

# 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.<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:  
Mais Salman / DRC

SUPPORTED BY:





# Background:

## Mixed Migration in the Middle East

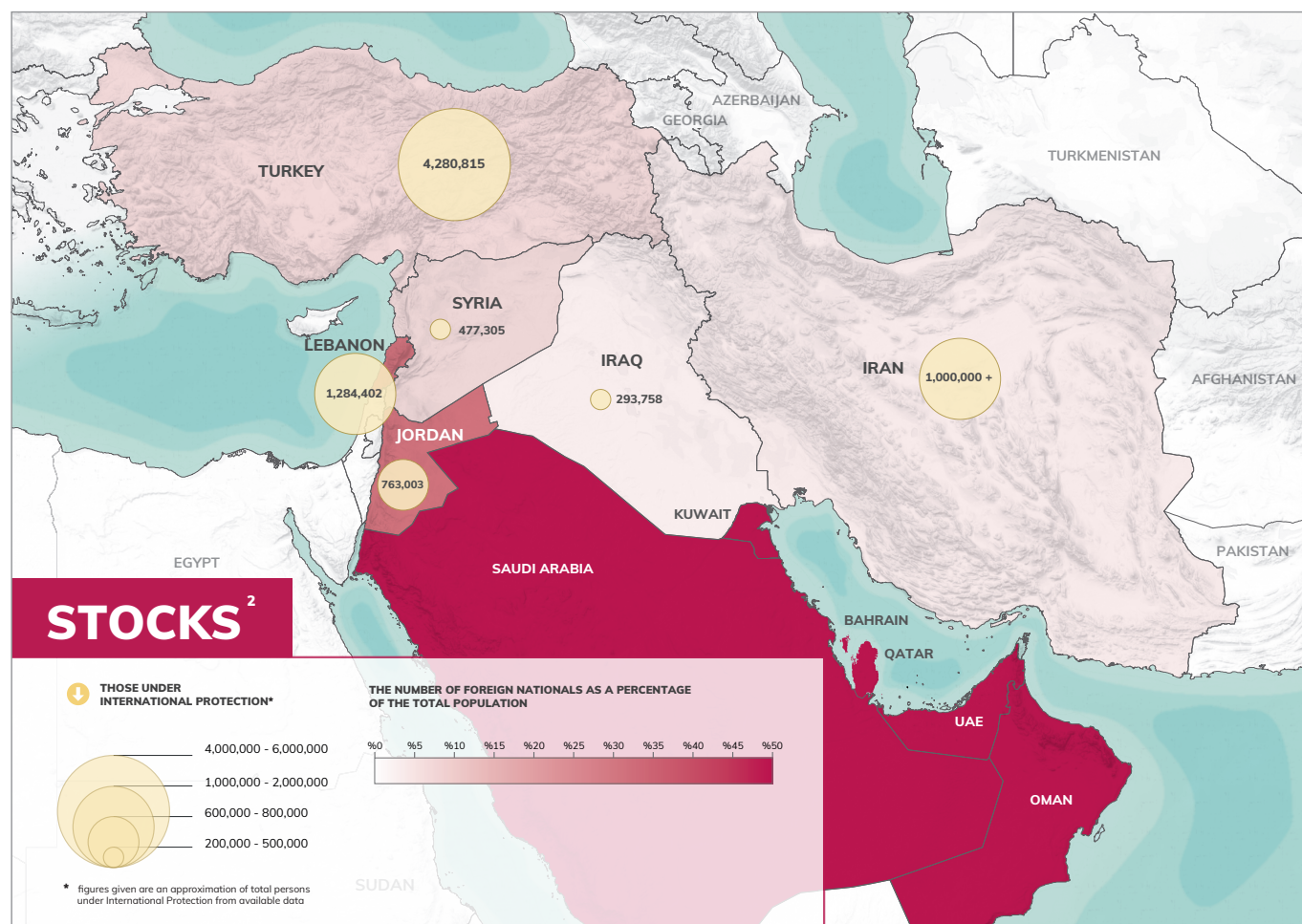
This month, Syrians in Jordan faced hikes in basic healthcare costs, while in Lebanon, evictions at the hands of municipalities, landlords and security forces continued at concerning levels. The case of an Ethiopian domestic worker hospitalised after falling from her employer-sponsor's balcony was closed without prosecution amidst conflicting reports of abuse. Forcible relocations and returns of Iraqi IDPs continued throughout April, with 29 families of mostly female-headed households forced to return to camps in Kirkuk. Returning IDPs are faced with myriad grave protection concerns such as sexual exploitation and abuse, unexploded ordnance in areas of origin and rights violations at the hands of shifting security actors in control of areas in Salah al-Din, Ninewa, Anbar and Diyala Governorates. Meanwhile, 7,000 to 10,000 Afghans have been deported from Turkey since the beginning of April, with reports of individuals being

coerced into signing “voluntary repatriation forms” in non-native languages prior to return.

In Greece, policy towards restriction of movement for refugees arriving to the islands has shifted this month, initially allowing more freedom of movement to the mainland, however being reinstated again on 20th reimplementing the “containment policy”. In Lebanon, Syrians that arrived irregularly since January 2015 between 15-18 years without a formal pathway to residency have been granted the chance to obtain temporary residency (under specified conditions). Legal status will render access to education and other services easier, alongside easing restricted movement due to risk of detention or deportation.



A Syrian woman and her daughter in an ITS in Bekaa Valley, Lebanon. Nov 2017. Photo by: Sam Tarling / DRC



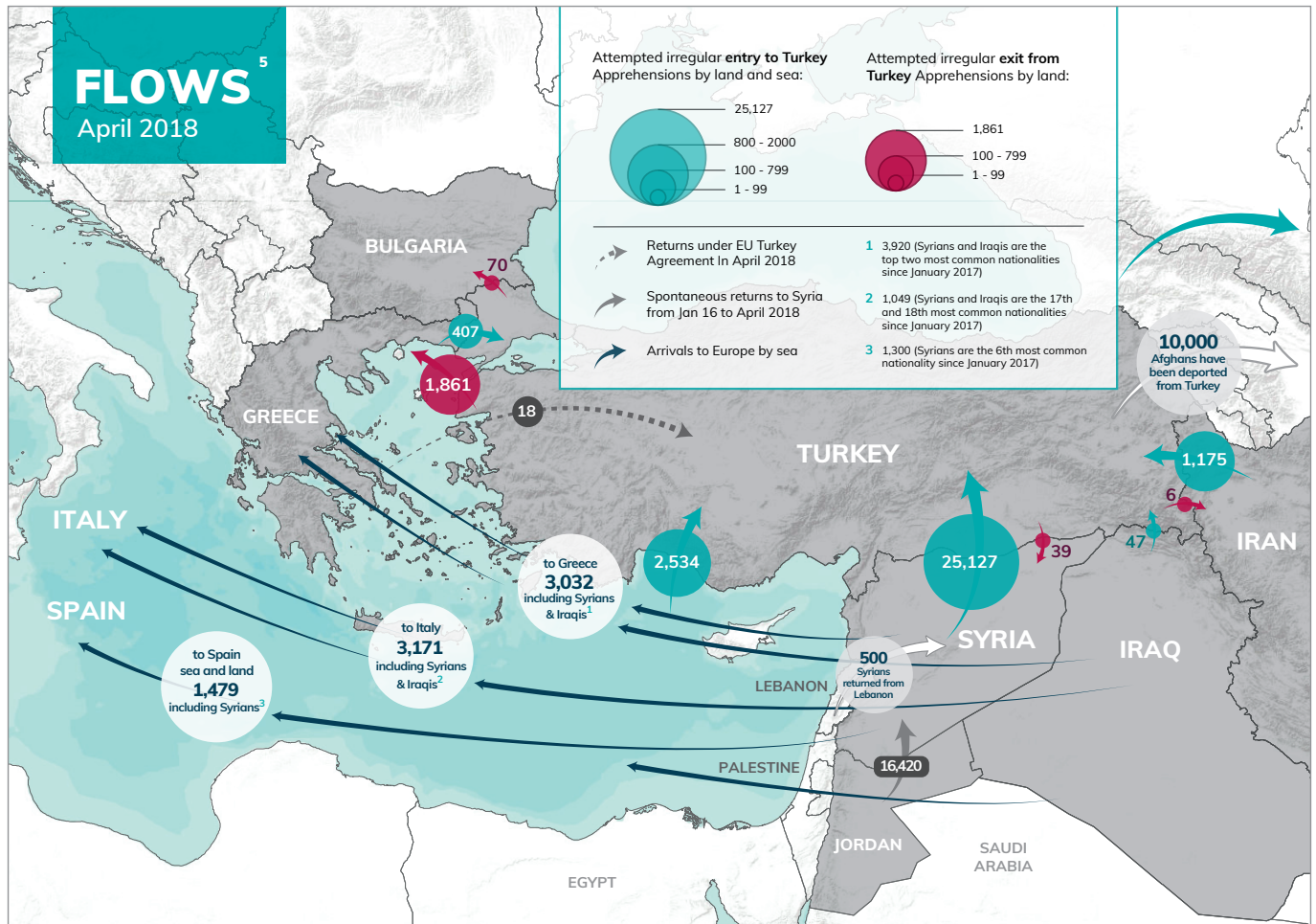
Country	Population	Foreign nationals, including those under International Protection 2017	Those under International Protection 2018
Iraq <sup>3</sup>	39,195,203	366,568	293,758
Jordan	9,875,676	3,233,553	763,003
Lebanon	6,088,952	1,938,212	1,284,402
Syria <sup>4</sup>	18,279,360	1,013,818	477,305
Turkey	81,767,519	4,881,966	4,280,815
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](#)

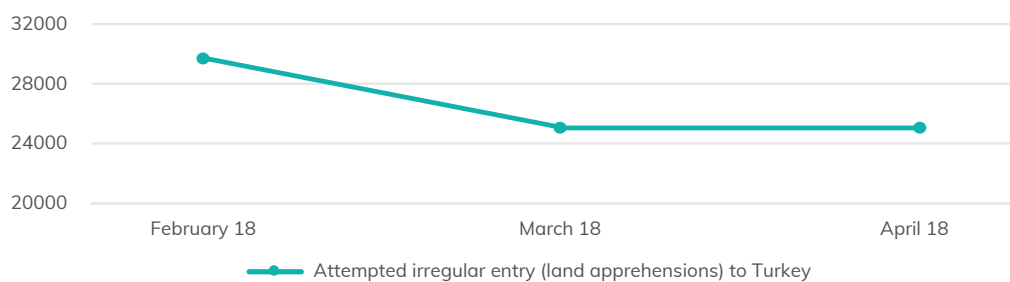
3 Internally Displaced People (IDPs): 2,300,000

4 IDPs: 6,500,000

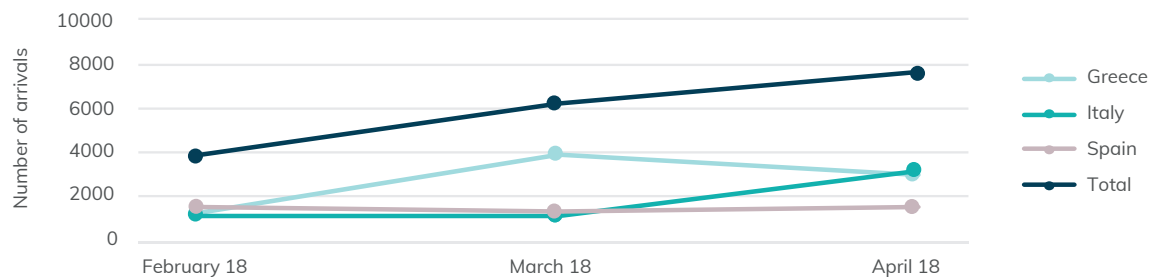




Apprehensions on entry to Turkey from Syria



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 (16 April 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'  
(April 2018)  
661,859

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)

66,624 Iraqis  
10,972 Yemenis  
4,114 Sudanese  
811 Somalis  
1,623 'Others'  
(April 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

- Although currently the most visible group of displaced persons when compared with other nationalities on the move to Jordan, Syrians continue to face financial barriers to healthcare access, following a recent decision to hike prices of key health services. This has led to a two to five-fold [increase](#) in costs, for example illustrated by the cost of a regular childbirth (previously 60, now 240 JOD) and a caesarean section (from 240 to 600 JOD). Such prices are out of reach for the majority of displaced Syrians in urban areas surviving on less than \$3 daily (approximately two JOD).

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**

**986,942 Registered Syrian 'mandate refugees' (April 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

- Evictions of Syrians continued throughout April across Lebanon, which have [reportedly](#) been ongoing since 2016. Evictions, however, appear to have escalated since September 2017, when a Syrian man was accused of raping and murdering a Lebanese woman in Mizyara, spurring a wave of evictions across other parts of the country. In 2017 alone, UNHCR reported [13,700](#) evictions of Syrian refugees by municipalities (42%), security forces (30%) and landlords (21%).
- The government of Lebanon's General Security department [closed](#) the case of a 20-year-old Ethiopian migrant domestic worker this month who reportedly «fell» from the balcony of her employer-sponsor in March, breaking both of her legs. Reports are conflicting from both sides, suggesting on the one hand, that the maid was [coerced](#) into retracting her original statement to the police alleging conditions of trafficking, and on the [other](#) that the maid tried to use the allegations to break her contract, prior to its termination, currently illegal under the Kefala system. The domestic worker's case has been upheld by migrant rights groups as an example of exploitation experienced under Lebanon's labour sponsorship system.

# Iraq



**Population**  
**39.09 million**



**Those Under  
International  
Protection**



**Number of Foreign  
Nationals**

(including those under  
International Protection)

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

249,641 Registered  
Syrian 'mandate  
refugees'  
(April 2018)

11,544 Palestinians

44,117 Non-Syrians (as of April 2018)



**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

- [Reports](#) of forcible relocations of internally displaced persons (IDPs) continued to emerge this month, with 29 families, mostly women-headed households, forced to return to camps in Kirkuk.
- IDPs returning to their areas of origin in Iraq continue to face a wide range of [grave protection concerns](#) including coercion in return, sexual exploitation and abuse, injury or death as a result of unexploded ordnance and other serious rights violations by military and security actors controlling areas of Salah al-Din, Ninewa, Anbar and Diyala Governorates.
- Approximately [1,700](#) women and children are being held and trialled by the Iraqi government for affiliations with so-called Islamic State militants. A number of foreign women, with children, were sentenced to life imprisonment this month for allegations of affiliation with the so-called Islamic State, on the basis of the government's [counter-terrorism law](#). Though sources vary, approximately 20 Russian women were convicted with life sentences this month, alongside [six](#) from Azerbaijan, four from Tajikistan and [one](#) from France, while a woman from Trinidad received the death sentence. This is further to the 17 Turkish women reportedly already sentenced to death for similar charges in 2018 so far.
- In Baghdad, a small number of [orphaned children](#) of Turkish fighters of the so-called Islamic State are likewise reportedly stranded in an orphanage, with an additional 300 Turkish women and 600 children believed to be held in a prison there. 50 of this total have been sentenced to death and 18 to life imprisonment, highlighting the increasingly tense situation for family members left behind by foreign recruits of the so-called Islamic State.

# 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 (February 2018)

**3,567,130** Syrians with Temporary  
Protection (April 2018)

Non-Syrian population seeking International  
Protection:

Iraq [153,442](#)

Afghanistan [157,011](#)

Iran [32,116](#)

Somalia [3,568](#)

Others [10,705](#) (April 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.

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

### 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

- [7,000](#) to [10,000](#) Afghans have been deported from Turkey in targeted efforts by the Turkish authorities since the beginning of April, with indications that individuals are being coerced into signing “voluntary repatriation forms” prior to return. As Afghanistan continues to be rocked daily by violence and socio-economic and political instability, many of the around 150,000 Afghans in Turkey have either received or plan to apply for International Protection, meaning that returns of this nature threaten to contravene Turkey’s [obligations](#) under International Human Rights Law to prevent refoulement.
- An increasingly authoritarian environment in Turkey appears to be reducing the space for asylum for political dissidents from countries including Tajikistan, Russia and China, Eurasianet [reported](#) this month. Despite previous existence of legislation that could be used to justify deportations of foreign nationals for threats to national security, the recent scrapping of a prohibition on deportation of applicants for international protection is one example of shrinking assurances for political asylum.

# 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)

[12,105](#) Iraqis in camps in Al-Hassakeh governorate | [24,000](#) other Iraqis

[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

Iraq	<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>
Jordan	<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>
Lebanon	<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>
Turkey	<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>



<b>Turkey</b>	<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>
<b>Syria</b>	<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>
<b>Regional</b> (applies to GCC countries, Jordan, Iraq and Lebanon)	<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.

# Policy updates this month

## Family Reunification in the European Union

The European Court of Justice (ECJ) has strengthened [family reunification](#) for young refugees in Europe by ruling that unaccompanied refugee minors can still maintain some rights to bring family members to join them, even if they come of age during their asylum application process. They must however apply within three months of having their asylum request accepted.

## The Jordan Compact

More than [95,000](#) Syrian refugees are now working in factories, farms, construction sites and stores following commitments under the Jordan Compact to provide more work permits.

## EU-Turkey Deal - Asylum Processing in Greece

On 17 April, the Council of State, Greece's top administrative court, ruled that migrants landing on Greek islands should no longer be held there while their asylum claims are assessed, with an official stating they had found no "serious and overriding reasons of public interest and migration policy to justify the imposition of restriction on movement". Asylum-seekers have been

prohibited from travelling beyond five Greek islands since the EU-Turkey deal came into effect in March 2016, which has led to serious overcrowding and increasing protests.

However, on 20 April, the Greek government issued an administrative decision reinstating what is known as the "containment policy", on the grounds of needing to implement the EU-Turkey deal and the 'public interest'. Human rights groups have condemned this decision, stating that this goes not only against the Council of State ruling but also Greece's responsibilities under EU and Greek law.

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

## New regulation in Lebanon allows some Syrian teenagers to get access to legal status

The [regulation](#) allows Syrian children who turned ages 15 to 18 after entering Lebanon (and under other specified conditions) to obtain temporary residency; something it has been hard for Syrians to do since harsh residency regulations were imposed in January 2015. Access to this legal status will make it easier for them to attend school alongside gaining access to other critical services and allowing them more free movement.

# Other News

## Nearly 500 Syrians return from Lebanon in rare case of mass return

Almost 500 [Syrians](#), many of whom had been in Lebanon for years, reportedly returned on a convoy of 15 buses organised by Lebanese authorities this month. UNHCR stated it was not involved in organising "these returns or other returns at this point, considering the prevailing humanitarian and security situation in Syria".

## Arrivals to Greece continue, with many crossing the Evros river

[2,900](#) people – mostly Syrians and Iraqis – arrived to Greece over the Evros river between 1 and 27 April. The Greek authorities are also being increasingly accused of carrying out [illegal pushbacks](#) on the border. 1,658 people were detained in March after crossing into Greece via the Evros.

## Turkey returns Afghans

Around [20,000](#) undocumented Afghans reportedly arrived in Turkey within the last three months, with 17,847 being apprehended by security forces in

Turkey between January and the end of March, 2018. Media reports state that Turkey is conducting these deportations on the basis of an agreement with Afghanistan to return undocumented Afghan nationals.

## Turkey takes undocumented migrants into custody

Turkish security forces are reportedly capturing people trying to cross Turkish borders irregularly, including [641](#) people trying to enter the country irregularly from Syria and 135 trying to make it from Turkey to Greece.

## Palestinians Refugees from Syria (PRS) are falling through protection gaps in the region

[PRS](#) remaining in Syria remain in considerable need, with over 95% estimated to be in continuous need of humanitarian aid, with an estimated 56,600 PRS living in besieged and hard-to-reach areas.

# New Research and Reports

In April, the **Carnegie Middle East Centre** published a [report](#) titled, *Unheard Voices: What Syrian Refugees Need to Return Home*. The report examines the existing refugee/migration response framework in Lebanon and Jordan and the impact of such on the marginalisation, exploitation and premature return of Syrians from the neighbouring region.

**Human Rights Watch** released a [report](#) this month detailing ongoing evictions of Syrians by municipal authorities, landlords and security forces that have occurred across Lebanon from 2016-2018. The report, *Our Homes Are Not for Strangers, Mass Evictions of Syrian Refugees by Lebanese Municipalities*, provides information on the extent of evictions with almost 70,000 either evicted or identified as at risk (having received eviction notices) during this period. The study also highlights the increasing role of returns as a political football in the upcoming parliamentary elections next month, the country's first in almost 10 years.

Following a visit of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees to Bulgaria in November 2017, **The Council of Europe** published the [results](#) of the factfinding mission this

month. The report recognises the state efforts to respond to the needs of people entering its territory during the peak of the Balkan route flows from 2015-2016, but highlights the ongoing responsibilities of municipal-level government actors in integrating refugees and migrants and ensuring international protection. It also calls for reconsideration by the Bulgarian authorities in criminalising border irregular entry of asylum seekers and the widespread use of administrative detention.

The **Zolberg Institute on Migration and Mobility**, in conjunction with the Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, published a [policy brief](#) on the Global Compact processes this month. The brief, *Making the Global Compacts Work: What future for refugees and migrants?*, provides recommendations to maximise the opportunity these parallel policy endeavours present. For the GCR, this includes broader recognition of the rights of international protection groups other than refugees by adopting language from the GCM, and for the GCM, recognising the importance of migration for reasons other than employment, for instance family reunification or education, trade or investment.

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

