in facilitating the repatriation of **14** Filipino nationals between 10 and 25 April. There were no new updates about facilitated returns in May.

Refugees and Other Migrants in Lebanon: OCHA last reported the estimated number of Syrian refugees in Lebanon to be **1,500,000**, **1,011,366** of whom were formally registered with UNHCR in **December 2016**. Since then, there have been no updates in numbers. Similarly, the last estimates for Palestinian refugees come from January 2017, where Lebanon's Crisis Response reported there to be **277,985** Palestinian refugees registered and living in Lebanon and

31,502 Palestinian refugees from Syria living in Lebanon. As of March, **6,000** Iraqis were registered with UNHCR in Lebanon. No new figures exist for May.

Approximately **200,000** domestic workers were present in Lebanon, according to a report from The New Arab from 16 May. The majority come from Ethiopia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh, and work as maids. Nearly **65%** of these workers describe having suffered forced labour, servitude or slavery while working in Lebanon. Statistics from Lebanon's intelligence agency show that the death rate among migrant domestic workers is **two per week**, with the most common cause of death being suicide.

Vulnerability and Protection: As of 1 May, an estimated **8,000 to 12,000** Syrians refugees were on the move, having been ordered to leave their settlements by the Lebanese military, without any plans for relocation. The **Lebanese military** claims that as many of the camps were situated near the Rayak air base, the evictions are justified on the basis of security concerns. According to UNHCR **4,300 people** had already moved elsewhere within the Bekaa Valley by 9 May. However, **nearby municipalities** have been reluctant to approve the new arrivals, given the large populations of Syrian refugees already hosted in their areas. The Norwegian Refugee Council reports that many families have been forced to move **multiple times**.

Reuters reports that more than **300,000** Syrian refugees currently live in the Bekaa Valley, making the

region the most densely populated by refugees in the country. A **third** of the refugees living in Bekaa live

in informal tented settlements and are vulnerable to eviction and displacement.



Figure 4: Children in an Informal Tented Settlement in Ba'albek, Lebanon. Credit: DRC

SYRIA

Arrivals: Ongoing conflict in and around Mosul continued to drive displacement into Syria throughout May. In May, the number of Iraqis received in Al-Hol refugee camp in Al-Hasakah governorate increased by **1,817** to **17,282**. The number of people received in May more than doubled compared to April, when the number grew by only **700**.

Departures: Since the beginning of 2017, the total number of Syrian refugees registered in neighbouring countries has increased each month. In May, the number of registered Syrian refugees reached **5,057,499**. Although the overall number continued to grow in May, the monthly increase was significantly lower than in recent months. In May, the number of Syrian refugees registered in neighbouring countries and North Africa increased by **2,395**, compared to 28,047 registered in April, nearly 91.5% less.

As of 6 June, **3,028,226** Syrians were granted temporary protection in Turkey, an increase of 35,659 from **27 April** according to the Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM). While the border crossings have largely been **closed** since early 2015, irregular arrivals to Turkey are considered to be on-

going. A total of **660,154** Syrian refugees were registered in Jordan **as of 31 May**, marking an increase of **1,065** over the past month. In Iraq, the number of registered Syrian refugees increased by **1,767** in May, bringing the total number to **241,406**. In North Africa (Egypt, Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia), there were **152,332** registered Syrian refugees as of 30 April, according to the most recently available UNHCR figures. Of the total number of Syrians registered in North Africa, 80% were in Egypt. As of 31 May, **2,666** Syrians had arrived in Greece and **533** in Italy in 2017 via the Mediterranean Sea.

Refugees and other migrants in Syria: As of March, the total number of refugees and asylum seekers inside Syria is **54,176** with no new updates in May. Of this figure, Iraqi refugees comprise the largest group with **25,000** living in Syria.

Internal Displacement: **166,707** newly displaced people were recorded in Syria's northern governorates in May, marking an increase (12.5%) from the previous month when **120,005** were newly displaced. Ongoing military operations in Al-Raqqa have displaced over **171,124** people since 1 April, including **101,921** from the

beginning of May to 5 June. UN agencies reported an estimated 20,500 displaced individuals from Al-Raqqa arrived in Ein Issa camp during the third week of May. In addition, an estimated 17,000 individuals left for other areas in rural Raqqa, including Manbij, Azzaz, Jarablus and other sub districts of Al-Raqqa Governorate.

Between May 2016 and 16 May 2017, over 387,730 people were displaced in Aleppo governorate, 212,470 in Al-Raqqa, 146,662 in Hama governorate, 101,827 in Idlib, 33,611 in Homs, and over 8,000 people were displaced in Deir Ezzor governorate.

In May, there were 14,359 new displacements from affected areas in the south of the country, including Damascus, Rural Damascus, Sweida and Dara'a.

Between 1 April and 22 May there were a total of 22,302 displacements from the besieged areas of Al-Waer (Homs), Yarmouk, Qaboun and Barzeh (Damascus) and Zabadani and Madaya (Rural Damascus), recorded by the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster. Most people moved to different locations in Idlib governorate. 7,386 also moved to Jarablus in Aleppo governorate.

In an assessment of 23 communities in Homs conducted by REACH, less than 50% of the pre-conflict population remained in all communities assessed in April. No pre-conflict populations were left in Kisein, ar-Rastan subdistrict or Um Sharshouh, Talbiseh sub-district.

TURKEY

Arrivals: Turkish Land Forces reported the apprehension of 32,693 people attempting to irregularly cross land borders into Turkey in May, an increase of 11,890 people compared to figures from April and March (coincidentally both recorded at 20,803). This increase is mainly linked to heightened apprehensions at the Syrian border (31,202) an increase of 10,737 from the

previous month. Increased apprehensions of refugees and other migrants were also reported at other borders with 1,021 people apprehended at the Iraqi border (an increase of 934), 242 apprehended at the Greek border (an increase of 101), and 179 apprehended at the Iranian border (an increase of 69).



Figure 5: Apprehensions on arrival at Turkey's land borders, by country

Apprehensions were also reported at the borders with **Bulgaria** (38), Nakhichevan (9), and Georgia (2) in May, none of which were reported on in April. **Turkish officials** claim that the country **intends to maintain** its ‘open door’ policy for **emergency situations**, though border closures in **March 2015** and the introduction of strict **visa requirements** for Syrians entering by air or sea have made it difficult, if not impossible, to legally cross the border.

According to **President Erdoğan**, Turkey plans to build a **70 kilometre** wall along its border with Iran, following the expected completion of a wall along the Syrian border in Autumn 2017. The plan has been publicly welcomed by **Iranian authorities**. Erdoğan also announced similar plans for the **Iraqi border**. In April, Turkey completed **556 kilometres** of a three-metre high **border wall** along its border with Syria – the **first phase** of a wall that will cover the entirety of the 911 kilometre border with the country.

UNHCR reports that 87 people were returned to Turkey from Greece under the EU Turkey Agreement in May, bringing the total number of returns since its implementation in March 2016 to **1,181**. Of those individuals returned in May, 14 were Syrian and 73 were non-specified third country nationals. Data on the nationalities of returns to Greece was available as of **6 June** and shows that since **2 May**, 50 people from Pakistan have been returned to Turkey, 14 from Syria, 11 from Algeria, 7 from Bangladesh, 4 from Nepal, 2

from Morocco, 2 from Nigeria, and 8 people from various ‘other’ countries. UNICEF reports that as of 31 May, **64 children** have been returned to Turkey under the EU-Turkey Agreement.

Departures: According to the **Turkish Coast Guard** 28 ‘irregular migration incidents’ involving 1,236 ‘irregular migrants’ occurred in the seas surrounding Turkey in May. This marks six fewer incidents than those reported in April, involving 315 fewer people. The top ten countries of origin of people ‘**apprehended/rescued**’ by the Coast Guard in May included, in descending order: Syria, Congo, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Somalia, Iran, Eritrea, Togo, Cameroon, and Iraq, with Somalia, Iran, Togo, and Cameroon not appearing on the previous month’s list.

The nationalities of these apprehensions show some differences from **UNHCR’s** figures for total sea arrivals from Turkey to Greece in 2017. As of 31 May, Syrians were the largest group of arrivals at 36.7%, followed by Iraq at 12.9%, Democratic Republic of Congo at 6.3%, Algeria at 6.1%, Afghanistan at 5.3%, Stateless people at 4.6%, Palestine at 4.3%, Pakistan at 3.4%, Iran at 2.5%, and Kuwait at 2.3%. Some 15.7% of arrivals in Greece (1,139 people) were of various unspecified ‘other’ nationalities. At least **7,274** people arrived by sea in Greece in the first five months of 2017, with a **greater diversity** of nationalities than in 2016.

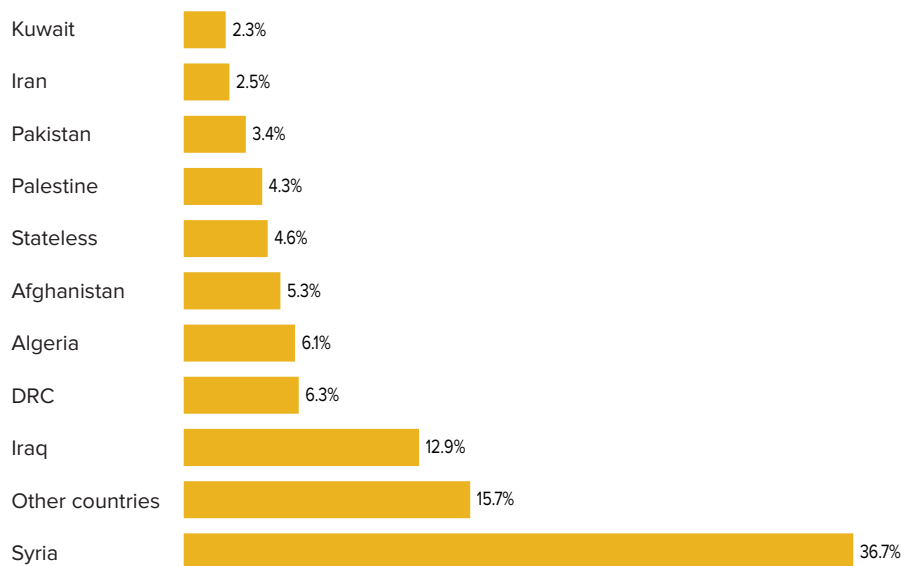


Figure 6: 2017 sea arrivals in Greece, as of 31 May, by country of origin (source: UNHCR)

In May, arrivals by sea to Greece increased by 954 individuals compared to April figures, for a total of **2,110** arrivals from Turkey in May. The **increase** is thought to be due to warmer weather and calmer seas. Of these arrivals 694 were from Syria, 375 were from Iraq, 160 were from the Democratic Republic of Congo 127, were from Afghanistan, 111 were from Algeria, with

some 643 people (30.5%) arriving from unspecified ‘other’ countries. No sea arrivals on **Cyprus** were reported in May, leaving the total arrivals in 2017 at 302, the majority of whom were Syrian.

According to UNHCR figures, between January and April some **539 people** travelled by boat from Turkey to Italy. Most of the arrivals were Syrian, though

smaller numbers of Pakistanis, Iranians, and Somalis have also used this route. No figures were available for May. The [New York Times](#) reports that in some cases, refugee and other migrants pay high prices for 'luxury' journeys across the Aegean and Mediterranean on sailboats and yachts piloted mainly by Ukrainian skippers.

Following an [attempted coup](#) in July 2016, [Turkish diplomats and military officials](#) have been claiming asylum in EU countries. In early May, Der Spiegel reported that around [450 Turkish officials](#) (diplomats, judges, and military officers) and their family members had applied for asylum in Germany, with an overall total of more than 7,700 applications by Turkish nationals. Turks are reportedly also seeking asylum in [Belgium](#), Norway, and the Netherlands. Those fleeing Turkey are using the [same smuggling routes](#) as Syrian refugees and other migrants.

People also exit Turkey via the country's land borders, though in smaller numbers than via sea borders. Between [January and April](#), UNHCR reported that 351 people crossed the Bulgarian border from Turkey, while 660 entered Greece via the land border at the [Evros river](#). In May, [Turkish Land Forces](#) report that 1,253 people were apprehended attempting to cross Turkey's land border into Greece, 291 into Syria, 233 into Bulgaria, and one into Iraq.

As of 25 May, the [Bulgarian Ministry of Interior](#) reported that [366](#) people had been apprehended on entry near the Turkish border in 2017, marking an increase of 40 people from 28 April figures. The [Ministry of Internal Affairs](#) noted a 'downturn' in the number of irregular border crossings in May, in line with decreased arrivals compared to 2016 when 1,812 people were apprehended on entry during the first five months of the year. The [majority](#) of apprehensions concern Afghans, followed by Syrians and Iraqis.

Refugees and Other Migrants in Turkey: The most recently available figures from Turkey's Directorate General for Migration Management (DGMM) indicate that the country is hosting some [3.3 million](#) 'foreign nationals' seeking international protection. As of 6 June, this figure includes [3,028,226](#) Syrians granted temporary protection, an increase of 35,659 from [27 April](#). According to UNHCR, roughly [135,000](#) Afghan 'persons of concern' were present in Turkey at the end of May, an increase of around 3,000 from [April figures](#). There were also 134,000 Iraqis, 32,000 Iranians, 4,000 Somalis, and 9,000 people of various 'other' nationalities, figures that remain unchanged since April.

Vulnerability and Protection: No deaths were reported on the Eastern Mediterranean route to Europe in May, compared to [24](#) deaths reported by IOM in April

and 11 in March. The total number of deaths along this route in 2017 remains at 37.

IOM's most recent [flow monitoring survey](#) looks at the experiences of human trafficking and other exploitative practices as reported by 2,560 respondents (from 57 different countries or origin) along the Eastern Mediterranean route between February and May 2017. The surveys show that 9% of respondents experienced at least one form of exploitation (down from 10% in the April report) throughout their journey, with 79% of all incidents occurring in Turkey.

Reports indicate that as of mid-May the Greek government has been '[pushing back](#)' Turks attempting to flee to Greece across the [Evros river](#). UNHCR has expressed its concern at these reports, with a representative stating that 'such allegations of informal forced return have been recorded before'. The [Stockholm Centre for Freedom](#) reports that at least five cases of alleged refoulement have been reported.

On May 14, [clashes](#) reportedly erupted between Turks and refugees and other migrants in Istanbul, resulting in the death of a local man. Following the violence, more than 300 people were detained and evacuated from the neighbourhood, with reports inconsistently indicating they were mainly Afghan and either [Syrian](#) or [Pakistani](#).

Internal Displacement: In late May, authorities reportedly turned off the water and electricity supply to the neighbourhoods of [Lala and Ali Pasha](#) in the Sur district of Diyarbakir city, in an attempt to force residents to leave their homes. Residents of the area claim that they cannot leave because they have no place to go and the compensation being provided to them is inadequate. Under a controversial [urban transformation plan](#) in mainly Kurdish south-eastern Turkey, residents have been forced to [evacuate](#) their homes to allow for the restoration of the historic area.

Additionally, the most recent available figures indicate that security operations have displaced between [355,000](#) and [500,000](#) people in Turkey's [predominantly Kurdish southeast](#) since December 2015. OHCHR has described a situation of 'massive destruction and serious rights violations' in the area since July 2015.

OTHER NEWS

From Bulgaria to Italy by Sea: Minutes from a **23 May** Regional Information Management Working Group meeting indicate that refugees and other migrants are beginning to use a new route to move from Bulgaria to Italy by sea, though no further detail was given.

Syrians Remain Stranded at Algeria-Morocco Border: Some **55 people** have been **stranded** at the Algeria-Morocco border since 19 April, while humanitarian access to the area remains limited. **Morocco's** Ministry of Foreign Affairs has accused Algeria of forcing Syrians to irregularly cross the border into Morocco between 17 and 19 April. Algeria has denied the accusations.

People Evacuated from Serbian Warehouses: Serbian authorities have evicted more than **1,000** refugees and other migrants sheltering in squalid conditions in Belgrade. The makeshift warehouse shelters were then demolished amid claims that the structures were **unsafe** and posed health risks. Officials reported that

refugees and other migrants had been moved to reception centres, but media reports indicate that **400 people** went missing amid a chaotic evacuation.

Fatalities on the Central Mediterranean Route: IOM reports that at least **610 people** died on the Central Mediterranean route to Europe (primarily between Libya and Italy) in May, more than double the number reported on in April. Nearly **23,000 people** arrived in Italy in May, compared to less than 13,000 arrivals in April.

Afghan Refugees Deported from Iran: As of 21 May, nearly **130,000** 'undocumented Afghan refugees' have been deported by Iran so far in 2017. Afghan authorities claim that 60 to 65% of those deported from Iran are forcibly returned, straining arrival services in the country amid large scale returns from **Pakistan**. Iran reportedly plans to send some **600,000** people back to Afghanistan in 2017.

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

NEW RESEARCH AND REPORTS

The **Mixed Migration Platform** has released two new briefing papers accessible [here](#) on our newly launched website. The first paper looks at **environmental** migration and displacement from a Middle East perspective, while the second addresses the relationship between **trafficking**, exploitation, and smuggling in the context of mixed migration through the Middle East and Europe.

In a **report** entitled 'Lost in Translation: the Misinformed Journey of Migrants across Italy,' **Internews** uses the results of a rapid needs assessment in Italy to examine the critical role that local media plays in irregular migration journeys, particularly in light of the unmet information needs of people on the move to and within Italy.

In a **quarterly** publication, **Refugees Deeply** focuses on Greece and the 'difference between deterrence & integration'. The piece centres on the perpetual state of emergency that Greece is under, amid the competing government priorities of deterrence and integration, focusing primarily on education, health, and housing.

The **Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)** has launched its 2017 **Global Report on Internal Displacement**, looking at worldwide internal displacement caused by violence, conflict, and disasters (executive summary available [here](#)). The report focuses on internal displacement in 2016, the connection between internal and cross-border displacement, and the challenges of data shortfalls.

Amid increasing discussions around the potential implementation of safe zones in Syria, **News Deeply** has published an **article** discussing the reasons why the UN is not creating these, and provided links to further readings and sources around the contentious topic.

A **Human Rights Watch** **article** addresses the plight of older refugees stranded in Greece due to 'unnecessary delays and arbitrary barriers' blocking their reunion with family in Europe. The article argues that family reunification processes typically focus on minors and their parents, leaving older refugees in limbo in Greece.

'A Child is a Child: Protecting children on the move from violence, abuse and exploitation' is a new **UNICEF report** detailing the lack of safe and legal migration pathways for children and the role that this plays in the proliferation of human smuggling and the related risks that children must face.

A May **policy brief**, from the **Migration Policy Institute (MPI)**, addresses the gaps in broadband access for refugees and other migrants around the globe, in relation to the increasingly recognised role of communications technology in connectivity and protection solutions for refugees. The brief proposes the creation of a 'global broadband plan for refugees'.

An additional **report** published by **MPI** in May looks at the evolution of refugee resettlement initiatives and policy to identify 'questions and trade-offs' confronted by policymakers in implementing new programmes. The report offers recommendations to improve the evidence base and fill gaps in data collection and analysis.

UNHCR has released a new **report** based on research aimed at better understanding communication, decision making, and information needs among Arabic speaking and Afghan refugees and other

migrants via their social media discourses. UNHCR has engaged in social media monitoring, culminating in weekly summary reports, since March 2016.

In the June 2017 analysis of **flow monitoring surveys** from IOM's **Displacement Tracking Matrix**, interviews with more than 5,000 refugees and other migrants along the Central and Eastern Mediterranean routes to Europe are used to better understand the demographics, intentions, and costs incurred by people on the move to Europe between February and June 2017.

A new **report** from **Minority Rights Group** uses extensive fieldwork to comment on the future of Iraqi minorities after the so-called Islamic State. The third report in a series, the piece makes specific recommendations to a variety of actors aimed to prevent a legacy of inter-communal animosity and the potential departure of ethnic and religious minorities from Iraq.

RMMS monthly summaries of mixed migration issues and news in the Horn of Africa and Yemen region are accessible [here](#). Summaries from **West Africa** are available [here](#), and 4mi (Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative) reports from the **Central Asia and Southwest Asia** region are available [here](#).

The Mixed Migration Platform (MMP) is a joint-NGO initiative providing quality mixed migration-related information for policy, programming and advocacy work, as well as critical information for people on the move. The platform was established by seven partners - ACAPS, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Ground Truth Solutions, Internews, INTERSOS, REACH & Translators Without Borders (TWB) - and acts as an information hub on mixed migration in the region. For more information visit: mixedmigrationplatform.org



To be added to MMP's monthly migration summary mailing list, please contact admin@mixedmigrationplatform.org
Visit our website and access past reports at: www.mixedmigrationplatform.org/