

Monthly Trends Analysis



Mixed
Migration
Centre

MMC Middle East & Eastern
Mediterranean

MAY 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

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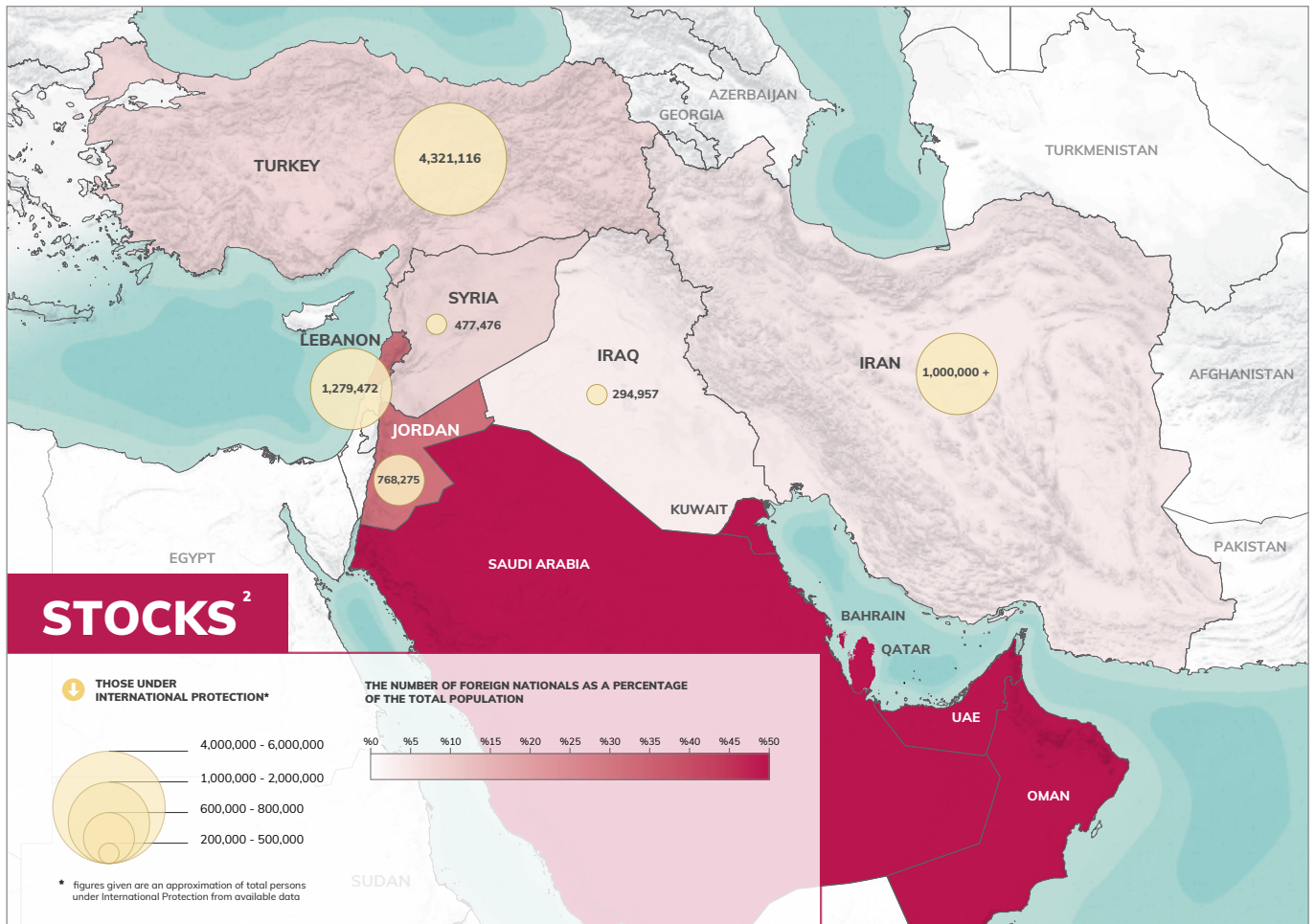
Background: Mixed Migration in the Middle East

In May, 88 guest workers diagnosed with contagious diseases were deported by the Government of Jordan. In Iraq, IDPs continue to return, but are facing complications due to perceived affiliations with the so-called Islamic State. Female headed households in Mosul are relocating to camps in order to mitigate economic challenges, meanwhile facing widespread stigmatisation. Voting in the parliamentary elections for those internally displaced this month was challenging, given administrative complications with temporary polling booths set up across governorates in the Kurdish Region of Iraq. Reports of Palestinians displaced long-term in Lebanon using smuggling routes through Egypt and Libya and

across the Mediterranean towards Europe emerged this month, with often deadly consequences. In Turkey, the government continued its campaign deporting Afghans, with [775](#) Afghans and Syrians repatriated this month alone. Further serious evidence of killings of Syrians by Turkish border guards also emerged this month, with eight Syrians killed, half of whom were children, when attempting to cross irregularly from Idlib province. Return of Syrians continues to dominate the policy sphere in Lebanon, in the run up to parliamentary elections, as the EU calls for a “tightening of its borders” against irregular migration flows.



A Syrian refugee working at a Danish Refugee Council project to build a public garden in Akkar governorate in Lebanon. November 2017.
Photo by: Sam Tarling

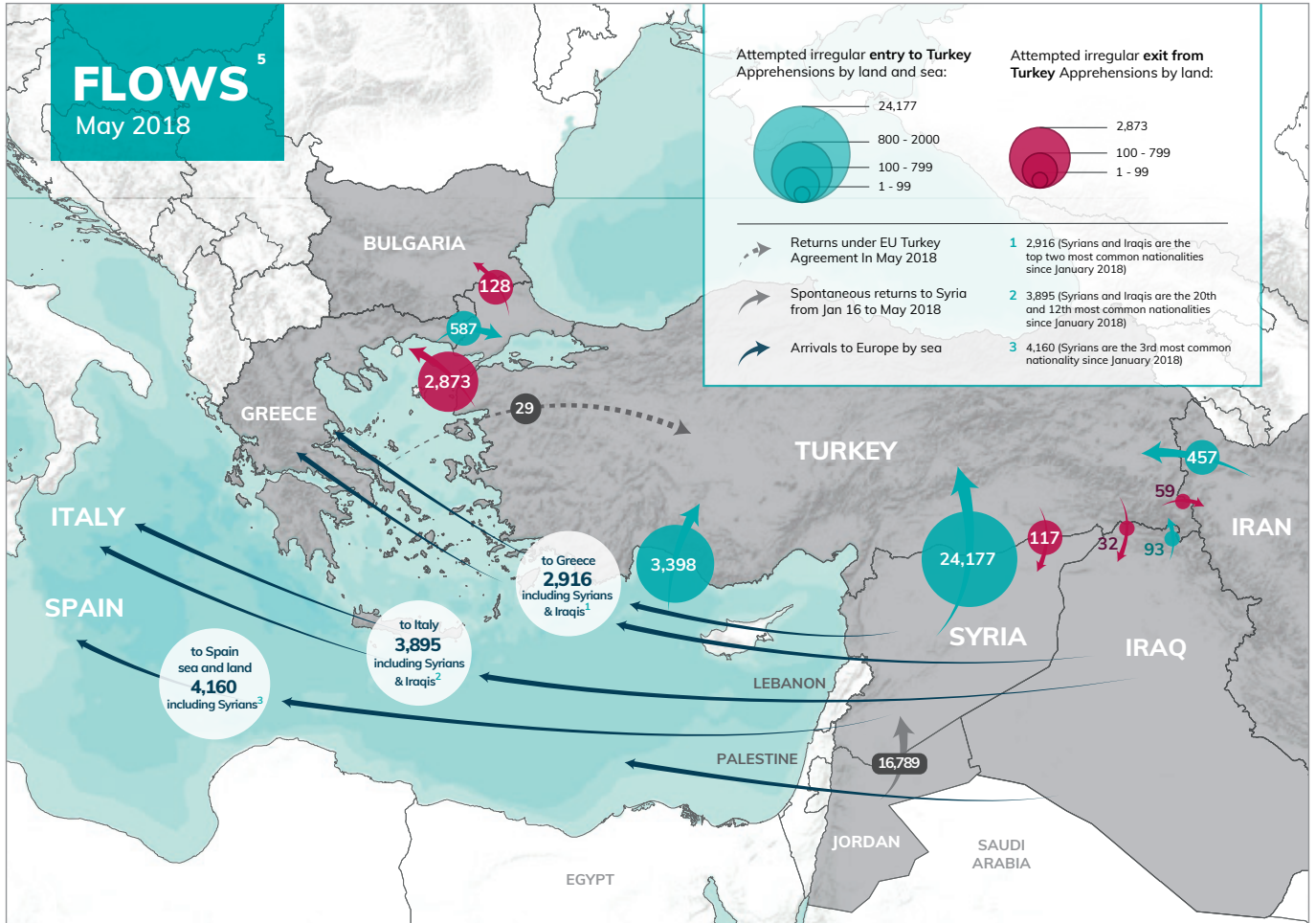


Country	Population	Foreign nationals, including those under International Protection 2017	Those under International Protection 2018
Iraq ³	39,195,203	366,568	294,957
Jordan	9,875,676	3,233,553	768,275
Lebanon	6,088,952	1,938,212	1,279,472
Syria ⁴	18,279,360	1,013,818	477,476
Turkey	81,767,519	4,881,966	4,321,116
GCC	51,467,147	25,214,080	-
Iran	81,898,349	2,699,155	1,000,000 +

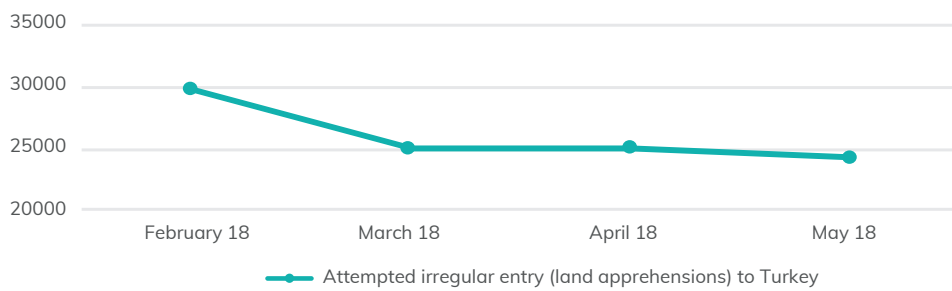
2 The sources of data for this map are as follows. Total number of foreign nationals including those under international protection: [UN desa 2017](#) and [Gulf Research Center](#). Syrians under International Protection: [UNHCR](#). Other populations with International Protection: [UNHCR](#); [Chicago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

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

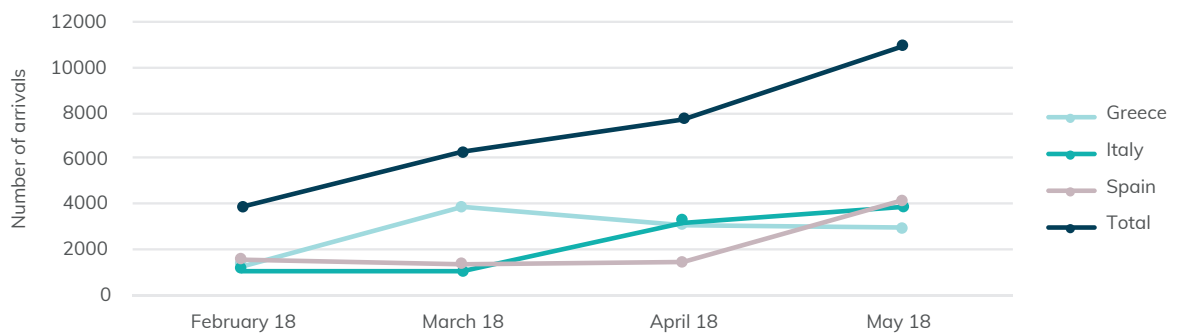
4 IDPs: 6,500,000



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



Those Under International Protection

Syrian 'mandate refugees'
(May 2018)
[666,294](#)

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

[66,823](#) Iraqis
[11,477](#) Yemenis
[4,211](#) Sudanese
[819](#) Somalis
[1,651](#) 'Others'
(May 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”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 Government of Jordan reported the deportation of [88 guest workers](#) who were diagnosed with ‘contagious diseases’ this month, including tuberculosis, AIDS and hepatitis. The Head of the Pulmonary Diseases and Guest Workers Health Department reported that migrant workers ‘of restricted nationalities’, such as Syrians and Gazans, would not be deported but would instead receive treatment from the Ministry of Health. Further details were not clear.

High numbers of Syrians continue to receive medical treatment at the [Rukban border clinic](#), with numbers from February to March 2018 ranging between four to five thousand per month. Displaced Syrians have been gathering in informal settlements at Jordan’s northern border with Syria since the crossing was closed due to a [security incident](#) in June 2016. Estimates of the number of people trapped there have fluctuated from 50 to [100,000](#), with most recent figures at [50,000](#) (roughly 1000 families). The camp is located in ‘the Berm’, or the area between Syrian and Jordanian territory, making it a point of [contention](#) between the two countries as regards aid provision, as conditions for people there continue to deteriorate.

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

982,012 Registered Syrian 'mandate refugees' (May 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

[The Alliance of Migrant Domestic Workers](#), an informal representative body founded in 2016 yet still unrecognised by the Lebanese government, are providing community support to migrant women in the domestic work sector. Support includes coaching on how to safely claim rights from employers, given that withholding salary remains a common practice. Despite the fact that many migrant-sending countries have banned employment in Lebanon, migrant workers continue to arrive, with even less oversight and protection.

Palestinians, as one of the longest standing marginalised groups of the displaced in Lebanon, continue to face restrictions in work and living conditions in the country. Anecdotal evidence shows that a lack of opportunities for survival in Lebanon is driving Palestinians from protracted refugee camps to pay for smuggling routes through Egypt and Libya and across the Mediterranean Sea towards Europe. Safer routes, however, continue to be reserved for wealthier migrants, leading individuals to risk their lives on cheaper options, many of whom have subsequently '[vanished](#)' en route. Their families suspect detention by smuggling groups or death as a result of the perilous sea crossing migrants face in reaching Europe.

Iraq



Population
39.09 million



Those Under International Protection



Number of Foreign Nationals
(including those under International Protection)

366,568 (UN est. 2017)

250,708 Registered Syrian 'mandate refugees' (May 2018)

11,544 Palestinians

44,249 Non-Syrians (as of May 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

Perceived affiliation with the so-called Islamic State continues to complicate return of IDPS within Iraq, due to increased tribal conflict. UNHCR reported that 150 families in Anbar are facing discrimination as a result of these perceptions, alongside reports of [collective punishment](#) in Salah Al-Din governorate. Forced evictions and relocations of IDP families within Kirkuk governorate are also reportedly ongoing also due to these perceived affiliations.

Female heads of household in Mosul are reportedly facing serious challenges such as [stigmatisation](#), detention and relocation to camps due to economic difficulties.

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 (April 2018)

3,588,877 Syrians with Temporary
Protection (April 2018)

Non-Syrian population seeking International
Protection:

Iraq [146,448](#)

Afghanistan [168,415](#)

Iran [36,612](#)

Somalia [3,661](#)

Others [10,984](#) (April 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

At least [775](#) Afghans and Syrians were detained [and deported](#) from Turkey this month in targeted operations by the Turkish authorities. This is alongside nearly 50 Syrians detained in Balıkesir province, along routes commonly used to reach Greece and 38 Syrians in Antalya, including women and children.

Eight Syrians were reportedly [shot dead](#) by Turkish border authorities when attempting to cross irregularly from Idlib province into a southern Turkish village in the middle of May. Half of those killed were children. Reports of the use of live fire on asylum seekers along Turkey’s border with Syria have been frequent in recent months, alongside international [criticism](#) of mass deportations of Syrians from the area. Accusations have been made that funding supplied by Europe through the EU-Turkey Deal has [fortified](#) Turkey’s border operations with 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)

12,276 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

Lebanese government working towards returns of Syrians

The Head of the Lebanese General Security reported this month that the government are working with Syrian authorities to support [the return of Syrians](#), despite evidence that safe conditions for return are not yet in place across the country.

European Union calls on member states to tighten border security

The EU's Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, Dimitris Avramopoulos in Brussels this month encouraged member states to reinforce their [border security operations](#), both land and sea.

Avramopoulos also reminded states of their obligation to reach an agreement on the reform of the European asylum system in June.

Greek government considers expanding mainland refugee and migrant centres as arrivals to islands spike

The Greek Migration Policy Ministry is [planning](#) to expand camps in mainland Greece in an effort to mitigate new numbers of arrivals to its islands so far in 2018. This is taking place alongside the fast-tracking of a bill through Parliament to accelerate the asylum process.

Other News

Voting complications for Iraq's internally displaced

[Internally displaced Iraqis](#) who turned up to vote in the parliamentary elections this month were reporting being turned away. The government set up temporary polling stations to accommodate those displaced from Ninevah, Kirkuk, Salahuddin and Anbar in camp and city locations. However, confusion surrounding the transition from the old voting system to new electronic voting cards (those without this estimated at around 15% of Iraq's two million IDPs) and an apparent lack of coordination left many prospective displaced voters frustrated after failing to find their name registered at several stations.

Saudi Arabia releases 1,000 Ethiopian migrants held in prison for various offences

The Saudi government agreed to release [1,000 Ethiopian nationals](#) imprisoned in the country this month, after a visit from the Ethiopian Prime Minister, among them 100 women. The charges for their imprisonment were not specified. The Saudi authorities are in the process of deporting 500,000 Ethiopian migrants who arrived through irregular means, 160,000 of whom have been returned already. This is further to the 17,000 deported in 2017 and 70,000 who reportedly returned voluntarily.

German police raid migrant shelter after migrants intervene preventing deportation of Togolese man

Hundreds of German police officers raided a migrant shelter in the southern town of Ellwangen on 3 May, after 150 to 200 refugees blocked the deportation of a Togolese man to Italy, where he was first eligible for asylum under the Dublin Regulation. The European asylum system (as regulated by Dublin) is currently undergoing [reforms](#) to instil more solidarity between states through a mandatory reallocation [mechanism](#) that promotes more equal distribution of asylum claims.

Nine migrants injured after police open fire on van attempting to cross into Croatia from Bosnia

A van carrying 29 mainly Afghan and Iraqi migrants [came under fire](#) by Croatian authorities at the border with Bosnia on 31 May, with nine injured and two children in a serious but stable condition. Following border closures along the Balkan route in 2016, people on the move have been travelling through Bosnia, Albania, Montenegro, Serbia and Croatia to reach Greece. Bosnian officials reported the arrival of 5,000 people along irregular routes in 2018 thus far.

New Research and Reports

The **ICRC** published a new edition of their [review](#) this month on Migration and Displacement, covering a range of themes including protection for all people on the move, irrespective of status or motivation; the protection framework for migrants under international human rights and humanitarian law; migration and data protection; obligations of transit countries towards refugees and immigration detention, through a series of international case studies. The review takes a broader perspective on the needs and motivations of migrants in the complexity of the current migration paradigm.

In conjunction with **Columbia Global Centres**, the **UNHCR** published a [report](#) this month on the impact of family separation on Syrian refugee families in Jordan. The majority of family separations that occurred within the interviewed community took place immediately before leaving Syria or after a substantial period in Jordan. Family members left behind were left financially unstable and compelled to support themselves with debt accumulation, irregular work and child labour. The study also emphasised that restrictive admission and family reunification policies are keeping Syrian families apart, given that expenses and a lack of documentation mean even available channels are out of reach for many.

The **Nordic Journey of Migration Research** published a [report](#) this month deconstructing 'the myth of the anchor child', through interviews conducted with child asylum seekers in Sweden. The study presents how this stereotype, that parents would send their children unaccompanied to other countries to seek opportunities on their behalf as economic migrants, is a construct of 'othering'. In the sphere of policy or public debates, this argument is commonly used to dehumanise people on the move and deprive them of fundamental rights, denying the agency of children and prioritising family unity above protection of individuals in migrant decision-making.

The **Centre for Global Development** published a [policy paper](#) this month highlighting how migration policy can be used for the benefit of migrants and host countries alike. The paper provides seven examples of successful use cases of migration policy in converting challenges into opportunities by states.

For more information visit:
mixedmigration.org

