

Headline: [Moria refugee camp under quarantine after coronavirus case](#)

Source: Al Jazeera

Date: September 2, 2020

Notes: “Authorities in Greece have placed the Moria refugee camp on the island of Lesbos under quarantine after the confirmation of the first coronavirus infection in the notoriously overcrowded facility. The Ministry of Migration and Asylum said in a statement on Wednesday that a Somali refugee, 40, had tested positive and was being treated at a hospital in Mytilene, the main town of the island.”

Headline: [Judge blocks asylum screening by border protection agents](#)

Source: AP

Date: August 31, 2020

Notes: “A federal judge on Monday blocked U.S. Customs and Border Protection employees from conducting the initial screening for people seeking asylum, dealing a setback to one of the Trump administration’s efforts to rein in asylum. The nationwide injunction will likely have little, if any, immediate impact because the government has effectively suspended asylum during the coronavirus pandemic, citing public health concerns.”

Headline: [Refugee community networks help detect COVID-19 in Ecuador](#)

Source: UNHCR

Date: September 1, 2020

Notes: “Refugee community networks are helping detect COVID-19 cases in Ecuador, as part of a Community Epidemiological Surveillance System (CESS) developed by UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency. The system is helping ensure the early detection and referral for treatment of COVID-19 cases among the country’s refugee population. Since the system was launched a month ago, more than 250 suspected cases have been referred to national health authorities.”

Headline: [Middle East: Fear of Covid-19 triggers alarming rise in displaced children’s stress](#)

Source: NRC via ReliefWeb

Date: September 1, 2020

Notes: “Displaced children in the Middle East are reporting an alarming rise in stress levels triggered by fear of Covid-19, with an average increase of 45 per cent since the pandemic started. Research conducted by the Norwegian Refugee Council in Syria, Yemen, Iraq and Jordan found 88 per cent of displaced and refugee children stressed by coronavirus, of whom 75 per cent were afraid of catching the disease. Fear of someone they love getting the virus stood at 48 per cent. Displaced children in Yemen reported the highest figure of increase in stress levels compared to the pre-pandemic levels, with a rise of 65 per cent.”

Headline: [Migrants Expelled Under COVID-19 Rules Land In Mexico City](#)

Source: Texas Public Radio via High Plains Public Radio

Date: August 31, 2020

Notes: “Earlier this year, U.S. Customs and Border Protection reported an increase of Mexican nationals crossing the border into the U.S. between March and May, raising concerns of COVID-19 spread into the United States. The concern prompted a collaboration between the Department of Homeland Security and the government of Mexico to expel migrants through repatriation flights to Mexico City. [...] Some of the passengers aboard the flights are deportees, who have been detained for months. Others are recent expelled migrants who only spent two or three days detained in the U.S.”

Headline: [Mozambique: Families fleeing attacks seek shelter in COVID-19 hotspot; Country’s largest treatment centre opens today](#)

Source: ICRC via ReliefWeb

Date: September 2, 2020

Notes: “Attacks on towns and villages in Mozambique's northern province of Cabo Delgado have intensified, forcing thousands of people to flee by foot, boat or road to the provincial capital, a COVID-19 hotspot where the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) helped build the country's largest treatment centre that opens today.”

Headline: [Refugee camps have avoided the worst of the pandemic. That could be about to change.](#)

Source: The Washington Post

Date: September 1, 2020

Notes: “For months, humanitarian organizations warned of a doomsday scenario: the novel coronavirus tearing through overcrowded camps for refugees and internally displaced people, where medical care and clean water are often scarce. [...] Nearly six months into the pandemic, advocates warn, the coronavirus has started to find new footholds in some camps, or in dangerous proximity, threatening some of the world's most vulnerable populations.”

Related News: [Moria camp placed under quarantine after Covid-19 case](#), [Israel and Hamas Agree to Cool Hostilities, for Now](#)

Headline: [COVID-19 fallout drives Tunisians to Italy despite deportations](#)

Source: The New Humanitarian

Date: September 1, 2020

Notes: “Driven partly by increased hardship as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, almost three times as many Tunisian migrants have crossed the Mediterranean Sea to Italy already this year than did so in all of 2019. Italy is putting pressure on Tunisia to reduce departures, but the decades-long history of migration between the two nations suggests these efforts may do little to deter Tunisians intent on escaping their country's long and worsening economic malaise.”

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Compiled by Katherine McCann

Headline: [In COVID-19 Migration Surge, Africans Take a More Dangerous Route](#)

Source: Voice of America

Date: September 2, 2020

Notes: This article explores a change in migration routes from Africa to Europe while migration from Africa has increased, possibly due to the effects of COVID-19 containment measures. Smugglers have reportedly lowered their prices significantly and are now sending more migrants across the Atlantic to Spain's Canary Islands instead of across the safer Mediterranean to mainland Europe. Migrant rights advocates say that the new route has less to do with COVID-19 than with European politics related to migrants.

Headline: [Coronavirus risks deepening refugee children schooling crisis: UN](#)

Source: AlJazeera

Date: September 3, 2020

Notes: A new UNHCR report warns that many refugee children, especially girls, will not be able to return to school this year due to the effects of COVID-19 on their families. The report found that refugee families have been impacted by economic impacts of COVID-19 containment measures and will lack resources to pay for school fees, uniforms, etc. Additionally, refugee children will have less access to remote learning resources that will be used by children across the world. The report further predicts that these difficulties will likely widen the pre-existing educational gap between refugee girls and boys.

Headline: [IRC calls for urgent evacuation of the most vulnerable refugees, as first Coronavirus case confirmed in Moria](#)

Source: ReliefWeb

Date: September 2, 2020

Notes: INGOs working with refugees in Greece are calling on the Greek government to protect the more than 12,000 people who are currently under quarantine in the Moria refugee camp after the detection of the first case of COVID-19 in the camp. IRC has called for evacuation of vulnerable refugees, and MSF has called the quarantine of the entire camp "dangerous," citing the camp's overcrowded conditions, lack of water and sanitation facilities, and lack of healthcare.

Related: [Greece imposes dangerous lockdown of Moria refugee camp after first COVID-19 case](#)

Headline: [To Fight the Coronavirus, Myanmar Needs a Cease-Fire in Rakhine](#)

Source: Foreign Policy

Date: September 3, 2020

Notes: In this opinion piece, the author argues that Myanmar's efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 must include parts of the country experiencing conflict. "Coronavirus cases are now rising alongside civilian casualties and displacement, and Rakhine state's health infrastructure could easily become overwhelmed. The state government has limited access for humanitarian organizations to some conflict-affected populations since early 2019. And for more than a year, the national government has blocked high-speed internet in eight townships in Rakhine and Chin states—restricting access to information for more than 1 million people."

Headline: [Lampedusa: Migrant with coronavirus gives birth in helicopter](#)

Source: BBC

Date: September 2, 2020

Notes: This article highlights difficulties faced by migrants who have crossed the Mediterranean to Italy, some of whom are being housed in a holding center on the island of Lampedusa and some of whom are awaiting permission to disembark from rescue vessels in the sea. The story highlights a pregnant woman

who tested positive for COVID-19 and experienced such delays in accessing care that she gave birth in a helicopter while being transferred to a hospital.

Headline: [Home Office under pressure to re-open refugee resettlement as hundreds left 'languishing in unsafe situations'](#)

Source: The Independent

Date: September 3, 2020

Notes: "Ministers are coming under mounting pressure to reopen the UK's refugee resettlement schemes as charities warn vulnerable refugees are being left to "languish in unsafe situations" while these routes remain closed. The programmes, which are the only safe and legal way to Britain for most refugees, were closed on 12 March because of coronavirus. No refugees have been resettled in the UK under the schemes since then."

Headline: [Refugees, asylum seekers unfairly blamed for COVID-19](#)

Source: Anadolu Agency

Date: September 2, 2020

Notes: This article, which ran in the state-run Turkish newspaper, highlights the danger of refugees and asylum seekers being unfairly scapegoated for the spread of COVID-19. "Even though it has no scientific basis, refugees and asylum seekers are held responsible for spreading the virus in many countries during the pandemic. Increased stigma and discrimination towards refugees and asylum seekers emerge as a problem which affects the internal peace of many societies."

Headline: [Singapore detects new coronavirus clusters at migrant worker dormitories](#)

Source: India Today

Date: September 3, 2020

Notes: "Singapore health authorities have detected new Covid-19 clusters at foreign worker dormitories previously found to be clear of the infection, highlighting the challenge in containing the spread of the highly infectious virus."

Headline: [Coronavirus - Niger: Influencers Strengthen Migrant Voices in Niger](#)

Source: AfricaNews

Date: September 3, 2020

Notes: The 2020 REFEMAC (an acronym for the French: "Meeting of Female Migrants, Women Working in Media and Female Artists") welcomed Nigerien women leaders and influencers from media and art, along with 13 migrant women hosted at IOM's transit center in Niamey. "Throughout the week, the women collaborated on innovative awareness-raising projects related to migration. At the end of the weeklong workshop, the group pitched their ideas on stage at CCFN; their show was livestreamed on Facebook by more than 10,000 viewers."

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Compiled by Christina Kay

Headline: [Flurry of tests performed as COVID-19 hits Greece's biggest migrant camp](#)

Source: PBS

Date: September 8, 2020

Notes: As of Tuesday, a major testing and contact-tracing operation at Greece's largest migrant camp on the eastern island of Lesbos has so far detected 35 confirmed cases of COVID-19 among the overcrowded facility's 12,500 residents. Officials report that 1,900 COVID-19 tests have been conducted on migrants in the Moria facility, which was initially designed to hold 2,800 people. There has been no COVID-19 detected among staff. Per author Nicholas Paphitis, the camp was to be quarantined until September 15, with a police cordon to enforce the entry and exit ban.

Headline: [Fire destroys Europe's largest migrant camp, which had been under coronavirus lockdown](#)

Source: Washington Post

Date: September 9, 2020

Notes: Authors Chico Harlan and Elina Labropoulou report on a massive fire that erupted in in Moria camp, Lesbos, Greece on Wednesday morning, leaving stranded 12,500 migrants who were to be quarantined until September 15. Authors write that Moria camp has long been a site for protest, fatal fires, and chronic sickness, well before the pandemic, and has often been filled beyond capacity, cited as unsafe and inhumane by international aid groups.

Headline: [Matamoros refugee camp shrinking as COVID-19, border restrictions hinder volunteer efforts](#)

Source: ABC 27 News

Date: September 8, 2020

Notes: Conditions for migrants in the Matamoros camp, many of whole are starting their second years of living in the tent encampments, worsen with weather, rats, and desperation, as reported by Border Report. Due to these worsening conditions and increasing border lines and crossing times, fewer volunteers are entering the camp daily.

Headline: [Jordan confirms two COVID-19 cases in a Syrian refugee camp: U.N.](#)

Source: Reuters

Date: September 8, 2020

Notes: Authorities in Jordan confirmed the first two cases of COVID-19 in a refugee camp hosting Syrian refugees, Azraq camp, identified through random testing conducted by Jordanian health authorities. Both individuals who tested positive were transferred to an isolation site. Since March 2, there have been about 2,500 COVID-19 cases identified in Jordan.

Headline: [Refugees in Italy bear brunt of coronavirus angst](#)

Source: Al Jazeera

Date: September 7, 2020

Notes: Authors report on the experience of refugees and migrants who have recently been removed from an overcrowded reception center in Lampedusa to undergo a 14-day quarantine aboard a ferry. One Tunisian migrant comments on his experience in Lampedusa, "often there is no water or electricity, you sleep on the floor or on a dirty mattress, if you get one. There are no words to describe it...Some of them [staff] keep insulting us. I feel treated as we were terrorists."

Headline: [Rohingya crisis: Nearly 300 refugees land in Indonesia after months at sea](#)

Source: BBC News

Date: September 7, 2020

Notes: Nearly 300 Rohingya refugees landed in Indonesia this week, reporting to authorities that they had been at sea for approximately six months. Chris Lewa, Director of the Arakan Project, a non-profit

organization focusing on the Rohingya crisis, states that this arrival to Indonesia was the largest recorded since 2015, and also notes that “the refugees may have been held hostage at sea for a period by traffickers demanding money before allowing them to disembark.”

Headline: [Border Security Tightened after Covid-19 Cases Surge in Myanmar](#)

Source: Chiang Rai Times

Date: September 8, 2020

Notes: Concerned about the spread of COVID-19 from Myanmar to Thailand by way of infected migrants, Thai border security is reported to be enforcing stringent measures. “Col Akekapong Krittayakiatchuti, Commander of the 12th Ranger Forces Regiment, on Monday led a team of officers to at-risk patrol areas along the Thai-Cambodia borders.”

Headline: [Protecting people from conflict, cyclones and COVID-19 in Mozambique: a UN Resident Coordinator blog](#)

Source: IOM via ReliefWeb

Date: September 9, 2020

Notes: In this blog post, the author highlights the existing problems in Mozambique that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, such as the damage caused by two separate cyclones and drought. Refugees in Mozambique express that “COVID-19 as a bomb for which no one was prepared.” To prevent the spread of COVID-19 among displacement camps in Mozambique, the author calls for funding, the prioritization of income-generating opportunities, and engagement with youth communities.

Headline: [Judge orders Trump administration to stop detaining migrant children in hotels prior to expelling them](#)

Source: CBS News

Date: September 4, 2020

Notes: “A federal judge on Friday ordered the Trump administration to end the controversial practice of holding migrant children in hotel rooms while arrangements are made for them to be summarily expelled from the U.S. under an unprecedented pandemic-era border restriction.”

Headline: [Hundreds of Migrants Call for Freedom at Camp on Gran Canaria](#)

Source: Voice of America

Date: September 8, 2020

Notes: “Migrant reception centers across the Canary Islands are stretched to capacity and around 420 people are being held at the camp...Some of them have been there for several days enduring hot temperatures, sleeping on blankets on the concrete floor, amid increasing despair.” Authors report that groups of migrants in the center chant for freedom as they see the coast guard bring in more individuals into the overcrowded camp.

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Compiled by Sabeen Rokerya

Headline: [Pandemic Collides With Europe's Migrant Crisis to Set Off a Calamity in Greece](#)

Source: New York Times

Date: September 10, 2020

Notes: After the identification of the first cases of COVID-19 in the Moria refugee camp on Lesbos, frustrated asylum seekers set fire to the camp in protest over the quarantine, lockdown measures, and squalid conditions. Three fires within two days have destroyed all of the living areas in the camp and left 12,000 migrants homeless.

Related: [Covid-19 fears on Lesbos as thousands of refugees flee huge fires](#)

Headline: [Least Protected, Most Affected: Migrants and refugees facing extraordinary risks during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

Source: IFRC via ReliefWeb

Date: September 10, 2020

Notes: A new IFRC policy report, *Least protected, most affected: migrants and refugees facing extraordinary risks during the COVID-19 pandemic*, documents the rising vulnerabilities of these groups and the exacerbation of existing challenges and risks to health and safety for migrants as a result of the pandemic. The report contains a number of recommendations for governments, including ensuring that the policies introduced to control the pandemic are not used to justify inhumane treatment of migrants and refugees.

Related: [Click here for the full report](#)

Headline: [How Colombia's armed groups are exploiting COVID-19 to recruit children](#)

Source: The New Humanitarian

Date: September 10, 2020

Notes: "Almost as many children are estimated to have joined armed groups in Colombia in the first half of this year as in the whole of 2019, as the economic and social fallout of the coronavirus pandemic provides fertile ground for recruiters amid a resurgence of violence and conflict."

Headline: [Immigrants, refugees make up almost half of Ontario's COVID-19 cases: report](#)

Source: Global News

Date: September 9, 2020

Notes: A new report has found that immigrants, refugees and other newcomers made up 43.5 per cent of all COVID-19 cases in Ontario as of mid-June, despite those groups representing just over 25 per cent of the province's population. The report points to social and structural inequities, including systemic racism, as one of the main causes of this disparity.

Headline: [Inside Look: How COVID-19 Is Deepening The Migrant Crisis In Honduras](#)

Source: Forbes with UNICEF

Date: September 10, 2020

Notes: "Lea Beaudry, UNICEF Child Protection Specialist in Honduras, recently spoke with Eitan Peled, Child Migration & Protection Program Manager for UNICEF USA, about how COVID-19 has created new dangers and complications for already vulnerable children and families in the country and how UNICEF has had to innovate and change course on the ground to deliver support and services."

Headline: [Libya's migrant workers suffer from repercussion of COVID-19](#)

Source: CGTN Africa

Date: September 10, 2020

Notes: This article features interviews with migrant workers in Libya detailing the increased difficulties in finding work since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The precautionary measures implemented by the Libyan government eliminated most of the work that migrant workers were previously doing, and UNCHR estimates that 60% of migrants in Libya have lost their work in the last months.

Headline: [Trump admin may postpone admitting refugees: report](#)

Source: The Hill

Date: September 10, 2020

Notes: “The Trump administration could postpone or further cut the admission of refugees to the U.S., citing President Trump’s refugee policy and uncertainty due to the coronavirus pandemic, according to an administration official. Yearly refugee levels are typically set around the beginning of each fiscal year; plans for the 2021 budgetary year begin Oct. 1. The Trump administration has yet to announce plans for the following fiscal year. This year, the refugee cap was cut to 18,000, the lowest level since the Refugee Act passed in 1980.”

Headline: [Situation of Venezuelans who have returned and are trying to return to their country in the context of COVID-19](#)

Source: ReliefWeb

Date: September 9, 2020

Notes: A new report, prepared by the Office of the OAS General Secretariat for the Venezuelan migrant and refugee crisis, analyzes the way in which the difficulties faced by this group have increased significantly due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures adopted by the States of the region to address it. Among the challenges highlighted are actions by the Maduro government to “stigmatize, discriminate, and criminalize returnees.”

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Compiled by Christina Kay

Headline: [Seven Moria refugees test positive for coronavirus, as migrants enter new camp](#)

Source: Ekathimerini

Date: September 13, 2020

Notes: As migrants who were left homeless following the Moria camp fire begin relocating to the new transitory camp at the island's Kara Tepe Army firing range, seven of the 300 migrants tested so far have tested positive for COVID-19. Two of these migrants were among those who had tested positive during a health check conducted prior to the Moria fire. As migrants enter the camp, they will undergo rapid COVID-19 testing.

Related: [U.S. Gave Millions to Help Vulnerable in Greece Amid COVID-19, yet Biggest Refugee Camp Saw Little Support: Aid Workers](#)

Headline: [U.N steps up COVID-19 measures at Syrian refugee camps in Jordan](#)

Source: Reuters

Date: September 12, 2020

Notes: Following the confirmation of three COVID-19 cases in Zaatari and two cases in Azraq last week, refugees who tested positive have been sent to an isolation area near the Dead Sea, while families are quarantined inside the camp. The Jordanian government is restricting movement in and out of the camps, conducting tests, and training staff.

Related: [COVID creeps into a sprawling Syrian refugee camp in Jordan](#)

Headline: [U.S. has expelled 8,800 migrant children under coronavirus rules](#)

Source: Reuters

Date: September 11, 2020

Notes: Court documents filed Friday show that the Trump Administration has expelled about 8,800 unaccompanied migrant children since March 20th under new rules to expel migrants without immigration proceedings, which the Administration claims are necessitated by COVID-19. The Administration had declined to disclose numbers since June, when it said that about 2,000 had been expelled. Under the order, children have been held in hotels with unlicensed contractors prior to being expelled.

Headline: [Japan's foreign residents face discrimination due to COVID-19](#)

Source: The Japan Times

Date: September 12, 2020

Notes: Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, foreign residents in Japan are reporting an increase in discrimination. In Beppu, home to Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, the city has received reports that some hair salons and dining establishments have posted signs denying entry to students from the university. A May survey of approximately 400 foreign residents in Fukuoka Prefecture found that about 20 percent of respondents have reported experiencing discrimination related to the coronavirus.

Headline: [Australia should introduce a new skilled migrant visa as part of coronavirus recovery, report finds](#)

Source: SBS News

Date: September 14, 2020

Notes: A new study released Monday from the Committee for the Economic Development of Australia (CEDA) urges the federal government to fix issues with the immigration system in order to attract international students and skilled migrants as part of the coronavirus recovery. CEDA chief economist Jarrod Ball said: "While many countries will try to impose permanent migration restrictions in the wake of COVID-19, Australia should resist such policies and promote migration as part of the national economic recovery." In addition, "the CEDA report also called for JobKeeper and JobSeeker benefits to be extended to temporary migrants, many who are out of work and unable to return home due to border closures."

Headline: [Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh struggle with fear and stigma amid coronavirus](#)

Source: South China Morning Post

Date: September 13, 2020

Notes: Some aid workers worry that stigma and fear have influenced Rohingya refugees' willingness to report COVID-19 symptoms and that infections might be higher than reported. One Rohingya father who was diagnosed with COVID-19 said, "I started receiving phone calls from the camp majis [community leaders] who were pushing to send my family to a quarantine centre [...] My family said everyone in our block was starting to think badly about them. People were saying that I was Covid-19 positive because I was a bad person."

Headline: [IN FOCUS: The long, challenging journey to bring COVID-19 under control in migrant worker dormitories](#)

Source: Channel News Asia

Date: September 12, 2020

Notes: In this piece, Channel News Asia looks back at how COVID-19 spread in migrant worker dormitories in Singapore. Speaking with health experts, migrants, and dormitory managers, the article reviews moments of confusion and missteps in the response.

Headline: [5 reasons why sharing responsibility for refugees is smarter than ever in the time of COVID-19](#)

Source: UN Sustainable Development Group Action 2030 Blog

Date: September 11, 2020

Notes: Gillian Triggs, Assistant High Commissioner for Protection at UNHCR, writes that it is time now, more than ever, to put into practice five principles that underpin the Global Compact on Refugees. She writes, "The GCR was envisaged as a collective response to the plight of millions of people living in long-term forced displacement as refugees, but it also offers a blueprint for responding to the impacts of COVID-19 on refugees and the communities that host them. It provides the tools to respond both to the emergency phase of the pandemic, and to its longer-term consequences, while also offering solutions to forced displacement challenges that have been amplified by this global health crisis."

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Compiled by Sarah Guyer

Headline: [Lawyers allege abuse of migrant women by gynecologist for Georgia ICE detention center](#)

Source: NBC News

Date: September 15, 2020

Notes: “A nurse who worked at an Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention center in Irwin County, Georgia and four lawyers representing clients there are claiming that immigrant women are routinely being sent to a gynecologist who has left them bruised and performed unnecessary procedures, including hysterectomies.” The whistleblower also claimed detainees were not receiving COVID-19 tests despite symptoms and CDC-recommended precautionary measures to limit the spread of the disease were not taken.

Headline: [Lesbos migrants' dire humanitarian conditions overshadow threat of COVID outbreak](#)

Source: InfoMigrants

Date: September 16, 2020

Notes: After the fire in Moria camp left approximately 13,000 asylum seekers living on the streets in Lesbos, precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 have been limited and supplies such as masks largely unavailable. The location of the 35 migrants who tested positive for the virus prior to the fire is unknown, and at least 21 additional people have been diagnosed since Sunday. Government efforts to test for the virus and relocate individuals into a temporary camp have been met with deep distrust and fear.

Headline: [Grandi hails Jordan's inclusion of refugees in COVID response](#)

Source: UNHCR

Date: September 15, 2020

Notes: “After first positive cases confirmed in country’s Syrian refugee camps, UNHCR chief pledges help to contain virus and praises country’s ongoing support for refugees. The High Commissioner [visited Jordan] the week after the discovery of the first positive cases of COVID-19 among Syrian refugees living in the country’s two main camps in Za’atari and Azraq, with a total of six confirmed cases so far.”

Related News: [Jordan returns refugees to desolate Syrian border camp, rights groups cry foul](#)

Headline: [Migrant deaths government won't see](#)

Source: The Telegraph

Date: September 16, 2020

Notes: “Stranded Workers Action Network (SWAN) says 972 deaths had been counted till July 4 during the course of the various lockdowns” in India. The number includes people who died directly from a lack of medical care as well as individuals who died due to poor travel conditions and the effects of the loss of work. SWAN argues the Indian government needs to verify these deaths and provide compensation to families.

Headline: [Syrian refugee health workers can help Europe cope with COVID-19](#)

Source: University of Cambridge

Date: September 16, 2020

Notes: “Employing displaced Syrian healthcare workers is a “win-win” for both host communities and refugees as it would strengthen national health services and allow highly-skilled medics to “get on with their lives, rather than just get by,” according to a network of UK academics. A new short film made by Cambridge’s Center for the Study of Global Human Movement and the Syria Public Health Network (SPHN) follows three refugees in the UK, Germany and Turkey as they set about retraining while discussing their lives new and old, and experiences of escaping war-torn Syria.”

Headline: [The international community must do more to support Afghan and Rohingya refugees amid the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

Source: Atlantic Council

Date: September 16, 2020

Notes: “While the refugee crises created by the conflict in Afghanistan and the ethnic cleansing of the Rohingyas in Myanmar may appear to be disconnected, they are both part of a major migration upheaval in South Asia that the COVID-19 pandemic has only complicated. Already living on the margins of society, Afghan and Rohingya refugees have been hit particularly hard by COVID-19. Host countries and the international community need to do more to help alleviate the unique challenges that the pandemic has caused for both of these populations.”

Headline: [World Risk Report: Migrants more vulnerable due to COVID-19](#)

Source: InfoMigrants

Date: September 15, 2020

Notes: The World Risk Report, published by the German association Entwicklung Hilft (“Development Helps”), analyzes the vulnerability of migrants and forcibly displaced people globally and argues that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the risk these individuals face due to insufficient hygiene standards in overcrowded camps, border closures, and impairment of aid measures. The report provides recommendations, including closing legal gaps in the protection for migrants, increasing support for reintegration, and addressing the impact climate change has on migration.

Reference: [Link to the full report](#)

Headline: [Health and human rights are inextricably linked in the COVID-19 response](#)

Source: BMJ Global Health

Date: September 16, 2020

Abstract: “To mitigate the spread of COVID-19, governments throughout the world have introduced emergency measures that constrain individual freedoms, social and economic rights and global solidarity. These regulatory measures have closed schools, workplaces and transit systems, cancelled public gatherings, introduced mandatory home confinement and deployed large-scale electronic surveillance. In doing so, human rights obligations are rarely addressed, despite how significantly they are impacted by the pandemic response. The norms and principles of human rights should guide government responses to COVID-19, with these rights strengthening the public health response to COVID-19.”

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Compiled by Katherine McCann

Headline: [Police Move Migrants From Greek Camp to Temporary Lesbos Site After Fires](#)

Source: NY Times

Date: September 17, 2020

Notes: After fires tore through Moria camp last week, approximately 12,000 people were displaced. Authors Niki Kitsantonis and Megan Specia document the erection of a tent camp for these displaced people, created to offer immediate shelter and provide a temporary solution while Europe comes up with a more comprehensive solution for this population of migrants. Authors also document the role of police in moving people into the tent.

Headline: [Don't blame refugees for the Moria fires, blame EU policy](#)

Source: The New Humanitarian

Date: September 17, 2020

Notes: In this opinion piece, Author Joel Hernández writes that EU leaders should not be absolved of their responsibility for the state of Moria, the neglect of its infrastructure, and the consequences of externalizing migration management through the “hotspot” approach.

Headline: [First COVID-19 Cases Confirmed in Jordan's Sprawling Refugee Camps](#)

Source: Global Citizen

Date: September 17, 2020

Notes: “A report from United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has confirmed five positive cases of COVID-19 among refugees living in Za’atari and Azraq refugee camps in Jordan as of Sept. 12. Health Minister Saad Jaber reported 214 new COVID-19 cases and two fatalities in the country on Monday.”

Headline: [Venezuela's humanitarian crisis has only worsened under COVID-19](#)

Source: PBS NewsHour

Date: September 17, 2020

Notes: “In Venezuela, President Nicolas Maduro has presided over an economic and societal collapse. The country’s health care system was already coming apart even before the coronavirus pandemic struck. Now, COVID-19 patients are filling ICUs that lack supplies, and doctors are dying. But criticism of the government’s pandemic response is grounds for arrest.” Special correspondent Marcia Biggs also reports on the conditions that forced five million people to flee in the last several years and the new crisis Venezuela is facing: reverse migration in the middle of a pandemic.

Headline: [IOM Somalia COVID-19 Preparedness and Response - Mission Update #22 \(30 August - 12 September 2020\)](#)

Source: IOM via ReliefWeb

Date: September 18, 2020

Notes: “Somalia continues to have an influx of migrants from neighboring countries, especially from Ethiopia. Hundreds of migrants are stranded in Bossaso, Puntland as a result of border and sea-crossing closures brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Migration along the Eastern route is still taking place despite the new border restrictions in the region, with a significant increase of new incoming and outgoing movements in the last month. As of Sept. 11, Somalia has 3,389 confirmed COVID-19 cases in the country, 98 reported fatalities and 2,803 recovered cases.”

Headline: [UN Amplifies Ethiopian Migrant Detainees' Cries for Help in Saudi Arabia](#)

Source: Voice of America

Date: September 18, 2020

Notes: “In mid-August, Human Rights Watch reported that at least hundreds, and perhaps thousands, of Ethiopians were being held in Saudi Arabia, in part because of pandemic concerns. U.N. Migration (IOM) issued a statement Tuesday amplifying the detainees’ appeals. Saying it was ‘alarmed by the

deteriorating situation of Ethiopian migrants detained' in Saudi Arabia, IOM called for urgent action, including access to humanitarian aid to ensure migrants' safety."

Headline: [Possible New Prospects In Canada For U.S. Refugee Claimants Post Covid-19](#)

Source: Forbes

Date: September 18, 2020

Notes: "A little noticed ruling by a Canadian Federal Court judge back on July 22, 2020, may eventually open the door for more American refugee claimants, including possibly undocumented immigrants in the U.S., to come to Canada in the future."

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Compiled by Sabeen Rokerya

Headline: [Coronavirus cases surge among refugees in Middle East as pandemic pushes most vulnerable deeper into poverty](#)

Source: The Independent

Date: September 20, 2020

Notes: “The number of coronavirus cases among refugees and the displaced is surging across the Middle East, humanitarian agencies and the UN have warned, as the first infections were reported among Syrians living in camps in Jordan. The true rate of infection among the 18 million people displaced in the region is unknown because of a chronic lack of testing. But UN data shows that well over a thousand have been confirmed to have Covid-19 in Jordan, Syria, Iraq, the Palestinian Territories and Lebanon.” Additionally, economic impacts of the pandemic and its accompanying lockdown measures continue to impact refugee communities deeply, causing an increase in joblessness, increases in those living below the poverty level, and an increase in violence in the home.

See related: [Downward Spiral: the economic impact of Covid-19 on refugees and displaced people](#)

Headline: ['We pick your food': migrant workers speak out from Spain's 'Plastic Sea'](#)

Source: The Guardian

Date: September 20, 2020

Notes: “In Almería’s vast farms, migrants pick food destined for UK supermarkets. But these ‘essential workers’ live in shantytowns and lack PPE as COVID-19 cases soar.” Migrant workers on these farms also have reported systemic labor exploitation which has continued throughout the pandemic, such as non-payment of wages and those who complained about working conditions being fired.

Headline: [Covid-19 Singapore: A ‘pandemic of inequality’ exposed](#)

Source: BBC

Date: September 18, 2020

Notes: This article juxtaposes the conditions of life and rates of infection since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic among the migrant worker population in Singapore and the general population, showing a wide gap. The lockdown measures were implemented much more harshly for the migrant workers than for other Singaporeans, and with new clusters of infection emerging in migrant worker dormitories, these conditions are unlikely to change.

Headline: [Migrant detention centers have a long history of medical neglect and abuse](#)

Source: Washington Post

Date: September 18, 2020

Notes: This opinion article ties the recent allegations of involuntary hysterectomies performed at a US Detention Center to the neglect of migrants in detention during the COVID-19 pandemic and links both to a history of medical abuse and neglect in these centers. “The recent allegation that a doctor has performed hysterectomies on immigrant women at the Irwin County Detention Center...is only the latest case of systemic medical neglect and mistreatment in immigration detention settings. The spread of the novel coronavirus has been particularly devastating for people in migrant detention centers. These stories may be appalling but are not surprising. Migrant detention centers have been violent places of medical neglect and death since they first became operational.”

Headline: [WFP Links Record Hunger Levels to Conflict, Climate Change, COVID-19](#)

Source: Voice of America

Date: September 19, 2020

Notes: According to a WFP spokesperson, “Some 20 million people are severely food insecure due to war, a collapsed economy and currency devaluation, crippling food prices and the destruction of public infrastructure. We believe a further 3 million may now face starvation due to the virus.”

Headline: [Glasgow MPs call for inquiry into deaths of three asylum seekers](#)

Source: BBC

Date: September 20, 2020

Notes: “A group of Glasgow MPs have called for a fatal accident inquiry (FAI) into the deaths of three asylum seekers. Adnan Walid Elbi, Badreddin Abedlla Adam and Mercy Baguma all died this year while in the care of the UK asylum system. While each death happened separately, in a letter to the Lord Advocate MPs said they were linked to ‘broader social and situational factors.’”

Headline: [Uncertain future for migrant workers, in a post-pandemic world](#)

Source: UN News

Date: September 19, 2020

Notes: In an interview with UN News, Gary Rynhart, a senior official at the UN labour agency, ILO, discusses issues affecting migrant workers related to the pandemic and the outlook for these workers in a post-pandemic world. He outlines the disproportionate affect of job loss on sectors where migrant workers account for a large portion of the workforce and the likelihood that many of these jobs will become automated as time goes on, eliminating jobs that were previously filled by migrant workers. The interview also discusses growing stigma against migrant workers and the impacts of loss of remittances during the pandemic on countries that usually get large sums sent from migrant workers.

Headline: [After Fire at Refugee Camp, Europe Faces a Reckoning](#)

Source: New York Times

Date: September 18, 2020

Notes: The COVID-19 pandemic, its resulting lockdown measures, and the fire that destroyed the Moria refugee camp on Lesbos in Greece have brought the issue of refugee resettlement in Europe to the attention of politicians once again. While Greek authorities are rebuilding another tent camp for those displaced from Moria, the German government has pledged to resettle 1,500 refugees from the camp, and is calling for other governments to do the same. The European Commission is additionally trying to fix many of the flaws that the 2015 migrant crisis revealed in its asylum system. It is preparing to roll out a new proposal, due on Wednesday, on how to reform the system that created Moria and similar camps on other Greek islands.

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Compiled by Christina Kay

Headline: [More than 240 new COVID-19 infections among migrants on Lesbos](#)

Source: Info Migrants

Date: September 22, 2020

Notes: “More than 240 asylum seekers on the Greek island of Lesbos have contracted the novel coronavirus. They are all housed at a temporary camp accommodation after the devastating fire at the Moria camp earlier in September. Greece’s Eody health agency announced that 243 new infections had been recorded among some 7,000 refugees and migrants who had been tested at the Kara Tepe temporary camp on Lesbos. The average age of those who had tested positive for COVID-19 was reported to be only 24.”

Headline: [Overlapping crises in Lebanon fuel a new migration to Cyprus](#)

Source: The New Humanitarian

Date: September 21, 2020

Notes: “Driven by increasingly desperate economic circumstances and security concerns in the wake of last month’s Beirut port explosion, a growing number of people are boarding smugglers’ boats in Lebanon’s northern city of Tripoli bound for Cyprus, an EU member state around 160 kilometers away by sea.”

Headline: [Migrant workers in India struggle to shake off coronavirus disruption](#)

Source: DW

Date: September 23, 2020

Notes: “Millions of India’s migrant workers have faced severe hardships since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. As they look to return to their old jobs, they’re confronted with the grim reality of the nation’s economy.”

Headline: [At UN General Assembly, Philippines’ Duterte denounces groups ‘weaponizing’ human rights](#)

Source: UN News

Date: September 22, 2020

Notes: “While every country has its own strategy to fight coronavirus, the world needs coordinated international efforts and a common purpose to end the crisis, the President of the Philippines said on Tuesday, underlining the importance of universal access to anti-COVID-19 technologies in the recovery from global pandemic.” Duterte called for promoting and protecting the rights of migrants in his speech.

Headline: [EU aims to reform asylum policy](#)

Source: DW

Date: September 23, 2020

Notes: “Only a handful of EU member states are ready to accept asylum-seekers. Now, the European Commission is trying to reform the bloc’s asylum rules, but few of its proposals seem to break new ground. [...] The recent blaze that destroyed the overcrowded Moria refugee camp on the Greek island of Lesbos, EU diplomats have said, has lent the debate new urgency. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen wants to scrap and replace the existing Dublin Agreement that governs where people can apply for asylum in the EU.”

Related News: [EU plans tougher controls in migration policy overhaul](#)

Headline: [Xenophobia turns migrants into scapegoats](#)

Source: New Frame

Date: September 23, 2020

Notes: “A report by Human Rights Watch found that South Africans turn against migrants when they are looking to blame somebody for the government’s failure to provide essential services. In recent months, as South Africa has been dealing with the economic fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic, there have been

growing calls for migrants to be deported and for the government to take action against crimes allegedly committed by people born outside the country.”

Headline: [‘Pointless and dangerous’: Asylum seekers forced to travel miles to sign on again with Home Office](#)

Source: The Independent

Date: September 22, 2020

Notes: In the UK, “asylum seekers and other migrants are being told to report to the Home Office in person again following a suspension of the measures during lockdown, prompting fears that vulnerable people are being placed at risk as coronavirus cases rise across the country.”

Headline: [UNHCR and IOM call for a truly common and principled approach to European migration and asylum policies](#)

Source: UNHCR

Date: September 22, 2020

Notes: “On the eve of the launch of the presentation of the European Commission’s new Pact on Migration and Asylum, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and IOM, the International Organization for Migration, are appealing to the European Union (EU) to ensure a truly joint and principled approach that addresses all aspects of migration and asylum governance. The two UN bodies are hopeful that the Pact will provide a fresh start to move from an ad hoc crisis-driven approach to asylum and migration in Europe to a common one that is more comprehensive, well-managed and predictable, both within and beyond the EU. With relatively few new arrivals of refugees and migrants to Europe, now is the time for common action.”

Resource: [Integrating Migration Into COVID-19 Socio-Economic Response: A Toolkit for Development Partners \(updated version\)](#)

Source: IOM

Date: September 22, 2020

Notes: “COVID-19 has impacted and is impacted by human mobility. This, in turn, is affecting sustainable development. The aim of this Toolkit is to provide information and tools for development partners to integrate migration – in all its forms – into development-centered plans, programs and projects linked to COVID-19 socio-economic response.” Available in English and Portuguese.

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Compiled by Katherine McCann

Headline: [How COVID-19 has created a crisis on the Venezuela-Colombia border](#)

Source: The New Humanitarian

Date: September 23, 2020

Notes: As tens of thousands of Venezuelans return to the country, communities on the Colombian-Venezuelan border are facing chronic shortages of medical attention and food. In La Guajira in northeastern Colombia, an estimated 95,000 Venezuelan migrants are in “critical need,” primarily due to food insecurity and a lack of healthcare. At the only open border crossing in Cúcuta long waits at official immigration checkpoints accompany increasing violence along informal migration and smuggling routes. International aid groups have reported shortages in medicine and food, exacerbated by reduced mobility of humanitarian workers due to lockdowns.

Headline: [The ashes of Moria refugee camp could poison European politics](#)

Source: Al Jazeera

Date: September 23, 2020

Notes: In this opinion piece, Manos Moschopoulos of OSF questions whether the Moria camp fire will impact the EU migration pact. He writes, “One wonders if there had been deaths caused by the September 8 fire would the political reaction be stronger? Would Europe cry “never again”, as it did after the body of three-year-old Alan Kurdi washed up on Turkey’s shore after he drowned attempting to reach Greece with his family five years ago?” He continues, “If the current asylum system remains unchanged, we will continue to have catastrophes like this one [...] The new EU migration pact is envisioning even more camps like Moria, despite all the evidence that they are the centrepiece of a failed policy.”

Related: [EU migration chief vows new pact will stop overcrowded refugee camps](#)

Headline: [COVID-19 stigma high among certain groups in Asia-Pacific, survey reveals](#)

Source: Devex

Date: September 25, 2020

Notes: A recent survey of nearly 5,000 respondents in Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Pakistan – an initiative of the Asia-Pacific Risk Communication and Community Engagement Working Group – found that one in three respondents believe certain groups of people are responsible for spreading COVID-19. In Malaysia, the most cited groups included returning migrants, foreign tourists, migrant workers, and “illegal foreigners,” as well as Chinese people. More than 30% of respondents in Myanmar attributed the spread to Chinese people and returning migrants. IFRC and other humanitarian partners will conduct another survey in the next few weeks to gather more insight into why certain groups are blamed for COVID-19 spread.

Headline: [Even When They Lost Their Jobs, Immigrants Sent Money Home](#)

Source: The New York Times

Date: September 24, 2020

Notes: While early in the pandemic, the World Bank and others predicted global remittances to plunge, current trends suggest these predictions have not been borne out. Although remittances to Latin America dropped in March and April, they have rebounded. Remittances to some countries in Latin America and elsewhere have continued to grow relative to last year. “The unexpected results underscore the resilience of immigrants, their capacity to navigate through turbulent times and their sense of obligation to relatives they left behind.”

Headline: [Economic fallout from coronavirus leads to surge in Tunisians leaving for Europe](#)

Source: The Washington Post

Date: September 24, 2020

Notes: The strict lockdown Tunisia imposed in March has devastated the country’s economy, pushing thousands of Tunisians to make the journey across the Mediterranean. According to UNHCR, nearly six times as many Tunisians crossed the Mediterranean to Italy this year compared to last, and Tunisians are

now the largest nationality arriving in Italy. While arrivals by sea in Italy are far fewer this year compared to 2016 and 2017, “experts say the surge in Tunisian migrants is likely a harbinger of a new wave, as the coronavirus takes a mounting toll on livelihoods in developing countries.”

Headline: [How can we better protect migrant workers in the next global crisis?](#)

Source: Devex

Date: September 24, 2020

Notes: As the COVID-19 pandemic spread, the vulnerability of migrant workers – some walking days to return home, others stuck abroad with no employment and little support – became increasingly clear. “Inadequate housing, lack of social protections, unsafe detention, and lockdowns” were key factors in this vulnerability. “‘The COVID-19 pandemic has really served as a magnifier of problems that existed,’ said Lara White, Asia-Pacific senior specialist at the International Organization for Migration.” Few social protections, limited access to legal systems, and worker-borne migration costs are aspects of the larger system that has increased the vulnerability of migrant workers.

Headline: [Three-quarters of temporary migrants reporting domestic violence during coronavirus lockdown fear for their lives](#)

Source: SBS News

Date: September 24, 2020

Notes: A report released Thursday from Monash University in Australia shows that of the women who accessed a family violence service in the spring this year, three-quarters of those women feared for their life. More than 60 of 100 women said they feared deportation due to threats from their perpetrator, consistent with evidence from a previous study that showed migration status was commonly used as a means of control. The report is published “amid ongoing concerns temporary migrants are particularly vulnerable to violence during this time due to an inability to access the government’s JobKeeper and JobSeeker financial support programs.”

Headline: [The little talked about side-effects of COVID-19](#)

Source: Al Jazeera

Date: September 25, 2020

Notes: In this opinion piece written by Jan Egeland, Secretary-General of the Norwegian Refugee Council, he writes of the NRC’s report on the “quadruple crisis” caused by the COVID-19 pandemic: “a health crisis, a hunger crisis, a homelessness crisis and an education crisis.” Egeland calls for quick and decisive global action, writing, “COVID-19 is also a reminder that humanity’s problems do not stop at borders. Every part of the world has been affected by the virus, and the same is true for its economic impacts. Inward-looking policies will not solve global, interconnected problems.”

Related Report: [Downward Spiral: the economic impact of Covid-19 on refugees and displaced people](#)

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Compiled by Sarah Guyer

Headline: [New camp for refugees in Greece 'worse than Moria'](#)

Source: Duetsche Welle

Date: September 26, 2020

Notes: “As EU member states attempt to agree on a new migration pact, refugees in Lesbos have been moved to a new site that they say is abysmal. From Lesbos, Marianna Karakoulaki reports on conditions at the camp.” The new site is extremely exposed to inclement weather, and children who were previously hit by tear gas canisters have been left untreated or given minimal provisions, reports Karakoulaki. “According to the camp's new residents, the lines for food are endless and food provisions aren't sufficient.” Karakoulaki also writes that “while the Greek government has insisted on its commitment to the camp's temporary nature, local Lesbos newspaper *Sto Nisi* has reported that the rental contract runs until 2025.”

Related: [Refugee journalists in Lesbos tell their own stories](#)

Headline: [Greece reports first COVID-19 refugee death since pandemic began](#)

Source: Al Jazeera

Date: September 28, 2020

Notes: A 61-year old Afghan refugee, who died in a hospital in Athens where he was receiving treatment, is noted to be the first reported death of a refugee from COVID-19 since Greece encountered its first cases of the virus in February. The man lived in Malakasa camp, which hosts about 3,000 people and is about 40 kilometers north of Athens. He had been under quarantine since September 7, but it is unclear how long he had been in the hospital. On September 27, Greece reported 218 COVID-19 cases and three deaths, “bringing the total number of cases since the first case surfaced late February to 17,444.”

Headline: [IOM Assists 63 Nepali Migrants with Voluntary Return from Cyprus](#)

Source: IOM via ReliefWeb

Date: September 27, 2020

Notes: In a press release, IOM reports its support of the Government of Republic of Cyprus and Government of Nepal in organizing the voluntary return of 63 Nepali nationals who were mainly students, and were no longer able to pay college fees in the wake of the pandemic. IOM's Nepal team was present at the airport to assist the returnees through immigration, all airport procedures, and with a one-time cash assistance. IOM reports that “IOM Nepal has been regularly assisting vulnerable Nepali migrants for their return and reintegration ever since IOM was established in the country in 2007.”

Headline: [Over 100 Arrive In Sudan As Voluntary Humanitarian Return Flights Resume](#)

Source: IOM via ReliefWeb

Date: September 27, 2020

Notes: On September 12, 116 Sudanese migrants returned on the first Libya-Sudan Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) flight since the onset of the pandemic. In this press release, IOM reports that among the 116 migrants, 13 had health conditions requiring IOM medical escort, and 18 were students stranded in Libya. Under the EU-IOM Joint initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration in the Horn of Africa, which supports the VHR program, the returnees will receive individual counselling to assess each person's vulnerability and needs, and this will determine the type of reintegration assistance needed. All will be enrolled for health insurance under the National Health Insurance Fund of Sudan.”

Related: [Cash Grants For Business Start-ups A Welcome Addition In Sudan](#)

Headline: [Italian migrant centers: 239 coronavirus cases until Mid-June](#)

Source: InfoMigrants

Date: September 25, 2020

Notes: Authors from ANSA report that, in a newly revealed report on COVID-19 in Italy's migrant reception facilities, among the 239 reception center residents who tested positive for COVID-19, 64 were hospitalized, two were in intensive care, and there were no deaths. “The report investigated 5,038

reception facilities out of the 6,837 registered by the Italian Interior Ministry. Nearly all of the facilities where at least one resident tested positive for the novel coronavirus were in northern Italy -- 99% to be exact." "This," authors write, "reflects the distribution of cases throughout Italy: the north had far more coronavirus cases than the south."

Headline: [Activists protest ban on distributing food to migrants in Calais](#)

Source: The Guardian

Date: September 26, 2020

Notes: On September 25, France's top administrative court refused to suspend an order banning the distribution of food to migrants in the centre of the city of Calais. 250 human rights activists gathered to protest against this local ban on food distribution to migrants. "There are between 1,000 and 1,200 migrants based around the port of Calais, from countries including Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Sudan and Eritrea. Most of them are trying to find a way across the Channel to the UK," writes author Agence France-Presse.

Headline: [He Caught COVID-19 Working In Quebec Long-Term Care. Now He's Awaiting Deportation](#)

Source: HuffPost

Date: September 26, 2020

Notes: Author Emilie Clavel reports on the story of Mamadou Konaté; "even though he risked his life working alongside the elderly during the pandemic, Mamadou Konaté isn't recognized as a 'guardian angel' by the government," Clavel writes. Konaté, as an essential, front-line worker, worked at several of Montreal's public long-term care homes when the pandemic hit Quebec. He arrived to Quebec in February 2016 after fleeing the Ivory Coast, is now detained at an immigration holding center in Laval, awaiting deportation, due to his involvement in a failed coup in the Ivory Coast in 2002.

Headline: [Migrants Stranded in Mexico Have 1 Year to File for Asylum. COVID-19 Is Making That Deadline Nearly Impossible](#)

Source: Time

Date: September 25, 2020

Notes: "Since the enacting of the Migrant Protections Protocols (MPP) program in January 2019, an increasing number of asylum seekers began amassing at major ports of entry spanning the border, including Matamoros. More than 66,000 people have been placed into the MPP program, and some formed makeshift encampments in front of ports of entry into the U.S. to be close whenever they received an opportunity to see an immigration judge. One of the largest encampments has formed in Matamoros, in front of the international bridge. Due to the pandemic, immigration courts shut down and many migrants waiting in Mexico are missing deadlines to apply for asylum. The attorneys, working remotely, are scrambling to submit applications in the hope they will be accepted."

Compiled by Sabeen Rokerya

Headline: [Greece Steps Up Refugee Transfers from Congested Lesbos](#)

Source: Voice of America

Date: September 28, 2020

Notes: “Greek authorities on Monday began transferring hundreds of refugees from the island of Lesbos to reduce chronic overcrowding that caused hardship and fanned tensions with locals. Some 2,500 refugees and asylum-seekers are to be relocated overall, following coronavirus tests, according to the migration ministry.”

Headline: [ICE reverses COVID-19 measure, says it will resume arresting non-criminal migrants](#)

Source: Miami Herald

Date: September 29, 2020

Notes: “U.S. immigration officials quietly announced they would resume regular apprehension and detention practices, an apparent reversal from an earlier temporary suspension of non-criminal enforcement due to the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Headline: [UNHCR urges more support for refugee higher education to withstand impact of COVID-19 pandemic](#)

Source: UNHCR

Date: September 29, 2020

Notes: UNHCR is urging governments and donors to ensuring the inclusion of refugee students in national education systems and the continuity of tertiary education programs, to avoid negative consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic for refugee students, 85% of whom reside in LMIC.

Headline: [Harvest During the Pandemic: In America's Rust Belt, an Essential but Vulnerable Workforce Is Left To Fend for Themselves](#)

Source: Pulitzer Center

Date: September 28, 2020

Notes: This article explores the difficulties faced by migrant farmworkers in the US, many of whom have not received personal protective equipment or federal assistance, and have experienced disproportionately high rates of COVID-19 cases. It also notes that the lack of COVID-19 protections is only one thing in a “long line of injustices suffered by migrant farmworkers who have long lived in unsafe and contaminated conditions, faced labor exploitation, lacked access to healthcare, and worked in fields while being exposed to dangerous pesticides.”

Headline: [Nicaraguan asylum seekers face hunger in Costa Rica or dangerous returns](#)

Source: The New Humanitarian

Date: September 28, 2020

Notes: “A large migration in Central America has been taking place under most people’s radar: from authoritarian Nicaragua to comparatively booming Costa Rica. However, the economic fallout of the coronavirus pandemic has seen work opportunities in Costa Rica dry up, and thousands of Nicaraguans are now trying to return home as they are going hungry and facing increasing xenophobia fuelled by fears over the spread of COVID-19.”

Headline: [As COVID-19 rages on, countries need to support migrant workers](#)

Source: CNN

Date: September 28, 2020

Notes: The author of this article argues that it is crucial to support migrant workers as the COVID-19 pandemic continues, including ensuring that they are provided with health care and basic needs in host countries, that returning migrants are provided training and support to be reabsorbed into the labor market, and that countries increase support to vulnerable families, which may be impacted if remittances decline as the pandemic continues.

Headline: [Murder, media frenzy, and poor refugee integration in Cyprus](#)

Source: The New Humanitarian

Date: September 29, 2020

Notes: “A recent spike in migrant arrivals by boat in Cyprus have led to sensationalist local media reports of rising crime attributed to refugees and asylum seekers in various areas of the island, with certain neighborhoods depicted in news reports as ghettos that are spiraling out of the control of authorities. The pandemic, and its economic impact, has compounded the problem, with rising unemployment and a housing crisis leading many migrants to find accommodation in inexpensive, overcrowded apartments in cities and rural areas.”

Headline: [In South Africa's COVID-19 lockdown, women refugee entrepreneurs struggle](#)

Source: UNHCR

Date: September 28, 2020

Notes: This article details the difficulties faced by refugees who own their own businesses outside of camp settings in South Africa during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some refugees have received the government's COVID-19 'social relief of distress' grant for a period of six months, and the African Solidarity Campaign, a new community-based body comprising refugees and South Africans, is working to address the lack of income during the lockdown through community efforts.

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Compiled by Christina Kay