

Monthly Trends Analysis



MMC Middle East & Eastern
Mediterranean

JULY 2018

The following trends analysis is put together on the basis of available secondary data at the time of publication. It is representative of the available information and therefore indicative of mixed migratory trends in the Middle East.

The Mixed Migration Centre (MMC) was established in February 2018. It brings together various existing regional initiatives – hosted or led by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) – engaged in data collection, research, analysis and policy development on mixed migration issues into a new global network of mixed migration expertise.¹

The Mixed Migration Centre - Middle East & Eastern Mediterranean, provides quality mixed migration-related information for policy, programming and advocacy from a regional perspective. Our core countries of focus are Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Israel/OPT and Greece.

For more information visit: mixedmigration.org

1 This includes RMMS East Africa & Yemen, RMMS West Africa, the Mixed Migration Platform (MMP) in the Middle East, the Global Mixed Migration Secretariat (GMMS) in Geneva and different programmes of the Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative (4Mi).

Cover photo:
Eduardo Soteras Jalil

SUPPORTED BY:



Background:

Mixed Migration in the Middle East

This month, hundreds of thousands of Syrians were newly displaced to Syria's southwestern border areas with Jordan and Israel, however entry into either country was not an option for the majority. 422 members of the Syrian Civil Defence, otherwise known as the "White Helmets", were evacuated to Jordan, pending resettlement to Europe and Canada, due to concerns for their safety as Syrian Regime forces advanced into the area. Meanwhile in Lebanon, sources state that at least 850 Syrians returned from the border area in the midst of targeted campaigns by the Lebanese government to encourage movement back to Syria, despite evidence that the country is not yet stable or safe to do so.

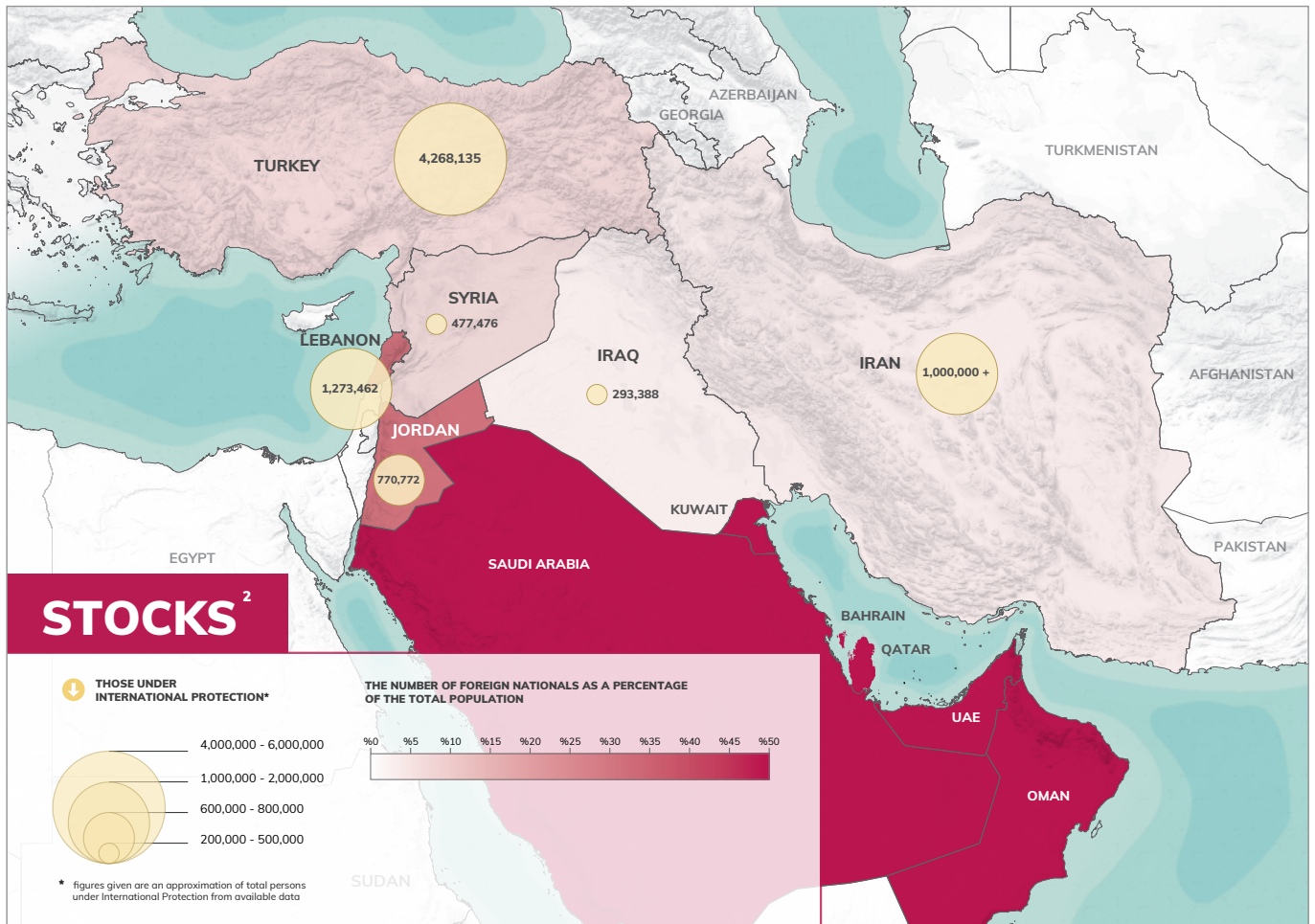
Conditions in Mosul and other areas of Iraq previously under the control of the so-called Islamic State continue to experience the aftershocks of this period of governance, including stigmatisation of family members with alleged affiliations. Children left without parents from these areas face particular challenges in registration for birth certificates. This month also marks the one-year anniversary of the recapture of Mosul from the so-called Islamic State, with over 800,000 reportedly having returned to the area since November 2014. However, remaining unexploded ordnance has led to casualties and deaths of returnees in the past year.

Turkish authorities stopped registering newly arrived Syrians in Istanbul this month, further to another nine provinces since 2017. This practice is reportedly leading to unlawful deportations, coerced returns and denial of basic services such as healthcare and education for Syrians seeking safety and stability in the country. At least 160 migrants were reportedly apprehended trying to enter Turkey this month irregularly, with origins from Iran, Afghanistan, Palestine, Egypt, Pakistan, and Somalia, indicating the melting pot of nationalities that render Turkey a key country of both transit and destination for refugees and other foreign nationals in the region.

Further along the Eastern Mediterranean route towards Europe, Hungary announced its withdrawal from the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration this month, in the wake of the release of the final draft, echoing the USA's decision last year and threats from Australia that they will follow suit. Meanwhile, some European states are calling again for the return of migrants from their countries to Greece under the Dublin Regulation, despite concerns expressed by the humanitarian community that the already dire conditions created by overcrowding there would not allow for a further influx.



Syrian siblings living in an informal settlement in Lebanon. May, 2015.
Photo by: Eduardo Soteras Jalil

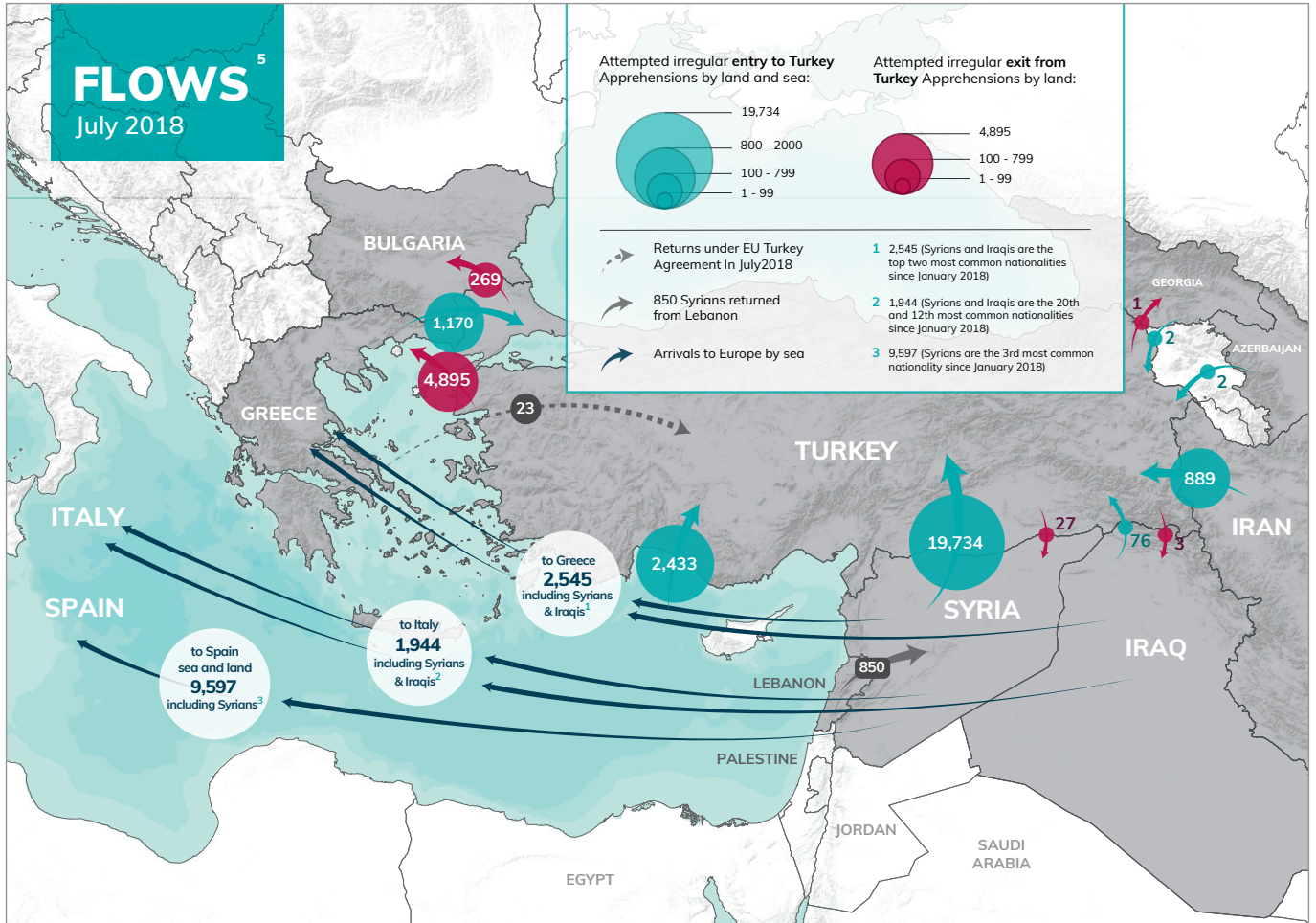


Country	Population	Foreign nationals, including those under International Protection 2017	Those under International Protection 2018
Iraq ³	39,195,203	366,568	293,388
Jordan	9,875,676	3,233,553	770,772
Lebanon	6,088,952	1,938,212	1,273,462
Syria ⁴	18,279,360	1,013,818	477,476
Turkey	81,767,519	4,881,966	4,268,135
GCC	51,467,147	25,214,080	–
Iran	81,898,349	2,699,155	1,000,000 +

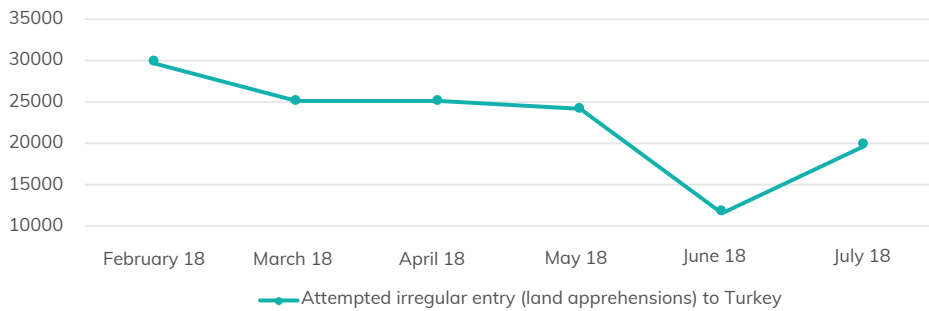
2 The sources of data for this map are as follows. Total number of foreign nationals including those under international protection: [UN desa 2017](#) and [Gulf Research Center](#). Syrians under International Protection: [UNHCR](#). Other populations with International Protection: [UNHCR](#); [Chicago Tribune](#); [UNRWA here](#) and [here](#); [USAID](#); and [World Population Review](#)

3 Internally Displaced People (IDPs): 2,300,000

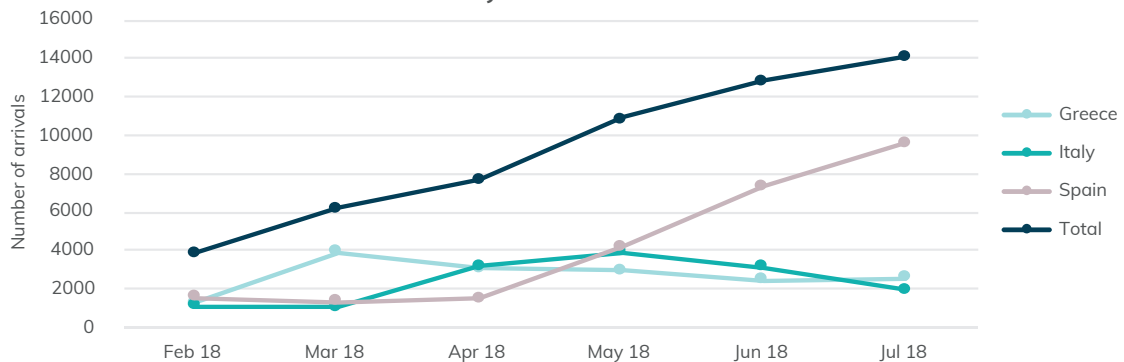
4 IDPs: 6,500,000



Apprehensions on entry to Turkey from Syria



Arrivals by Mediterranean route



5 The sources of data for this map are as follows: [IOM](#); [UNHCR](#); [European Commission](#); [ECRE](#); [Reuters](#); and UNHCR Durable Solutions Working Group (11th June 2018)

The Middle East Mixed Migration Context

Jordan



Population
9.85 million



Number of Foreign Nationals
(including those under International Protection)

Between 2,918,125 - 3,233,553
(2015 pop. census / UN est. 2017)



Those Under International Protection

Syrian 'mandate refugees'
(July 2018)
668,123

1.3 million total registered and unregistered Syrians (according to government estimates)

2.1 million Palestinians registered with UNRWA (most with full citizenship)

31,000 Yemenis
130,000 Iraqis
6,000+ European nationals
3,000+ US nationals
(2015 Census)

66,963 Iraqis
11,779 Yemenis
4,402 Sudanese
810 Somalis
1,695 'Others'
(July 2018)

17,000 Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS) (March 2018)

c. 500,000-700,000 Syrians (living in Jordan pre-crisis 2011)



Migrant Workers

1.4 million migrant workers

(There are also 1.4 million Jordanians working in Jordan)

1 million migrant workers don't have permits

Egyptians = two thirds of registered migrant workers (2015). Most common sectors for Egyptians= agriculture, manufacturing, construction and trade

South Asians = 22% of registered migrant workers (2015) Sri Lankans and Bangladeshis mostly work in domestic service or manufacturing

Agriculture sector: Only 40% of migrant workers with permits Of those with permits, 70% are working illegally in other sectors (2016)

9,448 migrants deported in 2017 for labour documentation violations

Countries of Origin of Foreign Nationals

- over 48 nationalities including from Bangladesh; Cambodia; Egypt; Eritrea; the Philippines; Iraq; Kenya; Madagascar; Myanmar; Pakistan; Palestine; Somalia; Sri Lanka; Sudan; Syria (including Palestinian Refugees from Syria); Yemen; Other

Access to Services

Syrian Asylum Seekers and Refugees

- **LEGAL ENTRY/STATUS:** As Jordan is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention, nor its 1967 Protocol, Syrians are recognised upon registration as “mandate refugees”⁶ under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the UNHCR and the Government of Jordan in [1998](#).
- **HEALTHCARE:** Syrian refugees can access healthcare at the same cost as “foreigners”, with a 20% subsidy. Those designated as most vulnerable (according to the assessment criteria/without necessary documentation) can also access free healthcare services from UNHCR via the Jordanian Health Aid Society.
- **EDUCATION:** Syrian children can currently access primary and secondary education [without](#) providing documentation, supplemented by UNRWA [schools](#).

Iraqis/Sudanese/Yemeni/Somali Asylum Seekers and Refugees

- **LEGAL ENTRY/STATUS:** As for Syrians, other asylum seekers are officially eligible for mandate refugee assistance upon registration with UNHCR, according to the 1998 MoU with the Government of Jordan.
- **HEALTHCARE:** Upon registration with UNHCR, mandate refugees of other nationalities access [healthcare](#) at foreigner rates, with no other blanket subsidies.
- **EDUCATION:** According to the latest data, a child can enrol at a Jordanian school for [40 JOD](#), the cost of which is provided for Somali and Sudanese refugees in part by UNHCR and International Relief and Development (IRD).

Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)

- **LEGAL ENTRY/STATUS:** UNRWA is responsible for the registration of [PRS in Jordan](#). Individuals already registered in Syria will only be recorded, not re-registered in Jordan in order to protect their right to return.

- **HEALTHCARE:** UNRWA are the primary healthcare [provider](#) for PRS in Jordan. They provide reimbursements for selected treatments at private clinics. This is supplemented by 25 UNRWA [centres](#), and four mobile clinics, for other services including immunisation, family planning and antenatal care.
- **EDUCATION:** PRS [reportedly](#) still face some issues in enrolling children in government schools without certificates, alongside the fact that the Syrian curriculum did not offer English classes prior to the conflict, placing PRS students at a disadvantage next to their Jordanian classmates.

Other Migrants

- **LEGAL ENTRY/STATUS:** The entry and residency of all other foreign nationals is regulated by [1973 Law No. 24 on Residence and Foreigners' Affairs](#).
- **HEALTHCARE:** [Iraqis](#) with residency permits can access healthcare at the rate of uninsured Jordanians.

Protection and Vulnerability

The UN [called](#) on all sides to provide safe passage to approximately 140,000 displaced to the border areas of Jordan and the occupied Syrian Golan Heights due to military operations in southwest Syria this month. The Jordanian public [rallied](#) to provide donations to the displaced in a concerted humanitarian effort, meanwhile calling for the borders to be opened. Jordan's northern border has been closed to Syrians since a security incident in 2016 at the Rukban border crossing, leaving at least [50,000](#) stranded at the Berm with limited access to vital services. On 26 July, [422](#) members of the White Helmet Civil Defence were evacuated from southwest Syria to [Jordan](#) in a coordinated operation by Jordan, Israel and other Western countries, from where they were promised resettlement to Europe and Canada. A considerable number of Syrians nevertheless remain displaced in the Southwest, presented with [two options](#) in the face of the regime's recapturing of the area: to remain under the rule of Assad's regime or to relocate to opposition-held Idlib in the Northwest.

6 Canadian Association for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies (CARFMS) Online Research and Teaching Tools (ORTT) (2017) [Glossary of Terms - Mandate Refugees](#)

Lebanon



Population
6.08 million



Number of Foreign Nationals

(including those under International Protection)

1,939,212 (UN est. 2017)⁷

300,000-400,000 Syrians (mostly migrant workers) pre-2011,
6,000 Iraqis (May 2017)



Those Under International Protection

976,002 Registered Syrian 'mandate refugees' (July 2018)

174,422
Palestinian refugees
(December 2017)

32,000
Palestine Refugees
from Syria (PRS)
(December 2016)



Migrant Workers

209,674 labour permits issued to migrant workers (2015):

73,419 = to Ethiopians (mostly domestic work)

50,000 = to Bangladeshis (mostly construction)

23,606 = to Filipina women

8,867 = to Sri Lankan women

75% of total for "housekeeping services"

300,000 female housekeepers

Syrians, Palestinians, Africans and Asians mainly work irregularly in agriculture, construction and domestic work. 65% of labour force not paying social security

Over half a million Asian and African migrant workers in Beirut

Countries of Origin of Foreign Nationals

Afghanistan; Bangladesh; Cameroon; Egypt; Ethiopia; Eritrea; The Philippines; Indonesia; Iran; Iraq; Jordan; Kenya; Liberia; Nepal; Palestine; South Sudan; Sudan; Syria; Yemen; Other

⁷ It is worth noting that the last overall census in Lebanon was held in 1932 due to the complex political situation.

Access To Services

Syrian Asylum Seekers and Refugees

- **LEGAL ENTRY/STATUS:** Lebanon is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention, nor its 1967 Protocol but provides for temporary status for asylum seekers via an [MoU](#) signed with UNHCR in 2003. In January 2015, the Government of Lebanon (GoL) restricted entry [requirements](#) for Syrians, introducing a narrow 'humanitarian exception' [category](#) that permits entry for unaccompanied and separated children with legal guardians displaced in Lebanon and individuals with disabilities dependent on others displaced in Lebanon, amongst others.
- **HEALTHCARE:** Subsidised [healthcare](#) is provided by UNHCR through 50 contracted public and private hospitals.
- **EDUCATION:** A limited number of spaces ([200,000](#)) were funded by international donors for Syrian children to go to school from 2015 to 2016, however not all were filled and an estimated [60%](#) of school age Syrians within the country were still [out of school](#) by the end of 2017.

Other Migrants

- **LEGAL ENTRY/STATUS:** According to the January 2015 [amendments](#) to entry requirements, Syrians not seeking asylum can now enter the country for the purposes of tourism or transit travel, or by demonstrating property ownership or tenancy, arranged medical care or work. Other nationalities may enter the country via a tourism or work visa, according to differing [requirements](#) outlined by bilateral agreements of states with Lebanon.
- **HEALTHCARE:** Migrant domestic workers can access subsidised treatment through a [range](#) of organisations covering maternal and child health, dental and psychosocial support, however the live-in situations of many individuals in the houses of their employers complicates their access.
- **EDUCATION:** Obligations to provide documentation for children in school enrolment mean many migrant children are out of school in Lebanon. Lower-income migrant children can attend fee-paying public or semi-private school, rendering education [unaffordable](#) for many due to transportation, textbook, stationery and uniform costs.

Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)

- **LEGAL ENTRY/STATUS:** New [restrictions](#) were imposed on the entry of PRS into Lebanon in August 2013 including additional screening measures and exceptional requirements for visa issuance at the border. UNRWA are responsible for their registration and protection.
- **HEALTHCARE:** According to 2017 data, [99%](#) of PRS are reliant on UNRWA health coverage, provided through 27 centres and a number of mobile health clinics across the country.
- **EDUCATION:** UNRWA provides [schooling](#) for PRS children in Lebanon, with 5,251 enrolled by 30 June 2017.

Protection and Vulnerability

'[Hundreds](#)' of Syrians reportedly returned from Lebanon to Syria this month (UNHCR state [850](#)), further to the several hundred reported to have [returned](#) in June. Over 30 buses crossed the border at the end of the month after calls from the Lebanese General Security Directorate that Syrians should register their names to return home, underscoring a targeted campaign by the Lebanese government to return Syrians despite ongoing conflict and displacement.

Migrant domestic workers in Lebanon continue to face abuses under the Kefala sponsorship system, including physical, psychological and sexual abuse, not to mention common practices such as withholding pay or passports to restrict movement and prevent 'run-aways'. Organisations in Lebanon are tackling the issue through a variety of means, including a newly launched [migrant radio show](#) to challenge social stereotypes and publishing [testimony](#) of abuse implicating Lebanese sponsors online to discourage abusive employers, using "shame as a weapon".

Iraq



Population
39.09 million



**Those Under
International
Protection**



**Number of Foreign
Nationals**

(including those under
International Protection)

366,568 (UN est. 2017)

249,123 Registered
Syrian 'mandate
refugees'
(July 2018)

11,544
Palestinians

44,265 Non-Syrians
(as of July 2018)

47,630
Stateless



**Migrant
Workers**

18,009 migrant workers in the Kurdistan
Region of Iraq (KR-I) (2014-15):
Bangladeshis (19%)
Nepalese (17.08%)
Iranians (11.45%)
Indonesians (10.41%)
Indians (9.37%)

Georgians (8.33%)
Turkish (5.62%)
Philippine (5.20%)
Syrians, Sri Lankans,
Somalis and Pakistanis
(under 4%)

140,000 migrant workers
without permits (January
2016)

Countries of Origin of Foreign Nationals

Egypt; The Philippines; Georgia; [India](#); Indonesia; Iran; Jordan; Nepal; Pakistan; Palestine; Sri Lanka; Somalia; Syria; [Turkey](#); Uganda; [Ukraine](#), [Thailand](#); [Turkmenistan](#), Other

Access to Services

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

- **HEALTHCARE:** Healthcare access varies across camp versus informal site locations and geographically across Iraq. In the KR-I, IDPs in camps can [reportedly](#) access public hospitals for treatment, for 3000 Iraqi Dinar (roughly EUR 2). This is supplemented by some specialised treatments in camps, and financial support for individual cases deemed eligible.
- **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:** In the KR-I, some access to social services grants from the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD) are [available](#) for certain groups, with reported financial incentives for those who return to their area of origin. Yazidis are exempt from providing documentation when registering due to the nature of their displacement.
- **EDUCATION:** IDP children in the KR-I can attend free public school (however face challenges due to transport, location, overcrowding and language, given education is largely in Kurdish). IDPs are prohibited from entering Kurdish public university. This contrasts with [83%](#) of residents in informal sites across Iraq who indicated children generally had access to formal education (Anbar-56%; Ninewa-60%; Salah Al-Din-67%).

Syrian Asylum Seekers and Refugees

- **LEGAL ENTRY/STATUS:** Iraq is not a signatory to the 1951 Convention, nor its 1967 Protocol. Syrian refugees (like all refugees in Iraq) are regulated under the MoMD.
- **HEALTHCARE:** [In camps](#), the Ministry of Health, in partnership with the WHO, provide free primary healthcare to Syrians through four [clinics](#) in Dohuk and Anbar. Assistance is otherwise provided in camps by NGO actors. Syrians outside of camps are also entitled to [access](#) to public healthcare.
- **EDUCATION:** A number of [policies](#) have been adopted by the KR-I Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher Education, to facilitate the entry of Syrians into the higher education system in Iraq, however barriers remain around documentation and administrative requirements.

Palestinian Refugees

- **LEGAL ENTRY/STATUS:** Palestinians who have been in Iraq since the 1948 Nakba remain effectively [stateless](#) in Iraq, never formally [recognised](#). Despite no formal route to citizenship, Palestinians could claim access to food vouchers, free public/subsidised private housing, education, work and travel documents under Resolution

202 from 2001 which had placed Palestinians on par with Iraqi nationals (excluding citizenship). In December 2017, the government ratified a new [law](#), abolishing Resolution 202.

- **HEALTHCARE:** Under this resolution, Palestinians previously had the right to healthcare access, though treatment and medicine are largely [unaffordable](#).
- **EDUCATION:** Under the same former resolution, supplemented by UNRWA programming, Palestinians were provided access to public education, however the aforementioned recent [developments](#) risk undermining this right.

Other Migrants

- **LEGAL STATUS/ENTRY:** Other migrants in Iraq can seek residency/labour permits via the Law on Foreigners Residence No. 118 (1978).

Protection and Vulnerability

This month marks the [one-year anniversary](#) since the end of government military operations to recapture Mosul, Ninewa governorate, from the so-called Islamic State. Efforts have since been focused on providing humanitarian assistance for the displaced, removal of unexploded ordnance and rehabilitation of schools in order to facilitate return. Nearly 1.5 million have reportedly returned to the area since January 2014, making Ninewa the highest governorate of return for the 3.9 million that had reportedly returned to their area of origin by 15 July. This is despite the significant presence of explosive hazards that remain and [casualties](#) inflicted upon returning populations since the liberation of Mosul, that have prevented many from returning to exact areas of origin.

As many as 800 children left without parents from areas previously under control of the so-called Islamic State are facing significant [barriers](#) to identity registration under the current legal system. In the absence of any marriage certificate, these children remain effectively stateless. Resettlement to the country of origin of their parents (if identifiable) or adoption by an Iraqi family are two options presented by Iraqi lawyers and civil society actors working to rehabilitate these children.

Turkey



Population
81.66 million



**Those Under
International
Protection**



**Number of Foreign
Nationals**

(including those under
International Protection)

4,881,966 (UN est. 2017)

Most common nationalities with [residence permits](#)
(in descending order): Iraq, Syria, Azerbaijan,
Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Russia,
Iran, Georgia and Ukraine

3.9 million foreign nationals seeking
International Protection (July 2018)

3,542,250 Syrians with Temporary
Protection (July 2018)

Non-Syrian population seeking International
Protection:

Iraq [141,548](#)

Afghanistan [170,583](#)

Iran [36,294](#)

Somalia [3,629](#)

Others [10,888](#) (July 2018)



**Migrant
Workers**

Most common [work permit holders](#) by nationality (in descending
order): Syria, Georgia, Turkmenistan, China, Ukraine, India,
Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Iran

[87,000](#) / 100,000 work permits applications by foreign nationals
approved (2017)

Countries of Origin of Foreign Nationals

Afghanistan; Armenia; Austria; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Great Britain; Bulgaria; China; The Netherlands; France;
Georgia; Greece; India; Iran; Iraq; Kazakhstan; Libya; Macedonia (FYRM); Morocco; Pakistan; Russia; Saudi Arabia;
Somalia; Sri Lanka; Syria; Turkmenistan; Uzbekistan; [Other](#)

Access To Services

Syrian Asylum Seekers and Refugees/PRS/ Stateless Persons

- **LEGAL ENTRY/STATUS:** As Turkey maintains a geographic [limitation](#) to the 1951 Refugee Convention, reserving protection for those arriving from Europe, it does not recognise Syrians/ PRS/stateless persons as Convention refugees. They are entitled to [Temporary Protection \(TP\) status](#) and according legal residence, access to healthcare, education and other public services.
- **HEALTHCARE:** TP-status holders are [entitled](#) to free public healthcare within their province of registration. Pre-registration, individuals are also entitled to emergency assistance and treatment at primary healthcare institutions.
- **WORK PERMITS:** TP status-holders are [entitled](#) to a six-month work permit post-registration. Exemptions for access to closed sectors are also available within particular provinces, for positions in the seasonal agricultural and husbandry sectors. Applications for work in education, healthcare or research first require “preliminary permission” from respective ministries.
- **EDUCATION:** TP status-holders are [entitled](#) to primary, secondary and higher education in Turkish, alongside Turkish language and vocational courses. Pending registration, children can still access public schooling.

Other Asylum Seekers and Refugees

- **LEGAL ENTRY/STATUS:** Non-Syrians may apply for [International Protection \(IP\) status](#), which grants the right to remain in the country and access to healthcare and education. The three categories of IP are “refugee” (valid for three years), “conditional refugee” and “subsidiary protection” (valid for one year), with differing levels of entitlements. Any individual registered and receiving assistance from UN agencies is [excluded](#) from IP eligibility.
- **HEALTHCARE:** IP status-holders who do not have the means or insurance to finance their own medical treatment are eligible for free public healthcare within their province of registration. As with TP status, IP status-holders can also access emergency care pre-registration.
- **WORK PERMITS:** The work permit [procedure](#) is contingent upon the type of IP status granted to the applicant. “Refugees” and “subsidiary protection” holders can work independently or dependently (linked to a specific position/sector), as soon as they are granted status, whereas “conditional refugees” must wait six months before commencing

work. Like TP status-holders, IP status-holders are prohibited from working in [certain sectors](#) and must also seek additional “preliminary permission” for specialised sectors.

- **EDUCATION:** Like TP status-holders, recipients of IP status can [access](#) primary, secondary and higher education in Turkish, alongside Turkish language and vocational courses. Pre-registration, children can still access public schooling as a “guest student”.

Other Migrants

- **LEGAL ENTRY/STATUS:** Foreigners may [apply](#) for residency permits to Turkey on the basis of family reunification via a “[family residence permit](#)”, education, [property ownership](#), [work](#) or healthcare.
- **HEALTHCARE:** Residence permit holders that can prove a lack of financial means or health insurance coverage in other states can [access](#) universal healthcare coverage after one year of residency. Registrants must pay a monthly premium to access services on par with Turkish nationals.
- **EDUCATION:** Students can apply for a short-term residency permit as stipulated by Article 31 of the Law on Foreigners and International Protection (LFIP) (No.6458). Students with a residence permit can also apply for a work permit, following completion of their first year of study.

Protection and Vulnerability

Turkish authorities in Istanbul [stopped](#) registering newly-arrived Syrian asylum seekers this month, a decision that is reportedly leading to unlawful deportations, coerced returns and denial of basic services such as healthcare and education. This allegedly follows a series of similar decisions in other provinces since late 2017, indicating that Hatay, Adana, Gaziantep, Kahramanmaraş, Kilis, Mardin, Mersin, Osmaniye, and Şanlıurfa provinces are no longer registering new arrivals. Government-imposed restrictions upon organisations working to support those without registration have complicated access and data collection, obscuring accurate estimations of the number and nature of cases facing deportation as a result of this policy.

Turkish authorities also reported the [apprehension](#) of 160 irregular migrants attempting to enter the country irregularly on 26 July, with origins from Iran, Afghanistan, Palestine, Egypt, Pakistan, and Somalia.

Syria



Population

18.27 million (estimate)
pre-war population 22 million



Number of Foreign Nationals

(including those under International Protection)

1,013,818 (UN est. 2017)



Those Under International Protection

Pre-civil war, 526,744 registered Palestinians (2011). 438,000 Palestinians remain (2018)

12,276 Iraqis in camps in Al-Hassakeh governorate (May 2018)

24,000 other Iraqis (May 2018)

3,200 'Persons of Concern' of other nationalities

Analysis of trends within Syria falls outside of the scope of this monthly summary. We recommend to refer to partner initiatives including [REACH Syria](#) assessments, [ACAPS Country analysis](#) and the Durable Solutions Platform [mailing list](#) for relevant resources.

The Mixed Migration Policy Landscape And Updates

National Migration Governance Frameworks

<p>Iraq</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law on Foreigners Residence No. 118 (1978): Establishes who is considered to be a foreigner as well as regulations for obtaining visas and entering and exiting the country. The law refers to “refugees” in Article 6 but does not define them as a separate category. • National Policy on Displacement (2008): Defines the rights of IDPs and returnees in Iraq. Never passed into law. • Political Refugee Law (1971): Establishes benefits including the right to work as well as the same health and educational benefits as received by Iraqi citizens, however this law does not apply to refugees who have fled for any other reason.
<p>Jordan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law No. 24 of 1973 on Residence and Foreigners’ Affairs: Defines entry, registration, residence, and penalties and violations for foreigners. Stipulates that anyone entering the country in cases of force majeure (including those intending to claim asylum) should report to relevant authorities within 48 hours. • Memorandum of Understanding between the H. K. of Jordan and the UNHCR (1998): As Jordan is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention, nor its 1967 Protocol, asylum seekers are recognised upon registration as “mandate refugees” under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 1998.
<p>Lebanon</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Order No. 319 Regulating the Status of Foreign Nationals in Lebanon: Defines who is considered a foreign national and the five categories of status available to them. • Memorandum of Understanding: Lebanon and UNHCR (2003): Lebanon is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention, nor its 1967 Protocol but provides for Temporary Status for asylum seekers via an MoU signed with UNHCR in 2003. (Restrictions were applied in 2015).
<p>Turkey</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law on Foreigners and International Protection (April 2014): A legal framework outlining obligations towards those in need of International Protection laid out in binding domestic law. Three types of International Protection provided: refugee, conditional refugee and subsidiary protection. This law also determines rules pertaining to foreigners, including those for residence permits. The following categories of residency permits for foreign nationals staying over 90 days are issued: short-term; family; student; long-term; humanitarian and victim of human trafficking (and valid working permissions are treated as residence permits). In addition, this law constitutes the legal basis for the Temporary Protection Regulation.

<p>Turkey</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary Protection Regulation (October 2014): For those seeking International Protection from Syria, including Stateless Palestinians originating from Syria (and potentially other 'large influx' situations in the future). Grants right to legal stay and some access to basic rights and services. • The 1951 Refugee Convention: This is applied with a geographical limitation, which restricts the granting of refugee status to those fleeing as a consequence of events in Europe. A separate reservation determines that it cannot be construed as providing more rights to refugees than Turkish citizens. • Open door policy between Syria and Turkey (2011-2015): Syrians who crossed Turkish border from Syria were granted Temporary Protection.
<p>Syria</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law No. 2 -2014 Entry, Exit and Residence of Foreigners in Syria: This law provides the relevant procedures to enter and exit Syria and obtain residence documents for those seeking International Protection and other foreigners. It also defines fines and other penalties in case of irregular entry, exit and irregular residence. • Memorandum of Understanding: Syria and UNHCR (1991 and 2008): Syria is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention, nor its 1967 Protocol but provides for temporary status for asylum seekers via two MoUs signed with UNHCR in 1991.
<p>Regional (applies to GCC countries, Jordan, Iraq and Lebanon)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kefala system: dictates the entry and ongoing legal residency of migrant workers in Jordan (based on the bylaws/regulations issued according to Labour Law no. 8 of 1996), Lebanon, Iraq and the GCC countries. The legal status of labour migrants in these states is linked to an employer-sponsor who maintains effective legal responsibility for the individual they are sponsoring while they are in the country's territory.

A note on the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (2003). Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Iran and the countries of the GCC - are all non-signatories. Turkey signed in 1999 and ratified in 2004 and Syria ratified in 2005.

A note on the 1951 Refugee Convention and 1967 Protocol. Of the countries of focus in the Middle East region, Turkey and Iran are the only signatories to the Convention and Protocol, however Turkey applies a geographical restriction as detailed under the Middle East Mixed Migration country section, and Iran also maintains reservations to the Convention.

Policy updates this month

The European Parliament calls on EU countries to prevent the criminalisation of humanitarian assistance

Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) have called on the EU Commission for greater clarity in the application of a 2002 European Directive on the facilitation of unauthorised entry, transit and residence. The Directive provides for sanctions in cases of migrant assistance for “financial gain”; a measure targeted at smugglers. The Directive also allows for an exemption of humanitarian aid, however the text is applied by several countries in the EU without adding the humanitarian exemption, leading to the prosecution of people or organisations for actions of solidarity with migrants.

The non-legislative resolution from the European Parliament was passed on 5 July calling on EU countries to include the “humanitarian assistance” exemption in their legislation – only eight countries have done so to date - to ensure that humanitarian organisations assisting migrants for humanitarian reasons are not prosecuted, as well as calling for clearer guidelines on its application.

Read more [here](#) and [here](#)

Conversations continue over outcomes of June’s migration summit in Brussels

Discussions over the creation of [regional disembarkation platforms](#) continue at the EU level, although no countries have yet agreed to host such facilities. The EU Commission also expanded their concept of [controlled centres](#) inside the EU. As part of this proposal the EU Commission has also offered to pay [€6,000](#) per migrant to the host country.

Hungary pulls out of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

Following the USA, and subsequent to the release of the final draft of the Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, Hungary has [withdrawn](#) from the pact on the grounds that it is “dangerous” and “against Hungary’s security interests”. The Compact is the first international framework on managing migration and is due to be presented for [formal adoption](#) in Morocco in December 2018.

Hungary is referred to the Court of Justice of the European Union for non-compliance with EU law over migration

The EU Commission finds that [Hungary](#) fails to provide effective access to asylum procedures within its territory (escorting irregular migrants back to the border); is in breach of the Reception Conditions Directive due to the indefinite detention of asylum seekers in transit zones without adequate procedural guarantees; and fails to comply with the Return Directive with the resulting risk that migrants are returned without appropriate safeguards and in breach of the principle of non-refoulement. The EU Commission sent a letter of formal notice to Hungary in July, which is the first step in an infringement procedure for breach of EU law. Hungary has two months to respond.

In Turkey, Syrian asylum seekers are no longer being registered

In ten provinces in Turkey, Turkish authorities are no longer [registering](#) more than a handful of recently arrived Syrian asylum seekers, reports Human Rights Watch (HRW). Not being registered prevents access to education and healthcare and creates a risk of deportation.

Other News

Mosul still a long way from recovery one year after it was retaken from ISIS

More than [380,000](#) people are still displaced in and around the city, with many more fearing eviction as they cannot afford rent. Much of the city remains destroyed and 80% of youth are unemployed, according to the NRC.

270,000 people flee southern Syria to the Jordanian border amid government offensive

The Jordanian government did not open its borders to the influx, however a [national donation campaign](#) amongst Jordanians resulted in significant aid being donated and taken to the border.

Syrian humanitarian workers evacuated from southwest Syria as military operations advance

Approximately [400](#) members of the White Helmet Civil Defence organisation were evacuated to Jordan from the border areas with Israel and Jordan as military operations advanced into the area, the majority of whom will be resettled to elsewhere in Europe and Canada, following pledges made by these countries. The ‘White Helmets’, as they have come to be known, have been responsible for saving civilian lives in rebel-held areas under attack from the Assad regime.

European Commission announces €400 million for education of Syrians in Turkey

This is the first payment as part of the second tranche of funding (of [€3 billion](#)) for the Facility for Refugees in Turkey under the EU-Turkey Deal.

European nations consider returning migrants to Greece as leaders call for refugee routes to be closed

With some countries considering the [return](#) of migrants to Greece from other European countries, asylum seekers and humanitarian groups are expressing concerns about the conditions for those migrants already stuck in the country, with limited freedom of movement or access to services. At the same time, several European countries are speeding up processes to return rejected asylum seekers.

In Bosnia, mayors and councillors protested in the capital demanding more help to support stranded migrants

Many of the officials stated that they want to [assist](#) but did not have the resources to do so. Many migrants are sleeping in substandard conditions, without access to proper toilets and running water, which will be even more worrying once winter begins to set in.

Thousands marched in Germany on 7 July in support of NGOs conducting search and rescue in the Mediterranean

In three cities, people took to the streets protesting against interventions preventing the work of NGOs in the Mediterranean and calling for the protection of the [human rights](#) of migrants.

New Research and Reports

This month, the **MMC** (Middle East & Eastern Mediterranean) released a new [briefing paper](#) entitled “Decent Work for Whom” analysing the level of economic integration experienced by Syrian refugees, refugees of different nationalities and other foreign nationals (including those sponsored under the Kefala system), particularly in light of recent efforts to improve access to decent work in the region. In doing so, this paper argues that, while some groups may be better positioned than others to reach a certain degree of economic integration, none of them have the opportunity to fully achieve it.

The **Migration Policy Institute** published a [report](#) this month on the labour market integration of refugees. Recognising that investments in integration often take time to demonstrate their benefits, and the lack of quality analysis on the most effective means to achieve integration, the report proposes that cost-benefit analysis can be used to calculate the social value of labour market integration investments. The report also considers how governments can work proactively with think tanks, foundations, academics and civil society to improve research in this area and maximise the impact of integration programming.

The **Joint Research Centre (JRC)** of the European Commission published a [report](#) providing economic projections in if there was no more international migration into the EU from now until 2060. The report concludes that international migration can offer long-term benefits to EU economic growth. If international migration to the EU were to cease completely, it is predicted that the EU production (real GDP) would be 23% lower in 2060, and there would be an output loss of almost \$7 trillion, compared to projections if migration were to continue in this period. In such a scenario, most of the EU population would be impacted economically.

EU Immigration and Asylum Law and Policy published a [blog](#) this month on “The fragile legal order facing Syrian refugees in Lebanon”. The blog looks at the complexity of terminology for Syrians in Lebanon, where the government only considers them to be “temporarily displaced” and not refugees, with consequences for their access to protection.

For more information visit:
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