

This summary of inter and intra-regional displacement and displacement-induced mobility is produced by DRC Middle East and North Africa regional office drawing widely on available sources. It covers events, trends and data for the Middle East region (Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq).

*A note on terminology: Throughout this report the term migrant/refugee is used for all persons involved in mixed migration flows (including asylum seekers, trafficked persons, migrants, refugees) with the exception of Syrians who are recognised as persons in need of international protection. If the group mentioned refers only to refugees or asylum seekers or trafficked persons or migrants it will be clearly stated.*

### SYRIA

**Forced Displacement:** As the Syrian conflict entered its 6<sup>th</sup> year on March 14, ongoing fighting in the country continued to displace thousands of Syrians both within and outside of Syria. As at March 31, 2016 UNHCR had registered [4,801,628](#) Syrian refugees globally, marking an increase of 14,708 individuals (0.3%) from February 29, 2016. The growth in numbers of Syrian refugees in March was slower than that of February where numbers rose by 4.1% globally. Of this number 4,310,752 Syrians (90%) live in urban, peri-urban, or rural areas, while only 490,876 (10%) live in formal camps.

[OCHA](#) reports that a national ‘cessation of hostilities’ in Syria, in effect since February 27, 2016, has resulted in a substantial decrease in hostilities in Southern Syria between pro-government and armed opposition forces. [367](#) civilian deaths were recorded in March, the lowest since July 2011. Clashes between opposition forces and rural groups, however, in other areas of the country have increased. Since February 1, 2016 fighting in Northern Syria has displaced 79,319 Syrians in Aleppo and Idleb governorates, and 33,220 in Al-Hasakeh governorate. Thousands of internally displaced persons have fled to the Jordanian border crossings at [Rukban and Hadalat](#) where an estimated [57,000 Syrians](#) are stranded at the border (see Jordan section) or North to the [Turkish border](#) where, as of March, 2016 roughly [70,000](#) people are being accommodated in camps (see Turkey section). In March 2016, an estimated [6.6 million](#) Syrians were internally displaced in Syria.

**Closing Borders:** Though 4,801,628 Syrians have fled their country over the last 5 years, [reports](#) indicate that the borders surrounding Syria are increasingly closed to Syrians and that very few legal routes to Europe remain open. Strict visa requirements in [Lebanon](#), rigorous security and low admissions at the [Jordanian](#) border, and visa requirements for entry to [Turkey](#) by sea or air, coupled with a tightly controlled land border, are resulting in limited options for Syrians who want to leave their country.

Additionally, the EU-Turkey Agreement came into effect on [March 20, 2016](#). Under this agreement Turkey has been reclassified as a ‘safe country’ (despite [condemnation](#)) and any new arrivals in Greece after March 20 can be deported back to Turkey after a fast-tracked asylum process, including Syrians. Deportations were set to begin in April, but the division of those who had arrived in Greece before March 20, and those who arrived after began immediately with [48,000](#) previously arrived refugees and other mixed migrants being sent to mainland Greece. Despite the agreement, refugees and other mixed migrants continued to [arrive](#) in Greece and have been held in detention facilities.

On March 8, 2016 the [Balkan route](#) became closed to refugees and other mixed migrants following official border closures in FYROM, Croatia, and Slovenia, three countries along the Balkan route. These closures effectively left at least [35,000](#) refugees and other mixed migrants stranded in Greece on March 9 and up to [49,000](#) stranded by the end of the month.

**New Routes:** The EU-Turkey Agreement, and closure of the Balkan route, have led to speculation about new, or infrequently used, [routes](#) to Europe. The [Black Sea](#) route to Ukraine, a land route from Greece to [Albania](#), and the [Central Mediterranean Route](#) from Libya to Italy have all been predicted to see increasing use by Syrians and other mixed migrants. Stories of new routes into Europe have already been reported including a group of [Iraqis](#) who

attempted to enter Italy via plane from Greece, and Syrians purchasing fake passports in [Morocco](#) allowing them to enter the Spanish islands of Ceuta and Melilla where they can then claim asylum. [MEDMIG](#) reports that between March 10 and 17, arrivals in Greece declined while the number of refugees and other mixed migrants picked up off the coast of Libya increased by 518%.

**Eastern Mediterranean Route:** In March, 2016 UNHCR recorded [26,971](#) arrivals by boat in Greece – a 52% decrease from February 2016. Of the March arrivals [IOM](#) reported that 14,738 were Syrian; 6,201 Afghan; 2,770 Iraqi; 1,962 Pakistani; and 800 Iranian among other smaller groups. As at March 31 the average daily arrivals in Greece were at [859](#) people each day, down 46% from [1,968](#) arrivals per day in February, likely a direct result of closing borders and the EU Turkey deal. IOM also reported [45 deaths](#) along the Eastern Mediterranean route in March, 2016, a decrease of 1 person compared to the 46 deaths reported in February.

**Other Routes to Europe:** A smaller number of Syrians and other mixed migrants choose to cross the land border between Turkey and Bulgaria. As at March 31, 2016, Bulgarian authorities had apprehended [1160](#) refugees and other mixed migrants at the Turkish border since the start of 2016. Syrians are the second largest group apprehended by Bulgarian authorities, after Iraqis. These numbers represents an increase of 154 individuals (15.3%) since February 25, 2016 and a slowing growth of apprehensions in Bulgaria compared to the 99.6% increase recorded between January 28 and February 25. Other [reports](#) indicate that roughly 1,500 people enter Bulgaria unofficially each month. [Bulgaria](#) has expressed concern that the EU-Turkey Agreement will significantly shift migration routes to the Bulgarian border. People typically cross this densely forested border on foot or at official checkpoints by hiding in vehicles or buses. While this border removes the risks of travel by sea there are reports of [push-backs](#) and [violence](#) at the border.

The [Arctic Route](#) has also been documented as a route used by Syrians and Afghans to enter Europe in 2015. Refugees and other mixed migrants typically travel by plane to [Moscow](#) and then by train to the Norwegian border where they cross by car or bicycle, or the [Finnish](#) border where they cross by car. There are no figures for use of the route in March, 2016 but between October and December 2015, 6,000 asylum applications were registered via this route. As at March 3, [1,100](#) refugees and migrants, approximately 20 per day, have crossed into Finland from Russia in 2016. In January alone Norway received 389 asylum applications, 75 of which were from Syrians.

**Trafficking:** IOM has released the results of a new [survey](#) conducted on human trafficking and exploitation prevalence on Eastern Mediterranean migrant routes. The results are taken from interviews conducted with 2,385 refugees and other mixed migrants between December 7, 2015 and March 14, 2016 and reveal that 7.2 % of respondents answered ‘yes’ to at least one ‘trafficking’ or ‘exploitive practice’ indicator based on personal experience. The rates of these positive responses were highest among Afghans, but also Syrians, Iraqis, and Pakistanis. Respondents reported working without receiving promised compensation, being forced into labour, and being held at a location against their will. 0.9% of respondents indicated that they had heard of people on the journey being offered cash in exchange for blood, organs, or body parts.

## JORDAN

**Arrivals:** As at March 31, 2016 there were [637,638](#) Syrians registered by UNHCR in Jordan representing a decrease of 1,426 people (0.2%) from February 29, 2016. Of this group 80.9% live in urban, peri-urban or rural areas (a 0.5% decrease from February) and 19.1% live in camps (a 0.5% increase from February). Jordanian [leadership](#), however, recently said that the number of Syrian refugees in Jordan was around 1.4 million.

[ECHO](#) reports that as of March 11, 2016 roughly 75 asylum seekers were permitted to enter Jordan each day. These individuals are entering through Jordan’s North-eastern border with Syria at Hadalat and Rukban where thousands of Syrians are stranded on a berm outside the border (see ‘Syrians at the Border’ section below). At one point Jordanian border guards reported the reception of [250 Syrians](#) into Jordan within a 24 hours period over March 9 and 10.

The government of Jordan recently [criticized](#) an Amnesty International [report](#) depicting Syrian refugees’ limited access to healthcare in the Kingdom, saying the research is inaccurate. [Authorities](#) claimed that Jordanian health centres are frequented by Syrians and that “Jordan is giving to the Syrians more than any country in the world has done.” The Amnesty international report claims that exceptions for emergency medical cases are inconsistently applied to Syrians trying to enter Jordan and that refugees with severe injuries are sometimes denied entrance to the country.

Additionally, [54,586](#) Iraqis were registered by UNHCR in Jordan as at March 31, 2016. This marks an increase of

0.02% (1,252 people) since the last recorded figures on January 15, 2016. Jordan's most recent Population Census, however, indicated that [130,911](#) Iraqis were living in Jordan at the end of 2015. As at March 31, [UNHCR](#) had registered 3,033 Sudanese, 3,852 Yemenis, and 774 Somalis in Jordan.

**Departures:** Recent reports indicate that only [2%](#) of Syrians who have reached Europe or lost their lives at sea departed from Jordan. Though there are no figures regarding recent departures of refugees or other mixed migrants from Jordan, reports from CARE International suggest that [half a million](#) Syrians in Jordan will consider going to Europe if they cannot find jobs or other assistance.

**Syrians at the Border:** Recent UNHCR estimates have identified roughly [57,000 Syrians](#) stranded outside Jordan's North-eastern borders at Rukban (50,000) and Hadalat (7,000). Of this group [53%](#) are reportedly minors. This represents an estimated increase of approximately 20,000 people (54%) stranded at 'the berm' since the end of February 2016. A reportedly arid, desert environment, diplomats have described [conditions](#) at the berm as 'horrendous' for the thousands of Syrians who have waited at the border for months. Reports of [deaths](#), violence, [riots](#), inadequate medical services (particularly for the more than 250 [pregnant women](#) at the border), and the diversion of humanitarian assistance, are all common.

Jordanian authorities maintain that [rigorous inspections](#) of refugees at the border are in place to ensure [Jordanian security](#), with government officials likening this process to the security screening procedures of European countries. Syrians are often transported to the border by smugglers leading them on a [journey](#) of up to 21 days over rough roads and through government held territory, often with limited food and water.

## LEBANON

**Refugees in Lebanon:** UNHCR figures from March 31, 2016 show [1,048,275](#) Syrian refugees registered in Lebanon (the government of Lebanon claims that the number is closer to [1.5 million](#)) giving it the [highest](#) concentration of refugees compared to population. This marks a 0.7% decrease (7,709 individuals) from the [1,055,984](#) Syrians documented on February 29. The number of registered Syrians in Lebanon has been in decline since April 2015 when [1,185,241](#) Syrians were registered by UNHCR. The decline is due in part to onward migration to Europe as well as the government ordered [suspension](#) of new registrations, [restrictive](#) entry [visa requirements](#) and prohibitive [residency renewal](#) fees pushing many Syrians into becoming undocumented. According to the Lebanese Social Affairs [Minister](#), the country is, in effect, no longer receiving refugees, though scattered [reports](#) indicate that some Syrians are crossing the border [irregularly](#).

[ECHO](#) reports, as at February 2016, that nearly 450,000 refugees from Palestine, 42,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria, and 6000 Iraqi refugees are in Lebanon. Roughly [53%](#) of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon live in 12 recognized camps. Additionally, in May 2015 IOM and the Lebanese High Relief Commission registered [28,574](#) Lebanese [returnees](#) from the Syrian conflict, though they estimate that many more remain unregistered. These individuals lived in Syria prior to the conflict and have a recognized legal status in Lebanon.

**Departures:** Prior to January 2016, [thousands](#) of Syrians and other mixed migrants were exiting Lebanon each [week](#) by boat (from Tripoli) or plane to Turkey and then onward to Europe. New [visa requirements](#) for Syrians entering Turkey from a 3<sup>rd</sup> country by air or sea, implemented in January 2016 (see Turkey section), have made exiting Lebanon nearly [impossible](#) for Syrians. IOM reports, however, indicate that between January 1 and March 31 of this year, [309 Lebanese citizens](#) have arrived by sea in Greece after departing from Greece. IOM has also [documented](#) Lebanese citizens entering FYROM and Finland in the first 3 months of 2016.

**Deteriorating Conditions:** Conditions for refugees in Lebanon continue to [deteriorate](#) despite the inability of many Syrians to leave. Previously cited as [motivation](#) for departure, Syrians in Lebanon have limited [access](#) to healthcare and education for children, restrictions on employment, as well as deteriorating [food security](#). Unregistered refugees often have reduced mobility and difficulty accessing humanitarian services due to fears of [arrest](#). [Palestinian](#) refugees in Lebanon and Lebanese [returnees](#) are among the most vulnerable groups.

**Trafficking:** At the end of March, 2016 Lebanese security forces freed 75 mainly Syrian women as it dismantled the country's largest known [sex trafficking](#) ring. The women had been raped, beaten, and mutilated. This is the latest Lebanese [crackdown](#) on human trafficking rings in the country. Lebanese authorities have also launched an investigation into the trafficking of Syrian [children](#) in Lebanon after an American journalist claimed he had purchased 4 Syrian children in order to save them. Unregistered Syrians in Lebanon are particularly [vulnerable](#) to trafficking and abuse.

## TURKEY

**Arrivals:** The most recent UNHCR figures for Syrians in Turkey are from March 3, 2016 and indicate [2,715,789](#) registered Syrians in the country, a 1% increase from the prior figures on February 29, 2016. This indicates an increase of 27,103 Syrians in just 3 days. The figures do not take into account any effects of the EU-Turkey agreement or the closing Balkan routes.

Despite claims by [Turkish officials](#) that Turkey maintains an ‘open door’ policy for [emergency situations](#), border closures in [March 2015](#), and strict [visa requirements](#) for Syrians entering by air or sea, have made the border very difficult, if not impossible, to cross. Those refugees and other mixed migrants who do cross are often doing so irregularly and with the help of [smugglers](#). Turkish legislation, however, ensures the non-penalization of irregular Syrian entry. NGOs working along the Turkey-Syria border have reported that only [critical medical cases](#) are being legally allowed into Turkey.

**Departures to Europe:** The [Turkish Coast Guard](#) reported 177 ‘irregular migration’ cases, in the seas surrounding Turkey, in March 2016 involving 8,530 ‘irregular migrants’. The Coast Guard also reported the apprehension of 12 ‘organizers’ of irregular migration. UNHCR reported [26,971](#) March sea-arrivals in Greece (almost exclusively from Turkey), 30,095 less arrivals than in February 2016. The average daily arrivals in March were thus only [859](#) people each day, down 46% from [1,968](#) arrivals per day in February. By the end of March numbers were as low as [300-400](#) arrivals per day. These declining numbers are attributable to the closing of the Balkan Route (FYROM, Croatia, and Slovenia closed their borders to refugees on March 8 – see ‘Syria’ section for more detail) and the EU-Turkey Agreement (see below) which came into effect on March 20. Initially the agreement did little to stop the flows of refugees and other mixed migrants to Greece, with 15 boats filled with more than 800 people each reaching Lesbos on [March 20](#) alone, but within a [week](#) arrivals had dwindled to hundreds or less each day.

[UNHCR](#) data shows that in March sea-arrivals in Greece were made up of 53% Syrians (1% increase from February), 23% Afghans, (2% decrease), 10% Iraqis (6% decrease), 6% Pakistanis (3% increase), 3% Iranians (no change), and smaller percentages of other nationalities. IOM research indicates that Syrians are paying anywhere from [USD1000-5000](#) for the entire journey direct from Syria. Afghans and Iraqis taking the same route through Turkey and Greece to Europe reported similar costs though 17% and 10%, respectively, reported paying more than USD 5000 for the journey.

A smaller number of refugees and mixed migrants exit Turkey via the Northern border with Bulgaria where, as at March 31, authorities have reported the apprehension of [1160](#) refugees and other mixed migrants since January 1, 2016. Iraqis are the largest group apprehended by Bulgarian authorities at the border followed by Syrians, Afghans, and Pakistanis, among other groups. This represents an increase of 154 individuals (15.3%) since February 25, 2016.

Afghan refugees are also among those leaving Turkey for Greece with a reported [6,201](#) Afghans arriving in Greece by sea in March 2016. Afghans continue to enter Turkey through Iran on route to Europe via Greece and Bulgaria. Interviews conducted with [Afghans](#) in Greece during February 2016, show that 80% of respondents left their country of origin because of ongoing conflict and violence. The direct journey from Afghanistan to Greece takes approximately 48 days through (Pakistan,) Iran, and Turkey. 71% of respondents came directly from Afghanistan while 26% indicated that they have been living in Iran prior to departure.

**EU-Turkey Agreement:** On [March 18, 2016](#) the European Union and Turkey made a controversial deal intended to stop the flow of refugees and other mixed migrants to Europe. Under the [agreement](#) all ‘irregular migrants’ arriving in Greece after midnight on March 20, 2016 will be deported to Turkey, in exchange for [\\$6.8 billion](#) in refugee aid to Turkey, visa-free travel for Turkish citizens in Europe’s Schengen zone by June, and a ‘speeding-up’ of talks concerning Ankara’s accession to the EU. The deal also means that for every Syrian deported from Greece to Turkey, the EU will [resettle](#) one Syrian living in a Turkish refugee camp. The agreement came into force on March 20.

The EU-Turkey agreement has received significant backlash and condemnation from human rights groups like [Amnesty International](#) and Human Rights watch, with the former saying that “Turkey is not a safe country for Syrian refugees and is getting less safe by the day.” The agreement recognizes Turkey as a safe country of asylum despite claims by Amnesty International that the country has been expelling groups of Syrians, roughly 100 per day, to Syria since mid-January. Turkish officials have [denied](#) these claims, calling them lies. Amnesty International also claims that Turkey forcibly returned [30 Afghan](#) asylum seekers to Afghanistan only hours after the EU-Turkey deal came into effect. [Human Rights Watch](#) has similarly condemned the agreement, saying it represents a “disturbing

disregard for international law covering the rights of refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants.”

**Refugee and Migrant Vulnerability:** Beyond [Amnesty International](#)'s claims that Turkey is deporting hundreds of Syrians on a daily basis, recent reports have indicated growing violence at the Turkey-Syria border. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights claims that [16 Syrians](#), including 3 children, have been killed by Turkish border guards as they tried to cross into Turkey over the past 4 months. Amnesty International claims that Syrian refugees are being [shot at](#) the Turkish border on a daily basis. Syrian [smugglers](#) have said the true number of deaths is higher than 16. Some Syrians have described [beatings](#) at the Turkish border, others recounted experiences of being detained or expelled.

[IOM](#) reported 45 deaths at sea along the Eastern Mediterranean route in March. [No deaths](#) were reported, however, after the implementation of the EU-Turkey agreement on March 20, 2016.

**Syrians at the Border:** Since increased fighting in [Aleppo](#) in early February forced thousands of people to flee to the Turkish border, tens of thousands of Syrians remain stranded in camps near the Syrian city of Azaz hoping to cross through the Öncüpınar/Bab al-Salam border gate. Recent estimates put the number of stranded Syrians at [70,000](#), mainly women and children. Authorities maintain that the border remains open for “[emergency situations](#).” Turkish officials claimed 10,000 people had been allowed to cross the border but Amnesty International has [contested](#) this claim.

## IRAQ

**Refugees in Iraq:** As at March 31, 2016 UNHCR had registered [246,123](#) Syrians in Iraq, an increase of 72 individuals since February 29. Of this group 61% (149,210) live in urban, peri-urban, or rural locations, while 39% (96,913) live in camps in Iraq. At the end of February, 2016 [98%](#) of all Syrians in Iraq lived in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I).

Though the number of registered Syrians in Iraq only increased by 72 individuals since the end of February, UNHCR reports that [3,114 Syrians](#) entered the country between March 1 and 31 via the Peshkabour border on 15-day visitor or medical visas. This marks an increase of 105% compared to the [2,964](#) arrivals in February, 2016. None were permitted to apply for asylum. Additional reports indicate a growing number of Syrians leaving Iraq to [return to Syria](#) with UNHCR recording the return of 803 individuals in February, 2016.

**Displacement:** As at March 31, 2016 IOM has identified [3,418,332](#) internally displaced persons in Iraq causing the UN Humanitarian Country Team to increase its response planning figures to 3.4 million IDPs from 3.3 million. From March 2 to 31 ongoing military operations led to increased displacement in Anbar (48,378 individuals) and Salah al-Din (23,718 individuals). Ongoing violence and armed conflict in Iraq led to the deaths of [1,119 Iraqis](#) (575 of whom were civilians) in March 2016, marking 157% more deaths than February 2016.

Iraqi refugees continue to enter neighbouring Jordan with [54,586](#) registered by UNHCR as at March 31, 2016. This marks an increase of 0.02% (1,252 people) since January 15, 2016. Figures from Jordan's December 2015 Population Census, however, indicate that [130,911](#) Iraqis were living in Jordan at the end of 2015.

**Returnees:** Reports indicate a growing number of Iraqis [voluntarily returning](#) to Iraq after travelling to Europe and facing [unemployment](#), [disappointment](#) and struggle. In February 2016 alone, IOM assisted over [1,000 Iraqis](#) to return. Many people return to Iraq [without assistance](#) meaning the number of returnees is likely far higher than figures reported by IOM.

**Iraqis Going to Europe:** Data from the Greek Police indicate that [2,770 Iraqis](#) arrived by sea in Greece in March, 2016 marking a 71% decrease in arrivals when compared to the 9,572 Iraqis recorded in February 2016. Hellenic Coastguard figures indicate that [23,078](#) Iraqis have arrived in Greece since January 1, 2016, making up [16%](#) of total arrivals this year. Iraqis use the same routes as Syrians and other mixed migrants, typically travelling to Turkey and continuing to Greece by sea, or Bulgaria by land.

Since the start of 2016 Bulgarian authorities have apprehended [1,160](#) refugees and other mixed migrants entering the country by land through Turkey as at March 24, 2016. The number is likely far higher than the number apprehended by authorities, but reports indicate that Iraqis are the largest group among those recorded. The Bulgarian State Agency for Refugees was, as at March 24, accommodating roughly 160 Iraqis in transit and reception facilities within Bulgaria.

On March 16, six smugglers (2 Iraqis) were arrested in Greece as they prepared to fly [7 Iraqis](#), including 4 children, to Italy in a small aircraft. Passengers had paid the smugglers between 5,100 and 8,500 USD per person.

A recent [IOM](#) report, based on the results of questionnaires distributed to Iraqis in Europe, illuminates the varied motivations, routes, and challenges faced by Iraqis when making the journey to Europe. Among 473 respondents 80% indicated that their primary reason for departure from Iraq was ‘no hope for the future’ with others indicating that general security concerns, unemployment, targeted violence, and the opportunity to join family members were amongst their motivations. In this research 90% of Iraqis said that they had transited through Turkey with 94% exiting Iraq through formal exit points by land or air. Of the 4% who exited the country informally, this happened primarily by land at the Baziyan and Gali Rash borders with Turkey, or at the Khanera border with Iran. The vast majority of Iraqis transited legally through Turkey and continued their journey informally through Europe for an average cost of USD 6000 per person. 67% of respondents indicated no intention to return to Iraq. The report is accessible [here](#).

## ISRAEL/OPT

Please see the [RMMS](#): Horn of Africa and Yemen – Monthly Summary for more information.

## OTHER REGIONAL NEWS

**Afghan Deportation Plans:** Australian broadcaster [ABC](#) has claimed that the EU “has drafted confidential plans to send 80,000 Afghan asylum seekers back to the war torn country [Afghanistan].” This comes after recent UN figures indicating an [increase](#) in the number of Afghans entering Europe due to the worsening situation in Afghanistan.

**Violence in Greece:** The signing of the EU-Turkey agreement and closing European borders have led to increasing violence and frustration for refugees and other mixed migrants in Greece. As conditions continued to decline for the roughly 11,000 - 14,000 refugees and other mixed migrants in Greece’s Idomeni refugee camp, tension is increasing in the form of protests and nearly constant [violence](#). At the end of March violent [clashes](#) broke out between police and asylum seekers at the camp. Earlier in the month on March 15, over a thousand refugees and other mixed migrants left Idomeni camp and entered FYROM by crossing a narrow river in two large groups, despite the official closure of the border on March 8, 2016. This comes after two refugees attempted to hang themselves in [Athens](#) in late February, 2016 in protest at increasing border closures.

**Humanitarian Withdrawal from Greece:** In response to the controversial EU-Turkey agreement, wherein refugees and other mixed migrants who arrive in Greece after March 20 will be detained and sent back to Turkey, both UNHCR and Médecins Sans Frontières have [withdrawn](#) from Greek ‘hotspots’ where people are being detained. UNHCR cited its [policy](#) of opposing mandatory détention.

**Displacement in Yemen:** A March report by UNHCR and IOM has revealed that [2,430,178](#) people are internally displaced in Yemen, many in hard to reach areas. While fighting in Yemen continues, from initial escalation in March 2015 the report predicts that the situation is likely to get worse with no foreseeable political settlement.

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

## NEW RESEARCH, REPORTS OR DOCUMENTS

**IOM** has released a new analysis [report](#) based on surveys conducted with Iranian and Pakistani migrants in Greece and throughout the Western Balkans from October 2015 to the beginning of April, 2016. The survey and analysis looks at the demographics of people on the move, as well as the routes they are using, the cost of their journeys, and their motivations for migration.

The **American University of Beirut** released a [report](#) in March detailing the legal status of Syrians in Lebanon following legislative changes in 2015 by examining national and international refugee law.

A new report entitled ‘Fuelling the Fire, and signed by **30 humanitarian and human rights organizations** was released in March. The [piece](#) examines deteriorating conditions in Syria and the ways in which the UN Security

Council's permanent members are undermining their own commitments in Syria.

A new publication by **Ipsos MENA** uses [surveys](#) conducted with 2,200 Syrian households in Lebanon and Jordan including more than 13,000 Syrian refugees to address what it means to be a refugee in these countries. The research, conducted in 2014 and 2015, illuminates the daily lives, attitudes and challenges of Syrian refugees in host countries.

With the Syrian conflict entering its sixth year on **March 15<sup>th</sup>** attention has turned to the plight of children throughout the five year conflict. [World Vision](#) has released a report examining the cost of the conflict for Syrian children by reporting on direct and indirect impacts on education, life expectancy, and the futures of Syrian children. [UNICEF](#) has also released a report entitled 'No Place for Children' wherein it verifies 1,500 grave violations against children in Syria over 2015 and addresses the prevalence of forced recruitment of children. Challenges in the provision of education are also addressed. Additionally [Save the Children](#) has produced a report addressing the deteriorating lives of families living under siege in Syria.

In March the **Migration Policy Institute** produced a [report](#) explaining how governments and international organizations can support refugees by ensuring access to new and existing opportunities. The report also addresses the ways in which refugees are often blocked from accessing legal migration channels.

As noted above, **IOM** has released the results of a new [survey](#) conducted on human trafficking and exploitation prevalence on Eastern Mediterranean migrant routes. The results are taken from interviews conducted with 2,385 refugees and other mixed migrants between December 7, 2015 and March 14, 2016 and reveal that 7.2 % of respondents answered 'yes' to at least one 'trafficking' or 'exploitive practice' indicator based on personal experience.

**Internews** launched a new rumour tracking project for refugees called 'News That Moves' to combat the spread of misinformation and rumours perpetuated by smugglers and others on the route to Europe. The [website](#) tracks and verifies rumours on a daily basis and translates them into English, Arabic, Farsi, and Greek.

The **Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat** has launched its 4Mi (Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative) in an effort to address the need for better data in the Horn of Africa and Yemen region. The [initiative](#) collects and analyzes data on mixed migration flows, initially out of the Horn of Africa, using a network of 30 locally-recruited monitors in strategic migration hubs.

**RMMS** has released its March monthly summary of mixed migration issues and news in the Horn of Africa and Yemen region (accessible [here](#)).

*To be added to DRC's monthly migration summary mailing list, please contact Nicole Maine at [nicole.maine@drc-mena.org](mailto:nicole.maine@drc-mena.org). Past reports can be accessed at <https://drc.ngo/where-we-work/middle-east-and-north-africa>*