International Institute of Social Studies

Return Migration to Syria: Voices of Refugees in Germany and Turkey



SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS

FIGURES

- > 5.9 million internally displaced people
- > 5.6 million refugees

HOST COUNTRIES

Most refugees are in countries bordering Syria, but many are also hosted in the European Union.





Germany > 0.5 million refugees **Turkey** two thirds of all refugees

ABOUT THE RESEARCH

"We wanted to learn about the willingness of Syrian refugees to return to their home country and identify push and pull factors."



FINDINGS

RETURN MIGRATION INTENTION

76% in Turkey want to go back

in **Germany** want to go back

FACTORS IMPACTING RETURN DECISION



Regime Al-Assad | For the majority of refugees return is linked to an end of the regime. In Germany it increases intended return by 21%.



Civil & political rights | Refugees value freedom of speech and belief, but their existence does not feed into the return migration decision.



On the spot information | Exposure to positive support information for return migration or a negative news item about challenges faced by returnees does not impact return intentions.

CONCLUSION



Rapid return unlikely | Given Al-Assad's grip on power, rapid return migration seems unlikely. Imposing freedoms of speech and belief is unlikely to trigger return movements.



Migration not temporary | Some refugees consider their stay in the host country as non-temporary and want to stay.



Listen and integrate | For some refugees the end of the war and political change will not be enough to consider return. Host countries are thus advised to invest in the integration of refugees wanting to stay.

Erasmus University Rotterdam Make it happen.

Based on Nawras Al Husein & Natascha Wagner, "<u>Determinants of intended return</u> <u>migration among refugees: A comparison of Syrian refugees staying in Germany and Turkey</u>", June 2020 | Infographic produced by Adinda Ceelen | <u>www.iss.nl</u>