



MMC Middle East
QUARTER 3 2019



Quarterly Mixed Migration Update: Middle East

This Quarterly Mixed Migration Update (QMMU) covers the Middle East region (ME). The core countries of focus for this region are Iraq, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT), the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, and Turkey. Depending on the quarterly trends and migration-related updates, more attention may be given to some countries over the rest.

The QMMUs offer a quarterly update on new trends and dynamics related to mixed migration and relevant policy developments in the region. These updates are based on compilation of a wide range of secondary (data) sources, brought together within a regional framework and applying a mixed migration analytical lens. Similar QMMUs are available for all MMC regions.

The Mixed Migration Centre is a global network consisting of six regional hubs and a central unit in Geneva engaged in data collection, research, analysis and policy development on mixed migration.

For more information on the MMC, the QMMUs from other regions and contact details of regional MMC teams, visit mixedmigration.org and follow us at [@Mixed_Migration](https://twitter.com/Mixed_Migration)

MMC's understanding of mixed migration

"Mixed migration" refers to cross-border movements of people, including refugees fleeing persecution and conflict, victims of trafficking, and people seeking better lives and opportunities. Motivated to move by a multiplicity of factors, people in mixed flows have a range of legal statuses as well as a variety of vulnerabilities. Although entitled to protection under international human rights law, they are exposed to multiple rights violations along their journey. Those in mixed migration flows travel along similar routes, using similar means of travel - often travelling irregularly, and wholly, or partially, assisted by migrant smugglers.

Front cover photo credit:

Dara Al-Masri / DRC (2017)

A girl walks in an Informal Settlement in Zahle, Lebanon. January 2017.

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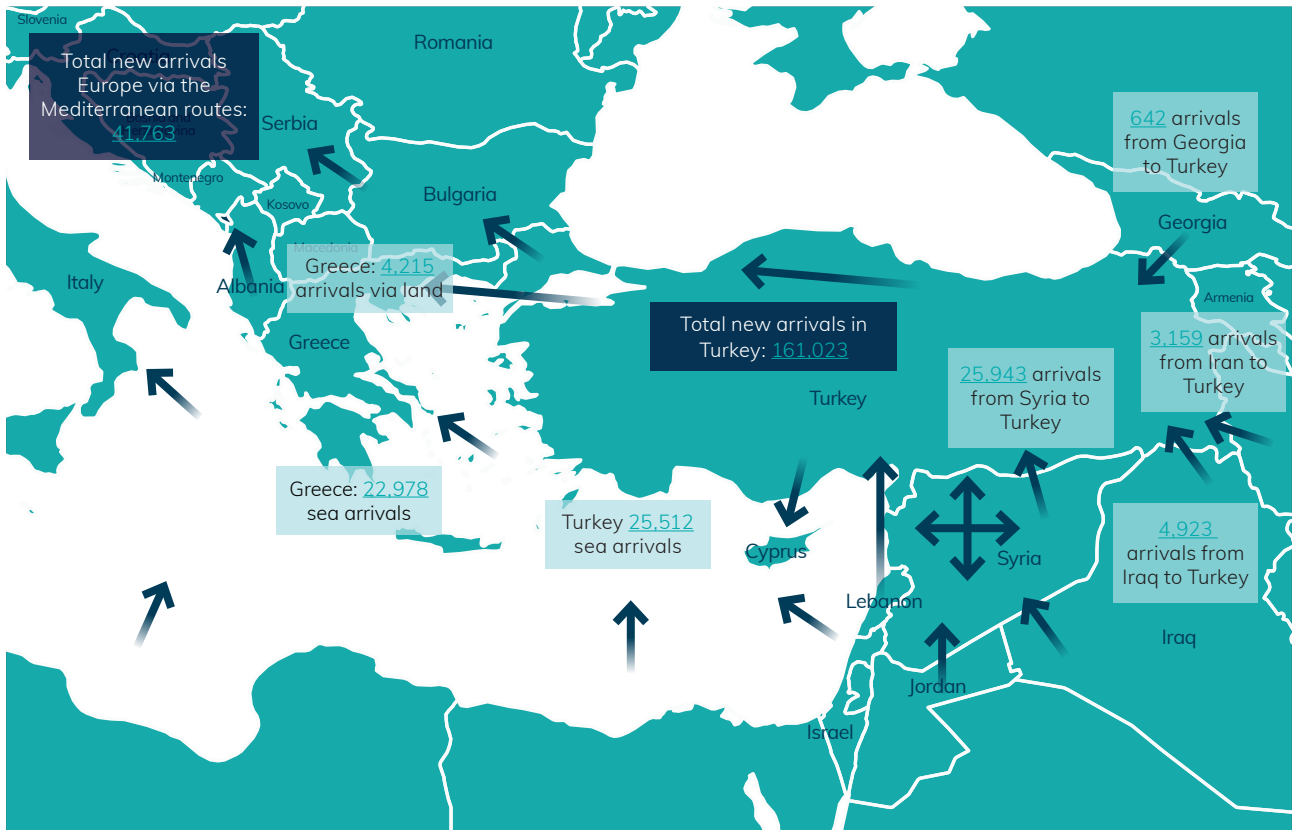
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Quarter 3 - 2019

Key Updates

- **Forced returns to Syria:** There were various reports of Syrians being forced to return from Lebanon and Turkey while conditions for a safe return are not in place. At the same time, third country resettlement remains out of sight while UNHCR expects that Syrians will be most at risk and in need of resettlement for 2020.
- **Unpaid wages in the GCC:** Migrant workers in Qatar went on strike to protest poor working conditions and, unpaid and delayed wages. In Saudi Arabia, migrant workers settled unpaid wages through the complaint mechanism. In Dubai construction workers won a court case over unpaid wages. However, 18 Indian workers in the UAE and 35 Sri Lankan workers in Kuwait returned home because of not being paid by their employer.
- **Abusive detention in Saudi Arabia:** Ethiopian migrants arriving irregularly in Saudi Arabia faced abusive detention before being deported back to Ethiopia.
- **Arrivals in Greece:** [41,763](#) new arrivals to Europe via land and sea have been observed this quarter. Focusing on the Eastern Mediterranean route specifically, there has been an increase of new arrivals to Greece via sea (+15,349 or 293% increase) and via land (1,567 or 54% increase) compared to the previous quarter. While an increase is occurring every summer, it is a much starker increase compared to previous year. As such the '[survival](#)' of the EU-Turkey deal is being [questioned](#). When comparing arrivals to Greece in Q3 2018 and Q3 2019, there is also a strong increase, especially regarding sea arrivals (+14,797 or 181% increase). The increase via land is less significant (+267 or 4% increase).
- **Eastern Mediterranean:** In 2019, with [data](#) up to 30 September, nationals from Afghanistan (38.2%) and Syria (25.3%) continue to be among the most common nationalities crossing the Eastern Mediterranean Sea into Greece.
- **Arrivals in Turkey:** A total of [161,023](#) arrivals in Turkey were recorded during this quarter, which is a very significant increase from the previous quarter, when [86,547](#) arrivals were recorded. As per 31 September 2019, this brings the total for this year to [301,442](#), which already surpasses the total for the entire year of 2018 when 268,003 arrivals were recorded. As of 2 October 2019, the majority of arrivals are [from](#) Afghanistan (44%), Pakistan (16%) and Syria (12%).
- **Apprehensions/Rescue operations:** [25,512](#) people were [apprehended/rescued](#) in all seas surrounding Turkey, whereas the total of the previous quarter was [8,640](#). This stark increase is in line with the increase in number of people crossing the Eastern Mediterranean Sea.
- **Missing refugees and migrants:** During the 3rd quarter of 2019, [441](#) people went missing or died while crossing the Mediterranean Sea, compared to [241](#) in the previous quarter. This quarter, [10](#) people were recorded missing or dead in the Eastern Mediterranean, compared to [319](#) in the Central and [112](#) in the Western Mediterranean Seas.

Overview of arrivals this quarter*



*Arrows on the map only relate to key updates and do not represent mixed migration flows within and out of the region.

Mixed Migration Regional Updates

Middle East

Protests in Israel in response to deportation of undocumented workers and their children

Over [1,000](#) people [participated](#) in a protest outside at Tel Aviv's Holocaust memorial on 6 August. The protesters came to support Israeli-born children and their mothers to stay. This summer, authorities have been working to deport around [100](#) undocumented migrant workers and children because they are in the country without documentation. Reportedly, as of late August, a [Filipino mother and her 13-year-old](#) son have been deported and [another four people will be deported soon](#).

'23 trafficked Ugandan girls returned from Jordan'

A Uganda Mukono Municipality Member of Parliament, Ms Nambooze, has [raised a concern](#) about the health of 23 girls who were returned from Jordan after being hired and sent to Jordan by Marphie International Recruitment Agency Company. Ms Nambooze noted that the girls were sold to the highest bidders before they were handed over to families that have been treating them inhumanly. She explained that when the girls begged for their return, they were told to pay 3,000 USD for their freedom. The recruitment agency denied the allegations of trafficking.

Crackdown on undocumented workers provokes protest in Lebanon

On 15 July 2019, hundreds of Palestinians protested in the streets of Beirut and across 12 camps against the Lebanese crackdown on businesses employing foreign workers without a permit. On 18 July 2019, the Labour Minister [vowed](#) to facilitate the granting of work permits for Palestinian refugees and protect Palestinian workers. Around 174,000 Palestinian refugees live in 12 camps across the country, including 40,000 workers.

Ongoing hostilities, human rights violations and displacement in Syria

On August 15, the Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic submitted a [report](#) to the Human Rights Council highlighting that civilians countrywide continue to withstand the brunt of ongoing hostilities. In areas controlled by the government, civilians, including recent returnees, were arbitrarily arrested and detained. The commission stresses that Member States, and in particular those that provide support to the warring parties, bear a shared responsibility for the myriad of crimes committed against millions of Syrians. In August, the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), also published a report titled "[The Syrian Regime Continues to Pose a Violent Barbaric Threat and Syrian Refugees Should Never Return to Syria](#)."

It [documents](#) 1,916 arrests, including of 219 children and 157 women (adult female), who returned to Syria from countries of asylum or residence between 2014 and August of this year. According to SNHR, 638 disappeared, and 15 returnees died as the result of torture, including 11 from Lebanon. SNHR reports that arrests of the returning refugees occurred immediately “after the returnee’s name and passport were examined.” The SNHR [called](#) on the United Nations to find a “just political solution that preserves the rights of these displaced persons” and to help stop the “systematic looting and social and demographic changes being carried out by the Syrian government and regime.”

‘Turkish authorities deport Syrians to Idlib, while it is not safe’

[ACAPS](#) reports that at least 1,000¹ Syrians have been deported from Turkey to Syria following a recent government crackdown on unregistered refugees and those accused of entering Turkey illegally or committing a crime. Many of the deportees have [reportedly](#) been transported to the Turkey-Syria border near Idlib. Refugees and migrants of other nationalities, including Afghans, have also been detained by Turkish authorities, though it is unclear whether they will be deported to their countries of origin. [Public opinion](#) in Turkey towards Syrian refugees has been [hardening](#) since Turkey’s recent [local elections](#), which featured prominent [anti-Syrian rhetoric](#), and Turkey’s ongoing economic crisis. In late June in Istanbul, a number of Syrians and Syrian-owned businesses were targeted by mob violence which raised [concerns](#) about their safety. At the same time, “[smugglers report a booming market as people try to escape Syria to Turkey](#),” especially from Idlib in north-western Syria. Active fighting is still ongoing inside Syria and the UN [reported](#) that more than 1,000 civilian were killed between April 29 and August 29, including 304 children.

Turkey demands a ‘safe zone’ in northeast Syria to settle Syrian refugees

Turkish President Erdogan [said](#) that “Turkey could be forced to open the doors for refugees and migrants to Europe if Ankara does not receive enough international support in managing the Syrian refugees”. He also linked this to Turkey’s [controversial plans](#) to create a buffer zone in northeast Syria. Turkey wants this buffer zone to remove Kurdish-led forces, who Turkey regards as ‘terrorists’, and to [settle](#) Syrian refugees who are currently residing in Turkey. Erdogan also presented his plans when he addressed the United Nations General Assembly in New York on 24 September.

Over 2,700 Syrians in Lebanon deported

[The New Humanitarian](#), based on new [figures obtained by Amnesty International](#), reports on Lebanon which “forcibly deported” Syrian refugees to Syria in the past three months. In mid-May, the government ruled that Syrians who had entered the country “illegally” after 24 April could be deported. While [local rights groups denounced](#) the move, security forces soon [reportedly began raiding](#) unofficial refugee camps and [businesses](#). The General Security reportedly deported [2,731 Syrians](#) - between May 21 and August 28, 2019 - who entered Lebanon irregularly after 24 April. The government has taken an [increasingly hostile position](#) towards the population, ordering UNHCR to stop registering new arrivals, making it difficult to

1 Numbers vary as there are also reports of almost [5,000 deportations](#) recently. Brocar Press reports [8,901 Syrians](#) who were deported from Turkish territory back to Syria at the Bab al-Hawa crossing by [August](#) 2019.

work legally, and [pressuring Syrians to return](#). Human Rights Watch ([HRW](#)) reported that at least three Syrians, who were deported by Lebanon, have been detained by the Syrian authorities upon their return. There is no evidence that any of the three could meaningfully challenge their deportation in a Lebanese court. Meanwhile, there are still reports of [arbitrary detentions, disappearances, and harassment](#) in areas retaken by the government.

‘Trans gender women, including trans refugees and asylum seekers, face discrimination in Lebanon’

Transgender women in Lebanon face violence and discrimination, according to a [HRW](#), [Helem](#), and [MOSAIC report](#) and [video](#) released on 3 September 2019. Violence has pushed transgenders out of their homes, and in the case of refugees and asylum seekers, their countries. As there are no shelters providing emergency housing for trans women, they need to navigate the Lebanese housing market on their own where they reported facing discrimination by landlords, flatmates, and neighbours, in addition to being forcibly evicted by the police because of their gender identity. For trans refugees and migrants, this situation is exacerbated by the lack of legal residency that limits their ability to work in the country. In the case of trans refugees, who are marginalized on the grounds of both refugee status and gender identity, discrimination often has intensified impact. Their transgender identity further exacerbates their plight, especially since refugees and asylum seekers do not have the family safety net or social networks in a foreign country.

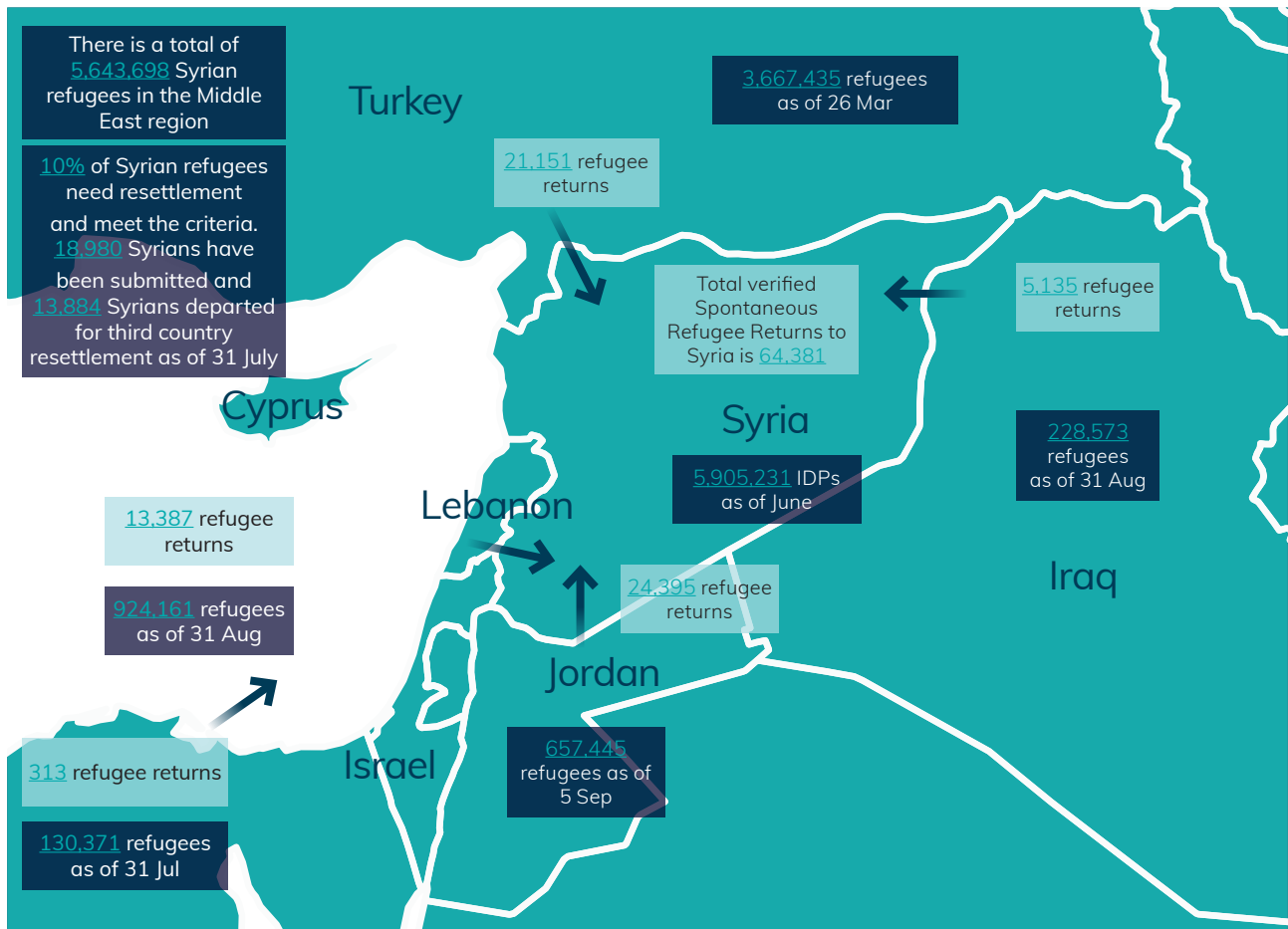
At least 11,000 Syrians still stranded in Rukban

[The New Humanitarian](#) reports that Syrians stranded in the Rukban camp would rather risk their lives in “catastrophic” conditions than put themselves at the mercy of Syrian authorities. [A new UN/Red Crescent mission is offering one more chance to the remaining population at Rukban to get out](#). Somewhere between 11,000 and 24,000 people are estimated to be [stranded](#) close to the border with Jordan and some will be persuaded to go but others not. For those who stay, despite US and Russian strategic interest in the area, there is little prospect of safe passage. The encampment in the desert is neither under Syrian government control nor under a single armed group. Reportedly, it gets no aid, due to Syrian and Jordanian restrictions, and smugglers supply a trickle of basic goods.

Syrians most at risk and in need of resettlement for 2020

According to UNHCR’s [Projected Global Resettlement Needs 2020 report](#), which was launched at the Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement (ATCR), more than 1.44 million refugees currently residing in over 60 refugee hosting countries will be in need of resettlement in 2020. Refugees most at risk and in need of resettlement are Syrian refugees (40 per cent) who remain the largest population estimated to be in the need of resettlement in 2020. Despite some developments in the conflict during 2018, most Syrians do not yet see return home as a viable option. Given that resettlement needs – with close to 199,000 Syrians in the region currently in need of resettlement – far outstretch resettlement places, refugees remain in host countries with no end to their displacement in sight. Resettlement will continue to be a vital tool to safeguard the international community’s accountability towards Syrian refugees in the region for the coming years.

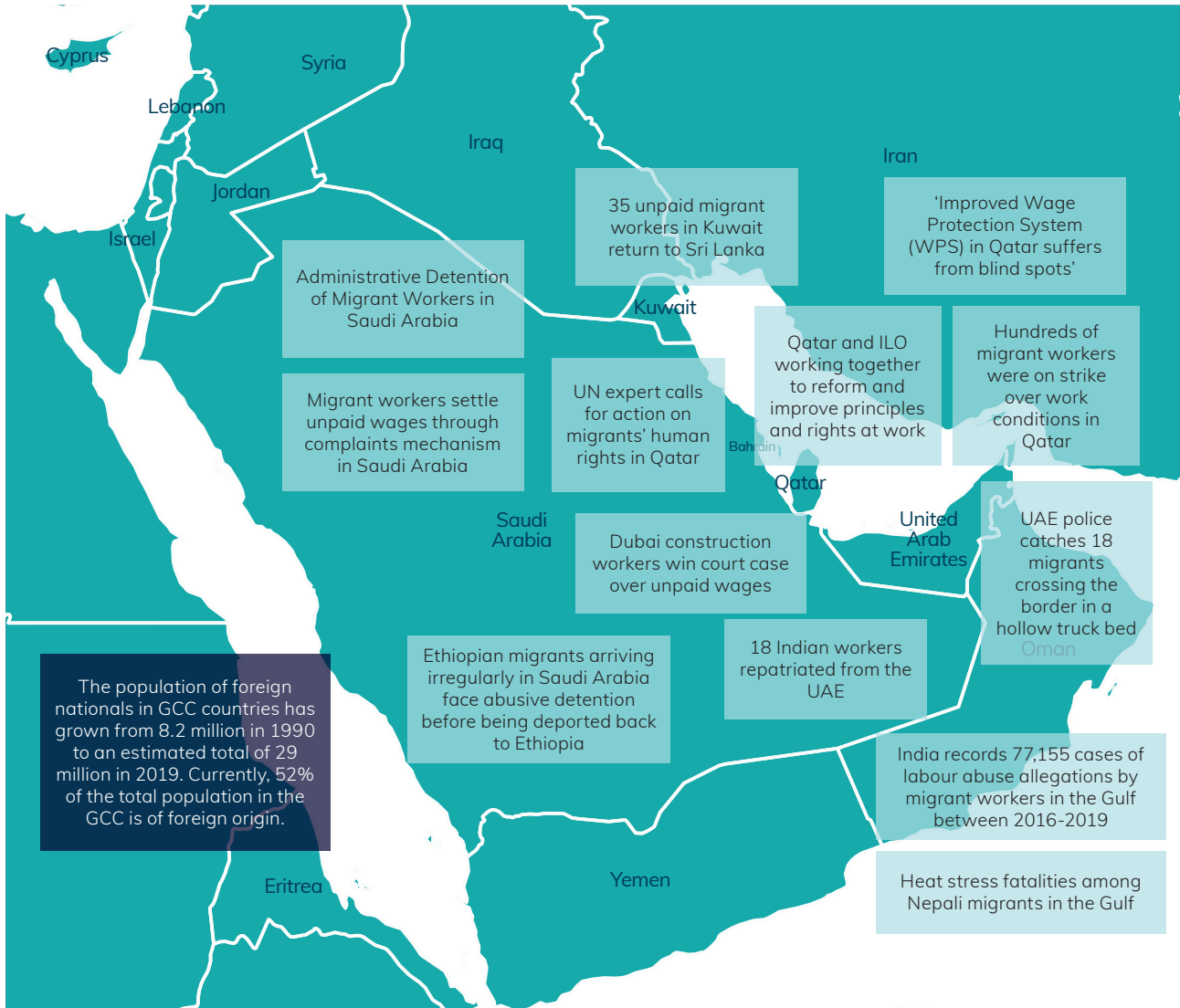
Syrian Displacement, Resettlement and Spontaneous Return in 2019²



² The total number of refugees includes an estimated 35,713 Syrian refugees in North Africa. The numbers on returns are only those monitored/verified by UNHCR and do not reflect the entire returns. The figure on the return numbers from Jordan are those following the re-opening of the border in October 2018 and are tentative as the UNHCR identifies returns based on departure lists regularly obtained from the Government. The return numbers from Lebanon includes only those verified by UNHCR, General Security reported additional figures from their Group Returns and of these a total of 995 individuals were not known to UNHCR.

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Countries³

Updates on Foreign Nationals in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries



³ The movement of refugees and migrants from the Horn of Africa through Yemen and towards the Gulf Countries, primarily Saudi Arabia, is covered in the [Quarterly Mixed Migration Updates by the MMC East Africa & Yemen](#) and therefore not included here.

Qatar and ILO working together to improving principles and rights at work

In [January 2018](#), Qatar and the ILO entered a [cooperation](#) ensuring compliance with ratified international Labour Conventions, as well as achieving fundamental principles and rights at work in the State of Qatar in a gradual manner during the period 2018–2020. Such principles include but are not limited to: permission to change jobs without employer’s approval; ability to exit the country without an exit visa with few exceptions; and establishment of a temporary minimum age of QR750 (roughly USD200). In addition to some reforms, Qatar put into force a [new law](#) and [standard contract](#) for domestic workers.

UN expert calls for action on migrants’ human rights in Qatar

Mr. Obiora Okafor, Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity, has commended Qatar for its contribution to human rights-based solidarity but calls for further action. On 11 September 2019, at the end of a nine-day visit to Qatar, he urged the government to expand recently enacted protection to all foreign workers, including to migrant domestic workers and others not currently covered.

‘Improved Wage Protection System (WPS) in Qatar suffers from blind spots’

[Migrant-Rights](#) reports on the [key regulations governing wages, payments, and entitlements in Qatar](#). The [Wage Protection Systems](#) (WPS) are intended to reduce or eliminate non-payment, delays in payments and unfair deductions. However, issues with deductions, delays, and non-payments persist and affect lower-income migrants the most, in part, due to design flaws with the systems themselves and poor enforcement mechanisms. They also persist because the laws governing wages and benefits are not always clear; especially lower-income migrants are least likely to be informed of the breakdown of their basic salaries, and in-kind payments (such as lodging and food), as well as their overtime dues and entitlements at the end of their contract.

Hundreds of migrant workers on strike over work conditions in Qatar

Early August, [hundreds of migrant workers](#) in Qatar went on strike to protest poor working conditions and unpaid, delayed or reduced wages. Despite introducing some labour reforms over the past year (see previous items), Qatari authorities have not abolished the kafala/sponsorship system and under Qatari law migrant workers are still banned from joining unions and participating in strikes. Also, [passport confiscations and workers paying recruitment fees](#) is still practised, which leaves the workers even more vulnerable to abuse.

Administrative detention of migrant workers in Saudi Arabia

[Migrant-Rights](#) reports on the administrative detention of migrants in Saudi Arabia, which is regulated through a number of laws ([labour](#), [residency](#) and [border security](#)) as well as various Royal and ministerial decisions. The Ministry of Interior (Mol) has issued various decisions and memos that describe the [violations](#) and respective punishments specific to migrants. The main violations that lead to detention and administrative deportation are: Labour law violators, such as those who do not work for their sponsor, or those whose sponsor has filed an absconding case against them; residency law violators who overstayed their residency permit or visa; border security law violators who crossed into the Saudi Arabia irregularly; and those who illegally help migrants by providing transportation, employment, accommodation, et cetera.

Migrant-Rights reports that detained migrants often have little control over a violation that leaves them liable to arrest. The [kafala system](#) and the overarching labour migration system grants sponsors control over workers, including to renew residency and visa documents of the workers, and invalidate these documents. While some migrants are placed in jails, the majority are sent to administrative detention centres which exist [throughout the country](#).

Migrant workers settle unpaid wages through complaint mechanism in Saudi Arabia

[Local media](#) reported that officials in the Saudi city of *Al Khobar* have settled the claims of 134 migrant workers who owed 1.5 million USD from their employer. The workers originate from India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. As part of a new mechanism announced by the Saudi Justice ministry last year, labour offices across the country have a timeframe of 21 days to try and settle disputes amicably. If no settlement is reached within those days, labour offices must electronically submit the case to the labour court. Companies will not receive government payments until the Ministry of Labour confirms that workers' salaries [have been paid](#).

Dubai construction workers win court case over unpaid wages

A Dubai construction company has been [court-ordered](#) to hand over salaries to 700 Indian, Pakistani and Bangladesh workers. The men have been stranded in company-owned accommodation in an Investment Park and are relying on handouts from church volunteer groups and their home embassies. Conditions at the camps in Dubai and Ras Al Khaimah have been described as unsanitary. [The National](#) reports that over the past two months around 400 workers have accepted the basic settlements and returned home. Many others are pursuing their wages in full and have been given hope by their colleagues' recent wins.

18 Indian workers repatriated from the UAE

In July and August, [18 Indian migrant workers](#) were [repatriated](#) from the UAE following the intervention of a prominent national politician and the assistance of the Indian consulate in the UAE. The workers indicated that they did not get paid for up to nine months. They also claimed having paid a recruitment fee and not [receiving](#) a salary while they were in the UAE. An Indian consular representative was quoted in the media suggesting that workers arrived in the UAE through official channels but were unhappy with their working conditions.

UAE police catches 18 migrants crossing the border in a hollow truck bed

The Abu Dhabi police [caught](#) 18 workers, including several women, who were trying to enter UAE [illegally](#) from Oman. They were stuffed in a hollow truck bed. The news coverage and authorities described the workers as both victims of human trafficking and infiltrators who pose a threat to the national security and can be “associated with various threats and crimes that may amount to murder, theft and aggression” in the UAE.

35 unpaid migrant workers in Kuwait return to Sri Lanka

[Migrant workers returned to Sri Lanka](#) from Kuwait on 25 June 2019. They reported that employers failed to pay salaries and other benefits they were promised by the employers. The Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment has advised all migrant workers to register with them when working abroad.

India records 77,155 labour abuse allegations by migrant workers in the Gulf between 2016-2019

The [Indian government](#) has released figures detailing the [numbers of allegations](#) of labour abuse it has received from migrant workers in the GCC countries between 2016 and 2019. 77,155 complaints were made at embassies and consulates in the [six countries](#), with 36% from Saudi Arabia; 19% Kuwait; 15% Oman; 14% Qatar; 13% UAE; 3 from Bahrain. 9,771 complaints of labour abuse have been registered by Indian workers in the six countries in 2019 so far. Most of the complaints relate to delayed wages and denial of labour rights and benefits [including](#) a lack of other entitlements.

Heat stress fatalities among Nepali migrants in the Gulf

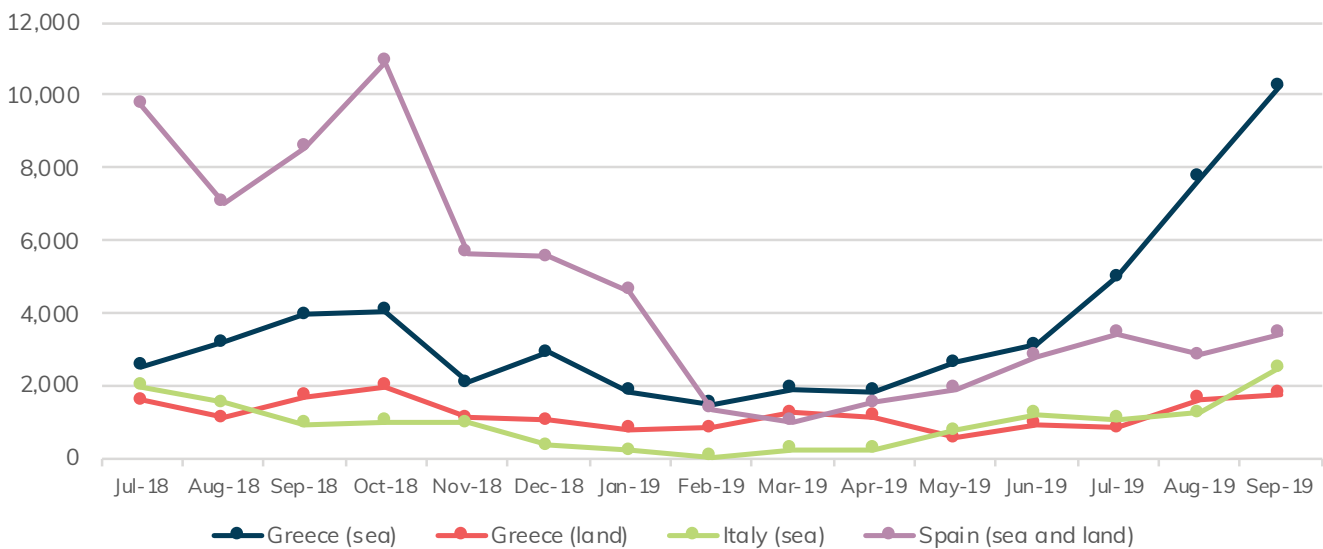
A study published in the Journal of Cardiology suggests that the numbers of Nepali migrant workers dying from heat stress abroad is [far higher than official records](#). While fatalities of migrants in destination countries such as Qatar are attributed to cardiovascular disease (CVD) and recorded as “natural deaths”, the study draws a strong correlation between higher temperatures and mortality rates. Of the [total fatalities](#) due to CVD among Nepalis, 58% occurred during the summer months and 22% in winter, mostly caused by heat stress. As many migrant workers work in [construction](#), they are required to be outside all day. They reportedly do not receive briefing on the dangers of dehydration. [Human rights activists](#) recommend pre-departure trainings for migrants to address the risks associated with working conditions in destination countries.

Mixed Migration to Turkey and Europe

Refugees and migrants continue to cross the Mediterranean Sea to reach Europe

In the third quarter of 2019, there have been [41,763](#) new irregular arrivals to Italy, Spain and Greece via land and the three Mediterranean Sea routes compared to [18,822](#) in the previous quarter. Focusing on the Eastern Mediterranean route specifically, there has been an increase of new arrivals to [Greece](#) via sea (+15,349 or 293% increase) and via land (1,567 or 54% increase) compared to the previous quarter. While an increase is occurring every summer, it is a much starker increase compared to previous year. When comparing arrivals to Greece in Q3 2018 and Q3 2019, there is also a strong increase, especially regarding sea arrivals (+14,797 or 181% increase). The increase via land is less significant (+267 or 4% increase).

Number of Arrivals by Mediterranean Route



Mediterranean route arrivals

	2018 Q3	2018 Q4	2019 Q1	2019 Q2	2019 Q3
Greece (sea)	8,181	9,075	5,241	7,629	22,978
Greece (land)	3,948	4,146	2,886	2,648	4,215
Italy (sea)	6,647	2,346	524	2,255	4,855
Spain (sea)	21,954	20,351	6,973	6,290	9,715
Spain (land)	2,098	1,785			
Total	42,828	37,703	15,624	18,822	41,763

In 2019, with data up to 30 September 2019, the most common nationalities among sea arrivals in Greece are Afghans (38.2%), Syrians (25.3%), Congolese (7.8%), Iraqis (6.8%) and Palestinians (5.6%). There are also reports of people from Iran (1.8%) and Kuwait (0.2%) among the most common nationalities of sea arrivals in Greece.

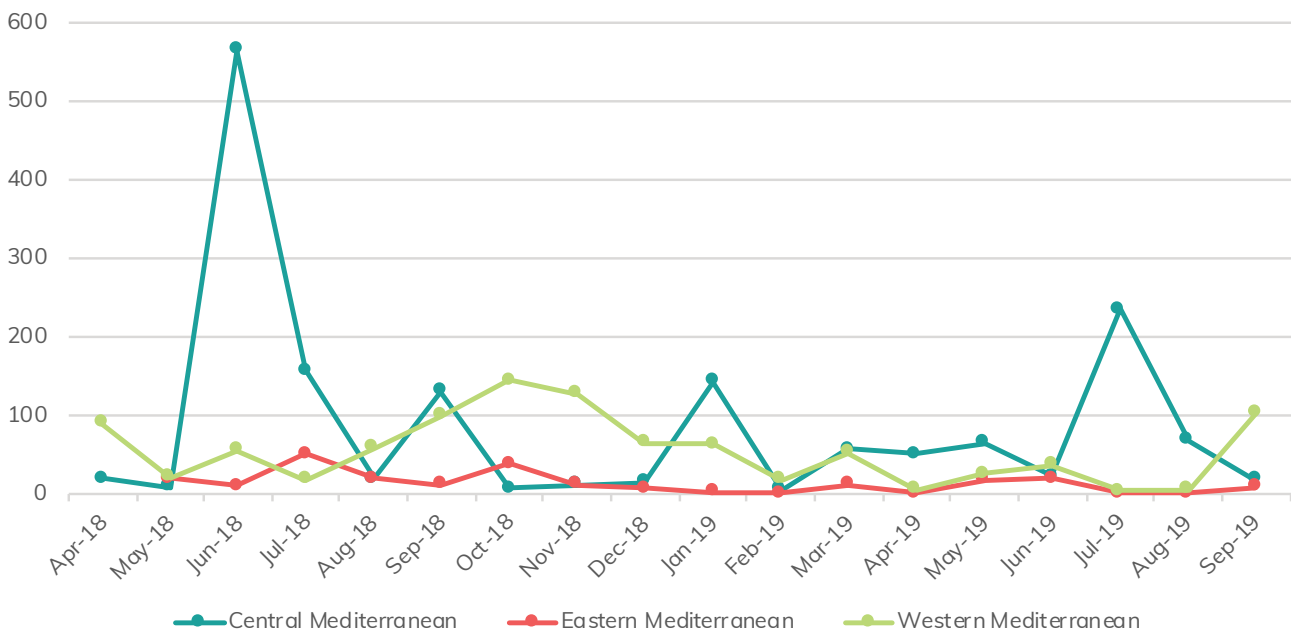
From [January to July 2019](#), this year 580 Syrians and 308 Palestinians also arrived in Spain via land (Ceuta and Melilla) and sea. No other nationals from Middle Eastern countries were recorded on this route.⁴

From [January to September 2019](#), via the Central Mediterranean route, Italy received 582 people from Iraq and 18 from Syria. No other nationals from the Middle Eastern countries have been recorded along this route.⁵

Crossing the Eastern Mediterranean remains dangerous and deadly

During the third quarter of 2019, [441](#) people went missing or died while crossing the Mediterranean Sea, which brings the total to 1,033 this year. This quarter, [10](#) people were recorded missing or dead in the Eastern Mediterranean, compared to [319](#) in the Central and [112](#) in the Western Mediterranean. Due to the [challenges of collecting information](#) about these people and the contexts of their deaths, the true number of fatalities is likely much higher. Information on the fate of those who went missing, died or were apprehended/survived crossing the Eastern Mediterranean is mainly coming from the Turkish Authorities.

Number of Dead and Missing at Sea



4 The majority of arrivals via Western Mediterranean route are from countries in Africa, such as Morocco (4,964), Mali (2,269), Guinea (2,192), and Côte d'Ivoire (1,779).

5 Most arrivals via Central Mediterranean route are from Tunisia (2,175), Pakistan (922), Côte d'Ivoire (864), Algeria (773), and Iraq (582).

Dead and Missing at sea

	2018 Q3	2018 Q4	2019 Q1	2019 Q2	2019 Q3
Central Mediterranean	307	33	205	136	319
Eastern Mediterranean	83	56	14	37	10
Western Mediterranean	174	335	132	68	112
Total:	564	424	351	241	441
CUMULATIVE TOTAL Per Year	1,853	2,277	351	592	1,033

Refugees, Foreign Nationals and Arrivals in Turkey

As of 26 September 2019, according to the latest available figures from the Turkish Directorate General for Migration Management (DGMM), more than 4 million foreign nationals are present in Turkish territory and seeking international protection. Most are Syrians ([3,667,435](#)) who were granted temporary protection (TP) status. According to UNHCR there are [368,230](#)⁶ asylum-seekers and refugees from Afghanistan (170,000), Iraq (142,000), Iran (39,000), Somalia (5,700) and other countries. In addition, as of 3 October, there are [1,059,916](#) foreign nationals with residence permit holder status, including those who have humanitarian residency. No breakdown of residence permit holder by nationality is yet available for 2019, but in 2018, [104,444](#) Iraqi and [99,643](#) Syrian nationals were among the majority residence permit holders in Turkey. Out of a total of [85,840](#) work permit holders, [16,783](#) were Syrian.

A total of [161,023](#) arrivals in Turkey were recorded during this quarter, which is a very significant increase from the previous quarter, when [86,547](#) arrivals were recorded. As per 31 September 2019, this brings the total for this year to [301,442](#). This total already surpasses the total for the entire year of 2018. The total number of arrivals in Turkey was 268,003 in 2018, 175,752 in 2017, 146,485 in 2016.

As of 2 October 2019, the majority of arrivals are [from](#) Afghanistan (44%), Pakistan (16%) and Syria (12%). When comparing the data from both quarters, the country with highest increase in absolute numbers is Afghanistan (+86,532 or 163%), but the country with the highest relative increase is Syria (+25,943 or 218%).

[65](#) victims of human trafficking have been identified in Q3. This brings the total to [136](#) in 2019. The total number of identified victims of human trafficking was 134 in 2018, 303 in 2017 and 181 in 2016.

[25,512](#) people were [apprehended/rescued](#) in all seas surrounding Turkey, whereas the total of the previous quarter was [8,640](#). This stark increase in apprehensions and rescue operations is in line with the stark increase in number of people crossing the Eastern Mediterranean Sea. The [25,512](#) people were captured during a total of [735](#) operations, compared to [261](#) in the previous quarter. [32](#) 'Organisers' were apprehended at sea, compared to [15](#) in the previous quarter.

⁶ [UNHCR ended the registration process](#) in Turkey on 10 September 2018 and is expected to be carried out by the Turkish authorities.

Nationals from Syria and Afghanistan lodged the most applications for international protection in the EU+ in July 2019

In July 2019, as reported by the European Asylum Support Office (EASO), [EU+ countries recorded](#) around [62,900](#) applications for international protection. This is a 26% increase from June and the highest monthly total since March 2017. While the increase can be partially attributed to the very low number of applications registered a month earlier, it also represented the most precipitous month-on-month increase since January 2019. About 400,500 applications were lodged so far in 2019, which is 11 % more than in the same period of 2018.

Syrians, Afghans and Venezuelans lodged the [highest number of applications, and applications from all three countries are](#) increasing, particularly for Syrians and Afghans (each +34 %). Jointly, nationals from these three countries lodged a quarter of all applications in the EU+. Citizens of Iraq, Pakistan, Turkey, Colombia, Iran, Nigeria and Albania completed the top 10. All the top 40 citizenships of origin –except of Congolese, Nicaraguans and Salvadorians – lodged more applications than in June, mirroring record numbers registered in many EU+ countries. For example, citizens of Turkey lodged more applications (+56 %), as did citizens of Pakistan (+41 %) and Iraq (+33 %). Nationals from these countries were also among those [increasingly detected](#) at illegal border-crossing at the EU+ borders.

Thematic Section: Ethiopian migrants arriving irregularly in Saudi Arabia face abusive detention before being deported back to Ethiopia

Ethiopians who undertake dangerous journeys across the Red Sea or Gulf of Aden face [exploitation and torture](#) in Yemen, but also encounter abusive prison conditions in Saudi Arabia. As most travel irregularly and do not have legal status in Saudi Arabia, they are also being deported back to Ethiopia. [Human Rights Watch](#) (HRW) interviewed 12 Ethiopians in Addis Ababa who had been deported from Saudi Arabia between December 2018 and May 2019.

They said that they were pressured to pay for the crossing by smuggling [khat](#) into Saudi Arabia, which is an illegal drug in Saudi Arabia but not in Yemen. Four of the eleven migrants who crossed the border on foot said Saudi border guards shot at them during their crossings, sometimes with and sometimes without warning. They also witnessed dead bodies along the way, as one Ethiopian reported: “There were many dead people at the border. You could walk on the corpses. No one comes to bury them”. Six said they were apprehended by Saudi border guards or drug police at the border, while five were arrested later.

Following their capture, the [migrants described the conditions](#) in Saudi governmental detention centres and prisons. They report overcrowding and inadequate food, water, and medical care and beatings by Saudi guards. Before being deported to Ethiopia, none of the migrants said they were given the opportunity to legally challenge their deportations.⁷

HRW’s findings are in line with MMC’s analysis on the [record numbers of refugees and migrants arriving in Yemen amidst intensifying and complicated war](#). Despite the risks along the journey and upon arrival in Saudi Arabia, estimates show that migration from the Horn of Africa to Yemen has remained close to or over 100,000 people per year since 2017, with record numbers arriving in April and May of this year. According to recent data from MMC’s [Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative](#) (4Mi), 95% of Ethiopians interviewed⁸ in East Africa - before departing for Yemen - felt that they were aware of the risks on the route. [Interviews with](#) refugees and migrants in Djibouti and Somalia show that perceived economic opportunities in Saudi Arabia outweigh the risks of the journey, and they feel that migration may be their only chance for a better life. The expectation that they will find work in the Gulf, the short duration of the journey and relatively cheap [cost](#) of the trip (the average cost from Ethiopia to Saudi Arabia is reportedly less than 600 USD) continues to make this route popular for migrants and refugees from East Africa.

IOM estimates that there were around [500,000 Ethiopians](#) in Saudi Arabia when the Saudi government began a deportation campaign titled ‘A Nation without Violations’ in November 2017. Between May 2017 and March 2019, an estimated 300,000 Ethiopians were [deported from Saudi Arabia to Ethiopia](#). According to IOM data, 86% of the migrants they registered at the Bole International Airport in Addis Ababa returned involuntarily. On average, 9380 returnees arrive at the airport each month.

⁷ Saudi Arabia is not a party to the [1951 Refugee Convention](#) and it has not established an asylum system under which foreign nationals could apply for protection from a forced return to a place where they may face persecution.

⁸ MMC’s analysis of 323 Ethiopians interviewed in Djibouti, Somaliland, and Puntland since January 2017.

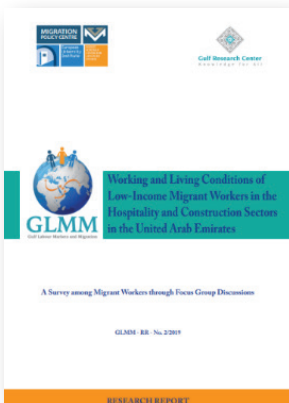
Highlighted New Research and Reports



[Improving access to justice for workers: The case of the UAE](#)

Geneva Centre | July 2019

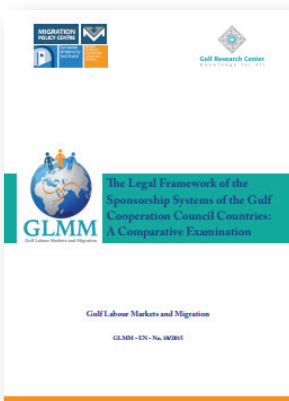
This publication is an outcome of a [panel discussion held](#) on 20 March 2018 which was organized by the Geneva Centre, the European Public Law Organization (EPLO) and the Permanent Mission of the UAE to the United Nations Office in Geneva (UNOG). It reviews the progress achieved in the UAE to enhance access to justice for migrant workers and to identify areas of improvement.



[Working and Living Conditions of Low-Income Migrant Workers in the Hospitality and Construction Sectors in the United Arab Emirates](#)

Philippe Fargues, Nasra M. Shah, and Imco Brouwer, Gulf Labour Markets, Migration and Population Programme (GLMM) | 2019

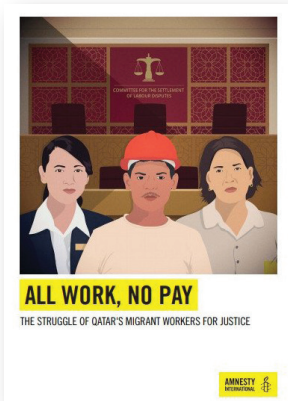
GLMM's survey included 63 workers in the hospitality industry (hotels, restaurants, taxis, and cleaning) and 31 in the construction sector. The migrants report having suboptimal working and living conditions, including a too heavy workload, unpaid sick leaves, and restricted freedom of movement. Despite the challenges, 40% of all survey respondents said they would "definitely migrate again" if they knew what to expect when they arrived. GLLM [also](#) published a report on a similar survey done in [Qatar](#).



[The Legal Framework of the Sponsorship Systems of the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries: A Comparative Examination](#)

Maysa Zahra, GLLM | 2019

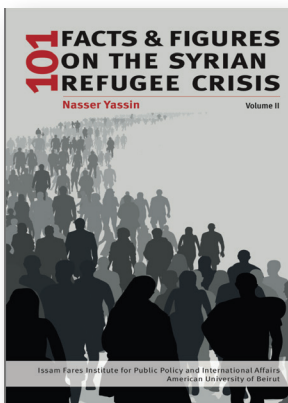
This paper offers an in-depth examination of the legal framework of the sponsorship system of GCC countries: Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates. It looks at different aspects of the system starting with the requirement for sponsorship and ending with the rules on absconding and repatriation.



[All work, no pay: The struggle of Qatar's migrant workers for justice](#)

Amnesty International | 19 September 2019

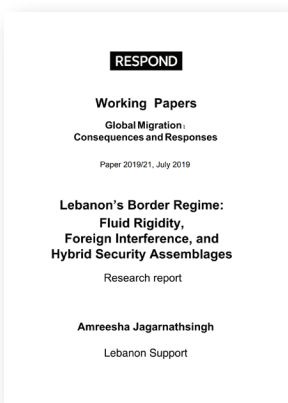
Ever since Qatar was awarded the right to hold the 2022 World Cup, the treatment of around 2 million migrant workers driving the country's economy has been under the spotlight. According to a new report from Amnesty International, many migrant workers face low pay, harsh working conditions and restrictions on their movement. Even though Qatar has promised to improve workers' access to justice, they are burdened by the debt of recruitment fees and bound by Qatar's sponsorship system.



[101 Facts & Figures on the Syrian Refugee Crisis - Volume II](#)

Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI) at the American University of Beirut | 2019

This [volume](#) tries to counter the anti-refugee (and anti-migrant) narrative by providing 101 facts and figures on the Syrian refugee crisis. The authors argue that academics have a role to play: show hard, contextualized and nuanced evidence of the impact of refugees on their host societies, as well as undertake more research to reflect their contribution. The first volume can be found [here](#).



[Lebanon's Border Regime: Fluid Rigidity, Foreign Interference, and Hybrid Security Assemblages](#)

Amreasha Jagarnathsingh, Lebanon Support | July 2019

This [report](#) analyses border and migration governance in Lebanon. It provides an overview of legislation and policies concerned with border management and control in Lebanon by systematically analysing pre-entry controls, controls at the border, internal control regimes, and return policies. The report highlights how border policies and interventions impact refugees' and migrants' lived experiences.



[Syrian refugees in Turkey need better access to formal jobs](#)

Kemal Kirişçi and Gokce Uysal Kolasin, Brookings Institute | July 2019

Syrian refugees will likely stay in Turkey for the foreseeable future and the authors argue that it is time to get serious about creating opportunities for how to formally and sustainably employ them. This will not be an easy exercise, and progress will depend on deepening the cooperation between Turkey and the international community, especially the European Union as well as taking account of the 2018 Global Compact on Refugees.



[The EU's Approach to the Syrian Crisis: Turkey as a Partner?](#)

Çiğdem Nas | 2019

The article analyses the European Union's approach to the Syrian crisis and evaluates the role it attributes to Turkey. The approach staggered between supporting transition in Syria to a post-Assad regime and the need to protect Europe against spill-over effects of the conflict (refugee flows and threats of terrorism).



[Employment Trends, Challenges and Opportunities for Refugees in Jordan](#)

Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation for Education | August 2019

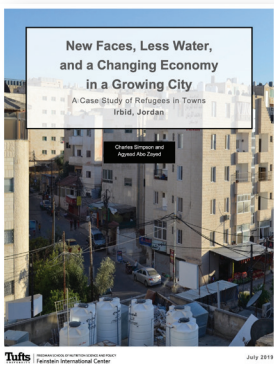
The [report](#) explores the employment regulations, trends, and prospects for refugees in Jordan, with a specific focus on Syrians and Palestinians.



[Citizens of Somewhere - A Case Study of Refugees in Towns Amman, Jordan](#)

Allyson Hawkins, Ruby Assad and Denis Sullivan, Tufts University | August 2019

This [report](#) is based on field interviews with Syrian, Iraqi, Palestinian and Sudanese refugees in Amman. The authors argue that refugees in Amman are not and cannot be “citizens” of a single place with a single set of rights and identities. Rather, individuals have mixed identities, personal connections, and aspirations that extend across borders. The study is [part](#) of a bigger [Refugees in Towns](#) project, which has published similar studies on other cities.



[New Faces, Less Water, and a Changing Economy in a Growing City - A Case Study of Refugees in Towns Irbid, Jordan](#)

Charles Simpson and Agyeod Abo Zayed, Tufts University | July 2019

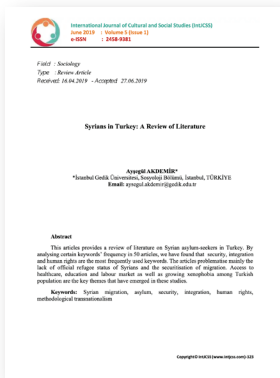
This [report](#) explores how Syrian refugees have transformed the city of Irbid as the latest arrivals in a long history of migration to the city that has included Palestinians, Iraqis, Sudanese, and Somalis. It finds that refugee-host relations have ebbed and flowed, from welcoming in 2012, to anxiety about scarcity and security in 2016, to a more relaxed tolerance and sense of mutual ownership of Irbid’s neighbourhoods today as both groups become accustomed to one another.



[Cultivating refuge: The role of urban agriculture amongst refugees and forced migrants in the Kurdistan region of Iraq](#)

UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization | August 2019

Within the camps of northern Iraq, displaced Syrian refugees are finding innovative ways to incorporate urban agriculture and agroforestry into these unintended but now permanent settlements. Using lessons learnt from three years of practical fieldwork, [the paper](#) demonstrates that with or without institutional support home gardens emerge at every stage of camp development as a vital yet little-discussed and even less planned practice.

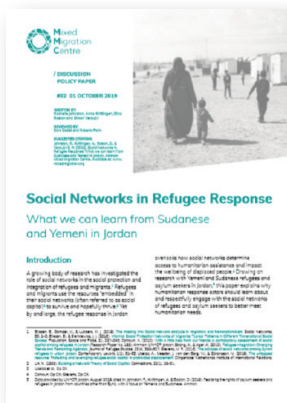


Syrians in Turkey: A Review of Literature

Ayşegül Akdemir, İstanbul Gedik Üniversitesi, Sosyoloji Bölümü, İstanbul, Turkey | June 2019

This [paper](#) examines the literature on Syrian asylum seekers in Turkey by analysing 50 articles, reports and working papers that have been published since 2012. It identifies some of the major themes that emerged and how these themes were discussed.

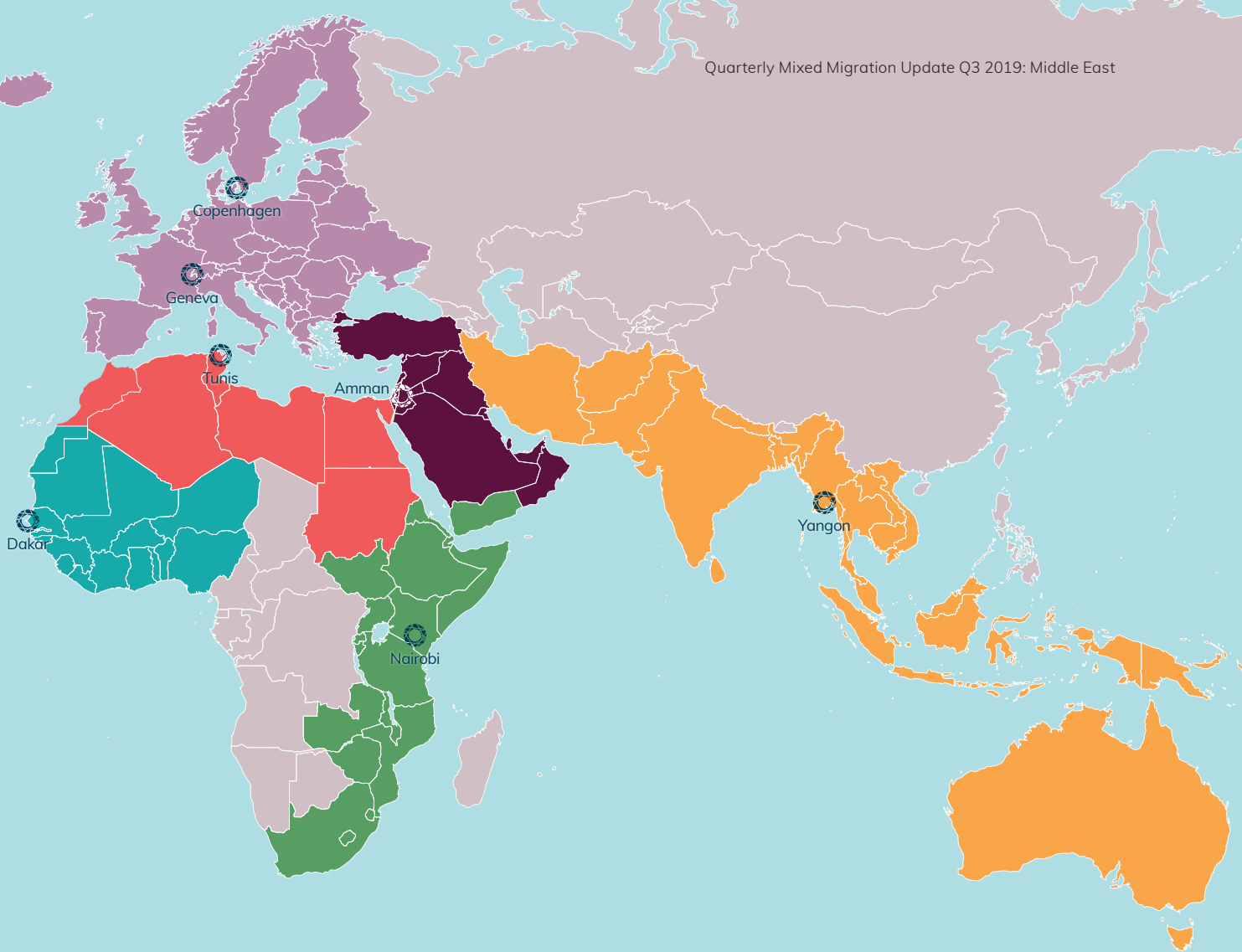
MMC ME publications



Social Networks in Refugee Response: What we can learn from Sudanese and Yemeni in Jordan

Rochelle Johnston, Anna Kvittingen, Dina Baslan and Simon Verduijn | October 2019

Drawing on research with Yemeni and Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers in Jordan, this paper explains why humanitarian response actors should learn about and respectfully engage with the social networks of refugees and asylum seekers to better meet humanitarian needs.



The MMC is a global network consisting of six regional hubs and a central unit in Geneva engaged in data collection, research, analysis and policy development on mixed migration. The MMC is a leading source for independent and high-quality data, research, analysis and expertise on mixed migration. The MMC aims to increase understanding of mixed migration, to positively impact global and regional migration policies, to inform evidence-based protection responses for people on the move and to stimulate forward thinking in public and policy debates on mixed migration. The MMC's overarching focus is on human rights and protection for all people on the move.

The MMC is part of and governed by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and global and regional MMC teams are hosted by the DRC offices in Amman, Copenhagen, Dakar, Geneva, Nairobi, Tunis and Yangon.

For more information visit:
mixedmigration.org and follow us at [@Mixed_Migration](https://twitter.com/Mixed_Migration)

