

# Monthly Trends Analysis



MMC Middle East & Eastern  
Mediterranean

OCTOBER 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.<sup>1</sup>

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](https://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:  
Louise Wateridge

SUPPORTED BY:



# Background: Mixed Migration in the Middle East

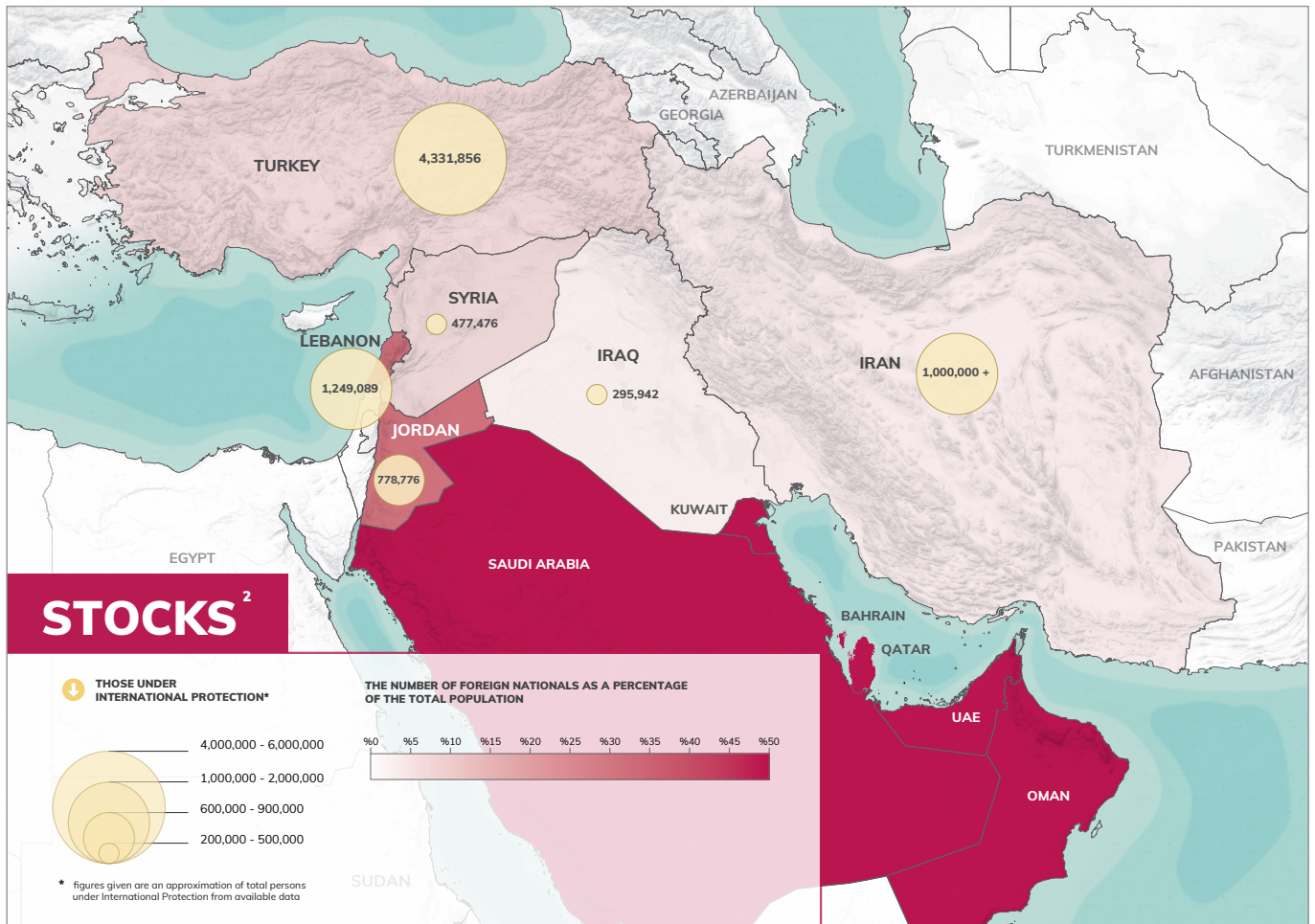
In Jordan, two Syrian children died at the Rukban settlement earlier this month, due to a lack of medical care, highlighting the ongoing stalemate for aid provision to this area between Jordan and Syria. The lack of access continues to place the 50 to 60,000 Syrians trapped at the berm in dire conditions. In Lebanon, exact figures for return remain conflicting, as government efforts to facilitate return are ongoing. However, conditions for safe return in Syria are still lacking, due to a lack of infrastructure, property destruction and the possibility of political reprisals for opponents of the Assad regime. Otherwise in Lebanon, the death of a migrant domestic worker in Metn was reported on the basis of suspicious circumstances and the possible implication of her employer sponsors under the Kefala system. Meanwhile, in Iraq, the government began implementing its evacuation and closure of camps within Anbar governorate this month, despite concerns from aid workers that conditions in areas of origin are not yet stable for return of IDPs. Details of targeted persecution

of those affiliated with the so-called Islamic State by State intelligence services were also published in October, while 110 families were reportedly displaced by “extremist attacks” in Diyala governorate.

In Turkey, reports of refoulement of Syrians emerged this month, with evidence that individuals are being arrested due to alleged work permit violations (in some cases wrongfully) and then coerced into signing voluntary return statements in Turkish prior to deportation. In early October, eight people were reported dead and 25 missing after a boat sank shortly after leaving Turkey’s Izmir province. Another 22 people were reported killed in a truck crash attempting to reach Greece via smuggling routes, with 9 children injured. Almost 300 White Helmet rescue workers left Jordan to be resettled in Europe, the US and Canada this month, while Portugal trial a new refugee transfer programme from Greece, starting with 100 people but expected to grow to 1,000 individuals by the end of 2019.



A group of Syrian refugee children leaving the school bus in an informal settlement in Beqaa, Lebanon. October, 2017. Photo by: Louise Wateridge

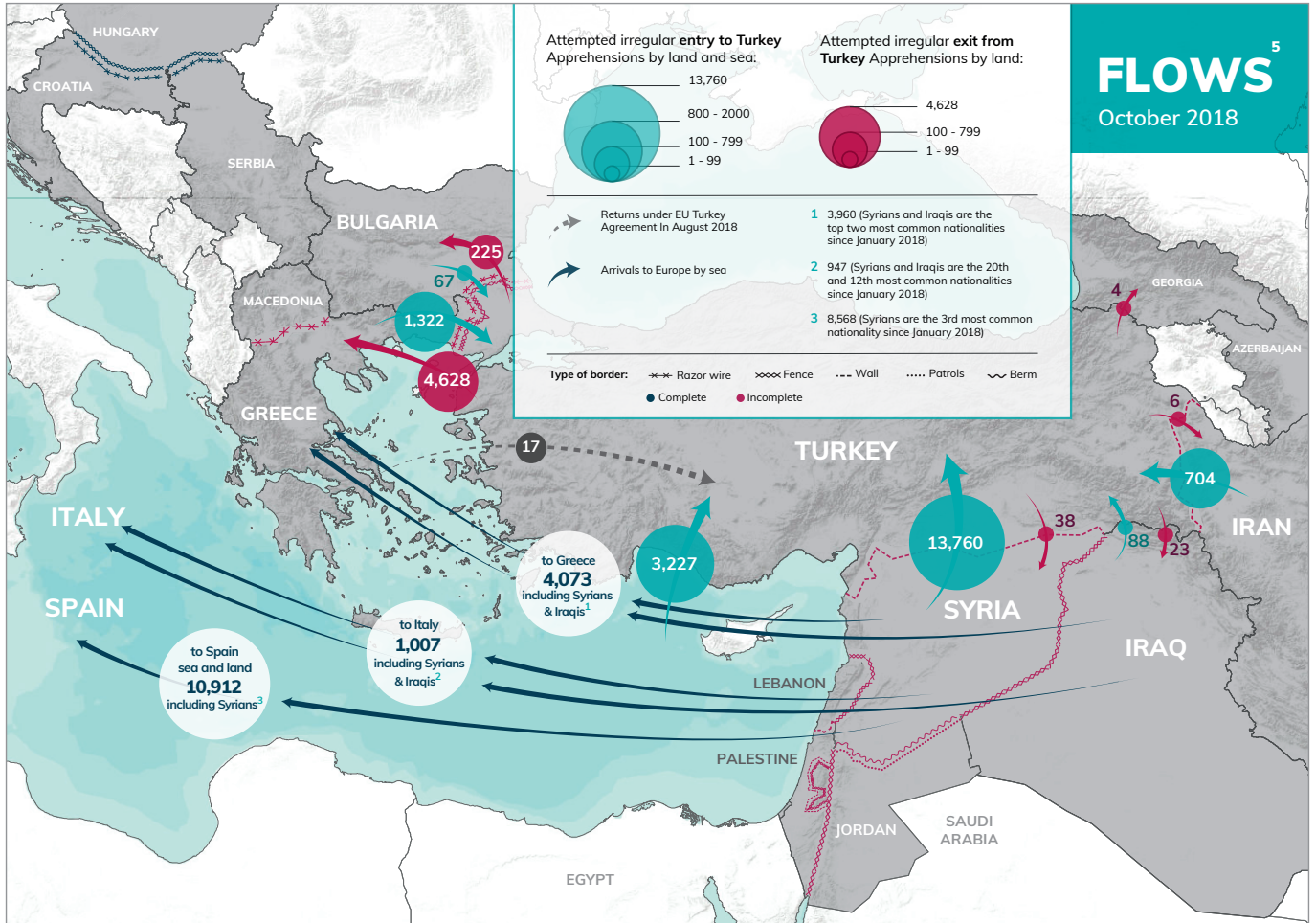


Country	Population	Foreign nationals, including those under International Protection 2017	Those under International Protection 2018
Iraq <sup>3</sup>	39,195,203	366,568	295,942
Jordan	9,875,676	3,233,553	778,776
Lebanon	6,088,952	1,938,212	1,249,089
Syria <sup>4</sup>	18,279,360	1,013,818	477,476
Turkey	81,767,519	4,881,966	4,331,856
GCC	51,467,147	25,214,080	-
Iran	81,898,349	2,699,155	1,000,000 +

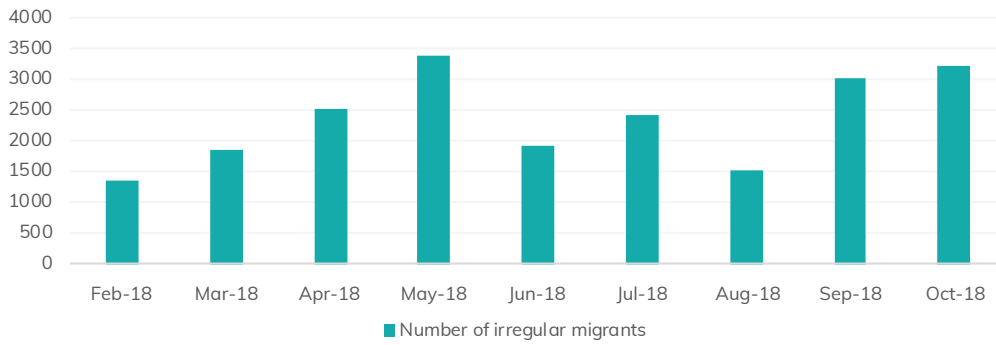
2 The sources of data for this map are as follows. Total number of foreign nationals including those under international protection: [UN desa 2017](#) and [Gulf Research Center](#). Syrians under International Protection: [UNHCR](#). Other populations with International Protection: [UNHCR](#); [Chicago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

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

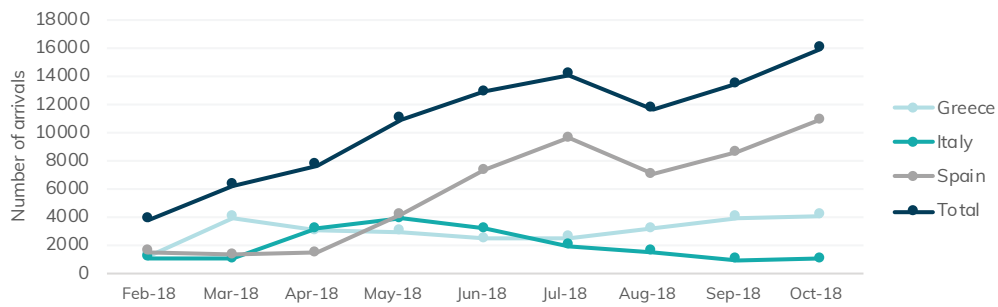
4 IDPs: 6,500,000



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**



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



**Those Under International Protection**

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

Syrian 'mandate refugees'  
(Oct 2018)  
[673,193](#)

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

[2.1 million](#) Palestinians registered with UNRWA (most with full citizenship)

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

[67,273](#) Iraqis  
[13,228](#) Yemenis  
[5,489](#) Sudanese  
[814](#) Somalis  
[1,779](#) 'Others'  
(Oct 2018)

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

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



**Migrant Workers**

**1.4 million migrant workers**

(There are also [1.4 million](#) Jordanians working in Jordan)

1 million migrant workers don't have permits

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

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

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

[9,448](#) migrants deported in 2017 for labour documentation violations

## Countries of Origin of Foreign Nationals

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

## Access to Services

### Syrian Asylum Seekers and Refugees

- **LEGAL ENTRY/STATUS:** As Jordan is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention, nor its 1967 Protocol, Syrians are recognised upon registration as “mandate refugees”<sup>6</sup> 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

UNICEF reported the [death](#) of two children on 10th October at the Rukban border crossing, in an informal camp where approximately 50,000 to 60,000 remain stranded at the border between Syria and Jordan. This section of the border to Jordan remains closed after a [security incident](#) in June 2016. The two children reportedly died due to a lack of available medical care. The conditions in the camp become increasingly [untenable](#), with dwindling food and medical supplies, as the last aid delivery to the camp was conducted in January 2018. Jordan approved delivery of supplies by crane to the area known as “the berm”, but has since emphasised that any further assistance remains Syria’s responsibility. Humanitarian access to the camp from the Syrian side has otherwise been blocked by the Syrian regime. On 17th October, a further [twelve deaths](#) were reported due to the deteriorating conditions, a lack of food and medical care or childbirth complications. A UN aid delivery was approved for 25th October, however had failed to reach the camp by [26th](#) and [27th](#) October, reportedly due to ongoing negotiations with the Syrian regime and the presence of armed groups in the area surrounding the camp. Rukban’s residents reportedly staged a five-day sit-in earlier this month in [protest](#) of the dire conditions.

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)<sup>7</sup>

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



**Those Under International Protection**

**951,629 Registered Syrian 'mandate refugees' (Oct 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

<sup>7</sup> 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

Returns from Lebanon to Syria are ongoing, in part via a process facilitated by the Lebanese government. Figures quoted by the Head of General Security last month put the total at 50,000 total returns (25,000 through the General Security channel and 25,000 of their own accord), however [discrepancies](#) exist between previously published figures from government forces, which would reportedly add up to 4,000 for 2018 only. The UNHCR put this figure at 3,000 for 2018, with regards to those Syrians registered with the organisation, indicating a lack of overall clarity on precise figures. Regardless, ongoing [risks](#) to return (including ongoing conflict in Idlib, government reprisals and arrest) and a lack of sustainable conditions for Syrians in areas of origin or elsewhere continue to complicate return for the majority of the at least 950,000 Syrians still displaced in Lebanon. This is compounded by public resentment towards Syrians across Lebanon, evidenced by curfews and eviction campaigns implemented at the municipal level, not to mention reports of sexual and financial [exploitation](#). Such [conditions](#) leave Syrians in Lebanon with few options for a safe and stable lifestyle, a situation which appears to be compelling some to embark upon risky sea journeys towards Europe once more. [31 Syrians](#) and 1 Lebanese were reportedly rescued from a boat that capsized attempting to reach Cyprus.

The [death](#) of a migrant domestic worker in Metn was reported in national news on 4th October, though the circumstances surrounding the unidentified woman's death remain unclear. The individual was found hanged in the house of her employers and was reportedly 30 years of age. Such incidents serve to highlight the abuse and exploitation that migrant domestic workers face under the Kefala labour sponsorship system in the Middle East, exacerbated by the live-in situations of many migrant women with their employers and a lack of oversight or access to external support or legal recourse.

# Iraq



**Population**  
**39.09 million**



**Those Under International Protection**



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

**366,568** (UN est. 2017)

251,793 Registered Syrian 'mandate refugees' (Oct 2018)

11,544 Palestinians

44,149 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

The Iraqi government have reportedly begun [closing IDP camps](#) in Anbar governorate, in an alleged effort to expedite the forcible return of IDPs to their areas of origin. However, aid workers have expressed concerns that the conditions for return are not yet stable, citing ongoing conflict and persecution in areas of origin. The [closure](#) of Al Shahama camp, announced by the government in July, reportedly also began in October in Salah Al-Din governorate.

[Minutes](#) from the National Protection Working Group detail targeted efforts by State intelligence services to identify those with perceived affiliations to the so-called Islamic State across Ninewa governorate, an issue also reported on in previous months as a source of inter-community tension in areas of origin.

[110 families](#) were also reportedly displaced at the beginning of October in Diyala governorate due to “extremist attacks”, meanwhile returns continue to Gwlat and the surrounding villages in Sinjar.

# 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)

**3,591,714** Syrians with Temporary  
Protection (Oct 2018)

Non-Syrian population  
seeking International Protection:

Iraq [143,610](#)

Afghanistan [169,386](#)

Iran [40,505](#)

Somalia [7,365](#)

Others [11,047](#) (Oct 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

Further [evidence](#) that the Turkish government is violating the principle of non-refoulement emerged this month. Reports detail the coercion of Syrian asylum seekers into signing voluntary return forms after being arrested for alleged work permit violations. The form reportedly details (in Turkish) that the individual in question renounces their right to asylum prior to deportation. Cases of Syrians with valid work permits being arrested and charged for permit violations were also reported.

On 10 October, the Turkish Coast Guard reported [eight people dead and 25 missing](#) after a boat sank off the western coast of Turkey attempting to make irregular passage (though the exact location of departure and destination remain unclear). There were reportedly 35 people on board in total when water started leaking shortly after departure from Turkey’s Izmir province.

On 14 October, Turkish State media reported the [death of 22 people](#) being transported irregularly to Greece when their truck crashed. Nine of those injured were reportedly children; countries of origin were not clarified.

# 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><b>Iraq</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Law on Foreigners Residence No. 118 (1978):</b> Establishes who is considered to be a foreigner as well as regulations for obtaining visas and entering and exiting the <a href="#">country</a>. The law refers to “refugees” in Article 6 but does not define them as a separate category.</li> <li>• <b>National Policy on Displacement (2008):</b> Defines the rights of IDPs and returnees in Iraq. Never passed into law.</li> <li>• <b>Political Refugee Law (1971):</b> Establishes <a href="#">benefits</a> 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.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Jordan</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Law No. 24 of 1973 on Residence and Foreigners’ Affairs:</b> <a href="#">Defines</a> 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.</li> <li>• <b>Memorandum of Understanding between the H. K. of Jordan and the UNHCR (1998):</b> 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 <a href="#">Memorandum of Understanding</a> (MoU) signed in 1998.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Lebanon</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Order No. 319 Regulating the Status of Foreign Nationals in Lebanon:</b> <a href="#">Defines</a> who is considered a foreign national and the five categories of status available to them.</li> <li>• <b>Memorandum of Understanding: Lebanon and UNHCR (2003):</b> Lebanon is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention, nor its 1967 Protocol but provides for Temporary Status for asylum seekers via an <a href="#">MoU</a> signed with UNHCR in 2003. (Restrictions were applied in 2015).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Turkey</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Law on Foreigners and International Protection (April 2014):</b> A legal <a href="#">framework</a> 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 <a href="#">law</a> 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.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Turkey</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Temporary Protection Regulation (October 2014):</b> For those seeking International Protection from Syria, including Stateless Palestinians originating from Syria (and potentially other 'large influx' situations in the future). <a href="#">Grants</a> right to legal stay and some access to basic rights and services.</li> <li>• <b>The 1951 Refugee Convention:</b> 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.</li> <li>• <b>Open door policy between Syria and Turkey (2011-2015):</b> Syrians who crossed Turkish border from Syria were granted Temporary Protection.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Syria</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Law No. 2 -2014 Entry, Exit and Residence of Foreigners in Syria:</b> 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.</li> <li>• <b>Memorandum of Understanding:</b> 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.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Regional</b> (applies to GCC countries, Jordan, Iraq and Lebanon)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The <a href="#">Kefala</a> system:</b> 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.</li> </ul>

**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

## Austria latest State to back out of Global Compact agreement

In the latest reaction to the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, Austria has decided to follow Hungary and the United States of America in backing out of the agreement. The current right-wing government in Austria has indicated that it will not sign the GCM at the final conference where one year of State negotiations will culminate in the finalising of the agreement. The government have stated they fear the GCM will “blur the lines between legal and illegal migration”.

Read more [here](#).

## Swedish student faces prosecution for preventing Afghan deportation

A Swedish student who stopped the deportation of an Afghan asylum seeker by preventing the plane from taking off in July faces prosecution for her actions. By refusing to sit down on the flight, Elin Ersson grounded the plane, after which other passengers joined her in protest and the asylum seeker was removed. The video of Ersson, which she took herself during the event from her phone, quickly went viral at 13 million views. Ersson now faces charges of “crimes against aviation law”, that would result in a fine and six months in jail.

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

## Portugal trialling refugee transfer programme with Greece

Portugal plans to receive 100 refugees in the trial phase of a new programme that is designed to provide “permanent and stable solutions in Europe to deal with migration and refugees at a European level”. The Minister of Internal Affairs explained that the project could expand to as many as 1,000 refugees throughout 2019.

Read more [here](#).

## European Parliament committee propose humanitarian visa scheme to reduce risky irregular crossings

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs called for a new proposal to establish a bloc-wide humanitarian visa system that faces a vote next month. The scheme would see the current visa rules change to allow for individuals to apply for entry prior to arrival on humanitarian grounds, rather than embarking upon dangerous smuggling routes (over 90% of the EU’s current arrivals).

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

# Other News

## Almost 300 White Helmet rescue workers leave from Jordan to the West

279 of the 422 White Helmet rescue workers and their families, that fled Syria during intensified military offensives by Assad forces in Syria’s Southwest several months ago, left Jordan to be [resettled](#) on 17 October. Under a UN-brokered agreement, the families will be resettled in Canada, Germany and Britain.

## 11 killed in car crash in suspected smuggling car in Greece

11 people were [killed](#) in a car crash on 13 October. The car was reportedly headed for northern town, Thessaloniki, when it collided with a truck and burst into flames. The driver was identified as a suspected people smuggler; one of the victims was believed to be

a child and there were reportedly people in the trunk of the car. The Greek authorities have reportedly recorded an increase in recent months of attempted entry across Greece’s border with Turkey, after which people try to reach Thessaloniki in order to register with the police and apply for asylum.

## Refugees in Greece line up outside police stations to be arrested

On 8 October, a line of hundreds of refugees was reported to have formed outside a police station in Thessaloniki. The queuing individuals reportedly did so intending to be [arrested](#), in order to then lodge an asylum application. As entry from Turkey’s land border increases, and the winter months approach, individuals, many from Iran and Iraq, are trying to process their applications so they can be allocated a space in a migrant camp on the mainland.

# New Research and Reports

**Save the Children** published a [report](#) this month on experiences of child returnees from Europe to Afghanistan. The report details the impact the return process has on 57 children interviewed in Spring 2018. Nearly three quarters of those interviewed did not feel safe throughout the return process; over half reported instances of violence and coercion and almost half arrived alone. The rate of school attendance dropped from 45 to 16 out of the total 57, while ten said others had attempted to recruit them to commit violent acts. The report also provides recommendations to European governments returning children to such unstable environments.

**UNHCR, World Bank and the IOM** released a [periodic analysis](#) of Syrian workers outside of camps in Jordan this month. This report follows on from an earlier edition in October 2017, considering new regulations

and evidence collected. The analysis aims to better understand the situations of the over 80% of Syrians living and working outside of camps in Jordan. The random sample provides information on the percentage of valid work permits across construction and other sectors, alongside duration and stability of work.

**Refugees Deeply** produced a [long-read investigation](#) into the vulnerability of Afghan child soldiers forcibly recruited into the Syrian conflict and their attempts to seek protection in Europe. The report underlines the various actors implicated in the failure to protect and uphold the rights of these minors, first of all upon displacement to Iran, then during their forced conscription to armed militia in the Syrian conflict, and finally upon their arrival via irregular routes in Greece.

For more information visit:  
[mixedmigration.org](https://mixedmigration.org)

