



MIXED
MIGRATION
PLATFORM



**MIXED MIGRATION
MONTHLY SUMMARY**

**OCTOBER
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: Photo courtesy of The Danish Refugee Council/Mais Salman

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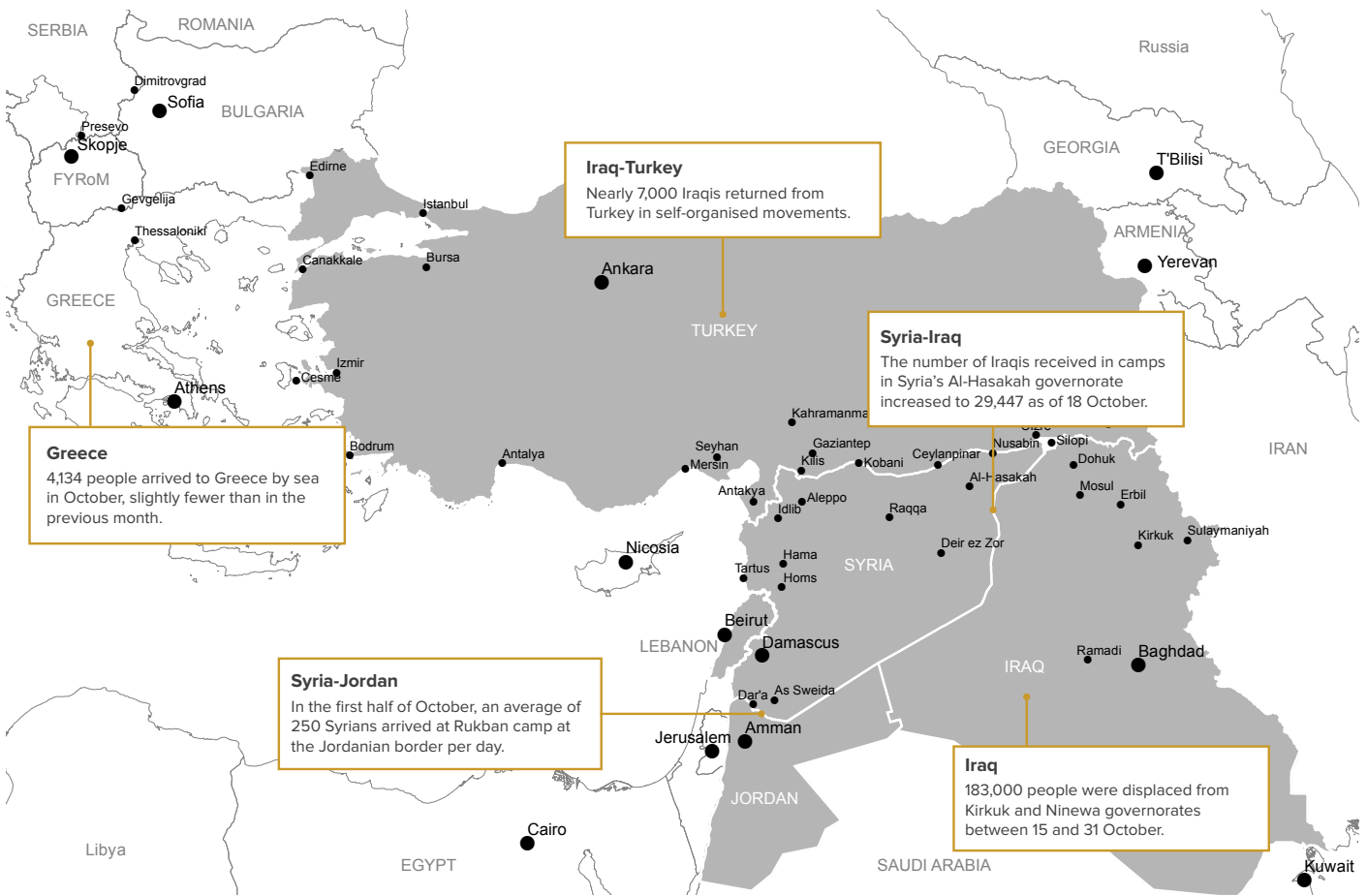
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OVERVIEW

While the number of people arriving by sea in Greece decreased to some 4,100 in October, Turkish authorities reported increases in the numbers of people trying to both enter (61,000) and exit (3,900) Turkey irregularly. The majority of those trying to exit Turkey by land were recorded at the border with Greece. The numbers of returnees from Turkey were also significant in October, with 7,000 Iraqis and 4,000 Syrians returning to their respective countries. A new wave of displacement began on 15 October in Iraq when central government forces moves into Kirkuk and Ninewa, with some 183,000 people displaced by the end of the month. Additionally, nearly 6,000 Iraqis were newly received in Syria's Al-Hasakah governorate in the first half of October. Meanwhile, ad hoc reports of detention and deportations of Syrians from Jordan continued to emerge in October. Jordanian authorities, in addition,

made clear that the country no longer considers itself responsible for Syrian residents of informal camps at the border and is not planning to permit entry to any refugees from the camps to the Kingdom. In the first half of October, some 250 people were arriving on a daily basis from Deir-ez-Zor to Rukban camp on the Jordanian border, with more than 129,000 displaced from the governorate in October. Syrians continued to face curfews and expulsions from some Lebanese towns in October, following the murder of a Lebanese woman, reportedly by a Syrian man, in September.

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.



Overview of key developments across the Middle East (October 2017)

IRAQ

Arrivals: Substantial numbers of Iraqis were reported to be returning from Turkey in October, although precise numbers are difficult to track as the movements are self-organised. As of 26 October, UNHCR reported that an estimated 7,000 Iraqis had recently returned from Turkey.

Spontaneous returns of Iraqis from Syria's Al Hol camp increased in mid-October. As of late-October, UNHCR expected over 6,000 Iraqis to return to Iraq from the camp in the coming weeks.

On average, around 4,500 Syrians have arrived in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I) per month in 2017. The latest available figures are from August, when 6,584 people arrived in KR-I – significantly more than the monthly average. Around 33% were newly admitted for humanitarian reasons, while the rest were re-admitted to KR-I after having temporarily returned to Syria.

Departures: The number of Iraqis received in Syria's Al-Hasakah governorate increased significantly in the first half of October, before Iraqis began to return from the area in the second half of the month (see Arrivals). As of 18 October, 29,447 Iraqis had been received in Al-Hasakah since 17 October 2016, marking an increase of 5,776 (24.4%) in the first half of October alone. By contrast, the number increased by just 1,136 (5%) in the whole month of September.

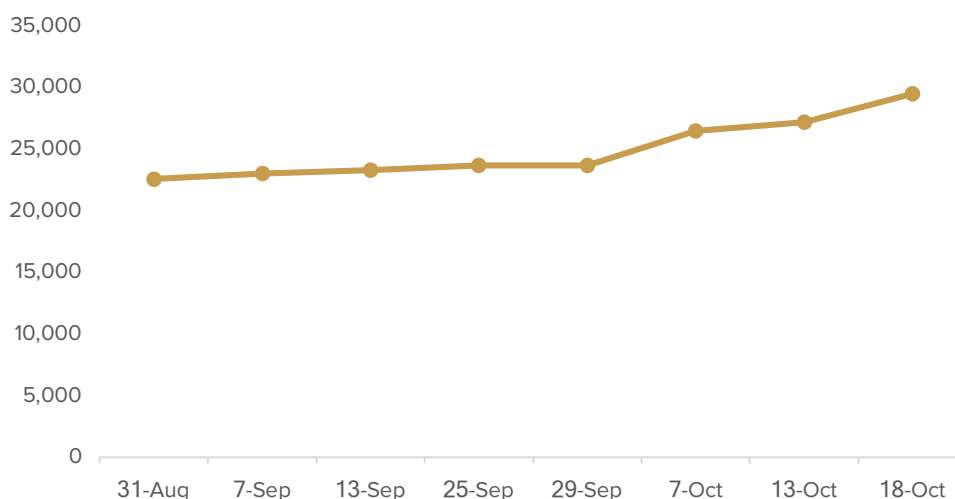
40 people were apprehended on entry from Turkey to Iraq in October. Numbers have been consistently low in recent months.

As of 26 October, 264,973 Iraqi refugees were hosted in countries in the region, compared to 262,758 as of 29 September, an increase of 2,215 (0.8%). More than half, or some 146,000 people, are in Turkey where Iraqis represent 44% of the population under temporary protection other than Syrians. A significant number of Iraqis are also understood to be living in Turkey on Humanitarian Residence permits. As of 15 October, 64,860 Iraqis were registered with UNHCR in Jordan, a slight increase on the 64,535 people registered as of 30 September. Some 28,268 Iraqi refugees are reportedly registered in Iran, and 24,970 in Syria, but both data sources are outdated and current figures likely differ.

6,160 Iraqis have arrived by sea to Europe in 2017. This total increased by 938 (18%) in October. While a substantial increase, it is lower than the figure reported for September (1,328). Nonetheless, Iraqis in October moved from eleventh to ninth on the list of the most common nationalities arriving by sea to Europe in 2017. Most Iraqis coming by sea arrive in Greece, where the number of Iraqi arrivals increased by 860 (22.1%) in October, bringing the total for 2017 to 4,751. In 2017, 1,407 Iraqis have also arrived by sea to Italy.

The return of Syrian refugees from Iraq has been reported in 2017, though new numbers have not been available since May.

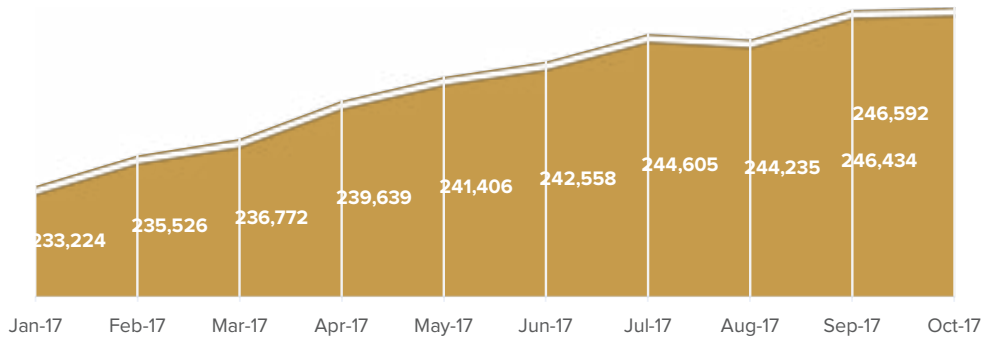
Iraqis received in Al-Hasakah, Syria



Refugees and Other Migrants in Iraq: As of 31 October, there were **246,592** Syrian refugees registered in Iraq. This marked an increase of just **158** (0.1%) since September.

As of end October, there were **44,391** ‘other’ refugees in Iraq, not including Syrians. This number has fluctuated in recent months: in August, it was reported to be **45,968**, and in September, **40,227**. The number of stateless people in Iraq is not regularly updated and remained at **48,500** in October.

TOTAL REGISTERED SYRIANS IN IRAQ (2017)



Internal Displacement: IOM stopped updating its displacement tracking portal for Mosul on 18 October, one year after the government military offensive on Mosul was launched. As of this date, **793,422** people were internally displaced. The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Mosul has been steadily decreasing since early September. Meanwhile, as of 18 October, some **300,576** IDP returnees were reported.

Although the situation around Mosul began to stabilise, the overall displacement situation in Iraq remained pronounced in October. Displacement continued from ongoing government-led operations against the so-called Islamic State, there was new displacement due to clashes between central government and Kurdish forces, and those already displaced faced ongoing vulnerabilities and restrictions on movement.

Military operations in Hawiga that began in mid-September had displaced some **33,000** people as of 5 October. By 10 October, the Iraqi prime minister announced that the government had retaken the remaining areas in central Iraq controlled by the so-called Islamic State, including the Hawiga and Daquq districts, as well as the Makhoul and Hamreen mountain areas. A total of **118,000** people have been displaced in the area since August 2016.

Operations to retake the remaining areas under the control of the so-called Islamic State in west Anbar governorate, near the Syrian border, continued into late October. As of end October, some **65,000** people had been displaced from the area in 2017, including 19,000 since 20 September.

A new wave of displacement began on 15 October as central government forces began moving into disputed areas in Kirkuk and Ninewa, which had been held by the Kurdish Peshmerga forces. As of end October, an estimated **183,000** people were reported to have been displaced.

As of end October, there were **3,173,088** IDPs across Iraq, 30,036 (0.9%) fewer than at the end of September. The total number of returnees increased by 342,060 (15%) to **2,624,430** in October.

Vulnerability and Protection: As of 26 October, **clashes continued** in the disputed territories of Ninewa, Erbil and Kirkuk governorates. Specific reports of **looting, arson and housing demolitions** also emerged in the town of Tuz Khurmato, in Salah al Din governorate, in relation to the conflict. **NGOs have raised concerns** that many of the newly displaced face high levels of vulnerability, including women and children facing secondary displacement, and that access to such populations is constrained. **Access constraints** due to the clashes also affected ongoing aid operations in the Mosul, Telefar and Sinjar areas.

JORDAN

Arrivals: Humanitarian assistance from the Jordanian side of ‘the berm’¹ to the informal camps of Rukban and Hadalat remained limited in October, leaving populations there reliant on supplies from **Syrian organisations**. The UN clinic on the Jordanian side of the barrier continues to provide healthcare for Syrian asylum seekers from Rukban camp, though UNHCR **reported** an increase of 30 to 150 patients per day from September to October. The Jordanian authorities **made clear** in October that Jordan no longer considers itself responsible for Rukban’s residents and is not planning to permit entry to any refugees from the camp, underscoring the need for humanitarian aid to be delivered via Syria. The camp also reportedly experienced a **six-day water shortage** this month, when supplies from Jordan were disrupted due to ‘maintenance’, leaving an estimated **75,000 to 100,000** residents with limited access to water. (For more information on displacement to the berm, see the ‘Syria’ section).

Departures: No updated satellite images of camps along the Jordanian-Syrian border area were published in October. The Hadalat camp likely still remains scarcely populated following its effective emptying in **September**, when regime forces came within 12 kilometres of the settlement. The capture of Qaryatayn by the so-called Islamic State reportedly prevented the planned departure of up to **300 families** to the city from Rukban camp in early October. Given the shifting security situation, the future of the camp remains unclear, casting doubt on September plans to dismantle it.

Negotiations continue between Jordanian authorities, the Syrian regime and allied opposition forces regarding the re-opening of the Nasib border crossing, once a prominent trade route between the two countries. Some reports suggest the crossing could re-open in **early 2018**, though confirmation of this **remains** pending.

According to **minutes** from the National Health Coordination meeting on 26 October, UNHCR reported 12,832 ‘spontaneous returns’ between January and September (1.95% of the total **655,056** Syrians registered in Jordan), with 1,078 spontaneous returns in September alone.

Refugees and Other Migrants in Jordan: As of 31 October, **654,373** Syrians were registered in the country, an increase of only 160 from the previous month. The government, however, maintains an estimate of 1.3 million Syrians in the country. **78.7%** registered Syrian refugees are residing in urban host communities, with the remainder in formalised camps. The number of registered Iraqis rose marginally by 585 to **65,120** in October, while the total registered Yemeni population increased from **8,464** in September to **8,738** by 26 October. Only 19 Sudanese were registered from September to October, bringing the total to **3,924** by the end of the month. The number of registered Somalis in the country did not appear to change during October. The category of ‘Other’ increased by 26 on September figures to **1,531**.

Vulnerability and Protection: Though official statistics remain elusive, ad hoc **reports** of detention and deportations of Syrians without justification or due process by the Jordanian authorities continue to emerge. One such **example** includes the arrest and deportation of a Syrian man and his family shortly before his flight to be resettled in Canada, reportedly for making a phone call to his family in Syria. Other cases include reports of a family ejected from the hospital where they had been granted entry to seek treatment, and dropped at the border in the middle of the night while still injured. Enforced returns to Syria are in direct contravention of the international human rights principle of non-refoulement, given the ongoing conflict, instability and lack of security across much of Syria.

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

LEBANON

Arrivals: The Lebanese government introduced a set of **visa restrictions** in January 2015, which resulted in the suspension of registration of new refugees. As of October 2017, these restrictions remain in force. No publicly accessible data exists on refugees and other migrants who entered the country after January 2015. Despite this, reports suggest that **smuggling** of Syrians into Lebanon is on the rise.

In July, several news agencies reported the return of **Lebanese-Venezuelans** to Lebanon, due to economic and political unrest in Venezuela. As of October, **media reports** indicated that they continue to arrive. The exact number of arrivals is unknown, likely due to the fact that many possess **dual citizenship**.

Departures: Though no information concerning returns was available in October, September reports point to **ongoing** unofficial returns.

In October, **Chile** resettled more than 66 Syrians from Lebanon as part of a resettlement programme supported by UNHCR. Chile has pledged to resettle 120 highly vulnerable refugees from Lebanon

Refugees and Other Migrants in Lebanon: UNHCR continues to report a total of **1,001,051** Syrian refugees in Lebanon. The last time this figure was updated was in June, and it is likely to have changed since. Lebanon's Crisis Response Plan, published in January, indicated that there were **277,985** registered Palestinian refugees and **31,502** Palestinian refugees

from Syria (PRS) in Lebanon as of January 2017. In May, UNHCR reported **6,000** Iraqi nationals in Lebanon, though no newer figures are available.

As of August, an estimated **250,000** female labour migrants were registered as domestic workers in Lebanon. The actual number of migrant domestic workers in Lebanon is likely to be much higher as many are not registered.

Vulnerability and Protection: The **murder** of a Lebanese woman, reportedly by a Syrian man, in the majority-Christian town of Miziara, spurred tensions and calls for the expulsion of Syrians in September. Following this, reports in October pointed to discrimination against Syrians in another Lebanese town, **Bsharri**. The town has prohibited Syrians from gathering outside after 6pm; as of 15 November, Syrians have been banned from renting properties. Cases of polio were reported among unvaccinated Syrian refugee children in Lebanon in **October**, the first such cases in Lebanon since **2001**. Vaccinations are being carried out at border crossings and UNHCR registration points.

A **5 October memorandum** has brought PRS under the same rules as Syrian refugees in Lebanon. This should improve the legal status of PRS, who previously faced significant documentation challenges, including being unable to register births and deaths.

number of Syrian refugee returnees who have gone back to Syria. Other sources confirm that returns are ongoing from Turkey. In mid-October, around **4,000** Syrian refugees in the southern Turkish province of Hatay reportedly returned to Syria's Idlib province, after the Turkish military set up observation posts to monitor Idlib's de-escalation zone. Between July and October, an estimated **20,000 Syrians** have remained in northern Syria after having been allowed to return temporarily during the Eid holidays.

Departures: As of 31 October, there were **5,310,353** registered Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries

SYRIA

Arrivals: The number of Iraqi refugees in camps in Syria's Al-Hasakah governorate increased significantly in the first half of October. As of 18 October, **29,447** Iraqi refugees had arrived in Al-Hasakah governorate over the course of the previous 12 months, up from **23,671** at the end of September. This represents an increase of 5,776 (24.4%) in the first half of October alone.

Of the **714,278** Syrians who returned home between January and October, most returned from being displaced inside Syria. In an update on 'durable solutions' in October, UNHCR highlighted the **limited**



Two Syrian refugee children in an informal tented settlement in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley in May 2017. Photo courtesy of Danish Refugee Council/Louise Wateridge.

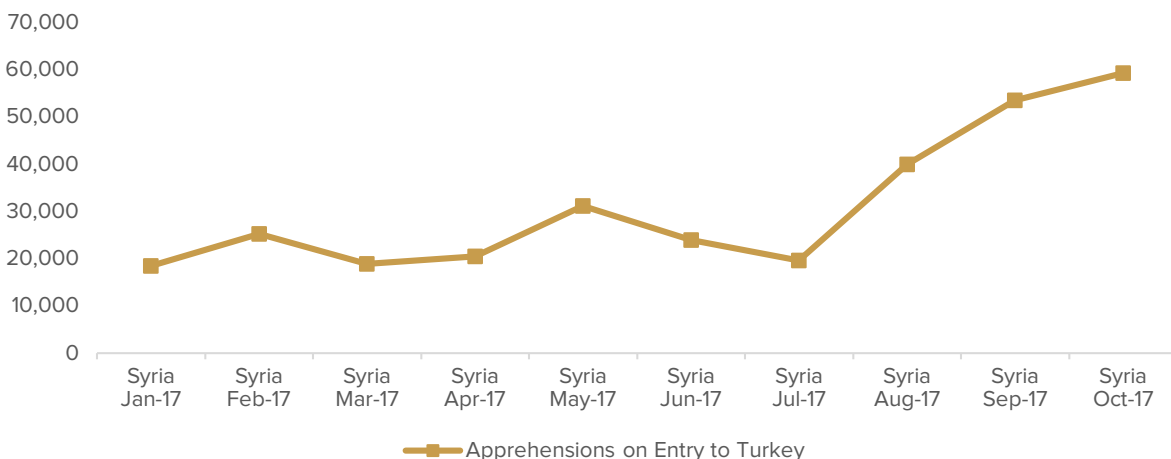
and in North Africa, up from 5,262,202 on 29 September. This is an increase of 48,151 people (0.9%). In Lebanon, the number of Syrian refugees remained at 1,001,051; this figure has not been updated since 30 June. In Turkey, the number of registered Syrians increased from 3,181,537 on 28 September to 3,285,533 on 2 November, amounting to 103,996 new registrations in October (3.2%). As of 5 November, there were 654,877 Syrian refugees registered in Jordan, a marginal increase from 654,582 on 18 September. The number of Syrian refugees in Jordan had been decreasing since July. In Iraq, the number of Syrian refugees increased slightly from 246,131 on 30 August to 246,195 as of

31 October. In Egypt, the total number of registered Syrian refugees increased by 1,493 (1.2%) to 126,027 as of 31 October, up from 124,534 on 30 September.

59,339 Syrians were apprehended while attempting to irregularly enter Turkey from Syria in October, 5,788 (10.8%) more than the 53,551 people apprehended in September. This is the highest monthly total in 2017.

In October, Syrians were the second most common nationality arriving in Europe by sea in 2017, compared to the third most common in September. As of 31 October, 14,472 Syrians had arrived to Europe by sea this year, up from 11,733 (on 30 September).

Apprehensions on Entry to Turkey from Syria



The number of Syrian arrivals to Greece continued to increase in October, with **9,987** registered by the end of the month, up from **8,160** on 30 September. This is a comparatively small month-on-month increase if compared to August and September, when the number rose by over a third. In Italy, there were **2,184** Syrian arrivals by sea as of 31 October, an increase of **188** people (5.7%) compared to the end of September. **1,743** Syrians were registered in Spain as of 30 October, up from **1,509** at the end of September. This represents an increase of 234 in October (15.5%).

Refugees and Other Migrants: There were no updates on the number of registered refugees and asylum seekers in Syria in October. In September, an estimated **58,792** registered refugees and asylum seekers were present in the country. There also remains around **438,000** long-term Palestinian refugees in Syria.

Internal Displacement: Internal displacement significantly increased across Syria in October, with **219,000** people newly displaced in northern Syria, up from **39,000** in September. This is mostly due to accelerated advances by Syrian government forces and Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) to re-take territory from the so-called Islamic State in Deir-ez-Zor governorate. **129,621** people were displaced from and within Deir-ez-Zor governorate in October. On 19 October, media reported the arrival of **250** people (roughly 50 families) ‘per day’ – since the beginning of the month – from Deir-ez-Zor governorate in Syria to Rukban camp at the northern

Jordanian border. Bridges across the Euphrates river to the north were reportedly blocked by the fighting, preventing displaced communities from its southern banks accessing Kurdish-run refugee camps there. The closure of the Jordanian border, except for acute medical cases, prevents onward movement to Jordan.

On 20 October, the SDF announced that it had re-taken ar-Raqqa from the so-called Islamic State. By mid-October, only **2,000 to 3,000** people remained in two neighbourhoods of the city, but some **5,000** civilians began to return to the eastern and western periphery of the city between 1 October and 5 November, some even before the fighting had ended. The operations to retake ar-Raqqa, led to the displacement of over **86,000** people between 1 July and 7 November.

Fighting continued in northern **Hama governorate** with up to 44,000 people displaced between 22 and 30 October. Displacement in southwest Syria **decreased** slightly from September to October.

Vulnerability and Protection: There were **increased concerns** over the premature return of IDPs to ar-Raqqa in October, despite mine clearance operations being **underway**. Humanitarian organisations are still unable to access the area. **Tensions** have been escalating amongst IDPs, who demonstrated on 27 October in eastern ar-Raqqa for the permission to return home.

TURKEY

Arrivals: Turkish Land Forces apprehended **61,086** people attempting to enter the country between 1 and 30 October, mostly at the Syrian border (59,339). This marks an increase of 6,000 (10.9%) from **September** figures, continuing a trend in increasing apprehensions at the Syrian border in recent months. The number of reported apprehensions at the Greek border also increased, with **1,601** people reported in October compared to 1,312 in **September**. An additional **91** people were apprehended trying to enter Turkey at the border with Iran, **40** at the border with Iraq, and **15** at the border with Nakhichevan province in Azerbaijan. Turkey has attempted to **limit**

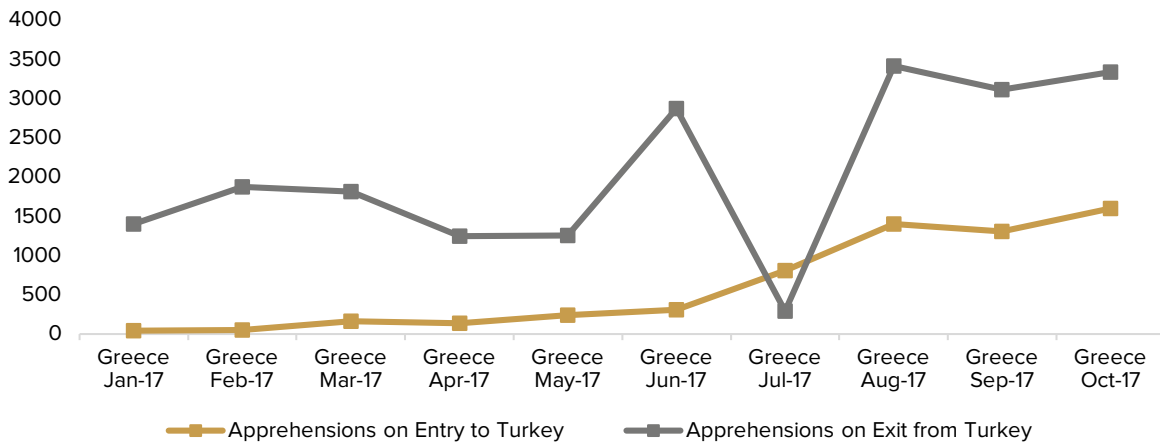
movement across the Syrian border since 2015, and implemented further **restrictions** in September 2016 when a 900 kilometre wall project was launched.

57 people were returned from Greece to Turkey under the EU-Turkey Statement in October, bringing the total number of returns to 1,394 since 4 April 2016. Among those returned in October, **16** were **Syrian** nationals and the remainder were from West Africa and South Asia. The **majority** of people returned to Turkey under the Statement so far are from Pakistan, followed by Syria, Algeria, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, among other nationalities.



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

Apprehensions at Turkey-Greece Land Border



Departures: In October, 2,931 ‘irregular migrants’ were involved in 68 ‘irregular migration incidents’ in the seas surrounding Turkey, according to the Turkish Coast Guard. This marks a decrease of 476 individuals compared to the 3,407 reported in 75 incidents in September. The majority of incidents (61) occurred on the [Aegean Sea](#).

4,134 people arrived to Greece from Turkey by sea in October, a decrease from the yearly high of 4,886 in September. The decrease has been anecdotally linked to worsening weather conditions and increased border enforcement and monitoring on the Mediterranean. As of 31 October, the majority of sea arrivals to Greece in 2017 have been from

Syria (41.4%), followed by people from Iraq (19.7%), Afghanistan (11.5%), Algeria (3.1%) Democratic Republic of the Congo (3%), State of Palestine (2.8%), Iran (2.5%), stateless individuals (2.2%), Pakistan (2.1%) and Kuwait (1.3%), as well as those from undisclosed ‘other’ countries (10.5%).

Despite reports of the re-emergence of the [Black Sea](#) route from Turkey to [Romania](#) in August and September, no information on this route was available in October. In August and September, nearly 500 Syrians, Iraqis and Iranians arrived by sea to [Romania](#) with more than 800 people apprehended attempting the journey.

IOM reported that on 28 October, 34 people of 'Arab origin' travelled by boat from Turkey to Cyprus (the self-declared Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus), then by truck to Pyla, a village in the UN Buffer Zone between the two regions of the island, and crossed into the Republic of Cyprus (inhabited by Greek Cypriots). Authorities report that at least 105 people have used this route to enter Europe in 2017, with 851 people arriving by boat on the island this year. More than 300 Syrians arrived in Cyprus aboard two boats in September.

According to Turkish Land Forces, 3,922 people were apprehended while attempting to exit Turkey via its land borders in October, an increase of 339 from September figures. The majority (3,338) were apprehended at the Greek border where people typically swim or use boats to cross the Evros river separating Turkey and Greece. Refugees and other migrants were also apprehended at the borders with Syria (429), Bulgaria (145), Iran (8) and Iraq (2). According to IOM, 789 land arrivals to Greece were registered in October, a significant decrease (33%) from the 1,195 reported in September.

In October, Bulgarian authorities and media reported that despite the completion of a wall at the Turkish border, refugees and other migrants had been using ladders and holes dug under the fence to enter Bulgaria from Turkey. The Bulgarian Ministry of Interior registered 590 refugees and other migrants attempting to irregularly enter Bulgaria from Turkey.

A significant number of Iraqis have reportedly returned from Turkey in October. As of 26 October, nearly 7,000 Iraqis had recently returned from Turkey in self-organised movements. In the second half of October, nearly 4,000 Syrians returned to Idlib from Hatay province in Turkey, following the introduction of de-escalation zones. As of August, an estimated 70,000 Syrians had returned to northern Syrian provinces from Turkey in 2017.

Since the attempted coup in July 2016, more than 8,700 Turks have claimed asylum in Germany in 2016 and 2017, while smaller numbers have made claims in Bulgaria and Greece.

Refugees and Other Migrants in Turkey: In October, the Turkish Directorate General for Migration

Management (DGMM) increased its estimation of the number of 'foreign nationals' in the country to 3.6 million, compared to 3.5 million in recent months. As of 2 November, this includes 3,285,533 Syrians under 'temporary protection', an increase of 77,402 from the total reported on 30 September. UNICEF reports that monthly increases are mainly due to a Government of Turkey and UNHCR campaign to clear backlogged applications and re-verifying statuses. Turkey also hosts 331,487 'asylum seekers and refugees', 44% of whom are Iraqi (approximately 146,000), 42% Afghan (139,000), 10% Iranian (33,000), 1% Somali (3,300) and 3% of various other nationalities (9,900).

Vulnerability and Protection: According to IOM's Missing Migrants project and the Turkish Coast Guard, no lives were reported lost in the seas surrounding Turkey in October, compared to 24 deaths reported on the Black Sea in September.

IOM's most recent flow monitoring survey, published in October, looks at the experiences of human trafficking and other exploitative practices as reported by 4,771 adults and children along the eastern Mediterranean route between February and August. The survey shows that 10% of respondents experienced at least one form of exploitation throughout their journey, with 78% of all incidents occurring in Turkey.

Appeals by two Syrian men contesting their deportation to Turkey in September under the EU-Turkey Statement were rejected. Human rights organisations like Amnesty International have condemned the ruling, arguing that human rights violations continue to occur in Turkey with returnees facing arbitrary detention, limited access to international protection and possible deportation. Turkish lawmakers, however, argue human rights violations against refugees and other migrants are far worse in European countries.

Internal Displacement: No new estimates were available for internal displacement in Turkey in October. Estimates for the number of people displaced since December 2015 due to security operations in Turkey's predominantly Kurdish Southeast remain between 355,000 and 500,000.

OTHER NEWS

'Abysmal' Conditions on Greek Islands:

Humanitarian and aid groups are [calling](#) on Greek authorities to end their policy of containment on the Greek islands, pointing to the violation of the [rights](#) of refugees and other migrants in the overcrowded reception centres. The onset of [winter weather](#) is causing additional fears that poor conditions will be exacerbated in the coming months.

Cruise Ship Rescues Iraqis and Syrians: In early October, a [Turkish cruise ship](#) reportedly rescued 75 Iraqi and Syrian refugees and other migrants, whose boat had gone adrift between Pylos, Greece and Sicily. Those on board were attempting to reach Italy.

Visas for Climate Change Refugees: New Zealand is considering an experimental [humanitarian visa](#) category for people displaced by rising sea levels. If implemented, the visas would help to relocate people displaced from the Pacific islands by climate change.

Asylum Seekers Forced into Prostitution in Berlin: Reports claim that [security guards](#) at a Berlin refugee

camp have pushed young refugees and asylum seekers into prostitution. [German authorities](#) are investigating the reports but have not yet confirmed the incidents took place.

Poor Conditions for Syrians in Egypt: Up to [50,000 Syrians](#) have arrived in Egypt in 2017, mainly entering irregularly overland from Sudan. Despite the desire of many to travel onward to Europe, crackdowns on smugglers by Egyptian authorities have left thousands of people stranded in dire, crowded conditions.

Arrivals to Spain: UNHCR reported [4,072](#) sea arrivals to Spain in October, more than [double](#) the figure from September. Most of those arriving came from Morocco, Algeria and Côte d'Ivoire, with [eight deaths](#) reported along this route in October.

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

NEW RESEARCH AND REPORTS

MMP and its partners published a variety of research and reports in October including the [initial research findings](#) of a project looking at the protection regime and rights of migrants in vulnerable situations in Jordan and Lebanon. The report from a **REACH**-led [rapid assessment](#) of Afghan returnees from Europe was also published, as well as three **Ground Truth Solutions** perception survey reports on [IDPs](#) in Northern Iraq, [refugees](#) in Northern Iraq, and refugees and other migrants in [Austria](#).

In a new [report](#) entitled "Beyond 'Fortress Europe': principles for a humane EU migration policy", **OXFAM** outlines a proposal for a new approach to migration management, one that emphasises protection and the benefits of migration for European countries, as opposed to policies which aim to stop irregular migration at all costs.

An October [report](#) from **Handicap International** highlights the multiple forced displacements faced

by women in Syria. Based on surveys and interviews conducted with Syrian women who have fled to Lebanon, the report focuses on the specific impact that bombings and destruction in Syria have had on women.

The **Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion** has launched a new booklet series offering introductory information on statelessness and human rights. The first two booklets in the series can be accessed [here](#).

A recent [article](#) in **The Conversation** explores and dispels a variety of myths about Syrian refugees in Turkey, focusing on unemployment, education and social benefits, and the myths that accompany them in the Turkish media and general public.

In a new report, **Médecins Sans Frontières** addresses what it has termed a 'mental health emergency' among asylum seekers on the Greek islands of Samos and Lesbos. The [report](#) claims that

the emergency is a result of poor living conditions, violence and neglect, and calls on authorities to end the policy of containment on the islands.

In an [op-ed](#) for **Refugees Deeply**, Danilo Mandic claims that policymakers have misunderstood the dynamics between smugglers and migrants along the Balkan route to Europe, arguing that anti-smuggler repression actually harms refugees and other migrants.

In response to the EU's 11th official 'Anti-Trafficking Day', the **International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)** produced an [analysis](#) of the connections between migration, asylum and trafficking to stress the vulnerabilities of people on the move, and the distinct difference between human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

An [article](#) in the **Washington Post** highlights the growing diversity of routes that refugees and other migrants are using to reach Europe. The author argues that even though new routes via the Black Sea and Spain cannot be directly linked to other route closures, refugees and other migrants will continue to find new ways into Europe where necessary.

RMMS monthly summaries of mixed migration issues and news in East 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



