



MIXED
MIGRATION
PLATFORM



**MIXED MIGRATION
MONTHLY SUMMARY**

MIDDLE EAST

**JANUARY
2018**

This summary is produced by the Mixed Migration Platform (MMP) and covers inter- and intra-regional displacement and displacement-induced mobility, drawing widely from available sources.

Given the complexity of current migration trends in the Middle East, this summary gives a consolidated snapshot of mixed migration in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Turkey. Current mixed migration issues in Israel/oPt fall within the remit of the Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat (RMMS).

A note on terminology: Throughout the report the term 'refugees and other migrants' is used to include all persons in mixed migration flows (this may include asylum seekers, trafficked persons, refugees, migrants, and other people on the move). Any reference to specific groups is consistent with the original source.

Cover photo: Eduardo Soteras Jalil/DRC

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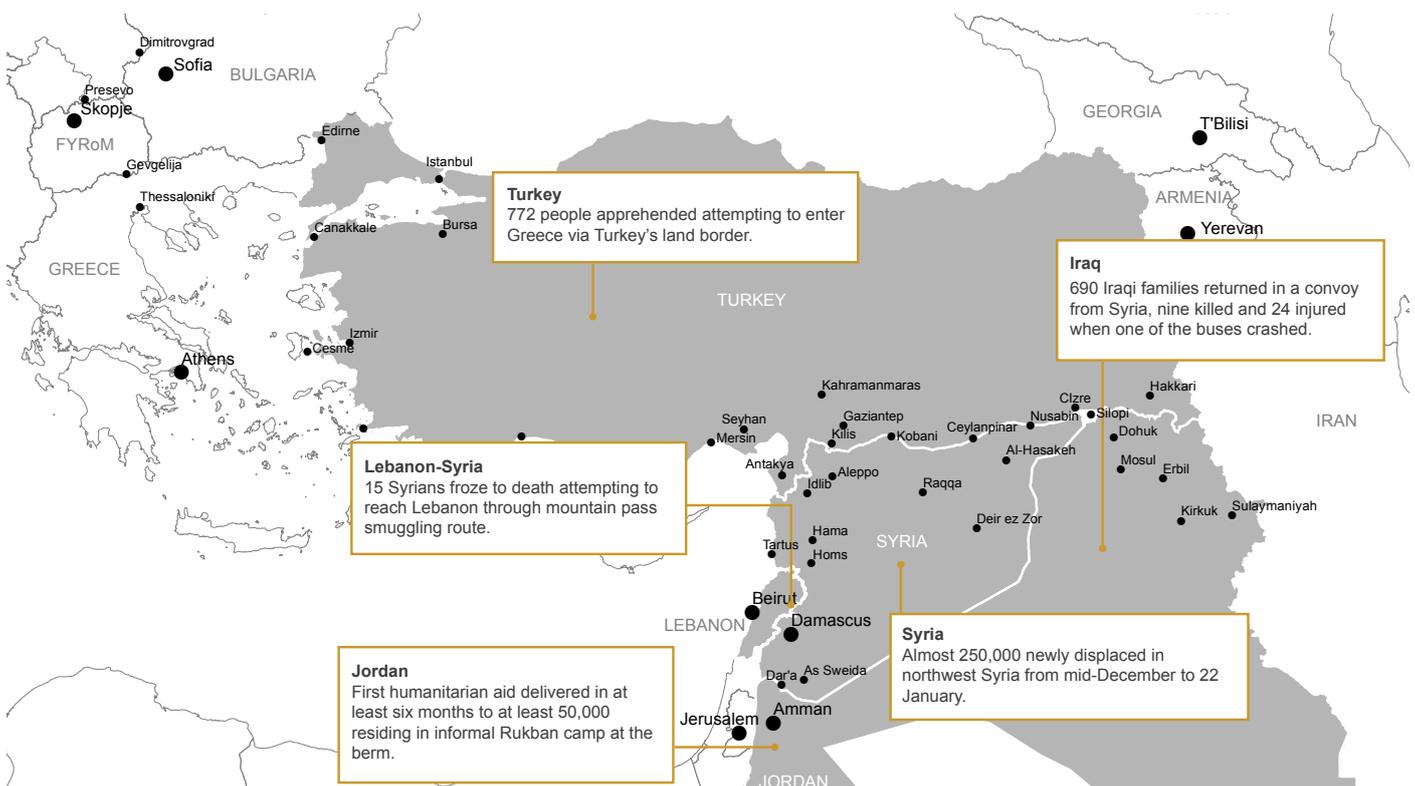
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OVERVIEW

While overall figures of apprehensions at Turkey's land borders was at its lowest since July 2017 this month (30,666), the number of recorded entry attempts to Greece via Turkey remained constant at 772. Nearly 30,000 attempted to enter Turkey via the Syrian border. 57 people were returned from Greece to Turkey under the EU-Turkey Agreement, bringing the total to 1,531 since April 2016, the majority of whom have been from Pakistan (42%) and Syria (16%). In Syria, IDP returns to Raqqa city and the surrounding neighbourhood continued in January, with an estimated 25,000 households now residing in the urban centre. This is despite the 534 people (112 of whom died as a result) maimed by unexploded ordnance left by the so-called Islamic State since the area was cleared in October 2017. Internal displacement within Syria continues at a rate of almost a quarter of a million on average each month since the beginning of 2017. Syrians residing in the neighbouring region increased by 1.5% this month, as did the number of Syrians arriving to Europe by sea, which rose by 7.2% to 18,669. Smuggling routes from Syria into Lebanon remain active, with 15 Syrians freezing to death attempting to enter the country through the mountains in January. 690 Iraqi families

returned from Syria in a convoy this month, however nine were killed and 24 more injured when one of the buses crashed. Overall Iraqi returns saw an increase of 3.9% (126,442) in January, yet the number of Iraqis hosted in neighbouring countries also rose by 6.4% to nearly 280,000. The Iraqi government plans to see all displaced people returned to their areas of origin by May, prior to parliamentary elections. Meanwhile, reports of forced returns remain ongoing, with at least 155 families sent from Ameriyat al Fallujah camp back to Al-Qaim district this month. In Jordan, the first humanitarian aid was delivered to the at least 50,000 residents of the berm's informal Rukban settlement following a six-month hiatus, due to security-related border closures. Aid groups have been advocating for the expedited processing of 8,500 Syrians held in "Village 5", a high security area of Jordan's Azraq camp, isolated from the general camp population.

The following sections of this report describe monthly developments related to mixed migration by country, including reported arrivals, departures, internal displacement relevant to cross-border movement, and discussion of relevant policy changes.



Overview of key developments across the Middle East (January 2018)

IRAQ

Arrivals: 690 Iraqi families were brought in convoy from Syria, via Turkey this month, to return to Iraq. However, a crash involving one of the buses transporting families resulted in nine fatalities and an additional 24 people injured. Families returning from Syria report that many others in Azaz would also like to return to Iraq but either lack the necessary identification documents, or are awaiting clearance from the Iraqi embassy in Ankara in order to join an organised movement. Many of these families reportedly come from Tel Afar but less than half expect to return to their homes due to the living conditions in the district. Four people were apprehended by Turkish land forces attempting to enter Iraq irregularly via Turkey’s border this month, in comparison to no reported cases in December.

Departures: As of 26 January 12,531 Iraqis, who fled Iraq since 17 October 2016, are residing in camps in Al-Hasakeh, Syria. Last month’s reported surge in Iraqi arrivals into these camps was due to an error in the secondary reported data, meaning that this figure is only a slight increase from the population at the end of December. The graph has been amended accordingly to omit this figure.

As of 26 January, almost 280,000 Iraqis were hosted in countries in the region, an increase of 6.4% from

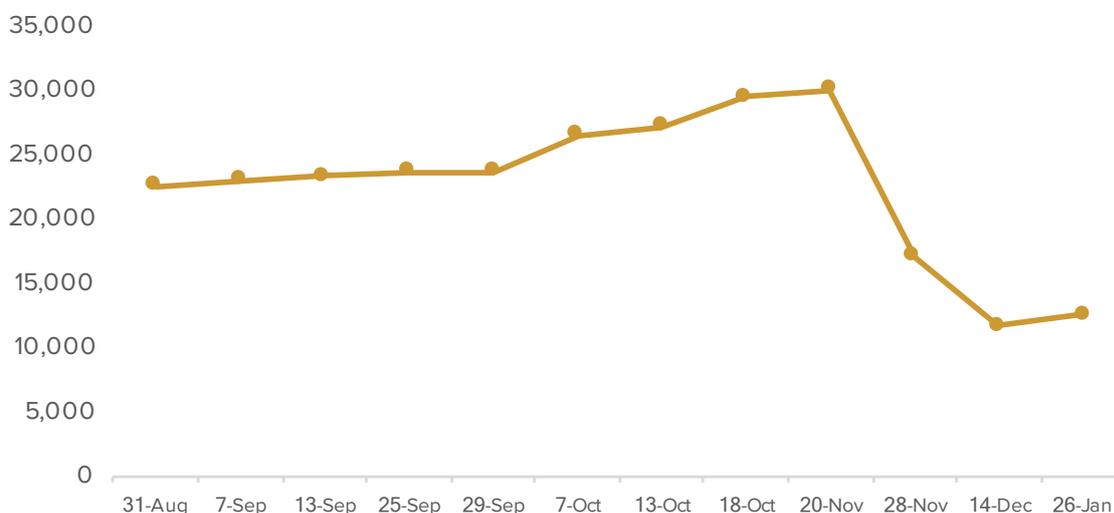
December figures. The number of Iraqis registered in Jordan rose from 65,922 to 66,262 (0.5%) this month. The number of Iraqis in Turkey was reported to be at 157,011 in January, where they represent 44% of the population under ‘temporary protection’ other than Syrians. This marks an increase of 5,357 (3.5%) from figures reported in December. Other data indicates the presence of 24,000 other Iraqi refugees and asylum seekers, mostly in the Greater Damascus area.

76 people were apprehended attempting to enter Turkey from Iraq in January, an increase of 30 (65.2%) from the previous month.

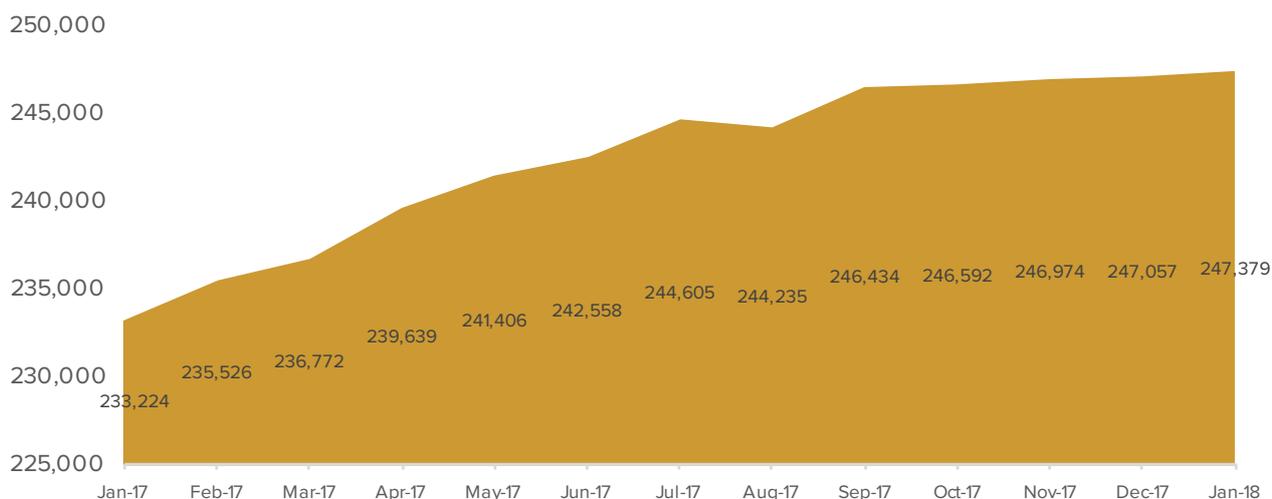
As of 31 January 2018, Iraqis are the 10th most common nationality to have arrived in Europe via sea since January 2017. They are the second most common nationality to arrive by sea to Greece in the same time period (accounting for 20.1% of arrivals).

Refugees and Other Migrants in Iraq: The number of Syrians in Iraq rose marginally from 247,057 in December to 247,379 (0.1%) in January, following the recent pattern of small increases. The numbers of non-Syrian and stateless persons in Iraq are reported at 43,672 and 48,500 respectively as of January. The number of non-Syrians has declined marginally (816 people or 0.018%) since November, but the number of stateless persons remains the same.

Iraqis received in Al-Hasakeh, Syria



Total Registered Syrians in Iraq (2017)



Internal Displacement: The total number of IDPs in Iraq was measured at **2,470,974** by 31 January, down by 145,014 (5.5%) from the previous month. Almost 800,000 (30%) of these have been displaced within Ninewa governorate itself. The number of returnees, as **defined** by the IOM Displacement Matrix Methodology, conversely increased to **3,346,704** by end of January; up by 126,442 (3.9%) from December.

On 11 January, the General Secretariat for the Council of Ministers announced that **50%** of those displaced have returned to their area of origin for the first time since 2013. The government intends to see all displaced people returned to their areas of origin by **May**, in advance of planned parliamentary elections.

On **14 January**, Internal Security Forces (ISF) announced the end of a military operation in Hawiga against ‘extremist sleeper cells’, which had displaced 1,000 people since 4 January. Around **84 families** were reported to have been forcibly displaced due to alleged militant¹ links, and there were additional reports of men being arrested. Families are now **beginning to return, but security risks impair the process** with continued presence of explosive hazards.

There were two reported incidents of **forced returns** in south-central Iraq in the period 8 to 21 January, with one incident affecting 155 families being sent from Ameriyat al Fallujah camp back to Al-Qaim district. In the nearby Kilo 18 and Habbaniyah Tourist City camps,

those who are unwilling to return are reportedly facing restrictions on their movement.

Other factors with a bearing on forced/coerced return include **reports** that civil servants in Anbar are expected to return to their posts in their areas of origin soon or risk being laid off. Additionally, the Federal Government’s Ministry of Education has announced that all Arabic language schools for displaced children in the K-RI have been instructed to **permanently close** at the end of the school year, potentially affecting 160,000 students and pushing families to leave.

Vulnerability and Protection: Documentation issues, including procedures on how documents are returned to IDPs, continue to arise. For instance IDPs who had fled to Hassansham and Khazer camps are **reportedly** struggling to regain identification documents that were confiscated from them, as the relevant MoDM office lacks clarity on the process to be followed. Lack of documentation leads to a number of protection concerns, including limited freedom of movement and access to livelihoods and services.

Evictions and premature returns are **reported** to be the main concerns for IDPs returning from locations in Anbar, Baghdad and Salah al-Din, with a reported lack of services and destruction to property in areas of origin. ‘Return’ in many cases in fact leads to secondary displacement, for instance, many returnee families were displaced by **reprisal attacks** in areas of

1 The source, the UNHCR Iraq bi-weekly protection **update**, uses the term “extremist”, which has been changed here to reflect analytical and political neutrality when surveying a deeply conflicted context.

Anbar and Salah al-Din this month. Additionally, since the beginning of 2018, the populations of camps in Ninewa and Erbil have **increased** as the lack of jobs and basic services in newly retaken areas, combined with an exhaustion of assets, pushes people back into camps. House prices in Mosul are reported to have **doubled** since the city was retaken, in part due to the scale of destruction.

A number of **tribal meetings** also took place this month regarding the return of those individuals with

alleged militant links, without any agreements being reached, however the decision affects over 4,000 families, including many vulnerable female headed households.

Syrian refugee families in Kirkuk are facing **threats of eviction** from local authorities as they lack legal residency documents. It is estimated that there are around **1,500** Syrian refugees currently living in Kirkuk, with many having left after the withdrawal of Kurdish forces.

LEBANON

Arrivals: The borders of Lebanon have been officially closed to Syrian refugees and asylum seekers, bar the small number that qualify under the **humanitarian exception criteria**, since the introduction of new entry criteria and halt in registrations that followed, in **January 2015**. However, some Syrians still try to make the journey into Lebanon despite the restrictions. This month, **15** Syrians froze to death trying to make this journey over the mountains.

Departures: The UNHCR-coordinated country level Durable Solutions working groups have recently published figures estimating 16,859 spontaneous returns to Syria from Lebanon in the period 2015 to 2017 (with 5,006 and 11,853 returning in each year respectively).

Refugees and Other Migrants in Syria: In December 2017, the UNHCR reported that the number of registered Syrians in Lebanon had dropped below **1 million** for the first time since April 2014. As of January, **995,512** Syrian refugees are reported to be in the country. A variety of reasons have been offered for the reduced figure, including return and moving on to other countries.

It is estimated that there are around **170,000** Palestinians living in Lebanon.

No new figures on the number of Iraqi nationals have been published since May, when the presence of 6,000 was reported.

Estimates indicate that there are upwards of 250,000 migrant domestic workers in the country, however the number of unregistered workers is most likely higher.

Vulnerability and Protection: A lack of civil legal documentation continues to leave Syrians vulnerable to limited freedom of movement and service access, reduced livelihood opportunities and unregistered births and marriages, with only 19% of households reporting legal residency in a survey published in December.

A recent survey by UN agencies has reported that Syrian refugees in Lebanon are more vulnerable now than they have been since the start of the crisis. It is reported that more than three quarters are living on less than \$4 per day, and aid agencies fear an increasing turn to negative coping strategies.

During the end of 2017, there were a number of campaigns to evict Syrian families from the area across northern Lebanon. Various measures included enforcement of curfews and routine checks on residency and work documentation of Syrians, the violation of which is punishable by arrest and detention, alongside reports of physical intimidation. There is no further publically available information since December.

For Palestinians in Lebanon, recent aid cuts by the US government have led to some concerns about the potential impact of this on access to assistance, including education and other services.

JORDAN

Arrivals: A minimum of 50,000 individuals remain stranded at the ‘berm’² on Jordan’s northern border with Syria. Estimates of the number of residents at the informal camp at Rukban have ranged from 50,000 to 100,000 in previous months. This was reportedly following the emptying and absorption of residents from nearby Hadalat camp as fighting between Syrian regime and opposition forces drew near in September 2017. Rukban camp received its first humanitarian aid delivery in January after at least six months without access, following approval by the Government of Jordan. Nonetheless, humanitarian access remains limited in general, with only the admission of acute medical cases to Jordan permitted through the Rukban border post.

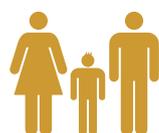
New satellite images of Rukban border encampment were published this month, indicating the presence of 10,418 ‘makeshift shelters’ both inside the berm area between the two countries and within Syrian territory. No updated satellite images of Hadalat camp along the Syrian-Jordanian border area have been available since September.

Departures: UNHCR reported 275 ‘spontaneous returns’ from Jordan to Syria in January, marking a 27% decrease from December figures. This is further to the total of 8,037 spontaneous returns of Syrians from Jordan recorded in 2017.

Refugees and other Migrants in Jordan: The total number of registered Syrians in Jordan increased by 2,004 (0.3%) to 657,628 by the end of January. The Jordanian government places estimates of total registered and unregistered Syrians closer to 1.3 million. By the end of the month, the number of Iraqis registered rose by 0.5% to 66,262, 205 of which were registered in January. The number of registered Yemenis in Jordan marginally increased by 180 to 9,627 by 25th January. The total registered figure for Sudanese saw a small increase from the constant 3,966 registered in November and December, to 4,051 by the end of January. As was the case in December, there were no reported registrations of Somalis in January, leaving the total at 806. The number of those registered as ‘Other’ rose marginally by 12 this month, bringing the total to 1,618.

Vulnerability and Protection: NGOs in Jordan have been calling for the expedited screening of an estimated 8,500 Syrians held in a high security area of Azraq camp named “Village 5”, to be released into the general camp population. Despite initial assurances in 2016 that procedures for their movement would be accelerated, the Jordan INGO Forum have expressed concern that completion has been slow, leaving those residing in this section of the camp isolated and without mobility or access to services available to the rest of the camp’s residents.

Refugees and other migrants in Jordan



Population of concern (as of January 2018)

Syrians	Iraqis	Yemenis	Sudanese	Somali	Other
657,628	66,262	9,627	4,051	806	1,618

2 This area covers the entirety of the northern Jordanian border with Syria, occupying the space between the Jordanian border and Syrian territory, dubbed by Amnesty International as ‘no man’s land’ in 2016.

SYRIA

Arrivals: An estimated 721,000 individuals returned to their areas of origin in 2017, among which 66,000 were refugees. No updated figures were available on the total number of returns to Syria in January 2018. IDP returns to Raqqa city reportedly continued, with between 20,000 and 25,000 households now residing in the city, up from the 15,000 to 20,000 recorded in December. Other sources indicate that as many as 60,000 individuals have returned to the area since it was retaken from so-called Islamic State forces at the end of October 2017. Despite this, serious concerns have been raised regarding fatalities and injuries caused by unexploded ordnance in the area, demonstrating that Raqqa city is not yet safe for civilian return. Reports indicate that 534 people have been maimed by landmines since October, 112 of whom died as a result.

275 'spontaneous returns' reportedly occurred from Jordan to Syria in January, a 27% drop from December figures. This is further to the total of 8,037 spontaneous returns of Syrians from Jordan recorded in 2017. Current figures on Syrian returns from other neighbouring countries were not available for January.

161 individuals were apprehended by Turkish land forces attempting to enter Syria via the Turkish border in January, marking a 30.6% decrease from recorded December figures.

Departures: By the end of January, 5,563,521 Syrians were registered as living in the neighbouring region and North Africa, an increase of 1.5% from the previous month. The number of registered Syrians in Lebanon decreased by 3,000 in December when the figures were updated for the first time since June 2016. January similarly saw a drop of registered Syrians in Lebanon from 997,905 to 995,512 (0.2%). The number of Syrians registered in Iraq rose marginally from 247,057 in December to 247,379 (0.1%) in January. Meanwhile, the total number of Syrians registered in Jordan increased by 2,004 (0.3%) to 657,628 from the previous month. As of the end of January, 3,506,532 Syrian refugees were registered in Turkey, marking a 2.4% increase from December figures.

29,756 Syrians were apprehended at the border with Turkey attempting to enter via irregular routes. This marks a decrease of 12.9% from December figures

and the lowest number of migrant apprehensions at the Turkey-Syria border since July 2017.

By 31 January, 18,669 Syrians had arrived by sea to Europe, an increase of 7.2% from December figures, placing Syrians above Nigerians by 0.1% at the top of most common nationalities to arrive by sea to Europe since January 2017. Syrians likewise still represent the most frequent nationality of arrivals to Greece at 12,893 (41.1% of total arrivals) since January 2017, with this month's figure marginally higher (4%) than the 12,395 reported at the end of December. Syrians are 17th on the list of most common nationalities of sea arrivals to Italy, with 2,423 recorded since January 2017, with this month marking an increase of 2.8% from the 2,357 reported in December. 2,264 Syrian arrivals by sea to Spain were reported at the end of December 2017, however no figures were available for January at the time of this report.

Refugees and other Migrants in Syria: The number of Iraqi arrivals to camps in Syria's Al-Hasakeh governorate increased by 906 to 12,531 by 26th January, up by 7.8% from mid-December. Other data indicates the presence of 24,000 other Iraqi refugees and asylum seekers, mostly in the Greater Damascus area, alongside an estimated 3,200 'persons of concern' of other nationalities. More detailed figures on the number and origin of registered refugees and asylum seekers in Syria have not been updated since 27 November, when 60,484 were reportedly present, an increase of 1,692 (2.88%) from the last available figures in September. Approximately 438,000 Palestinians in protracted refugee situations also remain in the country.

Internal Displacement: According to data provided by the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) cluster in Syria, 247,765 new displacements occurred in northwest Syria between 15 December 2017 and 22 January 2018. This is further to an average of almost a quarter of a million displaced across the country on a monthly basis in 2017.

The majority of January's displacements are from Idlib governorate. Many of these arrivals from elsewhere within the governorate occurred towards the end of the month, with 30,091 reportedly arriving between 20 and 27 January alone. Ongoing military operations along the Turkish-Syrian border also led to the displacement of an estimated 15,000 individuals

within the district of Afrin, further to the 126,000 already displaced there, and an additional 1,000 to elsewhere in Aleppo governorate.

Vulnerability and Protection: Reports of the targeting of hospitals within opposition-held areas emerged this month, with at least 10 hospitals targeted between the end of December and the beginning of January.

Unconfirmed **evidence** of multiple chemical attacks on citizens within eastern Ghouta, an area that has

TURKEY

Arrivals: Turkish land forces apprehended 30,666 people attempting to enter Turkey in January, marking a 12.4% decrease from December figures, already the lowest since July 2017. The majority of these occurred at the Syrian border (29,756). The total 772 reported migrant apprehensions at the Greek border barely fluctuated from the 773 recorded in December. At Turkey’s border with Iraq, this month saw an increase of 30 apprehensions of migrants (65.2%) upon attempted entry this month, with 76 reported between 1 and 31 of January. The Turkey-Iran border similarly saw an increase of 44.2% from the 43 reported in December, making the total apprehensions of migrants in January 62.

A further 2,613 were apprehended attempting to exit Turkey’s land borders in January, the majority of which occurred at the border with Greece (2,427). This marks a 25.2% decrease from December figures. Syria’s border saw a 30.6% decrease from December, at 161. Apprehensions at Bulgaria’s border also dropped by 72.2% to 15 in January. Six individuals

been under siege from Syrian government forces since 2013, emerged this month. Five women and one child were treated for chemical exposure on 13 January, while 21 people reported suffering from symptoms consistent with chlorine exposure on 21.

Restrictions on freedom of movement are reportedly affecting IDPs in Syria’s northern camps (Al-Hasakeh, Idlib, Aleppo), including the requirement of a sponsor or expensive fees in order to leave.

were registered attempting to exit Turkey via the Iranian border, two fewer than in January, meanwhile four were apprehended at the border with Iraq.

A total of 57 people were returned from Greece to Turkey under the EU-Turkey statement in January, bringing the total to 1,531 since April 2016. The majority of people returned under the Agreement so far have been from Pakistan (631), Syria (238), Algeria (167), Bangladesh (94), Afghanistan (87), Morocco (45), Iraq (43), Iran (40), Sri Lanka (17) and those registered as ‘Other’ (121).

Turkish authorities have made attempts to limit cross-border movement along its periphery with Syria since 2015, investing in the construction of a 900-kilometre border-wall in September 2016. The government has completed more than half of its 144-kilometre border-wall with Iran, a route it **claims** has been used as an alternative by militants and smugglers to its increasingly securitised border with Syria.

Apprehensions on Entry to Turkey from Syria





Apprehensions on arrival at Turkey's land borders, by country

Departures: In January, the Turkish Coast Guard reported that 1,640 “irregular migrants” were involved in 41 “irregular migration incidents” in the seas surrounding Turkey. This marks an increase of 155 (10.4%) “irregular migrants” involved in seven (20.6%) more “irregular migration incidents” when compared with December. 39 out of 41 incidents took place in the Aegean Sea.

As of 31 January 2018, the most common nationalities to arrive by sea to Greece since 1 January 2017 were from Syria (41.1%), Iraq (20.1%), Afghanistan (11.7%), those registered as ‘Other’ (11%), the Democratic Republic of Congo (3.4%), Algeria (2.8%), Palestine (2.6%), Iran (2.3%), stateless individuals (1.8%), Pakistan (1.7%) and Kuwait (1.4%). With January’s figures, the total number of sea arrivals to Greece in 2018 is at 1,957, further to the 29,718 recorded in 2017.

No recent figures were available on usage of the Black Sea route in January, further to the 60 individuals rescued while attempting to reach Romania by boat in November. This route saw the highest number of arrivals so far in August and September 2017, with nearly 500 asylum seekers arriving to Romania via this route, alongside an additional 800 apprehended while attempting to make the crossing.

No arrivals to Cyprus were reported during the month of January, though 38 Syrian migrant arrivals were recorded by sea to Cyprus on 5 December (33 men, one woman, four children).

Refugees and Other Migrants in Turkey: As of the end of January, 3,506,532 Syrian refugees were registered in Turkey, this marks a 2.4% increase from December figures. In January, the Turkish Directorate General for Migration Management (DGMM) increased its estimates of ‘foreign nationals’ in the country to 3.8 million, up from 3.7 million in October and 3.5 million in previous months.

Internal Displacement: No updated figures were available on internal displacement during January. Estimates for the number of displaced since December 2015 due to security operations in Turkey’s predominantly Kurdish southeast remain between 355,000 and 500,000.

Vulnerability and Protection: On 12 January, three Afghan and Pakistani refugees were killed in an electric heater fire within the shipping container where they were living in Istanbul, with 17 other affected by smoke inhalation. This incident highlights one example of the precarious living situations of many migrants in the city.

According to IOM’s Missing Migrants project, no deaths were reported along the eastern Mediterranean route between 1 and 28 January 2018, compared to one in December and 15 in November, from a total of 62 in 2017.

OTHER NEWS

Zero Draft of the Global Compact for Refugees released: On 31 January 2018, the outcome document of consultations for the Global Compact on Refugees was published. Building on existing international law concerning refugees, the compact has four main ambitions: to strengthen international cooperation to ease pressures on host countries; to enhance the self-reliance of refugees; to increase options for third country solutions; to support conditions in countries of origin for returns in safety and dignity.

Baghdad opposes European plans to forcibly repatriate Iraqis: The Head of the Iraqi Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee made a public plea to the Iraqi government to refuse any forcible repatriation of Iraqis by the European Union in late January, according to an AI Monitor [article](#). Following announcements of the defeat of the so-called Islamic State, the European Commission have deemed Iraq 'safe for return', despite ongoing risks to those who decide, or are compelled through difficult circumstances such as asylum claim rejection, to go back.

Hungary considers taxing NGOs which 'help' migration: An [article](#) published this month tells of a new proposed regulation, according to which aid organisations accused of "aiding illegal migration" would be required to share data with the Hungarian government. This is further to 25% additional tax for those receiving funding more significant than national

funds received. The Prime Minister called refugees 'Muslim Invaders' in January, questioning the notion that they are running for their lives.

UK and France come to joint agreement over border control: The Guardian published an [article](#) this month on the joint agreement signed between British PM Theresa May and French President Macron over border issues, namely the Sandhurst Agreement. Within this framework, the UK government pledged considerable financial support to France (£44.5 million) in order to police the Channel crossing, prevent another 'Jungle' camp from forming in Calais and bolster security and surveillance infrastructure in Calais and other ports known as crossing points.

Human trafficking victims slipping through the net in Europe: [Reuters](#) reported this month that poor conditions - including a lack of proper accommodation and a lack of proper support services - and overstretched humanitarian capacity at European migrant hotspots are playing directly into the hands of traffickers. Based on information from OSCE, the article underlines how the dominant focus on humanitarian response has overshadowed awareness of trafficking at the hotspots.

See also **MHub Monthly Trend Bulletins** accessible [here](#).

NEW RESEARCH AND REPORTS

On 11 January, the office of the Special Representative for the Secretary General published the report, '[Making migration work for all](#)', as an input to the upcoming zero draft on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular migration. The report invites member states to keep four fundamental considerations in mind: maximising the benefits of migration, rather than obsessing about risks; strengthening the rule of law, including opening new routes for regular migration; envisioning security that mutually reinforces the safety of states, the public and migrants; and working to ensure that migration is never an act of desperation.

MPI (The Migration Policy Institute) released two policy briefs this month. The [first](#) entitled 'Moving Beyond "Root Causes:" The Complicated Relationship Between Development and Migration' examines the Migration-development nexus. The paper argues that the impact of development assistance on the rate of migration from a country depends on a complex patchwork of issues including local level factors, such as the past migration experience of an individual or community. The brief presents that migration is a phenomenon to be worked with, not against, and reshaping rather than preventing it can help harness positive outcomes for all.

The **second**, 'Welcome to Work? Legal Pathways for Low-Skilled Workers', looks at the potential benefits of, and limited opportunities for, legal pathways for such groups. The report notes that most available options for low-skilled workers are temporary, creating a number of issues (including for instance that seasonal work is mostly male-dominated, thereby leading to the near exclusion of women from such channels) and calls for a number of measures to improve options and protection.

In January, **IOM** released their **report** 'More than Numbers: how migration data can deliver real life benefits for migrants and governments'. It focuses on providing examples for how better data collection can translate into benefits for host and origin countries and migrants themselves.

Human Rights Watch launched their **World Report** in January. Included is the continued focus of European governments to externalise migration management, in spite of serious concerns over the treatment of migrants in countries with which they are cooperating. It also looks at human rights conditions and migration policy inside Europe.

The International Migration Institute network have released a **paper** 'Counting migrants' deaths at the border: From civil society counter-statistics to (inter) governmental recuperation'. The paper tracks the history of migrant death statistics. It underscores how civil society organisations originally used this data as a tool to challenge European migration policies. The paper outlines the conflict in the engagement of international organisations such as IOM in the tracking of these figures whilst simultaneously engaging in human mobility control.

This month, **Refugees Deeply** hosted a **talk** on the status of the refugee job compact agreements made with Lebanon and Jordan. The discussion examines how much progress these compacts have made in their respective countries as well as the challenges they have faced. One finding in the case of Jordan has been that transport and childcare remain major obstacles for women to work outside of the home, and that many would prefer home-based businesses.

In January, the **JIF (The Jordan INGO Forum)** released their **third edition brief** on protection challenges for Syrians in Jordan. The report looks at a number of ongoing barriers for Syrians to a safe and dignified life, including the vulnerabilities that arise out of their limited legal status in the country. 93% of urban refugees are living below the poverty line in Jordan, which also impedes their access to services.

Oxfam published a joint **report** with **the Refugee Council** this month on the impact of family separation on refugees in the UK. Government policies are highly restrictive towards the eligibility of refugees to bring family members to the UK. For many of those already arrived, the concern around reunification with family members is a barrier to integration, making it difficult to learn English and put down roots. In almost three-quarters of the cases reviewed in this report, separated family members were not eligible for family reunion. Notably, in the cases where reunification was possible, this accelerated integration into British society.

NRC, together with **IDMC** and **Samuel Hall** released a **report** on Afghanistan this month. The study compares data from 2012 to understand the causes of prolonged and multiple displacements and key protection challenges. The report examines how many Afghans have faced multiple displacements owing to conflict and violence, and that returnees (who are often secondarily displaced) and IDPs face the same vulnerabilities. Some key changes since 2012 are that only 25% Afghans report receiving aid assistance compared with 44% in 2012. Further, one in two now say they have trouble satisfying their food needs, compared with one in three in 2012, though some factors had improved such as access to drinking water.

RMMS monthly summaries of mixed migration issues and news in East Africa and Yemen are available **here**. Summaries from West Africa are accessible **here**, and 4mi (Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative) reports from the Central Asia and Southwest Asia region are available **here**.

The Mixed Migration Platform (MMP) is a joint-NGO initiative providing quality mixed migration-related information for policy, programming and advocacy work, as well as critical information for people on the move. The platform was established by seven partners - ACAPS, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Ground Truth Solutions, Internews, INTERSOS, REACH & Translators Without Borders (TWB) - and acts as an information hub on mixed migration in the region. For more information visit: mixedmigrationplatform.org

