

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

**Headline:** [Three asylum seekers at camp near US border test positive for coronavirus](#)

**Source:** The Guardian

**Date:** June 30, 2020

**Notes:** Advocates have long worried about potential for an outbreak at Matamoros camp, where an estimated 2,000 migrants live. Now, Global Response Management, a non-profit providing services in the camp, is assisting in the proactive testing and isolation of close contacts of the three people who tested positive.

**Headline:** [Migrants who stayed back helping shape Delhi's biggest Covid-19 facility](#)

**Source:** Hindustan Times

**Date:** July 1, 2020

**Notes:** Hundreds of migrants in India who did not return to their hometowns during the COVID-19 lockdown are being employed to build a 2,000 bed COVID treatment center in Delhi. The workers interviewed stated that they liked the satisfaction of knowing they were contributing to the pandemic response and the benefit of earning good income and overtime pay in an era where work is difficult to find.

**Headline:** [Migrant advocacy group demands Ontario shut down agricultural sector amid COVID-19 spike](#)

**Source:** CBC News

**Date:** June 29, 2020

**Notes:** Justice for Migrant Workers is calling for an immediate shutdown of Ontario's entire agricultural industry until all workplaces put safety measures in place to stop the spread of COVID-19 among workers. At least 670 agri-farm workers have tested positive for COVID-19 in the province, and three have died.

**Headline:** [Guatemala limits deportations from the U.S. as coronavirus cases surge in both countries](#)

**Source:** Miami Herald

**Date:** June 30, 2020

**Notes:** The Guatemalan government has placed a cap on the number of people the U.S. can deport on a weekly basis, according to a spokesperson for the country's government. This measure has been implemented because deportees testing positive for COVID-19 continue to arrive on flights from the US and Guatemalan authorities are concerned about a potential overwhelming of the country's health system.

**Headline:** [Surge in refugee crossings during coronavirus lockdown](#)

**Source:** Wales Online

**Date:** July 1, 2020

**Notes:** This article alleges a surge in refugee crossings during the COVID-19 lockdown, stating that more than 2,000 asylum seekers have arrived in the UK by boat during the first six months of the year, but does not provide any comparison numbers to illustrate a surge. The UK Home Office is seeking a deal with France to reduce the number of crossings from the EU.

**Headline:** [Polk migrant advocates seek support, virus testing for workers](#)

**Source:** The Ledger

**Date:** June 30, 2020

**Notes:** "Advocates for migrant workers in Polk County and Florida are dismayed that Gov. Ron DeSantis recently cited farm worker communities as vectors for the current surge in coronavirus cases." Instead of

scapegoating and stigma, advocates say the farm worker community needs access to testing, healthcare and workplace protections.

**Headline:** [Looming fuel crisis is threatening food, hospitals and water](#)

**Source:** ReliefWeb

**Date:** June 28, 2020

**Notes:** For displaced populations in Yemen, the growing fuel crisis in the country may have deadly consequences. Fuel is linked to the transport of food and supplies for displaced populations, and compounded with the existing water funding emergency, experts predict that these two factors will almost certainly lead to a surge in COVID-19 and cholera cases.

**Headline:** [Federal judge strikes down Trump asylum rule targeting Central Americans](#)

**Source:** Washington Post

**Date:** July 1, 2020

**Notes:** “A federal judge in Washington struck down a Trump administration policy late Tuesday that bars most Central Americans and other migrants from requesting asylum at the southern border, saying the government failed to justify making the sudden change last July without public notice or comment.” It’s unclear how much impact this decision will have on asylum seekers, given the Trump administration’s additional immigration lockdown measures implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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*Compiled by Christina Kay*

Daily COVID-19 and Migration Digest  
Thursday, July 2, 2020

**Headline:** [Uganda provides a safe haven to DRC refugees amid COVID-19 lockdown](#)

**Source:** UNHCR

**Date:** July 1, 2020

**Notes:** The Government of Uganda opened the border earlier this week to admit thousands of refugees from the DRC who had been stranded near the border since late May, due to COVID-19 restrictions on border crossing. The new arrivals will be quarantined in a designated area for 14 days with the support of UNHCR after entering Uganda.

**Headline:** [How undocumented migrant workers are slipping through Ontario's COVID-19 net](#)

**Source:** CBC News

**Date:** July 2, 2020

**Notes:** This article highlights how supports that have been put in place by the Canadian government in response to a spike in COVID-19 cases in migrant farmworkers in Ontario do not include a subsection of these workers who are undocumented. Additionally, many undocumented workers avoid getting tested for COVID-19 because they don't have health insurance and fear deportation.

**Headline:** [Despite COVID-19 setbacks, displaced Kachin women keep their families afloat](#)

**Source:** The New Humanitarian

**Date:** July 2, 2020

**Notes:** "Uprooted for nearly a decade, women in displacement camps in Myanmar's Kachin State are finding new ways to support their families as coronavirus restrictions squeeze livelihoods and aid." In this area of Myanmar, where international assistance has been largely blocked for years due to the ongoing conflict, many women previously worked on farms over the border in China, no longer possible due to COVID-19 border closures.

**Headline:** [Diminished, Derogated, Denied: How the right to asylum in Greece is undermined by the lack of EU responsibility sharing](#)

**Source:** Oxfam via ReliefWeb

**Date:** July 1, 2020

**Notes:** "In the report '*Diminished, Derogated, Denied*', published today, the organisations show how the reformed Greek asylum law exposes people to abuse and exploitation. This situation is further aggravated by the inhumane living conditions in Greece's refugee camps where people are now at risk of a devastating health crisis should COVID-19 reach the camps."

**Headline:** [Refugees and their host communities in India hard hit by coronavirus lockdown](#)

**Source:** UNHCR

**Date:** July 1, 2020

**Notes:** This article highlights the extent of economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on refugee and host communities in India and elsewhere. It also discusses the impact that waning funding is having on UNHCR's ability to distribute food aid, as well as the importance of refugee volunteers who are helping to distribute aid and monitor needs in communities.

**Headline:** ["South Africa belongs to all who live in it", COVID-19 showed it does not](#)

**Source:** Open Democracy

**Date:** July 2, 2020

**Notes:** This opinion piece highlights how the actions taken by the South African government to limit the spread of COVID-19 have negatively affected refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. It calls on the

government to avoid cultivating a xenophobic narrative, to strengthen access to health services for vulnerable communities, and to streamline the asylum seeking process.

**Headline:** [Multnomah County Enlists Refugee And Immigrant Groups In Race Against COVID-19](#)

**Source:** OPB

**Date:** July 1, 2020

**Notes:** This article highlights the public health strategies being employed in one Oregon county that is seeing growing rates of COVID-19 infection among immigrant and refugee groups. These strategies include employing bilingual case managers and community outreach workers, translating public health information into key languages, and working with community based organizations.

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*Compiled by Christina Kay*

**Headline:** [Chile's Migrant Medics Move to Frontlines in Pandemic Battle](#)

**Source:** NY Times

**Date:** July 3, 2020

**Notes:** As Chile nears the peak of its coronavirus outbreak, its government appeals for the aid by migrant professionals, many of whom were previously laid off as the government sought to tighten its immigration laws.

**Headline:** [NC not doing enough to protect immigrant farmworkers from coronavirus, advocates say](#)

**Source:** The News & Observer

**Date:** July 3, 2020

**Notes:** As of last week, the total reported number of known infections among farmworkers living in migrant worker housing rose to 177. “The cases reported are among seasonal immigrant farmworkers from Mexico who come to work in the United States on a temporary visa and live in grower-provided housing. Other infected workers who live in private residences not on farm property are not included in the count, and no one knows how many farmworkers have tested positive overall.”

**Headline:** [‘The Invisibles’: Unseen footage of Italy’s migrant labourers at peak of COVID-19](#)

**Source:** The Africa Report

**Date:** July 3, 2020

**Notes:** “In an exclusive documentary produced and distributed by Doha Debates, acclaimed Italian filmmakers Carola Mamberto and Diana Ferrero capture the fight of Aboubakar Soumahoro, an Ivorian living in Italy, along with the conditions the workers deal with on a daily basis at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.” Authors of the article write that the film highlights migrant workers becoming “essential overnight,” while simultaneously being denied access to basic sanitation, no potable water, and no means to socially distance.

**Headline:** [COVID-19 and economic downfall reveal migrant workers’ mental health crisis in Lebanon](#)

**Source:** Medecins Sans Frontieres

**Date:** July 3, 2020

**Notes:** “The onset of the COVID-19 lockdown – which came on top of the ongoing economic crisis in Lebanon – saw a dramatic decline in migrant workers’ conditions and is having a dire impact on their physical and mental health,” which, prior to the pandemic, reflected the hardships these workers endured while living and working in Lebanon.

**Headline:** [How COVID-19 is complicating Europe's migrant problem](#)

**Source:** Euronews

**Date:** July 3, 2020

**Notes:** “COVID-19 forced Europe to shut its borders but, since the start of the year, more than 13,000 migrants have attempted to cross the central Mediterranean.” Author Alexander Morgan writes about how COVID-19 has made the situation complex for those who have been stranded in the Mediterranean while waiting for permission to dock. For example, in June, 28 migrants tested positive for the virus while being held on a quarantine ship in Porto Empedocle, Sicily.

**Headline:** [Covid-19 has come to our migrant camp. It makes ending the MPP policy even more urgent.](#)

**Source:** Washington Post

**Date:** July 5, 2020

**Notes:** In this opinion piece, Sister Norma Pimentel of the Missionaries of Jesus, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley in Brownsville, Texas, writes of the extreme vulnerabilities

faced by women, men, and children awaiting, in Mexico, their rulings on their applications for asylum in the US. She mentions that the US government's MPP policy "fails to address people with dignity" and highlights volunteer efforts, such as that of the Dignity Village Team, to support these asylum seekers in light of MPP.

**Headline:** [Italy clears rescue ship to bring 180 migrants to Sicily](#)

**Source:** Al Jazeera

**Date:** July 5, 2020

**Notes:** "A humanitarian rescue ship stranded in the Mediterranean for days has 'finally' received instructions to sail to an Italian port, so the 180 migrants on board can be disembarked." The migrants include Pakistanis, North Africans, Eritreans and Nigerians. At least 25 of them are minors, most of whom are unaccompanied. There are also two women, one of them pregnant. Pleas for docking permission at both Malta and Italy previously failed.

**Headline:** [Greece extends migrant camp lockdown again amid criticism](#)

**Source:** Info Migrants

**Date:** July 6, 2020

**Notes:** By a joint decision of the Ministers of Civil Protection, Health and Immigration and Asylum and the Greek Migration Ministry, Greece has extended a coronavirus lockdown on its migrant camps for the fifth time, now through July 19, 2020. The lockdown prevents aid groups from making their usual deliveries of necessities. An MSF employee has stated that government is using the pandemic as a "pretext" to extend the migrant camp lockdowns, since there were no cases of COVID-19 in the camps.

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*Compiled by Sabeen Rokerya*

COVID-19 and Migration Digest  
 Wednesday, July 8, 2020

**Headline:** [Locked Down and Left Behind: The Impact of COVID-19 on Refugees' Economic Inclusion](#)

**Source:** Center for Global Development

**Date:** July 8, 2020

**Notes:** This paper explores the economic issues facing refugees in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath. It argues that expanded economic inclusion is in the best interests of refugees, their host populations, and their host countries. It also provides a series of recommendations for refugee-hosting countries to safeguard refugee livelihoods in the short- and long-term.

**Headline:** [Covid-19 And Migrant Workers: Planning the return and reintegration of forced returnees](#)

**Source:** The Daily Star

**Date:** July 8, 2020

**Notes:** This opinion piece focuses on the issue of forced return of migrants to countries of origin during the COVID-19 pandemic, with a focus on Bangladesh. The author raises human rights concerns about forced repatriation of migrants, but foresees large-scale returns, especially from the Gulf States, once flights resume. The article outlines several key issues that should be considered when countries of origin are planning for the return of these migrants, including preventing stigmatization of these populations as carriers of disease by dissemination of social messages.

**Headline:** [Coronavirus: misinformation is leading to 'fake news' anxieties in Dutch refugee communities](#)

**Source:** The Conversation

**Date:** July 6, 2020

**Notes:** This article discusses the difficulties that refugee communities in the Netherlands have faced in getting reliable information during the COVID-19 pandemic and the effects that this has on their ability to make decisions. It also highlights some of the work of grassroots NGOs in attempting to assist with this issue by providing interpretation, internet services and hotlines.

**Headline:** [Government divisions on asylum policy add to corona-ravaged Sweden's woes](#)

**Source:** Politico

**Date:** July 5, 2020

**Notes:** Sweden's government is divided about how to proceed with asylum policy following the COVID-19 pandemic. Within the ruling coalition, the Social Democrats are pushing for a tightening of asylum laws, while the Green party disagrees. If Sweden's asylum policy were to become less welcoming, it would likely have ripple effects throughout Europe, potentially shifting the overall balance in a more anti-migrant direction, since Sweden has always been one of the most welcoming of refugees and migrants.

**Headline:** [How coronavirus slammed the door on asylum seekers](#)

**Source:** .coda

**Date:** July 6, 2020

**Notes:** This blog post highlights cases from across the globe of governments using the COVID-19 pandemic as an excuse to close borders, to justify repressive anti-immigrant policies and to increase xenophobic sentiment in host countries.

**Headline:** [How refugees' COVID-19 problems can be eased](#)

**Source:** Arab News

**Date:** July 6, 2020

**Notes:** This opinion piece examines some of the difficulties facing refugees during the COVID-19 pandemic, including economic impacts. The author outlines some strategies governments can take to alleviate these problems, including less restrictive border policies, national economic recovery plans that include refugees, additional funding, and enhancing infrastructure in refugee camps.

**Headline:** [Die in detention or at home? U.S. pandemic forces cruel choice on asylum seekers](#)

**Source:** Reuters

**Date:** July 6, 2020

**Notes:** This article explores the difficult choices that asylum seekers being held in US detention facilities are facing, between remaining in a facility where they fear COVID-19 infection due to inadequate safety measures, or choosing to be deported back to their home country. Additionally, it highlights allegations that asylum seekers who speak up about their safety concerns in the facilities face retaliation by ICE.

**Headline:** [Malaysia opens probe into Al Jazeera report on migrant arrests](#)

**Source:** CNA

**Date:** July 7, 2020

**Notes:** The Malaysian government is pushing back on an Al Jazeera report on migrant arrests amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The investigation is the latest in a recent series of clampdowns against reporters and activists that rights groups have said were aimed at stifling dissent.

Related link: [Locked Up in Malaysia's Lockdown](#)

**Headline:** [Remittances could fall by \\$100 billion because of COVID-19 – here's why that matters](#)

**Source:** World Economic Forum

**Date:**

**Notes:** The total value of remittances reached \$714 billion in 2019, but is projected to fall by almost 20% in 2020 due to the pandemic as 75% of migrants work in the countries that account for three quarters of the global COVID-19 cases have been reported. This will hurt the economies of LMIC that depend on remittances, and in turn will worsen the economic impacts of the pandemic on these countries.

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*Compiled by Christina Kay*



**Headline:** [Coronavirus: Idlib's first Covid-19 case raises fears for Syria camps](#)

**Source:** BBC News

**Date:** July 10, 2020

**Notes:** The first confirmed COVID-19 case has been reported in Idlib province in northwest Syria. Aid groups have long warned about the risks of a devastating outbreak in northwest Syrian, where many are living in refugee camps and in which the healthcare system was already disrupted. Groups say that it is essential that the fragile ceasefire hold to ensure that all efforts can be focused on the health response.

**Background reading:** [Last Refuge or Last Hour? COVID-19 and the Humanitarian Crisis in Idlib](#)

**Headline:** [COVID-19 shifts Peru's internal migration into reverse](#)

**Source:** The New Humanitarian

**Date:** July 8, 2020

**Notes:** As migrants from rural areas have lost their jobs in Lima, thousands of these primarily informal workers have attempted to return home. However, many are still in limbo, unable to continue their journey due to quarantine policies. Aid groups fear that lockdown and quarantine policies will expose those in quarantine centers to risk, as individuals may not have access to drinking water, food and sanitation, and will exacerbate poverty and food insecurity for those subject to lockdowns.

**Headline:** [Trump administration proposes blocking asylum seekers on public health grounds](#)

**Source:** CNN

**Date:** July 8, 2020

**Notes:** The Trump Administration proposed a new regulation on Wednesday that would bar asylum seekers from countries with disease outbreaks, allowing asylum seekers to be disqualified on public health grounds. According to the text, the CDC "determined 'that the entry of aliens crossing the northern and southern borders into the United States (regardless of their country of origin) would continue to present a serious danger of introducing COVID-19 into [points of entry] and Border Patrol Stations at or near the Mexico and Canada land borders.'" This proposed rule will undergo a public comment period.

**Headline:** [Al Jazeera Defends Report on Migrant Arrests Amid Outrage in Malaysia](#)

**Source:** The New York Times

**Date:** July 9, 2020

**Notes:** Following allegations earlier this week from Malaysian authorities that a documentary focusing on the plight of undocumented migrants detained during coronavirus lockdowns was inaccurate, misleading and unfair, Al Jazeera issued a statement on Thursday saying that "it stood by the 'professionalism, quality and impartiality of its journalism' and called on Malaysia to withdraw the criminal investigation." Al Jazeera has reported concern for its staff and those interviewed in the documentary who have faced harassment since the airing of the documentary.

**From earlier this week:** [Malaysia opens probe into Al Jazeera report on migrant arrests](#)

**Headline:** [India plans rental homes to entice migrant workers back to cities](#)

**Source:** Thomson Reuters Foundation

**Date:** July 9, 2020

**Notes:** India has approved a plan to develop affordable rental housing for migrant workers as part of a federal housing project to provide housing for all by 2022. The plan comes after the "housing conditions of migrant labourers has come under scrutiny during the pandemic." While the government hopes that affordable housing will encourage migrant workers to return to urban areas, some say that housing alone will not be enough. Other governments are also considering affordable housing as a way to address inequality and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Headline:** [Standing in solidarity with migrants: Supporting civil society and other stakeholders in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

**Source:** IOM

**Date:** July 8, 2020

**Notes:** The UN Network on Migration issued this press release, calling for greater recognition of the work of civil society organizations and “particularly for their inclusive participation in planning responses to the pandemic and flexible and fast-tracked funding to civil society organizations and other key stakeholders, to address gaps and needs in response to COVID-19.” The UN Network on Migration has begun to host a COVID-19 online series of “Listening Sessions” to hear directly from stakeholders.

**Headline:** [Refugees deliver mental health services to locked down camps in Iraq](#)

**Source:** UNHCR

**Date:** July 8, 2020

**Notes:** UNHCR has received alarming reports of an increase in mental health issues from displaced persons since the COVID-19 pandemic began, which one Syrian community worker in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq explains: “Most of the camp residents are daily workers and after years of displacement some of them felt that they had gained control of their lives [...] Now, with the loss of livelihoods, it feels for many people that they are passing through the same problems and shocks over and over.” Community workers living in the camps have been able to provide mental wellness sessions for their neighbors, as mental health professionals have had little access to camps.

**Headline:** [Will COVID-19 halt asylum in the United States for good?](#)

**Source:** The New Humanitarian

**Date:** July 9, 2020

**Notes:** In this opinion piece, Giulia McPherson, the Director of Advocacy and Operations at Jesuit Refugee Service/USA, responds to the “series of efforts by the US government to limit long-held protections inherent in the US asylum systems.” “The US government could re-instate access to asylum at its borders while putting in place measures that manage risks to public health. Countries do not need to deny persons seeking international protection from lawfully petitioning for asylum. A combination of screening, testing, quarantine, and other safety measures at ports of entry would allow for asylum procedures to be reinstated sooner rather than later.”

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*Compiled by Sarah Guyer*

**Headline:** [Migrants in Mexico have few coronavirus protections](#)

**Source:** Al Jazeera

**Date:** July 10, 2020

**Notes:** Undocumented migrants in Mexico, including those who have had their asylum claim denied, often live in conditions that make quarantine and social distancing extremely difficult. Although all migrants have the legal right to healthcare in Mexico, migrants may fear seeking care due to the risk of being detained. Migrants who do seek care from the public health system often face discrimination.

**Related News:** [Mexico confirms 1<sup>st</sup> COVID-19 case at Matamoros migrant camp; patient removed](#)

**Headline:** [For Venezuelan Migrants, COVID-19 Is Fueling a Mental Health Crisis](#)

**Source:** Americas Quarterly

**Date:** July 9, 2020

**Notes:** New research suggests that the pandemic has exacerbated “a mental health crisis among Venezuelan migrants.” The think tank Equilibrium CenDE reports that, one month into the lockdown in Peru, three quarters of migrant households reported difficulty paying for basic necessities. In Peru, like in many other countries, Venezuelan migrants do not qualify for social protection mechanisms, including emergency cash transfers that have been part of the pandemic response.

**Headline:** [Coronavirus lockdown | Pandemic closes schools for children of Odisha’s migrant workers](#)

**Source:** The Hindu

**Date:** July 12, 2020

**Notes:** For children in India whose parents have migrated due to the pandemic, delays in returning to school may have long term consequences. In western Odisha districts, the number of school age children who have migrated with their parents could be as high as 30,000 or 35,000. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many children returning to home villages with their parents were unable to collect proof of onsite education following the abrupt shutdown of schools, making re-enrollment extremely difficult.

**Headline:** [BREAKING: Security Council extends for one year, lifesaving cross-border aid to Syria](#)

**Source:** UN News

**Date:** July 11, 2020

**Notes:** On the fourth attempt this week, the UN Security Council has extended the authorization for cross-border humanitarian aid, including lifesaving food and medicine, from Turkey into northwest Syria for one year through the Bab al-Hawa Border Crossing. The previous authorization for the six-year-long humanitarian operation expired at midnight on 10 July. Secretary-General Guterres has said that deliveries through Bab al-Hawa, as well as Bab al-Salam, must continue and be scaled up due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Headline:** [Forced to Return from the Gulf, Migrants in Kerala Are Wondering What Comes Next](#)

**Source:** The Wire

**Date:** July 11, 2020

**Notes:** Now that the quarantine period is over for migrants who have returned to Kerala from the Gulf, a feeling of uncertainty is settling in, as migrants are unsure what to do next. Some workers have still not seen their last paycheck or had to leave the Gulf without selling their possessions. Experts warn that, as the relief of returning wears off, mental health professionals should anticipate risk to migrants’ emotional health.

**Headline:** [Infected asylum seeker guard worked for company linked to quarantine hotel outbreak](#)

**Source:** The Sydney Morning Herald

**Date:** July 13, 2020

**Notes:** A security guard who worked at a hotel housing detained asylum seekers in Australia has contracted COVID-19. The security guard is employed by the same company linked to an outbreak in the hotel quarantine system. While Home Affairs states that the security guard had minimal contact with detainees and other workers, a refugee housed in the hotel said detainees were panicked: "Sooner or later, everyone will catch the virus."

**Headline:** [Nowhere to turn for women facing violence in Kashmir](#)

**Source:** The New Humanitarian

**Date:** July 13, 2020

**Notes:** The coronavirus lockdown issued in March extended the restrictions in Kashmir, which essentially has been on lockdown since August 2019. A communications blackout and restrictions on movement mean survivors of gender-based violence have few ways to seek help. Last year, India disbanded the Jammu and Kashmir women's commission, leaving even fewer options available for women to report abuse and access services.

**Headline:** [Coronavirus: Asylum centre criticised for lack of social distancing measures suffers outbreak of infections](#)

**Source:** Independent

**Date:** July 12, 2020

**Notes:** On Friday, hundreds of asylum seekers were ordered not to leave the grounds of Urban House, an initial accommodation center run by private firm Mears under a Home Office contract after several people tested positive for COVID-19. The center has been criticized multiple times for failing to implement effective social distancing guidelines.

**Headline:** [Opinion: COVID-19 calls for disrupting the way we communicate in a crisis](#)

**Source:** Devex

**Date:** July 10, 2020

**Notes:** In this opinion piece, Andrew Bredenkamp of Translators without Borders asserts that the humanitarian response is hitting a wall in the COVID-19 pandemic partially because it is lacking effective communication. He writes, "Responders simply aren't communicating in the right languages and formats with people who need assistance. This is exacerbating inequalities and feelings of exclusion for some marginalized groups, such as asylum-seekers and people living in a country without legal permission."

**Latest PFMH Blog Post:** [Beyond Households: Moving Towards a Family Systems Analysis to Support Children During COVID-19](#), by Mark Canavera and Tina Fischer, of the CPC Learning Network

**Other Resources:** [UNHCR COVID-19 Platform: Temporary Measures and Impact](#)

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*Compiled by Sarah Guyer*

**Headline:** [Italy deploys soldiers to town housing quarantined migrants](#)

**Source:** The Guardian

**Date:** July 14, 2020

**Notes:** “A group of residents in a small town in Calabria, southern Italy, have been protesting against the presence of a group of Pakistani migrants who tested positive for coronavirus. The migrants are being housed in apartments close to other residential buildings.” Of the 70 Pakistani migrants who arrived by boat from Turkey, 26 tested positive for COVID-19.

**Headline:** [Further Covid-19 cases in outbreak at Wakefield asylum seeker housing centre](#)

**Source:** BBC News (UK)

**Date:** July 14, 2020

**Notes:** An additional 18 residents at an accommodation centre for asylum seekers and refugees in Wakefield have tested positive for COVID-19.

**Headline:** [Costa Rica’s Covid-19 Response Scapegoats Nicaraguan Migrants](#)

**Source:** NACLA

**Date:** July 14, 2020

**Notes:** “Nicaraguan migrants are facing heightened discrimination in Costa Rica after a spike in COVID-19 infections among workers at agricultural facilities near the northern border. Although authorities suspended several plants for disregarding health regulations, different sectors of Costa Rican society have instead pointed the blame at irregular migrants.”

**Headline:** [A closer look at border security during the coronavirus pandemic](#)

**Source:** ABC 33/40

**Date:** July 14, 2020

**Notes:** Between May and June, authors write that US immigration officials saw changes in immigration patterns through the southern border, noting that there has been a significant decrease in family units arriving to the border, and an increase in the arrival of single, adult, male, Mexican nationals. Authors also cite that apprehensions of migrants and asylum seekers at the border now consist of immediate return of them to Mexico, just within a few hours of coming to the border.

**Headline:** [UN says migrants in Yemen stranded, abused amid coronavirus fears](#)

**Source:** Al Jazeera

**Date:** July 15, 2020

**Notes:** “Tens of thousands of African migrants, mostly Ethiopians, stranded in Yemen have been harassed and forcibly transferred internally amid fears they are spreading the coronavirus.” According to IOM, “stigmatized because people claimed they were carriers of the virus, at least 14,500 migrants have been hounded, rounded up and transported to different provinces far from the main urban centres.”

**Headline:** [The Gulf’s migrant workers are being exploited amid the coronavirus crisis, rights groups say](#)

**Source:** CNBC

**Date:** July 14, 2020

**Notes:** “The controversy surrounding cheap migrant labor in the oil-rich Gulf states has intensified during the coronavirus pandemic, amid reports of workers going without food and water and being deprived of pay.” Authors also write that thousands of migrant workers are being fired – in the UAE, over 50,000 Pakistani workers were laid off and repatriated.

**Headline:** [COVID-19 restrictions preventing people from fleeing violence or forcing dangerous routes, warns IRC](#)

**Source:** IRC

**Date:** July 15, 2020

**Notes:** IRC highlights in this press release the thousands of people “locked in to violence” since countries around the world have imposed mobility restrictions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. IRC highlights that while El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala have completed closed their borders, people who want to flee from violence are instead “locked in” to a “pressure cooker with some of the highest pre-existing rates of urban and gang violence in the world.”

**Headline:** [COVID-19 Movement Restrictions: Tunisia Mobility Restriction Dashboard #1 \(8 July 2020\)](#)

**Source:** IOM via ReliefWeb

**Date:** July 14, 2020

**Notes:** This mobility restriction update highlights that on June 4th, Tunisia lifted its lockdown, and on June 27th, reopened its sea, land, and air borders to foreigners, with a new international entry procedure in place. Mobility restrictions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 were first implemented in January 2020. Since March 15th, however, Tunisian authorities still ensured the repatriation of 25,000+ Tunisians stranded abroad, including 18,000 by air and 7,000 via land borders.

**Latest PFMH Blog Post:** [Beyond Households: Moving Towards a Family Systems Analysis to Support Children During COVID-19](#), by Mark Canavera and Tina Fischer, of the CPC Learning Network

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*Compiled by Sabeen Rokerya*

**Headline: [All migrant children must be released from US detention by Friday because of coronavirus. Some parents fear that could mean separation](#)**

**Source:** Boston Globe

**Date:** July 14, 2020

**Notes:** “A federal judge has ordered the release of immigrant children in the nation’s three family detention centers by Friday because of the coronavirus outbreak and possible violations of public health practices at the facilities. But immigration officials aren’t expected to allow their parents to leave with them. So the parents must decide: abandon their asylum claims and face imminent deportation with their children to countries where their lives are in danger or allow their children to be released to a sponsor or relative here and risk separation if the parents are later deported.”

**Related: [Judge delays deadline to free detained migrant children](#)**

**Headline: [Sweden to take in quota refugees again after coronavirus pause](#)**

**Source:** The Local

**Date:** July 15, 2020

**Notes:** Since April, Sweden's reception of so-called quota refugees (the term given to refugees who have arrived in the EU, and are sent to different countries according to a quota system) has been on hold due to the coronavirus pandemic, but the country has now announced it will start taking in refugees again. It is slated to take in 5,000 refugees in 2020.

**Headline: [Refugees working in shops and cafes have been hit hardest by coronavirus](#)**

**Source:** World Economic Forum

**Date:** July 16, 2020

**Notes:** A study released on Wednesday that surveyed economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on refugees and host populations across eight countries found that refugees were much more likely to have lost their jobs than host populations across those eight countries, partly due to the industries where refugees tend to find work, which have been the hardest hit by the pandemic.

**Headline: [Big Business in Bangladesh: Selling Fake Coronavirus Certificates](#)**

**Source:** New York Times

**Date:** July 16, 2020

**Notes:** “Bangladeshi authorities have arrested the owner of a hospital who they said had sold migrant workers thousands of certificates showing a negative result on coronavirus tests, when in fact many tests were never performed.” The hospital had seen a huge market for these certificates among migrant workers who aimed to return to Europe to work and sold them at a price of \$59 each.

**Headline: [Coronavirus hits Palestinian refugee camps in West Bank](#)**

**Source:** Jerusalem Post

**Date:** July 15, 2020

**Notes:** “More than 90% of the new coronavirus cases were detected in refugee camps in the northern and southern West Bank, according to unofficial figures obtained by United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees. Palestinian officials called on UNRWA to step up its efforts to curb the spread of the disease.”

**Headline: [Haiti/Migration: Nearly 100,000 people crossed the Haitian/Dominican border in six months \(French\)](#)**

**Source:** Vant Bep Info

**Date:** July 16, 2020



**Notes:** The Covid-19 pandemic caused a large number of Haitian migrants to return to Haiti from the Dominican Republic. According to a report by the Refugee and Returnee Support Group (GARR), nearly 100,000 Haitian migrants crossed the border in the first half of 2020, with the majority returning during the months of March through June.

**Headline:** [Urgent Support Needed for Pastoralist and Agro-Pastoralist Households Impacted by the Desert Locust Crisis during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

**Source:** Relief Web

**Date:** July 16, 2020

**Notes:** “The emergence of further generations of desert locusts comes with significant risks and impacts to rangelands which will converge with the current economic impact of COVID-19 to further threaten food security and the livelihoods of vulnerable pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities throughout the greater Horn of Africa.”

**Headline:** [COVID-19 sparks push for immigration reform in Brazil](#)

**Source:** The New Humanitarian

**Date:** July 14, 2020

**Notes:** “Brazilian lawmakers are being urged to pass an emergency regularization bill for undocumented immigrants and asylum seekers whose precarious position has been exposed by the coronavirus pandemic.”

**Latest PFMH Blog Post:** [Beyond Households: Moving Towards a Family Systems Analysis to Support Children During COVID-19](#), by Mark Canavera and Tina Fischer, of the CPC Learning Network

**Item of Interest:** [Survey on the Public Health Social Impact of COVID-19 on Refugees and Migrants](#)

**Notes:** “ApartTogether is a global study to assess the public health social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on refugees and migrants. It is a collaboration between World Health Organization and a consortium of research centres led by Ghent University (Belgium) and the University of Copenhagen (Denmark). Insights from the survey will be used to inform policy and decision makers on how they can better support refugees and migrants during and after this pandemic.”

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*Compiled by Christina Kay*



**Headline:** [As coronavirus explodes in Venezuela, Maduro's government blames 'biological weapon': the country's returning refugees](#)

**Source:** The Washington Post

**Date:** July 19, 2020

**Notes:** Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro has claimed that migrants returning to Venezuelan are a “biological” threat, sending militarized reinforcements to the border. Last week, Maduro said in a televised speech, “Those who cross [back home] illegally, you are killing your families [....] The Colombian virus has sneaked everywhere, and is killing good people.” Returnees face mandatory quarantines in ill-equipped quarantine centers.

**Related Resource:** [Stuck at Venezuela's Border with Covid-19 All Around](#) (Human Rights Watch)

**Headline:** [COVID-19 in ICE detention: An asylum-seeker on getting coronavirus in a for-profit immigration jail](#)

**Source:** Salon

**Date:** July 18, 2020

**Notes:** In this interview from the “Unheard Voices of the Pandemic” series from Voice of Witness, Raul Luna Gonzalez, an immunocompromised asylum-seeker from Mexico describes his decision to seek asylum in the United States and contracting COVID-19 in an immigration detention facility. He describes his experience as he battled the disease: “If I moved, even a little, I couldn't breathe. I began vomiting and felt like I was going to drown. They hooked me up to oxygen and brought me to the hospital, drew my blood, and sent me back the same day.”

**Headline:** [Covid-19 results in massive decline in labour migration numbers, with no immediate hopes of recovery](#)

**Source:** The Kathmandu Post

**Date:** July 20, 2020

**Notes:** The Nepal Department of Foreign Employment reported that, during the fiscal year that ended this past Wednesday, the number of permits issued for individuals seeking to go abroad for employment decreased by nearly 28% compared to the previous fiscal year. The government of Nepal had suspended issuing labor permits, and many of the destination countries had also enforced restrictions on international flights.

**Headline:** [Asylum hearings at the U.S.-Mexico border won't restart until COVID-19 criteria met; longer wait time likely](#)

**Source:** Arizona Republic

**Date:** July 18, 2020

**Notes:** At the end of last week, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice issued new criteria that must be met before court hearings for asylum seekers waiting in Mexico under Remain in Mexico resume. Hearings were originally scheduled to resume today. The change means that asylum seekers waiting in Mexico must continue to wait an undetermined period of time. Once court hearings resume, DHS has said that, in order to enforce social distancing, cases will be rescheduled once a particular facility reaches capacity, forcing asylum seekers to be turned away and told to come back another day.

**Headline:** [Malaysia Shouldn't Persecute Outspoken Migrant Worker](#)

**Source:** Human Rights Watch

**Date:** July 17, 2020

**Notes:** Following the release of an Al Jazeera documentary on the treatment of migrant workers in Malaysia, Malaysian authorities stated that they want to speak with a Bangladeshi migrant worker who spoke to Al Jazeera, putting his name, photo, and address in the media. The inspector-general of police has announced that the Immigration Department has removed the man's work permit. The Malaysian

government is investigating others who have advocated on behalf of migrants, including the director of an NGO who posted on social media about mistreatment of refugees at immigration detention centers.

**Headline:** [COVID-19 changed the world. Can it change aid, too?](#)

**Source:** The New Humanitarian

**Date:** July 16, 2020

**Notes:** Asking whether “this moment [demands] a new conception of ‘aid’ altogether,” this special feature considers moments of crisis, learning, and change in the humanitarian sector. Forcing the shift to localization in many settings, the piece notes, “COVID-19 may be exposing the moment when the large international groups have finally, perhaps by necessity, worked themselves out of jobs or repurposed themselves into new ones.”

**Headline:** [Sexual abuse in aid sector still ‘widespread’](#)

**Source:** Devex

**Date:** July 17, 2020

**Notes:** “The conditions of COVID-19 are putting communities more at risk in many ways. ... A lot of funding is moving to the COVID-19 pandemic response, away from things like gender-based-violence services,” explained Alina Potts of the Global Women’s Institute at the George Washington University to the UK International Development Committee, which monitors DFID’s work. When access to services is reduced, a vacuum exists that those providing services can exploit. Two years after a landmark summit on safeguarding, DFID acknowledges there is still “more to do” in addressing sexual exploitation and abuse.

**Headline:** [I’m An Asylum Seeker. Coronavirus Is Tearing Apart My Second Chance at Life](#)

**Source:** Huffington Post

**Date:** July 20, 2020

**Notes:** In this piece written by an asylum-seeker in the UK, the author documents how the pandemic has threatened her family’s new life in the UK. She writes: “My eldest daughter was really starting to flourish before this year. She was studying at university and living in student halls, just like anyone else. But lockdown has taken everything away from her. We do not have internet so she cannot keep up with her studies, and we do not have enough food to eat. It feels like her second chance at life has been torn apart.”

**Latest PFMH Blog Post:** [Beyond Households: Moving Towards a Family Systems Analysis to Support Children During COVID-19](#), by Mark Canavera and Tina Fischer, of the CPC Learning Network

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*Compiled by Sarah Guyer*

**Headline:** [UAE's migrant workers fret over future in coronavirus economy](#)

**Source:** Reuters

**Date:** July 22, 2020

**Notes:** The coronavirus crisis has taken a heavy toll on the economies of the oil-rich Gulf, heavily reliant on low-paid foreign workers in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah. Many have “racked up debt and would go hungry without the help of charities as they wait for work and to be paid.”

**Headline:** [Malaysia: Stop Treating Rohingya Refugees as Criminals](#)

**Source:** Human Rights Watch

**Date:** July 22, 2020

**Notes:** Human Rights Watch implores Malaysian authorities to stop prosecuting Rohingya refugees for illegal entry and to ensure that they are protected in accordance with international law. “At least 40 ethnic Rohingya who were picked up from a boat that arrived in Malaysian waters more than three months ago have been sentenced to seven months in prison.”

**Headline:** [Covid Creates Flashpoint for Anti-Migrant Sentiment in Italy](#)

**Source:** Human Rights Watch

**Date:** July 22, 2020

**Notes:** Human Rights Watch demands that the government condemn intolerance, which appears to have been on the rise since dozens of migrants who arrived by sea in Sicily and Calabria tested positive for COVID-19.

**Headline:** ['Milking their misery': Indian state makes returning migrants pay for quarantine](#)

**Source:** Reuters

**Date:** July 22, 2020

**Notes:** “Coronavirus quarantine charges levied by an Indian state on migrant workers who are being flown home from Gulf nations will drive many returnees further into debt and put them at risk of destitution.” India’s efforts to repatriate nearly a million citizens has left many jobless. Arrivals are quarantined in hotels, college hostels, or empty houses for a week.

**Headline:** [Bangladeshi migrants in Italy stigmatized over coronavirus certificate scam](#)

**Source:** Duetsche Welle

**Date:** July 22, 2020

**Notes:** “In the aftermath of a coronavirus testing scandal in Dhaka, Bangladeshis living in Rome have reported a change in attitude towards their community. Some say they have become stigmatized as ‘viral bombs.’”

**Headline:** [Multisector needs assessment: COVID-19 situation in Uganda \(May 2020\)](#)

**Source:** Danish Refugee Council via ReliefWeb

**Date:** July 22, 2020

**Notes:** The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) conducted a rapid multi-sectoral needs assessment in 5 refugee settlements in Uganda in order to better understand refugees’ specific information needs related to Covid-19. The report documents decreased feelings of safety, and the need to invest in decongestion of water sources.

**Headline:** [Young artists drew a world where kindness defeats COVID-19 – We animated it](#)

**Source:** UNHCR

**Date:** July 22, 2020

**Notes:** UNHCR highlights artwork from over 2,000 young individuals, drawn in solidarity with refugees amid the pandemic. One young person writes with their drawing, “I’m a Congolese refugee living in Kenya. I wanted to communicate through my painting that solidarity is the best way to protect the lives of everybody in the world from this pandemic, including refugees.”

**Headline:** [Border Report: Surviving in Tijuana Has Gotten Even Harder for Haitian Migrants](#)

**Source:** Voice of San Diego

**Date:** July 20, 2020

**Notes:** Authors report that there are approximately 4,000 Haitians navigating the US asylum-seeking process in Tijuana, which is facing an extreme economic crisis during the pandemic.

**Headline:** [Coronavirus sheds light on Canada's poor treatment of migrant workers](#)

**Source:** The Guardian

**Date:** July 20, 2020

**Notes:** "Covid-19 has surged on farms that employ foreign workers, aided by a lack of legal protections and shoddy oversight." Authors document the story of Erika Zavala and Jesus Molina who arrived to Canada from Mexico, and worked under a federal program for seasonal farm workers.

**Headline:** [Starving and sleeping on the streets: The reality of life for women seeking asylum in lockdown Britain](#)

**Source:** The Independent

**Date:** July 20, 2020

**Notes:** Authors document that women who are seeking asylum in the UK have been forced to go without food and sleep outside or on buses, making them more at risk of hunger and ill health amid the pandemic.

**Latest PFMH Blog Post:** [Beyond Households: Moving Towards a Family Systems Analysis to Support Children During COVID-19](#), by Mark Canavera and Tina Fischer, of the CPC Learning Network

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*Compiled by Sabeen Rokerya*

**Headline:** [US not a safe third-country for refugees, says Canadian court](#)

**Source:** The New Humanitarian

**Date:** July 23, 2020

**Notes:** “Returning asylum seekers to the United States under a “safe third-country” agreement violates human rights protections contained in Canada’s constitution, according to a 22 July ruling by Canada’s Federal Court. The ruling found that the United States is no longer a safe third-country because US authorities “immediately and automatically” imprison returned asylum seekers. People returned under the agreement face “cruel and unusual detention conditions, solitary confinement, and the risk of *refoulement*... [which are] ‘entirely outside the norms accepted in our free and democratic society’,” according to the decision by Justice Ann Marie McDonald.”

**Headline:** [How Refugees in Uganda's Nakivale Settlement Are Fighting COVID-19](#)

**Source:** Global Citizen

**Date:** July 22, 2020

**Notes:** This article highlights how refugee groups have been the first to respond to the threat of COVID-19 in communities where they live in Uganda, and how the pandemic has shifted them into more of an implementing role compared to outside humanitarian groups. Some of the projects highlighted in this article include health education and mask-making projects by refugee groups.

**Headline:** [Hundreds of Venezuelans Are in Migration Purgatory Because of Coronavirus](#)

**Source:** Vice News

**Date:** July 22, 2020

**Notes:** This article highlights the difficult circumstances faced by Venezuelan migrants who have been trapped in makeshift tent cities since the advent of the pandemic and now are undergoing challenging journeys to return to Venezuela, only to then face quarantine with inadequate food, water and distancing.

**Headline:** [UNHCR expands support to refugees and host communities in Brazil as COVID-19 takes its toll](#)

**Source:** UNHCR

**Date:** July 24, 2020

**Notes:** UNHCR has been scaling-up its support in Brazil, one of the countries hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, to help mitigate the threat of the virus among refugees, migrants and the local communities hosting them by providing infrastructure to strengthen the national health system, cash assistance, hygiene items and life-saving information such as informative sessions on preventive measures. They are also striving to address rising humanitarian and health needs among refugees living on the streets, and in overcrowded shelters in Amazonas, Roraima and Para states.

**Headline:** [Yemen: ‘Nearly 100 medics killed by coronavirus’, dealing devastating blow to war-torn nation](#)

**Source:** The Independent

**Date:** July 23, 2020

**Notes:** A report released by MedGlobal shows the toll of the COVID-19 pandemic on the humanitarian crisis in Yemen, highlighting especially the large loss of life in the country’s healthcare workforce, which has ripple effects across the country.

**Read the report here:** [A Tipping Point for Yemen’s Health System: The Impact of COVID-19 in a Fragile State](#)

**Related:** [Unparalleled: COVID-19 and the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen](#): a report from the NYU Center for International Cooperation on why COVID-19 has impacted Yemen so heavily and the critical actions needed from the international community to prevent further deterioration.

**Headline:** [Coronavirus Runs Rampant In Virginia ICE Detention Facility](#)

**Source:** Forbes

**Date:** July 23, 2020

**Notes:** “Nearly 75% of detainees at an Immigration and Customs Enforcement center in Virginia have contracted the coronavirus, as conditions in detention centers continue to deteriorate and the population of detainees reaches 22,000 in immigration detention facilities nationwide.”

**Headline:** [Out of work, out of options: Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand scrape by during COVID-19](#)

**Source:** Global Voices

**Date:** July 22, 2020

**Notes:** Millions of migrant workers were stranded in Thailand when the country closed its borders in late March. Many of these worked for daily wages and immediately lost their income. Though businesses are now reopening in Thailand, the economic impacts of COVID-19 have been significant and many migrant workers are unable to get their jobs back.

**Headline:** [Refugee health workers lead COVID-19 battle in Bangladesh camps](#)

**Source:** UNHCR USA

**Date:** July 24, 2020

**Notes:** “Trained community health workers – 1,400 trained Rohingya refugees – refer suspected COVID-19 patients in the settlements for testing and care. They go door-to-door in the densely populated camps that house some 860,000 Rohingya refugees, sharing information about health and hygiene, looking out for signs of illness, recording births and deaths, and acting as a bridge between refugee communities and health facilities.” These community health workers are important for building trust in the community and combating misinformation in the settlements.

**Latest PFMH Blog Post:** [New Challenges to Addressing the Humanitarian Crisis at the U.S.-Mexico Border during COVID-19](#), by Monique Baumont, MPH, Research Associate at Center for Reproductive Rights and Claudia Flores, student at Columbia Mailman School of Public Health

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Compiled by Christina Kay

**Headline:** [COVID-19 fuels tensions between Rohingya refugees and Bangladeshi hosts](#)

**Source:** The New Humanitarian

**Date:** July 27, 2020

**Notes:** Aid groups are reporting a rise in anti-Rohingya hate speech among Bangladeshis and “rapidly deteriorating security dynamics,” as the COVID-19 outbreak continues in the country. “There is a huge panic. The number of infected people is higher among the Rohingya,” said Mustafa Kamal Chowdhury, the head teacher at a high school in Cox’s Bazar, repeating one common claim. ‘The refugees and NGOs are hiding the information about infections.’” Members of the host community have claimed that the response primarily targets the refugees.

**Headline:** [Covid Creates Flashpoint for Anti-Migrant Sentiment in Italy](#)

**Source:** Human Rights Watch

**Date:** July 22, 2020

**Notes:** Anti-migrant rhetoric has been increasing in Italy, related, in part, to the recent arrival of 13 migrants who tested positive for COVID-19. In Amantea, Italy, residents protested the arrival of the migrants. Public figures, including the governor of Calabria, a parliamentarian, the Sicilian governor, and the mayor of Brindisi, contributed to the stigmatization of migrants.

**Headline:** [COVID-19 is spreading in Yemen. Why aren’t hospital beds full?](#)

**Source:** Devex

**Date:** July 23, 2020

**Notes:** The MSF mission in Yemen has reported concerns that hospital admissions have decreased as both malnutrition and COVID-19 spread in Yemen. In one MSF-supported coronavirus treatment center, only about half of the beds are occupied. Another MSF-supported hospital that provides intensive services for malnourished children has seen their bed occupancy rate drop from 100% to below 50%. “Fear of contracting COVID-19 in hospitals and the perceived stigma of catching and spreading the disease are keeping people at home, even if they require medical care, [Caroline Ducarme, the head of the MSF mission in Yemen] said.”

**Headline:** [They Crossed Oceans to Lift Their Families Out of Poverty. Now, They Need Help.](#)

**Source:** The New York Times

**Date:** July 27, 2020

**Notes:** As economies have stalled and workers lose jobs, the global flow of remittances has slowed. Remittances, last year at a record \$554 billion, are likely to decrease by one-fifth this year, jeopardizing a key source of income for families across the globe. “Some people, either naïvely or with good intentions, say this Covid-19 democratizes us all, and we are all exposed to it equally,” said Mahmoud Mohieldin, an Egyptian economist who serves as a United Nations special envoy on financing sustainable development. “This is not true. The impacts are very much disproportionate.”

**Headline:** [Four months in, coronavirus travel restrictions strain cross-border relationships](#)

**Source:** Los Angeles Times

**Date:** July 25, 2020

**Notes:** U.S. restrictions on nonessential travel that went into effect in March have “effectively invalidate[d] short-term visas that allow for brief crossings into border cities to visit family, get medical care or shop.” Those who are allowed to cross daily have been facing long delays, averaging three hours but at times exceeding six hours at the San Ysidro Port of Entry. These restrictions, the latest of which are effective until August 21, have had profound effects on families that are split across the border.



**Headline:** [Mixed reactions to proposed COVID-19 testing mandate for migrant workers](#)

**Source:** CTV News

**Date:** July 25, 2020

**Notes:** A proposed COVID-19 testing mandate for migrant workers in Southwestern Ontario has garnered mixed reactions, with some questioning why the proposed rule would apply only to migrant farmworkers. “Jenna Hennebry, the cofounder of the International Migration Research Centre, says resources would be more effectively used to improve living and working conditions that heighten the risk for migrant workers.”

**Related:** [Canada, COVID-19, and Systemized Abuse of Temporary Migrant Workers](#) in the McGill International Review

**Headline:** [S. Korea to charge foreigners for COVID-19 treatment](#)

**Source:** The Korea Herald

**Date:** July 26, 2020

**Notes:** This weekend, the South Korean Prime Minister announced that the country would require foreign patients to pay part or the entirety of the cost of in-patient treatment for COVID-19. Under the current regulations, COVID-19 testing and treatment are covered by the government regardless of nationality. In the past two weeks, more than 60% of the COVID-19 cases have been “imported from overseas.”

**Headline:** [Trinidad Cracks Down on Illegal Migration, As COVID-19 Cases Increase](#)

**Source:** The Gleaner

**Date:** July 25, 2020

**Notes:** Over the weekend, the government of Trinidad and Tobago announced that they would be searching for and detaining anyone “involved in human trafficking or anyone harbouring illegal immigrants.” The National Security Minister specifically referenced Venezuelan immigrants, stating that “Any (legal) Venezuelan migrant found assisting in harbouring or bringing illegal immigrants in the country, your ability to be here will be revoked and you will be deported.”

**Latest PFMH Blog Post:** [New Challenges to Addressing the Humanitarian Crisis at the U.S.-Mexico Border during COVID-19](#) by *Claudia Flores & Monique Baumont, MPH, of the Center for Reproductive Rights*

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*Compiled by Sarah Guyer*



**Headline:** [Coronavirus: Asylum seeker 'went without food' in lockdown](#)

**Source:** BBC News

**Date:** July 29, 2020

**Notes:** Reports from a former UN worker seeking asylum in Wales, corroborated by the asylum seeker supporting NGO Sisters Not Strangers, state that asylum seekers did not receive support for food and other basic needs during the mandatory lockdown. In response, the Welsh government referenced emergency accommodation funds but deferred the primary responsibility for support to the Home Office.

**Headline:** [Malaysia: Free Outspoken Migrant Worker](#)

**Source:** Human Rights Watch

**Date:** July 29, 2020

**Notes:** Human Rights Watch has declared the detention of a Bangladeshi migrant worker, Mohamed Rayhan Kabir, is “clear retaliation for his criticism of government policies towards migrants.” Kabir was arrested July 24 after being featured in an Al Jazeera documentary that criticized the treatment of migrant workers in Malaysia during the COVID-19 lockdown.

**Headline:** [Italy Deploys Troops to Stop Migrants Breaking Coronavirus Quarantine](#)

**Source:** Wall Street Journal

**Date:** July 28, 2020

**Notes:** The Italian government is deploying approximately 400 soldiers to Sicily to stop migrants who have broken out of holding centers where they were being quarantined after arrival from Tunisia. None of the migrants have tested positive for the coronavirus. Over 5,500 migrants have arrived in Italy this July, almost five times as many as this month last year.

**Headline:** [Coronavirus: Malta says 65 rescued migrants test positive](#)

**Source:** BBC News

**Date:** July 29, 2020

**Notes:** Of the 94 migrants were rescued in the Mediterranean by the Maltese coastguard, 65 have tested positive for COVID-19. The migrants are suspected to be from Eritrea, Morocco, and Sudan, and spent at least 30 hours at sea before sending out a distress signal when their boat began to falter. The cluster puts Malta’s total active cases at 99. The arriving migrants will be quarantined for 14 days in a reception center.

**Headline:** [COVID-19 At The Border: Unprecedented Use Of Law Expels Migrants ‘As Quickly As Possible’](#)

**Source:** Houston Public Media (affiliate of PBS/NPR)

**Date:** July 28, 2020

**Notes:** US Customs and Border Protection spokesman Rafael Garza describes CBPs work under Title 42 to quickly apprehend and deport migrants with minimal process. Garza acknowledges the Physicians for Human Rights’ May letter to the CDC but states “it’s a matter of personal opinion, whether it’s six experts of six Border Patrol agents... who are you going to trust?”

**Headline:** [Concerns and Confusion: Afghan refugees and migrants in Turkey face COVID-related challenges every day - Afghan voices from Turkey](#)

**Source:** Mixed Migration Centre (MMC) via ReliefWeb

**Date:** July 28, 2020

**Notes:** In response to the partial suspension of Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM) activities, MMC conducted semi-structured interviews with Afghan migrants refugees throughout April and May. Refugees and migrants report fear of hospital costs, lack of information in preferred languages, job loss, and food insecurity.

**Headline:** [Covid-19: One danger too many for refugee children](#)

**Source:** Terre des hommes (TDH) Foundation Child Relief via ReliefWeb

**Date:** July 28, 2020

**Notes:** Terre des hommes reports their representatives in Bangladesh, Greece, and Lebanon are seeing an increase in need for psychological support among refugees and migrant populations, especially children who are struggling to understand the situation and face increased familial stress from aggravated financial situations.

**Headline:** [Migration: COVID-19 continues to cause hardship for migrants and deprives children of access to education](#)

**Source:** FRA (European Agency for Fundamental Rights)

**Date:** July 27, 2020

**Notes:** The FRA published their quarterly report regarding migration and highlighted continued challenges for migrants including closed borders and limited access to education for children due to the lack of online learning tools and stable internet. Reports of pushbacks at borders continue, and Hungary passed a law permitting the immediate removal of any individual who enters the country unlawfully and indicates an intent to seek asylum.

**Headline:** [Report: Coronavirus Exacerbates Existing Health Crisis For Migrants At The Border](#)

**Source:** Fronteras

**Date:** July 28, 2020

**Notes:** A report from Harvard Global Health found migrants waiting south of the U.S.-Mexico border face overcrowded housing, violence, poor sanitation, and lack of access to health care, making them particularly susceptible to communicable diseases, including chickenpox, measles, and now COVID-19. Migrants also frequently go untreated for injuries, malnutrition, chronic conditions, trauma, and other mental health needs. The report developed 15 recommendations, which include ending MPP, increase of federally supported accommodation capacity in Mexico, improving WASH facilities, and capacity-building, among others.

**Related:** [A Population in Peril: A Health Crisis among Asylum Seekers on the Northern Border of Mexico](#), Harvard Global Health Institute

**Latest PFMH Blog Post:** [New Challenges to Addressing the Humanitarian Crisis at the U.S.-Mexico Border during COVID-19](#) by *Claudia Flores & Monique Baumont, MPH, of the Center for Reproductive Rights*

*Rights*

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*Compiled by Katherine McCann*

**Headline:** [How the Trump Administration is using COVID-19 to end asylum](#)

**Source:** IRC

**Date:** July 29, 2020

**Notes:** “The Trump Administration is using the pretext of the coronavirus pandemic to intensify its years-long attack on asylum seekers. Families requesting safe haven at the U.S. border often have no choice but to flee dangerous situations. They have the legal right to request protection in the United States, and should not be criminalized or separated from their children. Policies that turn them away expose them to dangers that have only been exacerbated by COVID-19.”

**Headline:** [How language can be a deadly COVID-19 complication for US immigrants](#)

**Source:** The New Humanitarian

**Date:** July 30, 2020

**Notes:** “With over 150,000 people in the United States now confirmed to have died after contracting COVID-19, the nation’s estimated 25 million residents who speak little or no English face an additional challenge: accessing critical information. As cases climb, President Donald Trump’s administration has quietly scaled back federal help that previously guided individuals with limited English proficiency.”

**Headline:** [UNHCR warns of increased COVID-19-related trafficking risks for refugees, displaced and stateless](#)

**Source:** UNHCR

**Date:** July 30, 2020

**Notes:** “With COVID-19 increasing needs and vulnerabilities of refugees and internally displaced and stateless people, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is concerned that the impacts of the pandemic are also heightening their risks to trafficking and exploitation.”

**Headline:** [Refugees Are Essential to the COVID-19 Response](#)

**Source:** Project Syndicate

**Date:** July 30, 2020

**Notes:** “Last month, for World Refugee Day, UNHCR launched its Every Action Counts campaign, to emphasize that all contributions to creating a more just and inclusive world make a difference. Everyone, including refugees, can have a powerful impact on society. But as we celebrate refugees’ courage and contributions – including in the fight for racial justice and on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic – we should also recognize the challenges they face and offer them the protections they deserve.”

**Headline:** [COVID-19 Pandemic Derails Germany's Push for Migrant Integration](#)

**Source:** New York Times

**Date:** July 30, 2020

**Notes:** “The pandemic is pushing up unemployment among migrants at a faster rate than among German citizens, hampering the country’s previously successful push to integrate into its labour market the record 1.1 million people who arrived in 2015 seeking asylum.”

**Headline:** [Greece's refugees face healthcare crisis as Lesbos Covid-19 centre closes](#)

**Source:** The Guardian

**Date:** July 31, 2020

**Notes:** “In a fresh blow to refugees and migrants experiencing dire conditions in Greece, frontline medical charity Médecins San Frontières (MSF) on Thursday announced it has been forced to closed its Covid-19 isolation centre on Lesbos after authorities imposed fines and potential criminal charges.”

**Headline:** [Judge stops Trump administration's 'public charge' policy citing COVID-19 concerns](#)

**Source:** ABC News

**Date:** July 29, 2020

**Notes:** “A federal judge in New York temporarily blocked the Trump administration from carrying out two rules that bar immigrants from living in the U.S. if officials believe they will use too many public benefits, such as food stamps or Medicaid.”

**Headline:** [Coronavirus recession puts thousands of refugees and asylum seekers at risk of job loss, homelessness](#)

**Source:** ABC News

**Date:** July 30, 2020

**Notes:** “A new report commissioned by the Refugee Council of Australia estimates that almost 19,000 refugees and asylum seekers on temporary visas will lose their jobs because of the current recession.”

**Latest PFMH Blog Post:** [New Challenges to Addressing the Humanitarian Crisis at the U.S.-Mexico Border during COVID-19](#), by Claudia Flores & Monique Baumont, MPH, Center for Reproductive Rights

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*Compiled by Christina Kay*