

Headline: [Spain dismantles migrants' 'dock of shame' in Canary Islands](#)

Source: AP News

Date: November 30, 2020

Notes: "Spanish authorities have dismantled a makeshift camp for migrant processing that for over three months was known as the "dock of shame" for holding thousands of Africans in squalor after they arrived in the Canary Islands." The last to leave the dock were 27 migrants who had tested positive for coronavirus and were placed in isolation.

Related: ['This lack of humanity can't go on': Canary Islands struggle with huge rise in migration](#)

Headline: [Nearly 40 million at heightened risk of violence, discrimination and rights abuses as Covid spawns a 'coping crisis'](#)

Source: UNHCR

Date: November 30, 2020

Notes: A new report "finds that millions of people internally displaced or affected by conflict could be missing out on humanitarian protection support due to insufficient funding." Increases in gender-based violence, child marriage, and attacks on civilians are contributing to "an unprecedented human rights crisis" among people who are displaced.

Related: [Gender-based violence on the rise during lockdowns](#)

Headline: [IOM Charter Flight Brings Home over 150 Ghanaians from Libya](#)

Source: IOM

Date: November 27, 2020

Notes: Over 150 Ghanaians were voluntarily returned from Libya by the IOM on a November 24th charter flight. The flight was the first since the reopening of Accra's airport following COVID-19-related border closures. Migrants received medical screening and PPE prior to boarding the flight in Tripoli and were tested for COVID-19 upon arrival in Accra.

Headline: [UK, France agree new plan to curb Channel migrant crossings](#)

Source: AP News

Date: November 28, 2020

Notes: "The British government said Saturday that it had struck an agreement with France to double the number of French police patrolling beaches in the country's north in an attempt to stop people crossing the English Channel in small boats." Many migrants have turned to small boats "during the coronavirus pandemic because virus restrictions have reduced traffic between France and Britain."

Headline: [E.U. Border Agency Accused of Covering Up Migrant Pushback in Greece](#)

Source: The New York Times

Date: November 26, 2020

Notes: Frontex, the EU border agency, "is under fire for letting Greece illegally repel migrants" including covering up a pushback to Turkey in at least one case this fall. The case has "fueled suspicions" that Frontex "is not just sporadically aware of such abuses, but that it plays a role in concealing them."

Headline: [U.S. agents apprehend 1,000 migrant children in 6 days as crossings along Mexican border rise](#)

Source: CBS News

Date: November 26, 2020

Notes: "U.S. authorities along the border with Mexico apprehended nearly 1,000 unaccompanied migrant children in the span of six days last week." According to statistics provided by a federal court, border crossings by minors continue to rise. The data are part of the Trump administration's appeal of an order barring expulsions of migrant children under coronavirus-related immigration restrictions.

Related: [US will appeal order barring expulsions of migrant children](#)

Headline: [Pregnant, Exhausted and Turned Back at the Border](#)

Source: The New York Times

Date: November 27, 2020

Notes: The Trump administration's new controls on immigration during the COVID-19 pandemic "have been particularly difficult for pregnant women." Previously, most pregnant women were allowed to petition for asylum in the US, but now most are sent back to Mexico where they face "serious worries over how to give birth safely and keep their babies healthy." Among pregnant migrant women who stay in the US, some are held in detention facilities for months and many forego medical care due to fear of deportation.

Headline: ['Betrayed' Black asylum seekers say Trump administration is ramping up deportations by force and fraud](#)

Source: Los Angeles Times

Date: November 27, 2020

Notes: Despite many COVID-19 border closures, US officials have increased the pace of deportations to Africa and the Caribbean. According to Black and African asylum seekers, the Trump administration is "forcing them back to countries where they face harm." Asylum seekers from Africa and the Caribbean "make up a small but fast-growing proportion of the more than 16,000 immigrants in detention today across the United States."

Headline: [A Mother, Her Son — and Their 1,500-Mile Search for Home](#)

Source: The New York Times

Date: November 27, 2020

Notes: Many migrants are trying to return home after losing their jobs amid the economic downturn that followed the coronavirus pandemic. According to IOM estimates, there are at least 2.75 million such "stranded migrants." Venezuelans have been among the most affected, with more than 100,000 leaving Colombia during the first few months of the pandemic.

Headline: [Qatar firms' failure to pay leaves migrant workers destitute – report](#)

Source: The Guardian

Date: November 26, 2020

Notes: New research from the human rights group Equidem reports that companies in Qatar have failed to pay salaries and other benefits to low-wage migrant workers during the coronavirus pandemic. Many migrants have been left destitute, short of food, and unable to send money home. Similar conditions were reported in the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

Headline: [BioNTech's Covid vaccine is a triumph of innovation and immigration](#)

Source: The Guardian

Date: November 27, 2020

Notes: A vaccine produced by BioNTech, a German startup, to combat COVID-19 uses a new RNA-based approach to drug development pioneered by Turkish immigrants Uğur Şahin and Özlem Türeci. The pair's story and work represent "the successful integration of immigrants – including those from Turkey – into German society."

Headline: [A migrant's odyssey from boat to COVID nursing job in Spain](#)

Source: Associated Press

Date: November 25, 2020

Notes: Mbaye Babacar Diouf, who migrated to Spain from Senegal as a teenager, describes his journey, the challenges of building a life in Europe, and his work as a nurse in Bilbao during the coronavirus pandemic.

Latest PFMH Blog Post: [Drowning at the Hands of the EU: Is the New Pact on Migration and Asylum a Lifejacket or a Depleted Promise?](#)

Written by Janna Safran, student at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health

Compiled by Sabeen Rokerya & Jennifer Ostrowski

Headline: [COVID: 'Don't forget migrants in vaccine plans' - IOM](#)

Source: ANSA via InfoMigrants

Date: December 1, 2020

Notes: “The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has sounded the alarm on the situation experienced by migrants during the coronavirus pandemic, urging governments not to forget them in vaccination plans. IOM has issued an urgent call to governments ‘not to forget migrants as the battle against COVID-19 enters a new phase.’”

Headline: [Global agreement on migration 'taking root' despite pandemic challenge: Guterres](#)

Source: UN News

Date: December 1, 2020

Notes: “The Global Compact for Migration, adopted by countries in 2018 as a comprehensive framework for cooperation on international migration, is ‘taking root in promising ways,’ per UN Secretary General.” The UN reports that the Compact reflects a growing global understanding of the great benefits of human mobility. But it also recognizes that, if poorly managed, migration can generate huge challenges, from a tragic loss of life to rights abuses and social tensions.

Headline: [Coronavirus: Short on doctors, Italy looks to migrants](#)

Source: Deutsche Welle

Date: December 1, 2020

Notes: “In late November, with the country facing a second severe coronavirus wave, hospitals in the medium-risk zones of Umbria and Piedmont put out urgent calls for medical staff — though the job postings excluded foreign-born workers.” As authorities have begun to call out many of these hospitals for these discriminatory practices, they have included announcements to include a waiver for Italian and EU citizenship requirements. Many reported that the waiver announcement may be ‘just for show.’”

Headline: [Migrants from north Africa re-enter Spanish ‘dock of shame’ in Gran Canaria](#)

Source: The Times UK

Date: December 2, 2020

Notes: “Nearly 70 migrants arrived in the Canary Islands by sea from Africa yesterday and were taken to a dock where a crowded, dirty camp that housed thousands had been dismantled days before. Emergency services said that 68 people from north Africa were the first migrants to arrive in the islands since the authorities cleared the camp at Arguineguin’s harbor in Gran Canaria, called the dock of shame by an official.”

Headline: [Winter and growing animosity force migrants in Bosnia into retreat](#)

Source: The New Humanitarian

Date: December 2, 2020

Notes: “As winter approaches, concerns are growing among aid workers in Bosnia and Herzegovina about an acute shortage of housing and increasing hostility from authorities and locals towards approximately 10,000 asylum seekers and migrants stranded in the Western Balkan country bordering the EU.”

Headline: [Europe migrant crisis: Ten days of Atlantic peril in search of Spain](#)

Source: BBC News

Date: December 1, 2020

Notes: Authors highlight the story of Mohamed Zitouni, a Moroccan man who has lived in Spain for 20 years, in his quest to find his brother who has recently tried to join him in Spain after a perilous journey across the Atlantic to the Canary Islands. Authors report on the difficulty Mohamed Zitouni has faced in trying to find his brother after his arrival, due to the conditions and temporary nature of the camp accepting these migrants.

Headline: [Ethiopian Refugees Worry About COVID-19 Outbreak in Sudanese Camps](#)

Source: Voice of America

Date: December 1, 2020

Notes: “Thousands of Ethiopians who fled fighting in Tigray for camps in Sudan fear a new threat — a COVID-19 outbreak. While there are no confirmed cases, concern is running high. The more than 40,000 Ethiopians who left Tigray for eastern Sudan over the past month have been placed in three camps in the cities of Qadarif and Kassala.”

Latest PFMH Blog Post: [Drowning at the Hands of the EU: Is the New Pact on Migration and Asylum a Lifejacket or a Depleted Promise?](#) *Written by Janna Safran, student at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health*

Compiled by Sabeen Rokerya

Headline: [Mali: Child-trafficking, forced child labor on the rise](#)

Source: InfoMigrants

Date: December 4, 2020

Notes: “The trafficking of children has increased in Mali, according to UNHCR, due to conflicts, COVID-19 and deteriorating economic conditions. Children are forced to work in mines and to fight for armed groups; many girls are sexually abused. Among the victims: Refugee and migrant children. War, food insecurity, the pandemic and the deteriorating socio-economic situation in Mali have led to an increase in child-trafficking, forced labor and forced recruitment by armed groups, said the UN Refugee Agency UNHCR on Tuesday.”

Headline: [2 Hurricanes Devastated Central America. Will the Ruin Spur a Migration Wave?](#)

Source: New York Times

Date: December 4, 2020

Notes: “Already crippled by the coronavirus pandemic and the resulting economic crisis, Central America is now confronting another catastrophe: The mass destruction caused by two ferocious hurricanes that hit in quick succession last month, pummeling the same fragile countries, twice. The storms, two of the most powerful in a record-breaking season, demolished tens of thousands of homes, wiped out infrastructure and swallowed vast swaths of cropland.”

Headline: [Jordan: Humanitarian Crisis](#)

Source: Act Alliance

Date: December 2, 2020

Notes: “It is estimated that 1.3 million Syrian refugees live in Jordan today. Approximately 85 per cent of them lives in the host communities, while more than 139,000 lives in two main camps, Za’atari and Azraq. According to UNICEF, 86% of Syrian refugees outside camps in Jordan live below the poverty line. Most Syrian families rely on humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs at a time of aid cuts and economic downturn compounded by the coronavirus pandemic. Due to COVID-19, many refugees and local Jordanian lost their jobs. This had impact on lack of food and make a high pressure on the families in Jordan, and many of the host communities lost their jobs. The total number of positive tested people in the country are 198 thousand, with 2,442 associated deaths.”

Headline: [Migrants: Tailor-made program against psychological distress](#)

Source: InfoMigrants

Date: December 3, 2020

Notes: “A study carried out by the University of Verona and other colleges has highlighted that 50% of migrants who have applied for international protection reported some form of psychological distress. The study pointed out that a plan developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) appears to help prevent the evolution of psychological distress. [...] The new project, called Respond (Improving the Preparedness of Health Systems to Reduce Mental Health and Psychosocial Concerns resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic) has received six million euros in funding for a three-year-long research program led by the University of Verona.”

Headline: [EU to fund building of new migrant camp on Lesbos – amid great criticism](#)

Source: InfoMigrants

Date: December 4, 2020

Notes: “Greece has announced that 7,200 migrants stuck in temporary accommodation since the blaze at the Moria camp in September will be moved to permanent accommodation by September 2021. The European Commission will support the Greek government with the building project.”

Related News: [Greece Slams Turkey for Deadly Migrant Vessel Sinking](#)

Headline: [ONE UN supporting Libya to tackle COVID-19 \[EN/AR\]](#)

Source: IOM et al. via ReliefWeb

Date: December 2, 2020

Notes: “In Libya, the effects of COVID-19 are exacerbated by the ongoing conflict and the internal security, political and economic crisis. At the beginning of this pandemic, the World Health Organization (WHO) and leading medical and health institutions have urged the world to “Stay Home, Save Lives” in effort to combat the pandemic. Unfortunately, this is a luxury for 392,000 Libyans who are still displaced. In addition, the lack of basic services and the continuous power cuts affect the water supply for over a third of the Libyan population in the north west parts of the country, and consequently, it is not easy for people to practice simple but necessary measures, such as frequent handwashing to protect themselves from the coronavirus. Furthermore, the current COVID-19 outbreak has provoked social stigma and discriminatory behaviors against people of certain ethnic backgrounds as well as anyone perceived to have been in contact with the virus.”

Headline: [COVID-19 Vaccine: Ensuring that people affected by armed conflict are not forgotten](#)

Source: ICRC

Date: December 2, 2020

Notes: “For people living in conflict areas, access to basic health services is often challenging or impossible. These populations are just as vulnerable to COVID-19 and deserve to be protected from this severe health menace. In addition, the ICRC estimates that more than 60 million people live in areas controlled by non-state armed groups who risk not being included in national vaccine distribution frameworks. Marginalised communities, including internally displaced persons, migrants, asylum seekers and detainees, must also be included in national vaccination programmes and be recognized as people in need of the health protections the vaccine will provide.”

Headline: [The trickle-down tragedies of the pandemic](#)

Source: Washington Post

Date: December 1, 2020

Notes: “A new joint report put out Monday by the U.N.’s refugee agency and the Norwegian Refugee Council found that millions of people may not receive the aid they need because of insufficient funding. Of some 54 million internally displaced people targeted for assistance by humanitarian nonprofits, international organizations and U.N. agencies, the report predicts that almost 40 million could miss out. In 2020, humanitarian “protection” efforts by these organizations received less than 25 percent of their required resources, compared to an estimated 38 percent between 2013 and 2019. That shortfall may have devastating, incalculable effects.”

Headline: [How to tackle lies about migrants](#)

Source: InfoMigrants

Date: December 3, 2020

Notes: “Lies and intentionally misleading reports about migrants are becoming more widespread in Europe, with claims that they pose a COVID-19 infection risk among the latest examples. But according to a new study, tackling the flood of disinformation about migrants means more than simply pointing out false claims.”

Latest PFMH Blog Post: [Drowning at the Hands of the EU: Is the New Pact on Migration and Asylum a Lifejacket or a Depleted Promise?](#) *Written by Janna Safran, student at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health*

Compiled by Katherine McCann

Headline: [Ethiopia's conflict stokes humanitarian and virus crisis](#)

Source: ABC News

Date: December 6, 2020

Notes: “Ethiopia’s month-long war in its northern Tigray region is hampering efforts to fight one of Africa’s worst coronavirus outbreaks, as the fighting has displaced more than 1 million people and strained humanitarian services to the breaking point. Tens of thousands of those fleeing the conflict between Tigrayan and Ethiopian federal forces have crossed into neighboring Sudan, where countrywide virus numbers are also rising rapidly.”

Headline: [After Perilous Atlantic Journey, Migrants Await Their Fate in Canary Island Hotels](#)

Source: NY Times

Date: December 5, 2020

Notes: “The Spanish government has put migrants up in hotels as the islands struggle to cope with a rise in arrivals from Africa, but tensions are fraying with locals who fear they’ll scare off tourists.” Authors report, “after braving the Atlantic on a rickety and overcrowded fishing boat for six days, a group of young Senegalese has spent the past three weeks in a three-star hotel in the Canary Islands, overlooking a spectacular beach lapped by pristine waters.”

Headline: [Honduras president seeks assistance, warns of increased migration in wake of devastating hurricanes](#)

Source: Washington Post

Date: December 4, 2020

Notes: “Weeks after Hurricanes Eta and Iota struck Central America in quick succession, nearly 100,000 Hondurans are living in shelters, many of which have become coronavirus hotspots. The country’s economy has been paralyzed.” On Friday, Honduras filed a request with the Trump administration for temporary protected status (TPS) for Honduran citizens who are already in the United States.

Headline: [Taiwan confirms 22 more imported COVID-19 cases](#)

Source: Taiwan News

Date: December 6, 2020

Notes: “Taiwan’s Central Epidemic Command Center (CECC) on Sunday (Dec. 6) announced 22 new confirmed imported cases of COVID-19, with 20 coming from Indonesia and two from the Philippines, bringing Taiwan’s total number of cases so far to 716. The CECC said that it has increased coronavirus testing on Indonesian migrant workers at quarantine centers across the country.”

Headline: [Greece Slams Turkey for Deadly Migrant Vessel Sinking](#)

Source: Voice of America

Date: December 3, 2020

Notes: “Greece has lashed out at Turkey, accusing it of pushing distressed asylum seekers into Greek waters, endangering their lives during risky sea crossings to Europe. Athens says such conduct highlights Turkey’s failure to keep its end of a deal with the European Union to stop illegal migration.” Per authors, Turkey has not yet commented on this accusation.

Headline: [Migration on the Canary Islands: A convenient scapegoat for social problems \(Part I\)](#)

Source: InfoMigrants

Date: December 4, 2020

Notes: Authors Wolter and Bathke analyze the reason for hostility and negative attitudes towards new migrant arrivals on the Canary Islands, which is now facing the biggest migrant influx since 2006. “The root causes of migration have not changed since 2006. The thing that the two crises have in common are ‘hunger, despair, violence, and the search for a better life.’ But the level of empathy among Canary

Islanders may not be the same today as it was then. Many feel overwhelmed by COVID-19 and in particular the economic hardship caused by the pandemic.”

Headline: [Contact tracing in immigrant communities is most effective with trusted voices from within](#)

Source: CNN

Date: December 6, 2020

Notes: Authors highlight the impact of Ximena Rebolledo León’s work in the COVID-19 pandemic. “Whenever new information about COVID-19 became available, Ximena Rebolledo León, a registered nurse at Telluride Regional Medical Center in southwestern Colorado, recorded Spanish-language videos on her phone. She’d then post them on Facebook and text them out. Rebolledo León has helped with contact tracing in the small community during the pandemic.”

Headline: [Prisoner deported from UK to Jamaica tests positive for Covid-19](#)

Source: The Guardian

Date: December 5, 2020

Notes: “One of the 13 prisoners deported from the UK to Jamaica on Wednesday has tested positive for COVID-19. The man is being held in isolation at a hospital in the capital, Kingston. He had been in detention in the UK for almost a month before his deportation.” Authors report that the man didn’t know where he acquired COVID-19, and stated that his deportation flight was very crowded, with many passengers unmasked. Authors write that the man expressed contempt and anger with the Home Office’s failed protection of him.

Headline: [Malaysia's COVID Woes Spotlight 'Terrible' Migrant Worker Housing](#)

Source: Voice of America

Date: December 6, 2020

Notes: “Malaysia is pressing companies to quickly upgrade staff housing after a major outbreak of COVID-19 in the teeming dormitories for migrant workers providing the world with personal protective equipment, something labor rights groups had been warning of for months. The country counted a record 2,188 COVID-19 cases on November 24, most linked to company dorms for migrant workers at Top Glove, the world’s leading latex glove maker. Labor rights groups have been complaining about the cramped and dirty conditions many companies force their migrant workers to live in for years.”

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Compiled by Sabeen Rokerya

Headline: [Forced displacement passes 80 million by mid-2020 as COVID-19 tests refugee protection globally](#)

Source: UNHCR

Date: December 9, 2020

Notes: UNHCR “estimates that global forced displacement surpassed 80 million” in mid-2020, according to a report released on December 9th in Geneva. Much of the displacement during the first half of the year was driven by ongoing violence in Syria, DRC, Mozambique, Somalia and Yemen, and significant new displacement was registered across Africa’s Central Sahel. For displaced people, “COVID-19 has become an additional protection and livelihoods crisis.”

Headline: [Covid Infections, and Blame, Rise Along Southeast Asian Borders](#)

Source: The New York Times

Date: December 8, 2020

Notes: At least 19 cases of Covid-19 linked to migrant workers in Thailand have “cast a spotlight on how regions like Southeast Asia that depend on porous borders are fighting to keep the virus out while allowing economic activity to continue.” Many countries are “using the illicit flow of migrant labor to accuse their neighbors of virus outbreaks.”

Headline: [Twice trafficked? COVID-19 fuels fears for survivors in Bangladesh](#)

Source: Thomson Reuters Foundation News

Date: December 8, 2020

Notes: “Charities that work with Bangladeshi migrants say many have lost earnings due to coronavirus,” leaving them “exposed to re-trafficking.” Mounting economic problems, including job cuts and debt, have increasing migrants’ vulnerability to trafficking schemes that promise steady employment.

Headline: [The psychologists aboard Sicily's refugee ships](#)

Source: Devex

Date: December 8, 2020

Notes: A small team of psychologists is working to support the mental health needs of migrants aboard quarantine ships in Sicily. Since April, Italian authorities have repurposed four ships to serve as quarantine centers. New arrivals must provide two negative COVID-19 tests before disembarking, meaning migrants often live on the ships for three weeks or more.

Headline: [What's driving the deadly migrant surge from Senegal to the Canary Islands?](#)

Source: The New Humanitarian

Date: December 7, 2020

Notes: So far this year, 19,500 migrants have arrived in the Canary Islands by boat, compared to 2,700 in all of 2019. The uptick is associated with an EU-backed crackdown on migration along Morocco’s northern coast that led people to seek other routes to Europe. Environmental factors and “increased economic hardship brought on by the coronavirus pandemic accelerated the trend this year.”

Headline: [More underage migrants are testing positive for coronavirus](#)

Source: The Washington Post

Date: December 7, 2020

Notes: “The number of unaccompanied migrant children testing positive for the coronavirus has jumped more than 35 percent in recent weeks as federal officials prepare for the possibility of a new immigration surge at the U.S.-Mexico border.” Since March, 1,061 minors in US immigration custody have tested positive for the virus. Attempted crossings have risen in the aftermath of powerful hurricanes in Central America and increasing political and economic instability.

Headline: [Inside Look: How COVID-19 Further Endangers Migrant Children In Mexico](#)

Source: Forbes

Date: December 8, 2020

Notes: Pressia Arifin-Cabo, UNICEF Mexico Deputy Representative, discusses UNICEF’s work to protect vulnerable children on the move in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. She describes how pandemic-related interruptions to the asylum process have exacerbated child protection and public health concerns.

Headline: [Chile tightens immigration law ahead of predicted post-lockdown arrivals](#)

Source: Reuters

Date: December 4, 2020

Notes: Lawmakers in Chile approved a bill that “overhauls Chile’s immigration rules and the service that oversees them, ahead of an anticipated surge in arrivals from abroad as the coronavirus pandemic subsides.” The bill strengthens immigration enforcement, establishes new qualifications for entry, and increases sanctions against unauthorized migrants. It also includes special protections for refugees, pregnant women, and victims of trafficking or domestic abuse.

Headline: [Communicating Covid-19 Information to Indigenous Immigrants](#)

Source: Undark Magazine

Date: December 8, 2020

Notes: As more Indigenous people from Latin America migrate to the US, public health agencies have struggled to keep up with the need for COVID-19 education and response materials that are translated into Indigenous languages.

Headline: [This Pop-Up School For Migrant Kids Along The Border Went Virtual Thanks To Covid-19 But It’s Thriving More Than Ever](#)

Source: Mitú

Date: December 4, 2020

Notes: A “sidewalk school” launched to meet the educational needs of asylum seekers waiting near the US-Mexico border has “blossomed into an online academy for kids throughout the border region.” The school has hired 20 teachers – all asylum seekers themselves – to give classes via Zoom.

Headline: [Here In Sudan’s Refugee Camps, Thousands Are Struggling To Survive](#)

Source: HuffPost

Date: December 9, 2020

Notes: Aya Elfatih, an aid worker with Islamic Relief Sudan, describes conditions in Sudan’s refugee camps, where crowding and lack of basic necessities have overshadowed fears of Covid-19 amid an influx of new arrivals from Ethiopia.

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University Mailman School of Public Health

Compiled by Jennifer Ostrowski

Headline: [Trump administration implements new restrictions on asylum eligibility](#)

Source: The Hill

Date: December 10, 2020

Notes: “The Trump administration is working to place new restrictions on which immigrants are eligible for asylum, its latest effort to curb both legal and illegal immigration. In a new 419-page rule from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Department of Justice (DOJ) the administration said it will move to curtail the circumstances under which a person can apply for asylum protections, a decision it acknowledges will likely lead to a drop in asylum grants.” Specifically, this rule targets individuals fleeing gang violence, women and others fleeing domestic abuse, and people fleeing persecution based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

Related News: [The Trump Administration’s Final Insult and Injury to Refugees](#)

Headline: [COVID-19 fuels growing conflict and displacement in Colombia](#)

Source: The New Humanitarian

Date: December 10, 2020

Notes: “Even as the fourth anniversary of a landmark peace accord came and went in late November, conflict and extortion were driving rising numbers of people from their homes in Colombia’s most lawless regions. [...] The COVID-19 pandemic only appears to have made the competition for resources more intense. After the lockdown was imposed, extortion incomes dropped as many businesses failed, and armed groups had to focus on other revenue streams to finance their activities.”

Headline: [UK to deny asylum to refugees passing through 'safe' third country](#)

Source: The Guardian

Date: December 10, 2020

Notes: “Ministers have quietly changed immigration rules to prevent people fleeing war or persecution from claiming asylum in the UK if they have passed through a “safe” third country, prompting accusations of a breach of international law. From 1 January, claims of asylum from a person who has travelled through or has a connection to a safe third country, including people coming from EU member states, will be treated as inadmissible.”

Headline: [Canada launching immigration programs for refugees working in healthcare](#)

Source: CIC News

Date: December 9, 2020

Notes: “On December 14, Canada will begin accepting applications for permanent residence from refugee claimants who provided direct healthcare to Canadians [during the pandemic]. Canada’s minister of immigration, Marco Mendicino, had announced two new temporary immigration programs this past summer. One is for refugees in Quebec, and the other is for refugees in other Canadian provinces. The program is intended primarily for orderlies, nurses, and service aides.”

Headline: [Confronting the cold and COVID-19 in a refugee camp](#)

Source: IRC

Date: December 11, 2020

Notes: “Syrian refugees in Jordan face a surging COVID-19 crisis on top of unemployment, barriers to accessing education, and other daunting challenges.” This article follows the story of Manhal and his family from before leaving Syria to their current life in the Zaatari camp.

Headline: [US\\$1.44 billion needed to support refugees and migrants from Venezuela amid COVID-19](#)

Source: UNHCR & IOM

Date: December 10, 2020

Notes: “Today, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and IOM, the International Organization for Migration, launch a US\$1.44 billion regional plan to respond to the growing needs of refugees and migrants from Venezuela and the communities hosting them across 17 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. There are approximately 5.4 million refugees and migrants from Venezuela around the world, the vast majority hosted by countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. The onset of COVID-19 has dangerously strained national and local capacities across the region. Many refugees and migrants and their host communities now face a myriad of new challenges that worsen their already precarious conditions.”

Video: [Bangladesh launches world's largest 'climate refugee' project](#)

Source: Al Jazeera

Date: December 11, 2020

Notes: Bangladesh is one of the countries worst affected by global warming, losing an estimated 1% of its GDP each year due to the impact of climate change. The government has developed a program to provide support for individuals internally displaced by climate change.

Related News: [COVID-19 crisis offers lesson on climate response for refugees](#)

Reports

Report: [Working to the Bone: The Experiences of Migrant Workers in the Meat Sector in Ireland](#)

Source: Migrant Rights Centre Ireland (MRCI)

Date: November 25, 2020

Notes: This report describes a systemic culture of discrimination and dangerous working conditions across the meat sector in Ireland which have been further exacerbated by COVID-19. “Many workers say that they still do not feel safe at work and that there has been a back slide in Covid-19 health and safety measures. They say they are being told to physically distance on the factory floor in areas where it is not possible to do so, especially when production targets remain so high. Workers also tell us that there is almost no physical distancing in shared spaces such as canteens, changing areas, or toilets, and that un-staggered shift changes expose them unnecessarily to the virus.”

Report: [Forgotten Emergencies of 2020: Responding to other crises amid the pandemic](#)

Source: MSF

Date: December 10, 2020

Notes: “Over the past year, Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has responded to the unprecedented threats posed by COVID-19 across all our projects. We also see how the pandemic can compound existing problems, trigger new crises, and overshadow other humanitarian needs. For this special edition of Alert, we highlight some of the world's forgotten emergencies—forgotten by many in the international community but certainly not by our teams on the ground. In this photo essay, we bear witness to suffering, survival, and extraordinary strength during a tumultuous year.”

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University Mailman School of Public Health

Compiled by Katherine McCann

Headline: [U.S. border officials expelled dozens of migrant children in violation of court order](#)

Source: CBS News

Date: December 13, 2020

Notes: “U.S. border officials have expelled at least 66 unaccompanied migrant children without a court hearing or asylum interview since a federal judge ordered them to stop the practice. In a filing in federal court in Washington, Justice Department lawyers acknowledged the expulsions represented a ‘contravention’ of a ruling issued by U.S. District Court Judge Emmet Sullivan in November that prohibits the Trump administration from using a pandemic-era emergency border policy to expel minors who are apprehended without their parents or legal guardians.”

Headline: [Venezuelan Refugees, Migrants Face Violence, Trafficking, Exploitation, UN Agencies Say](#)

Source: Voice of America

Date: December 13, 2020

Notes: “U.N. agencies are calling for greater protection for Venezuelan refugees and migrants fleeing economic hardship and persecution. Venezuelans are often in danger upon arrival in other nations. Many of the 4.6 million Venezuelan refugees and migrants across Latin America and the Caribbean face multiple risks due to COVID-19, crime and human trafficking, impoverishment and other threats. UNHCR says Venezuelans most at risk are those fleeing increasingly desperate conditions in their country. Field assessments indicate approximately 500 to 700 people leave Venezuela every day.”

Headline: [Hondurans forming migrant caravan for U.S. stopped in homeland](#)

Source: PBS

Date: December 10, 2020

Notes: “Hundreds of Hondurans trying to start a new caravan to reach the U.S. border were stopped by Honduran security personnel Thursday before they even reached the border with neighboring Guatemala. The roughly 600 men, women and children had gathered Wednesday night in the northern city of San Pedro Sula and began walking along a dark highway toward the border with Guatemala. But as they approached the border crossing at Agua Caliente, the Honduran agents said they couldn’t continue without documents.” The men, women, and children are reported to be on the move towards the U.S. due to the two recent hurricanes which devastated their homes and livelihoods.

Headline: [Thousands of migrants from West and Central Africa at risk as critical funding for humanitarian interventions comes to an end](#)

Source: IOM via ReliefWeb

Date: December 14, 2020

Notes: IOM “is appealing for EUR 100 million to continue providing urgent protection and critical assistance to vulnerable migrants from West and Central Africa along the Central and Western Mediterranean routes, as funding under the EU Trust Fund (EUTF) comes to an end.” The appeal will enable direct assistance and return for more than 12,500 migrants and reintegration support for at least 24,000 returned from West and Central Africa, North Africa and Europe.

Headline: [Disorder on the Border: Keeping the Peace between Colombia and Venezuela - Latin America Report N°84 | 14 December 2020](#)

Source: ICG via ReliefWeb

Date: December 14, 2020

Notes: This update from ICG reports, newly, that “crime and violence have simmered along the lengthy Colombian-Venezuelan frontier for decades. But the regional spillover of Venezuela’s political conflict and economic collapse has caused ties between the two states to fray as well, amid border closures, a migrant exodus and rival military exercises.” ICG notes that these “high bilateral tensions could spur

escalating border hostilities while perpetuating the mistreatment of migrants and refugees whose movements have been restricted by COVID-19.”

Headline: [New hotline provides a lifeline to families displaced in Somalia](#)

Source: IOM via ReliefWeb

Date: December 14, 2020

Notes: “Sharing correct information regarding COVID-19 and proper hygiene practices became more important than ever, but mobility restrictions meant that quick solutions were needed to ensure information still reached the community. In April, IOM set up a toll-free emergency hotline to complement the help desks stationed at the information centres. Information centres and hotlines like these in Somalia allow community members a chance to share their concerns and complaints with humanitarians, an accountability measure known in the humanitarian sector as Community Feedback and Response Mechanism. This system has been operational in Somalia since January 2018, and has been the main line of communication between the community and humanitarian partners.”

Headline: [U.S. and Mexico keeping border travel restrictions through Jan. 21](#)

Source: Border Report

Date: December 14, 2020

Notes: “The governments of Mexico and the United States are extending non-essential land travel restrictions through Jan. 21. The restrictions have been in place since March 21 to limit the cross-border spread of COVID-19.” Residents in Mexico express concern about the lack of restrictions on entry from the United States into Mexico, but the strictness of restrictions imposed for entry into the United States.

Headline: [The Trump administration says the U.S. can't house more migrant children. Shelter officials disagree.](#)

Source: CBS News

Date: December 14, 2020

Notes: “The Trump administration has told federal courts that the country's shelters will be overwhelmed by an influx of minors apprehended along the border with Mexico unless it can rapidly expel migrant children from the U.S. during the COVID-19 pandemic.” Shelters across the United States and at the border have pushed back on this notion, stating that while capacity may be limited, vacancy persists and the children should be housed instead of expelled.

Latest PFMH Blog Post: [Drowning at the Hands of the EU: Is the New Pact on Migration and Asylum a Lifejacket or a Depleted Promise?](#) *Written by Janna Safran, student at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health*

Compiled by Sabeen Rokerya

Headline: [The virus trains: How lockdown chaos spread covid-19 across India](#)

Source: The New York Times

Date: December 15, 2020

Notes: Tens of millions of migrant workers in India “were stranded without food or work after Prime Minister Narendra Modi imposed a national coronavirus lockdown in March.” The government provided emergency trains to transport migrants back to their home villages during the spring and summer, spreading the virus across the country.

Headline: [Covid-19: Singapore migrant workers infections were three times higher](#)

Source: BBC News

Date: December 16, 2020

Notes: New data show that “almost half of Singapore's migrant workers have been infected with Covid-19 in the past nine months.” The majority of workers live in dormitories and have essentially been quarantined from the rest of the population since cases increased in April. While infections have dropped and authorities have eased restrictions for the general population, foreign workers still face restrictions.

Headline: [Saudi Arabia: Migrants Held in Inhuman, Degrading Conditions](#)

Source: Human Rights Watch

Date: December 15, 2020

Notes: A new report from Human Rights Watch describes a deportation center in Riyadh “holding hundreds of mostly Ethiopian migrant workers in conditions so degrading that they amount to ill-treatment.” Detainees alleged that they are held in overcrowded rooms and that guards have tortured and beaten them. Many migrants said that contracting Covid-19 is their major concern, as overcrowding has made social distancing and hygienic living impossible.

Headline: [ILO study finds migrants earn much less than locals, and the gap is widening](#)

Source: UN News

Date: December 14, 2020

Notes: “The gap between wages paid to migrant and national workers is big and growing, and may widen further because of the pandemic, the International Labour Organization (ILO) said in a report published” on December 14th. The examination of 49 countries found that migrants were earning nearly 13 percent less than nationals on average, “showing that even before COVID-19 migrant workers suffered significant inequality.”

Headline: [A Once-in-a-Lifetime Chance for Liberian Immigrants Has Been “Hamstrung” by COVID — and Trump’s Dysfunctional Immigration Bureaucracy](#)

Source: ProPublica

Date: December 16, 2020

Notes: “Last year, Congress quietly passed a bill allowing thousands of Liberian immigrants to apply for green cards.” However, many Liberians may be unable to submit their applications before the December 20th deadline. The process has “become a victim of two colliding trends: the COVID-19 pandemic (and the economic crisis it engendered), and severely degraded functioning at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, the agency responsible for legal immigration.”

Headline: [Why Millions of Americans Still Can’t Get Coronavirus Relief Funds](#)

Source: The Marshall Project

Date: December 15, 2020

Notes: About 5.1 million Americans have lost out on COVID-19 relief funds because “filing taxes with an undocumented immigrant means the whole family loses out on payment.” Per the relief bill passed by Congress in March, families are disqualified from payments if any member filed a return using a taxpayer identification number, a legally valid alternative for people without a Social Security number.

Headline: [Honduran storm survivors form US-bound migrant caravan](#)

Source: The New Humanitarian

Date: December 11, 2020

Notes: Destruction and displacement caused by back-to-back hurricanes in November are leading Hondurans to form migrant caravans bound for the United States. Migrants describe joining caravans after the Honduran government failed to provide assistance in the wake of the storms. Even before the hurricanes, widespread poverty, government corruption and high rates violence left many struggling to make ends meet.

Headline: [Biden's pledges could spur more migration. But in a pandemic, the border is unprepared](#)

Source: Reuters

Date: December 15, 2020

Notes: "U.S. border officials and shelter directors along the border are concerned about the effects of a major surge in migration in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic." Shelter organizations said they wanted Trump's immigration policies "to be reversed as quickly and safely as possible, but feared pandemic-related factors - including reduced shelter capacity, fewer volunteers and medical workers, a lack of government testing of migrants, and fewer donations - would make it difficult for them to cope."

Headline: [Birth on a riverbank: Woman's ordeal shows risks at border](#)

Source: AP News

Date: December 15, 2020

Notes: A Honduran woman gave birth to her daughter next to the Rio Grande in South Texas after being pushed across the river in a tire, "showing how lives routinely end up at risk at the U.S.-Mexico border." Increasing numbers of parents and children are crossing the border due to violence and poverty in Central America and desperation in camps in Mexico. Facilities that hold migrants are approaching capacity, which has been reduced because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Headline: [The United States Has Failed Cameroonian Asylum-Seekers](#)

Source: Foreign Policy

Date: December 13, 2020

Notes: "Fleeing a civil war shaped by the West, Cameroonians have been met on American shores with hostility, high-risk conditions, and now unconscionable deportation." Asylum seekers report being detained with minimal access to medical treatment and lack of social distancing, PPE and COVID-19 testing. In October and November, immigration officials deported dozens of Cameroonians from detention facilities. Upon return, they were handed over to military custody and placed in maximum-security prisons.

Related: [Deportation Would Mean Death for My Client. We're Fighting for His Fair Shot at Asylum](#)

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Compiled by Jennifer Ostrowski

Headline: [Italy: Flawed Migrant Regularization Program](#)

Source: Human Rights Watch

Date: December 18, 2020

Notes: “An Italian program to provide undocumented migrants with a pathway to residency adopted amid the Covid-19 pandemic did not live up to its promise, Human Rights Watch said today. It is too early to know how many people will ultimately benefit from it. But flaws in the program’s design and implementation resulted in a missed opportunity to address myriad vulnerabilities of undocumented migrants, including widespread exploitation in Italy’s agricultural sector. “

Headline: [For African migrants in Yemen, no way forward and no way back](#)

Source: The New Humanitarian

Date: December 17, 2020

Notes: Migrants who have traditionally passed from countries such as Ethiopia through Yemen and into Saudi Arabia in search of work as day laborers have found COVID-19 closures have made it difficult to complete their journeys or to return home.

Headline: [Integral to societies, migrants are central to COVID-19 recovery: Guterres](#)

Source: UN News

Date: December 18, 2020

Notes: “In a message, Secretary-General António Guterres said that in the midst of the global pandemic, societies have come to appreciate their dependence on migrants ‘who are too often invisible within our communities.’ Mr. Guterres called for ensuring that migrants, irrespective of their legal status, are included in every country’s pandemic response, particularly in health and vaccination programming.”

Headline: [COVID-19 has led to dramatic reduction in essential services and protection for migrant and displaced children in countries around the world](#)

Source: UNICEF

Date: December 18, 2020

Notes: “In countries around the world, migrant and displaced children have been largely excluded from national response and recovery plans to the COVID-19 pandemic and have experienced a significant reduction in access to essential services and care, UNICEF announced today. These findings are based on data collected through a recent UNICEF survey of 159 countries in which it has an operational presence.”

Headline: [What will international migration in West Africa look like after COVID-19?](#)

Source: Open Democracy

Date: December 16, 2020

Notes: “Migration is an integral part of life in West Africa, a region that experiences a high level of intra-regional mobility. The closure of land borders as part of the measures taken to fight the pandemic has seriously affected the livelihoods of those who depend on cross-border economic activities. [...] Although COVID-19 may not significantly change the willingness of low-skilled persons to migrate internally and internationally in search of better economic opportunities, the possible extension of travel restrictions by governments of certain destination countries may force more West Africans to use irregular channels of migration.”

Headline: [Migrants in Asia and the Pacific at Higher Risk of COVID-19 and its Socioeconomic Fallout](#)

Source: IOM

Date: December 18, 2020

Notes: “The COVID-19 pandemic and its socio-economic fallout pose great risks to migrants in the Asia-Pacific, a new United Nations report reveals. They are more likely to be exposed to the virus, lack access

to health care and other essential services, be stranded in countries without work or social protection and face rising xenophobia. However, as essential workers and remittance providers, migrants are also key to recovering better.”

Headline: [Governments and police must stop using pandemic as pretext for abuse](#)

Source: Amnesty International

Date: December 17, 2020

Notes: “Abusive policing and excessive reliance on law enforcement to implement COVID-19 response measures have violated human rights and in some instances made the health crisis worse, Amnesty International said today. [...] In several countries, police have demonstrated racial bias and discrimination in their enforcement of COVID-19 regulations. Refugees, asylum-seekers, migrant workers, LGBTI and gender non-conforming people, sex workers, homeless people and people at risk of homelessness are among the marginalized groups who have been particularly affected.”

Headline: [IFRC President: Migrants must not be left stranded at back of COVID-19 vaccine queue](#)

Source: IFRC

Date: December 17, 2020

Notes: “The President of the world’s largest humanitarian organisation warns that inclusive action is urgently needed to safeguard the health and dignity of migrants worldwide, and to ensure they are not left behind as the first COVID-19 vaccines start being distributed.”

Related News: [IOM Chief: Migrants Must Be Included in COVID-19 Vaccination Campaigns](#)

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Compiled by Katherine McCann