

Monthly Trends Analysis



Mixed
Migration
Centre

MMC Middle East & Eastern
Mediterranean

NOVEMBER 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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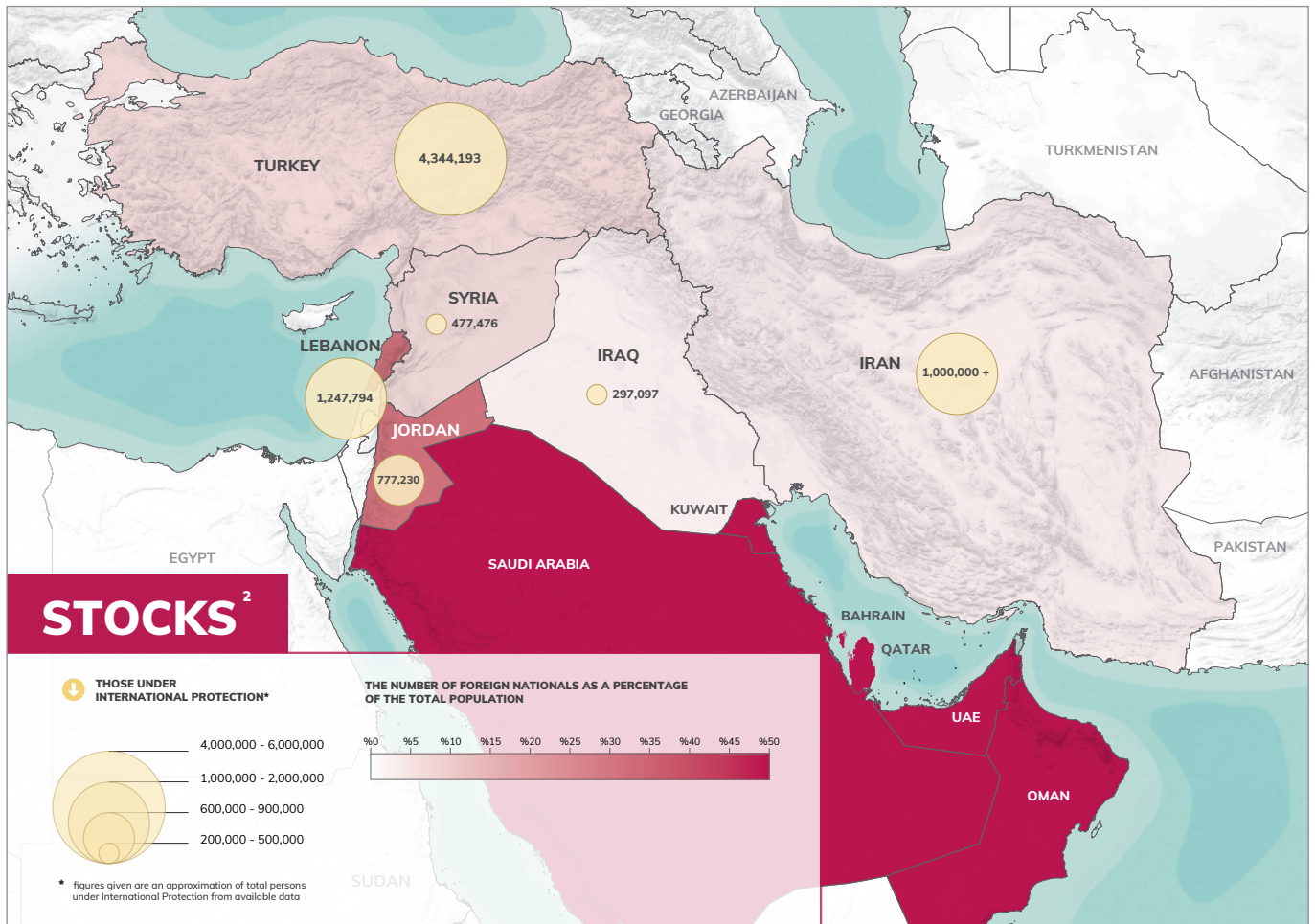
Mixed Migration in the Middle East

This month saw the successful delivery of the first aid delivery to the Rukban border settlement at the Jordanian-Syrian berm since January 2018. Meanwhile, discussions are underway to dismantle the camp and relocate its 50,000 or more displaced Syrians to other State-controlled areas. In Lebanon, a boat carrying 42 people (41 Syrians and 1 Bangladeshi national) attempting to cross into Cyprus was reportedly intercepted by Lebanese authorities earlier this month. In Iraq, large-scale flooding across the country led to the death of seven and the displacement of tens of thousands from residential areas and IDP camps at the end of the month. On 12 November, the Turkish Coast Guard reported the recovery of four bodies while the search for another six missing people remained ongoing after a capsized near the Greek island of Lesbos. Another 44 individuals from Afghanistan, Syria, Pakistan and Iraq were rescued by the Turkish Coast Guard from the island of Boğaz on 19 November.

The closed professions list for foreign nationals was extended further by the Omani government this month, prioritising more sectors for nationals and preventing renewing or issuing of visas for migrant workers. Clashes at the Croatian-Bosnian border were reported this month, following demonstrations from at least 200 people on the move, including women and children, calling for passage into Croatia. Winter conditions along the route put stranded migrants at risk in light of inadequate shelter or services. In Greece, Yazidi minority residents are reporting fear of reprisals by so-called Islamic State affiliates in the camps, as tensions between different ethnic and religious factions become increasingly acute in the context of dire living conditions and little hope of asylum or resettlement.



A Group of Syrian refugee women and children sitting in a tent in an informal settlement in Bekaa Valley, Lebanon. Photo by: Louise Wateridge

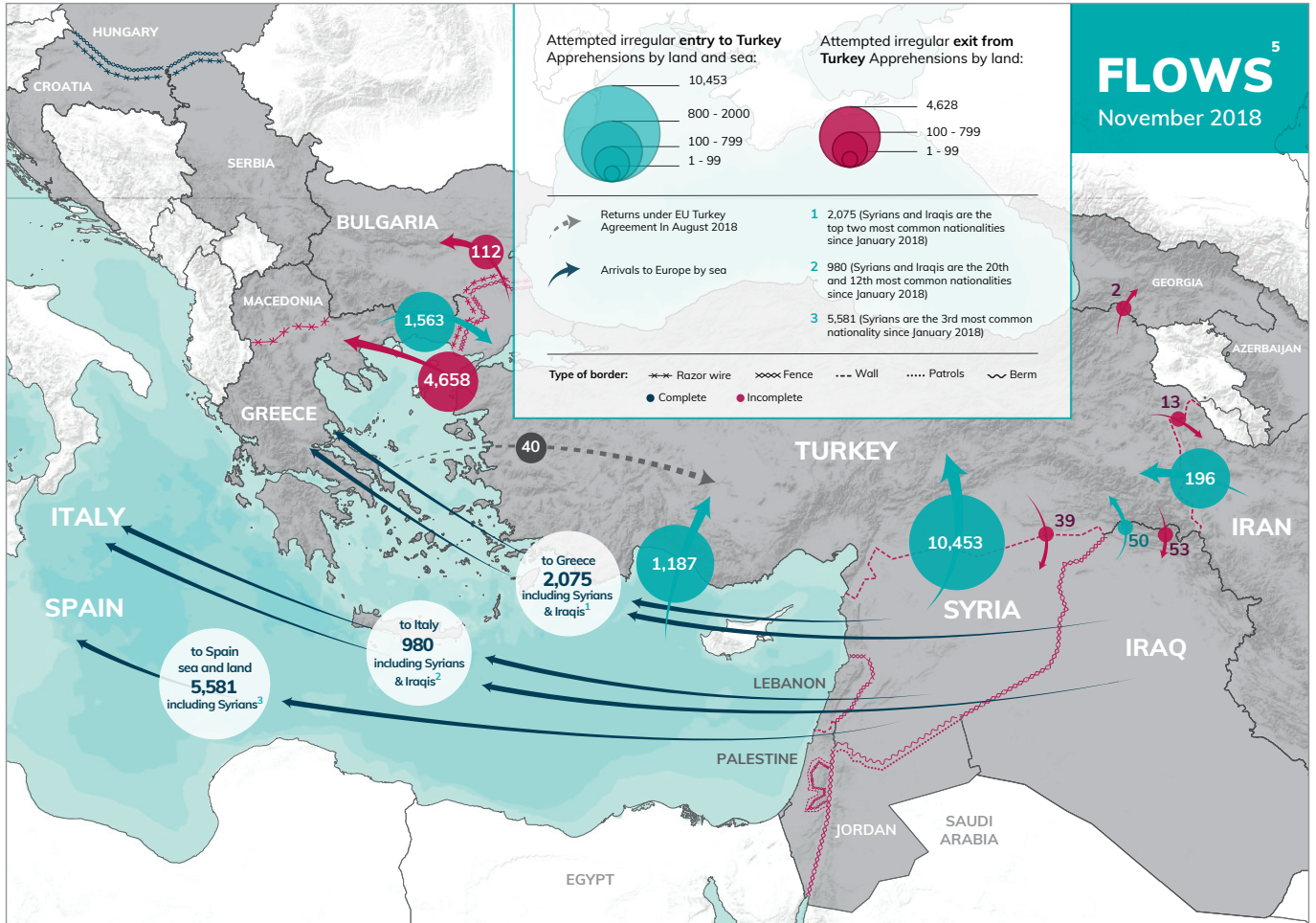


Country	Population	Foreign nationals, including those under International Protection 2017	Those under International Protection 2018
Iraq ³	39,195,203	366,568	297,097
Jordan	9,875,676	3,233,553	777,230
Lebanon	6,088,952	1,938,212	1,247,794
Syria ⁴	18,279,360	1,013,818	477,476
Turkey	81,767,519	4,881,966	4,347,705
GCC	51,467,147	25,214,080	-
Iran	81,898,349	2,699,155	1,000,000 +

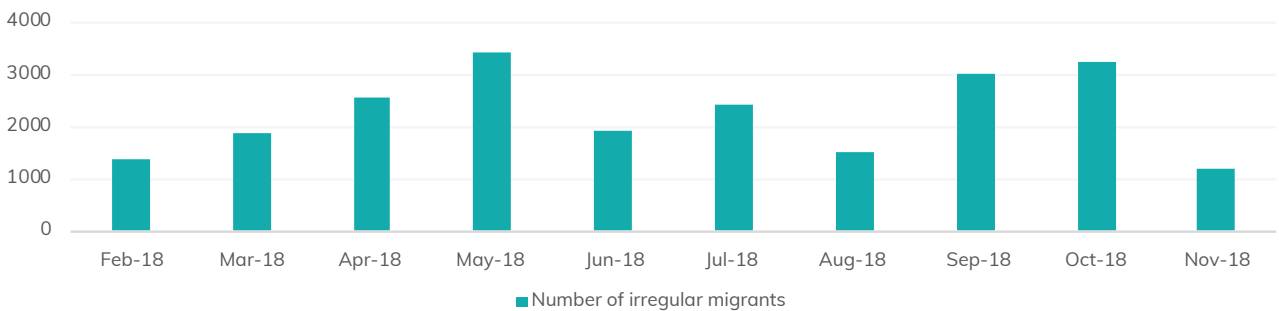
2 The sources of data for this map are as follows. Total number of foreign nationals including those under international protection: [UN desa 2017](#) and [Gulf Research Center](#). Syrians under International Protection: [UNHCR](#). Other populations with International Protection: [UNHCR](#); [Chicago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

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

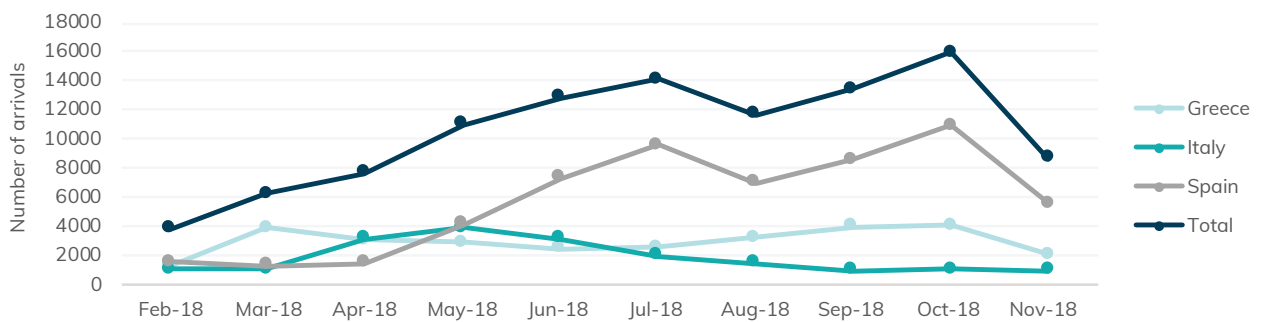
4 IDPs: 6,500,000



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' (Nov 2018)
[671,148](#)

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

[67,272](#) Iraqis
[13,610](#) Yemenis
[5,617](#) Sudanese
[806](#) Somalis
[1,777](#) 'Others' (Nov 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

Trucks transporting aid deliveries to 50 to 60,000 Syrians in the Rukban border settlement at the Syria-Jordan border due to commence at the end of last month finally reached the camp on [3rd November](#), which were completed by the [7th](#). The last aid delivery to reach the camp was in January 2018, from the Jordanian side of the border by crane. Efforts have been otherwise hampered by the political stalemate between the Jordanian government and the Assad regime, who have both publicly renounced responsibility for the camp's residents. This is reportedly the [first time](#) that international aid workers have entered the camp since it was formed three years ago. Currently in rebel-held territory, the camp is located at the desert berm between Jordan and Syria, where residents are faced with extreme weather conditions, a lack of food and medical supplies, not to mention reported rights violations by rebel factions running the camp and the surrounding area. A number of acute medical cases are regularly submitted to Jordan for treatment, however the borders have remained closed for most since a security incident in [June 2016](#). Discussions around the [dismantling](#) of the camp also took place this month between Jordan, Russia and the US, over a Russian plan to “arrange the voluntary return of Rukban residents to their home areas in eastern Syria following their recapture by the Syrian government from Islamic State”. However, many reportedly fear conscription and reprisals for perceived “terrorist activities” in State-held areas.

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

950,334 Registered Syrian 'mandate refugees' (Nov 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

Lebanese media reported the apprehension of a [fishing boat](#) attempting to cross irregularly to Cyprus on 9 November. 42 people were reportedly on board, the majority of whom were Syrian, with one Bangladeshi national. This is further to a boat that was rescued after it capsized attempting to reach Cyprus with 31 Syrians and one Lebanese national last month, indicating the use of irregular sea routes in the area by those trying to reach safety and better opportunities elsewhere.

Iraq



Population
39.09 million



Those Under International Protection



Number of Foreign Nationals
(including those under International Protection)

366,568 (UN est. 2017)

252,772 Registered Syrian 'mandate refugees' (Nov 2018)

11,544 Palestinians

44,325 Non-Syrians (as of Sept 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

More than [200,000](#) Yazidis reportedly remain displaced in northern Iraq, and abroad, following persecution by the so-called Islamic State that began in 2014. Three years have passed since the Iraqi government regained control of the area, yet a significant number of residents are yet to return as at least 70 per cent of the buildings were destroyed in the battle to retake Sinjar.

Large-scale [flooding](#) was reported across Iraq from 23 November, resulting in the death of [seven](#) people and damaging homes, infrastructure and agriculture. The flooding affected tens of thousands, with 10,000 identified as in need of assistance in Salah Al-Din and a further 22,000 in Ninewa governorate. For IDPs, the situation had a particularly acute impact, including the flooding of tents which led to [displacement](#) of thousands from camps across the country.

Turkey



Population
81.66 million



**Those Under
International
Protection**



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

4,881,966 (UN est. 2017)

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

3.9 million foreign nationals seeking International Protection (July 2018)

3,607,563 Syrians with Temporary Protection (Nov 2018)

Non-Syrian population seeking International Protection:

Iraq [143,610](#)

Afghanistan [169,386](#)

Iran [40,505](#)

Somalia [7,365](#)

Others [11,047](#) (Nov 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 Turkish Coast Guard [recovered](#) the bodies of four people on 12 November, whilst continuing the search for the remaining six missing migrants. The boat transporting this group reportedly capsized in the Aegean Sea near Lesbos, with 14 Afghans and one Iraqi on board (four of which were reportedly children).

On 19 November, the Turkish Coast Guard reported the rescue of [44 individuals](#) attempting to cross into Greece via the Aegean island of Boğaz. Turkish media reported that the group was made up of Afghan, Syrian, Pakistani and Iraqi nationals.

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 (as of 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

Closed professions list for migrant workers in Oman expands further

Following the Omani government's decision to freeze expat visas in January 2018, further restrictions have been extended to new sectors of employment for migrant workers this month. Professions reserved for nationals only now also include purchase and sales representatives, construction, cleaning and workshop sectors. Employers will no longer be able to renew or issue new visas in any of these sectors, as part of the country's "Omanisation" strategy. Some have highlighted that local skills in particular sectors remain underdeveloped and that finding a local workforce in these instances could be challenging. Foreign nationals comprised at least [44%](#) of the population in Oman in 2017.

Read more [here](#).

Clashes at Croatian-Bosnian border as pressure to allow migrants to transit builds

Clashes were reported on the Bosnian side of the Croatia-Bosnia border earlier this month, after around 200 women and children demonstrated, calling for passage by blocking a road. Croatian police reportedly responded with force, by using teargas and batons to

disperse the crowd, resulting in the injury of several individuals. A hunger strike also followed the event. Bosnian police transferred 126 people to Sarajevo to provide accommodation for those camping at the border, however winter conditions remain particularly harsh for those that remain. Roughly 16,000 people from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and Syria have passed through Bosnia already this year, though less than 10% have lodged asylum applications there.

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

Slovakia becomes latest country to shun Global Compact for Migration

Following the European Summit on 25th November, Slovakia's Prime Minister announced the government's rejection of UN-led efforts to form a global framework on migration governance. Slovakia follows Austria, the US and Hungary in backing out of the agreement, underscoring increasing resistance to multilateral cooperation on migration governance.

Read more [here](#).

Other News

Displaced Yazidi families fear violence by so-called Islamic State in Greek camps

Members of the Yazidi religious minority group that fled Iraq in the wake of persecution by the so-called Islamic State since 2014 have reported [fearing reprisals](#) by its members in Greek camps. This had led to some identifying as Kurds, for fear of persecution as a Yazidi, which complicates specific protection. With ongoing tensions between different communities in Greek island camps, attempts have been made to segregate particular nationalities, however the Greek government have also refused to privilege on the basis of nationality, which undermined the planned transfer of 700 Yazidis to Greece by the European Parliament earlier in the year.

Talk of return plans for Palestinians to Syria's Yarmouk camp

The Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister reportedly announced a plan to facilitate the [return](#) of the minimum 140,000 Palestinians that have fled Yarmouk camp due to conflict since 2012. The camp, located in southern Damascus, used to play host to at least 160,000 Palestinian refugees, Syria's largest pre-civil war Palestinian population. However, clashes between opposition and Assad regime forces led to mass displacement, followed by further suffering brought upon its residents when the area came under siege by the so-called Islamic State in 2015. The UNRWA has so far refused to repair any damages until its residents are officially allowed to return by Assad's government.

Iraq and Syria discuss making plans to re-open border

The Syrian and Iraqi Interior Ministries have reportedly been in discussions concerning the [re-opening](#) of their shared border, following on from initial conversations in October of this year. The Spokesperson for the Iraq Ministry of Interior and Baghdad Operations, Saad

Maan, stated that the border areas have been “liberated completely” of so-called Islamic State fighters, despite evidence of a potential [resurgence](#). Maan stated that “Iraq is now ready to open the borders...whether for touristic, trade or economic purposes toward the Syrian borders”, though evidence of complete stability in the area is yet to be confirmed.

New Research and Reports

The Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean branch of the Mixed Migration Centre published a new [briefing paper](#) this month on Diaspora, transnational networks and migration among Syrians and Iraqis. The paper examines the relationship between family, friends and social networks already in Europe, particularly from Syria and Iraq, and those en route or newly arrived from the Middle East. It assesses the extent to which individual migration decisions are affected by transnational social networks including support provided pre-departure, en route, or upon arrival.

The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) released a [report](#) this month analysing ongoing barriers to sustainable return for displaced Iraqis. The paper, *Nowhere to Return To: Iraqis' search for Durable Solutions continues*, examines drivers for displacement and their relationship with the onward movement

of people within and across borders, aiming to shed light on their preconditions for return and obstacles to achievement of durable solutions through 300 interviews in Jordan, Iraq and Sweden.

Şenoğuz and Carpi published a [paper](#) under the **IOM International Migration Journal** examining refugee hospitality in Lebanon and Turkey this month. The report analyses the concept of hospitality in these two contexts, from a State and public perspective, in the border areas of Gaziantep and Akkar, North Lebanon, towards Syrian refugees. Based on ethnographic studies conducted in these two regions, the article examines the “humanitarian border” as regards humanitarian, government and everyday instances of hospitality towards Syrians.

For more information visit:
mixedmigration.org

