

Monthly Trends Analysis



MMC Middle East & Eastern
Mediterranean

MARCH 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:
Sam Tarling / DRC

SUPPORTED BY:



Background:

Mixed Migration in the Middle East

In 2016 there were an estimated [54 million](#) foreign nationals in the Middle East alone; the region that has become host to the [fastest growing](#) population of international migrants and forcibly displaced people in the last decade. Some Middle Eastern countries host foreign nationals in greater numbers than their home-born population, for instance, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar and Kuwait, where migrants represent [88%, 75% and 74%](#) of the national population, respectively. Jordan and Lebanon also have considerable migrant populations, making up [41% and 34%](#) of their national populations respectively. By 2016, [one in six](#) people in Lebanon was a refugee², one in 11 people in Jordan, and one in 28 in Turkey – ranking them the top three countries in the world under this measure. As of the end of 2016, the Middle East hosted over [45%](#) of all refugees globally³. Syria, Iraq and Yemen together accounted for nearly [one third](#) of the world's total conflict-induced internal displacements by the end of 2015, with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries hosting some of the [largest populations](#) of migrant workers in the world. In total, migrants make up [13%](#) of the population of the region as a whole. These examples not only speak to the scale of mixed migration in this region, but also to its sheer complexity, as home to populations from the world over, migrating for diverse and shifting motivations.

Migrants living in the Middle East hail from a diverse range of origins. In [GCC](#) countries, migrants predominantly come from: India, Pakistan,

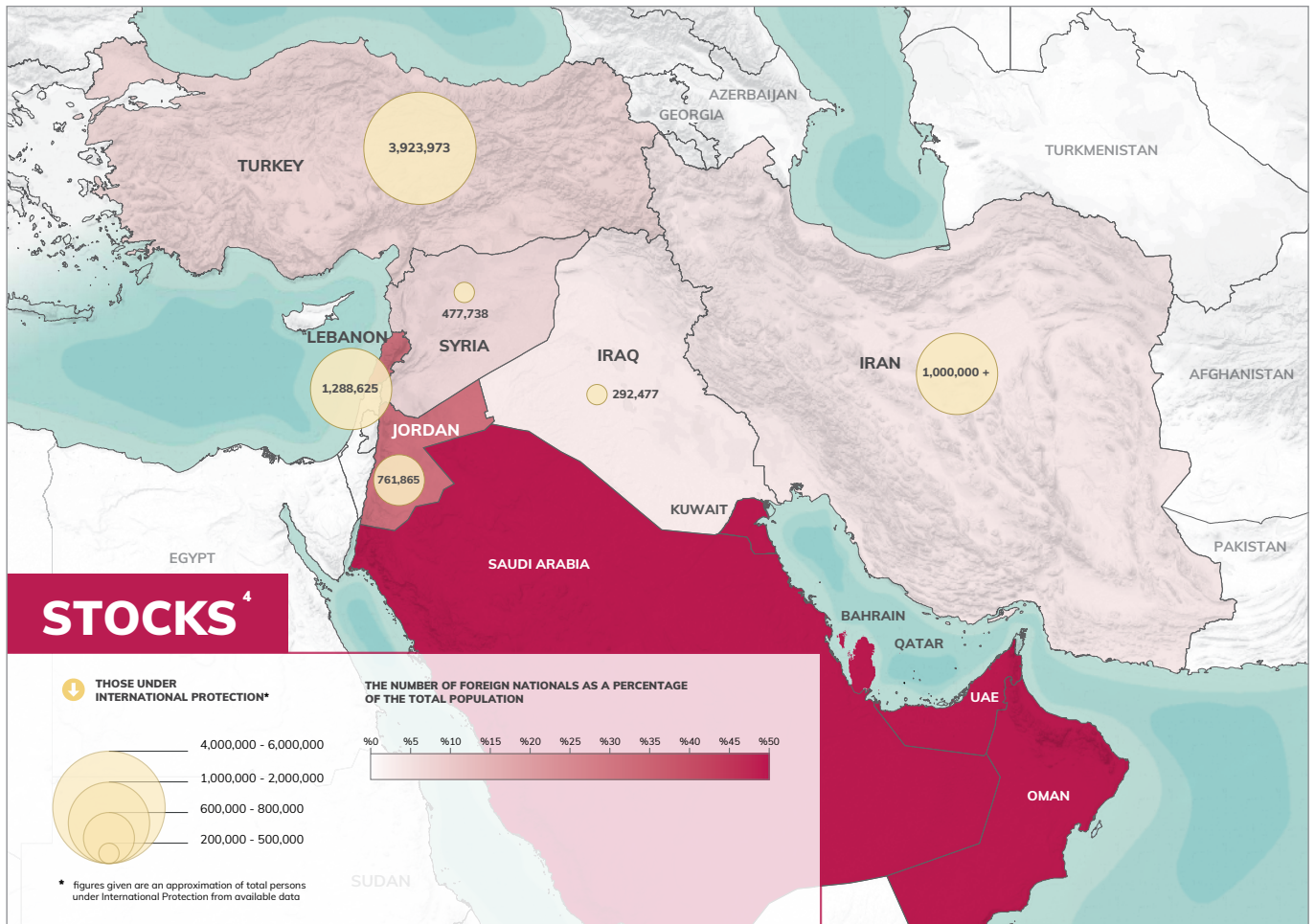
Bangladesh, the Philippines and Egypt as well as other Arab countries in the region (notably [Lebanon](#) and [Jordan](#)). In the Levant, [migrant populations](#) most commonly represented are from [Syria](#), Palestine, Egypt, Iraq and Sri Lanka, as well as other Southeast Asian countries and Africa.

The Middle East is a region that plays host to a broad range of migration dynamics, as an area of origin, transit and destination. From the Middle East, migrants embark upon both regular and irregular migration paths to other parts of the world. In the last few years, there has been considerable attention paid to significant irregular migration towards Europe. Bearing this in mind, it is notable that the [Mediterranean Sea](#) is currently the most deadly migration route in the world. In 2016, the ten most common nationalities making asylum claims in the EU/EFTA made up [1,292,280](#) people. Among these ten nationalities three were Middle Eastern: 1st) Syria (341,980); 3rd) Iraq (131,590); and 6th) Iran (42,010); representing a notable proportion of individuals attempting to reach Europe in search of better security and opportunities, although equivalent to just 2.3% of the migrant population that remain in the Middle East. Such movement takes place in the context of the increasing shift in state policy towards [externalised](#) migration approaches, including the [linking](#) of development aid or visa access to irregular migration control, which prioritises the protection of borders over that of people on the move.

2 Note that whilst Iran and Turkey are the only countries in the Middle East who are signatories to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, they both apply limitations to its application. As such these populations are primarily living under a form of international protection – many as 'mandate refugees'. Please see more below in the relevant sections.

[Mandate refugees](#) are defined as "Persons who are recognized as refugees by UNHCR acting under the authority of its Statute and relevant UN General Assembly resolutions. Mandate status is especially significant in States that are not parties to the 1951 Convention or its 1967 Protocol." (UNHCR)

3 Ibid

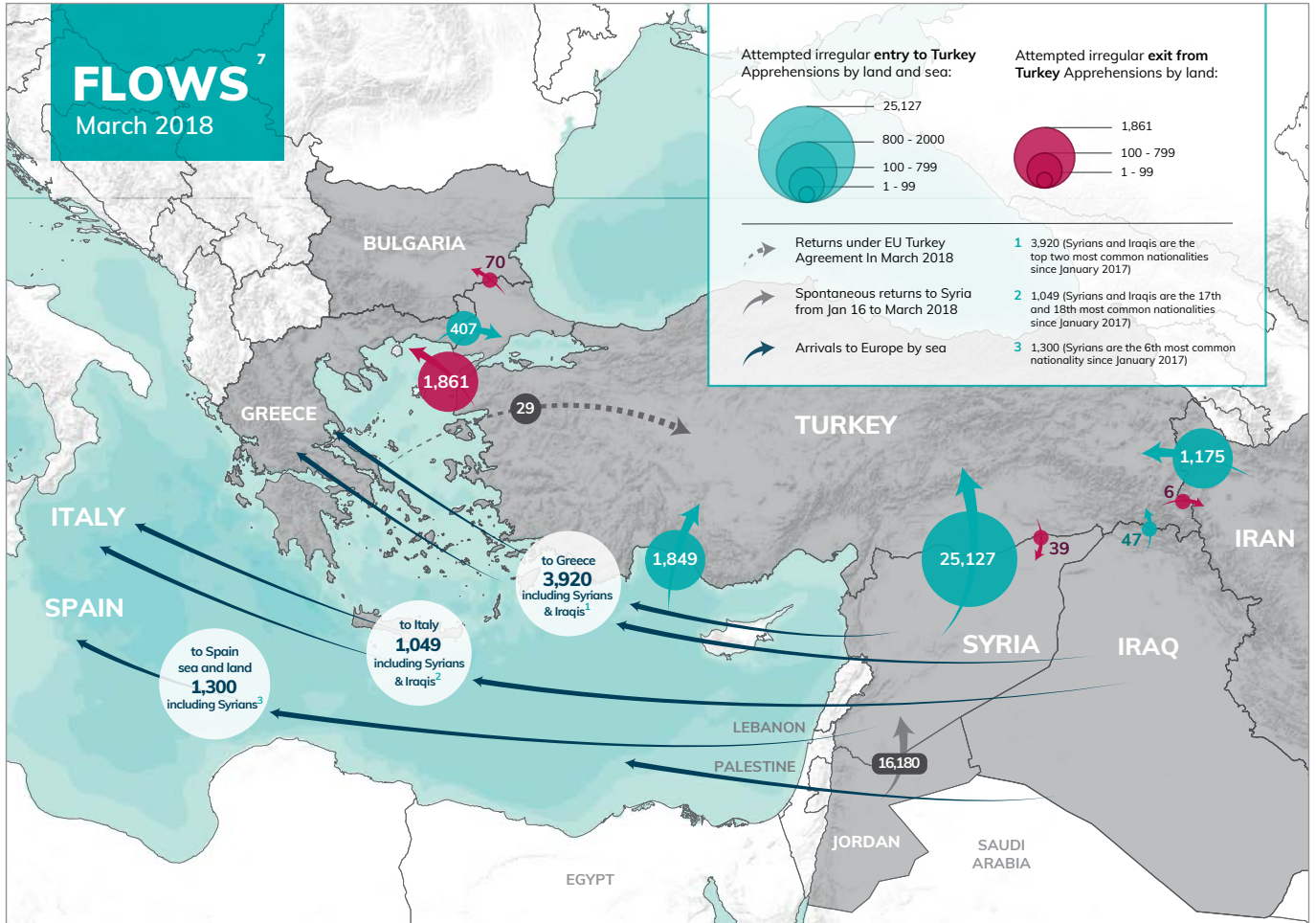


Country	Population	Foreign nationals, including those under International Protection 2017	Those under International Protection 2018
Iraq ⁵	39,195,203	366,568	292,477
Jordan	9,875,676	3,233,553	761,865
Lebanon	6,088,952	1,938,212	1,288,625
Syria ⁶	18,279,360	1,013,818	477,738
Turkey	81,767,519	4,881,966	3,923,973
GCC	51,467,147	25,214,080	-
Iran	81,898,349	2,699,155	1,000,000 +

4 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](#)

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

6 IDPs: 6,500,000



7 The sources of data for this map are as follows: [IOM](#); [UNHCR](#); [European Commission](#); and UNHCR Durable Solutions Working Group (16 April 2018)

The Middle East Mixed Migration Context

Jordan



Population
9.85 million



Those Under International Protection

Syrian 'mandate refugees' (March 2018)
660,935

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

66,564 Iraqis
10,864 Yemenis
4,101 Sudanese
811 Somalis
1,590 'Others' (March 2018)

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



Number of Foreign Nationals
(including those under International Protection)

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

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)

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”⁸ 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

- Non-Syrians and non-Iraqis eligible for international protection in Jordan continue to face challenges in accessing formal employment due to considerable work permit requirements, both administrative and financial. Though the third largest population under international protection (over 10,000), [Yemenis](#) are deprioritised in the programming of UN agencies and INGOs and pay foreigner rates for public healthcare access, leading to negative coping mechanisms including rental debts and irregular work.

8 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)⁹

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



Those Under International Protection

991,165 Registered Syrian 'mandate refugees' (March 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

⁹ 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

- [Evictions](#) of Syrians have continued this month in towns across Lebanon. This is further to the 13,700 evictions recorded in 2017, the majority of which were enacted by landlords and municipalities.
- Discussions around [government-led returns](#) of Syrians (that would result in refoulement) remain central to political debates in the run up to elections, though no formal plan has yet been instigated. This is in spite of a recent uptick in [violence](#) across the country undermining safe conditions for return.

Iraq



Population
39.09 million



Those Under International Protection



Number of Foreign Nationals
(including those under International Protection)

366,568 (UN est. 2017)

248,382 Registered Syrian 'mandate refugees' (March 2018)

11,544 Palestinians

44,095 Non-Syrians (as of March 2018)



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

- Approximately [1,700](#) women and children are being held and trialled by the Iraqi government for affiliations with so-called Islamic State militants. 17 Turkish women have been sentenced to death so far in 2018, with numerous others standing trial for these alleged crimes. This reportedly includes 509 European women and 300 Turks.
- Reports of [evictions and forced returns](#) of internally displaced persons in Iraq continued in March, with more than 18,000 families at risk of forced relocation in Salah Al-Din governorate.

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 (February 2018)

3,567,130 Syrians with Temporary
Protection (March 2018)

Non-Syrian population seeking International
Protection:

Iraq [153,442](#)

Afghanistan [157,011](#)

Iran [32,116](#)

Somalia [3,568](#)

Others [10,705](#) (March 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

- A bus carrying around 50 foreign nationals [crashed](#) in eastern Turkey at the end of March, killing 17 on board and injuring 36 others, including people from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran.
- Reports of [excessive force](#) used by the Turkish Coast Guard when apprehending boats carrying people attempting to reach Greece from Turkey emerged this month.
- Evidence of [mass deportations](#) of Syrians from Turkey’s southern border was highlighted again this month, in the form of regular pushbacks, further to [reports](#) of the use of lethal force against Syrians attempting to cross the border using smugglers. Such shootings have resulted in the deaths of men, women and children fleeing violence in Syria.

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)

[12,538](#) Iraqis in camps in Al-Hassakeh governorate

[24,000](#) other Iraqis

[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

EU-Turkey deal

On 14 March, the EU unlocked the [EUR 3 billion](#) to be paid to Turkey under the EU-Turkey Deal - the second tranche transferred since the agreement was signed. March marks the two-year anniversary of the Deal. The anniversary saw more than [one thousand people rally](#) in Athens against the agreement; particularly against the return of people to so-called 'safe countries'.

Between April 2016 and March 2018 1,583 people have been returned from Greece to Turkey (including 250 Syrians). As of March 2018, [12,778](#) Syrians have been resettled from Turkey to European countries, with Germany and the Netherlands resettling the most. [25 people](#) were returned from Greece to Turkey under the deal in the period 1-28 March 2018.

Jordanian regulations for 'guest workers'

In March, the Jordanian Cabinet extended the grace period for guest workers in need of rectifying their status until 5 April. The government are offering a 60% exemption of overdue fees for those who are willing to leave the country. Find out more [here](#).

Campaign to regularise status of Syrians in urban areas of Jordan

On 4 March, the Mol and UNHCR began a [campaign](#) to formalise the status of Syrians refugees living informally in urban areas of Jordan. Formalised status is linked to access to services and assistance. The campaign is due to run until 27 September 2018.

Other News

European Commission gives EUR 45.45 million for work for Turks and Syrians

The European Commission has provided a [EUR 45.45 million](#) grant (to be administered by the World Bank) for employment support for Turkish citizens and Syrian refugees.

Syrians trying to reach Turkey are being sent back by Turkish authorities, say Human Rights Watch (HRW)

HRW have published an [article](#) this month based on interviews with asylum seekers who had tried to cross the border. Individuals described being returned and incidents of shootings to prevent their crossing. Turkey denies this.

Deaths in the Aegean Sea and river Evros and refugees and other migrants try to cross to Greece

On 17 March, [15 people](#) died when their boat capsized as they tried to reach Greece. The Greek Migration Minister called for the implementation of "safe procedures and safe routes for migrants and

refugees" in the country's response. As numbers of people trying to cross the [Evros](#) river rise - in attempts to find an alternative route to the Aegean - this route is also proving deadly.

Dublin Regulation

This month, two Afghan sisters and their children were [deported](#) from Austria to Croatia – their point of entry into the EU – under the Dublin Regulation. The sisters had taken their case to the European Court of Justice (ECJ) which upheld that the Dublin Regulation applies even in exceptional circumstances. The ECJ however also asked countries to show a "spirit of solidarity" and examine asylum claims, even if they don't have to.

Refugees in Greece suffering from psychological trauma

MSF have opened a larger mental health clinic in Lesbos due to overwhelming demand. Many develop [psychiatric conditions](#) not only because of what they experienced in their home countries before they fled, but also due to experiences on their journey to Europe, and now the wait to find out if they will receive a positive decision on their asylum claims.

As “the West” collectively resettles fewer refugees, Syrians in the region are being pushed to return

Countries neighbouring Syria are concerned about being left with a long-term Syrian refugee presence - as the EU and US continue to invest in keeping Syrians within the region - and have been ramping up efforts to [coerce their return](#).

Resettlement

The UNHCR report that [5,393 Syrians](#) have departed for resettlement this year to March. 223 Iraqis and 105

Iranians [also](#) departed for resettlement in this time period. [34,099](#) Syrians, Iraqi and Iranians were resettled in 2017, representing a decrease from 2016 figures.

Last rebel-held area of Damascus on the verge of falling under regime control after six-week campaign claiming 1,700 lives

The five-year battle for Eastern Ghouta has damaged whole neighbourhoods, including [93%](#) of buildings in the Jobar district. This month Turkey also assumed full control of the Syrian city of Afrin, following a campaign that has displaced [98,000 people](#) in the district.

New Research and Reports

The Mixed Migration Centre (Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean) published two new briefing papers this month on state management of child protection services for unaccompanied minors in France and regular pathways. The former [paper](#) examines existing policy and procedure towards asylum for unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) from the Middle East and a shift towards decentralisation that could undermine necessary firewalls. The [latter](#) seeks to examine the interrelated challenges of mobility opportunities for people on the move. It outlines a growing trend amongst states to exchange regular movement for migration control, instead of recognising the contributions that migrants can make.

Concord published a [report](#) this month looking at the linkages between European development aid and migration policy. It outlines key examples of how development cooperation funding has been used by policy-makers to curb migration to the EU.

The Migration Policy Centre released a [study](#) in March that examines the weaknesses of the Common European Asylum System through a systems approach, and highlights efforts of states to combat corresponding gaps. It assesses the asylum process from registration and reception to processing and adjudication, in order to inform future reform.

The UN Human Settlements Programme, UN-HABITAT and the Ford Foundation published their [study](#), Migration and Inclusive Cities: a guide for Arab leaders, in March, providing guidance to MENA states on how to better understand and respond to the migration phenomenon in the region. This paper forms part of the UN-HABITAT City Leaders Guide series and is targeted towards municipal-level leaders to harness the mutual benefits of migration for host and migrant communities.

For more information visit:
mixedmigration.org

