



MMC Middle East
QUARTER 1 2020



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 seven 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.

SUPPORTED BY:



Quarterly Mixed Migration Update: Middle East

Quarter 1 - 2020

Key Updates

- **COVID-19:** The COVID-19 outbreak is impacting the entire region, refugees and migrants are particularly vulnerable to protection concerns and access to health care and other basic needs.
- **Idlib ceasefire in Syria, while Covid-19 adds to needs:** Syria entered its [tenth year](#) of conflict on 13 March, after the 6 March [ceasefire](#) between Turkey and Russia in relation to [Idlib](#). Large-scale displacement persists, and COVID-19 is adding to needs.
- **Arrivals in Greece:** Compared to the previous quarter, there has been a decrease in new arrivals in Greece via sea ([-16,055](#) or 68% decrease) and land ([-2,567](#) or 58% decrease). A decrease is observed in the first quarter of every year, mainly because of the winter weather conditions, but the decrease is much larger than the same period last year (which saw a decrease via sea of -3,834 or 42%, and via land -1,260 or 20%).
- **Arrivals in Turkey:** A total of [45,557](#) arrivals in Turkey were recorded during this quarter, which is a 68% decrease from the previous quarter when [141,725](#) arrivals were recorded (-96,168). The majority of arrivals are [from](#) Afghanistan (35%), Syria (15%) and Pakistan (11%).
- **People apprehended/rescued in seas around Turkey:** [9,053](#) people were [apprehended/rescued](#) in all seas surrounding Turkey, whereas the total of the previous quarter was [22,077](#) (-13,024 or 59% decrease). The [9,053](#) people were recorded during [259](#) operations, compared to [648](#) in the previous quarter (-389 or 60% decrease).
- **Missing refugees and migrants:** With data up to 18 March, [219](#) people were reported as having gone missing or died while crossing the Mediterranean Sea. [64](#) people were recorded missing or dead in the Eastern Mediterranean, which is an abrupt increase compared with 4 people reported in the entire previous quarter and almost the same as the number for all of 2019.

Regional Overview

Figure 1. Overview of arrivals in Europe and Turkey this quarter (Jan – Mar 2020)*



*Information on the map relates to selected updates and does not represent all mixed migration flows within and out the Middle East.

Mixed Migration Regional Updates

Middle East

COVID-19 spreading across the region

Refugees and migrants are [especially vulnerable](#) to the [coronavirus](#) due to their generally high [mobility](#), living in overcrowded conditions, lack adequate sanitation and hygiene facilities, and lack of access to healthcare and [employment](#). Also, with priority given to putting [measures](#) in place aimed at containing the virus, restricted freedom of movement raises barriers for service providers to [provide services](#) for refugees and migrants. This could lead to mounting [needs](#) and an increasing [risk](#) of survival (e.g. reduced food intake and other negative coping mechanisms). Meanwhile, the numbers of confirmed COVID-19 cases are increasing [rapidly](#), especially in Turkey where the number of confirmed cases has been increasing by [more than 3,000](#) a day since 4 April and more than [4,000](#) a day since 8 April. The WHO has warned the countries in the Middle East to act [quickly](#) and adequately to contain the virus. Especially considering the reportedly [weak or broken public health](#) systems in most of the region's countries.

Turkey opened – and closed – the border with Greece

On 28 February, [frustrated](#) by the deaths of dozens of its soldiers in northern Syria, Turkey announced the [opening](#) of its borders to allow refugees and migrants to move to Europe. Since then, migrants and refugees have reportedly been heading to Turkey's western borders. An [estimated 13,000](#) refugees and migrants, including Syrians, Afghans, Somalis, Pakistanis and Iraqis gathered at Turkey's border with Greece. Without the possibility of crossing the border into Greece and increased [border control](#), people remain [stranded](#) in [precarious](#) conditions. However, following the global spread of COVID-19, Turkey [closed](#) the border on 18 March and as a result the number of migrants and refugees moving to the area reportedly [decreased](#). There have been [mixed reports](#) on people moving back to the cities voluntarily or forcibly.

African asylum seekers and refugees protest in front of UNHCR Lebanon

More than thirty protesters from Sudan and Ethiopia [demonstrated](#) peacefully across the street from the UNHCR offices in Beirut on 14 January. The women, children, and a handful of men called on the UNHCR to reopen their asylum-seeking claims and resettlement case files, which have been pending for years. The group also asked for protection services for refugees and asylum seekers from other African countries. The protesters were backed by activists and supporters from various backgrounds, including members of the Anti-Racism Movement (ARM). The protest is part of an ongoing protest which has included [sit-ins and hunger strikes](#) in front of UNHCR's offices. UNHCR has responded stating that "The current situation in Lebanon is affecting everyone in the country, and the most vulnerable groups, including refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants, are very severely impacted." UNHCR "considers everyone, but [that] doesn't mean that everyone can or will get the services, from cash assistance, health care, to access to education. We're working with limited funding and resources."

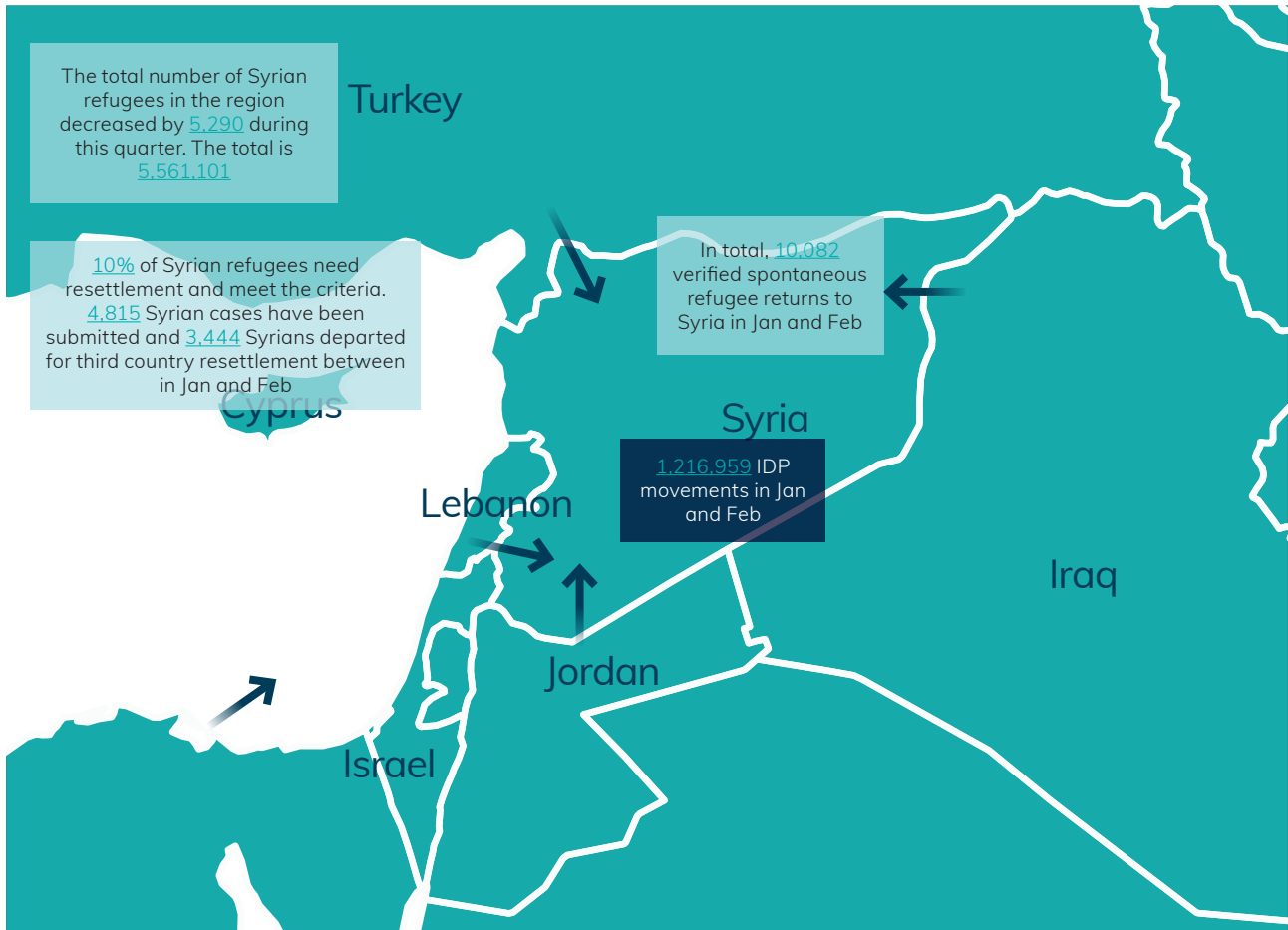
UN resolution for cross-border assistance in Syria renewed

On 10 January the UN Security Council [approved](#) resolution 2504 prolonging the delivery of UN humanitarian aid through the border crossings of Bab al Salam and Bab al Hawa between Turkey and north-west Syria just before its final deadline.

Idleb ceasefire while COVID-19 adds to needs in Syria

13 March marked the 'grim' tenth anniversary of conflict in Syria. A [ceasefire](#) between Turkey and Russia in relation to the [Idleb](#) area came into effect on 6 March, and hostilities reportedly decreased significantly in the northwest. However, [needs on the ground remain severe](#) and the [COVID-19](#) pandemic has complicated the [provision of aid](#). February marked a stark [increase in internal displacement](#), with about 752,130 movements across Syria, including around 454,000 IDPs from Idleb governorate. However, [103,459](#) Syrians had reportedly returned to their home towns in the northwest between the ceasefire and 12 April.

Figure 2. Syrian displacement, resettlement and spontaneous return in this quarter*



*Information on the map relates to selected updates and does not represent all mixed migration flows within and out the Middle East.

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Countries

Figure 3. Updates on Foreign Nationals in the GCC countries



COVID-19 cases in migrant labour camps in Bahrain and Qatar

According to Migrant-Rights, two migrants from a labour camp in Bahrain have tested positive for COVID-19. The camp, with 800 workers in total, have since been placed on lockdown. Bahrain's Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) has sent text messages about the virus in [several languages](#) to all migrants registered in its database.

Most COVID-19 cases in Qatar have been located in the so-called "Industrial Area", a commercial hub outside Doha where many [migrant workers live](#). There are also [concerns](#) regarding an outbreak in a labour camp. Qatar has also issued multilingual videos and texts to inform their foreign population. However, rights groups have [complained](#) that migrant workers still [lack information](#) and are at high risk of infection. Social distancing is reportedly difficult for migrant workers in the region as they live and work in crowded and often unhygienic conditions. As pointed out by [Amnesty International](#), those who are "trapped in camps (...) are at particular risk of exposure to the virus".

Philippines implemented a temporary deployment ban on domestic workers to Kuwait

Following the [sexual abuse](#), torture and [murder](#) of a 26-year-old domestic worker by her [Kuwaiti employer](#), the Philippines imposed a ban on the employment of domestic workers to Kuwait on 2 January. The ban was [lifted](#) on 13 February after the two governments reached an agreement for improved working conditions of Filipino workers. Workers will get a [standardised](#) employment contract, which includes conditions on the use of mobile phones after work, leave days, and specified working and sleeping hours. According to Migrant-Rights, it remains unclear how the standardised contract differs from what was agreed through an MOU [signed](#) on 11 May 2018, after the murder of another Filipino domestic worker.

Bahrain announced new services for migrant workers in distress

As reported by [Migrant-Rights](#), the Bahraini government will streamline complaint procedures for migrant workers. The Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) announced that it would launch a new unit to assist migrant workers in filing complaints. Support provided will include translation services and assistance in compiling the documents. Migrant workers who do not have copies of the documents required, such as their IDs or contracts, would be able to retrieve them through the LMRA's database. The measures do not cover assistance in court processes, after complaints have been filed, such as free legal aid from clinics or lawyer.

Investigation launched after Nepali construction workers die at work in Kuwait

In February 2020, six Nepali workers [allegedly](#) died in a landslide on a construction site in Kuwait. Another two Nepali workers were injured. According [local media reports](#), the workers were undertaking drainage work when earth caved in. The Nepali National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has [asked](#) the Kuwaiti government for more details about the accident. The Kuwaiti authorities have [requested](#) an investigation.

60 migrant workers stranded without pay or visas in Saudi Arabia

In March 2020, the [Ahmedabad Mirror](#) reported on a case of 61 migrant workers from India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka who were stranded in Saudi Arabia and “[deserted](#)” by their employer. Reportedly, the company did not renew work permits and had not paid the workers for nine months. On 29 February and 1 March, 40 people were returned home with the support of the Indian Embassy.

Saudi Arabia launch new measures to combat human trafficking

During the last week of March, Saudi Arabia [launched](#) a National Referral Mechanism (NRM) project which outlines best practices and pathways for handling cases of trafficking in persons. It is a project of Saudi Arabia's National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking (NCCHT) and supported by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). It will include the setup of an anonymous digital reporting service, embedded in the NCCHT website, a 24/7 hotline and mobile application and referral service to combat human trafficking.

700 migrant workers in the UAE receive unpaid wages

In February, over 700 migrant workers received unpaid wages after their cases were settled at the Abu Dhabi Mobile Labour Court. The Abu Dhabi Judicial Department had stepped in after the directors of the company absconded and took large amounts of cash with them in 2018. The Abu Dhabi Mobile Labour court is hosted on a [double decker bus](#), which moves between labour camps. [Reportedly](#), thousands of migrant workers have had their cases settled through the mobile court since it launched in 2016.

Mixed Migration to Europe and Turkey

Refugees and migrants continue to cross the Mediterranean Sea to reach Europe, but the trend is downward

In the first quarter of 2020, there have been [18,172](#) new irregular arrivals to Italy, Spain and Greece via land and the three Mediterranean Sea routes compared to [41,509](#) in the previous quarter (-23,337 or 56% decrease).

Looking at quarterly figures, the number of arrivals in Greece via sea (-16,055 or 68% decrease) and via land (-2,567 or 58% decrease) are lower than in the previous quarter. A decrease is observed in the first quarter of every year, mainly because of the winter weather which makes the Mediterranean crossing even more dangerous. However, this decrease is much more significant than in the same period last year, when the decrease of arrivals in Greece via sea was -3,834 or -42%, and -1,260 or 20% decrease among arrivals via land.

Zooming in on the monthly figures and comparing the February and March arrivals, it is interesting to observe that the number of sea arrivals in Greece actually slightly increased from (+72 or 3% increase) whereas the arrivals for the other routes decreased by at least 59%. However, with international borders closed, restricted freedom of movement and ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the quarterly trend is like to continue going downward in the coming quarter, for all arrivals on all routes.

Figure 4. Number of arrivals by country

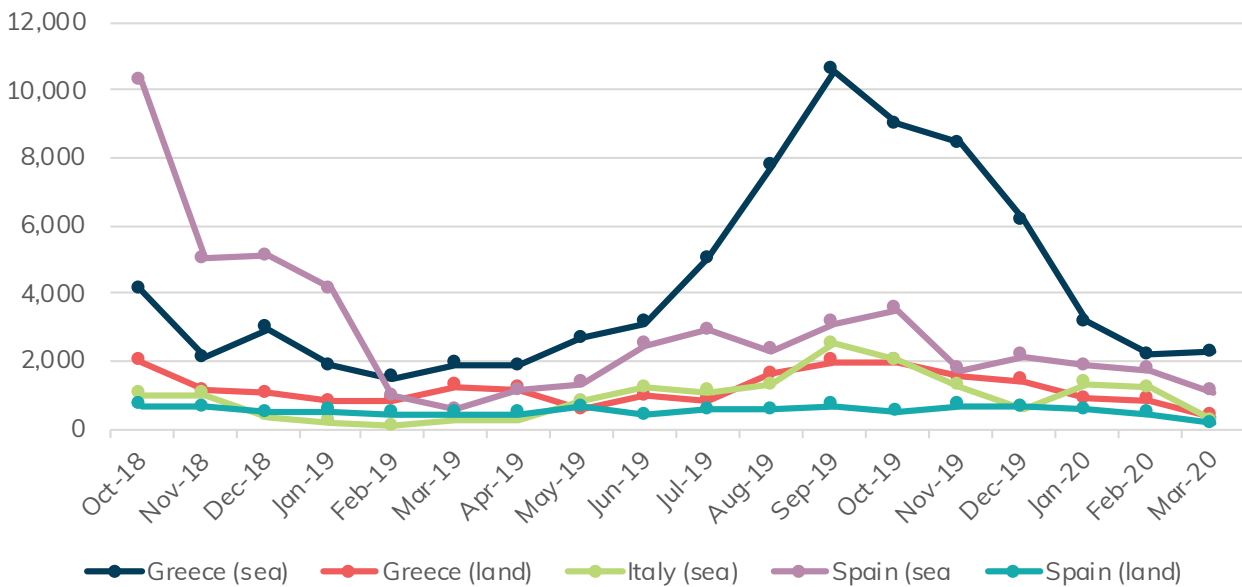


Table 1. Mediterranean route arrivals

	2018 Q4	2019 Q1	2019 Q2	2019 Q3	2019 Q4	2020 Q1
Greece (sea)	9,075	5,241	7,629	23,271	23,585	7,530
Greece (land)	4,146	2,886	2,648	4,435	4,918	2,051
Italy (sea)	2,346	524	2,255	4,854	3,838	2,794
Spain (sea)	20,351	5,609	4,866	8,328	7,365	4,657
Spain (land)	1,785	1,364	1,424	1,754	1,803	1,140
Total	37,703	15,624	18,822	42,642	41,509	18,172

For 2020, no [data](#) is available on the most common nationalities among sea arrivals in Greece. There is only data available on most common nationalities of sea arrivals in Italy. From the Middle East, Italy received 72 people from Iraq (2.6% of the total 2,794 arrivals) and 8 Syrians (0.3%).

Apprehensions/rescue operations in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea

Information on the fate of those who went missing, died or were apprehended/survived crossing the Eastern Mediterranean mainly comes from the [Turkish authorities](#). [9,053](#) people were [apprehended/rescued](#) in all seas surrounding Turkey, whereas the total of the previous quarter was [22,077](#) (-13,024 or 59% decrease). The [9,053](#) people were recorded during a total of [259](#) operations, compared to [648](#) in the previous quarter (-389 or 60% decrease). [6](#) 'organisers' were apprehended at sea, compared to [23](#) in the previous quarter. This stark decrease is likely partly due to the winter period.

The above-mentioned stark decrease in arrivals in Greece by sea between Q4 2019 and Q1 2020 is also reflected in the number of people apprehended/rescued (see Table 2 below). However, while the decrease is more significant (-13,024 or 59% decrease) than in the same period the year before (-2,630 or 38% decrease), the number of people apprehended/rescued in Q1 2020 more than doubled compared to Q1 in 2019 (+4,689 or 107% increase). Similar trends can be observed in the number of irregular migration incidents/operations in all seas surrounding Turkey.

In light of the COVID-19 outbreak, it is interesting to observe an upward trend by month (+828 or 40% increase). However, the quarterly trend is likely to be downward as COVID-19 continues to impact freedom of movement and border policies.

Table 2. Apprehensions at sea and arrivals in Greece

	2018 Q4	2019 Q1	2019 Q2	2019 Q3	2019 Q4	2020 Q1
Migrants apprehended in all seas surrounding Turkey	6,994	4,364	8,639	25,722	22,077	9,053
Irregular migration incidents/operations in all seas surrounding Turkey	190	120	261	733	648	259
'Organisers' apprehended in all seas surrounding Turkey	26	9	15	33	23	6
Arrivals in Greece by sea	9,075	5,241	7,629	23,271	23,585	7,530

Deaths in the Eastern Mediterranean on the rise

2020 data on people who went missing or died while crossing the Mediterranean Sea is only available up to 18 March. During those 49 days, [219](#) people were reported to have gone missing or died while crossing the Mediterranean Sea. [64](#) people were recorded missing or dead in the Eastern Mediterranean, which is a very abrupt increase when comparing it with the 4 people who went missing or died in the entire previous quarter and almost the same as the number for the entire year of 2019 (see Figure 5 and Table 3). When comparing the numbers of January 2020 and 2019, the increase is similarly significant (+61 or 3,050% increase). In all cases the true number of fatalities is likely much higher.¹

Figure 5. Number of dead and missing at sea

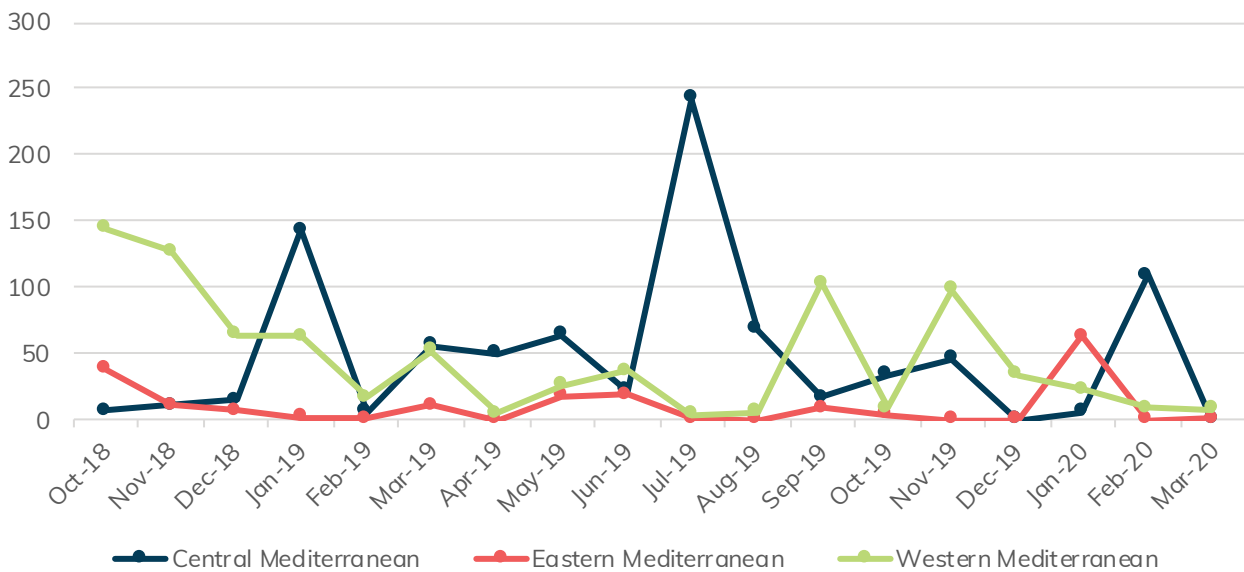


Table 3: Dead and missing at sea

	2018 Q4	2019 Q1	2019 Q2	2019 Q3	2019 Q4	2020 Q12
Central Mediterranean	33	205	136	327	80	115
Eastern Mediterranean	56	14	37	10	4	64
Western Mediterranean	335	132	68	113	141	40
Total:	424	351	241	450	225	219
CUMULATIVE TOTAL Per Year	2,277	351	592	1,042	1,267	219

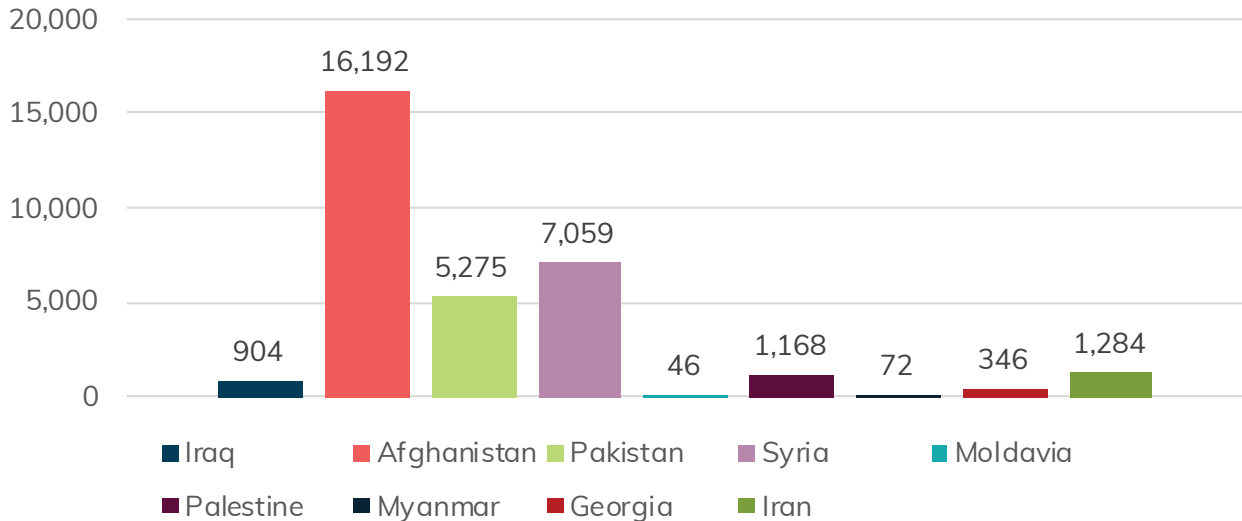
1 Information on the fate of those who went missing, died or were apprehended/survived crossing the Eastern Mediterranean mainly comes from the [Turkish authorities](#).

2 Up to 18 March.

Arrivals in Turkey

A total of [45,557](#) arrivals in Turkey were recorded during this quarter, which is a decrease from the previous quarter when [141,725](#) arrivals were recorded (-96,168 or 68% decrease). In 2019, 454,664 arrivals in Turkey were recorded. There were 268,003 arrivals in 2018, 175,752 arrivals in 2017, and 146,485 in 2016. The majority of arrivals in Q1 2020 are [from](#) Afghanistan (35%), Syria (15%) and Pakistan (11%) (See Figure 6 with the absolute numbers).

Figure 6. Nationalities of people arriving by irregular means in Turkey in 2020 (per 1 April 2020)



Victims of human trafficking in Turkey

[45](#) victims of human trafficking have been identified in Q1. This brings the total to [215](#) in 2019. The total number of identified victims of human trafficking was [215](#) in 2019, 134 in 2018, 303 in 2017 and 181 in 2016.

Nationals from Afghanistan and Syria lodged the most applications for international protection in the EU+ in January 2020

In January 2020, as reported by the European Asylum Support Office (EASO), [EU+ countries recorded](#) around [65,170](#) applications for international protection. This is a 9% increase from December 2019 and a 19% increase compared to the same month in 2019. Since late 2016, this is the third time that applications exceeded 65,000, the other two occurred in the last quarter of 2019. This shows an underlying upward trend.

Syrians and Afghans lodged the [highest number of applications of all countries of origin](#). 7,941 applications were lodged by Syrian nationals, which represents an increase of 22% compared to December last year. According to EASO, the number of pending cases has also reached a new peak since April 2017: 51,600 Syrians are waiting for their first-instance decision.

Afghan nationals lodged 6,878 asylum applications in January 2020, which represents an increase of 9% compared to December. Apart from the peak observed in October and November 2019, this was the highest number of Afghan applications since late 2016. After Egyptians (9%), Afghans also represented the second highest number (8%) of applications from unaccompanied minors in January 2020.

Thematic Focus: Migrant Domestic Workers in an Irregular Situation in Jordan

Protection concerns for workers and undocumented children

In the Middle East, most of the [3.16](#) million migrant domestic workers work in private homes based on sponsorship, also known as the kefala system. Based on various bylaws and regulations, the [kefala system](#) dictates the entry and ongoing legal residency of migrant workers. The legal status of migrant workers is linked to an employer-sponsor who maintains effective legal responsibility for the individual they are sponsoring while they are in the country. Although Jordanian legislation [does not mention](#) or refer to the kefala system it is strongly influenced by it, and it is applied in practice.

Jordan is home to around [58,000](#) registered migrant domestic workers. The exact number who are in an irregular situation is unknown, but the Jordanian authorities estimate around [20,000](#). The exact reasons behind the irregularity are not well documented but may be related to [exploitation, abuse](#), and [human trafficking](#), as well as economic reasons. Domestic workers may expect to [make more money](#) by [informally working for various employers](#) before they [return](#) to their country of origin.

Working and residing outside the legal framework of the Labour Law and bilateral agreements that may exist between Jordan and countries of origin carries the risk of detention and deportation, or fines for violating and overstaying visas. Knowing all of this, the bar is high for filing complaints or going to the police or authorities if workers are abused or exploited. Workers reportedly also face restricted freedom of movement and access to housing, health care, and education, and public services and social security in general. These barriers are particularly damaging if workers have no permanent shelter, get sick, become pregnant, give birth and/or need to raise a child.

Little is known about the situation for migrant domestic workers with children born in Jordan.³ [Reportedly](#), their situation is extremely vulnerable and exacerbated by many cases where children are born outside of marriage. There have been [accounts](#) of new-born migrant children without birth certificates, nationality, or access to health care; and teenage migrant children who have ended up spending their childhood in Jordan without a passport and ability to cross international borders as well as lacking formal education or prospects of accessing the labour market in the future. Meanwhile, fathers are often unwilling or unable to acknowledge the relationship with the child or provide for them. Children are often cared for by neighbours or friends as the mother continues working.

Amid the current COVID-19 outbreak and government-imposed curfew, Tamkeen [reports](#) on informal workers who are unable to provide for themselves and their children. From 21 March to 2 April, more than 600 workers contacted Tamkeen about their inability to secure their livelihoods and pay rent. Among them were 30 mothers who were not able to provide for their babies' needs. It should be noted that those in a regular situation are not without risks either as Tamkeen received reports of intensified workload, longer work hours and increased pressure for workers residing inside the employer's apartment 24/7. The government [extended](#) the current curfew until 30 April and has stressed that life will most likely [not](#) go back to normal before the end of Ramadan, around 23 May.

3 Jordan is not a signatory to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families ([ICRMW, 1990](#)). This convention includes commitment on a migrant worker's child to "have the right to a name, to registration of birth and to a nationality" (Article 29) and "the basic right of access to education", even if there is an "irregular situation" (Article 30). Also, "Whenever a migrant worker is deprived of his or her liberty", the State would have committed to " (...) pay attention to the problems that may be posed for members of his or her family, in particular for spouses and minor children" (Article 17.6). This is not to say that Jordan does not de facto adhere to these principle and standards but ratification and application would be a welcome policy change and in line with [Universal Declaration of Human Right \(UDHR, 1948\)](#) and the [International Convention on the Rights of Children \(CRC, 1990\)](#) which Jordan did ratify.

Highlighted New Research and Reports



[Unprepared for \(Re\)Integration: Lessons learned from Afghanistan, Somalia and Syria on Refugee Returns to Urban Areas](#)

DRC, NRC, IRC | January 2020

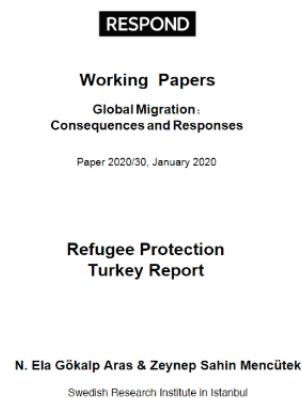
This [study](#) informs programming and policies in relation to refugee returns and, specifically, with regards to their (re)integration within urban areas in Afghanistan, Somalia and Syria. According to the authors, stakeholders, including communities and returnees themselves, have been unprepared for what happens post-return. The report argues that refugees' own priorities and actions need to be considered in order to build the way for effective programming.



[Migration Diplomacy and Policy Liberalization in Morocco and Turkey](#)

Kelsey P. Norman | 2020

This [article](#) examines the 2013 migration policy liberalizations in Morocco and Turkey in order to understand whether predominantly “human rights-centric” or “diplomatic” factors influenced domestic decisions to reform migration policies. The author argues that while countries like Morocco and Turkey may implement liberal and inclusive policies if there are diplomatic and economic gains to be had from doing so, such policies may have little impact on the everyday lives of individual migrants and refugees residing in these states.



[Refugee Protection and Migration Governance Reports](#)

Respond | January 2020

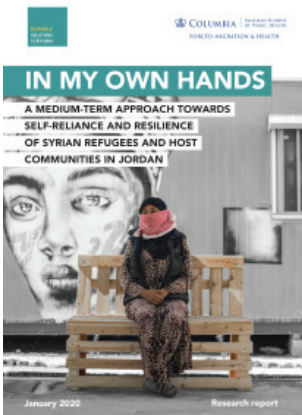
Respond has published various reports on refugee protection and migration governance. This [report](#) investigates how Turkey interprets, narrates and implements its obligations towards international protection for refugees, with an emphasis on the recent migration movements. Other publications are on [reception policies](#) in Turkey, as well as a contextual analysis of the provision of refugee protection in [Lebanon](#) and [Iraq](#).



[Under the guise of resilience: The EU approach to migration and forced displacement in Jordan and Lebanon](#)

Rosanne Anholt and Giulia Sinatti | December 2019

This [article](#) analyses EU humanitarian and development policies on resilience-building in Jordan and Lebanon. EU resilience thinking highlights strengthening the humanitarian-development nexus, 'responsibilizing' crisis-affected states, and framing refugees as an economic development opportunity for refugee-hosting states. According to the authors, EU resilience-building is primarily a refugee containment strategy that could jeopardize stability in the Middle East.



[Under the guise of resilience: The EU approach to migration and forced displacement in Jordan and Lebanon](#)

Durable Solutions Platform (DSP), Columbia University | January 2020

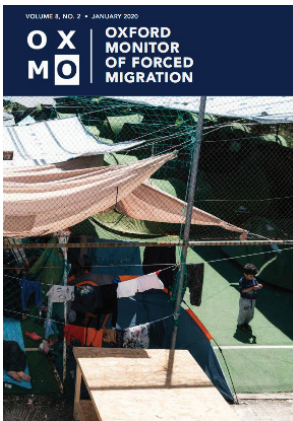
This [report](#) explores the lessons learned and ways forward for Syrian refugees' protracted displacement in Jordan. As current refugee assistance programs are adapting to address medium- and longer-term needs, this research explores how Syrian refugees' self-reliance can be fostered in a manner that promotes resilience and social cohesion with host communities. Together with the Lebanese Centre for Policy Studies (LCPS), the DSP has also completed study on the [medium-term outlook for Syrian refugees and Lebanese host communities](#).



[Unity and Inclusion: Refugees and the Jordanian Host Community](#)

Kareem Rosshandler | January 2020

In the context of the Global Compact on Refugees, this report assesses to what extent refugees in Jordan are living in a state of 'unity and inclusion'. The objective of the paper is to bring to light the challenges refugee families in Jordan face. It draws on Jordan's experience as a host country since the early 2000s, specifically in its reception of Iraqi, Sudanese, Somali, Syrian, and Yemeni refugees. The report has been published in [English](#) and [Arabic](#).



[Water Scarcity and Environmental Displacement in Southern Iraq: Perceptions and Realities](#)

Tiba Fatli | March 2020

This [paper](#) argues that climate change interacts and plays along with other factors that worsen the environmental crisis and induce forced movement in southern Iraq. It makes the point that to understand and address environmental-induced displacement, scholars and policy-makers need to listen and understand the perceptions of those most impacted by climate change as their experiences differ from institutionalised narratives. The author urges stakeholders to integrate displaced people not only in understanding displacement but also in finding practical solutions to climate change and displacement.

Migrant-Rights.org

The Precarious Health Situation of Migrant Workers in the Gulf Assessment and Recommendations

The plight of migrant workers and their abuses are very well documented by officials and non-governmental organizations. Time and time again, stories of atrocities and human rights violations are told through published accounts from victims and qualitative evidence obtained by rights groups. However, perhaps less known or less emphasized is the overall health effects on the migrant workers due to unprotected exposure to dire working conditions.

The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates that about 17 million migrant workers are currently employed in Arab states, roughly the size of Chile or the size of the state of New York. Imagine an entire country's worth of people are abroad trying to find economic shelter and enough money to send back to their families. It's quite daunting. Moreover, the workers make up the majority of the population in Bahrain, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar. Most of these workers come from southeast and south Asian countries like the Philippines, Nepal, India, Bangladesh, and Pakistan. These individuals occupy more than 90% of the construction and domestic work industry while sending back a projected USD 126.5 billion worth of remittances to their home countries in 2019.¹

The economic impact that migrant workers have on both the destination and origin countries is invaluable. The abuses they suffer are no secret. But how are the occupational hazards, the daily hazards, and the uncertain new illnesses affecting the health of these workers? More importantly, why should GCC States Care about their workers' health?

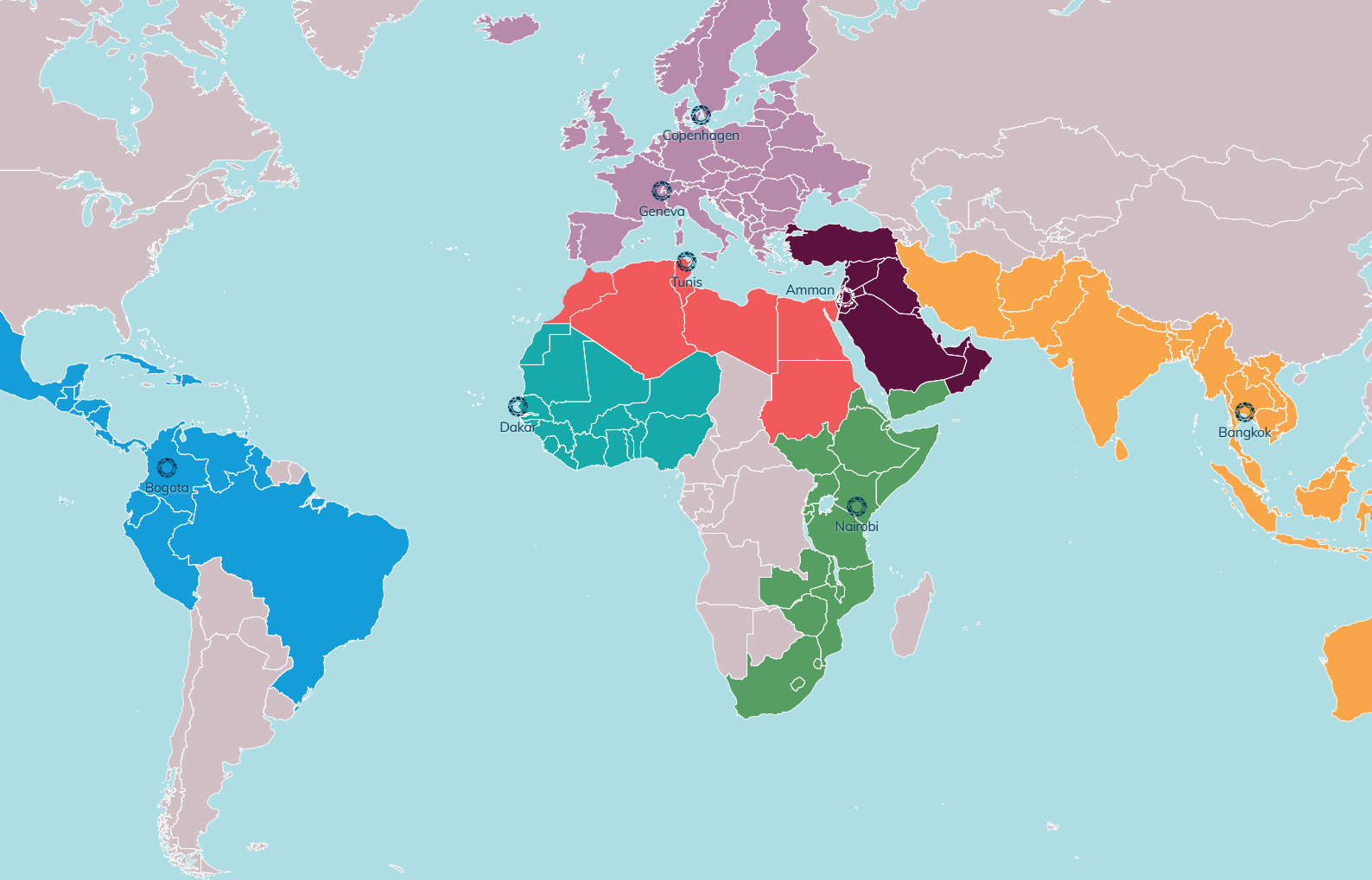
The very nature of being a migrant worker in GCC means that one is likely to be employed in sectors that are considered menial, labour-intensive, and/or dangerous, so-called "3D"

<https://blogs.worldbank.org/employment-labour/remittance-flow-and-middle-income-countries-report-02-04-2019>

[The Precarious Health Situation of Migrant Workers in the Gulf - Assessment and Recommendations](#)

Migrant-Rights | February 2020

In this article, [Migrant-Rights](#) asks for more attention on the overall health effects on the migrant workers due to unprotected exposure to dire working conditions. It argues that the plight of migrant workers and their abuses are very well documented by officials and non-governmental organizations. However, less known or less emphasized, is the overall health effects. In a separate brief, migrant-rights provides a "[Comparison of Health Care Coverage for workers in the GCC](#)".



The MMC is a global network consisting of seven 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). Global and regional MMC teams are based in Amman, Copenhagen, Dakar, Geneva, Nairobi, Tunis, Bogota and Bangkok.

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