

Monthly Trends Analysis



The following trends analysis is put together on the basis of available secondary data at the time of publication. It is representative of the available information and therefore indicative of mixed migratory trends in the Middle East.

The Mixed Migration Centre (MMC) was established in February 2018. It brings together various existing regional initiatives – hosted or led by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) – engaged in data collection, research, analysis and policy development on mixed migration issues into a new global network of mixed migration expertise.¹

The Mixed Migration Centre - Middle East & Eastern Mediterranean, provides quality mixed migration-related information for policy, programming and advocacy from a regional perspective. Our core countries of focus are Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Israel/OPT and Greece.

For more information visit: mixedmigration.org

1 This includes RMMS East Africa & Yemen, RMMS West Africa, the Mixed Migration Platform (MMP) in the Middle East, the Global Mixed Migration Secretariat (GMMS) in Geneva and different programmes of the Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative (4Mi).

Cover photo:
Eduardo Soteras Jalil

SUPPORTED BY:



Background:

Mixed Migration in the Middle East

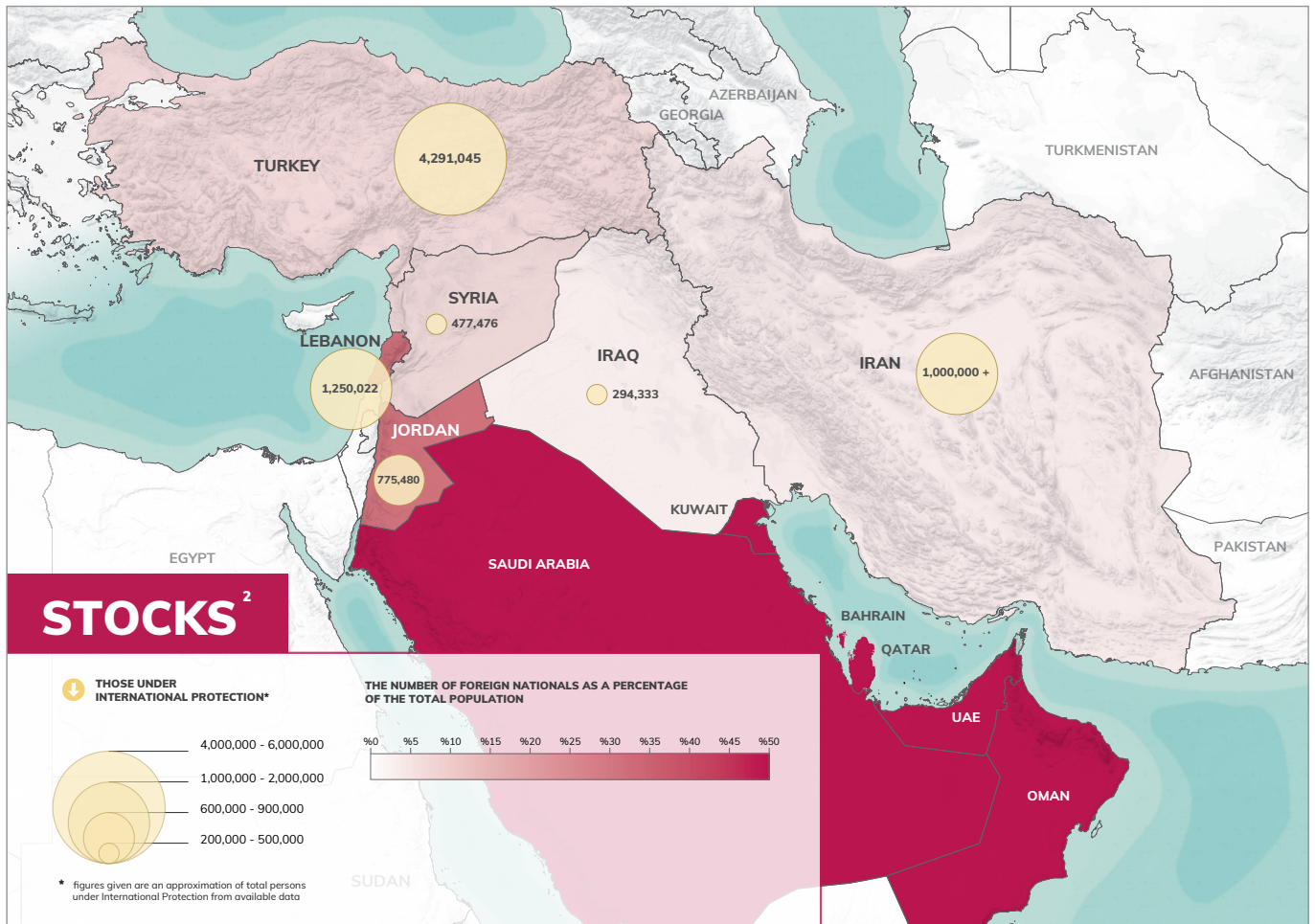
No spontaneous returns were recorded from Jordan to Syria in September, though total Syrian returns from Lebanon in 2018 reached 50,000 this month. By 30 September, the number of recorded returnees to areas of origin in Iraq since January 2014 reached 4,000,000, alongside 1,900,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs). Nonetheless, barriers to sustainable return for Iraqis remain, including property destruction, lack of livelihood opportunities and persecution of those with perceived affiliations to the so-called Islamic State. Reported shelling by Iranian forces in the Barbizin area of the Kurdish region of Iraq also led to the displacement of local villagers in early September. An ongoing investigation into the death of Lemimbo, an Ethiopian migrant domestic worker, took place in Lebanon this month, with her employer sponsor accused of her rape, ensuing pregnancy and murder. This case took place amidst a backdrop of other such cases involving exploitation and abuse that are commonplace within the Kefala labour sponsorship system. In Turkey, UNHCR officially ended its registration of all non-Syrian asylum seekers on 10th September, the processing of whom will be handed

over to the Turkish Directorate General for Migration Management. Future applicants will only be permitted to reside in “satellite cities”, currently excluding 19 provinces, such as Istanbul, Izmir and Ankara. On 30th September, at least five people were killed when their boat capsized off the coast of northwestern Edirne province, in attempt to reach Europe via smuggling routes.

In Greece, 2,000 individuals were transferred from Moria camp to the mainland, amidst efforts to ease overcrowding on the islands. Meanwhile, three rescue workers supporting an organisation in the Mediterranean remain in detention for charges of people smuggling, espionage and membership of a criminal organisation, a high-profile case illustrating the ongoing crackdown on humanitarian organisations saving lives along the Mediterranean sea crossing towards Europe. Further along the Balkan route, 15,000 people have reportedly crossed through Bosnia in an attempt to reach Europe so far this year, with approximately 1,000 sleeping rough near the Croatian border in increasingly harsh winter conditions.



Syrian children playing in their tent in an informal tented settlement in Zahleh, Lebanon. June 2015. Photo by: Eduardo Soteras Jalil

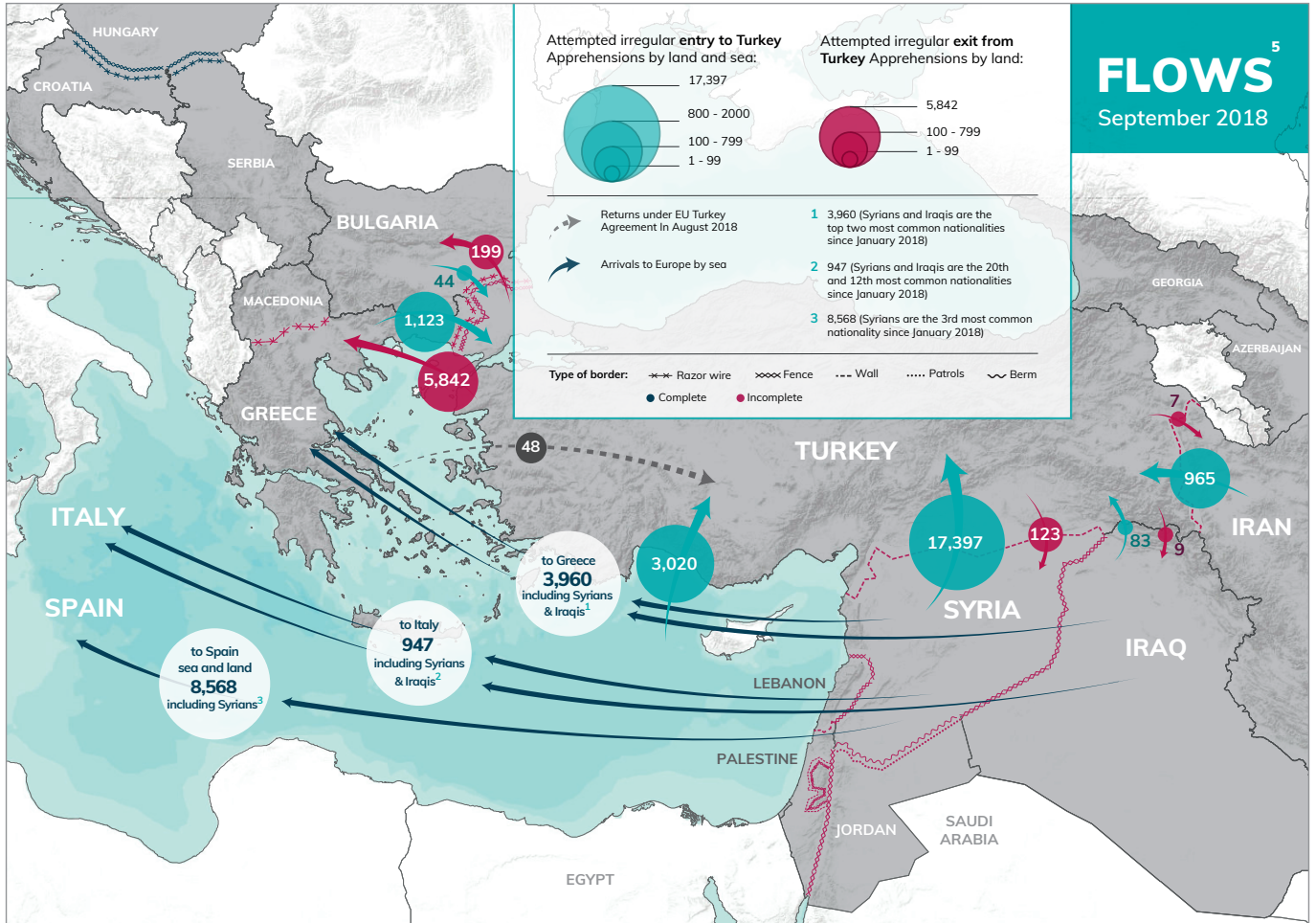


Country	Population	Foreign nationals, including those under International Protection 2017	Those under International Protection 2018
Iraq ³	39,195,203	366,568	294,333
Jordan	9,875,676	3,233,553	775,480
Lebanon	6,088,952	1,938,212	1,250,022
Syria ⁴	18,279,360	1,013,818	477,476
Turkey	81,767,519	4,881,966	4,291,045
GCC	51,467,147	25,214,080	-
Iran	81,898,349	2,699,155	1,000,000 +

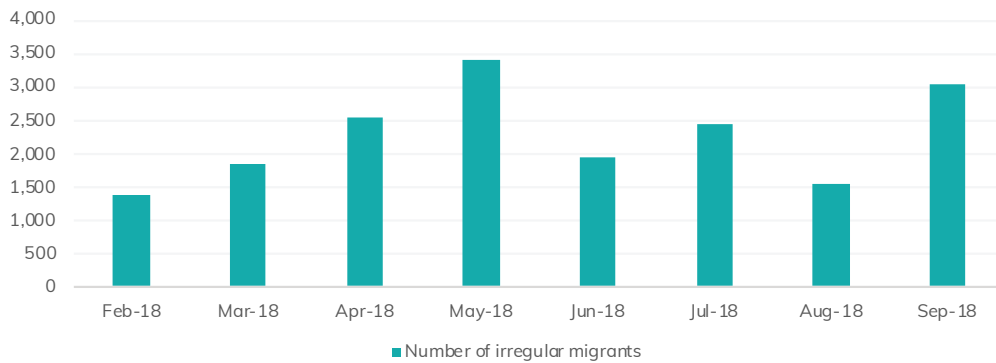
2 The sources of data for this map are as follows. Total number of foreign nationals including those under international protection: [UN desa 2017](#) and [Gulf Research Center](#). Syrians under International Protection: [UNHCR](#). Other populations with International Protection: [UNHCR](#); [Chicago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

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

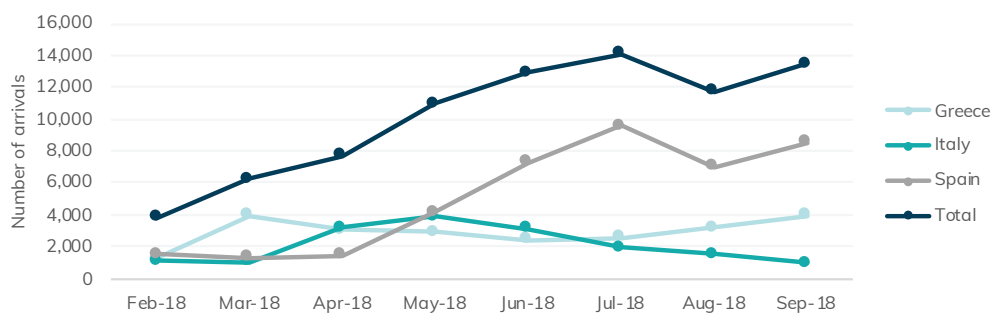
4 IDPs: 6,500,000



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'
(Sept 2018)
[758,392](#)

[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](#))

[66,965](#) Iraqis
[12,729](#) Yemenis
[5,115](#) Sudanese
[807](#) Somalis
[1,732](#) 'Others'
(Sept 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”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 Ministry of Labour released a [report](#) this month on migrant domestic workers in the country. The report cited that there are currently 58,262 migrant domestic workers with valid work permits. It also underlined the number of complaints submitted within the sector this year, at 971, the majority of which submitted to the Ministry were reportedly for administrative disputes between employers and employees. The Public Security Directorate remains the responsible body for the handling of other forms of complaints including forced labour and exploitation, withheld or delayed payment or long working hours. The Ministry of Labour reported the closure of 13 offices over the past two years for violations of regulations, emphasising that unlicensed offices play a role in luring migrant domestic workers into situations of irregularity through more lucrative offers outside of official contracts. The Justice Centre for Legal Action (JCLA) and Tamkeen Fields for Legal Aid also highlighted the live-in situations of the majority of domestic workers in the homes of their employers which complicate government oversight of working conditions and rights violations. Common violations include restricted freedom of movement and confiscation of travel and identification documents and mobile phones. These migrant rights organisations called for the implementation of existing legal frameworks for the protection of migrant domestic workers in practice.

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

952,562 Registered Syrian 'mandate refugees' (September 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 ongoing [investigation](#) into the suspicious death of an Ethiopian domestic worker, known as Lembibo, made headlines in Lebanon this month. Lembibo became pregnant after arriving on a work contract to Lebanon in December 2017, with accusations of rape having arisen during the investigation. After delivering the child, who did not survive complications during child birth, Lembibo was reportedly then taken by the recruitment agency responsible for her entry into the country, and found dead two days later. Lembibo's story is typical of other migrant domestic workers who have faced similar situations of serious abuse and even murder at the hands of employers under the Kefala labour sponsorship system still prevalent throughout the Middle East and Arab Gulf region. Of the 200,000 migrant domestic workers from Ethiopia, Sri Lanka, the Philippines and Nepal, cases of exploitation are commonplace.

The Lebanese government organised further returns to Syria this month, with [figures](#) indicating plans to return 800 at the beginning of September, though the total number returned remains unclear as sources are conflicting. Government sources report that an estimated [50,000](#) have returned this year already (25,000 reportedly through coordination with the Assad regime and 25,000 independently). The situation for Syrians displaced to Lebanon has been extremely challenging in recent years due to high competition with locals for work opportunities and eviction campaigns conducted at the municipal level across rural governorates, in the wake of increasing intolerance towards the Syrian population.

Iraq



Population
39.09 million



**Those Under
International
Protection**



**Number of Foreign
Nationals**

(including those under
International Protection)

366,568 (UN est. 2017)

250,184 Registered
Syrian 'mandate
refugees'
(Sept 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

Reported shelling by Iranian forces in the Barbizin area of Iraq's Kurdish region led to [displacement](#) of local villagers at the beginning of September.

A total of nearly 1,900,000 IDPS were recorded as [displaced](#) across Iraq by 30 September, alongside more than 4,000,000 returnees. The largest area for return is currently Ninewa province, at over 1,500,000, or 38% of the total number of returnees. Nonetheless, reports of forced evictions or obstructed return due to perceived affiliation with the so-called Islamic State (which extends to family members), a lack of livelihood opportunities and infrastructural issues remain.

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)

3,567,658 Syrians with Temporary Protection (Sept 2018)

Non-Syrian population seeking International Protection:

Iraq [144,677](#)

Afghanistan [162,762](#)

Iran [36,169](#)

Somalia [7,234](#)

Others [10,851](#) (Sept 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.

(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.

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

Protection and Vulnerability

UNHCR [ended](#) its registration of all non-Syrian asylum seekers on 10th September, as part of the handover of processing of applicants for International Protection to the Turkish Directorate General for Migration Management (DGMM), which is already the case for Syrian applicants. Applicants will reportedly only be allowed to reside in “satellite cities”, which currently exclude 19 provinces, such as Istanbul, Izmir and Ankara.

At least [five](#) people were killed after the boat after their boat capsized off the coast of Turkey’s northwestern Edirne province on 30 September. Turkish media also reported the apprehension of over [1,000](#) people attempting to cross Turkey through irregular routes this month.

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

Transfers from island camps to mainland Greece to ease overcrowding

The Greek Migration Policy Ministry commenced the [transfer](#) of some 2,000 individuals from Moria camp to mainland Greece this month, following calls from INGOs, including Médecins sans Frontières to ease the overcrowding in a camp designed to hold 3,100, but which, in practice, houses an estimated 9,000 people. This is further to 3,000 already transferred earlier in the Summer, considering the arrivals still being received to the islands from Turkey's coast on a weekly basis.

Read more [here](#).

The European Commission release proposal for a recast Return Directive

The Commission released recommendations to reform the EU Return Directive, in order to “make return policy stronger and more effective”, including a list of criteria to determine the risk of absconding, a suggestion to issue entry bans for individuals without a return decision upon exit, a minimum of three months initial period of detention and no opportunity for voluntary departure in specific cases, amongst other elements. The proposal was designed bearing in mind calls from policy makers to “ease pressures on migration systems”.

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

Refugee rescue workers in Greece await trial for trafficking accusations

Several rescue workers remain in detention awaiting trial in Greece after being arrested in August for charges of people smuggling, espionage and membership of a criminal organisation. The accused individuals include Sara Mardini and Sean Binder, alongside the director of the organisation against which the allegations have been made, the Emergency Response Centre International (ERCI). Greek police have described the organisation's activities as “facilitating the illegal entry of aliens into Greek territory” and providing “direct assistance to organised illegal immigration networks”. These high-profile allegations take place in the broader context of increasing criminalisation of organisations saving lives in the Mediterranean.

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

Other News

Child drowns as boat headed for Europe capsizes off of Lebanese coast

A boat carrying 39 people capsized off the coast of Akkar province this month, killing a [five-year-old Palestinian child](#). All other passengers were rescued, the majority of which were Syrians attempting to reach Cyprus through smuggling routes, according to the Lebanese military.

UNHCR warns Bosnia to provide shelter for over 1,000 migrants sleeping rough near Croatian border

Bosnia, an emerging transit country as of 2018 for those en route to Europe, has seen at least 15,000 people on the move pass through its territory so far this year. With the increasingly harsh winter conditions, UNHCR has [called](#) for the provision of shelter for an estimated 1,000

people sleeping rough in two towns near the Croatian border, where they entered via smuggling routes. A lack of funding and cooperation from local counterparts have reportedly slowed an adequate State response thus far.

No Syrians have returned from Jordan since June 2018

Further to the 1,775 Syrians that crossed back into Syria from Jordan in the first half of 2018, UNHCR reports that [no individual](#) has made the crossing since June 2018. This is partly attributable to border closures on the part of the Jordanian government, following security developments in Syria's Southwest during this period. The Jordanian government did announce [plans](#) to reopen the Nasib border crossing by 10 October for trucks and trade vehicles, the ramifications of which for the Syrian population still residing in Jordan remain to be seen.

New Research and Reports

Refugees International released a [report](#) this month examining the employment situations of refugees in Jordan, considering efforts outlined under the Jordan Compact to promote work opportunities for both Jordanians and displaced Syrians. The report outlines the struggles facing Syrians in accessing limited sectors and the low numbers of work permits issued. It also highlights the [marginalisation](#) of other refugee nationalities from such initiatives, considering the presence of displaced individuals from Sudan, Yemen, Somalia and Iraq in the country. Recommendations detail the inclusion of non-Syrian refugees in assistance programmes, the diversification of sectors open to labour integration of refugees through flexible work permits and increased resettlement to the EU and USA.

IOM released the first edition of its Iraq [Return Index](#) in September, based on data extrapolated from the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) through indicators that examine the level of livelihoods (house destruction, large private employers, public employment) and

services (primary schools, primary health services, local markets, electricity and water supply, agricultural land), alongside social cohesion and safety perceptions (including HLP illegal occupation, presence of mines, multiplicity of armed actors and restrictions of movement). The tool also seeks to categorise “quality of returns” from “low” to “very high” and “severity of returns” at the neighbourhood and village level.

UNHCR published the latest [edition](#) of its Desperate Journeys report at the beginning of September, examining the Mediterranean crossings that left 1,600 dead or missing between January and July 2018. The report details how the death rate along the Eastern Mediterranean route rose from 1 in every 318 arrivals in 2017 to 1 in every 165 arrivals in 2018. Deaths along the Central Mediterranean route reached 1 in every 18 arrivals this year (compared to 1 in every 44 in 2017), indicating the deadly impact of increasingly restrictive border control policies along Europe’s frontier States.

For more information visit:
mixedmigration.org

