

**MIXED MIGRATION  
MONTHLY SUMMARY**

**NOVEMBER  
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: A boy in an Informal tented settlement in Zahle, Lebanon. Photo courtesy of The Danish Refugee Council/Mais Salman. January 2017.*

To be added to MMP's monthly migration summary mailing list, please contact [admin@mixedmigrationplatform.org](mailto:admin@mixedmigrationplatform.org)

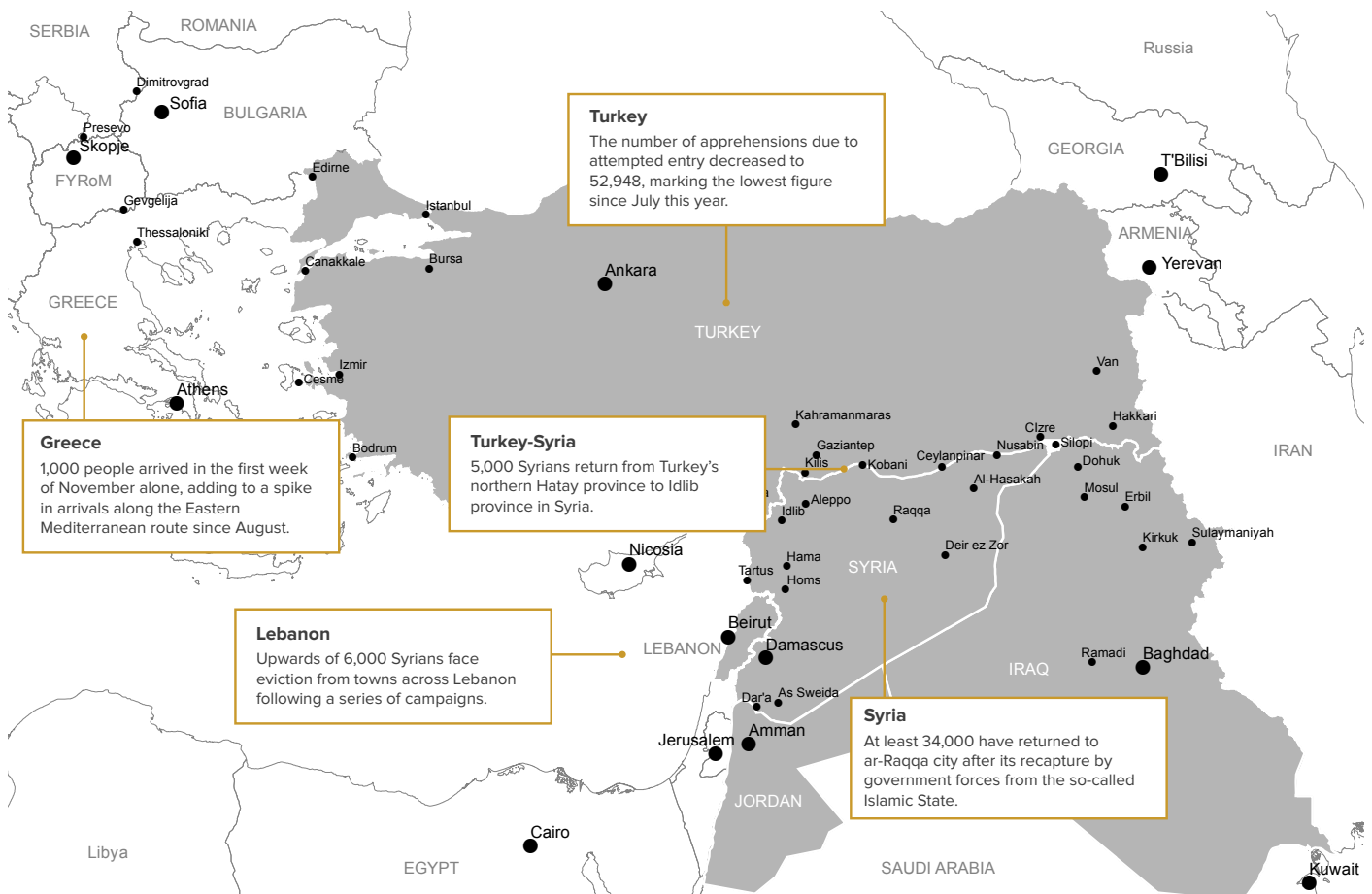
Visit our website at: <http://www.mixedmigrationplatform.org/>

# OVERVIEW

Overall arrivals along the Eastern Mediterranean route to Greece between August and November have been greater than in the first seven months of 2017, with 1,000 in the first week of November alone. The total number of apprehensions due to attempted entry to (52,948) and exit from (3,826) Turkey decreased this month, the majority of which took place at the border with Greece. This marks the lowest figure of attempted entry to Turkey since July this year, down by 19.7% from October figures. The Black Sea route, however, continues to be used, with at least 60 rescued from a boat headed for Romania this month. Irregular land and sea crossings from Turkey to Bulgaria and Greece remained active in November, with over 600 people apprehended en route. On 12 November, an earthquake measuring 7.3 on the Richter scale hit Iraq, displacing 1,900, injuring 550 and killing 9. All major strongholds of the so-called Islamic State were recaptured by the central government and Kurdish forces this month. Despite this, internal displacement is ongoing across the country, alongside evidence of forced returns to Anbar, Salah Al-Din and Ninewa governorates. A further 5,000

Syrians returned this month from northern Turkey to Syria's Idlib province. New data estimates that as many as 721,000 Syrians have returned since the beginning of 2017. Within Syria, at least 34,000 have returned to ar-Raqqa city following the Syrian government's recapture of the area from so-called Islamic State forces, however unexploded mines left behind continue to pose a risk to returning residents. Though no new figures on spontaneous returns from Jordan were available in November, previous sources estimate that 1,000 Syrians have been returning per month since July. Conditions are worsening for upwards of 50,000 people stranded at the berm, as aid remains blocked from Jordan. Meanwhile anti-Syrian sentiment is on the rise in towns across Lebanon, where upwards of 6,000 face potential eviction following targeted campaigns.

**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 (November 2017)

# IRAQ

**Arrivals:** An estimated 8,200 individuals returned from Syria to Iraq between 21 and 24 November. Of this total, 3,500 arrived from Al-Hol camp in Syria during this time period and were transported by the Iraqi authorities to Hamam Al-Alil transit site, south of Mosul. A further 4,700 arrived from elsewhere in Syria on 24 November.

Between 11 and 20 November, UNHCR reported that an average of 100 families per day were returning to Hawiga district in Kirkuk governorate. Over 25,000 (4,200 families) in total had reportedly returned to 25 villages in Ninewa governorate by 20 November.

**Departures:** The number of Iraqis in camps in Al-Hasakeh governorate of Syria marginally increased between 11 and 20 November, from 29,015 to 29,965, before dropping significantly by 43% to 17,000 by the end of the month as individuals returned to Iraq (see Arrivals). This marks a notable shift in the numbers of Iraqis who have been continuously arriving in Al-Hasakeh since the end of 2016. Between 13 and 14 November, Turkish border authorities apprehended an estimated 26 people trying to enter Turkey from Iraq.

As of 28 November, 262,758 Iraqi refugees were hosted in countries in the region, compared to 264,973 as of 26 October, a decrease of 2,215 (0.8%). Of this total, 65,505 are being hosted in Jordan as of 30 November, a marginal increase of 645 from 64,860 in September. 151,654 were in Turkey as of 30 November, where Iraqis represent 44% of the population under 'temporary protection' other than Syrians. This marks an increase of 5,790 (4%) from the previous month.

6,906 Iraqis have arrived by sea to Europe in 2017, with an increase of 746 reported in November alone,

representing 4.5% of the total number of arrivals for this month. This nationality remains in 9th position on the list of most common nationalities to arrive by sea to Europe in 2017. Figures on the number of Iraqi arrivals to Greece and Italy by sea in 2017 were not updated since October, when the totals were 4,751 and 1,407, respectively.

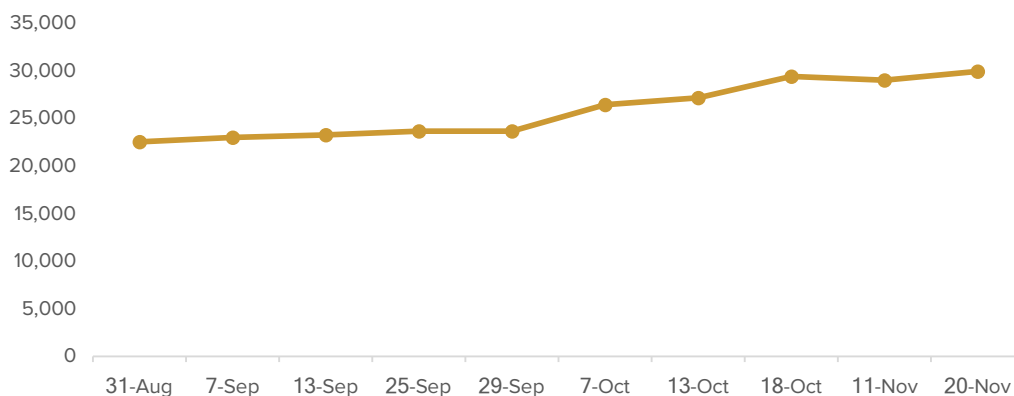
The spontaneous return of 2,571 Syrian refugees from Iraq via the Peskhabour border crossing was reported last month, marking a notable increase in comparison to the monthly average of 712 in 2017 thus far. No further data is available on spontaneous returns of Syrian refugees for the month of November.

**Refugees and Other Migrants in Iraq:** As of 30 November, 246,974 Syrian refugees were registered in Iraq, representing an increase of only 382 (0.2%) from 31 October.

Almost 60% of this group have origins in the Al-Hasakeh region of Syria, an area that has received high arrivals of Iraqi refugees since late 2016 (see Departures). UNHCR reports that 44,488 'other' refugees were registered in the country as of 30 November, a negligible increase of 97 from October. Iraq also hosts 48,500 stateless persons, a number that has not fluctuated from the previous month. Approximately 1,500 non-Iraqi women and children (including unaccompanied and separated children) remain in the country following relocation from detention facilities in Telkaif by the Iraqi authorities.

**Internal Displacement:** As of 18 October, the Emergency Tracking System of the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix has not been updated, following the one-year anniversary of government military

**Iraqis received in Al-Hasakeh, Syria**





operations in Mosul. As of this date, **793,422** were internally displaced as a result of military activity in the area, alongside reports of **300,576** IDP returnees.

The security situation in Iraq remains volatile, yet Iraqi and Kurdish forces effectively **regained control** of all of the so-called Islamic state’s major strongholds at the beginning of **November**, re-capturing the border town of Rawah in Anbar province, on the edge of Syrian territory.

Tensions between central government and Kurdish forces in disputed areas in northern Iraq continued to displace families this month, with **280** families received in camps in Makhmur district. **300,576** IDPs have returned to their areas of origin from camps surrounding Mosul since the beginning of military operations there, however secondary, tertiary or further displacement remains an ongoing challenge.

Internal displacement continued throughout November in Anbar province. Approximately **16,500** individuals have been displaced to camps in Anbar, Salah Al-Din and Ninewa, and locally, following the commencement of military operations by the Iraqi government to retake areas under the control of the so-called Islamic State on 26 October. This figure is further to the total **65,000** that have been displaced from the area since the January, and 19,000 since September alone.

An estimated **183,000** were displaced from Kirkuk and Ninewa to Erbil and Sulaymaniyah governorates by the beginning of November, as Iraqi government forces reclaimed the area from Kurdish Peshmerga forces following fighting that began at the end of October. This area already plays host to **350,000** IDPs.

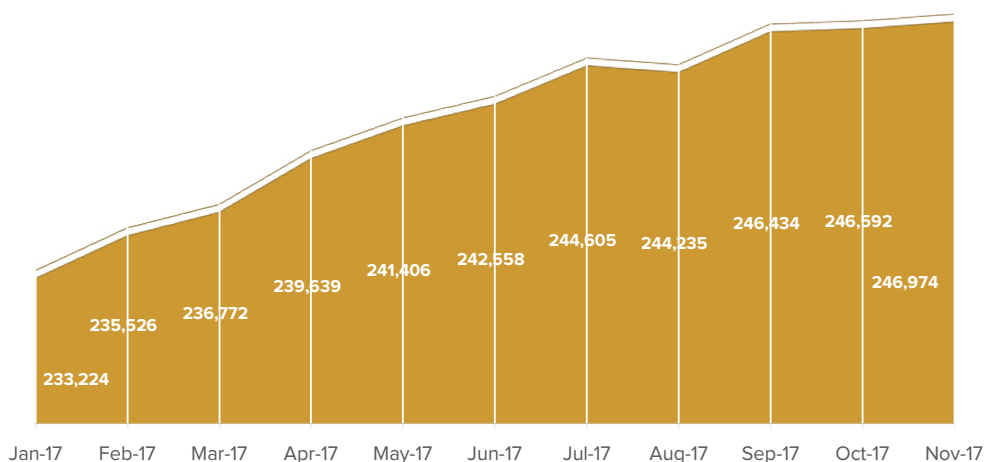
Additional operations to reclaim territory from the so-called Islamic State between the governorates of Ninewa, Anbar and Salah Al-Din, leading to the displacement of another **610** individuals within these governorates. The evacuation of up to **1,000** families is further foreseen as a result of the conflict.

Reports of arbitrary evictions and the forced return of IDPs have emerged since 18 November. Anbar Operations Command reportedly ordered the forced registration of **794** IDP families from camps in Habbaniyah Tourist City (HTC) for Anbar, Salah Al-Din and Ninewa governorates. This demand was made despite the inability of most families to return to these areas due to myriad **protection concerns**. Similar **actions** are being taken across the country in Baghdad and Ameriyat al-Falluja, with an additional **11,909** families in Anbar and Salah Al-Din camps at risk of forced return. UNHCR has brokered an agreement with Iraqi authorities to halt forced returns, the results of which are being monitored. **80%** of Hawiga’s pre-2014 population have reportedly spontaneously returned to towns in the area.

The total number of IDPs in Iraq was measured at **2,883,738** by 29 November, 289,350 (10%) fewer than in October. Meanwhile the number of returnees, as **defined** by the IOM Displacement Matrix methodology, was **2,759,658** by the end of November, having dropped by 135,228 (4.9%) from October.

**Vulnerability and Protection:** IDP returns (the **voluntary** extent of which is unclear) have been ongoing across Iraq throughout the month of November. Nevertheless, many IDPs have **expressed** the desire to remain in camps due to security, economic and social protection issues they risk facing upon return.

**Total Registered Syrians In Iraq (2017)**



On 7 November, relatives of missing individuals in Kirkuk **demonstrated** in protest at a lack of information on family members detained and disappeared since 2014. Allegations were directed at Kurdish security forces, though sources remain conflicting, particularly given the continuously shifting nature of authorities and rival factions in the area.

On 12 November, an earthquake of magnitude 7.3 on the Richter scale hit Iraq/Iran border area, the epicentre of which was located 32km away from the

city of Halabja in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (K-RI). Over 550 were injured and 9 killed in the quake. Damage to houses in Sulaymaniyah governorate was reported, displacing 1,900 (300 families) people. **Tents** were erected by the Iraqi Red Crescent within the governorate to house the newly displaced. Damage to the Darbandikhan dam, landslides, and significant damage to Darbandikhan hospital were also reported.

## JORDAN

**Arrivals:** Upwards of an estimated 50,000 individuals remain stranded at ‘the berm’<sup>1</sup>. This number has been placed as high as 100,000 in previous months, following the displacement of IDPs from Hadalat camp as fighting between Syrian regime and opposition forces came within 12 kilometres of the settlement. Humanitarian access remains restricted, the last food delivery having been conducted in June. Supplies are reaching the Rukban camp population via Syrian civil society organisations, an approach that has been **emphasised** by the Jordanian authorities as the only viable way forward in recent months. **Negotiations** between the United States and Russia to secure humanitarian access to Rukban remained ongoing throughout November.

Though the borders remain effectively closed following a **security incident** at the berm in June 2016, Jordan does continue to receive acute medical cases via the Rukban border crossing. In November, this averaged between 70 to 80 patients a day, down from 150 patients per day in October.

No updated satellite images of either Hadalat or Rukban camps along the Syrian-Jordanian border area have been available since September.

**Departures:** There were no updates on the number of spontaneous returns or other forms of departure from Jordan published in November. Reports of returns vary according to source, however 750 Syrians reportedly returned from Jordan to Syria in October, further to the 1,078 spontaneous returns in September and 1,203 in August. Other sources state that an average of 1,000 Syrians have been returning to southern Syria since July.

**Refugees and Other Migrants in Jordan:** The overall number of Syrians registered in Jordan increased from 654,373 in October to 655,588 in November (0.19%), though government estimates place the total number of registered and unregistered Syrians at around 1.3 million. This has been largely **attributed** to increased birth registrations and regularisation of Syrians already within Jordan. The registered Iraqi population rose marginally by 503 to 65,623 since October, while the number of Yemenis increased from 8,738 in October to 9,032 by 23 November (3.26%). 42 additional Sudanese were registered from the previous month, increasing the total to 3,966 by 23 November, compared to a marginal increase of only 19 registered between September and October. Nonetheless, registered arrivals from Sudan remain negligible. Only three Somalis were registered between October and November, bringing the total to 806. The number of individuals registered as ‘Other’ also slightly increased by 14 to 1,545.

**Vulnerability and Protection:** **Updates** to work permit regulations were published by the Ministry of Labour in November, allowing Syrian refugees to access any sector open to foreigners once their current work permit within the agricultural or bakery sectors has expired. The new rules also allow Syrians to arrange a work permit with a new employer without the clearance of the previous employer, again, once expired. Finally, Syrians no longer need prior recognition certificates to gain work permits in the construction sector. 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

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.

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.

### Refugees and other migrants in Jordan



Population of concern (as of November)

Syrians	Iraqis	Yemenis	Sudanese	Somali	Other
655,588	65,623	9,032	3,966	806	1,545

## LEBANON

**Arrivals:** The borders of Lebanon have been officially closed to Syrian refugees and asylum seekers, bar the small number that qualify under the **humanitarian exception criteria**, since the introduction of new entry criteria in **January 2015**. Despite these restrictions, **evidence** indicates that **smuggling** routes into the country are still being used.

**Departures:** Neither official nor informal data on returns (forced or otherwise) from Lebanon to Syria have been available since **September**.

France supported the resettlement of **22** Syrian refugees during November, bringing the total resettled to France to 1,937 since the start of the programme's funding in 2014.

**Refugees and Other Migrants in Lebanon:** The number of Syrian refugees in Lebanon was updated for the first time in November since June, recording a decrease of **3,146** (0.3%) from **1,001,051**, reducing the total to **997,905** as of 30 November.

Data on the number of other nationalities registered in Lebanon has not been updated since January, when Lebanon's Crisis Response plan reported there were **277,985** Palestinian refugees, 31,502 Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS). No new figures on the number of Iraqi nationals in Lebanon have been available since May,

when UNHCR reported the presence of **6,000**. Estimates place the number of migrant domestic workers at **250,000**, though the number of those unregistered is thought to be higher.

**Vulnerability and Protection:** Local media **reported** demonstrations of local residents in Bsharri, a town of Lebanon's Northern governorate in early November, demanding the eviction of Syrian refugees. Protests took place over several days at the local girls' school, where Syrian families were registering, demanding the implementation of a decree ordering their departure by 25 November. Bsharri also placed a **curfew** upon Syrian residents in October, limiting their movement after 6pm, with plans to instigate a property rental ban for Syrians from 15 November.

Eviction campaigns have reportedly also been led in Haddath, a town in Bsharri district, where as many as **6,000** individuals (including 1,800 children) face possible expulsion. These evictions have been justified by local authorities as penalisation for documentation (residency and work) violations, though cases have emerged of individuals targeted despite the correct paperwork. This marks an increase of anti-Syrian sentiment across various Lebanese towns, in conjunction with the mass removal of upwards of **10,000** Syrians from Arsal in August earlier this year.

# SYRIA

**Arrivals:** A newly published report in November estimates that 721,000 Syrians have returned in the first nine months of 2017, marking an overall increase of 30% in total returns compared to the previous year (560,000). This new resource estimates the total number of returns at 6,722 higher than sources from the previous month. Humanitarian actors furthermore estimate that 1,000,000 people will return to areas across Syria in 2018. According to this report, the area with the highest number of returns is Aleppo governorate at 455,000, mostly to the eastern neighbourhoods. Hama governorate has also reportedly received 102,000 people.

Arrivals of Iraqis to Syria's Al-Hasakeh governorate increased from 29,015 on 11 November to 29,965 on 20 November, followed by a sharp 43% drop to 17,000 at the end of the month. This decrease marks the first time that arrivals to Al-Hasakeh have dropped since the end of 2016.

1,000 Syrian refugees returned to Idlib in northern Syria from Turkey's southern Hatay province at the beginning of November, in addition to 4,000 that arrived from this area at the end of October. This follows the Turkish military's decision to begin monitoring the de-escalation zone in Idlib province. 22 people were apprehended attempting to cross from Turkey into Syria from 13 to 14 November.

Current figures on returns from other neighbouring countries are not available, though regional media suggests that 1,000 Syrians have been returning from Jordan per month to Syria's southern governorates since July.

Sources state that 34,000 to 47,000 people have returned to the ar-Raqqa city this month, for the first time since its liberation from so-called Islamic State forces in October, and the partial mine clearance operations that followed. Reports of civilian casualties from unexploded ordnance continue to emerge. Around 90,000 people were displaced by fighting from this area between July and November of 2017. This follows on from reports in October of 5,000 civilians returning to the city's eastern and western peripheries.

**Departures:** As of 30 November, there were 5,419,127 Syrians registered in the neighbouring region and in North Africa, an increase of 108,774

(2%) from 5,310,353 of the previous month. In Lebanon, the figure was updated for the first time since June, decreasing from 1,001,051 to 997,905 by 30 November. This represents a decrease of 3,146 (0.3%).

An estimated 3,753 individuals attempting to cross into Turkey from Syria were apprehended by Turkish border authorities between 13 and 14 November. During the same period, Turkish media also reported the apprehension of 9 Syrians attempting to enter Turkey from Syria.

The total number of Syrian refugees registered in Jordan increased from 654,373 to 655,588 in November (0.19%), however the government continues to maintain higher estimates at around 1.3 million (both registered and unregistered). In Iraq, the total number of registered Syrians increased by 382 (0.2%) to 246,974 by 30 November. Figures in Egypt have not been updated from 31 October, when the total was 126,027.

Overall numbers for Syrian arrivals by sea to Europe are not available for the month of November, however Syrians were the second most common nationality in October, at 14,472. As of 30 November, Syrians represented the most common nationality arriving by sea to Greece since 1 January, at 11,552 (42.2%). This marks a steady increase of 1,565 (15.67%) from 9,987 in October, continuing on from September which saw a similar increase of 1,827. This incremental growth is contrasted with arrivals from August to September that rose by over a third. Arrival figures of Syrians to Italy by sea have not been updated in November, though were measured at 2,184 as of 31 October, up by 188 (5.7%) people from the previous month. Similarly, numbers of Syrian arrivals to Spain were not updated during the month of November. By 30 October, this figure was at 1,743, an increase of 234 (15.5%) from the previous month.

**Refugees and Other Migrants in Syria:** There were 60,484 registered refugees and asylum seekers in Syria as of 27 November, marking an increase of 1,692 (2.88%) from the last available figures in September. An estimated 438,000 protracted Palestinian refugees also remain in the country.

**Internal Displacement:** Despite commencement of the eighth round of intra-Syrian talks on 28





Ahmad and Sa'id, two displaced children from Syria, live in a shelter set up by the Danish Refugee Council in the Sahnaya district of Damascus countryside. Photo courtesy of Danish Refugee Council/Rafel Al-Yasseri. October 2017.

November, breaches of ceasefire agreements in de-escalation zones continued throughout the month.

Over 1,236,000 people have been displaced from Syria's northern governorates since November 2016. Of this, 11,660 people were newly displaced across northern Syria in November, a marked decrease from 219,000 in October (94.7%) when compared with the increase from September to October. The majority of displacement this month (7,195) happened from Deir-ez-Zor governorate. Syrian government forces recaptured Deir-ez-Zor city from the so-called Islamic State on 2 November, marking the first time it has been under full control since it came under siege in 2014. 125,000 individuals also reportedly moved north in Deir-ez-Zor governorate this month.

33,457 people have been displaced from its southern governorates (including Damascus, Sweida, Dara'a) since November. Figures in November are down by 1,540 (4.4%) from 34,997 since October.

## TURKEY

**Arrivals:** Turkish Land Forces apprehended 52,948 people attempting to enter the country between 1 and 30 November 2017, mostly at the Syrian border (47,664). This marks a decrease of 11,675 (19.7%) from the previous month, and the lowest figure since July this year. The number of reported apprehensions at the Greek border decreased by 314 (19.6%) to 1,287 in November. A further 99 people were apprehended attempting to enter Turkey from Iran, 71 at the border with Iraq and one at Georgia's border.

Since 5 November, municipal authorities in regime-controlled territory have reportedly been demolishing homes and shops and half of a market facility in former Palestinian refugee camps in Syria's coastal Latakia area. 10,000 Palestinian refugees are registered within the affected area, that face possible displacement as a result of the demolitions.

Approximately 90,000 have been displaced from Hama towards Idlib governorate from 1 October to 26 November, due to fighting in the north and northeastern parts of the governorate.

**Vulnerability and Protection:** 61 people were exposed to chemical compounds in November in the besieged area of eastern Ghouta, as a result of artillery strikes. Reports of an increasingly acute humanitarian situation in this area continued to emerge, alongside evidence of critical food, medicine and water shortages. UN agencies continue to negotiate humanitarian access to its citizens, who have been under siege since 2013, despite its recent inclusion in Syria's de-escalation zones.

Between 13 and 14 November, Turkish border authorities apprehended an estimated 3,753 individuals attempting to cross into Turkey from Syria, and 26 people from Iraq. 75 people were returned from Greece to Turkey under the EU-Turkey Statement in November, bringing the total number of returned to 1,469 since 4 April. The majority of people returned under the EU-Turkey Agreement so far have been from, in descending order, Pakistan, Syria,

Algeria, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Morocco, Iraq, Iran and Sri Lanka.

Turkish authorities have made attempts to limit cross-border movement along its periphery with Syria since 2015, investing in the construction of a 900-kilometre border-wall in September 2016.

**Departures:** In November, the Turkish Coast Guard reported that 2,052 “irregular migrants” were involved in 42 “irregular migration incidents” in the seas surrounding Turkey. This marks a decrease of 879 from the 2,931 incidents reported in October, with 26 fewer “irregular migrants” involved, compared to 68 last month. 41 out of 42 incidents in November took place in the Aegean Sea.

3,215 people arrived to Greece from Turkey in November, a decrease of 22.23% from 4,215 in October. As of 30 November, the most common sea arrivals to Greece in 2017 have been from Syria (42.2%), followed by people from Iraq (19.5%), Afghanistan (11.5%), the Democratic Republic of Congo (3.0%), Algeria (2.9%), the State of Palestine (2.7%), Iran (2.5%), stateless individuals (2.0%), Pakistan (1.9%), Kuwait (1.3%) and those from ‘other’ unspecified countries (10.7%). More migrants have reportedly arrived in Greece between 1 August and 7 November than during the first seven months of 2017, with 1,000 arriving in the first week of November alone. This brings the total number of arrivals to Greece in 2017 to 24,832.

A boat carrying 60 to 66 people was rescued from the Black Sea at the end of November, confirming that this route is still being used. Though no data was available during the month of October, nearly 500

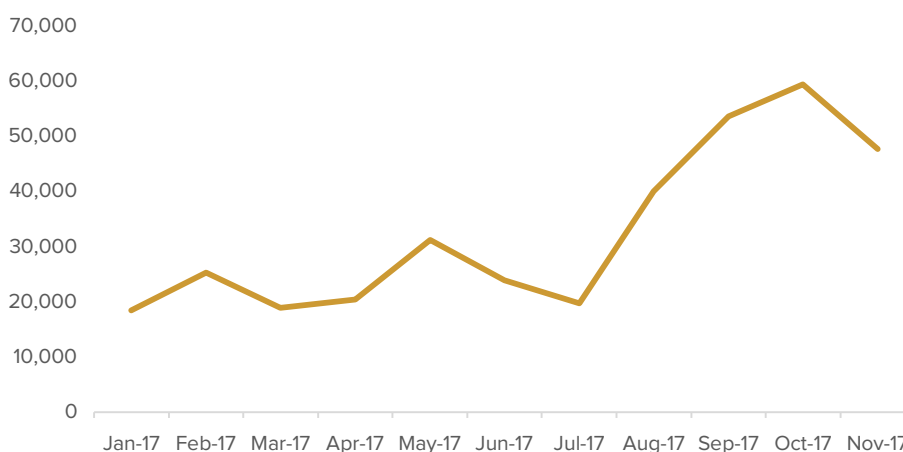
asylum seekers arrived to Romania via this route in August and September, with at least an additional 800 apprehended while attempting the journey.

175 people were rescued from a boat that ran aground in Cyprus on 3 November, though nationalities remain unclear. 1,029 arrivals were reported along the eastern Mediterranean route by sea to Cyprus between 1 January and 7 November, compared to only 345 during the same period last year.

Turkish border authorities reported the apprehension of 575 people en route from Turkey to Bulgaria and Greece on 9 November. Bulgarian media reported that the group contained nationals from Morocco, Pakistan, Egypt, Syria, Afghanistan and Myanmar. Turkish media reported a further 65 Syrians were detained off of its southwestern coast, near Gulluk Bay and 18 people in southwestern Aydin province on 14 November. A further 166 nationals from Syria, Afghanistan, India, Somalia and Palestine were apprehended in northwestern Erdine province attempting to reach Greece and Bulgaria on the same day. 172 people were apprehended by Turkish border authorities attempting to cross from Turkey into Greece, 13 into Bulgaria and 22 people into Syria from 13 to 14 November. A further 20 Syrians were reportedly arrested in southern Turkey, alongside 26 “migrants and refugees” including Pakistani and Syrian nationals near the Bulgarian border on 29 November.

Turkish Land Forces reported the apprehension of 3,826 people attempting to exit Turkey’s borders between 1 and 30 November. This marks a decrease of 96 from October figures, in contrast to an increase of 339 from September to October. The majority of cases (3,116) occurred at the Greek border where people typically swim or use boats to cross the Evros river that

**Apprehensions on Entry to Turkey from Syria**





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

separates Greece and Turkey. Refugees and other migrants were also **apprehended** at the border with Syria (579), Bulgaria (127), Georgia (2), Iran (1) and Iraq (1). An estimated **5,000** Syrians have returned from Turkey's northern Hatay province to Syria's Idlib province since mid-October, once the Turkish military decided to begin monitoring the de-escalation zone in Idlib. This is further to an estimated **70,000** that have returned to Syria from Turkey already in 2017.

**Refugees and Other Migrants:** In November, the Turkish Directorate General for Migration Management (DGMM) increased its estimates of 'foreign nationals' in the country to **3.7 million**, up from **3.6 million** in October and 3.5 million in previous months. This includes **3,359,915** Syrians under 'temporary protection', the increasing in which has been attributed to a campaign conducted by the Government of Turkey and UNHCR to clear the

backlog of status applications. Turkey also hosts **344,645** 'asylum seekers and refugees', 44% of whom are Iraqi (151,644), 42% Afghan (144,751), 10% Iranian (34,465), 1% Somali (3,446) and 3% of undisclosed nationalities (10,339).

**Internal Displacement:** No updated figures were available on internal displacement during November. Estimates for the number of displaced since December 2015 due to security operations in Turkey's predominantly Kurdish southeast remain between **355,000** and **500,000**.

**Vulnerability and Protection:** According to IOM's Missing Migrants Project, **15** people died along the eastern Mediterranean route from October to November, increasing the total from 2017 to 61. This marks an increase from no deaths during the previous month. The Turkish Coast Guard reported the deaths of **four** "irregular migrants" in the seas surrounding Turkey in November.





*A girl holds an empty water bottle to fill in an Informal tented settlement in Zahle, Lebanon. Photo courtesy of Danish Refugee Council/ Mais Salman. January 2017.*

# OTHER NEWS

---

## **Negotiations for the reform of the Dublin**

**Regulation are ongoing:** Throughout November states have attempted to agree upon a new proposal for refugee allocation mechanism. The solidarity component continues to create political tension between states as the criteria for quotas are formulated.

## **The first child refugee arrives to the UK from**

**Greece:** A 15-year old Syrian boy was initially identified as vulnerable by the Home Office under the Dubs amendment 14 months ago. Lawyers in both Greece and the UK have criticised the delays, stating how many child refugees have absconded from the process in the time they have waited for results.

## **16 EU countries pledge to resettle 34,000 refugees from Africa and the Middle East:**

The commitments were made in November, through a scheme aimed at reducing risky irregular migration journeys across the Mediterranean. EU Migration Commissioner, Dimitris Avramopoulos, specifically encouraged Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic to start accepting refugees under the current resettlement system from Italy and Greece.

## **Aid workers targeted by anti-trafficking and smuggling laws in the EU:**

A recent [article](#) in the Guardian presents how several NGO actors and civilians have been convicted for allegations of “misguided humanitarianism”, connected with actions that include food distribution, helping unaccompanied minors to cross borders and search and rescue operations in the Mediterranean. These prosecutions are happening amidst targeted campaigns by far-right groups to disrupt vessels attempting to help refugees in the Mediterranean, that critics have said have emboldened such actions.

## **Orphaned girls are sent from homes to refugee camps for ISIS victims in Iraq:**

A refugee camp in northern Iraq is receiving increasing numbers of [Yazidi girls](#) who have lost parents in the massacres that took place around Mosul and Talafar three years ago. Deemed culturally unacceptable for them to live at home without a male guardian, these girls have been displaced to Sharya camp, which houses another estimated 19,100 individuals.

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



# NEW RESEARCH AND REPORTS

---

**MMP** and its partners published one report MMP and its partners published one report in November: a **REACH**-led [rapid assessment](#) on the awareness of Iraqi asylum seekers of legal and protection pathways to Europe, and the extent to which they are used throughout their migration journeys.

In a new report, **IOM** analyse [Why Values, not Economics, Hold the Key to the Populist Right - and to Crafting New Migration Narratives](#). By examining the absence of economic evidence from anti-immigration rhetoric, the study provides suggested solutions to policy makers, including addressing the cultural anxieties of majority conservative groups with new migration narratives.

The **Oxfam** Poverty to Power blog published a [piece](#) about using evidence to influence refugee policy through public opinion in the UK. The article details a number of examples of how data has been leveraged to sway those who do not traditionally engage with the humanitarian sector (70 to 75% of the population according to some sources).

**UNHCR** published a [report](#) on the integration of Syrian refugees in the UK, under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS). “Towards Integration” examined the different factors that impact an individual’s successful integration, including language provision, education, support for housing and employment.

A new [article](#) from Devex deconstructs the use of “root causes of migration” in policy that targets the migration-development nexus. The article examines discrepancies in the definition of such, despite its increasing usage in directing billions of Euros of aid to migrant-producing countries and the security versus development argument.

**RMMS** monthly summaries of mixed migration issues and news in East Africa and Yemen are available [here](#). Summaries from [West Africa](#) are accessible [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)



