

Monthly Trends Analysis



Mixed
Migration
Centre

MMC Middle East & Eastern
Mediterranean

AUGUST 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).

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Dara Al-Masri / DRC

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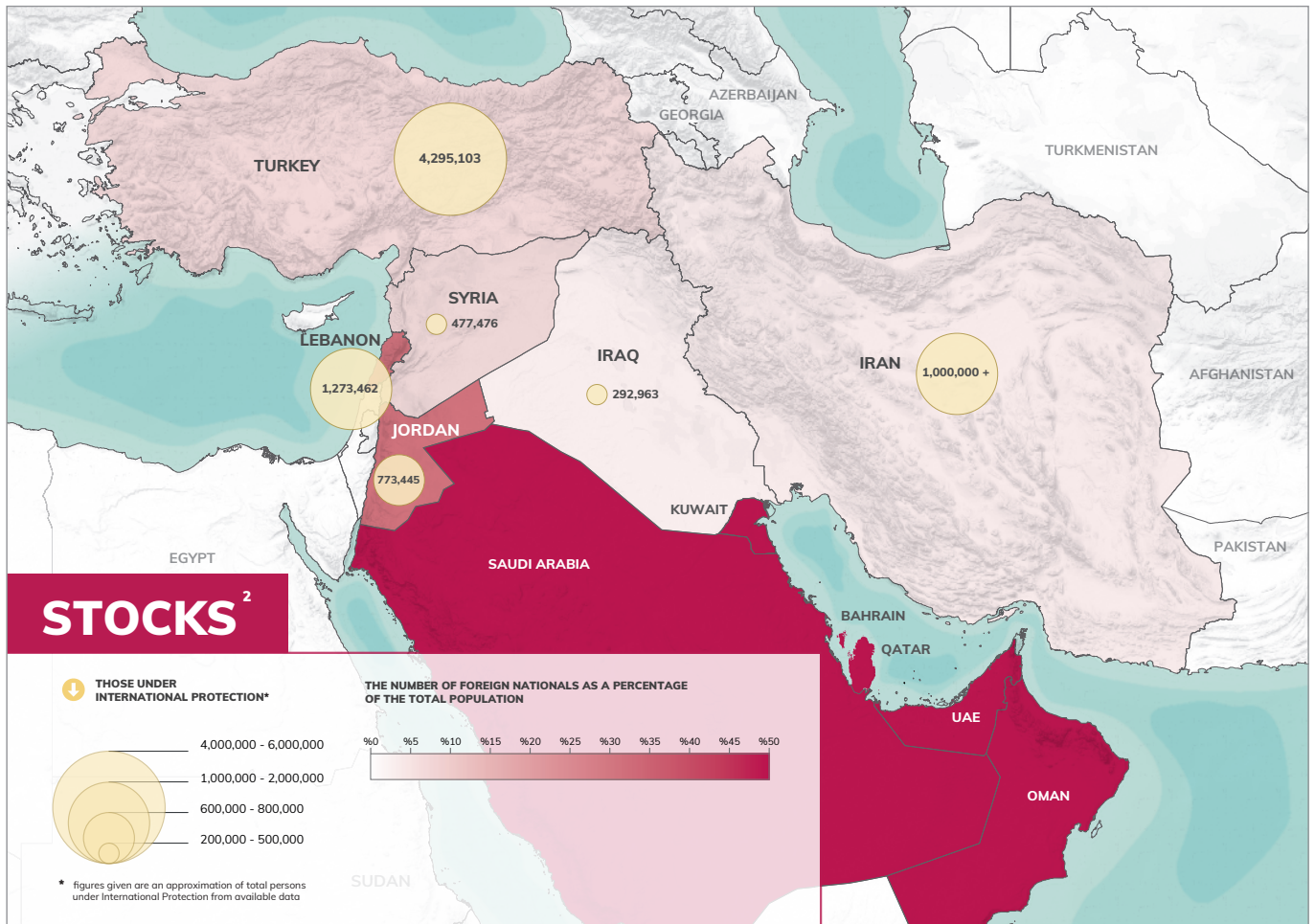
Mixed Migration in the Middle East

This month did not see any 'spontaneous returns' from Jordan to Syria, considering recent security developments in Syria's Southwest. Return movement from Jordan has been reportedly static since June of this year as a result of a change in control from Opposition to Assad forces. From Lebanon, an estimated 2,000 Syrians returned between July and August, further to the 13,000 that reportedly returned from the neighbouring region in the first six months of 2018. Meanwhile, the Iraqi Ministry of Migration and Displacement coordinated the return of 115 individuals from Turkey this month, alongside nearly 2,000 from Syria's Al-Hassakeh governorate (though approximately 12,000 remain in camps there). Within Iraq itself, forced evictions continue within Salah Al-Din, Anbar and Baghdad governorates, through confiscation of identity documents, amongst other tactics, by various security actors. Perceived affiliations with the so-called

Islamic State are preventing others from returning to their areas of origin, blocked by local armed actors. The Evros River between Turkey and Greece reportedly saw an increase in the number of crossings in the first six months of 2018, when compared with the total for 2017, as people in mixed migration movements attempt to enter Europe, despite restrictions imposed by the EU-Turkey Deal. In the Greek islands, humanitarian agencies are calling for expedited processing of vulnerable people residing in overpopulated camps with poor services, such as Moria, where 8,000 people live in a space designed for one quarter of this number. Elsewhere along the Eastern Mediterranean route towards Europe, Hungary have been denying food to rejected asylum seekers in their custody in transit zones, including two Syrians, a policy that has been condemned by key human rights organisations.



A mother bakes bread for her children in an ITS in Zahle, Lebanon. January 2017. Photo by: Dara Al-Masri / DRC

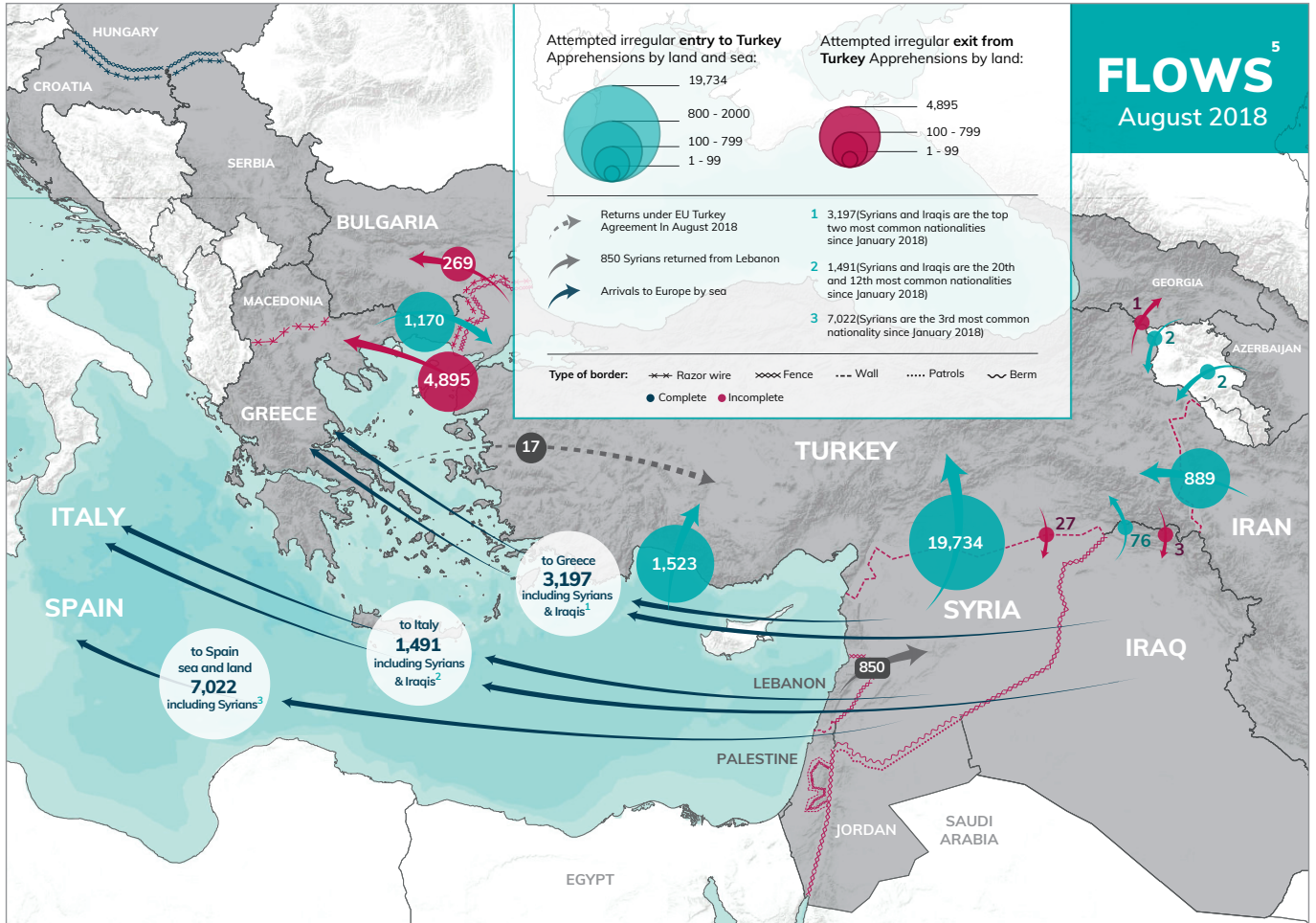


Country	Population	Foreign nationals, including those under International Protection 2017	Those under International Protection 2018
Iraq ³	39,195,203	366,568	292,963
Jordan	9,875,676	3,233,553	773,445
Lebanon	6,088,952	1,938,212	1,273,462
Syria ⁴	18,279,360	1,013,818	477,476
Turkey	81,767,519	4,881,966	4,295,103
GCC	51,467,147	25,214,080	-
Iran	81,898,349	2,699,155	1,000,000 +

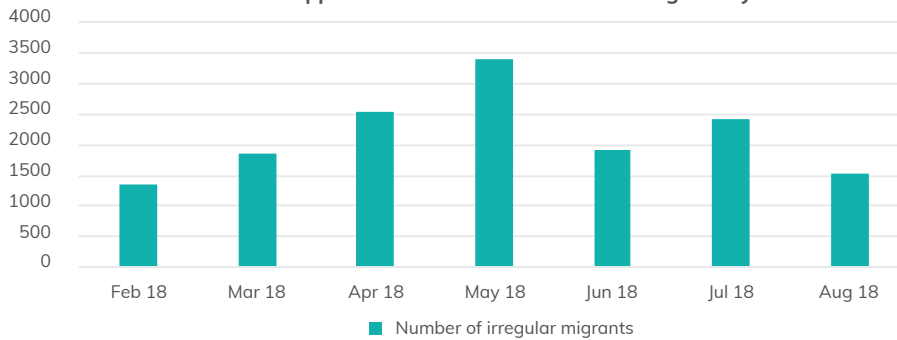
2 The sources of data for this map are as follows. Total number of foreign nationals including those under international protection: [UN desa 2017](#) and [Gulf Research Center](#). Syrians under International Protection: [UNHCR](#). Other populations with International Protection: [UNHCR](#); [Chicago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

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

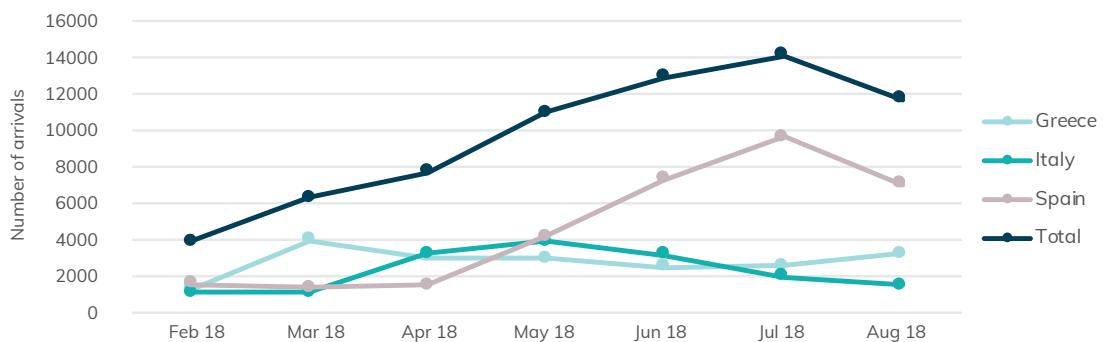
4 IDPs: 6,500,000



Sea Apprehensions "in all seas surrounding Turkey"



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'
(Aug 2018)
[669,532](#)

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

[67,000](#) Iraqis
[12,700](#) Yemenis
[4,700](#) Sudanese
[813](#) Somalis
[1,700](#) 'Others'
(Aug 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 borders between Jordan and Syria remain closed, despite last month's developments, during which Assad forces wrested control of Syria's Southwest from one of the last Opposition strongholds in the country. Border crossings are now under the control of Assad forces along the length of Jordan's border. Considering the security situation, there have been no recorded 'spontaneous returns' to Syria from Jordan since June 2018. Between 200 and 350 'spontaneous returns' to Syria have otherwise been recorded on a monthly basis from Jordan since the beginning of the year. Jordan's displaced Syrian population is largely made up of nationals from the southwestern Dara'a governorate, also previously Syria's highest governorate of return from Jordan, further complicating return movements to this area.

The Jordanian government recorded 23 cases of human trafficking and 126 labour abuse cases in the first six months of 2018, according to a new [report](#). These cases were reportedly detected as part of the government's national strategy to combat trafficking, with a focus on “prevention, protection, law enforcement and international cooperation”, in particular for migrants in the domestic work and other labour sectors. Reported [harassment and exploitation](#) of Syrian women in the agricultural sector emerged this month, with sources citing that Syrian workers are often favourable to employers in comparison to Egyptians or other nationalities due to lower wage expectations and less hiring restrictions as a result of the Jordan Compact work permit scheme. The practice of obtaining an agricultural permit in order to work in another sector, irregularly, has also become more commonplace as a result.

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' (Jul 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

An estimated [2,000](#) Syrians had reportedly returned from the border area of Arsal between July and the beginning of August, though complete figures remain harder to obtain. This is further to the [13,000](#) that UNHCR reported to have returned from the neighbouring region during the first half of 2018. Lebanon's General Security agency, responsible for handling work permits, announced its [plans](#) to establish centres for return at the beginning of the month, encouraging families to register to return to Syria. This is further to mounting pressures faced by displaced Syrians in Lebanon due to unfeasible residency permit conditions, a lack of livelihood opportunities and targeted eviction campaigns within local municipalities ongoing for the past year.

The Kefala labour sponsorship system continues to place migrant workers at risk of serious exploitation and abuse, with 'live-in' migrant domestic workers particularly affected. In lieu of a national framework to protect foreign workers in the domestic sector, however, grassroots organisations provide crucial [support](#) to survivors of abuse. Migrant-focused labour unionisation or collective representation remains illegal in Lebanon, with evidence of targeted deportations of key migrant activists.

Iraq



Population
39.09 million



**Those Under
International
Protection**



**Number of Foreign
Nationals**
(including those under
International Protection)

366,568 (UN est. 2017)

248,698 Registered
Syrian 'mandate
refugees'
(Aug 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

The return context within Iraq remains complex, with reports of [forced eviction](#) campaigns from camps and informal settlements ongoing since October 2017 in Salah Al-Din (at least 3,500), Anbar (2,400) and Baghdad (400) governorates. Attacks or prevention of return for individuals or family members of individuals with perceived links to the so-called Islamic State are not uncommon. UNHCR also reported returns from the neighbouring region organised by the MoMD, with 115 returning from Turkey at the beginning of the month. During the second half of August, nearly 2,000 people returned from Al-Hol camp in Syria's Al-Hassakeh governorate, yet over 12,000 Iraqis remain in camps there, partly due to administrative delays in processing organised returns and discrepancies in coordination between border authorities.

Overall, the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix reports a remaining 1.9 million to be internally displaced as a result of the start of the conflict in January 2014, alongside 4 million returnees.

Turkey



Population
81.66 million



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



Those Under International Protection

3.9 million foreign nationals seeking International Protection (July 2018)

3,552,303 Syrians with Temporary Protection (Aug 2018)

Non-Syrian population seeking International Protection:

Iraq [143,000](#)

Afghanistan [172,000](#)

Iran [39,000](#)

Somalia [5,700](#)

Others [11,700](#) (Aug 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

The Evros River has seen an increase in the number of crossings from Turkey to Greece, according to Médecins sans Frontières, with more than [10,000](#) having made the crossing in the first six months of 2018, compared to 7,500 total in 2017. This has been partly attributed to efforts to stem arrivals across the Aegean Sea through the orchestration of the EU-Turkey Deal in 2016.

The Turkish government announced [plans](#) to close down camps in the southeastern provinces of Gaziantep, Adiyaman, and Mardin and relocate its residents to the border area earlier this month, though further details are not yet clear.

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.

Updates this month

USA announces plan to end all aid to UNRWA

The agency provides health care food and education services to [5 million people](#) in the Middle East, and the USA has been its biggest donor. Cuts are reportedly intended to pressure the Palestinians to comply with a new peace deal for the Middle East currently being drafted, however there is already scepticism as to its likelihood of success.

Germany makes deals with Spain and Greece to return asylum seekers

The deals enable Germany to return asylum seekers to these countries if they had already lodged an asylum request there. The bilateral agreements come as Merkel is under pressure from her interior minister to reduce migration. Talks with Italy towards a similar agreement are also reported to be in motion. The agreements are not likely to affect many people; 150 people have been identified since mid-June who had already applied for asylum elsewhere in Europe and entered Germany from Austria.

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

Mediterranean arrivals

Italy continues to delay disembarkation of vessels on its shores until other European countries agree to take in those on board. This month the Diciotti was held for five days in Catania port before disembarkation following pledges from Albania, Ireland and the Catholic Church. Italy even threatened to cut funds for the EU this month over these tensions, and at a meeting of EU defence ministers at the end of the month, Italy pushed for other countries to take in those who are picked up by Operation Sophia (who currently are only taken to Italy).

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

Other News

Israel keeping 20% of migrant salaries, allowing them to reclaim only if they leave

A law which holds [20%](#) of migrant's salaries, and obliges employers to hold another 16% towards a pension fund, neither of which can be claimed unless the migrant leaves, is causing migrants to fall into more precarious situations in Israel in order to get by. Reported impacts include turning to the black-market and to prostitution, while requests to aid groups for food assistance and concerns over homelessness have increased. The policy is seen in line with other attempts by Israel to encourage migrants to leave the country. Asylum seekers are protected from deportation under international law.

Some Syrians find life easier in Turkey having left Europe, but their situation is precarious

Some Syrians have left Europe to live in [Turkey](#) as they hope to have better chances of finding a means of employment, among other considerations such as closer ties. However, most Syrians are compelled to work informally in Turkey, which carries its own vulnerabilities, as well as some pressures to return.

Three million Syrians brace for regime assault on Idlib

It is thought that up to [2.5 million](#) people could try to flee to the Turkish border if Assad forces launches a full-scale offensive on the last remaining rebel stronghold in the country.

MSF and SOS Mediterranee call on European governments to allow disembarkation in nearest port of entry

After becoming stranded at sea again for three days in August, the [Aquarius](#) (operated by MSF And SOS Mediterranee), was allowed to dock in Malta after five European countries agreed to take in the 141 people on board. Both organisations are now calling on European governments to assign the closest place of safety without delay, which is in line with International Maritime Law, and 'to help rather than impede lifesaving humanitarian assistance' in the Mediterranean. The Aquarius is now one of only two remaining humanitarian search and rescue vessels on the Central Mediterranean.

Children stuck on Greek islands missing out on education in the EU migration deal

As Greece continues to keep the majority of asylum seekers on the islands while their applications are processed and not transfer them to the mainland, children who are waiting are missing out on [education](#). Some children have been waiting for up to 11 months on the islands, without access to education, although in Greek law, all children have the right to go to school including asylum seekers without their paperwork.

Dire conditions in Moria Camp, Lesbos lead children as young as 10 to attempt suicide

Conditions are reportedly so bad in [the camp](#) that several charities have left out of protest. The camp reportedly smells of open sewage, is overcrowded, and often plagued by violence. 8,000 people live here, in a space with the capacity for 2,000, where they were only supposed to be held for a few days, but where many have been for years.

Migrants report theft and beatings at the hands of Croatian police

Migrants have reported being hit with [batons](#), having their phones damaged and money taken by Croatian police. Most of them come from Afghanistan, Iran and Syria and have already been on the road for years trying to reach sanctuary in Europe.

Hungary ceases food distributions to asylum seekers whose claims have been deemed inadmissible

Hungary has stopped giving [food](#) to some rejected asylum seekers in their custody in transit zones, including two Syrian brothers. Amendments to the Hungarian asylum law from 1 July mean that authorities can deport asylum seekers whose claims have been deemed inadmissible even if they intend to appeal. Nearly all asylum claims in Hungary from those who have entered from what they deem a "safe third country" are deemed inadmissible.

New Research and Reports

The **European Council for Refugees and Exiles (ECRE)** published a [policy paper](#) this month reflecting on the June meeting of the European Council on migration. The paper explores the various options presented by Europe to manage migration, including 'regional disembarkation platforms' and 'controlled centres' and discusses their legal and practical application, as well as the reform of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS). The paper argues that, in the long run, a functioning SAR involves all coastal States in the Mediterranean, however this is not currently feasible. Given the absence of functioning asylum systems in North Africa, any people rescued by vessels under an EU member State's flag should be disembarked in a member State. European coastal States need to come to an agreement about shared responsibility for disembarkation to make this possible and reconsider a longer term strategy for including countries outside the region.

The **Refugee Law Initiative** released a [blog](#) this month considering the dual legal regimes applied to asylum seekers in Israel. The blog argues that there are two different asylum systems operating for two different populations of asylum seekers. One of these – affecting Sudanese and Eritreans – is in violation of several tenants of international law.

The **Migration Policy Institute** published a [profile](#) this month on Egyptian migration. The profile charts various stages of Egyptian migration policy and their drivers across history. The profile concludes with the observations that there is currently an influx of return migration due to the neighbouring situation in Libya and a reduction of work opportunities for Egyptians in the Gulf. This is compounding ongoing economic issues in the country. At the same time, Europe is now looking towards Egypt in its own efforts to stem migration through agreements with third countries on their periphery, which means that Egypt may be expecting to benefit from increased foreign aid in return for cooperation.

The **NIB** published a [comic strip](#) this month demonstrating the abuse faced by many migrant domestic workers who come to Lebanon to try to earn a living but end up in trapped in situations of modern slavery.

For more information visit:
mixedmigration.org

