

Daily COVID-19 and Migration Digest
Wednesday, April 1, 2020

Headline: [The rights and health of refugees, migrants and stateless must be protected in COVID-19 response](#)

Source: Joint press release from OHCHR, IOM, UNHCR and WHO

Date: March 31, 2020

Notes: This statement highlights the vulnerabilities of refugees, migrants and stateless people during the time of COVID-19 and calls for immediate action by governments to protect their rights and health. It calls for the immediate release of those in “formal and informal places of detention,” including migrant children and their families detained with no legal basis.

Headline: [New rulings amid coronavirus could force Trump to release migrant children and parents](#)

Source: Los Angeles Times

Date: March 31, 2020

Notes: “A federal judge in Los Angeles has given the Trump administration until April 6 to deliver an account of why it can’t quickly release many of the roughly 7,000 immigrant children at risk of contracting the coronavirus in shelters and detention facilities across the U.S., and unite them with waiting sponsors.”

Headline: [Refugee Camps Face COVID-19: 'If We Do Nothing, The Harm Is Going To Be So Extreme'](#)

Source: NPR

Date: March 31, 2020

Notes: Dr. Paul Spiegel is interviewed about his team’s work to understand the consequences that COVID-19 may have on the Cox’s Bazaar refugee camp in Bangladesh. He describes the camp as a “perfect storm” for COVID-19 transmission and a need for additional healthcare equipment. His team aims to provide recommendations to the UN and NGOs about how to prevent and combat COVID-19 in this setting.

Headline: [Coronavirus Lockdown Sends Migrant Workers On A Long And Risky Trip Home](#)

Source: NPR

Date: March 31, 2020

Notes: Following a national lockdown, hundreds of thousands of migrant workers in India are attempting to get home to other parts of the country from the urban areas where they were working. Due to the sudden shutdown of buses and trains, many are attempting to walk hundreds of miles and dozens have been killed in road accidents already. Advocates are concerned about this population’s access to food and funds, as well as their ability to maintain social distance as people crowd into spaces where government buses are being provided to move people back to other areas of India.

Headline: [COVID-19: Urgent action needed to counter major threat to life in conflict zones](#)

Source: ICRC

Date: March 30, 2020

Notes: The ICRC published a call for “immediate and concerted effort” by humanitarian agencies and states to avert serious consequences due to COVID-19. The article cites the ability of COVID-19 to overwhelm advanced healthcare systems and notes that most humanitarian contexts have many fewer healthcare resources, in addition to challenges with social distancing and WASH in conflict situations.

Headline: [Key quotes on the problematic linkages between COVID-19 and migration](#)

Source: International Journalists Network

Date: March 31, 2020

Notes: This article is a write-up of a webinar that occurred with two analysts from the Migration Policy Institute discussing migration, and especially border closures, as related to COVID-19. It highlights concerns about the lack of protection for migrant populations and the need for migrant populations to feel safe seeking medical care when needed during the pandemic.

Headline: [Greece confirms first coronavirus case in asylum-seeker shelter](#)

Source: Daily Sabah

Date: March 31, 2020

Notes: An asylum seeker in the Ritsona camp in Athens on the Greek mainland has tested positive for COVID-19 after delivering a baby in an Athens hospital. The Ritsona camp is currently hosting over 3,000 refugees and asylum seekers.

Headline: [Refugees to the rescue? Germany taps migrant medics to battle virus](#)

Source: Reuters

Date: March 25, 2020

Notes: Positive messaging about the potential of refugees to provide expertise and assist in the response to COVID-19. Some localities in Germany are recruiting volunteer medical personnel from the refugee community, even those who are not yet officially licensed to practice in Germany.

Compiled by Christina Kay

Headline: [COVID-19 Pandemic Could Devastate Refugee, Migrant and Internally Displaced Populations Without Urgent International Action](#)

Source: UNICEF

Date: April 1, 2020

Notes: UNICEF Executive Director, Henrietta Fore, released a statement on the effects of COVID-19 on vulnerable populations - "Any public health response to the pandemic should reach the most vulnerable, including refugees, migrants and those who are internally displaced. This means ensuring equitable access to testing and treatment as well as access to prevention information and to water and sanitation services. There should be plans in place for safe, family-based care and support for children separated from their caregivers or whose caregivers die."

Headline: [Fearing Coronavirus, Teachers in Syrian Refugee Camp Adapt Once Again](#)

Source: Haaretz

Date: April 2, 2020

Notes: Teachers in the Atmeh camp are shifting to digital learning to fill in the education gap, by using WhatsApp to send videos of lessons.

Headline: [Syrian Refugees Adapt to Life Under Coronavirus Lockdown in Jordan Camps](#)

Source: UNHCR

Date: April 2, 2020

Notes: A review of efforts taken in Za'atari and Azraq through sheltering and infection-control measures in the health facilities, as well as examples of community support. There are no cases of COVID-19 in the camp or outside the camp.

Headline: [Coronavirus: How are Asylum Seekers and Foreign Workers in Israel Coping?](#)

Source: The Jerusalem Post

Date: April 1, 2020

Notes: Interview with Sigal Rozen, public policy director at the Hotline for Refugees and Migrants. He reflects on the impact work lay offs have had on access to healthcare, limits of access to unemployment benefits, and crowded living conditions.

Headline: [Afghanistan Braces for Coronavirus Surge as Migrants Pour Back from Iran](#)

Source: The Guardian

Date: April 1, 2020

Notes: The huge spike in Afghans crossing the porous border from Iran, in one of the biggest cross-border movements of the pandemic, has led to mounting fears in the humanitarian community over the potential impact of new infections carried from Iran.

Headline: [Doctors from Refugee Backgrounds 'Desperate' to Help Australia Fight Coronavirus](#)

Source: SBS News

Date: April 1, 2020

Notes: AMES Australia, the migrant settlement agency, is working with 40 doctors, pharmacists, and dentists to expedite their credentials to begin working in the healthcare sector. Australia has already been experiencing equipment shortages and there is concern for burnout.

Headline: [The Limits of Protection, Prevention and Care: a Miniseries on Refugees in the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

Source: Eurozine

Date: March 31, 2020

Notes: "The European response to coronavirus so far has been focused on nation states and citizens, leaving stateless refugees without means of prevention. Overcrowded and underserved camps have

posed a health hazard already before the virus. Eurozine launches a miniseries to report on refugees' situation on the EU's frontiers."

Headline: [COVID-19 as an Emergency Human Rights Issue](#)

Source: Amnesty International

Date: April 1, 2020

Notes: Deprose Muchena, Director of Amnesty International's East and Southern Africa Regional Office, writes on the importance of states providing preventive care, goods, services, and information and provided to all. Concerns have been raised on the lack of testing in many countries, and the impact COVID-19 will have on people detained in prison conditions.

Headline: [Lebanon: Refugees at Risk in COVID-19 Response](#)

Source: Human Rights Watch

Date:

Notes: Discriminatory restrictions to combat COVID-19 have been placed on Syrian refugees that do not apply to Lebanese residents. Restrictions include mandatory sheltering in place, curfews, and additional requirement in the Bekaa valley for one individual to coordinate with the municipality to acquire needed goods for the whole community. A lack of legal status, restrictive curfews, and limited communication is leading to Syrians' inability to access healthcare and information to protect themselves.

Headline: [Greece Quarantines Camp as 20 Refugees Test Positive for COVID-19](#)

Source: Reuters

Date: April 2, 2020

Notes: Greece's Ministry of Migration announced Thursday that Ritsona camp will be quarantined. All individuals who tested positive showed no symptoms. The International Organization for Migration will begin distributing food baskets and hygiene kits to camp residents.

Compiled by Rocio Rodriguez Casquete

Headline: [Insecurity in Burkina Faso forces thousands of Malian refugees to leave camp](#)

Source: UNHCR

Date: April 3, 2020

Notes: UNHCR is alarmed at growing insecurity in Burkina Faso that has triggered massive displacement since January 2019, which has been exacerbated by the arrival of COVID-19.

Headline: [In the news: Aid groups blocked from Burundi coronavirus quarantine sites](#)

Source: The New Humanitarian

Date: April 2, 2020

Notes: Humanitarian organizations have been blocked from providing assistance to people kept in quarantine sites in Burundi, which were set up for Burundians and foreign travelers.

Headline: [U.S. again postpones immigration hearings for migrants in Mexico due to coronavirus](#)

Source: Reuters

Date: April 1, 2020

Notes: The Trump Administration announced on Wednesday that court hearings for migrants waiting in Mexico under the Migrant Protection Protocols would be postponed through May 1.

Headline: [Packed with Refugees, Palestinian Camps Face Grave Threat if Coronavirus Spreads](#)

Source: New York Times

Date: April 2, 2020

Notes: Palestinians in camps in the West Bank have expressed concerns that donor priorities have shifted and UNRWA will not have sufficient resources to respond to a COVID-19 outbreak.

Headline: [Coronavirus Poses Added Risks to Australia's Immigration Detainees](#)

Source: Human Rights Watch

Date: April 2, 2020

Notes: While the Australian Home Affairs Department has declared hotels housing migrants, or alternative places of detention, as "low risk," detained migrants and healthcare professionals state that these detention centers are an extremely high risk environment.

Headline: [The Unseen Pandemic](#)

Source: The Atlantic

Date: April 2, 2020

Notes: The Atlantic reviews the situation in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, including issues with access to information. WHO estimates that half a million to 2 million people in the country could die from COVID-19.

Headline: [Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela During COVID-19 Crisis: As Needs Soar More Inclusive Measures and Aid are Essential](#)

Source: UNHCR and IOM

Date: April 1, 2020

Notes: UNHCR and IOM have issued a joint press release urging regional actors and the broader international community to focus attention on the challenges faced by refugees and migrants from Venezuela.

Headline: ['Coronavirus is dangerous, but hunger is more so': Afghan refugees in Pakistan seek help](#)

Source: Dawn

Date: April 3, 2020

Notes: Afghan refugees in and around Karachi have expressed concerns for their livelihoods amid the government-imposed lockdown. Pakistan's government has called on the UN to assist with providing for Afghan refugees. UNHCR is currently working to provide assistance for health, water and sanitation, and risk communication.

Headline: [No Masks, Disinfectant or Soap. This is Detention Amid a Pandemic.](#)

Source: New York Times

Date: April 2, 2020

Notes: The opinion piece written by a translator and interpreter for asylum seekers detained in Dilley, Texas, outlines the concerning images and communication advocates are receiving from detained asylum seekers. Asylum seekers are concerned that they have no access to soap and toilet paper and no way to protect themselves and their children as individuals in the facilities are getting sick.

Compiled by Sarah Guyer

Daily COVID-19 and Migration Digest Monday, April 6, 2020

Headline: [Here's what the COVID-19 response looks like in refugee camps](#)

Source: DevEx

Date: April 3, 2020

Notes: This article details the efforts underway in refugee camps across the world to reduce the impact of COVID-19. Among the efforts described are social distancing measures (such as putting tape on the ground so that queues for food distribution are appropriately spaced), attempting to pre-position necessary PPE and healthcare supplies, and ensuring the spread of accurate information about COVID-19 and prevention measures.

Headline: [Libya: Coronavirus outbreak could be 'catastrophic' for migrants](#)

Source: AlJazeera

Date: April 4, 2020

Notes: Concerns grow about migrants, asylum seekers and IDPs in Libya, especially those in detention centers, as cases of COVID-19 rise in the country. Crowded conditions, lack of adequate WASH facilities, and a lack of accurate information about the disease put people trapped in these detention centers at high risk. Additionally, the Libyan healthcare system is unprepared to respond to a large outbreak, especially with the ongoing conflict and necessary use of healthcare resources to attend to war injuries.

Headline: [South Sudan 51st of 54 African nations to report virus case](#)

Source: ABCNews

Date: April 5, 2020

Notes: South Sudan has reported its first case of COVID-19, in a UN worker returning from the Netherlands. The country has 4 ventilators and a population of 11 million people. South Sudan had previously implemented a curfew from 8pm to 6am for a period of six weeks and closed borders and places of public gathering such as mosques and schools.

Headline: [UNHCR works to ensure no refugees left behind in COVID-19 crisis in Indonesia](#)

Source: Jakarta Post

Date: April 5, 2020

Notes: UNHCR in Jakarta is taking steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among refugee populations in Indonesia. These steps include expanding cash assistance and distributing masks and sanitation kits. Refugee women are also playing a role in producing masks to distribute to vulnerable populations in Indonesia.

Headline: [Coronavirus: Singapore quarantines 20,000 migrant workers](#)

Source: BBC

Date: April 6, 2020

Notes: Two dormitories holding thousands of migrant workers have been quarantined for 14 days in Singapore after dozens of cases were confirmed in each dormitory. The workers will be paid and given 3 meals a day but some have raised concerns about the crowded conditions in the dormitories, where as many as 12 people share one room.

Headline: [Israeli Minister Pushes to Deduct Coronavirus Fines From Asylum Seekers' Deposit Accounts](#)

Source: Haaretz

Date: April 5, 2020

Notes: Israel's Public Security Minister has proposed legislation that would allow the state to deduct from the deposit accounts that asylum seekers are obligated to maintain and to which they will gain access

once they leave Israel. The proposed legislation would allow the state to deduct any fines accrued by asylum seekers related to violating COVID-19 regulations directly from these accounts.

Headline: [Delivery of Humanitarian Aid in Sudan Designed to Prevent Spread of COVID-19](#)

Source: Voice of America

Date: April 5, 2020

Notes: OCHA and other humanitarian partners are revising the way that aid is delivered in Sudan in an attempt to limit the spread of COVID-19. The changes being made include distributing several months worth of food at one time and providing guidance to service providers about how to safely continue programs such as childhood immunization and feeding and counseling for gender-based violence.

Headline: [Coronavirus crisis in Colombia triggers reversal in migration from Venezuela](#)

Source: Colombia Reports

Date: April 5, 2020

Notes: “Colombia’s migration authority confirmed Saturday it had helped 600 Venezuelan immigrants to return to their native country after the coronavirus crisis had left them without food or shelter.” There has been confusion in Colombia about whether assistance provided by the government related to COVID-19 can be received by non-citizens, prompting thousands of Venezuelans to attempt to walk back to the border from inside Colombia.

Headline: [A Gender Lens on COVID-19: Pandemics and Violence against Women and Children](#)

Source: Center for Global Development

Date: April 3, 2020

Notes: This commentary highlights the way in which the COVID-19 pandemic may increase violence against women and children, especially in disasters and conflict settings. It also provides eight recommendations for governments, civil society, and international and community-based organizations on how to lessen the impact and protect women and girls.

Headline: [‘I’m Proud Of Myself’: Refugee Nurse On The Frontlines Of COVID-19](#)

Source: HuffPost

Date: April 2, 2020

Notes: This piece highlights the contributions to the COVID-19 response of a Registered Nurse who was granted asylum to the US in 2009. “She said she hopes more people will recognize the contributions refugees like herself make to society as they fight through misconceptions that refugees “are not capable of doing good things” or that they solely rely on the government for assistance.”

Resources:

[IASC Interim Guidance: Gender Alert for COVID-19 Outbreak](#)

[Pandemics and Violence Against Women and Children - working paper](#)

Compiled by Christina Kay

Headline: [Bangladesh: COVID-19 response flaws put older Rohingya refugees in imminent danger](#)

Source: Amnesty International

Date: April 6, 2020

Notes: Amnesty International writes that older adults in Cox's Bazar are being left behind in the COVID-19 response. Older adults are at risk of being excluded from the most basic information about COVID-19 and how to stay safe, even though evidence suggests that older adults are one of the highest risk populations.

Headline: [Singapore is racing to stop coronavirus spreading in migrant worker dormitories](#)

Source: Quartz

Date: April 6, 2020

Notes: Authorities in Singapore have placed two large dormitories housing almost 20,000 foreign workers on lockdown after nearly 100 residents have tested positive for COVID-19. Workers living in the dormitories will be unable to leave for fourteen days as part of the government's COVID-19 "dedicated strategy."

Headline: [As coronavirus layoffs surge in richer countries, poorer ones lose vital remittance payments](#)

Source: Washington Post

Date: April 6, 2020

Notes: As the pandemic impacts the global economy and jobs are lost, economists warn that remittances will decline sharply, threatening the wellbeing of families and the economies of some low- and middle-income countries.

Headline: [In Myanmar's Rakhine state, conflict and internet blackout mar COVID-19 response](#)

Source: Devex

Date: April 6, 2020

Notes: Human rights groups warn that displaced populations in Rakhine, Chin, Shan, Kachin, and Karen states are vulnerable to an outbreak, particularly given historically limited humanitarian access and a government-imposed internet blackout in nine townships in Rakhine.

Headline: [Venezuelan refugees are returning home amid the coronavirus pandemic](#)

Source: CNN

Date: April 6, 2020

Notes: Without work, some Venezuelan refugees in Colombia report feeling as though they have no choice but to return to Venezuela. Colombia's migration agency announced on Sunday that nearly 600 Venezuelans have returned via the international bridge in the city of Cucuta.

Headline: [Gulf States: Ease Immigration Detention in Pandemic](#)

Source: Human Rights Watch

Date: April 7, 2020

Notes: Human Rights Watch urges Gulf Cooperation Council countries to provide alternatives to detention, curb arrests of undocumented migrants including workers who "abscond," lift overstay fines, and follow procedures for migrants who wish to return home. Many workers are in prolonged pre-deportation detention in crowded and unsanitary conditions.

Headline: [UNHCR warns chronic lack of resources contributing to new crisis in Burkina Faso](#)

Source: UNHCR

Date: April 7, 2020

Notes: UNHCR spokesperson Babar Baloch reported that in Burkina Faso – the world’s fastest growing displacement crisis – armed groups have continued to attack military, civilians, schools, health centres, teachers, and health workers in the Centre Nord and Sahel regions. Borders are closed and movement is restricted to and from towns with confirmed coronavirus cases.

Headline: [Syrian Refugees in Lebanon Fear Deportation For Seeking Coronavirus Test or Care](#)

Source: NPR

Date: April 6, 2020

Notes: Syrian refugees in Lebanon without residency permits report fear of seeking testing or treatment for COVID-19. UNHCR states that refugees “should not see any obstacle” in requesting testing or care.

Headline: [Coronavirus: Social distancing is cutting asylum seekers off from education and support](#)

Source: The Conversation

Date: April 6, 2020

Notes: A researcher studying migrant communities in the UK discusses concerns that social distancing will negatively impact informal networks that asylum-seekers in the UK depend on, including those to access education and other services.

Headline: [Feeling anxious and scared? Refugees like me can help](#)

Source: Knoxville News Sentinel

Date: April 6, 2020

Notes: This opinion piece written by a Syrian refugee living in Knoxville, Tennessee, USA highlights the way that refugees can teach us all about how to handle adversity – and the way that this crisis might show us that “we’re more alike than different.”

Compiled by Sarah Guyer

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Wednesday, April 8, 2020

Headline: [Aid Groups Say They've Never Faced A Challenge Like The Novel Coronavirus](#)

Source: NPR

Date: April 7, 2020

Notes: Personnel from humanitarian groups throughout the world weighed in on the particular challenges of working on the COVID-19 pandemic in refugee and other situations. The issues highlighted include the fact that the crisis is occurring in all countries at the same time, that equipment and supplies may be hoarded by higher income countries to fight the disease in their own countries, and that the movement of staff is so restricted which impacts programming.

Headline: [India: Fears of coronavirus outbreak in Assam's detention centres](#)

Source: AlJazeera

Date: April 8, 2020

Notes: "As India struggles to contain the spread of the pandemic, families of more than 800 undocumented migrants being held indefinitely in six detention centres across Assam are worried about the safety of their loved ones."

Headline: [Italy closes ports to refugee ships because of coronavirus](#)

Source: AlJazeera

Date: April 8, 2020

Notes: Stating that it could no longer be considered a place of safety for refugees, Italy has closed its borders to refugee ships until July 31. The government has already stated that this could be extended to a later date. A Sea-Eye ship that tried to dock in Italy now needs another port or way to evacuate the 150 refugees on board.

Headline: [COVID-19 in humanitarian settings and lessons learned from past epidemics](#)

Source: Nature Medicine

Date: April 8, 2020

Notes: In this commentary authored by the PFMH team at Columbia University, concerns about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on refugees and other vulnerable populations are raised and lessons learned from the past are raised. Some of these include: the importance of maintaining essential health services for non-COVID-19 related health issues, access to infection prevention and treatment for displaced populations, and the importance of community engagement and trust.

Headline: [Migrants and COVID-19 in Norway: Five Reflections on Skewed Impacts](#)

Source: PRIO Blogs

Date: April 6, 2020

Notes: This piece examines the disproportionate infection rate of migrants, particularly Norwegian-Somalis, in Norway versus the rest of the population. The authors posit several different reasons that this may be, and raise the concern that this may exacerbate existing stigmatization that Norwegian-Somali communities have experienced in the past.

Headline: [Coronavirus in Ireland – Government add 650 extra temporary beds for asylum seekers in Direct Provision due to Covid-19](#)

Source: The Irish Sun

Date: April 6, 2020

Notes: The Irish government is moving to protect asylum seekers housed in their "Direct Provision" system by expanding the number of sites with available beds. This will allow vulnerable asylum seekers to be moved out of facilities that house up to 600 people into places where they can more effectively socially isolate.

Headline: [Undocumented Migrants: If We're 'Essential' Workers During COVID-19, Why Detain Us?](#)

Source: WLRN News

Date: April 7, 2020

Notes: Undocumented migrant workers in the agricultural sector have been instructed to continue working during the COVID-19 pandemic because their contribution is essential. However, they are still facing the possibility of detention, despite assurances by ICE that criminal arrests are the focus. Immigrant advocacy groups are calling for the release of non-criminal detainees and hoping that “the designation of agricultural workers as ‘essential’ will help change attitudes about undocumented migrants.”

Headline: [Refugees giving back to coronavirus-hit Malaysia](#)

Source: AlJazeera

Date: April 6, 2020

Notes: Refugee leaders in Malaysia are mobilizing to support vulnerable members in their communities as the number of COVID-19 infections in Malaysia climbs. The article notes that the fastest response to the pandemic in refugee communities has come from within the communities themselves. Additionally, recognizing that there are many chefs within the refugee community, the groups have mobilized to cook and deliver free food to health care workers at Ampang Hospital in Kuala Lumpur.

Compiled by Christina Kay

Headline: [IOM Calls for European Solidarity and Action on Mediterranean Rescue Amid COVID-19](#)

Source: IOM

Date: April 9, 2020

Notes: A call to action by the IOM - “We recognize that while many countries have chosen to tighten control at their borders in an effort to contain the spread of the pandemic, it is crucial that such measures be implemented in a non-discriminatory manner, in line with international law, and prioritizes the protection of the most vulnerable.”

Headline: [Asylum Min: Greek Gov’t has Emergency Plan for COVID-19 Cases in Refugee Camps](#)

Source: The National Herald

Date: April 8, 2020

Notes: The Migration and Asylum Minister Notis Mitarachi announced Wednesday the government had an emergency plan in place for both refugee and migrant accommodation facilities and in local communities. The plan has not been released. He noted there were 28 cases in 38 facilities where around 70,000 asylum seekers live.

Headline: [COVID-19 Impact on Humanitarian Operations](#)

Source: ACAPS

Date: April 9, 2020

Notes: 80 NGOs were surveyed to better understand the current crisis and its impact on humanitarian operations between March 27th and March 30th. Questions include impact by country-enforced measures, violence towards aid workers, changes made to working routine, and impacted areas of operations.

Headline: [Fears in Uganda over coronavirus outbreak in refugee settlements](#)

Source: Al Jazeera

Date: April 8, 2020

Notes: Advocates are responding to recent announcements by the World Food Programme of a 30% reduction in food rations to refugees effective April 1, and a stay at home order by Ugandan president Yoweri Museveni implemented March 30th.

Headline: [COVID-19 Movement Restrictions: Libya Mobility Restriction Dashboard #1](#)

Source: IOM

Date: April 8, 2020

Notes: Update on Libya’s public health response to COVID-19, including travel and mobility restrictions at airports, points of entry, and domestic movement.

Headline: [‘The NHS Needs Them:’ UK Urged to Join Countries Mobilizing Migrant Medics](#)

Source: The Guardian

Date: April 8, 2020

Notes: A review of efforts being undertaken in several countries and two states in the U.S. who have relaxed restrictions on foreign-born medical professionals to work. Country wide curfews have also been implemented.

Headline: [Coronavirus: Belgium Restarts Services for Asylum Seekers](#)

Source: The Brussels Times

Date: April 8, 2020

Notes: The Belgian Immigration Department has reopened their offices to begin registering asylum seekers again in their offices. Priority is being given to families and vulnerable people.

Headline: [COVID-19 Spreading Quickly Through Refugee Camps, Warn Calais Aid Groups](#)

Source: The Guardian

Date: April 9, 2020

Notes: Advocates and aid groups are concerned with the delays with moving individuals into accommodation centers. They also remark on limited access to water, food provided by the government.

Resources:

Google – [COVID-19 Community Mobility Reports](#)

UNFPA – [Global Response Plan](#)

The Center – [Multilingual Materials](#)

Compiled by Rocio Rodriguez Casquete

Headline: [Malta Accused of Sabotaging Migrant Boat](#)

Source: The New York Times

Date: April 9, 2020

Notes: A nongovernmental watchdog organization has reported that the Maltese Navy boarded a migrant boat and damaged the engine, before leaving it a drift. While the Maltese government later reported that the boat carrying 70 migrants on route from Libya had been rescued, it said that it could not guarantee the rescue of migrants due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Headline: [Briefing: What's behind South Sudan's COVID-19 inspired UN-backlash](#)

Source: The New Humanitarian

Date: April 10, 2020

Notes: South Sudan reported its first three cases of COVID-19, all UN staff members. Following newspaper and social media posts blaming the UN for bringing the virus to the country, the UN and some other agencies suspended all but essential movement of staff.

Headline: [Hundreds of migrants stuck in Niger amid coronavirus pandemic](#)

Source: Al Jazeera

Date: April 9, 2020

Notes: As countries are closing their borders, migrants transiting through Niger have been stuck in the country. Migrants who have been deported from Algeria are forced to quarantine in tent facilities, then are remaining in transit centers in Niger, straining IOM and NGO systems.

Headline: [EU/Italy: Port Closures Cut Migrant and Refugee Lifeline](#)

Source: Human Rights Watch

Date: April 9, 2020

Notes: The Italian government issued a formal decree on April 7th declaring that its ports are unsafe for disembarkation. A rescue ship operated by NGO Sea-Eye is in Italian waters following two rescues. Human Rights Watch urges the Italian government to immediately assign the Sea-Eye ship a safe port.

Headline: [Yemen confirms first coronavirus case, braces for outbreak](#)

Source: Al Jazeera

Date: April 10, 2020

Notes: On Friday, Yemen announced the first COVID-19 case in the country, which was reported in Hadramout province. This comes following the Saudi-led coalition announcement that it would halt military operations, although a Houthi spokesman has said that they do not believe it is a ceasefire while the siege continues.

Headline: [CBP returns thousands of migrants since COVID-19 order](#)

Source: Roll Call

Date: April 9, 2020

Notes: Customs and Border Protection announced that it has returned more than 6,000 migrants at the border since COVID-19 restrictions were put in place. The order to promptly return migrants issued by the CDC means that regular processes are bypassed that would allow migrants to apply for asylum.

Headline: [UN Agency Says 280 Migrants Stranded in Unsafe Port for Libya](#)

Source: New York Times

Date: April 9, 2020

Notes: IOM has reported that a ship diverted back to the country by the Libyan Coast Guard on Thursday was banned from disembarking in Libya, and migrants remained on the ship during heavy bombardment of the port area.

Headline: [Coronavirus and aid: What we're watching, 9-15 April](#)

Source: The New Humanitarian

Notes: The New Humanitarian recounts the major COVID-19 developments from the week in their weekly roundup.

Headline: [Nativist Hate Groups Want to Keep People in ICE Detention Despite COVID-19 Threat](#)

Source: Southern Poverty Law Center

Date: April 9, 2020

Notes: SPLC outlines some of the recent rhetoric around immigration detention and enforcement from anti-immigrant groups such as the Center for Immigration Studies and the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR).

Resources:

Inter-Agency Working Group on Reproductive Health in Crises (IAWG) COVID-19 [Resource Hub](#)

Compiled by Sarah Guyer

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Headline: [Three Covid-19 cases prompt fear of coronavirus outbreak in 'Jungle' refugee camps of Calais and Dunkirk](#)

Source: Evening Standard

Date: April 11, 2020

Notes: In informal camps housing asylum seekers and refugees in Northern France, the first cases of Covid-19 have sparked fears and highlighted the vulnerabilities of the community to this disease. Housing is inadequate and a study by Utopia 56 conducted last week showed 1200 people sharing a single water point.

Headline: [Clamping down on refugees will not save Lebanon from the pandemic](#)

Source: AlJazeera

Date: April 11, 2020

Notes: In the wake of moves by the Lebanese government to crack down on unnecessary movement from refugee communities, the author highlights the need for an inclusive public health response in Lebanon, citing a problematic history of disparities in past public health campaigns between benefits provided to Lebanese citizens and refugees/asylum seekers.

Headline: [The Impending Mass Grave Across the Border From Texas](#)

Source: New York Times

Date: April 12, 2020

Notes: Concerns are rising about the impending impact of covid-19 on the informal settlement of asylum seekers in Matamoros, Mexico where crowded conditions, insufficient WASH structures, and lack of agency assistance leave the community especially unprepared to control the spread of the illness. The author posits that international will to assist migrant populations is lacking.

Headline: [After enduring months of lockdown, Africans in China are being targeted and evicted from apartments](#)

Source: Quartz Africa

Date: April 11, 2020

Notes: After five Nigerians in Guangzhou reportedly tested positive for Covid-19, videos are surfacing of African migrants being evicted from their homes and refused entry into hotels across China.

Headline: [The Pandemic Exposes India's Apathy Toward Migrant Workers](#)

Source: The Atlantic

Date: April 12, 2020

Notes: This article highlights the importance of migrant workers to India's economy and the lack of thought about how the national lockdown for Covid-19 would impact this population as well as the lack of protection for migrant workers that has followed. Discourse about migrant worker rights has now been elevated to a national stage in India but assistance to these populations is still fragmented.

Headline: [Trump Welcomes More Guest Workers Amid Crisis While Rejecting Asylum Seekers](#)

Source: TruthOut

Date: April 11, 2020

Notes: This article highlights the discrepancy between two Trump administration reactions to Covid-19 with regard to migration policy. First, asylum seekers are being universally turned away at the border allegedly due to concerns about the spread of Covid-19, but second, officials are also considering expanding visas for temporary workers, which offer few protections for these workers from abuse.

Headline: [In the news: COVID-19 port closures leave migrants stranded at sea](#)

Source: The New Humanitarian

Date: April 13, 2020

Notes: “Migrants trying to reach Europe from North Africa have been left stranded on the Mediterranean Sea after Italy and Malta closed their ports due to public health reasons amid the COVID-19 outbreak.”

Headline: [Migration & Mobility in Contexts of COVID-19](#)

Source: African Union

Date: April 10, 2020

Notes: The African Union has issued a press release commending the efforts of member states to curb the spread of covid-19 and raising concerns about the impacts of the methods used on vulnerable populations. In the press release, the AU highlights the vulnerability of migrants, refugees and IDPs and “calls for scrupulous adherence to international humanitarian law during lockdown as it applies to the persons of concern.”

Compiled by Christina Kay

Headline: [How Migrant Shelters in Mexico are Facing COVID-19](#)

Source: Slate

Date: April 13, 2020

Notes: Migrant shelters in Mexico are facing difficult decisions about how to respond to COVID-19. The article recounts conversations with three migrant shelters throughout the country and the actions they have taken to respond COVID-19, including ensuring access to healthcare services, quarantining residents, and limiting common areas.

Headline: [As coronavirus spreads in Congo, Ebola resurfaces](#)

Source: The New Humanitarian

Date: April 13, 2020

Notes: New cases of Ebola have been reported in DRC as the country responds to COVID-19, as well as measles, cholera, and ongoing violence. The possibility of repurposing resources such as Ebola treatment centers for a possible COVID response is now uncertain as the country must respond to both simultaneously.

Headline: [Coronavirus Fears Terrify and Impoverish Migrants in the Persian Gulf](#)

Source: The New York Times

Date: April 13, 2020

Notes: The article provides an overview of the situation for migrant workers in Gulf countries, as well as information on their inclusion in national COVID-19 responses.

Headline: [U.N. says Saudi deportations of Ethiopian migrants risks spreading coronavirus](#)

Source: Reuters

Date: April 13, 2020

Notes: The UN reports that Saudi Arabia has deported nearly 3,000 Ethiopian migrants since the beginning of the pandemic. It is anticipated that approximately 200,000 Ethiopian migrants will be deported in total, making continued transmission likely. All returning migrants will be tested and quarantined for 14 days.

Headline: [Migrant farm workers from Jamaica are being forced to sign COVID-19 waivers](#)

Source: The Toronto Star

Date: April 13, 2020

Notes: Migrant workers participating in the Canadian Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program are being asked to sign waivers to release the Jamaican government for liability for any "costs, damages, and loss" caused by exposure to COVID-19. Some migrants reported that their employers expected them to start immediately, although the Canadian government was requiring two weeks of paid quarantine.

Headline: [Libya: Hostilities threaten COVID-19 response](#)

Source: OCHA

Date: April 13, 2020

Notes: The COVID response in Libya has been threatened by ongoing hostilities, including a disruption to the water supply to 2 million people and a power outage in the western region, both due to conflict. Heavy shelling has displaced families in Tripoli, and, on April 12, shelling struck in ambulance near Misrata, killing a paramedic.

Headline: [Lebanon: Migrant domestic workers must be protected during COVID-19 pandemic](#)

Source: Amnesty International

Date: April 14, 2020

Notes: Amnesty International issued a statement calling on the Lebanese government to announce measures to protect migrant domestic workers. Migrant domestic workers are part of the kafala system, which ties sponsorship to a single employer, increasing the risk of exploitation.

Headline: [Coronavirus – Now is not the time to forget Afghanistan and its neighbors](#)

Source: UNHCR

Date: April 14, 2020

Notes: In the past month, a large number of Afghan nationals have returned to Afghanistan from Iran and Pakistan, raising concerns that Afghanistan's medical and social services will be overwhelmed. Afghans in Iran and Pakistan who have suddenly lost work have reported difficulty paying for medical expenses and basic needs.

Other Noteworthy:

Just Security: [Coronavirus Border Expulsions: CDC's Assault on Asylum Seekers and Unaccompanied Minors](#)

Compiled by Sarah Guyer

Daily COVID-19 and Migration Digest
Wednesday, April 15, 2020

Headline: [COVID-19 Offers Chance to Address Human Rights Concerns](#)

Source: Human Rights Watch

Date: April 14, 2020

Notes: A new 40-question checklist published by Human Rights Watch seeks to guide governments in a rights-based approach as they respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. “Governments should take urgent action to prevent the spread of Covid-19 and care for those most affected without sacrificing human rights.” *Checklist linked under “Resources” section at the bottom of this digest.*

Headline: [Avoiding a COVID-19 Migration Crisis](#)

Source: Project Syndicate

Date: April 14, 2020

Notes: “Refugees stand the most to lose from COVID-19 as the virus ratchets up extreme nationalism. Unless the strategy to defeat the coronavirus emphasizes inclusiveness, courage, and collaboration, without distinction or discrimination, it will not succeed.”

Headline: [Migrants Take Out Huge Loans to Pay Coyotes. Coronavirus Could Cause Them to Default](#)

Source: Vice News

Date: April 14, 2020

Notes: This article highlights the difficulties of migrants from Central America who owe large debts to smugglers for their help in crossing the border to the US, many of whom have few prospects for paying off these debts now due to the shortage of work related to COVID-19.

Headline: [COVID-19 has Kenyan refugee camp on edge](#)

Source: The New Humanitarian

Date: April 14, 2020

Notes: Refugees in Kenya’s Kakuma refugee camp are attempting to prepare for a possible outbreak of COVID-19 as the virus spreads elsewhere in Kenya. World Food Programme is distributing two months of food at one time, and residents are attempting to stock up on food purchases. Attempts to protect the camp from the virus have also decreased services to the population, and the health system serving the community is weak and not prepared to respond to a possible outbreak, so many efforts have focused on prevention.

Headline: [Guatemala health chief says at least half of deportees from U.S. have coronavirus](#)

Source: Los Angeles Times

Date: April 14, 2020

Notes: This article details the struggle between the Guatemalan and US governments relating to the deportation of Guatemalan nationals from the US during the time of COVID-19. Guatemala has stopped accepting deportees at various times throughout the last weeks and has noted that many of the individuals being deported test positive for COVID-19.

Headline: [UN Agencies Welcome First Relocation of Unaccompanied Children from Greece](#)

Source: ReliefWeb

Date: April 15, 2020

Notes: Twelve unaccompanied children have been relocated from crowded reception centers in Greece to Luxembourg, with more relocations being planned for this weekend. These are the first relocations under a European Union initiative for 1,600 unaccompanied children in which ten Member States and Switzerland have pledged to participate.

Headline: [Refugees offer medical experience to help tackle coronavirus crisis in France](#)

Source: UNHCR

Date: April 14, 2020

Notes: “The COVID-19 crisis has sparked an outpouring of solidarity from people around the world and that includes refugees, keen to help in the countries where they now live. Many refugees in Europe involved in medicine in their home countries are finding new ways to use their skills to help care for those in need.”

Resources:

Human Rights Watch: [COVID-19: A Human Rights Checklist](#)

Compiled by Christina Kay

Headline: [Greece Relocates Unaccompanied Migrant Children to Luxembourg](#)

Source: BBC

Date: April 15, 2020

Notes: Greece will be relocating 1,600 unaccompanied children to European countries. The first 12 children have been moved to Luxembourg, and 50 more will be moved to Germany on Saturday and 20 to Switzerland.

Headline: [Qatar: Migrant Workers Illegally Expelled During COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

Source: Amnesty International

Date: April 15, 2020

Notes: “Qatari authorities rounded up and expelled dozens of migrant workers after telling them they were being taken to be tested for COVID-19, Amnesty International has learned.”

Headline: [California and Philanthropists are Teaming up to Give Stimulus Checks to Undocumented Immigrants](#)

Source: CNN

Date: April 15, 2020

Notes: California governor, Gavin Newsom announced Wednesday that California undocumented workers will receive between \$500-\$1000 as part of a \$125 million coronavirus disaster relief fund. California is the first state to announce such a program.

Headline: [New Mobility Challenges Across Hispaniola in the Era of COVID-19](#)

Source: Kompas

Date: April 15, 2020

Notes: Bridget Wooding, director of the Observatory of Caribbean Migrants in the Dominican Republic writes about the challenges COVID-19 posts for Haitian migrants in the Dominican Republic and those who migrate during the pandemic. Haiti’s notorious lack of health services capacity, overcrowded housing in urban areas, and informal labor further endanger Haitians during the response.

Headline: [How are Asylum-Seekers in the EU Faring During the Coronavirus Pandemic?](#)

Source: Studio Berlin

Date: April 15, 2020

Notes: In this podcast, Studio Berlin host Soraya Sarhaddi Nelson speaks with guests about member states’ border closures, refugee resettlement, and the limited impetus to address refugee rights and human rights in the context of migration. Includes an interview with Jane Wangare, a volunteer with “Women in Exile” and an asylum-seeker in the eastern Germany city of Suhl

Headline: [Police Called to Advise Asylum Seekers Staying at Nottingham Hotel who ‘Don’t Understand’ Lockdown Guidance](#)

Source: Nottinghamshire Live

Date: April 16, 2020

Notes: Example of inflammatory reporting of of small gatherings occurring near a hotel being used to house asylum seekers. Police cite language barriers for asylum seekers’ misunderstanding.

Headline: [Hungary Decides to Deport Iranians for Violating Health Measures Against COVID-19](#)

Source: Aawsat

Date: April 26, 2020

Notes: Hungarian Police lieutenant colonel Robert Kiss announced in a news briefing that 14 Iranian students will be expelled Thursday and April 23 for violating quarantine rules.

Headline: [Refugees in German Centre Fear Lack of Protection as COVID-19 Cases Soar](#)

Source: The Guardian

Date: April 15, 2020

Notes: “Confirmed cases of coronavirus at a facility in the south-western town of Ellwangen where refugees are accommodated while their asylum applications are processed had increased from seven to 251 in five days, authorities confirmed on Tuesday.”

Headline: [Zimbabwe: Unsafe Water Raises COVID-19 Risks](#)

Source: Human Rights Watch

Date: April 15, 2020

Notes: Advocates are concerned with the pre-existing water and sanitation crisis. They call for the Zimbabwe government to ensure safe water access for all, otherwise facing health risks and individuals seek alternate and unsafe water sources.

Compiled by Rocio Rodriguez Casquete

Headline: [Commission Presents Guidance on Implementing EU Rules on Asylum and Return Procedures and on Resettlement](#)

Source: European Commission

Date: April 16, 2020

Notes: “Today, the Commission adopted guidance on the implementation of relevant EU rules on asylum and return procedures and on resettlement in the context of the coronavirus pandemic...”

Headline: [Women Mobilize to Prevent COVID-19 in Crowded Rohingya Refugee Camps](#)

Source: UN Women

Date: April 16, 2020

Notes: “To prevent an added humanitarian crisis in the already-vulnerable Rohingya refugee camps in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh, 24 Rohingya volunteers are working with UN Women to mobilize their communities and raise awareness on COVID-19.”

Headline: [Israel Restricts UNRWA Coronavirus Efforts in Jerusalem Refugee Camps](#)

Source: Middle East Monitor

Date: April 16, 2020

Notes: Sami Mshasha, spokesperson for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA), said that Israeli occupation authorities are impeding UNRWA’s efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Jerusalem and its refugee camps.

Headline: [Ongoing Insecurity in Eastern DRC Could Derail Coronavirus Containment](#)

Source: UNHCR

Date: April 17, 2020

Notes: Babar Baloch, UNHCR spokesperson, stated at a press briefing today in Geneva that the latest rounds of violence in the eastern parts of the DRC can lead to further disruption to COVID-19 prevention coordination, assistance, and humanitarian access for displaced people.

Headline: [Ethiopia Moves to Close Eritrean Refugee Camp Despite Coronavirus Fears](#)

Source: Dispatch Live

Date: April 16, 2020

Notes: The Ethiopian government will be closing a camp for Eritrean refugees and relocating to other camps in an effort to centralize resources. Despite delays due to Ethiopia’s first COVID-19 case in March, they are now proceeding with preparations and will begin relocations at the end of April.

Headline: [The U.S. and Mexico are Blocking Kids from Asking for Asylum Because of Coronavirus](#)

Source: The Intercept

Date: April 16, 2020

Notes: Starting March 21, the U.S. government has been systematically expelling children citing COVID-19. Estimate placing the number of minors expelled between 299 and 377. This rides on policy decisions taken by the U.S. previously to reduce the number of asylum seekers accepted into the country.

Headline: [Coronavirus: Singapore Spike Reveals Scale of Migrant Worker Infections](#)

Source: BBC

Date: April 17, 2020

Notes: Singapore is experiencing an outbreak linked to industrial worksites and overcrowded worker dormitories. On Thursday, 728 new cases were reported, bringing the total number of cases to 4,427.

Headline: [Lebanon's Coronavirus Lockdown Leaves Migrant Women Penniless and Stranded](#)

Source: Reuters

Date: April 16, 2020

Notes: "Since Lebanon closed its borders in one of the world's strictest coronavirus lockdowns, workers' rights groups say tens of thousands of migrant women have been left stranded, most of them domestic workers from Ethiopia."

Compiled by Rocio Rodriguez Casquete

Daily COVID-19 and Migration Digest
Monday, April 20, 2020

Headline: [COVID-19 could bring about a migration crisis. Here's how we can avoid it](#)

Source: World Economic Forum

Date: April 17, 2020

Notes: Former Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh warns that lockdown measures and the closure of borders often lead to a rise in extreme nationalism and insularity, leading to xenophobic sentiment amongst administrations and their citizens. He writes that migrants and refugees stand to lose the most from COVID-19, unless action is taken to protect them and stresses the importance of an inclusive, encouraging and collaborative, international framework to defeat COVID-19.

Headline: [The Spike in Singapore's Coronavirus Cases Reveals an Uncomfortable Truth About the Treatment of Migrant Workers](#)

Source: Vice News

Date: April 17, 2020

Notes: In Singapore, where COVID-19 previously appeared to be well controlled, there has been a recent spike in cases. Now about 60% of the cases in the country are among the migrant worker population, which is causing some Singaporeans to blame foreigners for the disease. Migrant workers in Singapore receive few protections and often live in cramped dormitories run by private companies.

Headline: [COVID-19 Is Cutting Into Vital Money U.S. Migrant Workers Send Back Home](#)

Source: NPR

Date: April 17, 2020

Notes: As joblessness in the US climbs, migrant workers are struggling to both meet their needs and also send their usual remittances back to their families in other countries. In 2019, immigrant workers in the U.S. sent an estimated \$150 billion abroad, and experts expect this to decline by at least 7% this year.

Headline: [Gulf: Concerns regarding migrant workers' rights during COVID-19 pandemic](#)

Source: Amnesty International

Date: April 19, 2020

Notes: As COVID-19 continues to impact the community of migrant workers in the Gulf, Amnesty International and a coalition of non-governmental organizations and trade unions recently sent letters to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman raising their concerns and suggesting recommendations that aim to protect the rights of migrant workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Headline: ['The virus doesn't discriminate but governments do': Latinos disproportionately hit by coronavirus](#)

Source: The Guardian

Date: April 18, 2020

Notes: This article highlights the disparity in death rates from COVID-19 in the US, pointing to a death rate that is three times higher for Latinos than white people and highlighting the difficulties that immigrants may face in accessing healthcare, which may disguise an even more severe disparity than the numbers currently show.

Headline: [Mexico judge orders release of migrants vulnerable to coronavirus](#)

Source: AlJazeera

Date: April 18, 2020

Notes: “The Mexican government must immediately release detained migrants who are especially vulnerable to the novel coronavirus and grant them temporary residence rights to ensure access to health and social services, a judge has ruled.”

Headline: [Malaysia Urged to Allow Rohingya Refugee Boats to Land](#)

Source: New York Times

Date: April 18, 2020

Notes: Malaysia is under fire from Human Rights Watch and other advocacy groups for their repeated turning away of Rohingya refugee boats. The Malaysian government cites COVID-19 concerns for these pushbacks. Last week, the Bangladesh coast guard rescued 382 Rohingya refugees after the boat was turned back from Malaysian waters weeks before, resulting in the death of at least 30 people on board.

Headline: [Local journalists help flatten COVID-19 curve in Africa’s refugee camps](#)

Source: CGTN

Date: April 18, 2020

Notes: KANERE is the first independent, refugee-run news outlet to operate from Kakuma refugee camp. Journalists from KANERE are working to spread correct public health information about COVID-19 through social media and printed literature in Kakuma and in the broader Kenyan refugee community.

Resource: [COVID-19 Analytical Snapshots](#)

Notes: IOM has created a set of “COVID-19 Analytical Snapshots”, a series of 1-2 page snapshots on the latest analysis from around the world on the migration and mobility-related issues stemming from COVID-19.

Compiled by Christina Kay

Headline: [Trump Plans to Suspend Immigration to U.S.](#)

Source: New York Times

Date: April 20, 2020

Notes: On Monday, President Trump indicated that he would sign an Executive Order to suspend all immigration to the United States for an undetermined period of time. Such an Executive Order, which some suggest could come within the next few days, would be the most far-reaching of recent efforts by the Administration to restrict immigration and the right to seek asylum.

Headline: [Pandemic pushes harder Greek refugee policy, but also solidarity](#)

Source: Al Jazeera

Date: April 20, 2020

Notes: In the face of an increasingly restrictive approach to asylum seekers in Greece, Germany formed a coalition of EU members in early March to take at least 1,600 unaccompanied minors from Greece. The first group of unaccompanied minors was sent by Greece to Germany over the weekend.

Headline: [Coronavirus outbreak at migrant shelter in Mexico is linked to U.S. deportee](#)

Source: Los Angeles Times

Date: April 20, 2020

Notes: A Mexican citizen who had been deported from the United States is the suspected source of a COVID-19 outbreak involving 14 other migrants at a migrant shelter in Mexico City. Guatemalan President Alejandro Giammattei said over the weekend that at least 50 migrants deported to Guatemala from the US have tested positive for COVID-19.

Headline: [COVID-19: UNHCR warns of severe implications for annual monsoon response in Bangladesh](#)

Source: UNHCR

Date: April 21, 2020

Notes: UNHCR warns of life-threatening consequences if monsoon preparation activities cannot be conducted in camps in Cox's Bazar. Disaster risk reduction (DRR) efforts have been suspended. In 2019, over 4,000 households were temporarily following monsoons, far less than the previous year due to DRR activities.

Headline: [Migrants traveling to U.S., stranded in the Panamanian jungle, now face COVID-19](#)

Source: The Tico Times

Date: April 20, 2020

Notes: Impacted by border closures, approximately 1,700 migrants are stuck in the town of La Peñita, Panama, on the border with Colombia as officials restrict their movement through the Darien jungle and onward to Costa Rica. Seventeen of these migrants have tested positive for COVID-19.

Headline: [COVID-19 Is a Test for Climate Migration and the World Is Failing](#)

Source: The Diplomat

Date: April 21, 2020

Notes: Aspects of COVID-19 response highlight the global challenges to addressing climate migration, including the reactive and uncoordinated nature of the response

Headline: [‘If COVID-19 arrives in the camp, it will be devastating’](#)

Source: UNHCR

Date: April 21, 2020

Notes: Saidul Hoque, a Rohingya refugee living in Cox's Bazar, outlines some of the concerns that he has heard within the camps, including the difficulty of limiting trips to the market when most refugees do not have the ability to store food; issues of access to water, sanitation and the ability to physically distance; and the challenge of sharing awareness information without consistent internet access.

Headline: [Can I Stay or Can I Go Now? Longer-term Impacts of Covid-19 on Global Migration](#)

Source: Center for Strategic and International Studies

Date: April 20, 2020

Notes: This piece outlines potential long-term impacts of COVID-19 on migration, including the impact of reduced remittances, redirected foreign assistance, and disrupted supply chains. Impacts may include the geographic redistribution of low-skilled economic migration, exacerbated inequality between and within countries, and a period of vastly different migration levels.

Other Resources:

[COVID-19 Humanitarian](#)- Developed by Johns Hopkins Center for Humanitarian Health; Health in Humanitarian Crises Centre, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; Geneva Centre of Education and Research in Humanitarian Action

Compiled by Sarah Guyer

Headline: [How COVID-19 is limiting healthcare access for refugees in Lebanon](#)

Source: The New Humanitarian

Date: April 21, 2020

Notes: Restrictions on movement issued by Lebanese municipalities have impacted refugees' access to medical care, particularly for those living in informal settlements. NGOs providing medical services report a decline in the number of patients accessing their services.

Headline: [Migrant workers left out in Thailand's fight against COVID-19](#)

Source: Channel News Asia

Date: April 19, 2020

Notes: In Thailand, migrants have not been included in the relief packages that have been announced by the government. Migrants' rights groups believe that a large number of migrants in Thailand are experiencing unemployment. Groups are concerned that migrants could lose their status if they are not working.

Headline: [New Immigration Limits Cause Anxiety in Families and Businesses](#)

Source: New York Times

Date: April 21, 2020

Notes: The Trump Administration has announced a plan to impose a temporary block on most permanent residency applications. While families that have waited to be reunited face uncertainty, anti-immigration group such as the Federation for American Immigration Reform celebrated the move.

Headline: [Refugee brings court case over threat of Covid-19 in Australian detention](#)

Source: The Guardian

Date: April 21, 2020

Notes: A refugee being held in detention in Australia has petitioned the high court for his release. The petition states that the Australian government is breaching its duty of care by preventing him from protecting himself from COVID-19. Medical experts, the Australian Human Rights Commissioner, and activists have all called for a reduction in the number of people in detention.

Headline: [Lebanon confirms first coronavirus case in Palestine refugee camp](#)

Source: Middle East Monitor

Date: April 22, 2020

Notes: The first case of COVID-19 in the Wavel refugee camp has been confirmed, after a Palestinian refugee in the camp in the Bekaa Valley tested positive. A team from the Rafic Hariri University Hospital in Beirut are testing others in the camp.

Headline: [Greece: Island Camps Not Prepared for Covid-19](#)

Source: Human Rights Watch

Date: April 22, 2020

Notes: Human Rights Watch reports on the situation on the Greek islands of Chios, Kos, Leros, Lesbos, and Samos. Among other findings, interviews with 11 asylum seekers and nine aid workers indicated significant crowding and congested lines, both for accessing meals and health care. ***In related news, 148 asylum seekers test positive for COVID-19 at shelter in southern Greece (NPR article [here](#)).***

Headline: [Coronavirus in India: Desperate migrant workers trapped in lockdown](#)

Source: BBC News

Date: April 22, 2020

Notes: Migrant workers in India are stranded far away from their hometowns without work. The lockdown has prevented workers from traveling back to their homes, with many migrants now living outside or in shelters while they wait for restrictions to ease.

Headline: [No last goodbye for Gulf migrant workers lost to coronavirus pandemic](#)

Source: The Straits Times

Date: April 22, 2020

Notes: For migrants who have died of COVID-19 in the Gulf, families are not present to take care of the process of burial, friends and acquaintances are no longer able to gather and grieve, and bodies are no longer being sent home. The article outlines the ways that rituals around death have changed during the pandemic, particularly for migrants and their families.

Headline: [Displaced and stateless women and girls at heightened risk of gender-based violence in the coronavirus pandemic](#)

Source: UNHCR

Date: April 20, 2020

Notes: The Assistant High Commissioner for Protection at UNHCR warned this week that measures to prevent COVID-19, including confinement policies, lockdowns and quarantines, have induced significant protection risks for women and girls. Those without documentation and those who have lost their livelihoods are at particular risk. Restrictions on movement have limited access to life-saving support for survivors of violence and women at risk.

Headline: [Refugees start blog to share information on coronavirus](#)

Source: UNHCR

Date: April 22, 2020

Notes: A team of 11 refugees from the DRC living in Angola have repurposed their blog to share information about COVID-19 to fellow refugees in the Lovua settlement. The team has been posting information on the blog and attending information sessions organized by UNHCR and others.

Compiled by Sarah Guyer

Headline: [U.N. Chief Warns Against Repressive Measures Amid Coronavirus Crisis](#)

Source: New York Times

Date: April 23, 2020

Notes: “U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Thursday the coronavirus could give some countries an excuse to adopt repressive measures for reasons unrelated to the pandemic as he warned that the outbreak risks becoming a human rights crisis.”

Headline: ['We're In A Prison': Singapore's Migrant Workers Suffer As Covid-19 Surges Back](#)

Source: The Guardian

Date: April 23, 2020

Notes: “Kokila Annamalai, a local activist who supports migrant workers, fears that the spread of Covid-19 within the dormitories has fanned the flames of xenophobia and racism. She points to comments made online and in the media. “...‘it’s their fault for not being clean and for their eating habits’ and things like that, there is also this almost worse mindset of ‘they’re driving our numbers up and it makes us look bad on the world stage, and they should go home’,” she said.”

Headline: [COVID-19 Public Health Orders Should Not Target Asylum Seekers](#)

Source: The Hill

Date: April 22, 2020

Notes: Opinion piece by Orit Abraham and Dr. Paul Spiegel remark on the recent executive order banning immigration to the U.S. for 60 days, reflect on the risks faced by undocumented asylum seekers, and suggestions for lowering that risk for migrants in detention and those living in camps and urban settings.

Headline: [Migrant worker remittances to fall 20% amid COVID-19 pandemic: World Bank](#)

Source: Channel News Asia

Date: April 22, 2020

Notes: The World Bank released a report stating that remittances are expected to drop about 20% globally this year as border closures and restrictions cause a global recession and job losses that prevent workers from sending money to their families

Headline: ['The Peak of This Mountain Is Like A Mirage': Pandemic Leaves Asylum Seekers Stranded](#)

Source: NPR

Date: April 22, 2020

Notes: This story follows the disappointment of two refugees whose flights to host countries were cancelled due to COVID-19. There was urgency in both resettlement cases; in one case an Afghan attempting to leave behind the war in Afghanistan through the help of the Special Immigrant Visa Program, and the second, a Syrian refugee and his family who had been granted asylum in France.

Headline: [New Canada-U.S. Border Directive Restores Some Asylum Rules Suspended by Shutdown](#)

Source: Global News

Date: April 22, 2020

Notes: The Canadian federal government is restoring exemptions for certain asylum seekers under the Safe Third Country Agreement that was previously eliminated by the U.S. border shutdown. Current travel restrictions and bans on foreign nationals will still impact how migrants will can claim asylum at ports of entry.

Headline: [Australia's Coronavirus Relief Exclusions Prove We Are Not All In This Together](#)

Source: April 22, 2020

Date: The Guardian

Notes: This opinion piece argues for the inclusion of individuals in Australia on a temporary basis, as they are excluded from government support measures including jobkeeper wage subsidies and jobseekers welfare payments. The writer includes a humanitarian appeal that for the inclusion of temporary and immigrant workers to be included in the subsidies as community members and economic contributors to Australia. Around 1.1 million people in Australia are on temporary visas.

Headline: [Coronavirus Exacerbates LGBTQI Refugees' Isolation And Trauma](#)

Source: Al Jazeera

Date: April 22, 2020

Notes: LGBTQI asylum seekers in Germany are experiencing extreme isolation, stress, and renewed trauma due to restrictive measures put in place. The offices of LGBTQI-serving organizations are closed so asylum seekers are unable to receive the additional support needed, and struggle to meet basic needs as refugee officers are also closed.

Headline: [Beware Long-Term Damage to Human Rights and Refugee Rights from the Coronavirus Pandemic: UNHCR](#)

Source: UNHCR

Date: April 22, 2020

Notes: UNHCR condemns the use of stringent national measure to secure public health that has led to excessive immigration detention, an increase in sexual violence, discrimination, and a loss of livelihoods. They encourage solutions to protect public health and asylum seekers through remote asylum claim processing and extending registration cards or residency permits to reduce barriers to health and other services.

Headline: [Coronavirus: Somali Diaspora Sends Home Stories of Woe](#)

Source: BBC

Date: April 21, 2020

Notes: As part of a series of letters from African journalists, this letter describes the impact COVID-19 has had on the Somali community in London, and challenges existing prior to COVID-19.

Compiled by Rocio Rodriguez Casquete

Daily COVID-19 and Migration Digest
Friday, April 24, 2020

Headline: [Migrant workers in cramped Gulf dorms fear infection](#)

Source: The Economist

Date: April 23, 2020

Notes: As COVID-19 infections grow in several of the Gulf states, migrant workers living in cramped conditions fear becoming infected, especially since infection rates seem to be higher among migrant worker populations. The Saudi health ministry said on April 5th that 53% of confirmed cases involved foreigners. Most governments are providing free testing and treatment to migrant workers, but not making efforts to improve living conditions to enable social distancing.

Headline: [Immigrant Doctors Want to Help Fight COVID-19 but Are Stymied by State Licensing Laws](#)

Source: The New Yorker

Date: April 23, 2020

Notes: This article details the shortage of medical personnel in some US states during the COVID-19 pandemic, the desire of medical personnel who have immigrated from other countries to help, and how state licensing laws make it difficult for them to serve in the US. It also states that there are approximately 263,000 immigrants in the United States with degrees in health-related fields who could be deployed to help, were licensing laws not an issue.

Headline: [In Greece, 148 Asylum Seekers Test Positive For COVID-19 At Shelter](#)

Source: NPR

Date: April 21, 2020

Notes: A shelter in Greece which hosts 471 asylum seekers has been quarantined as 148 residents have tested positive for COVID-19. IOM has encouraged Greek authorities to avoid stigmatizing migrants during the crisis.

Headline: [Concerns mount over COVID-19 response in northeast Syria](#)

Source: MSF

Date: April 22, 2020

Notes: “As the first death from COVID-19 is reported in northeast Syria, MSF is increasingly concerned the region is ill-prepared to handle the pandemic. MSF urges authorities in Iraqi Kurdistan and northeast Syria to allow timely access of international staff and supplies into northeast Syria.”

Headline: [Do not push Rohingya out to sea amid coronavirus emergency: UNHCR](#)

Source: UNHCR

Date: April 23, 2020

Notes: “Refugee advocates say fear of Rohingya refugees carrying the COVID-19 virus is not an excuse to refuse them asylum. UNHCR Director of Asia-Pacific region said, ‘We are increasingly concerned by reports of failure to disembark vessels in distress and of the grave immediate risk this poses to the men, women and children on board.’”

Headline: [Trump’s Anti-Immigrant Crackdown Is Creating New Coronavirus Hotspots](#)

Source: World Politics Review

Date: April 23, 2020

Notes: This opinion piece argues that new US immigration policies are creating “hotspots” at risk for COVID-19 outbreaks in four main areas: 1) Mexican border cities, 2) ICE detention centers, 3) Among deportees, 4) Southern New Mexico and Arizona, where workers are flown in from other parts of the country to quickly build sections of a border wall.

Headline: [Haiti has a tragic history of disasters. Will covid-19 be next?](#)

Source: Washington Post

Date: April 24, 2020

Notes: This opinion piece conveys concerns that with thousands of Haitian migrant workers returning from the Dominican Republic (where there are thousands more reported cases than in Haiti), the risk is growing that there will be a major outbreak of COVID-19 in Haiti, where the health systems is unprepared to combat it.

Headline: [As men wage bloody battle for Syrian province, women sew face masks to fight the next threat](#)

Source: Washington Post

Date: April 18, 2020

Notes: Displaced Syrian women have mobilized in Idlib province to sew homemade face masks to protect their communities and those living in surrounding camps from COVID-19. They also plan to start making hand sanitizer to distribute for free in the camps.

Compiled by Christina Kay

Daily COVID-19 and Migration Digest
Monday, April 27, 2020

Headline: [Greece Must Evacuate Refugees and Migrants to Safety Amidst Covid-19](#)

Source: EuroMed Monitor

Date: April 26, 2020

Notes: Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor, a Geneva-based human rights agency, is calling for Greece to immediately evacuate “overcrowded and unsanitary refugee camps and provide adequate housing to asylum seekers amid the spread of the novel coronavirus.” They are also calling on the EU Commission and member states to assist Greece in this mission.

Related News: [Migrants to be moved out of island camps in groups](#): 1,000 asylum seekers are scheduled to be relocated from Moria camp in small groups over the next few days.

Headline: [Mexico all but empties official migrant centers in bid to contain coronavirus](#)

Source: Reuters

Date: April 26, 2020

Notes: “Mexico has almost entirely cleared out government migrant centers over the past five weeks to contain the spread of the coronavirus pandemic, returning most of the occupants to their countries of origin, official data showed on Sunday.”

Headline: [Don’t blame us for spreading Covid-19 in Selayang, migrant workers plead](#)

Source: MalayMail

Date: April 26, 2020

Notes: This article features interviews with migrant workers in the Selayang wholesale market area of Kuala Lumpur, where strict movement restrictions have been imposed after the first COVID-19 related death was reported. Migrant workers have been blamed for spreading the virus in this area and they are pushing back.

Headline: [Migrant workers face further social isolation and mental health challenges during coronavirus pandemic](#)

Source: The Conversation

Date: April 26, 2020

Notes: This article expands upon ongoing research at the University of Windsor about the migrant worker population in Canada. The authors articulate a need for more protections for migrant workers in Canada, highlighting the difficulties of unsafe housing and prejudice from the larger community that these workers face on a daily basis, which are amplified during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Headline: [China fails to stop racism against Africans over Covid-19](#)

Source: The Guardian

Date: April 27, 2020

Notes: Xenophobia is rising in China and African workers and students are facing discrimination related to fears of a COVID-19 resurgence. Africans living in China have reported being evicted from their residences and being refused services at hotels and restaurants. The Chinese government rejects claims that this is occurring.

Headline: [The stability of the global food system relies on immigrants](#)

Source: Quartz

Date: April 26, 2020

Notes: “The global food system as it operates today relies on immigrant labor to run smoothly, and the pandemic is emphasizing the risk of undervaluing that work.” This article highlights the importance of

immigrant workers who pick fruit, pack meat, and do other essential jobs in the production of food products globally.

Headline: [Iranian Kurdish refugees in Sulaimani hit hard by COVID-19 lockdown](#)

Source: Rudaw

Date: April 26, 2020

Notes: Iranian Kurdish political refugees in Iraq have been left jobless amid the coronavirus lockdown, exacerbating their economic woes.

Headline: [Produced in 10 languages for Arizona refugees, COVID-19 safety videos reach 70,000](#)

Source: AZCentral

Date: April 26, 2020

Notes: The staff at a refugee health clinic in Arizona have produced a COVID-19 safety video in 10 different languages in a collaboration between the clinic and the Arizona Office of Refugee Resettlement. The videos, in languages such as Somali and Kirundi, have been widely shared.

Upcoming Events:

[Webinar: Covid-19 and Migrant Workers in the Gulf](#) – Wednesday, April 29

[Webinar: Decreasing COVID-19 Transmission in Settings with Limited Health Resources](#) – Thursday, April 30

Compiled by Christina Kay

Headline: [Coronavirus: UNHCR offers practical recommendations in support of European countries to ensure access to asylum and safe reception](#)

Source: UNHCR

Date: April 27, 2020

Notes: UNHCR has issued a set of practical recommendations for European countries to ensure access to asylum. These detailed recommendations include practical steps that countries can take to manage arrivals, conduct registration, and prevent transmission in the context of detention.

Headline: [How COVID-19 halted NGO migrant rescues in the Mediterranean](#)

Source: The New Humanitarian

Date: April 28, 2020

Notes: Italy and Malta have been slow to respond to distress calls from people stranded at sea while also prohibiting access to their ports for disembarkation of NGO vessels. Assisting people in distress at sea is required by maritime law, but advocates say that governments are using the COVID-19 pandemic as an excuse to ignore their responsibilities.

Headline: [Bangladesh: Covid-19 Aid Limits Imperil Rohingya](#)

Source: Human Rights Watch

Date: April 28, 2020

Notes: Aid workers and refugees expressed concerns to Human Rights Watch regarding the Government of Bangladesh's restrictions on services other than those termed "critical" and reduction of access for humanitarian staff by 80%. Health workers are concerned that measles vaccination campaigns and access to medical care have been interrupted. Refugees in four camps have stated that food rations have not been replenished and some areas have no drinking water.

Headline: [Are local and international aid worker disparities worsening under COVID-19?](#)

Source: Devex

Date: April 28, 2020

Notes: For some, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the distinctions that international NGOs make between international and local staff. This article outlines many perspectives from staff and NGO management on how these distinctions are playing out during this period.

Headline: ["Exporting the virus": Migrants deported by U.S. make up 20% of Guatemala's coronavirus cases](#)

Source: CBS News

Date: April 27, 2020

Notes: Migrants deported from the U.S. to Guatemala comprise 99 of 500 of the country's COVID-19 cases. Guatemala suspended deportation flights from the U.S. earlier this month, stating that it will only allow flights to resume once the U.S. has improved its screening protocols.

Headline: [Migrant workers face further social isolation and mental health challenges during the coronavirus pandemic](#)

Source: The Conversation

Date: April 26, 2020

Notes: Migrant workers in southwestern Ontario were already subject to housing conditions that impact physical and mental health. Researchers are concerned that COVID-19 will exacerbate prejudice and social exclusion with negative impacts of mental health.

Headline: [Death threats drive refugees to flee coronavirus lockdown](#)

Source: UNHCR

Date: April 28, 2020

Notes: Referencing an April 22nd statement by UNHCR warning that border closures are affecting the right to asylum, this UNHCR piece recounts the fears that may drive asylum seekers to flee even during the pandemic. The general coordinator of Mexico's refugee authority, COMAR, stated that international protection remains a "fundamental right."

Headline: [The US has abandoned asylum seekers in Mexico during the pandemic](#)

Source: Vox

Date: April 27, 2020

Notes: The article outlines the concerns about the expulsion of asylum seekers. "We're worried about the rapid, systematic expulsions of persons including asylum seekers from the US," Sibylla Brodzinsky, a spokesperson for the UN high commissioner for refugees (UNCHR), told Vox. "Obviously, a pandemic of this nature warrants extraordinary measures at borders, but the expulsion of asylum seekers, which basically results in refoulement, shouldn't be among those measures."

Headline: [Opinion: Coronavirus Lockdown: Migrant labourers' nightmarish spectacle](#)

Source: Deccan Herald

Date: April 26, 2020

Notes: This opinion piece argues that COVID-19 must provide an opening to recognize the precariousness of migrant workers in India, who have been vital to the country's industrialization.

Compiled by Sarah Guyer

Headline: [Don't Admit Foreign Tenants Without Coronavirus Test Clearance – Minister Tells Landlords](#)

Source: Ghana Web

Date: April 28, 2020

Notes: A new directive from the Ghana Works and Housing Minister, Samuel Atta Akyea, is requiring all landlords to request proof of negative COVID-19 test results from non-Ghanaian potential tenants.

Headline: [Countries are suspending immigration detention due to coronavirus. Let's keep it that way | View](#)

Source: Euro News

Date: April 29, 2020

Notes: This opinion piece reflects on Spain's response to COVID-19 with its decision to empty migrant detention centers, and the collaboration between different parties with the Interior Ministry to accomplish this. They compare this decision with other countries with similar detention practices.

Headline: [Coronavirus Situation is Suffocating Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon](#)

Source: Albawaba

Date: April 28, 2020

Notes: "The mental health impact of the novel coronavirus has been felt across the globe, but for mental healthcare providers working in Lebanon's Palestinian refugee camps it is the latest in a string of challenges they have been forced to reckon with in recent years."

Headline: [Major Outbreak Among Migrant Workers At Chatham-Kent Greenhouse](#)

Source: CTV News

Date: April 27, 2020

Notes: The advocacy group Migrant Workers Alliance for Change is calling for the Canadian federal government to grant permanent residency status to Greenhill workers. Around 43 positive cases have been confirmed since Monday evening.

Headline: [COVID-19 is Exacerbating Discrimination Against Asylum Seekers in Québec](#)

Source: Canadian Dimension

Date: April 27, 2020

Notes: Advocates from Solidarity Across Borders reported intimidation from guards, forced isolation, and threats, and feelings of unsafety related to COVID-19. The article also comments on Canada's two-tiered system and political climate.

Headline: [Facing COVID-19 in the World's Largest Refugee Camp, Young Rohingya Help Prepare for an Outbreak](#)

Source: PBS

Date: April 27, 2020

Notes: This article outlines the community led efforts taken by young Rohingya to fill in gaps with the loss of aid communities. They are taking on activities to reduce risk, by assembling packages of medical supplies and teaching hand washing and social distancing practice.

Headline: [El Confinamiento Para las Personas Refugiadas: Un Desafío Más en el Camino Hacia la Inclusión \[Confinement for Refugees: One More Challenge on the Road to Inclusion\]](#)

Source: Cuarto Poder

Date: April 26, 2020

Notes: Article reviewing programming changes taken by the Spanish NGO, Rescate Internacional, with their legal, educational, and psychological supports.

Headline: [Human Mobility and Human Rights in the COVID-19 Pandemic: Principles of Protection for Migrants, Refugees, and other Displaced Persons](#)

Source: The New School

Date: April 29, 2020

Notes: The New School's Zolberg Institute on Migration and Mobility, Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, and Cornell Law School's Migration and Human Rights Program, jointly released a 14-point series of principles to protect migrants, refugees and other displaced populations. Nearly 800 international experts have endorsed the document.

Upcoming Events:

[Decreasing COVID-19 Transmission in Settings with Limited Health Resources](#) – Thursday, April 30, RSVP Required

Compiled by Rocio Rodriguez Casquete

Headline: [Covid-19 Will Trigger A 'Crisis In A Crisis' For Refugees And Displaced Persons](#)

Source: Danish Refugee Council

Date: April 29, 2020

Notes: This is the first global appeal by Charlotte Slente, Danish Refugee Council Secretary General, to international partners and donors to support economic recovery during and after COVID-19 for WASH, basic needs, camp coordination and camp management, community engagement, and armed violence reduction.

Headline: [Helping The Displaced In Bangladesh As Covid-19 Looms](#)

Source: ICRC

Date: April 29, 2020

Notes: This piece discusses the Konarpara camp, where 620 displaced families from Rakhine state live, and the approach ICRC is taking with food distribution and medical care, as the only international aid agency with access to Konarpara.

Headline: [Refugee Boats Stranded at Sea Show How COVID-19 Is Making Threatened Groups More Vulnerable](#)

Source: Time

Date: April 29, 2020

Notes: The U.N., Human Rights Watch, and Amnesty International have made appeals for coastal state to taken in two fishing boats of 500 Rohingya refugees; Bangladesh and Malaysia have refused.

Headline: [India Coronavirus Lockdown: Stranded Migrants Can Return Home](#)

Source: BBC

Date: April 29, 2020

Notes: Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced many migrant workers affected by the nationwide lockdown can now return to their home states, requiring them to go through state government facilities to screen for symptoms within four hours.

Headline: [Healthcare Workers From Refugee Backgrounds Want to Help Fight COVID-19. One Man's Journey Shows How That Might Be Possible](#)

Source: Time

Date: April 28, 2020

Notes: This piece features Tamon Mark Andang Asongwe, a Cameroonian nurse who left after repeated imprisonment for political activism. He was unable to work in his field until the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees (EQPR) in 2019 provided the chance to work as an assistant nurse at an elderly care facility in Athens, Greece. The piece goes on to outline how the EQPR can change perceptions of refugees, and logistic barriers with timely approval for EQPR applications.

Headline: [Thousands Of Migrants Head Back To Venezuela To Flee Colombia's COVID-19 Lockdown](#)

Source: NPR

Date: April 28, 2020

Notes: Colombia migration official estimate about 12,000 Venezuelan migrants have returned to Venezuela by bus since the beginning of the lockdown. Many migrants are unable to work, pay for rent, and face malnutrition or starvation.

Headline: [Statement by ICRC President, Peter Maurer](#)

Source: ICRC

Date: April 28, 2020

Notes: Peter Maurer, ICRC President, released a statement on the impact of COVID-19 on internally displaced persons, refugees, and migrants. He commended the African Union Member States for their proactive response, and goes on to highlight the impact limited resources will have for each vulnerable group, including detainees. He includes the ICRC response to fighting COVID-19.

Headline: [Making Migrants Visible To COVID-19 Counting: The Dilemma](#)

Source: Open Democracy

Date: April 28, 2020

Notes: “If today “being counted” is even more than ever a precondition for existence and care, western countries are failing to account for the health conditions of invisible populations like people on the move. In the days of COVID-19 as never before, what these dramatic (missing) numbers make apparent is that invisibility may mean death.”

Compiled by Rocio Rodriguez Casquete