

Legal status of individuals fleeing Syria

Syria Needs Analysis Project - June 2013

This thematic report outlines the rights and obligations of individuals who have fled Syria by stipulating the legal framework applicable to those residing in Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt. The document intends to provide humanitarian responders with an overview of the legal framework; it is not an official legal document and should therefore not be used as such.

The Syria Needs Analysis Project welcomes all information that could complement this report. For additional information, comments or questions please email SNAP@ACAPS.org

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Overview

By June 2013, over 1.6 million people fled Syria in search of protection and access to essential services. Their legal status is primarily governed by the laws of the host country where they reside. The legal framework applicable to asylum seekers and refugees differs significantly between countries and different laws apply to different groups of people. In Lebanon for instance, the situation varies significantly between Syrians and Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS). As a result of this complexity, individuals fleeing Syria are often unaware of their rights and obligations.

Overall, the people fleeing Syria can be divided into 3 different groups, depending on their status in the host-country:

- Those residing in camps;
- Those who have the appropriate papers and are therefore regularly residing in a country; and
- Those who are irregular, meaning residing in a host country without the required documents.

While these 3 groups are not mutually exclusive, the level of access to services and protection differs between the different groups.

Those residing in camps

In Turkey, Jordan and Iraq, a significant number of the Syrians reside in camps. In general, access to services within the camps is better than that outside, with

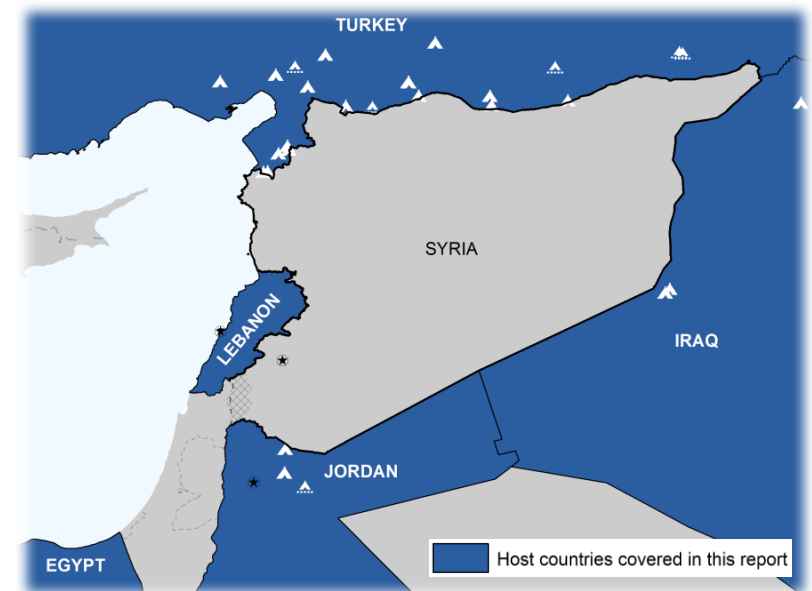
Governments and NGOs providing access to health care, education and food aid. The quality of these services differs between camps and countries: while services in Turkey are in line with humanitarian standards, water and sanitation facilities in Domiz camp, in the Autonomous Kurdistan Region of Iraq, are of major concern. Mobility in and out of the camps is often restricted: in Jordan and Turkey for example, people are only allowed to leave their camp under certain conditions.


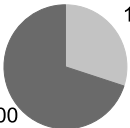

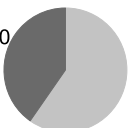
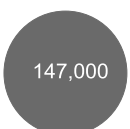
Regular and irregular



Some Syrians entered host-countries through official border crossings, and regularised their stay by obtaining residency permits. For those who do not have Syrian identification and travel documents, it is very difficult to obtain the required papers. As a result, a significant number of those fleeing Syria are officially irregular within the host countries – they have crossed through unofficial crossing points, they do not have the visa/residency papers or these papers have expired. Some Syrians who have entered a country unofficially can regularise their status by registering with the Government, as is the case for instance in Lebanon and Turkey. Amongst other things, irregularity hampers the possibilities to obtain a work permit as, in all countries but Iraq, residency papers are required to obtain such a permit.

Registration

Access to services is generally dependent on registration with UNHCR, although in Turkey it rests with the Government. Registration is open to all refugees, including those who have not regularised their status and provides access to international protection, aid and services. In Jordan for instance, free access to health care is only available to registered refugees.



Country	Number and location of Syrians Estimates as of June 2013	Employment	Education	Health
Lebanon	 <p>714,000</p>	A work permit is required for all Syrians in Lebanon, although in practice, the large majority of those working do so illegally.	The Ministry of Education allows all Syrian students, after they register with UNHCR, to enrol in public schools for reduced fees.	Once registered, Syrians can access primary healthcare through existing Lebanese health care structures. Due to lack of funding, UNHCR covers hospital bills only in life saving situations.
Jordan	 <p>349,000</p> <p>150,000</p>	A work permit is required which in practice is not granted to Syrians. According to the labour ministry, about 160,000 Syrians are working illegally in Jordan. They mostly work in the informal sector and are exposed to hazards and exploitation.	Syrian refugee children who are registered with UNHCR can enrol in public schools.	Once registered, Syrians can access the public health system.
Turkey	 <p>203,000</p> <p>197,000</p>	A work permit is required and difficult to obtain. Many who work do so illegally.	Only those with residence permits can enrol in public schools. Others can only follow education as 'guests' or attend informal schools. Schools have been established in the 17 camps.	All Syrians in Turkey can receive free emergency health services in public hospitals, albeit only in the 8 provinces where Syrians are registered. Syrians in the camps receive full health services.
Iraq	 <p>64,000</p> <p>95,000</p>	In the Kurdish areas, refugees can work legally if they have residency permits. In other areas of Iraq, those refugees who are confined to the camps cannot work.	The KRG and the Iraqi Government allow Syrian children to register free of charge in public schools. There are 3 basic schools in Domiz camp and schools in Camp1 and Camp 2 in Al Qa'im.	The Refugee Act entitles refugees to the same health services as nationals.
Egypt	 <p>147,000</p>	Syrians in Egypt require Egyptian work permits are difficult to obtain, as they require proof on the part of the employer that no Egyptian national is available to do the work.	Egypt grants access to Government schools on the same basis as Egyptians. This decree is not applicable to Palestinian Refugees from Syria.	The Egyptian Government has granted Syrians access to the public health system against the same fees as Egyptians.

 Outside of camps
 Registered in camps

International refugee law

Protecting refugees is the responsibility of states. The 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol are the main international legal instruments on the protection of refugees and these documents set the minimum standards for their treatment. States who have signed the Convention are obliged to protect refugees on their territory and treat them according to internationally recognised rules. In the case of a mass influx of refugees, when regular asylum systems are overwhelmed, there is an obligation for states to provide international protection at least on a temporary basis.

However, of the countries hosting significant numbers of Syrian refugees (Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt) only Egypt and Turkey have signed the 1951 Convention and its Protocol. As Turkey opted for the geographic limitation to their signatory, the convention only applies to European refugees, not to non-European refugees such as Syrians.

As a result, the legal status of those fleeing Syria is mostly governed by the host countries' national laws concerning foreign nationals. However, some of the international standards still apply. All countries have an obligation to not return a refugee to the frontiers of territories where freedom would be threatened because of his/her race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion. This so called principle of '*non-refoulement*' is part of customary law, a set of rules which are binding on all states, even if a country has not signed a specific convention outlining this law. A refugee who poses a serious danger to the security of the country or to the community maybe excluded from this protection. However, customary international law prohibits the return of persons where they would be subject to torture, and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The right to seek and enjoy asylum from persecution was outlined in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In addition, national laws are often based on the regulations set out in the 1951 Refugee Convention.

UNHCR has been given a mandate to provide international protection to refugees and seek permanent solutions by helping refugees in cooperation with Governments: 1) to voluntarily repatriate to their home country, if conditions are conducive to return; 2) to integrate into their countries of asylum; or 3) to resettle refugees who have particular needs and cannot remain in the country of asylum to so-called tertiary countries. Concurrently, UNHCR assists countries in determining whether someone is considered to be a refugee and also provides technical support in the assisting of refugees. The United Nations Relief Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) was specifically created to assist those Palestinians and their descendants who were displaced when the state of Israel was established. In countries where UNRWA is operational (Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the West Bank and Gaza Strip) Palestinians are excluded from UNHCR's mandate. (RULAC n.d., UNHCR 2013, UNHCR n.d., UNHCR 2001, UNRWA n.d.)

Definitions

Please note that the following definitions are those used in international law. The following definitions may vary from country to country, depending on the laws of each country. In Turkey, for instance, refugees are only those fleeing European countries. Non-Europeans are categorised as 'conditional refugees'.

Refugee: an individual who, owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.

A refugee is a civilian. A person who continues to pursue armed action against his or her country of origin from the country of asylum cannot be considered a refugee.

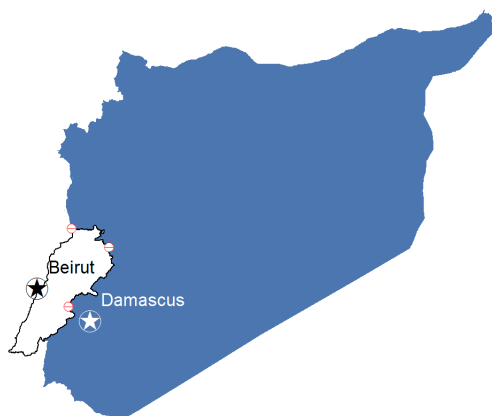
Asylum-seekers: Persons who have applied for asylum but whose refugee status has not yet been determined.

Economic migrants are persons who leave their countries of origin purely for economic reasons, seeking material improvements in their lives. The key difference between economic migrants and refugees is that economic migrants enjoy the protection of their home countries; refugees do not. Economic migrants do not fall within the criteria for refugee status and are therefore not entitled to benefit from international protection as refugees. ([UNHCR 2001](#))

Lebanon

Background

Lebanese culture, politics and economy are closely linked to those of Syria, illustrated by the fact that more than 300,000 to 600,000 Syrian migrants were estimated to be working in Lebanon before the start of the crisis. Strong economic and family ties exist between border communities on both sides of the border and many Lebanese families found shelter in Syria during the Lebanese civil war and more recently in 2006 during the Israeli war on Lebanon. The influx of Syrians into Lebanon intensified in 2012 and over 60,000 individuals register with UNHCR each month. By June 2013, more than 500,000 Syrians had registered with UNHCR and waiting registration. According to the Lebanese Government, the actual number of Syrians residing in the country, including Syrian migrants, is estimated at one million. Over 54,500 Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) also reside in Lebanon.



Estimated number of Syrians in Lebanon as of June 2013

Registered refugees	440,500
Migrants	300,000
Unregistered	200,000
Awaiting registration	73,000
Registered Palestinian refugees	54,500

Legislation

Lebanon has not ratified the 1951 Refugee Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and protection mechanisms for refugees are considered weak. Syrians fleeing the conflict are not recognised as refugees and are treated according to the normal regulations applicable to all Syrian nationals.

However, Lebanon is bound by the right to seek asylum, which is included in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which is included in the Constitution and officially states that it is bound by the non-refoulement principle. In practice, the Government is only rarely arresting, prosecuting, or detaining irregular refugees.

Lebanon signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with UNHCR in September 2003 to manage refugee issues in Lebanon. The MoU formally recognises the right of refugees to remain in Lebanon if their lives or freedom are

in danger in their home countries, with the expectation that refugees will be resettled to a third country within 9 months. However, this MoU was not designed to govern large influxes of refugees and thus has not been implemented for the time being. UNHCR is currently discussing a new draft MOU with the authorities that is supposed to replace the 2003 one. ([Ruwad Frontiers 2003/11](#))

Status of Migrant Workers

It is unknown how many Syrian workers reside in Lebanon, with estimates ranging between 300,000 and 600,000. They mostly work in agriculture, construction, commercial establishments and handicrafts. According to official figures by the Department of Syrian Workers in the Ministry of Labour, there were 650 people officially registered in 2012-2013, including 200 workers who have renewed their work permits. Bilateral agreements between Syria and Lebanon were signed to facilitate the access to work between the 2 countries. In February 2013, a resolution by the Minister of Labour made some professions, previously confined to Lebanese, available to Syrian workers (such as construction, electricity, sales), given that these workers have been engaged in these professions openly for many years. ([IRIN 2012/12/24](#))

Official and unofficial border crossing

There are 5 official border crossings between Lebanon and Syria: [Aarida](#) (between Homs and northern Lebanon), [El Aabboudiye](#) (between Tartous and northern Lebanon), [Qaa Baalbek](#) (at the northern end of the Bekaa valley) [Al-Masnaa](#) (between rural Damascus and Bekaa) and Wadi-Kahled (between northern Lebanon and Homs). In addition, there are several unofficial crossing points along the 365 km Lebanese-Syrian border. ([Assafir 2013/03/29](#), [Now Lebanon 2009](#))

Residence permits

When exiting Syria, Syrians are provided with a Return Coupon and exit stamp by the Syrian authorities. At the Lebanese official borders, an individual holding a valid national Syrian identity card or a valid passport receives an Entry Coupon (also called Return Coupon) with an entry stamp. This stamp allows him/her residency for a period of 6 months and can be renewed free of charge for another 6 months at any regional office of the General Security. This procedure gives any Syrian the possibility of residing in the country for one year without any fees. After this period, Syrians must apply for a 6-month residence permit for a fee of 300,000 LL (US\$200), which can be renewed free of charge for another 6-months. After 2 years, Syrians can renew their permits and stay for another year. Some Syrian nationals (born to a Lebanese mother; married to a Lebanese; born in Lebanon; pursuing their studies; and retired diplomats) are also eligible for a "courtesy residence permit", which is renewable, free of charge and valid for 3 years. The Beirut General Security Office receives more than 800 Syrians seeking to renew their residency permits daily. ([LBC 2013/03/07](#))

Individuals who entered irregularly are urged to regularise their stay with a fee that ranges from 300,000 LL to 900,000 LL (US\$200-600). UNHCR is working to reduce these fees.

Palestinian refugees coming from Syria (PRS) are entitled to a 7-day visa valid for 15 days and this visa can be renewed with a fee (US\$17) for 3 months free of charge. In February 2013, a Government circular provided that PRS could obtain a 3-month visa free-of-charge. In practice, PRS are extending their legal stay without renewal fees. PRS who have failed to renew their visas, or have entered the country irregularly, are at risk of not having access to Palestinian camps as some of them require valid residency permits for entry. ([UNRWA 2012/12/19](#), RRP 2013/06)

UNHCR's role and registration

UNHCR began registering Syrians in April 2011. Upon registration, UNHCR issues a registration certificate, which is not an official identification card and does not grant Syrians legal residence, but enables access to assistance. The registration is free of charge and confidential. UNRWA is responsible for registering PRS although some Palestinians fall within the mandate of UNHCR, such as a Palestinian woman married to a Syrian. Registration with UNRWA provides PRS with free education for students, NFIs, cash assistance and primary healthcare. ([UNHCR 2013/05/08](#), [UNHCR 2013/05/03](#), RRP 2013/06)

Prior to registration, an individual must request an appointment with UNHCR based on his residence address by approaching the nearest Social Development Centre (SDC) of the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), the municipality or the nearby UNHCR offices. UNHCR calls the individual back to set an appointment in one of the 4 registration centres: Tripoli in the North, Zahle in the Bekaa, Tyre (Sour) in the South, and Jnah in Beirut. The waiting time for an appointment in April ranged between 16-30 days throughout the country, except in the South where the waiting period is longer than normal because the registration centre has only recently opened. ([UNHCR 2013/05/08](#), [UNHCR 2013/05/03](#))

All the household members should be present at the registration appointment during which they are interviewed and photographed. All family-related documents should be brought (at least one issued in Syria) such as a national identity card, family registration book, passport, birth certificate, marriage certificate, school/university certificates or any official document issued by Lebanese authorities. The registration process is also open to Syrians who entered the country through unofficial crossing points who form around 15% of all those registered. ([UNHCR 2013/05/10](#))

UNHCR currently has no plans for the resettlement of Syrians to a third country, except in situations where there are serious protection concerns.

The lack of registration of new births is of increasing concern, as Syrians often do not know why or how to obtain this registration. An estimated 10,000 Syrian

babies born in Lebanon will require birth certificates in 2013. Without at least a birth notification document from the hospital or an authorised midwife, a child will face difficulties registering with UNHCR and accessing assistance such as food, education and healthcare. In addition, without an official birth certificate a child may have difficulties obtaining Syrian ID and may therefore not be able to cross the border to Syria. Registration consists of 3 steps which should be completed within one year: after obtaining a birth notification document from the hospital/midwife a local *mokhtar* should be visited to acquire the birth certificate. Afterwards, the birth should be registered with the Personal Status Department. Although the charges for this procedure are nominal, the procedure is complicated and requires travelling which is extensive and costly. ([UNHCR 2012/12/05](#))

Unregistered Syrians

Some Syrians refrain from registering with UNHCR out of fear of arrest, lack of documentation, a lack of mobility or the inability to pay transport costs to the registration centres. Despite the assertion of the Lebanese president not to deport any Syrian back to Syria, Syrians who reside in Lebanon irregularly still face the risk of being detained or deported. In August 2012, 14 Syrian opposition activists who had entered Lebanon irregularly were deported. According to UNHCR, Syrians who are residing irregularly in the country are very rarely prosecuted and deportations no longer take place. ([Human Rights Watch 2013/02/07](#), [Now Lebanon 2013/02/07](#), [naharnet 2013/02/07](#))

Returnees to Syria

Some Syrians cross the border back into Syria to check their property or engage in the conflict. Once a person is known to have left Lebanon, registration with UNHCR is suspended but can be automatically renewed on return.

Rights and access to assistance

The Government of Lebanon has been partnering with international and local organisations to provide aid to the displaced Syrians. The High Relief Commission (HRC) carries out the coordination and implementation of relief efforts to Lebanese returnees on behalf of the Government of Lebanon. Assistance to Syrians is provided by civil society organisations, host communities and municipalities. ([MPC 2013](#))

The MoSA, in collaboration with UNHCR and UNICEF, has devoted 26 of its Social Development Centres (SDC) to the Syrian response. SDC centres normally provide health services; psychosocial support and SGBV awareness sessions to the Lebanese community, but now also offer support to Syrians. ([USAID 2013/05/10](#))

Some counselling and referral services are occasionally provided at legal crossing points by UNHCR and NGOs. Some other organisations, such as UNRWA, have a limited presence at the border points.

Due to a lack of funding, UNHCR and partners are expected to reduce the number of people receiving assistance by August 2013. In May, a profiling assessment to identify the vulnerability criteria on which beneficiary selection will be based was on-going.

Employment

In 1993, a bilateral agreement for Economic and Social Cooperation and Coordination was signed between Lebanon and Syria which abolished movement restrictions on persons and granted freedom of stay, work, employment and practice of economic activity for nationals of both countries.

Registered Syrians can live and work in Lebanon indefinitely, although in theory they need a work permit. However, the Lebanese Government was hesitant to issue work permits to Syrians even before the crisis, as Syrians often receive lower wages and are considered competition for national workers.

Health

Once registered, Syrians can access primary healthcare through existing Lebanese healthcare structures. Unregistered Syrians with serious health concerns can enter a fast track registration procedure. UNHCR only covers secondary healthcare intervention in life saving situations. In 2013, around 35,000 Syrians received primary healthcare consultations thus far. (IMC 2013/04, IMC 2013/05)

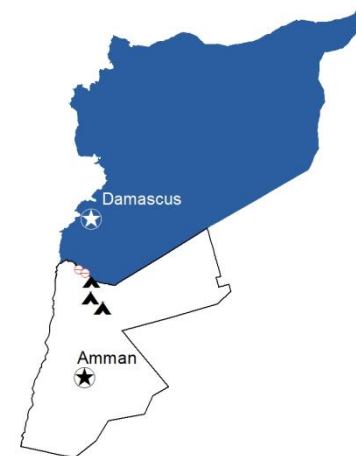
Education

The Ministry of Education allows all Syrian students to enrol in public schools for reduced fees. However, many schools were already overcrowded prior to the crisis and follow a curriculum different to that in Syria. Baccalaureate students are allowed to sit official exams and all Syrian students are entitled to enrol at the Lebanese University.

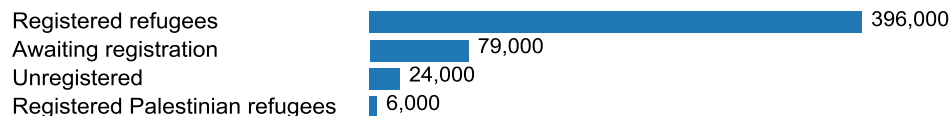
Jordan

Background

Jordan has witnessed an enormous increase in the number of Syrian refugees fleeing the unrest, particularly over the last 6 months - from 60,000 registered Syrians at the start of November 2012 to more than 395,000 in June. The significant increase followed escalating fighting in Dar'a governorate, which borders Jordan. The Government estimates that over 513,000 Syrians currently reside in Jordan, in addition to 6,000 PRS.



Estimated number of Syrians in Jordan as of June 2013



Legislation

Jordan is not a signatory to the UN 1951 Geneva Convention on Refugees. It currently receives all foreigners, including Syrians, within the framework of its Alien Law. It is subject to the general principles of international law not to return refugees to a place where their lives or freedom would be threatened. Jordan is party to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Convention against Torture) in 1991, and is bound by its Article 3 not to return or expel any persons to states where they would be in danger of being tortured. ([United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants 2013/05/10](#))

The UNHCR in Jordan operates under a 1998 Memorandum of Understanding with the Jordanian Ministry of the Interior and is responsible for processing asylum claims and status determination. According to the memorandum, asylum seekers can remain in Jordan pending status determination, and UNHCR-recognised refugees can remain in the country for 6 months after recognition. ([UNHCR 2013/05/09](#))

Refugees in Jordan fall into 4 categories: UNHCR-recognised refugees; Asylum seeker card holders under UNHCR's temporary protection programme; Persons UNHCR rejected as refugees prior to 2003, but whose need for at least temporary protection may have changed because of the war; and persons who have not approached UNHCR, but who fled persecution or generalised violence. UNHCR-

recognised refugees do not have any particular status under Jordanian law and do not acquire rights, even temporarily, of residency or the right to work. ([HRW 2006/11](#))

Official and unofficial border crossing

The Jordanian Government shares a 370 km (230 mile) border with Syria and since the onset of the crisis upheld an open border policy, providing protection to Syrian refugees that cross regularly and irregularly into its territory. Syrians do not require a visa or Jordanian residency and may enter the country freely provided they hold a passport. However, Jordan regularly denies entry to 4 groups: Palestinians living in Syria; single men of military age; Iraqi refugees living in Syria; and anyone without documents. ([HRW 2013/04/23](#), [UNICEF 2013/01/25](#), [UNHCR 2013/01/27](#))

There are two official border crossings: Nasib/Jaber and Dar'a/Ramtha, though most refugees enter Jordan by unofficial crossings where they are often met by the Jordanian army. They are then sheltered in transit sites or refugee camps and their identity documents are retained by the Jordanian authorities, restricting their freedom of movement. They can only regain freedom of movement if they are sponsored by a Jordanian, at which point their identity documentation is returned to them. Once sponsored, they are free to settle in urban areas throughout Jordan. Thus far, the majority of refugees coming into Jordan have been initially taken to Za'atari camp, and individuals have been known to leave the camp both unofficially or officially through the bailout system, whereby someone holding a Jordanian passport can sponsor them and remove them from the camp. Those who arrive through official border points can reside in the urban communities. ([Care 2013/04](#), [UNHCR 2012/12/12](#) RRP5 2013/07/07)

On 25 March, two days of fighting between Syrian troops and rebel fighters caused Jordan to temporarily close the main border crossing Nasib/Jaber. Since 15 May, several unofficial border crossings have been closed and the Jordanian Government is reportedly refusing entry to a large number of Syrian refugees. The Government stated however that they are not turning away refugees but that the access routes to the border are blocked in Syria due to intense fighting in the region. As a result of the restriction, daily arrivals decreased to 10 a day between 17 and 21 May down from 4,000 a day in March.

In October 2012 the Jordanian Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour announced that Jordan would not allow Palestinians holding Syrian documents to cross the border. INGOs have documented cases where Palestinians from Syria have been forcibly returned from within Jordanian borders. ([HRW 2013/03/21](#))

Since May 2008, Jordan has required Iraqis to apply for visas before travelling to Jordan, rather than obtaining them at the border. UNHCR has registered 28,000 Iraqis in Jordan, but the Government estimates the total number to be at around 450,000. ([UNHCR 2013/01](#), [United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants 2013/05/10](#))

Registration

Only refugees who entered Jordan after January 2012 are eligible for UNHCR registration. Registration occurs automatically upon entry to Za'atari camp and there are also registration offices in Amman and Irbid. To register in these cities, asylum seekers must make an appointment. This can be done in centres in Amman, Irbid, Mafraq, and Zarqa. There are also 6 locations that are visited by mobile appointment centres. Registration allows refugees to access Government services and support from the UN system, which includes WFP food assistance. ([UNHCR 2013/05/09](#))

UNHCR estimates that less than 10% of refugees are choosing not to register with them, though other organisations put the figure significantly higher. Those who choose not to register with UNHCR cite fears that their personal details will be shared with Syria, and concerns that they might face problems or danger on return to Syria or that family members still in Syria would be put at risk. Others are unable to travel to a registration centre or do not see the advantage in registering. ([IFRC 2012/09](#))

Rights and access to assistance

As of 31 May, 232,711 registered Syrian refugees were living in urban centres in Jordan, with the largest concentrations in the border areas of Irbid and Mafraq governorates and the capital Amman. Unregistered Syrians in urban communities have limited access to services. They cannot access the public health system; children cannot attend school for free; they are not included in the WFP food voucher programme; and they are not eligible for UNHCR's cash assistance. There are, however, several INGOs that provide assistance to refugees regardless of whether they are UNHCR registered. ([UNHCR 2013/05/31](#), [IFRC 2012/09](#))

Refugees hosted in the transit sites and refugee camps receive humanitarian assistance and shelter. UNHCR and partner agencies maintain a presence in transit facilities and carry out regular protection monitoring activities. Non-camp Syrian refugees who are registered with UNHCR can access primary healthcare and free education. The Government subsidises a number of basic goods in the open market, such as bread, cooking gas, fuel, electricity, and water, and these subsidies have been extended to Syrians. UNHCR provides free legal aid and representation in courts. ([IFRC 2012/09](#), [UNHCR 2012/12/12](#))

In Za'atari camp, new-borns are registered by UNHCR, who submits the birth notification to the Civil Registry. Some Syrians have faced problems in registering their new-born children as their identification papers were handed over to the Jordanian authorities when they entered the country. This in turn stops them from being able to vaccinate their children as a birth certificate is required before a new-born is enrolled in the National EPI Programme. ([UNHCR 2013/05/17](#))

Employment

According to the 1952 Constitution, the right to work is reserved for citizens. Non-Jordanians with legal residency and valid passports must obtain work permits from the Ministry of Labour which show that the job requires experience or skills unavailable among Jordanians. The employer is required to pay a fee, and permits are valid for up to one year, but are renewable. Violators are subject to fines and expulsion of the foreign worker at the employer's expense. In addition to work permits, foreigners wishing to practice professions have to obtain the certification of Jordanian professional societies. ([United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants 2013/05/10](#))

Outside Amman, informal work opportunities are hard to come by and refugees are paid less than their Jordanian counterparts. It is not uncommon for refugee children to work, at very low pay, as this seems to be the most commonly available opportunity for a family member to work. ([IFRC 2012/09](#))

According to the Ministry of Labour, about 160,000 Syrians are working illegally in Jordan. In Mafraq and Irbid, there have been campaigns by the police and local labour inspectors to prevent Syrians from working without work permits. Multiple households mentioned having been forced by the police to sign commitments not to work again in Jordan. ([Al Bawaba 2013/04/25](#), [Care 2013/04](#), [Guardian 2013/04/23](#))

Health

The public healthcare system, including Government hospitals and clinics, is state-subsidised and benefits citizens and foreigners equally. However, the subsidised Governmental healthcare system is overburdened and provides only basic care. ([HRW 2006/11](#))

Syrian refugees living in the urban community and registered with UNHCR, can access the public health system (clinics and hospitals). Recently, an official letter was sent from the Health Insurance Department in the MoH to all public health centres and hospitals requiring that Syrians present a valid UNHCR registration paper as well as the government issued security card in order to receive free healthcare. However, Syrians residing in King Abdullah Park and Cyber City (who are eligible for free Ministry of Health Services) are not issued security cards and consequently are being denied free treatment when referred to PHCs and governmental hospitals. ([UNHCR 2013/05/17](#))

Even for those who can access primary healthcare, medicines need to be purchased, and treatment for on-going chronic conditions or any medical issue that requires specialist care or hospitalisation is difficult or impossible to access. Also, a lack of awareness among national healthcare service providers as to the rights of Syrian refugees to access healthcare services means that sometimes registered refugees are turned away. Syrians who are not UNHCR registered must pay much higher foreigner rates at government health facilities. ([IFRC 2012/09](#)) ([RRP5 2013/06/07](#))

Refugee families have reported being unable to access public healthcare facilities either because their UNHCR registration was pending or had expired. Also, some reported that hospitals and health-care clinics had refused to treat them because of lack of beds, medicines, etc. ([Care 2013/04](#))

Healthcare facilities, set up by the UN and NGOs in all 3 refugee camps, can be accessed by refugees free of charge.

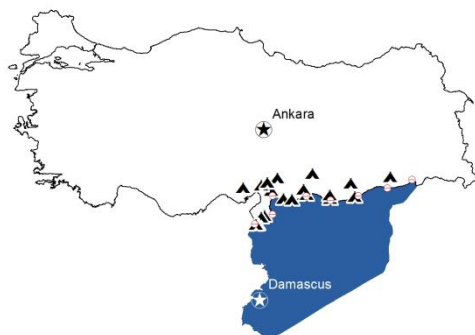
Education

Syrian refugee children, registered with UNHCR, can enrol in public schools. In areas with large numbers of refugees, the schools fast became over-crowded, and a double shift system was implemented. Although they are not expected to pay fees at public schools, some refugees have found the other costs related to children's education – transportation, uniforms, shoes, books, material, etc. restrictive. The requirement to produce documentation (such as birth certificates) for children was reported to be causing some confusion and delays in enrolment. There are 2 UNICEF run schools in Za'atari camp which children in camp have free access to and UNICEF is anticipating the completion of a third school. ([IFRC 2012/09](#), [UNICEF 2013/05/15](#))

Turkey

Background

The Republic of Turkey was the first of Syria's neighbours to formally respond to the influx of Syrian refugees when the Government of Turkey declared and began implementing a temporary protection regime in October 2011 since when the country has maintained its open border policy. By May 2013, Government officials estimated that some 400,000 Syrians were residing in the 17 Turkish refugee camps, or in towns or villages.



Individuals fleeing Syria can be divided into 4 groups:

- those residing in camps;
- those who entered Turkey through an official checkpoint with valid documents and reside outside camps;
- those who are irregular, so have entered Turkey irregularly without papers, and reside outside camps; and
- Iraqi or other refugees who were staying in Syria before fleeing to Turkey.

Estimated number of Syrians in Turkey as of June 2013

Registered refugees	349,000
Awaiting registration	27,000
Unregistered	23,500

Legislation

Turkey ratified the 1951 Geneva Convention and its 1967 Protocol with a geographic limitation whereby it is not obligated to apply the Convention to refugees from outside Europe. In accordance with the National Action Plan on Asylum and Migration of 2005, the Government of Turkey is building an asylum system in line with international standards. Under its 1994 Asylum Regulation, Turkey provides non-European refugees with "temporary asylum-seeker status". For Syrians a separate group-based "temporary protection" policy was adopted. All Syrians are eligible for such "temporary protection" in Turkey on prima facie basis, which means that any Syrian nationals seeking international protection are admitted to the Turkish territory and will not be sent back to Syria against their will. (UNHCR 2011, Regulation 2006/9938, UNHCR 2011, ICG 2013/04/30, U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants 2009, IRIN 2012/12/26, UNHCR 2013/06/03, HCA 2012/11/16)

In April 2013, Turkey adopted a new law on "Foreigners and International Protection", which contains provisions on "temporary protection" to be provided in situations of a mass influx of refugees into Turkey. However this new law will not come into force for a 12-month transitional period. The transitional period will also see the preparation of a new regulation on "Temporary Protection" in accordance with the provisions of the new law. At present, the 1994 Asylum Regulation and a classified, non-public March 2012 Circular on the "Admission and Accommodation of Mass-Arriving Syrian Asylum Seekers" reportedly continue to provide the domestic law basis for the "temporary protection" regime put in place for Syrians.

All Syrian nationals present in Turkey, including those with or without Syrian identity papers and stateless Kurds from Syria, are covered by the temporary protection regime on account of their international protection needs. Irregularly present Syrian nationals who are apprehended by Turkish authorities, for instance during an attempt to transit to Europe, are not deported to Syria but are eventually released, registered, and instructed to approach the Aliens Police in the tent/container cities in provinces adjoining the Syrian border. (FLRN 2012/04/01, UNHCR 2013/03/18, STL 2013/02/15)

Prior to the Syria crisis, around 7,000 Iraqi refugees were residing in Turkey. Iraqi refugees from Syria who fled to Turkey since the start of the conflict are being registered by UNHCR.

As with other non-European asylum seekers, UNHCR and the Ministry of Interior (MoI) register and determine the refugee status of Iraqi asylum seekers in parallel and separate procedures. A UNHCR-mediated resettlement program exists for the most vulnerable Iraqi refugees meeting specific resettlement criteria. (EUI 2009)

Turkey ratified the United Nations International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, an international treaty focusing on the protection of migrant workers' rights. (UN n.d.)

The temporary protection regime also covers Palestinian refugees from Syria and stateless persons from Syria.

Official and unofficial border crossing

There are 6 official border crossings (Oncupinar, Reyhanli/Cilvegözü, Nusaybin, Karkamis, Ceylanpınar, Akcakale). Syrians with passports can cross the border freely without an entry visa, as visa requirements between Turkey and Syria were mutually lifted in August 2009. Although Turkey has an open border policy for all Syrians, in practice, since the summer of 2012, the Government limits the number of Syrians entering without papers depending on the capacity of camps to host Syrians. Among those seeking entry, priority is given to the ill, women, children and elderly. Syrians continue to arrive through unofficial border crossings as well. (ICG 2013/04/30)

Syrians who approach official border crossings without passports are generally escorted to one of the refugee camps. ([ICG 2013/04/30](#), [FLRN 2012/04/01](#))

Registration

Unlike in the other host-countries, Syrian refugees are registered by the Turkish authorities. UNHCR provides technical advice and assistance on the registration process and relevant international standards.

Camp residents

All camp residents receive registration cards from the camp authorities and biometric information is taken. An integrated database on the registration under development although exchange of such information between camps is poor: someone leaving one camp could technically go to Syria and return to another. ([ICG 2013/04/30](#))

Outside camps

Syrians who officially entered Turkey with passports are able to receive a residence permit free of charge by registering with the Foreigner's Department of the Ministry of Interior. Currently around 17,000 Syrian nationals reside in Turkey on such a residence permit.

At the start of the crisis, those who entered unofficially and who were residing outside of camps were not able to register with the Turkish Government. In January 2013, the Government began to register those who had entered unofficially and who are living in urban areas, in coordination centres in Gaziantep and Nizip, managed jointly by the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) and governorate authorities. The coordination centre in Sanliurfa province opened in May 2013 and a centre in Kilis is due to be opened soon. In these centres, Syrians are issued ID cards providing access to medical assistance and other assistance provided through the sub-governorates. Mobile registration has also been undertaken in other areas, including Kilis, Hatay and Kahramanmaras. ([HCA 2013/06/11](#), [RRP 5 2013/06/07](#), [UNHCR 2013/02/27](#), [UNHCR 2013/03/12](#), [UNHCR 2013/05/27](#), [ICG 2013/04/30](#), [Refugee International 2012/12/05](#))

Despite the recent registration exercise in urban areas, a number of Syrians remain unregistered. The Government estimates that over 23,000 Syrians outside of camps are unregistered, while UNHCR estimates are up to 155,000 Syrians. ([RRP 5 2013/06/07](#), [UNICEF 2013/05/15](#), [UNHCR 2013/05/31](#))

Iraqi refugees from Syria

Iraqi refugees from Syria are not subject to the "temporary protection" regime. They are accommodated within the "temporary asylum" regime in place for individually-arrived non-European refugees. Upon registering with authorities they receive an "asylum seeker identification card" and a residence permit from the

provincial Foreigners' Police which is renewed on 6 month intervals. They also register with UNHCR and are issued "UNHCR asylum seeker certificates". UNHCR-issued certificates, which do not give the bearer legal residence in Turkey, serve as identification, which help refugees and asylum seekers in dealing with police and banks. ([HCA 2013/06/11](#), [UNHCR 2011](#), [U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants 2009](#))

UNHCR's role

Normally, UNHCR and the Ministry of Interior (MoI) undertake parallel registration and refugee status determination for non-Europeans, a procedure to determine whether someone can be classified as a refugee. Since the Government's 'temporary protection' scheme was put in place for Syrian refugees, UNHCR suspended individual refugee status determination for Syrians. There is currently no resettlement programme for Syrian refugees.

UNHCR continues registration and refugee status determination procedures for Iraqi individuals and identifies those who may be eligible for resettlement. ([EUI 2009](#))

As UNRWA is not active in Turkey, Palestinian refugees fall within UNHCR's mandate. As Palestinians from Syria benefit from the "temporary protection" scheme for Syrians as well they are not registered with UNHCR.

Residency

For all Syrians with a passport, the Government provides a one-year residence permit and waves the residency fee. In November 2012, the Government allowed Syrians with passports who are not living in camps to extend their stay with residency permits for up to one year.

Those inside the camps do not need a residency permit. Registration of those who entered unofficially is carried out by AFAD and does not entitle the person to a residence permit.

Rights and access to assistance

The relief provided in camps is reported to be in line with humanitarian standards, and over 100,000 camp refugees receive WFP credit cards for food. However, the main relief provider in the camps, the Turkish Red Crescent, is not assisting those residing outside the camps for whom aid is limited. At the start of April 2013, the DRC received permission from the Turkish Government to directly assist refugees. In addition, the Government recently confirmed that more humanitarian agencies can plan to provide assistance to refugees in urban locations. ([RRP 5 2013/06/07](#), [IRIN 2013/04/15](#), [ICG 2013/04/30](#))

Officially, Turkey grants refugees and asylum seekers the same political and civil rights as foreign nationals with regularised stay, regarding the freedom to practice

their religion, to seek access to court, and to marry and divorce, provided that they have valid identification documents, which includes those issued by the Foreigner's Department of the MOI. ([U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants 2009](#))

Freedom of movement

Syrians who entered the country without a passport are officially obliged to seek shelter in the camps. Many avoid this, by entering irregularly through the 822km border. Those who enter with a passport are permitted to settle outside the camps and receive a residence permit. ([IRIN 2012/12/26](#))

At the start of the crisis, Turkish authorities did not officially allow Syrian refugees without documents to settle outside of the official refugee camps. However, this approach changed in January 2013, when the Government started registering those without official papers residing outside the camps.

Freedom of movement in and out of the camps was severely restricted at the start of the crisis. However, in recent months it has been reported that residents of the camps can leave the premises during daylight hours with permission. In at least one camp, residents may stay out for up to a week before returning. ([ICG 2013/04/30](#), [FLRN 2012/04/01](#), [UNHCR 2011](#))

One camp in Hatay is reserved for defecting officers and their families, and is functioning based on the 1995 Regulation in Respect of Belligerent Foreign Army Members Admitted to Turkey. According to the regulation, those residing in the camp may only move outside of the camp with prior approval from the camp management. ([1995 Regulation](#))

As for all other non-European and non-Syrian asylum seekers and refugees, Iraqi asylum seekers and refugees have to report regularly to the local police. The Law on Residence and Travel of Aliens in Turkey requires them to reside in areas as assigned by the MoI. The MoI distributes refugees and asylum-seekers to 62 'satellite' cities. ([UNHCR 2013/06/09](#), [U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants 2009](#))

Employment and ownership

Syrians do not automatically receive the legal right to work and must apply for a work permit, which can be a lengthy and expensive process. To obtain a work permit, an employer must demonstrate that there is no Turkish national who can fulfil the requirements. Many who currently work do so illegally, partly because of the high price of work permits (US\$700 -1,000). As a result, Syrian and Iraqi refugees have no protection from unscrupulous employers. Refugees are reportedly working for a wage as low as 15 Turkish Liras (US\$8) a day in agriculture and construction.

Some Turkish enterprises have advocated for proper regulations to be able to legally employ more Syrians. In April 2014, when the 2013 Law on Foreigners and International Protection enters into force, it should be easier to obtain a permit.

([IRIN 2012/12/26](#), [PI 2013/01/23](#), [U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants 2009](#), [HWWI 2012](#), [ICG 2013/04/30](#), [UNHCR 2013/06/03](#))

Separate ID cards are issued in the camps, which allow Syrians to go to town to work as day-time workers. ([UNHCR 2013/05/28](#), [UNHCR 2013/05/17](#))

According to the reciprocity principle, where Syrians in Turkey enjoy the same rights as Turkish nationals in Syria, Syrians without Turkish residency can open bank accounts and own immobile property such as housing. ([US Committee for refugees and immigrants 2009](#), Law 6302)

Education

By law, Syrians have the right to primary and secondary education services, and by June 2013, some 26,000 Syrian children are going to school in Turkey. However, outside camps, only those with legal residence permits issued by MoI can enrol in public schools. Those without residence permits can follow classes as guests, but will not receive a certificate. In some areas, the local authorities and NGOs have established informal schools open to all Syrian children, including those without the appropriate permit. However, such schools are not empowered to formally issue certificates and award academic qualifications.

Students can attend Turkish universities as guests, without having to show proof that they had been attending universities in Syria. ([No. 6458](#), [ICG 2013/04/30](#), [MPC 2013/05](#))

Schools have been set up in the different camps, providing Syrian children with education in Arabic according to the Syrian curriculum. ([UNHCR 2013/04/25](#), [STL 2013/01](#), [ICG 2013/04/30](#), [RI 2013/04/26](#))

Healthcare

On January 22, 2013, the Government of Turkey issued a circular stating that all Syrians in Turkey could receive free health services in public hospitals regardless of whether they are being accommodated in camps or are residing in cities and regardless of how they entered the country. Free access to health services is limited to hospitals in the 8 provinces where camps have been established. As a result, all Syrians in need of healthcare can access Turkish health clinics and receive emergency healthcare, although access to secondary and tertiary healthcare is restricted to those, registered with the Government. The right to access to health services under the general health insurance mechanism by the asylum applicants and refugees has also been re-affirmed in the April 2013 Law on Foreigners and International Protection, which will enter into force in April 2014.

In the camps, health issues are addressed by emergency and curative services directly provided in the camps through health centres and field hospitals as well as through referral systems. Outside camps, the limited information for Syrians on available services has been reported as a problem. ([STL 2013/02/15](#), [UNHCR n.d.](#), [USAID 2013/01/30](#), [IOM 2012/12/13](#), [UNHCR 2013/04/22](#), [RI 2013/04](#))

Legal advice

Legal services may be provided free of charge by the local Turkish bar associations for those Syrians who demonstrate that they lack the means to pay. However, in practice very few bar associations extend any services to foreign nationals. There are no indications that any Syrian nationals have been able to receive any legal advice and representation services from the bar associations.

(HCA 2013/06/11, UNHCR 2013/06/03)

Iraq

Background

There are more than 158,000 UNHCR registered refugees in Iraq, 96% of whom are in the Kurdish Autonomous Region of Northern Iraq (KR) as of June 10. As the Kurds in Syria have ethnic, linguistic, and religious affinities in common with the Kurdish population of the KR, it is perhaps the most natural place for them to seek refuge from the conflict. The number of new arrivals has more than doubled since December 2012, reaching 800 to 1,000 daily in April-May 2013.



Legislation

Iraq is not yet party to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees or its 1967 Protocol. It has 2 laws that are relevant to refugees: the 1971 Political Refugee Law and the 2009 Law No.21 of the Ministry of Migration and Displacement. The ministry was created in 2003 and it is responsible for displaced persons, including internally and externally displaced Iraqis and foreign nationals inside Iraq. (INGO 2013/02)

The 1971 law stipulates a number of rights and entitlements that are comparable with those of the 1951 Refugee Convention. However, it only covers political and military refugees and their families – defining refugees as anyone that has recourse to the Republic of Iraq for political or military reasons. Unlike the 1951 Convention, it does not officially recognise as refugees those who have fled their country due to persecution. The Refugee Act was designed to accommodate ex-soldiers from neighbouring countries, not a large influx of refugees with humanitarian needs, and as such it fails to protect the status and rights of current-day refugees and is essentially obsolete and not upheld. (NRC 2013/05/23)

The 2009 Law No.21 has a broader definition of refugees that is more compliant with the Convention. Article 2 of Law No.21 of the Ministry of Migration and Displacement states that the Ministry ‘aims to care for those protected under the provisions of this Act, assist them and provide services to them in various required fields and seek solutions to secure their situation and treatment according to the law’. However, the law does not clarify the rights of those protected or clearly define the responsibilities of the Ministry. (INGO 2013/02)

There is, therefore, a vacuum in the legal framework regarding refugees. Iraq does not have a policy or strategy for refugees, so the assistance provided is done

without a legal or comprehensive operational framework and there is no consistency in terms of rights and entitlements. (INGO 2013/02)

In July 2012, the Council of Ministers decided to open border crossings in Rabia'a and Al Qa'im to receive Syrian refugees, and to establish camps and provide all required services and medical care to the refugees. The Government of Iraq (GoI) then formed a Relief Committee, chaired by the Minister of Migration, with representation from the National Security Council, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Transportation. It also formed a group of support committees to facilitate procurement, camp constructions, and provision of health services. (INGO 2013/02)

In 2001, the Revolutionary Command Council issued an order that granted the same rights to Palestinians as to Iraqi citizens, with the exception of nationality, military service and political participation. It is unclear to what degree the Palestinians have de facto access to all their rights. (INGO 2013/02)

Official and unofficial border crossing

The vast majority of Syrian refugees in Iraq are concentrated in Dahuk, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah governorates of the KR. As an autonomous region of Iraq, KR has authority over the northern federal region and handles its own domestic affairs. It has its own government, ministries and committees, and its legal framework sometimes differs from that of the central Government in Baghdad. There are also nearly 5,570 Syrian refugees in Al Qa'im camp in the western Iraq governorate Anbar as of June 10.

In the central and southern provinces of Iraq, the official border crossings are Al Qa'im and Al Waleed, both in Anbar, and Rabia'a in the Ninevah governorate. Since March 29, the central Government has completely closed all the borders, preventing refugees entering by any official crossing points. The borders have repeatedly been opened and closed, although, since August 2012, they have been mostly closed except to allow emergency cases to enter. This has seriously curtailed the number of refugees entering. Little information is available on the situation of those entering informally. (NRC 2013/05/23, NRC 2013/06/14)

There are no official crossings in KR. The main unofficial border crossing in the KR is Peshkhabor in the Dahuk governorate. The Kurdish Government has allowed entry into the KR, enabling free access to the refugees. An average of around 800 persons was entering a day between September 2012 and May 2013. Towards the end of May, fighting in Syria near the border led the Kurdish Government to close the KR borders. (WFP 2013/03/03, NRC 2013/05/23)

UNHCR's role and registration

The Permanent Committee for Refugee Affairs, established under the 1971 Refugee Act and reactivated in 2005 does not have the capacity to determine refugee status, so UNHCR undertakes the procedure.

UNHCR registration centres have been established inside the camps in Domiz and Al Qa'im. In urban locations, registration is conducted through Protection Assistance Reintegration Centres (PARC) in the KR as well as Registration and Information Support Centres in Baghdad. Newly registered refugees are issued with UNHCR certificate attesting their status. (RRP5 2013/06/07)

All refugees in Anbar are registered by UNHCR in Al Qa'im camp, a swift procedure as refugee influx is not high. Refugees in Al Qa'im are not provided with residency permits.

In the KR, Syrian refugees are registered with UNHCR and the Department of Displacement and Migration (DDM). Registration with the DDM entails the receipt of an asylum seeker certificate valid for one year and a temporary, free of charge residency permit, renewable after 6 months, entitling the bearer to essentially the same rights as a KR citizen and giving them freedom of access within KR. On 1 April 2013, the Kurdish Government stopped issuing residency permits in Erbil and Sulaymaniyah, requiring all refugees to register in Domiz camp in Dahuk and apply for residency permits there. As a result the process is taking much longer. Refugees living in urban communities in Erbil and Sulaymaniyah have cited the cost of travel from these governorates to the camp as an impediment to their registration. The Government has said it will recommence offering the permits in the other 2 governorates once the 2 new camps that are underway there are operational. (NRC 2013/05/23, UNHCR 2012/07, UNHCR 2013/04/30, RRP5 2013/06/07)

Births can be registered in UNHCR centres and PARCs. A litigation form is filled out by the caseworker and a lawyer in the protection team facilitates the registration process through the concerned governmental department. (UNHCR 2013/06/12)

Rights and access to assistance

The central Government and the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) employ two different policies. The KRG has kept its borders open and allows refugees the option to stay at Domiz camp or to find housing solutions in urban communities within the KR. Refugees living in urban areas with residence permits have access to the national services of the KRG. The central Government, meanwhile, has closed its borders to Syria since August 2012 and only in emergency cases are refugees permitted to enter Anbar province. (Refugees International 2012/12/05)

In Iraq, refugees must reside in the Al Qa'im camp, with the exception of the estimated 1,000 refugees who, under a previously existing sponsorship programme, were given permission to join close family members outside the camp.

In the KR, Domiz camp in Dahuk governorate hosts more than 3 times the numbers it was constructed to receive and despite the continuous construction and expansion, the pressure on infrastructure and services has progressively deteriorated the living conditions of the residents. A new campsite in Sulaymaniyah has been identified and demarcation is in progress. In Erbil, the KRG authorities and UNHCR began work on the new camp Dara Shakran (capacity 12,000 persons) on 21 April. Currently, 60% of registered refugees are being hosted by Iraqi communities or are living in unfinished houses in the main cities of Dahuk, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah. ([UNHCR 2013/04/02](#), [NRC 2013/05/23](#), [UNHCR 2013/04/30](#), [HRW 2012/05/14](#), [NRC 2013/03](#))

Freedom of movement

Refugees in KR have freedom of movement; they can leave the camp and move around the 3 Kurdish provinces.

Refugees registered in Anbar do not have freedom of movement. There was initially a sponsorship programme whereby people that had family residing in urban areas could leave the camps and join them, but this has become increasingly difficult and the majority of refugees resident in camps, do not have permission to go out and work. ([NRC 2013/05/23](#))

The KRG does not permit single young Syrian men to rent apartments out of suspicion that they might be combatants. Young single men living in Domiz camp are not allowed back out so are no longer able to work in urban areas. ([Refugees International 2012/12/05](#))

Employment and ownership

Refugees in Al Qa'im camp are not free to leave the camp to work. In the Kurdish areas, refugees can work legally with a residency permit. ([WFP 2013/03/03](#), [UNHCR 2012/07](#)) Refugees are unable to register businesses, own land, or open bank accounts, as all of these activities require Iraqi national identification documents. ([United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants 2009/06/17](#))

Healthcare

Refugees in Al Qa'im camp have free access to healthcare. It is difficult to access information on those (registered or unregistered) living outside the camps in Iraq. ([NRC 2013/05/23](#)) In the KR, refugees with residency permits are granted free access to health services. Those without residency permits find free services in Domiz camp.

Education

The GoI and KRG allow Syrian children to register free of charge in public schools. They reserve the same rights to these facilities as Iraqi nationals. Language

barriers can arise in the KR, as Syrian children, despite being ethnic Kurds, used to go to Arabic school. ([WFP 2013/03/03](#)) [UNHCR 2013/06/12](#))

There are 3 basic schools in Domiz camp and schools in Camp 1 and Camp 2 in Al Qa'im. ([UNHCR 2013/04/30](#))

Food Assistance

Iraq has a Public Distribution System which allocates billions of Iraqi dinars to Food Rations and provides a Social Safety Nets for its population. Syrian refugees who arrived in Iraq in 2012 were initially able to receive food assistance and were granted a PDS card. Later arrivals were not included in the PDS food rations program, and therefore had to rely on assistance from refugees already in possession of the cards. ([WFP 2013/03/03](#))

Legal advice

UNHCR provides refugees with legal counselling and other support to ensure that they are provided with necessary documentation. Those in detention benefit from legal representation of their cases. ([RRP5 2013/06/07](#))

Egypt

Background

Although Egypt does not share a border with Syria, the country hosts at least 79,000 Syrian refugees primarily due to existing community or family ties. Egypt is also less expensive than neighbouring countries. In addition, the Syrian Government has little to no influence in Egypt and which is therefore perceived as a safer option. The Government of Egypt (GoE) estimates that there are 140,000 Syrians in Egypt.



Estimated number of Syrians in Egypt as of June 2013



Legislation

Egypt is a signatory to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol. Nevertheless, Egypt made reservations to clauses within the Convention (including personal status, rationing, education and labour legislation) which limit refugees' access to public goods and services. (UNHCR 2013/05/07, [Egypt Independent 2013/03/31](#))

Egypt ratified in 1993 the United Nations International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (MWC) that has broad coverage and includes the rights of irregular migrants. (Jureidini 2009)

In general, the Government is abiding by the non-refoulement principle although some deportations have been reported: Cairo airport officials deported 2 Syrians with valid passports to Damascus on 13 January. Another attempted deportation of 13 Syrians in mid-December was stopped by immigration officials. (AhramOnline 2013/01/19)

Official and unofficial border crossing

The majority of Syrians enter Egypt via Cairo International and Alexandria Airports. A considerable number of Syrians also enter by Nuweiba Port, arriving from Aqaba in Jordan, while a smaller number enter via smaller ports. Irregular entry is uncommon but there are cases of Syrians attempting to leave Egypt illegally with forged documents. UNHCR recently secured the release of 31 Syrians who had

been sentenced to 6 months in prison for attempting to illegally enter Libya from Egypt. (UNHCR 2012/11/14, [Dostor 2012/10/19](#), [Egypt Independent 2013/02/11](#))

Most Syrian refugees are hosted by local communities, or living in rented accommodation, in Alexandria, Cairo (Al-Oubour, Nasr City, Al-Haram, 6th October City), Damietta, Mansoura, Hurgada (Ghardaka), Suez, Ismailia and Port Said. They tend to live in areas where they have family links, in cities with similar characteristics to their cities of origin or where they can find jobs. The immigration authorities have information on the number of Syrians entering the country, but do not usually make it public. (UNHCR 2013/04/25, [UNHCR 2013/05/07](#), [Ahram Online 2013/04/04](#), [UNHCR 2013/05/07](#), [Dostor 2012/10/19](#))

Registration

UNHCR registers and determines the status of refugees based on the 1954 MoU between UNHCR and the GoE. There are two methods by which refugees are able to register: either by contacting the registration centre in Zamalek and requesting an appointment or by contacting one of the mobile registration units regularly sent out by UNHCR to Alexandria and Damietta.

The waiting period for registration at Zamalek is between 6-8 weeks while mobile registration is generally completed within 2 weeks. Upon registration, refugees receive a temporary protection card (known as yellow card) and are allowed to reside in Egypt as long as the situation in Syria remains unsettled. UNHCR registration provides refugees with international protection. This guarantees their basic human rights and ensures that they are not returned involuntarily to Syria. (UNHCR 2013/04/15, [UNHCR 2013/01/31](#), [AhramOnline 2013/05/03](#), [AhramOnline 2013/04/24](#), [Zayd Bin Thabet NGO 2013/05/05](#))

UNRWA has a limited presence and services in Egypt and only operates a liaison office. UNHCR does not register Palestinians coming from Syria as per the Egyptian authorities' instructions. Palestinians without residency do not have access to public schooling and healthcare and lack basic international protection. The Palestinian embassy does not follow their cases, monitor their arrival or seek to register them. Without legal status, Palestinians face constant threat of deportation. (UNHCR 2013/03/26, [UNHCR 2013/01/15](#), [UNHCR 2013/02/21](#), [AhramOnline 2013/05/03](#), [AhramOnline 2013/04/24](#))

Though there are no exact figures for Iraqis from Syria seeking refuge in Egypt, before the Syrian crisis, estimations range between 100,000 and 150,000 Iraqis, of which only 11,000 had registered with UNHCR. ([Egypt Independent 2013/03/31](#))

UNHCR and its partners register Syrian newborns and issues birth certificates. (UNHCR 2013, [AMERA 2013](#))

Unregistered refugees

At least 68,000 Syrians have not registered. Given the favourable protection environment generally afforded by the authorities, particularly with regard to Syrians' legal stay in the country, some Syrians may not feel the need to register, particularly if they are able to support themselves. Others may not wish to be labelled as refugees, may fear detention once back in Syria or may be unaware of the possibility of registering. Some Syrians avoid registering as passports are stamped with the text "arrival data is transferred to asylum card", indicating that they applied for refugee status. ([RRP 2012/12/19](#), [UNHCR 2013/03/07](#), [UNHCR 2013/02/21](#))

Residence permits

The GoE exempts Syrians from entry visas to its territory. They are allowed to stay for 3 months after which they need to regularise their stay in the country through a residence permit. Both Syrian and Iraqi refugees can obtain residency visas either through UNHCR registration or school registration. Once a refugee acquires a yellow card, visas can be renewed, free, for 6 months at a time at the Central Immigration Department. Those Syrians with children enrolled in public or private schools can obtain one-year residency permits. ([UNHCR 2013/01/22](#), [UNHCR 2012/11/14](#), [Almonitor 2013/01/07](#), [EgyptNYC 2013/02/27](#), [Zayd Bin Thabet NGO 2013/05/05](#), [UNHCR 2013/05/14](#), [RRP 2013/06](#))

For Palestinians from Syria, the situation is more difficult. An estimated 10,000 Palestinians moved from Syria to Egypt, but none have been given residency permits. Some receive a short-term tourist visa, while others are turned away at Cairo airport and sent back to Damascus. There were already around 50,000–70,000 Palestinians residing in Egypt before the start of the crisis. ([AhramOnline 2013/05/03](#), [AhramOnline 2013/04/24](#), [Oxford Journal 2009](#))

Iraqis are unable to obtain permanent residency, which limits their access to basic services, education and employment. They can overcome these obstacles by registering as investors or by enrolling their children in local schools. ([Egypt Independent 2013/03/31](#))

Rights and access to assistance

UNHCR and its implementing partners provide registered refugees with counselling, legal assistance, medical and protection services, food, clothing and NFI coupons, education grants, capacity building services and some cash assistance.

Employment

Registered refugees are not permitted to work without obtaining a work permit.

Most employment of Syrians in Egypt is in the informal sector without work permits. Egyptian work permits are difficult to obtain, as they require proof on the part of the employer that no Egyptian national is available and qualified to do the work. Business permits are easier to obtain but require investment capital and registration with Egyptian partners. ([RRP 2012/12/19](#))

Since 1982, Palestinians in Egypt have been considered as foreigners. They lost their right to residency, with the exception of those who were married to an Egyptian; were enrolled and paying fees at school or university; had a contract in a private sector firm; or had business or investments in the country. Working in the private sector became a privilege and the informal sector accommodated the majority of Palestinians, working as farmers or casual labourers. ([Palestinian Return Centre 2011/06/14](#))

All refugees are permitted to rent property and own property if they meet the conditions specified in the Law from 1996. Other foreigners who are not refugees can own property as long as they possess a valid residence permit.

Health

The Egyptian Government has granted Syrians access to the public health system with the same fees as Egyptians. However, in practice some public hospitals do not abide by this policy and some Syrians are charged expatriate-rate fees (in Syria, medical-care was free in public hospitals). The Ministry of Health (MoH) arranges vaccination campaigns for polio and other diseases in several locations such as MoH primary health care facilities, certain identified clubs, mosques and churches. ([UNHCR 2013/03/14](#), [RRP 2012/12/19](#))

Education

A presidential decree issued in 2012 grants rights to Syrian refugees in Egypt, including access to Government schools and universities on the same basis as Egyptians. This decree is not applicable to Palestinian refugees from Syria. School fees, in Syria education is for free, and differences between Egyptian and Syrian curricula are obstacles towards following education. ([UNHCR 2013/01/15](#), [UNHCR 2013/02/21](#))

To access education, Syrians have to provide a security clearance document from the Egyptian Directorate of Education. Obtaining this document can involve a longer journey and high costs. ([UNHCR 2013/05/14](#))

ANNEX A: Applicable laws per country

LEBANON

Right to Work

		Law applies to:		
		Syrian	PRS	Iraqi
Lebanese Labour Law (1946)	The law does not exclude non-Lebanese workers, but it adopts the principle of preference of nationals.	✓	✓	✓
Bilateral agreement for Social and Economic Cooperation and Coordination between the Lebanese Republic & the Syrian Arab Republic (1993)	The agreement seeks to gradually reach reciprocity between Syria and Lebanon with respect to economic integration. The agreement encourages freedom of movement, stay, work, and practising of economic activity in conformity with the laws of each country.	✓		
Bilateral Labour agreement (1994)	The agreement established a joint office on the Syria-Lebanon border and created a department within the MoL to handle Syrian workers' issues.	✓		
Decree n° 17561 (1964)	Every foreigner wishing to work in Lebanon needs pre-approval from the MoL before arriving in Lebanon and must obtain a work permit within 10 days of entering Lebanon. The MoL has the prerogative to select jobs and professions that are exclusive to Lebanese. Taking into account the principle of preference of Lebanese, foreigners can be granted a work permit, if they meet certain conditions.	✓	✓	✓
MoL Resolution No. 1/19 (Amendments of the Articles No. 8 and 9 of the resolution 17561 related to organising the work of foreigners) (2013)	The resolution specifies the set of professions reserved for Lebanese. Palestinians born in Lebanon and officially registered are excluded from this law. Some professions previously reserved for Lebanese (construction, electricity, sales, carpentry, blacksmiths...) are now accessible to Syrians. The MoL has the authority to exclude some foreigners from the decree based on several criteria.	✓	✓	
MoL Resolution No.1/1 (2012)	The resolution specifies how a foreigner, married to a Lebanese or born to a Lebanese mother, can obtain a work permit.	✓	✓	✓
Decree No. 1658 Article No. 5 regulating the medicine profession (1979)	The permit to practise medicine is granted to Arab non-Lebanese doctors under the same conditions that apply to any Lebanese (a degree from an accredited university, passing the Colloquium exam, etc.) if there is a reciprocity agreement between Lebanon and the country of origin of the doctor.	✓		✓
Law No. 42 Article No. 5 regulating the attorney profession (1991)	To practise in Lebanon a lawyer needs to have held Lebanese citizenship for at least 10 years.	✓	✓	✓
Law No. 636 Article No. 4 regulating the engineering profession (1997)	Non-Lebanese Arab engineers may practise if: he/she abides by the conditions for a Lebanese engineer, a reciprocity condition exists with the country of origin, he/she has the right to practise the engineering profession in their country of origin, he/she holds a residence card, a work permit and resides in Lebanon.	✓		✓
Right to property/rent				
Law No. 296 Article No. 1 and Article No. 7 (2001)	A non-Lebanese may not acquire any real estate in Lebanon unless he obtains a licence given by decree issued by the Council of Ministers upon the proposal of the Minister of Finance. It is only possible to obtain this license if the requester has citizenship issued by a recognised state. As a result, Palestinian refugees are not allowed to own property. The acquired real estate area should not exceed 3,000 m ² . The total area of non-Lebanese possessions should not exceed 3% of total Lebanese area (or 3% of every Caza's area and 10% of Beirut governorate's area).	✓		✓
Law No. 160 (1992)	The law grants any person the right to rent.	✓	✓	✓

JORDAN

Right to Work

Labour Law No. 8 (1996) with amendments until Law No. 26 (2010)

The Minister of Labour has the authority to license the establishment of special recruitment offices to regulate the recruitment and employment of non-Jordanian workers in any sector approved by the Council of Ministers and consistent with the objectives of the Ministry and its policy of providing job opportunities to Jordanians (Article No.3). The Minister may issue any necessary instructions to regulate the introduction and employment of non-Jordanian workers (Article No.5). The law requires the employer to meet several criteria before hiring a foreign worker. The hiring request is sent to the recruitment office for approval after if it satisfies the conditions. After obtaining the approval of the Minister (or representative), the work permit is issued.

Law applies to

Syrian PRS Iraqi

✓ ✓ ✓

Resolution on list of professions not allowed to non-Jordanians workers (2010)

16 professions are reserved for Jordanians. These are medical, engineering, administrative, accounting and clerical professions, telephones and warehouses works, sales, education, hairdressing, decorations, fuel sales, electricity and mechanical occupations, guards, drivers and buildings' workers.

Regulation No. 36 amending the regulation of fees of work permits for non-Jordanian workers (1997)

The employer needs to pay specified fees for issuing or renewing a yearly work permit for every Arabic and non-Arabic worker.

✓ ✓ ✓

Instructions and conditions of the hiring non-Jordanian workers in the Qualified Industrial Zones (2007)

Every employer who wants to hire a non-Jordanian worker in the qualified industrial zones must submit a written request to the Ministry Commissioner to the investment desk in the promoting investment institution explaining the details of the company and the worker

✓ ✓ ✓

Law No. 13 of Jordan Doctors' Syndicate (1972)

Arab doctors can work in Jordan if they are registered in any Syndicate of an Arabic country and with a license to practise provided his/her country abides by the reciprocity principle.

✓ ✓

Lawyers Syndicate Law No. 11 (1972)

To practise the profession, any lawyer needs to have held Jordanian citizenship for at least 10 years.

✓ ✓ ✓

Engineering Syndicate Law No. 15 (1972)

Any Arabic engineer needs to be registered within the relevant register for foreigners in the Syndicate after fulfilling certain criteria (like his/her country of origin respecting the reciprocity principle; having practised the profession for the last 7 years, etc.).

✓ ✓

Investment Law No.68 (2003)

Any non-Jordanian person is entitled to invest in Jordan in accordance with the conditions determined under a system issued for this purpose and that determines the allowed sectors and subsectors of investment, as well as the maximum rate of participation or contribution and the minimum foreign capital.

✓ ✓ ✓

Right to own property/rent

Law of rent and sales of immovable property to non-Jordanians No. 47 (2006)

An Arabic person can own immovable property for housing purposes based on the approval of the relevant authorities, and in accordance with the: approval of the General Director of Lands and Areas if the property is not more than two houses and an office, consent of the finance minister upon the recommendation of the Director for more than two houses and an office such that the land area allocated for this purpose does not exceed 10 acres

✓ ✓ ✓

Law of rent and sales of immovable property to non-Jordanians No. 47 (2006)

Non-Jordanian people can rent property for employment or housing. If the land to be rented is larger than 10 acres and for a period of more than three years, the approval of the Minister of Interior or his designee is recommended.

✓ ✓ ✓

EGYPT

Right to Work

Labour Law No. 12, Article 28 (2003)

The law has a special section for organising the work of foreigners. Foreigners cannot work without a work and residence permit. The Minister of Labour has the right to identify the necessary conditions for ensuring a work permit, renewal with fees and foreign exemption cases and the reciprocity principle are applicable. The Minister also identifies the professions that cannot be undertaken by foreigners and the quota of foreign workers in enterprises.

Law applies to
Syrian PRS Iraqi

✓ ✓ ✓

MoL Resolution No. 700 (2006)

The resolution specifies the conditions under which foreigners may be hired by Egyptian companies. Any company that wants to hire foreigners, needs to ensure the acceptance of the Ministry of Manpower and Immigration so that the workers receive the permission to enter the country and stay while taking into account the working conditions of the applicant and the reciprocity principle. After arriving in the country with a work authorisation and visa, the foreigner needs to secure a work permit within 60 days. Palestinian residents are excluded from these conditions.

✓ ✓

MoL Resolution No. 136 (2003)

The law specifies the terms and conditions for work and licensing procedures for foreigners. Foreigners are required to acquire work permits from the Department of Manpower. The granting of yearly work permits (cost 1000 EP) requires that the foreigner does not compete with local labour forces, the company is in need of the foreigner's expertise, the economic need of the country and other factors. The number of foreign workers in any establishment cannot exceed 10% of its employees. Palestinians are exempt from work permit fees.

✓ ✓ ✓

The investment law No.8 for investors' guarantees and incentives (1997)

Egyptian law allows foreign investors to establish of any kind of the following companies: a limited liability company, joint stock company and limited partnership company. These companies are subject, if falling into specific industries, to taxes and capital incentives.

✓ ✓ ✓

Law No. 38 organising tourism companies (1977)

The General Director should be Egyptian

MoL Resolution No. 136 Article No.17 (2003)

Foreigners cannot be: tourist guides, oriental dancers, engage in export businesses and customs clearance (except Palestinians).

Law No. 415 regulating the medicine profession (1954)

IA foreigner may practise medicine if his/her country allows Egyptians to practice medicine and his/her name is registered in the records of doctors at the Ministry of Public Health and the Syndicate of doctors. Doctors enrolled in Egyptian universities before work are excluded from this provision.

✓ ✓

Lawyer's Law No. 17 (1983)

Any registered lawyer allowed to practice the profession should be of Egyptian nationality

✓ ✓ ✓

Law No. 66 of the Engineering Syndicate (1974)

To be registered in the Syndicate, a foreigner's country should abide by the reciprocity principle. The foreigner needs to obtain a permission statement to carry out the profession.

✓ ✓

Right to own property/rent

Law No. 230 organising the property of non-Egyptians to build real estate and vacant lands (1996)

A foreigner can own real estate if: the acquisition is of a maximum of two properties in the country as houses for himself and his family with no relation to the right of owning real estate for businesses authorised by the authority; the area of each property does not exceed 4,000 m²; the property is not of archaeological value. The Prime Minister can exclude the two first conditions and he can impose special conditions in touristic areas and urban communities that he identifies.



Rent Law No. 136 (1981)

Non-Egyptians can rent under the same conditions as Egyptians



TURKEY

Law applies to
Syrian PRS Iraqi

Status

Directive on Reception and Accommodation of Syrian Arab Republic Nationals and Stateless Persons who reside in Syrian Arab Republic, who arrive to Turkish Borders in Mass Influx to Seek Asylum, October 2011.

Reportedly, provides guidance to relevant state agencies as to the principles and procedures that apply to Syrians and others subject to the “temporary protection” scheme. This document remains classified and is not accessible for either the Syrians subject to it or lawyers and NGO assistance and legal information providers.



1994 Asylum Regulation: Regulation on the Procedures and Principles related to Possible Population Movements and Aliens Arriving in Turkey either as Individuals or in Groups Wishing to Seek Asylum either from Turkey or Requesting Residence Permission in order to Seek Asylum From Another Country, No. 6169 and 9938 (1994 and 2006)

The regulation stipulates the rights and obligations for individuals seeking refuge or residence in Turkey



Law on Foreigners and International Protection, No. 6458 (2013)

Provides protection from refoulement and outlines the types of international protection. Published in the Official Gazette on 14 April 2013. The procedural and substantial provisions of this new law will not come into force until 14 April 2014.



Right to work

Law on Work permits for foreign nationals, No. 4817 (2003)

Foreigners are given permission to work if their situation is deemed appropriate. This permission is valid only when the required working visa and residence permission are obtained.



Right to own property/rent

Land Registry Law No. 2644, amended by Law No. 6302

Having a residence permit is not a condition for a foreigner who wishes to buy a property in Turkey. No reciprocity agreement between the country of origin and Turkey is required. However, only citizens of the countries determined by the Council of Ministers can buy immobile properties. Persons of foreign nationality can buy maximum 30 hectares of property in Turkey in total. The owner of the property or his/her authorised representative should make a preliminary application to the Land Registry Directorate.



Law on Real Property Leases, No. 6570

Foreigners are allowed to let out property they own and rent property in Turkey. A foreigner may only rent property in his/her own name.



IRAQ

Right to Work

Labour Law No. 71 with amendments, Article No. 7 (1987)

Under this law the Arabic worker in Iraq is treated similarly to the Iraqi national in terms of rights and duties.



Law confining some professions to Iraqi No. 21 (1936) and **Regulation No. 57** (1940)

There are some jobs that are reserved for Iraqis.

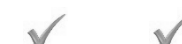
Resolution No. 1097 (1985)

Every foreigner who wants to work with a foreign or Arab company needs to apply to the labour office in the district or governorate and present a recruitment application with his identity and qualifications and the type of work requested.



Resolution No. 25 (1990)

Any Arabic resident in Iraq is allowed to practise his profession of any kind according to the terms and conditions, rights and obligations under which his Iraqi colleague practises the same profession.



Resolution No. 202 (2001)

A Palestinian residing permanently in Iraq is treated as the Iraqis in all rights and duties, (except the right to obtain Iraqi nationality)



Lawyers Law No. 66 (1985)

To register in the Syndicate, a lawyer should be of an Iraqi nationality or Palestinian residing in Iraq.



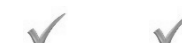
Law of practicing the medicine profession No. 503 (1925)

A non-Iraqi doctor should provide a certificate from the representative of the Iraqi Government in the country of his/her origin indicating: (1) good behaviour (2) accredited license (3) not condemned of a violation in his/her profession. Upon the approval of the Directorate of Public Health, his/her name is registered in the register of doctors and they are given a license. The General Directorate of Health might ask the doctor to undergo an exam.



Engineering Syndicate law No. 51 (1979)

An engineer can be of any Arabic nationality



Labour Law

No. 71 (1987) with amendments (Article No. 7) (1987)

The Arabic worker in Iraq is treated similarly to the Iraqi in terms of rights and duties stipulated under this Law.



Law confining some professions to Iraqi No. 21 (1936) and **regulation No. 57** (1940)

There are some jobs that are reserved for Iraqis (such as hairdressing, carpentry, sewing, working in restaurants and bakeries, working in a shop as a worker or guard, services in various businesses and shops, such as hotels, clubs and bathrooms, cafes and squares and amusements, permanent work in the automotive market, making hats and shoes, loading goods, lighting, heating, construction, printing, photography, blacksmithing, transportation...)

Resolution No. 1097 (1985)

Every Iraqi or Arabic or foreigner who wants to work with foreign or Arab companies to apply to the competent labour office in his district or governorate with a recruitment application with his identity and qualifications and the type of work requested.



Law applies to

Syrian PRS

Resolution no. 25 (1990)	Any Arabic resident in Iraq, is allowed to practise his profession of whatever kind according to the terms and conditions, rights and obligations under which his Iraqi colleague practises the same profession.	✓	✓
Resolution no. 202 (2001)	The Palestinian residing permanently in Iraq, its treated as the Iraqis in all rights and duties, (except the right to obtain Iraqi nationality)		✓
Lawyers Law no. 66 (1985)	To register in the syndicate, the lawyer should be of an Iraqi nationality or Palestinian residing in Iraq.		✓
Law of practicing the medicine profession no. 503 (1925)	A non-Iraqi doctor should provide a certificate from the representative of the Iraqi Government in the country that he/she came from indicating: (1) good behaviour (2) accredited license (3) not condemned of a violation in his/her profession. Upon the approval of the Directorate of Public Health, his/her name is registered in the register of doctors and given a license. The General Directorate of Health might ask the doctor to submit a test.	✓	✓
Engineering Syndicate law no. 51 (1979)	An engineer can be of any Arabic nationality	✓	✓
Labour Law No. 71 with amendments (Article No.7) (1987)	The Arabic worker in Iraq is treated similarly to the Iraqi in terms of rights and duties stipulated under this Law.	✓	✓
Right to own property			
Law for owning immovable property by Arab citizens No. (72) (1978)	The owned real estate is registered under this law, with the consent of the Minister of the Interior, and the decision of the Minister of Justice. Palestinians are excluded [have the same rights as Iraqis]	✓	
Right to rent			
Rent Law no. 87 (1979)	Palestinians who live in Iraq since 1948 and their descendants are treated similarly to Iraqi. This law does not apply to the rent by non-Iraqi. These follow the Civil Law no.40 (1951) .	✓	✓
KRG Iraq			
Instructions no. (2007)	Any non-Iraqi national have to ensure a work permit approved by the minister of Labour and Social Affairs. This must take into account the need of the region to foreign labour in the light of the needs of labour market and according to the requirements of each governorate with verifications from the Directorates and such that the concerned security departments supports the lack of any security obstacle for the work of the foreigner.	✓	✓
Minister of Interior Resolution (April 13) in the KR	The resolution prevents the Syrians from obtaining a visa and residence permit whether those relating to asylum, or those relating to work for Syrians arriving through airports. KRI employers were already very reluctant to employ Syrians without proper documents (residence permits). (JRANS 2012/07)		