



**MIXED MIGRATION  
MONTHLY SUMMARY**

**MIDDLE EAST**

**JUNE  
2017**

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: Mais Salman/DRC*

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# INTRODUCTION

By the end of June, the conflict in Mosul was reportedly drawing to an end. Ongoing fighting, however, continued to drive displacement within Iraq and also to Syria, with the number of Iraqis in Al Hol camp increasing by 21% since the end of May. Internal displacement also continued in Syria throughout June, most significantly in and around Al Raqqa, where an estimated 20,000 people were displaced. Nearly 79,000 Syrians were newly registered in neighbouring countries throughout June, the vast majority in Turkey. Simultaneously, people continued to return from Turkey to Jarablus in Syria at a rate of around 200 people per day. Since 1 June, at least 30,000 Syrians also returned home from Turkey, after the Turkish government officially opened its border allowing Syrian refugees to return home for Eid celebrations and then re-enter Turkey. Following a deal made between Hezbollah and Syrian armed groups, a so-called 'safe zone' was created, which led to the return of several hundred Syrian families from Leba-

non to Asal al-Ward. Throughout June, the number of people at the Rukban border crossing between Syria and Jordan continued to grow, with at least 60,000 people stranded at the berm as a whole. The number of arrivals by sea from Turkey to Greece decreased slightly to 2,012 people in June, though daily arrivals were increasing nearer the end of the month. The nationalities of arrivals continued to show significant diversity, with people from Syria, Iraq, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Afghanistan among the most frequent arrivals in June. Reports also indicate that boats are transporting refugees and other migrants directly from Turkey to Italy and Cyprus, albeit in smaller numbers.

**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.**

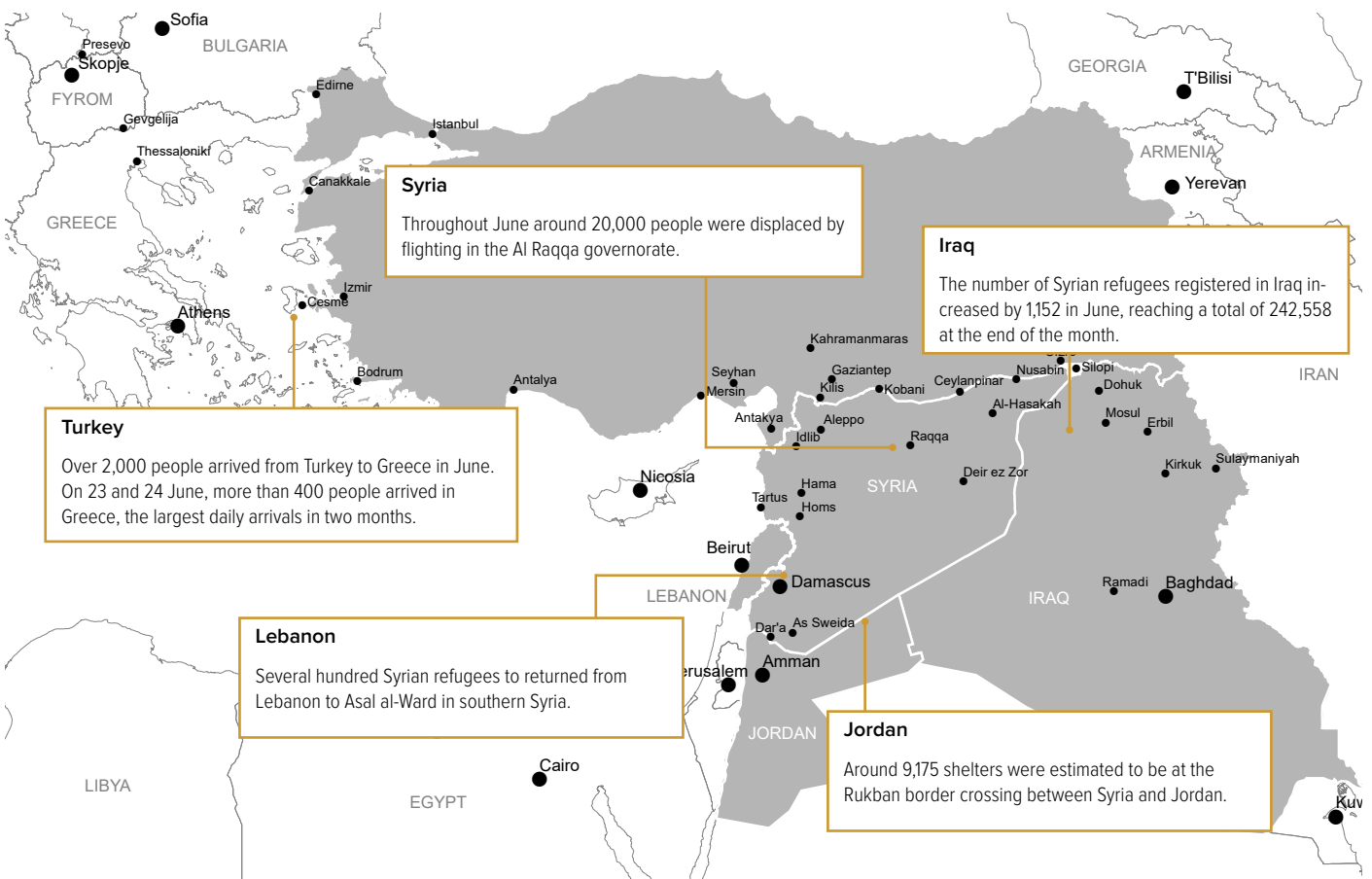


Figure 1: Overview of key developments across the Middle East (June 2017)

# IRAQ

**Arrivals:** Information on new arrivals to Iraq is not regularly reported. In June, however, multiple media outlets reported on the ongoing return of Iraq’s minority groups, including **Yazidis** and **Christians**, from internal displacement and abroad. Both groups are reported to be **concerned** about potential dangers associated with their areas of origin.

**Departures:** In June, Iraqi security forces **made progress** in their efforts to **recapture Mosul** from the so-called Islamic state. By the end of the month the battle was reported to be in its **final stages**. However, conflict continued to drive cross-border displacement from northern Iraq to Syria. **21,020** Iraqis had been received in Al Hol camp as of 30 June, 21% more than the total reported on 30 May.

Some Syrian refugees are also reported to be leaving Iraq for Al-Hasakah governorate. In June, UNHCR reported that **1,884** spontaneous returns of Syrians from Iraq had occurred between January and May.

The erratic trend in the number of apprehensions reported by Turkish Land Forces at the border with Iraq continued in June. Turkish authorities report that **61** people were apprehended on entry to Turkey from Iraq in June, compared to **1,021** in May, **87** in April, **1,355** in March, **1,577** in February and **234** in January. The reasons for such variation are not clearly reported.

As of 30 June, the number of Iraqi refugees hosted in countries in the region was reported to be **257,476**, a 1.4% increase compared to the **253,992** refugees

reported in April. The number of Iraqi refugees and asylum seekers reported to be in Turkey at the end of June increased slightly, from **133,632** to **133,815**. This was the first reported increase since March.

As of 30 June, the number of Iraqis registered in Jordan was reported to be **63,417**, a 0.6% increase on May figures. Additionally, **28,260** Iraqi refugees were registered in Iran as of early 2016, with no new data available in June. The number of Iraqi refugees estimated to be in Syria is likely to have increased since it was reported at **24,970** in the Syria Humanitarian Needs Overview in December 2016. Although Iraqis continue to be received in Al Hol camp in Syria, the total number in country is not regularly updated.

After entering the **top ten** most common nationalities arriving by sea in Europe in May, Iraqis dropped to **fourteenth** on this list in June. As of 30 June, a total of **2,342** Iraqis had arrived in Europe by sea since January. Iraqis more commonly arrive in Greece than Italy or other major European entry points. **312** Iraqis arrived in Greece by sea in June, compared to **375** in May. In total, **1,248** Iraqis have arrived in Greece by sea in the first half of 2017, representing 13.4% of all arrivals to Greece.

**Refugees and Other Migrants in Iraq:** The number of Syrian refugees registered in Iraq increased by 1,152 (0.5%) in June, reaching a total of **242,558** at the end of the month. The number of registered Syrians in Iraq has increased steadily for the past 10 months, but remains below the peak of **251,690** recorded in July 2015.

## Total registered Syrians in Iraq

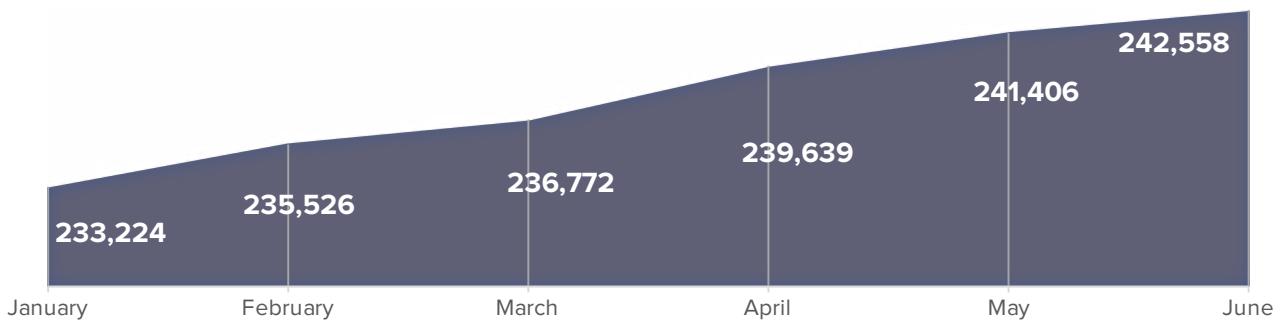


Figure 2: Total registered Syrians in Iraq in 2017 (source: UNHCR)

In addition to refugees from Syria, UNHCR’s **database** records information on persons of concern from 29 other countries. The total number of refugees of

these other nationalities was not updated in June, but has only been increasingly slightly in 2017, so is likely to be similar to the total of **43,438** reported in May.



The number of stateless people reported in Iraq remained constant in May and April at **48,500**. According to local media, there are also **thousands of Iranian Kurds** considered to be refugees in Iraq.

**Internal Displacement:** In late June, IOM reported that it had established a joint information collection system in collaboration with local authorities in the Mosul area. After incorporating new information based on this exercise, the estimated number of people internally displaced since 17 October in and around Mosul sharply increased. As of 27 June, the total number of IDPs displaced due to the Mosul offensive was estimated to be **819,534**. This is more than double the number estimated just prior to the methodology change: **432,726** on 22 June.

This change in the IDP estimate has revealed discrepancies between reporting organisations regarding the cumulative number of people displaced due to the conflict in Mosul. As of 30 June, UNHCR reported that the cumulative number of individuals displaced since 17 October 2016 was **1,021,476**, of whom **210,942** had already returned. By contrast, as of 28 June, OCHA and the Government of Iraq reported that **897,663** people had been cumulatively displaced from East and West Mosul since 17 October, of whom **214,826** people had returned during the same period. While the speed of displacement from and returns to Mosul makes estimates difficult, the lack of clarity around the scale of the crisis adds to the challenges for response programming and planning.

Across all of Iraq, reports indicate that the total number of IDPs increased in June. IOM reported that an estimated **3,351,132** IDPs were in Iraq as of 30 June,

the highest number reported since September 2016, and 331,098 more than the number reported on 30 May (**3,020,034**). Given the change in methodology, it is not possible to confirm an upward monthly trend in actual displacement, but the higher estimate nonetheless raises significant humanitarian concerns.

Although the overall number of IDPs increased in June, so did the number of returns. As of 30 June, the total number of returnees in Iraq was reported to be **1,952,868**. This marks an increase of 7.7% compared to the total number reported on 30 May (**1,813,680**). By comparison, in the month of May, the overall number of returnees increased by only 2.1%.

**Vulnerability and Protection:** While military advances on the Old City coincided with large-scale displacement in Mosul in June, it also meant that the number of civilians trapped in the city reduced, although the number remains extremely high. Whereas an estimated **180,000** civilians were stranded in Mosul at the end of May, estimates of the number stranded had been reduced to **100,000** mid-month, according to media reports.

IDPs also continued to face high levels of vulnerability in June. **Overcrowding and protection** concerns remain high, while **sandstorms** and **harsh summer weather** added additional risks.

With **715** civilian casualties, June was the third month in a row that the total number of civilian casualties reported by the UN in Iraq was less than one thousand. Although total casualties decreased, the month was the second most deadly in 2017, with **415** civilians reported killed.

## JORDAN

**Arrivals:** UNHCR reported increased arrivals of war-wounded individuals seeking health treatment at “the berm”<sup>1</sup> in June. This is linked to increased military activity at the Syrian-Jordanian border. From 21 May to 23 June, a total of 3,079 patients (1,722 female and 1,357 male) sought medical assistance from Syria in the form of primary healthcare or emergency, life-saving referrals in Jordan. Aid distribution remains suspended for populations at the berm due to security-related border closures implemented as of **June**

**2016.**

As of 26 June, UNOSAT’s shelter density map shows **9,175** shelters at the Rukban border crossing between Syria and Jordan. This demonstrates a 9.5% increase in such shelters from data collected on 29 April this year. A satellite image captured at the Hadalat border crossing shows that as of 27 June, an estimated **1,657** shelters were visible at the informal settlement, marking a 1% increase from data gathered in the same location on 3 June. UNHCR estimates that **60,000** individuals remain stranded at the berm, however there remains inconsistency on reporting of **total figures**, indicating that this figure could be higher.

<sup>1</sup> 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.



Figure 3: Children playing at Nuzha Community Centre, Jordan. Credit: DRC

**Departures:** UNHCR reported a decrease of 300 individuals living in Azraq camp in June 2017 due to the bail-out procedure<sup>2</sup> and ‘voluntary repatriation’. No other data on departures has been available since May 2017.

**Vulnerability and Protection:** Reports of exploitation of female foreign domestic workers continued to emerge in June, detailing their abuse at the hands of sponsors serving as their legal custodians under the

<sup>2</sup> The bail-out procedure is an official process by which refugees could previously obtain permission to leave camps and reside within host communities. Obtaining such permission is only possible upon fulfilment of certain requirements, including the presence of a relative that can act as a sponsor of Jordanian nationality, over the age of 35, residing outside the camp. Conflicting reports provide differing information on whether or not the bail-out process is still underway, having supposedly been suspended in January 2015 and replaced with a temporary leave permit system that requires the eventual return of registered refugees to the camp territories. UNHCR is still reporting on such figures, indicating that the process has resumed, however the statistical measurement of such remains unclear.

*Kefala*<sup>3</sup> system. Debt bondage, delayed payment and serious physical abuse of Eritreans, Filipinos, Egyptians and Ethiopians, amongst other nationalities, are not uncommon. IOM has reported on cases of domestic workers detained as criminals following attempts to report their abuse to local authorities. Debt is also reportedly rising among Syrian refugees in Jordan, with a report in June highlighting the limited number of Syrians with work permits in Jordan, despite government-led efforts to provide access. Various reports also indicate reliance on negative coping mechanisms like early marriage and child labour among Syrians. In June, 70% of Syrians were living under Jordan’s national poverty line according to UNHCR.

<sup>3</sup> The *Kefala* system necessitates that migrants receive explicit sponsorship from their employer in order to obtain entry in the form of work visas into Lebanon. Also in place in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, this sponsorship system places domestic workers and labour migrants in situations of significant vulnerability given that their employers are responsible for their regular migratory status and livelihoods.

## LEBANON

**Arrivals:** In January 2015, the Lebanese government introduced new visa restrictions that suspended the registration of new refugees. No new or updated information on arrivals has been released since then, though occasional reports indicate that people still cross the border irregularly.

**Departures:** At least 100 Syrian families reportedly returned to Al-Tufail and Aarsal Al-Ward towns in West Qalamoun, Syria from Lebanese informal refugee

settlements near Aarsal village, as of 10 June. This is as a result of a deal between Hezbollah and Syrian non-state armed groups. Returns from the settlements to Syria were ongoing throughout June.

In total, 7,184 spontaneous Syrian refugee returns were reported from Lebanon between January and May, though for the majority of those doing so it was reportedly on a temporary basis; no new updates were available in June.

**Refugees and Other Migrants in Lebanon:** As of 30 June, 1,001,051 Syrian refugees were registered in Lebanon, 10,315 fewer than the 1,011,366 people reported in April.

As of March, 6,000 Iraqis were registered with UNHCR in Lebanon. No new figures were available for June. The most recent estimate for Palestinian refugees is from January, when figures contained in Lebanon's Crisis Response Plan showed that 277,985 Palestine refugees were registered and living in Lebanon, including 31,502 Palestine refugees from Syria.

## SYRIA

**Arrivals:** As of 30 June, 21,020 Iraqis had been received in Al Hol camp since 17 October 2016, 21% more than the total reported on 30 May.

In the first six months of 2017, more than 31,000 Syrian refugees returned home from Turkey. The main destinations for refugee returnees are Aleppo, Hama, Homs and Damascus. Turkish officials report that since August 2016, around 42,000 Syrian refugees have returned to Jarabulus in Aleppo governorate, equating to around 200 people per day.

Prior to the Eid celebrations that marked the end of Ramadan, Turkish authorities officially opened the Cilvegozu/Bab al-Hawa border crossing on 1 June, giving refugees until 30 September to visit Syria and return to Turkey without being considered a new arrival. Some 30,000 Syrians reportedly crossed the border into Syria. On 15 June, the Oncupinar/Bab al-Salam crossing also opened for the same reason, though it was more restrictive – refugees were told to return no later than 14 July. Some of the returnees stated that they intended to go back to Turkey after Eid, while others said that they intended to remain in Syria.

According to local media reports in early June, Lebanon's Hezbollah and Syrian armed groups reached a deal that led to the creation of a so-called 'safe zone' and the consequent return of several hundred Syrian refugees to Asal al-Ward in southern Syria.

**Departures:** As of 6 July, there were 5,136,969 registered Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries and North Africa. This is an increase of 78,983 since 1 June. Between 6 June and 6 July, 51,688 Syrian refugees were registered in Turkey, bringing the total number to 3,079,914. More refugees were newly registered in June than the previous month when, between 27 April and 6 June, 35,659 Syrians were

**Vulnerability and Protection:** The Lebanese army carried out raids on two informal refugee settlements near the village of Aarsal at the Lebanese-Syria border on 30 June. During the raids, five suicide bombings and a grenade attack occurred, killing a young Syrian girl from a refugee family.

A recent International Center for Transitional Justice study reported Palestinian refugees as the most vulnerable group of refugees in Lebanon, noting that they are generally treated worse than Syrian refugees, reportedly suffering high levels of discrimination.

newly registered. While the border remains officially closed, irregular arrivals into Turkey are considered ongoing. In Jordan, there were 661,114 registered Syrian refugees as of 3 July, marking an increase of 960 people since 31 May, slightly fewer than the 1,065 refugees newly registered in May. In Iraq, the number of registered Syrian refugees increased by 1,152 in June, bringing the total number to 242,558. This represents a slight decrease compared to the 1,767 Syrians who were newly registered in May. At the end of June, 1,001,051 Syrian refugees were registered in Lebanon, a decrease of 10,315 since figures were last made available at the end of 2016. The Lebanese government stopped registering new arrivals in May 2015. 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.

In 2017, Syrians have so far accounted for 8% of all refugee arrivals to Europe. They remain the most common nationality arriving in Greece, with 722 Syrians arriving by sea in June. This represents a slight increase from May when 694 Syrians were registered, and is a significantly higher number than the 447 Syrians who were registered in April.

**Refugees and other migrants:** There are around 54,000 refugees and asylum seekers in Syria, though there have been no updated figures available since March. Iraqi refugees comprise the largest group, with roughly 25,000 living in Syria. This includes 21,124 registered Iraqis inside Al Hol camp, as of 3 July. Other refugees in Syria are primarily from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia and Sudan. Additionally, there are around 430,000 long-term Palestine refugees that remain in need of assistance, some 280,000 of whom

have been displaced by conflict.

**Internal displacement:** At the beginning of June, the Syrian Defence Force (SDF) officially began its offensive to reclaim **Al Raqqa** city from the so-called Islamic State. Over the past six months, the overall population of the city is estimated to have decreased from **229,000** to between 100,000 and 140,000, with the majority having left since the end of April. Throughout June around **20,000** people were displaced in the Al Raqqa governorate. This brings the total new and secondary displacements in this governorate to around **109,000** since the end of April. Most have been displaced within the governorate but **15,000** fled to Aleppo, 2,700 to Idleb and 1,600 to Deir ez-Zor. As the offensive intensifies, those who remain in

the city will be increasingly isolated.

In addition to those displaced in Al Raqqa, a total of around **10,000** people were displaced from other northern governorates in June, including Aleppo, Hama, Idleb, Homs, Deir-Ez-Zor, Al-Hassakeh and Lattakia.

In the conflict-affected areas of Damascus, Rural Damascus, Sweida and Dar'a in southwest Syria, around **3,500** people were displaced in June.

It is estimated that during the first six months of 2017, over **440,000** internally displaced persons returned home. These returnees, in addition to the 31,000 who have returned from neighbouring countries, bring the total number of returnees to nearly half a million.

# TURKEY

**Arrivals:** Throughout June, Turkish Land Forces reported the apprehension of **24,381** people attempting to irregularly cross land borders into Turkey, a decrease of 8,312 compared to figures from May. The decrease was most notable along the Syrian border where **23,905** people were apprehended, compared to **31,202** in May. Additionally, **310** people were apprehended trying to enter Turkey at the Greek border, 100 at the Iranian border, 61 at the Iraqi border (compared to 1,021 in May), four at the Georgian border,

and one at the Armenian border.

Turkish officials claim that the country *intends to maintain* its 'open door' policy for *emergency situations*, though closures at the Syrian border in **March 2015**, the introduction of strict *visa requirements* for Syrians entering by air or sea, and the construction of a **556 kilometre** wall at the Syrian border have made it difficult, if not impossible, to legally cross the border. Plans are also underway for walls at Turkey's border with **Iran** and **Iraq**.



Figure 4: Apprehensions on arrival at Turkey's land borders, by country



UNHCR reports that, in June, 48 people were returned to Turkey from Greece under the EU-Turkey Agreement, bringing the total number of returns since its implementation in March 2016 to 1,229; 428 people have been returned in 2017. These figures conflict slightly with the total 1,228 returns reported by the Turkish Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM). Of those individuals returned in June, 14 were Pakistani, ten Algerian, three Syrian, and 21 were unspecified third country nationals. The vast majority of returns under the Agreement have been Pakistani (561 individuals), with only 193 Syrians returned as of 30 June.

In its sixth report on the progress of the EU-Turkey Agreement, released in June, the European Commission claimed that the Agreement has ensured 'effective management' of migratory flows, and reduced the number of lives lost in the Aegean. The report notes, however, that arrivals to the Greek islands still outpace the number of returns to Turkey.

**Departures:** In June, the Turkish Coast Guard reported 46 'irregular migration incidents' involving 1,888 'irregular migrants' in the seas surrounding Turkey. This marks 18 more incidents than the 28 reported in May, involving 652 more people than the previous month. The top ten countries of origin of people 'apprehended/rescued' by the Coast Guard in June included, in descending order: Syria, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Congo, Somalia, Eritrea, Bangladesh, Iran, and Sri Lanka; of these Bangladesh did not appear on the previous month's list.

These varied nationalities reflect a growing diversity in sea arrivals from Turkey to Greece, with UNHCR reporting that while Syrians still represent the majority of arrivals in 2017 at 36.5%, people from Iraq, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Afghanistan, Algeria, and Pakistan, and various 'other' nationalities continue to travel from Turkey to Greece. An article in *Open Democracy* argues that this growing diversity is a result of current air travel routes and the relative ease of visa access for particular nationalities.

Arrivals from Turkey to Greece by sea decreased to 2,012 in June, compared to the 2,110 people that were documented arriving by UNHCR in May. On 23 and 24 June, more than 400 people arrived by sea in Greece, the largest daily arrivals in two months. Of these arrivals, 722 were from Syria, 312 from Iraq, 171 from the Democratic Republic of Congo, 150 from Afghanistan, and 62 from Algeria, with some 595 people (29.6%) arriving from unspecified 'other' countries. At least 9,461 people have arrived by sea in Greece in the first half of 2017. Additionally, the European Commission reported that between 2 March and 13

June, 20 boats carrying 1,389 people arrived in Italy from Turkey, while two boats arrived in Cyprus carrying 116 people, all of whom were Syrian, at the start of this period. No arrivals were recorded in Cyprus in May or June.

Turkish citizens continue to flee the country following an attempted coup in July 2016. While there are no figures available for June, 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 since the attempted coup.

People also exit Turkey in smaller numbers via land borders with surrounding countries. Turkish Land Forces reported that some 3,240 people were apprehended attempting to exit Turkey at the land borders with Greece (2,872 people), Syria (226 people), Bulgaria (139 people), and Iran (3 people). In the first half of 2017, 1,557 people arrived in Greece via the land border at the Evros river, while 391 entered Bulgaria from Turkey in the same time period. As of 30 June, the Bulgarian Ministry of Interior reported that 400 people had been apprehended trying to cross the Turkish border into Bulgaria; 34 of these apprehensions occurred in June. According to IOM, 24 people successfully entered Bulgaria from Turkey in June. The majority of apprehensions concern Afghans, followed by Syrians and Iraqis.

As of 30 May, UNHCR reports that at least 20,314 Syrians have spontaneously returned from Turkey in 2017. In mid-June, Turkish officials estimated that an average of 200 Syrians were returning to the Northern Syrian town of Jarablus each day, following the Free Syrian Army and Turkish military capture of the town in August 2016, with more than 42,000 people estimated to have returned to the town since this date. Additionally, at least 30,000 Syrians have returned to Syria from Turkey since 1 June, following the opening of the Cilvegözü/Bab al Hawa crossing to allow Syrians to return home for the Eid holiday. Those with proper identification documents can use the crossing to return to Turkey until 30 September. The Oncupinar/Bab al-Salam crossing was also opened, but more restrictively (from 13 to 23 June), with refugees required to return no later than 14 July.

**Refugees and Other Migrants in Turkey:** As of 4 July, figures from DGMM indicate that Turkey is hosting some 3.4 million 'foreign nationals' seeking international protection, an increase from the 3.3 million that has been consistently reported in recent months. This total includes 3,069,963 Syrians granted temporary protection, an increase of 41,737 from 6 June. In

addition to Syrians, UNHCR has registered 315,643 other asylum seekers and refugees in Turkey: as of 30 June, this includes 136,763 Afghans, 133,815 Iraqis, 32,278 Iranians, 3,842 Somalis, and 8,945 people of various undisclosed nationalities. The number of Afghans in the country surpassed the number of Iraqis for the first time in May.

On 11 June, the Turkish Ministry of Health announced that Syrian doctors and medical workers will be recruited to work in health centres serving Syrian refugees. The new system of recruiting and training Syrian healthcare staff is currently under development, and is designed to utilise the education and training of refugees.

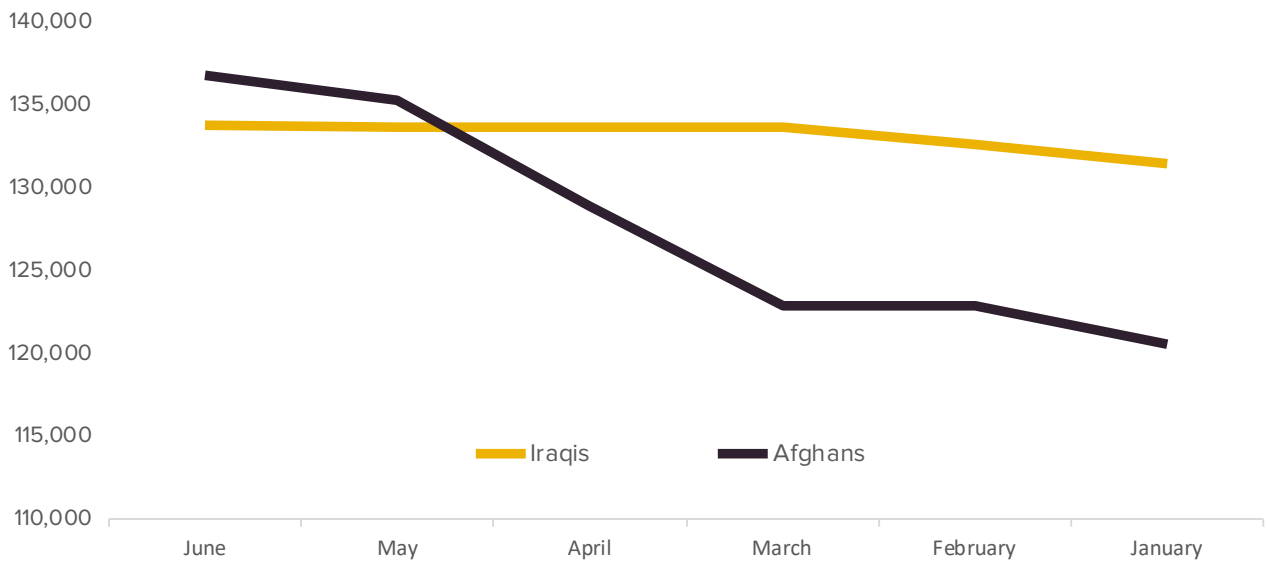


Figure 5: Iraqi and Afghan refugees and asylum seekers in Turkey in 2017 (source: IOM)

**Vulnerability and Protection:** As in May, no deaths were reported on the Eastern Mediterranean route to Europe in June. The total number of deaths along this route in 2017 has remained at 37 since April.

As in May, reports continue to circulate regarding the ‘pushbacks’ of Turkish asylum seekers after crossing the Evros river at the Greek border. One report indicates that at least nine people were pushed back across the border in June, including a family with four children, and then handed over to armed, masked men who forced the people into a boat back across the river. UNHCR has expressed concern over the alleged pushbacks, though the Greek government denies they are happening.

Reports indicate that tensions among Syrian refugees and Turkish host communities are growing in some parts of Turkey, as evidenced by violence on 18 June following a factory dispute between Syrian employees and a factory owner in Sakarya. This follows clashes reported in May between Turks and refugees and other migrants in Istanbul, resulting in the death of a local man.

**Internal Displacement:** While there were no updates available in June, 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, while a recent New York Times article points to an ongoing attack on Kurdish culture in southern Turkey.

For an infographic update on mixed migration trends in June please see this report from DRC Turkey.

# OTHER NEWS

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**Accusations of EU Pressure on Greek Authorities:**

**Human Rights Watch** has accused the EU of inappropriately pressing Greek authorities to limit the number of asylum seekers identified as ‘vulnerable’. A new policy has resulted in the confinement of all new arrivals to the Greek islands, whereas previously those identified as ‘vulnerable’ were transported to the mainland. Those typically identified as vulnerable include victims of torture, people with disabilities, and survivors of sexual and gender based violence.

**Returnees in Afghanistan:** In the nine Afghan provinces with the highest levels of displacement, IOM found that more than **2.4 million** people were either returned from abroad or internally displaced within the last five years. The returnees include more than 1.2 million people from Pakistan, 222,000 from Iran, and 41,000 from Europe, including Turkey. The report is accessible [here](#).

**Bangladeshi Arrivals in Italy:** **Bangladeshis** have recently become the second largest group arriving

in Italy in 2017, behind Nigerians. **IRIN** explains this dramatic increase by dividing Bangladeshi arrivals into two groups: those who have worked in Libya for several years but who are now fleeing due to security conditions, and those who have recently travelled to Tripoli via Istanbul or Dubai with the intention of continuing on to Europe. The former group is rapidly increasing, which may be attributable to the 2014 closure of legal routes for Bangladeshi workers to Italy.

**Fatalities on the Central Mediterranean Route:** IOM reports that at least **537 people** died on the Central Mediterranean route to Europe (primarily between Libya and Italy) in June, less than the 610 fatalities reported in May, but significantly more than the 279 reported in April. More than **23,500** people arrived in Italy by sea in June, slightly more than the number recorded in May.

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

# NEW RESEARCH AND REPORTS

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The **Mixed Migration Platform** has released two new briefing papers (accessible [here](#)) on our newly launched website. The first paper looks at the protection challenges of **rejected asylum seekers** remaining in Europe, while the second provides a gap analysis of undocumented, unaccompanied, and separated **children** on the move in Jordan, Lebanon and Greece.

**MMP** has also produced a **feature article** examining the routes, destinations, and challenges faced by Syrian refugees seeking asylum outside of Europe. The reports covers the journeys made by some Syrians to Sudan, Brazil, Malaysia, and Thailand, among other countries.

**Ground Truth Solutions**, in collaboration with **MMP**, has launched three new reports in its first round of surveys with refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants in Vienna, Istanbul, and Gaziantep and Kilis. The surveys aim to better understand the evolving perceptions of refugee and other migrant communities with regards to humanitarian assistance, looking specifically at information needs, trust, awareness, respect, transparency, and levels of support.

In a report entitled ‘Dear Family’, **Oxfam** addresses the ways in which European migration policies are keeping families apart. The **report** looks at the situation on the Greek islands and mainland and argues that narrow definitions of the term ‘family’ are the crux of the problem.

The **Afghanistan Analysts Network** has produced a **report** looking at how the closure of EU borders is affecting the movements of Afghans to Europe, and reviving smuggling routes that had dropped in usage following the closure of the Balkan route.

A new **summary** from **CARE International** in Jordan looks at the impacts of the Syria crisis on Syrian refugees, vulnerable Jordanians, and other refugees in Jordan seven years into the crisis. The report notes a trend towards increasing debt among refugees in Jordan, among other serious protection concerns.

The **Observatory for Human Rights and Forced Migrants in Turkey** has published a ‘one year visual database of migration-related human rights abuses’ in Turkey. The **report** argues that reporting on readmission to Turkey from the EU is inconsistent and

does not account for the fate of people following their return.

In a recent [article](#), **Refugees Deeply** interviews researchers who conducted more than 1,100 face-to-face interviews with Syrians in Turkey, to understand what Syrians want for the peace process and their own future. The research found that the vast majority of respondents want to return to Syria within five years, and if this is not possible the overwhelming second choice was to stay in Europe.

**UNHCR** has launched its [Global Trends Report](#) for forced displacement in 2016. The report gives a general overview of trends, and notes that more people than ever were affected by forced displacement in 2016.

Another June [report](#) from **Oxfam** highlights the voices

of refugees from Syria regarding their perceptions of safety in Lebanon. The piece argues that host governments of refugees and the international community cannot determine what 'safety' means for individuals, but should support refugees in finding 'safety in the present'.

An **ILO** [report](#) published in June, examines the state of the Jordanian labour market, through a mixed migration lens, for Jordanians, refugees, and migrant workers in the country.

**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](http://mixedmigrationplatform.org)



