

**Headline:** [Trump Virtually Cuts Off Refugees as He Unleashes a Tirade on Immigrants](#)

**Source:** The New York Times

**Date:** October 1, 2020

**Notes:** On Wednesday, the Trump Administration alerted the US Congress that it would cut refugee admissions to 15,000 in the new fiscal year. The announcement of the cut came as President Trump unleashed “a xenophobic tirade” against Representative Ilhan Omar and refugees at a campaign rally in Minnesota. At the rally, Trump stated: “Another massive issue for Minnesota is the election of Joe Biden’s plan to inundate your state with a historic flood of refugees,” the president said. ‘Seven hundred percent increase, refugees, coming from the most dangerous places in the world, including Yemen, Syria and your favorite country, Somalia, right?’ Mr. Trump said later, to a chorus of boos in a state that has one of the largest Somali populations in the country. Minneapolis is home to about 57,000 people of Somali descent.”

**Headline:** [Ethiopian migrants held in Saudi Arabia call it ‘hellish’](#)

**Source:** Al Jazeera

**Date:** October 2, 2020

**Notes:** A report released on Friday by [Amnesty International](#) describes widespread abuses in Saudi detention facilities. Thousands of migrants from Ethiopia cross into Saudi Arabia every year, crossing through Yemen. This passage was particularly dangerous this year, as Houthi authorities began ordering migrant workers to the border with Saudi Arabia due to coronavirus fears. The report details widespread abuses, including beatings and electrocutions, and squalid conditions.

**Related:** [Stranded migrants need safe and dignified return, says independent UN rights panel](#)

**Headline:** [As COVID-19 pandemic roils Latin America, Venezuelans face wave of evictions](#)

**Source:** UNHCR

**Date:** October 2, 2020

**Notes:** As Venezuelan refugees and migrants lose work due to COVID-19 lockdowns, “untold numbers” are “struggling to keep a roof over their heads.” Governments throughout Latin America have put temporary bans on forced evictions, but many have expired or will soon expire, prompting additional concerns about evictions. Some refugees have reported being evicted even with the freeze in place. “‘We were sleeping on the ground, or, if we were lucky, on a park bench,’ recalled Dulce María, who hails from Venezuela’s northern industrial hub of Valencia. ‘There were days when my children didn’t eat, and others when we weren’t able to bathe.’”

**Headline:** [Migrant caravan sets out for the US amid COVID-19 concerns](#)

**Source:** Al Jazeera

**Date:** October 1, 2020

**Notes:** The first of a newly formed caravan of Hondurans on their way to the United States arrived at the Guatemalan border on Thursday. Guatemalan authorities estimated more than 1,000 had crossed the border. Reaching the US border and crossing without documents is more difficult than ever. “‘There’s the pandemic, and it scares me,’ [Edwin Omar Molino, 17 year old migrant from Cortes] added. But he said he would not be able to help his family get ahead without taking the risk.”

**Headline:** [Home Office moved Covid-affected asylum seekers against orders](#)

**Source:** The Guardian

**Date:** October 2, 2020

**Notes:** The UK Home Office and its contractor moved dozens of asylum seekers involved in a COVID-19 outbreak in Birmingham to the west London borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, despite an order saying they should remain in isolation for 14 days. Nine of the individuals who were moved were found to have COVID-19. “In a letter of complaint sent to the home secretary, Priti Patel, and seen by the Guardian, six councils in the Midlands accused Home Office contractors of being “beyond reckless” in their handling

of the Birmingham outbreak. While a separate letter, from the Hammersmith and Fulham council, accused the Home Office of moving Covid from one part of the country to another.”

**Headline:** [Facebook takes down Trump campaign ads tying refugees to coronavirus](#)

**Source:** The Hill

**Date:** September 30, 2020

**Notes:** Facebook has removed Trump campaign ads that “baselessly connect admission of refugees to transmission of the coronavirus.” The ad, which claims that Joe Biden would increase refugee admissions from Somalia, Syria, and Yemen 700 percent, includes text “alleging ‘an increase in refugees’ presents public health risks.” In a statement to The Hill, President Trump’s reelection campaign stated “Americans deserve to know that if Joe Biden were president, he would ‘immediately surge the border’ and increase refugees, exposing Americans to further risk of exposure to COVID-19.”

**Headline:** [Hardships multiply for older refugees amid COVID-19 pandemic](#)

**Source:** UNHCR

**Date:** October 1, 2020

**Notes:** The COVID-19 pandemic is making life more difficult for older refugees and asylum seekers. In May, UN Secretary-General António Guterres said, “The COVID-19 pandemic is causing untold fear and suffering for older people across the world [....] Beyond its immediate health impact, the pandemic is putting older people at greater risk of poverty, discrimination and isolation. It is likely to have a particularly devastating impact on older people in developing countries.”

**Headline:** [COVID-19 ravaged meat plants: My refugee mother’s life is worth more than the bottom line](#)

**Source:** USA Today

**Date:** October 1, 2020

**Notes:** Written by the daughter of a woman who died after she contracted COVID-19 at her job at a meat packing plant, this opinion piece tells the story of her mom’s life and her fight against COVID-19. She writes, “My mom was a meatpacker. It’s the kind of job where you come home dirty every night, dead tired. It’ll never make you rich, or bring you glory. But it’s the kind of job America was built on, the hard work of everyday people. My little brother is a Marine, deployed overseas. He’s willing to risk his life for his country. My mom never should have been forced to risk hers, especially for a company that doesn’t care about its people.”

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

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*Compiled by Sarah Guyer*

**Headline:** [Vice President Pence Ordered U.S. Borders Sealed in March Due to COVID-19, After CDC Experts Advised Against It](#)

**Source:** TIME

**Date:** October 3, 2020

**Notes:** In this piece, TIME documents the unfolding of the United States's order, under Title 42 of the Public Health Service Act, to expel all migrants at both its north and south borders, beginning in March 2020 through the summer. "Since the order went into effect on March 20, nearly 150,000 people — including at least 8,800 unaccompanied children who are normally afforded special legal protections under a court settlement and federal law — have been sent back to their countries of origin without typical due process. Many have been returned to dangerous and violent conditions in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala."

**Headline:** [Guatemala promises to break up migrant caravan heading to US](#)

**Source:** Al Jazeera

**Date:** October 2, 2020

**Notes:** "Guatemala has promised to break up a caravan of about 2,000 migrants that set out from neighboring Honduras this week in hopes of reaching the United States, saying they represent a health threat amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The first Honduran migrants entered Guatemala on foot on Thursday and the country's president, Alejandro Giammattei, promised to detain and send them back to the border." Authors report that "the caravan comes amid widespread job losses in Latin America linked to the COVID-19 pandemic – at least 34 million."

**Headline:** [Despite coronavirus impact, U.S. Mexican workers send big amounts of money back home](#)

**Source:** NBC News

**Date:** October 2, 2020

**Notes:** NBC News documents the surprise of economists as they determine the sums of payments Mexican migrant workers in the United States sent back to their homes. "In August, their payments amounted to \$3.57 billion, according to the Bank of Mexico, the second-highest level on record for a single month and 5.3% above August 2019. Payments in the first eight months of 2020 ballooned to \$26.4 billion, up 9.4% compared with the same period last year." NBC News reports that economists originally say the rise may be driven by a "weakened Mexican peso and the \$600-a-week U.S. unemployment benefit that expired at the end of July."

**Headline:** [COVID-19 and Monsoon Preparedness and response for the Rohingya refugee camps and host communities in Cox's Bazar District Weekly Update #29](#)

**Source:** ISCG via ReliefWeb

**Date:** October 2, 2020

**Notes:** In this situation report, ISCG documents key COVID-19 figures within the refugee camps and host community where the Rohingya are residing, as well as monsoon-related incidents affecting Rohingya refugees. During the week of September 18 through September 24, 40 new COVID-19 cases were confirmed in the camps. ISCG also reports that WASH Sector partners reached over 280,000 individuals through a neighborhood-based approach and approximately 160,000 individuals through mass media, with COVID-19 awareness messages in host and Rohingya communities. In the camps, close to 23,000 households received soap and 5,200 received family hygiene kits.

**Headline:** [Deaths at Saudi Arabia detention centre for Ethiopians - Amnesty](#)

**Source:** BBC News

**Date:** October 3, 2020

**Notes:** According to Amnesty International, at least three people died in detention centers housing thousands of Ethiopian migrants in Saudi Arabia. "Conditions [in the centers] are especially dire in al-

Dayer and Jizan, where detainees report sharing cells with 350 people.” Amnesty International urges the Ethiopian government to “urgently facilitate the voluntary repatriation of its nationals, while asking the Saudi authorities to improve detention conditions in the meantime.”

**Headline:** [Older people will soon receive health coverage in Illinois regardless of immigration status under first-in-nation program: ‘It’s a relief’](#)

**Source:** Chicago Tribune

**Date:** October 5, 2020

**Notes:** As of December 2020, hundreds of older immigrants are slated to be eligible for “Medicaid-like” coverage in Illinois, if they are low-income and 65 years old or older, regardless of their immigration status. “Illinois is the first state to fully fund this type of health coverage program for noncitizen immigrant older people,” notes a representative from the National Immigration Law Center. Authors also report that the population of low-income, undocumented older immigrants is likely to exponentially rise in Illinois in the next 10 years.

**Headline:** [Appeals court upholds ban on holding migrant kids in hotels](#)

**Source:** Washington Post

**Date:** October 4, 2020

**Notes:** “Three judges on the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals left in place a lower court’s order that requires the U.S. to stop using hotels in most situations to detain children unaccompanied by a parent. The judges denied the U.S. government’s request for a stay of that order.”

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*Compiled by Sabeen Rokerya*

**Headline:** [Dissolved migrant caravan sign of tougher Guatemala stance](#)

**Source:** The Washington Post

**Date:** October 5, 2020

**Notes:** “The Guatemalan government’s halt of more than 3,000 Honduran migrants who had set out for the United States amid the pandemic signaled that U.S. pressure on immigration continues to extend southward.” Guatemalan President Alejandro Giammattei stated the caravan posed a health risk due to COVID-19.

**Headline:** [Italy softens harsh migration rules championed by Salvini](#)

**Source:** Al Jazeera

**Date:** October 6, 2020

**Notes:** “Italy has softened harsh rules penalizing aid groups that bring undocumented migrants ashore and extended protection for refugees who risk persecution at home.” Fines for rescue boats have been decreased from \$1.18m to \$59,000, and migrants reportedly will not be expelled if they risk persecution if returned.

**Headline:** [Afghan refugees in India cast adrift amid coronavirus pandemic](#)

**Source:** DW

**Date:** October 5, 2020

**Notes:** “They escaped conflict in Afghanistan, but now with no path to citizenship, and their livelihoods wrecked by coronavirus lockdowns, many Muslim Afghans see no future in India.”

**Headline:** [UAE to issue permits for overseas workers for first time in seven months](#)

**Source:** The National

**Date:** October 6, 2020

**Notes:** “The UAE will allow some employers to hire staff from abroad for the first time in seven months. Government departments and semi-public sector firms can now secure work permits for new arrivals. Families can also process work permits for domestic workers who are arriving from outside the country.”

**Headline:** [Venezuelans brave 'brutal' migrant route made tougher by pandemic](#)

**Source:** BBC

**Date:** October 7, 2020

**Notes:** People leaving Venezuela have found migration has become more dangerous since the pandemic. “In Colombia, shelters built along the main migrant routes have been forced to close by municipal governments trying to avoid large indoor gatherings. Land border closures imposed by the governments of Colombia, Ecuador and Peru meanwhile, have forced many migrants to turn to criminal groups that control illegal border crossings.”

**Headline:** [Greece: Investigate Pushbacks, Violence at Borders](#)

**Source:** Human Rights Watch

**Date:** October 6, 2020

**Notes:** “Members of Greece’s parliament should urgently establish an inquiry into all allegations of unlawful returns of migrants to Turkey by law enforcement officers and others, 29 human rights and humanitarian aid organizations said in an open letter released today. These returns are carried out mainly through pushbacks and collective expulsions and are often accompanied by violence.”

**Headline:** [Refugee-led organisations are critical to the fight against COVID-19 | View](#)

**Source:** EuroNews

**Date:** October 6, 2020

**Notes:** Yagoub Kibeida, head of refugee-led organization Mosaico, writes about the importance of refugee-led organizations when responding to crises such as COVID-19. “Due to our unique expertise, the municipality brought us in to cooperate on COVID-19 crisis management efforts and civil protection. But beyond the pandemic, there needs to be a renewed focus on the long-term integration of refugees in their host countries.”

**Headline:** [Coming Out Stronger from COVID-19: Policy Options on Migrant Health and Immigration](#)

**Source:** Asian Development Bank via ReliefWeb

**Date:** October 6, 2020

**Notes:** “It is urgent for governments to integrate migrant health and migration policies into their response and recovery efforts. Migrants must have access to COVID-19 health services and be enabled to cope with the socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic. Otherwise, their increasing vulnerability could impede efforts to stop the spread of the disease. It is also important to coordinate with governments of host and destination countries on measures targeted at migrants. Focusing on migrant health and international migration, this brief proposes some policy measures to operationalize an inclusive approach based on the principles of universal health coverage (UHC) and contribute to enhancing public health protection, speeding recovery, and achieving sustainable development.”

**Resource:** [Rohingya Refugee Response COVID-19 Report: World Vision Bangladesh](#)

**Source:** World Vision

**Date:** October 6, 2020

**Notes:** “In order to mitigate the effects of the pandemic in Cox’s Bazar district among both the Bangladeshi and Rohingya communities, World Vision developed and implemented a COVID-19 response plan as part of the organisation’s global COVID-19 Emergency Response (COVER). The programme’s strategic objectives aimed to:

1. Scale up preventative measures to limit the spread of the disease.
2. Strengthen health systems and workers.
3. Support for children impacted by COVID-19 through education, child protection, food security and livelihoods.
4. Collaborate and advocate to ensure the world’s response prioritises and protects vulnerable children.”

**Latest PFMH Blog Post:** [Reproductive Justice, the Criminalization of Migration, and the Duty of Public Health to Intervene](#) by Sally Beiruti, Andreea Dinicu, Valeria Hernandez Munoz, Katherine McCann, and Sabeen Rokerya, students at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health

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*Compiled by Katherine McCann*

**Headline:** [Lessons We've Learned — Covid-19 and the Undocumented Latinx Community](#)

**Source:** New England Journal of Medicine

**Date:** October 7, 2020

**Notes:** In this article, two authors from the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in Baltimore reflect on their hospital system's experience of serving Latinx and undocumented populations during the COVID-19 pandemic. They note that the percentage of Latinx patients increased dramatically during the pandemic, creating the need for new services. They write about barriers to seeking care that were observed in undocumented populations and advocate for better protections for essential workers and the inclusion of undocumented residents in financial assistance provided during times of crisis.

**Headline:** [Lack of mental health services for refugees is a global scandal](#)

**Source:** Amnesty International

**Date:** October 9, 2020

**Notes:** "The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed and exacerbated the longstanding neglect of mental health services for refugees and migrants, Amnesty International said today. In a briefing, the organization said the international community had broken the promise, enshrined in international law, to ensure the highest attainable standard of mental health for everyone."

**Headline:** [COVID-19 puts a migrant integration success story in France at risk](#)

**Source:** The New Humanitarian

**Date:** October 9, 2020

**Notes:** "Many young migrants in France count on apprenticeship programmes to help integrate into new communities, earn a living, and get legal residency once they turn 18. The programmes are a rare bright spot among harsh government policies that have excluded many unaccompanied migrant children from protection in recent years. But with parts of France introducing new coronavirus restrictions on businesses, the economic impact of the pandemic is limiting the number of people who can benefit."

**Headline:** [Migrant Boy Dies After Confinement on Italian Quarantine Ship](#)

**Source:** New York Times

**Date:** October 8, 2020

**Notes:** "The 15-year-old from Ivory Coast died in a hospital after being evacuated from one of the cruise ships where Italian authorities are keeping migrants as part of efforts to limit the spread of Covid-19."

**Headline:** ['Treated like slaves', migrant workers bear brunt of Lebanon crisis](#)

**Source:** Reuters

**Date:** October 8, 2020

**Notes:** "The International Organization for Migration (IOM), which supports many domestic workers in Lebanon, says as many as 10,000 migrants have asked to be repatriated because their wages collapsed after the country plunged into a deep financial crisis a year ago. This crisis has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent explosion. Many of the estimated 250,000 migrant domestic workers in Lebanon are excluded from protection under Lebanon's labour laws, leaving them vulnerable to abuse, rights groups say."

**Headline:** [2.7 million migrants stranded due to COVID-19 measures, UN says](#)

**Source:** Daily Sabah

**Date:** October 9, 2020

**Notes:** More than 2.7 million migrants who wished to return home have been stranded abroad because of restrictions put in place to fight the coronavirus pandemic, the United Nations said Friday. 'The COVID-19 mobility policies and measures – spanning from various travel restrictions, health requirements and measures to full border closures and nationwide and/or localized lockdowns – have, in some cases,



created new challenges for migrants whilst in parallel exacerbated their existing vulnerabilities,' the report said. It also raised the issue of some 400,000 seafarers currently stranded at sea, some of whom have been aboard their vessels for up to 17 months – six months longer than the maximum allowed."

**Headline:** [A Restriction of Responsibility-Sharing: Exploring the impact of COVID-19 on the Global Compact on Refugees](#)

**Source:** ReliefWeb

**Date:** October 8, 2020

**Notes:** "This report examines the current and potential use of the Global Compact on Refugees to address COVID-19 and its impacts, as well as the impact of COVID-19 on the implementation of the GCR itself.<sup>4</sup> It provides analysis of and reflections on the effects of the pandemic and concomitant challenges on different aspects of the GCR, ranging from shrinking asylum space and restricted responsibility-sharing to how the Compact features in public advocacy surrounding pandemic responses."

**Headline:** [Deal with Lebanon makes seeking asylum in Cyprus more difficult](#)

**Source:** InfoMigrants.net

**Date:** October 8, 2020

**Notes:** "Ministers representing Cyprus and Lebanon recently reaffirmed a deal to intercept migrant boats attempting to reach Cyprus, making things de facto more difficult for those who hope to seek asylum in the country. Cyprus says its reception centers are full to capacity, and the country has been criticized for its treatment of migrants by NGOs."

**Headline:** [‘The People’s PPE’: refugees and scientists combat Covid-19](#)

**Source:** ForgeToday

**Date:** October 7, 2020

**Notes:** After UNHCR reached out due to a lack of PPE available for the Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan, "a remarkable process of technological innovation, resilience and empowerment has occurred, seeing refugees collaborate with academics and researchers to produce vital PPE. The project, known as 'The People's PPE', has been crucial in ensuring that life in Zaatari can safely return to 'normal' through the manufacturing of sustainable PPE and hygiene products. Consisting of academics from The University of Sheffield, London College of Fashion and University of the Arts London (UAL), as well as researchers at Al Albayt University and the University of Petra, 'The People's PPE' has been a collaborative effort that has sought to produce gowns, visors and facemasks for people living in Jordan's largest refugee camp."

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*Compiled by Christina Kay*



**Headline:** [Over a thousand migrants land in Spain's Canary Islands](#)

**Source:** Deutsche Welle

**Date:** October 10, 2020

**Notes:** Between Thursday and Saturday, more than one thousand migrants landed in 485 boats on Spain's Canary Islands. Most migrants came from North Africa or sub-Saharan Africa. Analysts believe that traffickers and migrants have increasingly risked the perilous crossing to the Canary Islands as Morocco has tightened its security on the Mediterranean coast.

**Headline:** [Virus Hits Foreign Farmhands, Challenging Canadians' Self-Image](#)

**Source:** The New York Times

**Date:** October 11, 2020

**Notes:** As COVID-19 outbreaks have spread on Canadian farms – where migrant farm laborers have “fall[en] ill at a rate 11 times that of health workers” – some Canadians have begun to question whether their immigration system reflects their ideals. Canada brings in a large number of seasonal farm laborers from abroad but offers no path to residence or citizenship, instead requiring them to return home when their contracts end. Advocates say that migrant farm workers may be hesitant to report abuses since their contracts state that termination for cause requires “immediate removal” from the country.

**Headline:** [Greece's 'new tactic' of migrant expulsion from deep inside its land borders](#)

**Source:** The New Humanitarian

**Date:** October 7, 2020

**Notes:** Since March, human rights groups have documented cases of registered asylum seekers being expelled from Greece from within its borders: asylum seekers have reported being rounded up by Greek police, transported to a warehouse near the border where their valid International Protection Applicant's Cards are taken from them, placed in inflatable dinghies and forced across the Evros River into Turkey. While pushbacks at the border have been well documented, “the collective expulsion of hundreds of asylum seekers from deep inside of Greek territory, however, is a ‘new tactic by Greek law enforcement’, according to a July statement by Human Rights Watch.”

**Headline:** [The World Needs a New Refugee Convention](#)

**Source:** Foreign Policy

**Date:** October 11, 2020

**Notes:** Since the beginning of the pandemic, border closures have limited the movement of asylum seekers, and this year, more than 90 countries have stopped processing asylum claims. From the Mediterranean to Malaysia, asylum seekers have been turned away. Nationalist leaders have blamed migrants for the spread of COVID-19. Authors Joshua Craze and Jérôme Tubiana write: “The measures taken in the last six months are not exceptional policies pursued in a time of crisis but a crisis put to good use to complete a project already 30 years in the making: an almost total blockade against refugee movement and the end of asylum as a practical possibility.”

**Headline:** [COVID-19 Outbreaks Are Now Emerging in Refugee Camps. Why Did it Take so Long For the Virus to Reach Them?](#)

**Source:** TIME

**Date:** October 9, 2020

**Notes:** While cases in refugee camps and settlements remained unexpectedly low for the first six months of the pandemic, potentially due to isolation from host communities and strict lockdown measures, COVID-19 infections are now on the rise. Beyond the virus itself, the pandemic has had a dramatic impact on refugees' livelihoods, with the Norwegian Refugee Council estimating that three quarters of displaced people have lost income since the beginning of the pandemic. Experts say that increasing testing and reducing overcrowding will be key to preventing more cases in camps as lockdown measures are lifted.

**Headline:** [‘They have to be punished’: the mothers trapped in the UAE by ‘love crimes’](#)

**Source:** The Guardian

**Date:** October 12, 2020

**Notes:** For some migrant women in the United Arab Emirates attempting to return home in part due to unemployment triggered by the pandemic, they are required to first serve a jail sentence for having sex outside of marriage. However, even when women request to serve this jail time, their requests are denied due to a lack of space in prisons that have reduced occupancy to limit the spread of COVID-19. Healthcare professionals are legally required to report any unmarried mothers they treat, deterring women from seeking medical care. Children born to unmarried women are stateless and, therefore, unable to enroll in school and are not eligible for healthcare, adding additional stress during the pandemic.

**Headline:** [Australia to Reduce Refugee Intake Under COVID-19 Budget Cuts](#)

**Source:** Voice of America

**Date:** October 10, 2020

**Notes:** The government of Australia has announced that it will cut refugee acceptances from 18,750 to 13,750, effective immediately, due to COVID-19-related budget cuts. “‘We were probably expecting that there might be some short-term reduction,’ said Chief Executive [of Refugee Council of Australia] Paul Power. ‘What we were not expecting was that the government would cut the program over the next three years and use that as a budget-saving measure.’” The government will also require that foreign partners of existing Australian residents pass an English test before receiving a permanent visa.

**Headline:** [COVID-19 inducing ‘widespread despair’ among refugees. UNHCR appeals for urgent support for mental health](#)

**Source:** UNHCR

**Date:** October 10, 2020

**Notes:** On World Mental Health Day, UNHCR joined with WHO to urge the international community to “prioritize and boost essential mental health programs for refugees and those internally displaced.” Field reports have pointed to a rise in suicide attempts since the beginning of the pandemic. UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi said, “Many refugees tell us they see their futures crumbling. The issues that drove them from their countries remain unresolved and they can’t return home. Many who have survived in exile by eking out a living in the informal economy have lost their jobs. They are also anxious about their health and that of their families, not knowing when the pandemic will end and how they can really protect themselves. They see a lack of solutions and lack hope in the future.”

**Related:** [Q&A: ‘Before the pandemic, refugee mental health was severely overlooked. Now it’s a full-blown crisis’](#)

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Compiled by Sarah Guyer

**Headline:** [COVID-19 Destroyed Thailand's Economy, and the Livelihoods of Migrant Workers](#)

**Source:** Pulitzer Center

**Date:** October 12, 2020

**Notes:** "Thailand's migrant workers, who primarily hail from Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam, and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, have been hit hardest. In a recent assessment of Thailand's migrants, the International Organization of Migration (IOM) reported that 57 percent of respondents said that insufficient income is the greatest challenge they currently face. In addition to losing their already meager incomes, migrant workers must navigate a labyrinthine immigration system, fight for health care they are lawfully owed, and struggle to survive until the border opens and they can return home."

**Headline:** [PAHO and IOM sign agreement to improve the health of 70 million migrants in the Americas](#)

**Source:** Relief Web

**Date:** October 10, 2020

**Notes:** "The agreement will focus on increasing and scaling-up interventions that address barriers to health care and the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on migrant populations. Under the agreement, PAHO and IOM will focus on scaling up coordinated interventions to support countries of the Americas in addressing health and migration, while leaving no one behind. It will also ensure greater advocacy for the inclusion of the specific needs of migrants in health and development policy throughout the Region, both in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond."

**Headline:** [Resettlement Officials: Refugees Should Be Among The First To Receive COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

**Source:** Western Kentucky University Radio

**Date:** October 11, 2020

**Notes:** "Refugee resettlement officials in Bowling Green believe the international community should be among the first to have access to a COVID-19 vaccine once it's available.

Executive director of the International Center of Kentucky in Bowling Green, Albert Mbanfu, said the refugee community is at high risk because of their living arrangements and because many are essential workers."

**Headline:** [Education woes add to tensions outside Rohingya refugee camps](#)

**Source:** The New Humanitarian

**Date:** October 13, 2020

**Notes:** "The coronavirus pandemic has disrupted schooling across the globe. But in southern Bangladesh, local communities hosting nearly one million Rohingya refugees say they've been struggling for the past three years."

**Headline:** [\\$110 Billion Drop in Remittances Due to COVID-19](#)

**Source:** Borgen Report

**Date:** October 13, 2020

**Notes:** "In 2019, a record of \$554 billion in remittances flowed from high-income countries to low and middle-income countries. But, since then, the COVID-19 pandemic has erupted, causing economic crisis and jeopardizing countless people's livelihoods around the globe. The World Bank has estimated that in 2020, global remittances would drop by 19.7%, to only \$445 billion."

**Headline:** [COVID-19, faltering economy cited as border numbers plummet for 2020](#)

**Source:** Cronkite News

**Date:** October 13, 2020

**Notes:** “The number of migrants apprehended at the southern border fell sharply in fiscal 2020, a drop analysts attribute in large part fears of the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic havoc left in its wake. Experts said part of the slowdown is due to Trump administration policies, but much can be blamed on COVID-19 and the economic woes that followed, giving migrants ‘Less of a reason to come here in the first place.’”

**Headline:** [How migrants are aiding the global fight against coronavirus](#)

**Source:** Arab News

**Date:** October 12, 2020

**Notes:** The author combats xenophobic misconceptions about migrants and refugees as transmitters of disease during the COVID-19 pandemic, showing that contrary to worsening the crisis, migrants are performing vital roles in essential businesses and health care that keep communities safe and functioning.

**Headline:** [Refugees in South Africa share acts of kindness with their hosts](#)

**Source:** UNHCR

**Date:** October 13, 2020

**Notes:** “A community of Somali refugees stand together with their South African neighbours to assist those struggling the most during the COVID-19 pandemic. The group launched a care and compassion campaign as the national lockdown began in late March, to help people who were likely to struggle under the strict stay-at-home conditions.”

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*Compiled by Christina Kay*

**Headline:** ['Deprived of their liberty': Long-term asylum seekers in Italy who test positive for COVID-19 sent to quarantine ships](#)

**Source:** Info Migrants

**Date:** October 14, 2020

**Notes:** "An Italian association, ARCI, has expressed its "profound worries" after several asylum seekers housed in various structures across Italy revealed they are being tested and sent to quarantine ships off the coast when they test positive for COVID-19. Some of these asylum seekers have been in Italy several years."

**Headline:** [Migrant apprehensions up along border; CBP boss warns of impending wave of COVID-19 refugees](#)

**Source:** Border Report

**Date:** October 14, 2020

**Notes:** "Unauthorized immigration is creeping up along the southwest border despite emergency measures to prevent the illegal entry of people, especially amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of migrant apprehensions in September rose by more than 7,000 compared to August, which itself saw an increase of almost 9,100 arrests from the previous month. The Border Patrol and CBP detained a total of 57,674 unauthorized and inadmissible migrants this past September, the numbers show."

**Headline:** [Chios camp in quarantine after at least 30 test positive for COVID-19](#)

**Source:** Info Migrants

**Date:** October 15, 2020

**Notes:** "The Greek Migration Ministry announced on Wednesday, October 14 that it would be placing the migrant camp at Vial on the Greek island of Chios under quarantine again, after at least 30 migrants reportedly tested positive for COVID-19. According to the news agency *dpa*, the quarantine measures will be in place until at least October 21."

**Related Opinion Piece:** [Greece must reform its failed asylum policies now](#)

**Headline:** [Coronavirus: International Organization for Migration \(IOM\), European Union and the Government of Ethiopia strengthen Partnership to support migrants during COVID-19](#)

**Source:** Africa News

**Date:** October 13, 2020

**Notes:** "With the European Union's (EU) revitalized commitment to a single cohesive migration policy as set out in its new Pact on Migration and Asylum, a high-level delegation from the European Union visited Ethiopia for a dialogue with the Government of Ethiopia (GoE), IOM Ethiopia and migrants. [The visit] reinforced the need to build on proven successes in scaling up return assistance, sustainable reintegration and livelihood development in migration-prone communities."

**Headline:** [Despite COVID-19, new wave of Venezuelan migrants heads to Colombia](#)

**Source:** Reuters

**Date:** October 15, 2020

**Notes:** "Colombia's migration agency this week said Venezuelan migrants started trickling back in via informal crossing points around a month ago. Colombia's borders officially remain closed until at least Nov. 1. Director-General Juan Espinosa of the agency said last week the number of Venezuelans seeking refuge in neighboring Colombia could reach around 2 million within three to five months once the border reopens, up from 1.73 million at the end of July."

**Related News:** [Venezuelan migrants left in the lurch as COVID-19 stalls regional reforms](#)

**Headline:** [Migrant vulnerability in Bangladesh, India, and Nepal: COVID-19 and labour migration](#),  
**Thematic series:** [Migration – October 2020](#)

**Source:** The Assessment Capacities Project (ACAPS) via ReliefWeb

**Date:** October 13, 2020

**Notes:** “COVID-19 has had a severe impact on economies and livelihoods around the world, as well as on both domestic and international travel. This has taken an enormous toll on migrant workers – particularly lowskilled and casual labour migrants who tend to migrate seasonally or on a temporary contractual basis – as well as the communities and countries they hail from. With large working-age populations and limited domestic employment opportunities, South Asian countries are a significant source of migrant labour. South Asia is the second highest remittance-receiving region in the world (ILO 20/09/2018), and this money sent back home by migrants plays a crucial role in poverty reduction and improving livelihoods of the households they support. In addition to overseas migrants, there is a significant amount of rural to urban migration for work within countries.”

**Headline:** [World Bank can prevent a COVID-19 refugee disaster](#)

**Source:** The Hill

**Date:** October 15, 2020

**Notes:** This opinion piece details the vulnerability of migrants and refugees during the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The author argues for the World Bank to promote inclusive programming through increasing earmarked financial support for the IDA Window for Refugees and Host Communities.

**Latest PFMH Blog Post:** [Reproductive Justice, the Criminalization of Migration, and the Duty of Public Health to Intervene](#) by Sally Beiruti, Andreea Dinicu, Valeria Hernandez Munoz, Katherine McCann, Susi Martinez and Sabeen Rokerya, students at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health

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*Compiled by Katherine McCann*

**Headline:** [OECD: Coronavirus disproportionately affects migrants](#)

**Source:** Duetsche Welle

**Date:** October 19, 2020

**Notes:** "According to a new OECD report, migrants have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Migration itself has decreased significantly, with adverse effects on both countries of origin and destination. Migrants are twice as likely to contract the virus than the rest of the population. A quarter of those who work in the hospitality industry in the EU are originally from non-EU states, a rate that is twice as high as in other economic sectors. People working in this sector often only have temporary contracts, and migrants are usually the first to lose their job during an economic downturn."

**Related:** [International Migration Outlook 2020](#)

**Headline:** [Italian church closed to worship after migrants get COVID](#)

**Source:** Info Migrants

**Date:** October 19, 2020

**Notes:** "On October 14, Pistoia mayor Alessandro Tomasi signed an urgent order for the parish after two cases of COVID-19 were found among the migrants hosted. Tomasi ordered all the migrants hosted within the parish church and its surrounding building to be isolated for the sake of public health and that access to it be barred except for healthcare personnel or those assisting the people isolated."

**Headline:** [Smugglers throw more migrants into sea](#)

**Source:** CAJ News Africa

**Date:** October 19, 2020

**Notes:** CAJ News reports that according to an IOM report, "12 migrants have reportedly drowned after smugglers threw them off a boat at the coast of Djibouti. An undetermined number of others are missing and presumed dead following the incident. Some 34 others survived but suffered shock and minor injuries." IOM reported that the victims were among approximately 50 Ethiopians returning from Yemen after the start of conflict there.

**Headline:** [Covid rewrites Australia's future, with huge drop in population signalling challenges ahead](#)

**Source:** The Guardian

**Date:** October 18, 2020

**Notes:** "The international border closure has meant Australia's population growth statistics, which are used to plan future infrastructure, communities and spending, have been thrown completely off course, with Deloitte forecasting the nation's population will grow by at least 600,000 fewer people than had previously been estimated for 2022." Deloitte stated "that loss of migrants will have impacts for many years; it weighs on the pace of recovery, slowing everything from housing construction to the utilities. And, combined with a slumping birthrate, it will change the outlook for school numbers."

**Headline:** [New hurdle for fresh migrants](#)

**Source:** The Daily Star

**Date:** October 19, 2020

**Notes:** "Around 25,000 aspiring migrant workers are facing new hassles as Saudi Arabia asked them to resubmit documents for reissuing their visas, expired amid coronavirus pandemic. Potential migrants who secured visas before the pandemic but could not travel because of the outbreak will again have to submit the medical reports and "police clearance" certificates along with fresh papers provided by their prospective Saudi employers. But a large number of the aspirants, who have already invested borrowed or hard-earned money for "lucrative" overseas jobs and facing financial crunch due to the Covid-19 fallout, now find it difficult to fulfil these requirements."

**Headline:** [At Risk African Refugees, Asylum Seekers Evacuated From Libya](#)



**Source:** Voice of America

**Date:** October 16, 2020

**Notes:** “A group of 153 vulnerable African refugees and asylum seekers were flown out of Libya to Niger this week on a plane chartered by UNHCR. This was the first evacuation from Libya in seven months, after the operation was suspended because of COVID-19.” UNHCR representative Andre Mahecic stated that “the resumption of evacuation flights is especially important now, given the volatile situation in Libya, the rapid spread of the coronavirus as well as its health and socio-economic impact on refugees and asylum seekers, who have found it increasingly difficult to support themselves and their families.” This is the second evacuation flight this year.

**Headline:** [Migrant Farmworkers Under Lockdown: ‘You’re Practically a Slave’](#)

**Source:** NY Times

**Date:** October 19, 2020

**Notes:** “To keep the coronavirus from spreading and jeopardizing the harvest, [some farms] have put their crews on lockdown. With few exceptions, workers have been ordered to remain either in the camps, where they are housed, or the fields, where they toil. The restrictions have allowed farm operations to run smoothly, with a substantially lower caseload than other farms and processing facilities across the country that have wrestled to contain large outbreaks. But they have caused some workers to complain that their worksite has become like a prison.”

**Headline:** [Asylum seeker held at former Kent barracks tests positive for Covid-19](#)

**Source:** The Guardian

**Date:** October 16, 2020

**Notes:** “At least one asylum seeker housed in a former military barracks in Kent has tested positive for coronavirus, following repeated warnings about crowded and unsanitary conditions at the repurposed site. Dozens of asylum seekers have been placed in quarantine in one of the redbrick blocks at Napier Barracks near Folkestone, which has been sealed off with black and yellow tape.” Charity workers have raised concerns about social distancing being impossible in the barracks, along with concerns about hygiene, poor food and limited access to medical care and legal advice.

**Headline:** [As COVID-19 rages, Mexican firm steps up to save lives](#)

**Source:** UNHCR

**Date:** October 16, 2020

**Notes:** “Partly staffed by refugees, storied appliance maker Mabe turns its production to safeguarding Latin America’s first responders.” UNHCR reports on the story of one worker who, with Mabe, is part of a team “making industrial scale washing machines, tweaked to better eliminate pathogens and slated to be donated to hospitals and clinics across Latin America treating COVID-19 patients, as well as to shelters serving refugees, asylum seekers and migrants.” UNHCR reports that Mabe is also producing “so-called ‘aeroboxes,’ which turn plastic refrigerator shells into separator screens to help protect doctors, nurses and other frontline medical personnel during the delicate process of intubating patients.”

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*Compiled by Sabeen Rokerya*

**Headline:** [Mobile laboratory expands testing capacity and outreach in Lesvos](#)

**Source:** WHO

**Date:** October 20, 2020

**Notes:** “The mobile laboratory of the Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine (BNITM) was set up and began operations in the newly built refugee camp in Kara Tepe on Lesvos island, Greece. The mobile laboratory was deployed at the request of the Greek authorities with financial support from WHO/Europe, under the framework of WHO’s Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN).”

**Related News:** [New camp ‘worse than Moria’ with thousands living in abysmal conditions](#)

**Headline:** [Supreme Court to Review 2 of Trump’s Major Immigration Policies](#)

**Source:** New York Times

**Date:** October 19, 2020

**Notes:** “The [U.S.] Supreme Court agreed on Monday to review two major Trump administration immigration initiatives, adding them to a docket now crowded with cases that will test President Trump’s agenda and policies. The cases the court took on Monday are challenges to a program that has forced at least 60,000 asylum seekers to wait in Mexico while their requests are heard and the diversion of \$2.5 billion in Pentagon money to build a barrier on the southwestern border.”

**Headline:** [Spanish islands struggle with migration surge amid pandemic](#)

**Source:** The Washington Post

**Date:** October 21, 2020

**Notes:** “Rescues at sea and arrivals of flimsy boats from Africa on Spain’s Canary Islands, where local authorities are already struggling to cope with the pandemic, have strained emergency services and left hundreds of migrants stuck for days in a makeshift harbor camp.”

**Headline:** [Expansion of COVID-19 Hospital Facilities for Refugees and Local Communities in Cox’s Bazar \[EN/BN\]](#)

**Source:** UNHCR via ReliefWeb

**Date:** October 19, 2020

**Notes:** “UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, in collaboration with Sadar Hospital and the Government of Bangladesh, inaugurated the expansion of medical services for patients with severe forms of COVID-19 in the Cox’s Bazar District Sadar Hospital.”

**Related News:** [UNHCR calls for solidarity, support and solutions for Rohingya refugees ahead of an urgent donor conference](#)

**Headline:** [COVID-19 Amplifying Threats to Migrant Workers, Religious Minorities, Experts Tell Third Committee, as Delegates Debate Questions of Bias in Their Findings](#)

**Source:** UN General Assembly

**Date:** October 20, 2020

**Notes:** “The COVID-19 pandemic is magnifying threats to the safety and fundamental rights of migrant workers and religious minorities, independent human rights experts told the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) today, as delegates engaged with them in animated virtual discussions, which spanned half a day.”

**Headline:** [Migrants essential to recovery of global development post COVID-19](#)

**Source:** UNDP

**Date:** October 21, 2020

**Notes:** “Global human mobility has halted with the overall impact of COVID-19, hitting people on the move hard. As borders re-open slowly, a new UN Development Programme (UNDP) report illustrates how governments can shape migration to benefit development and boost recovery.”

**Report:** [Human Mobility, Shared Opportunity](#)

**Headline:** [Immigration Detention in Saudi Arabia During Covid-19: A Case-Study on the Treatment of Ethiopian Migrants](#)

**Source:** Human Rights Watch

**Date:** October 19, 2020

**Notes:** “Saudi Arabia introduced measures to limit the spread of COVID-19 beginning in March 2020, including suspending religious pilgrimages and halting international and domestic travel. On March 30, King Salman announced that everyone in Saudi Arabia would be entitled to medical care for COVID-19 regardless of their legal status in the country. [...] Saudi authorities released 250 immigration detainees in March but has not otherwise addressed the risks of locking large numbers of migrants in detention centers. The United Nations has called for alternatives to immigration detention during the pandemic, given the increased risk of contracting the novel coronavirus in the crowded and unhygienic conditions in most detention sites. But in Saudi Arabia, the detention of migrants during the COVID-19 pandemic has continued.”

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*Compiled by Katherine McCann*

**Headline:** [Trump administration pressures CDC to back detention of migrant children in border hotels amid coronavirus](#)

**Source:** Washington Post

**Date:** October 23, 2020

**Notes:** "The Trump administration has been pressuring health experts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to endorse the use of border hotels to hold migrant children before deporting them, a practice the government halted last month under court order, according to federal health officials."

**Headline:** [Chad Wolf touts Trump administration's immigration record](#)

**Source:** Washington Post

**Date:** October 22, 2020

**Notes:** "Acting Homeland Security secretary Chad Wolf signaled that the United States could experience an increase in migration and an 'unimaginable public health crisis' at the U.S.-Mexico border if President Trump loses the election and his hard-line immigration policies are overturned."

**Headline:** [French delivery service dismisses undocumented workers after COVID-19 lockdown](#)

**Source:** InfoMigrants

**Date:** October 23, 2020

**Notes:** "Around 40 undocumented migrants who worked for the French delivery service Stuart during the coronavirus lockdown were dismissed after the restrictions were eased. While the company says it's complying with the law, the workers claim Stuart knew it was employing undocumented foreigners."

**Headline:** [Coronavirus hitting migrants hard, Germany's Angela Merkel warns](#)

**Source:** InfoMigrants

**Date:** October 20, 2020

**Notes:** "Germany's chancellor has said that migrants are being hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic, as jobs are cut and language classes cancelled. Her comments echo the findings of an OECD report that was released on Monday."

**Headline:** [English Channel migrants 'being detained in unfit conditions'](#)

**Source:** BBC UK

**Date:** October 22, 2020

**Notes:** BBC reports that "Chief Inspector of Prisons Peter Clarke said migrants were often held in what looked like an unsafe building site," and that the facilities where migrants are being held included containers where it was not possible to socially distance. "So far, some 7,444 migrants have crossed in boats during 2020 - the third annual jump in arrivals." Clarke has stated the facilities holding them are "completely unsuitable."

**Headline:** [Dreams dashed: Malawi migrants return empty-handed from South Africa](#)

**Source:** Reuters

**Date:** October 19, 2020

**Notes:** "Nearly 10,000 Malawians have made the long journey home from South Africa since May, according to Malawi's Department of Disaster Management Affairs, with more due in coming months as the coronavirus eats deeper into the world economy... The coronavirus pandemic has decimated livelihoods across the globe, and with 85% of jobs in Africa classed as "informal employment", the 55-nation African Union estimates some 20 million jobs will be threatened by the pandemic."

**Headline:** [Croatia accused of brutality, sexual abuse against migrants](#)

**Source:** Associated Press via Yahoo News

**Date:** October 23, 2020

**Notes:** “Danish aid workers stationed in the Balkans say dozens of migrants have alleged they were brutalized by Croatian law-enforcement officers when they tried to cross into the European Union nation, before being summarily expelled back to Bosnia.”

**Headline:** [Lawyers can't find the parents of 545 migrant children after separation by Trump](#)

**Source:** Vox News

**Date:** October 21, 2020

**Notes:** “Three years after the Trump administration started separating immigrant families arriving on the southern border, lawyers say they still haven't been able to reach the parents of 545 affected children, according to court documents filed Tuesday night. Lawyers for the American Civil Liberties Union said that they still cannot find the parents of 283 children despite thorough on-the-ground searches, and don't expect to be able to reach them by telephone, meaning that the families may never be reunited.”

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*Compiled by Sabeen Rokerya*

**Headline:** [Negligent and dangerous COVID-19 response in Vathy camp, Samos](#)

**Source:** MSF

**Date:** October 26, 2020

**Notes:** “Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is urging the Greek authorities to immediately scale up their response to COVID-19 in Vathy camp on Samos island and transfer people at high risk to safe accommodation on Greece’s mainland or in other EU states. Vathy camp, which hosts 4,300 people, has registered more than 100 positive cases of COVID-19, yet the authorities have so far failed to put an appropriate medical response in place.”

**Related News:** [Greece Will Build More Refugee, Migrants Camps on Islands](#)

**Headline:** [Rwanda’s Mahama Refugee Camp registers more COVID-19 cases](#)

**Source:** CGTN

**Date:** October 24, 2020

**Notes:** “The Rwandan Ministry of Health has announced that 35 people tested positive for Covid-19 in Rwanda on Friday, October 23. Of the new cases, 27 were identified in Mahama Refugee Camp located in Kirehe district, Eastern Province. The cluster of refugee camps was identified last week, whereby following Mahama, Kiziba Refugee Camp in Karongi District also confirmed some Covid-19 cases recently.”

**Headline:** [Report: Migrant deaths in the desert have reached seven-year high](#)

**Source:** Kronkite News

**Date:** October 23, 2020

**Notes:** “Remains of 181 migrants were found in the Arizona desert through the end of September, 37 more than in all of last year and the most since 2013, according to the group Humane Borders. The rise in migrant deaths comes during a year of intense heat and little precipitation for Arizona – but also at a time when the number of people caught crossing the border has fallen sharply. Humanitarian groups and county officials along the border blame the rising deaths on years of border security policies that have pushed migrants toward riskier routes into the U.S. – along with this year’s harsh weather, expanded border security and COVID-19 health restrictions.”

**Headline:** [US Ice officers 'used torture to make Africans sign own deportation orders'](#)

**Source:** The Guardian

**Date:** October 22, 2020

**Notes:** “US immigration officers allegedly tortured Cameroonian asylum seekers to force them to sign their own deportation orders, in what lawyers and activists describe as a brutal scramble to fly African migrants out of the country in the run-up to the elections.”

**Headline:** [Immigration and Border Management Controls Enhanced in Ethiopia by German Government Funding](#)

**Source:** IOM

**Date:** October 23, 2020

**Notes:** “Immigration and border management controls in Ethiopia are being improved to help secure the country’s borders and make migration safer for hundreds of thousands of migrants who pass through the country each year. The improvements come against the backdrop of COVID-19 which has put the spotlight on the need to improve border management. Tens of thousands of Ethiopian migrants have returned to the country from Djibouti, Somalia, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other nations since the outbreak of COVID-19 through the country’s porous borders, many travelling on foot. The interventions are being funded by the German government to the tune of EUR 1.98 million. As part of the agreement, IOM Ethiopia has developed a border management programme with the Government of Ethiopia’s Immigration, Nationality and Vital Events Agency. The programme will build the capacity of existing

border crossings, support the establishment of new border crossings, and prioritize the protection of migrants.”

**Headline:** [COVID-19 Rapid Response, Mobile Clinics in Afghanistan Receive New Funding Support](#)

**Source:** IOM

**Date:** October 23, 2020

**Notes:** “The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is actively responding to COVID-19 across Afghanistan under the leadership of the Afghan Ministry of Public Health and the World Health Organization (WHO) with generous financial support totalling EUR 1.25 million from the German Government’s Federal Foreign Office. Germany’s funding will ensure the deployment of six Rapid Response Teams each one composed of a doctor, nurse and lab technician to engage in active COVID-19 sample collection. Funding will also allow for the continuing deployment of four Mobile Health Teams with ambulances to continue provision of basic primary care inclusive of 20,000 health consultations.”

**Headline:** [Asylum Is Dead. The Myth of American Decency Died With it.](#)

**Source:** Mother Jones

**Date:** Nov/Dec 2020 Issue

**Notes:** This is an opinion piece critiquing the Trump administration’s policy on immigration. It discusses both Trump’s rhetoric regarding immigration as well as reviewing various policies and their impacts.

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*Compiled by Katherine McCann*



**Headline:** [MSF responds as COVID-19 arrives in Jordan's largest refugee camp](#)

**Source:** MSF

**Date:** October 28, 2020

**Notes:** "One month after the first person tested positive for COVID-19 in Jordan's Zaatari refugee camp, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has so far received seven patients at our COVID-19 treatment centre in the camp. Jordan recorded its first confirmed COVID-19 case in March, and the government reacted quickly by implementing strict preventive measures to stem the spread of the virus, including complete shutdown of land borders, ports and airports, as well as a weeks-long lockdown and extended curfews. Yet, the gradual easing of lockdown measures in June saw the steady increase of confirmed cases across the country, reaching Mafraq governorate where Zaatari camp is located."

**Headline:** [The Trump Administration sets new all-time low number for refugee admissions at 15,000 for fiscal year 2021](#)

**Source:** IRC

**Date:** October 28, 2020

**Notes:** In a press release, IRC "reacts to news that President Donald J. Trump set the refugee admissions goal at just 15,000 refugees for fiscal year 2021, a new all-time low number for the third year in a row and a further abdication of American global leadership in the face of growing need in crisis zones across the world. The level of 15,000 will be limited to refugees from specific categories of admissions, potentially leaving out more than 1.4 million of the world's most vulnerable refugees still in need of resettlement."

**Headline:** [Exploitation of migrant care workers has increased since COVID-19 struck, report says](#)

**Source:** CBC Canada

**Date:** October 28, 2020

**Notes:** "An advocacy group is calling for full and permanent immigration status for all migrants as it releases a report detailing the alleged abuses suffered by hundreds of migrant domestic workers during the COVID-19 pandemic." The group, Migrants Rights Network, "says the pandemic has worsened conditions for care workers, and that racism underpins much of the negative treatment, which includes increasing labor exploitation and unpaid wages."

**Headline:** [In Indian state election, former migrant worker pledges jobs for the poorest](#)

**Source:** Reuters

**Date:** October 28, 2020

**Notes:** "In an Indian state election that has drawn huge rallies and promises from major parties including free COVID-19 vaccines, one former migrant worker is going door-to-door seeking votes from villagers by championing job creation and higher wages." Sahni has so far "won support from economists, social activists, and migrant laborers who returned home in droves from cities this year when India's coronavirus lockdown shut industries."

**Headline:** [Farms demand migrant labour scheme as UK workers 'leave contracts early'](#)

**Source:** Yahoo News

**Date:** October 28, 2020

**Notes:** "UK farms are facing an 'unsustainable' shortage of seasonal workers, with farming leaders warning British workers cannot fill the gap left by a shortfall in migrant workers." Meanwhile, "the government is pressing on with an overhaul of Britain's immigration system from the start of next year, with much greater restrictions on EU nationals' ability to work in the UK. Recruitment is typically already difficult in the sector, but has taken a hit from the Brexit vote and the coronavirus."

**Headline:** [Will Spain's Canaries turn into a second Lesbos amid surge in migration?](#)

**Source:** Info Migrants

**Date:** October 28, 2020

**Notes:** “While Mediterranean crossings are down this year, the number of arrivals across the Atlantic Ocean to Spain's Canary Islands has increased almost sevenfold compared to 2019. The treacherous Atlantic route to Europe has claimed over 200 lives so far in 2020. As authorities on the islands are struggling to cope with the pandemic and NGOs and officials alike are pressing for more help from the government, the local population is starting to lose its patience.”

**Headline:** [Migrants quickly expelled by Trump try repeatedly to cross](#)

**Source:** Washington Post

**Date:** October 28, 2020

**Notes:** “After a slew of profound changes by the Trump administration to limit asylum, the coronavirus brought it to a halt. With immigration laws largely suspended at the border since March, Mexicans and people from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador who enter the U.S. illegally are immediately expelled to Mexico without even a piece of paper, generally within two hours and with no chance to plead for asylum. Facing no consequences, migrants are more determined to keep trying until they succeed.”

**Headline:** [China Threatens Trump Administration Over Hong Kong Asylum-Seekers](#)

**Source:** US News

**Date:** October 28, 2020

**Notes:** Today, China “suggested the U.S. decision to turn away political asylum-seekers from the consulate in Hong Kong was largely driven by President Donald Trump's desire to avoid a conflict with Beijing during his hotly contested reelection bid, and officials threatened to shut down the diplomatic facility if it were ever to provide sanctuary to dissidents.”

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*Compiled by Sabeen Rokerya*

**Headline:** [Violent Pushbacks on Croatia Border Require EU Action](#)

**Source:** Human Rights Watch

**Date:** October 29, 2020

**Notes:** “Recent reports by humanitarian groups and the media paint a gruesome picture of abuse on Croatia’s border with Bosnia-Herzegovina. Photos show injuries consistent with beatings by police batons. Testimonies from migrants and asylum seekers speak of sexual abuse, violence, humiliation and robbery. [...] In its recent Pact on Migration, the EU Commission proposes that EU members set up border monitoring mechanisms to prevent abuses at borders. But Croatia’s example shows how Commission’s proposal of monitoring alone lacks teeth.”

**Headline:** [Trump adviser Stephen Miller reveals aggressive second-term immigration agenda](#)

**Source:** NBC News

**Date:** October 30, 2020

**Notes:** “In a 30-minute phone interview Thursday with NBC News, Miller outlined four major priorities: limiting asylum grants, punishing and outlawing so-called sanctuary cities, expanding the so-called travel ban with tougher screening for visa applicants and slapping new limits on work visas.”

**Headline:** [US steps up deportation of Haitians ahead of election, raising Covid fears](#)

**Source:** The Guardian

**Date:** October 29, 2020

**Notes:** “US immigration authorities have radically stepped up deportation flights to Haiti in the weeks before the election, raising concerns over migrants’ safety on their return home and the risks of spreading coronavirus in the impoverished Caribbean state. Twelve flights to Haiti have been recorded so far in October by the watchdog group Witness at the Border, marking a steep increase from previous months when there were on average between one and two flights every four weeks.”

**Related News:** [‘They were sending the virus’: Guatemala reels after U.S. deports hundreds of deportees with COVID-19](#)

**Headline:** [Italy: Migrant workers' situation worse amid coronavirus pandemic](#)

**Source:** InfoMigrants

**Date:** October 30, 2020

**Notes:** “A new report reveals that the coronavirus emergency has worsened the situation for many migrants in Italy. More foreign farm workers are reportedly being exploited now, and many domestic workers have since lost their jobs.”

**Related News:** [Rome: 150 migrants 'forced' to violate coronavirus curfew, Baobab](#)

**Headline:** [Lebanon: Blow to Migrant Domestic Worker Rights](#)

**Source:** Human Rights Watch

**Date:** October 30, 2020

**Notes:** “Lebanon’s State Shura Council, the country’s top administrative court, delivered a sharp blow to migrant domestic worker rights by suspending the implementation of a new standard unified contract, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch said today. The standard unified contract, which the Labor Ministry adopted on September 8, 2020, included new protections for migrant domestic workers, including vital safeguards against forced labor, and would have been an important first step toward abolishing the abusive kafala (sponsorship) system.”

**Related News:** [African workers in Lebanon are stuck and unpaid by an exploitative labor system worsened by Covid](#)

**Headline:** [Police clear 'PIKPA' camp on Lesbos](#)

**Source:** InfoMigrants

**Date:** 10/30/20

**Notes:** “Police have cleared the small community-run PIKPA migrant camp on the Greek island of Lesbos. The facility had been created to provide a safe haven for particularly vulnerable refugees and migrants. The nearly 80 people living at PIKPA will be transferred to the Kara Tepe camp.”

**Headline:** [Children, women, migrants all at increased risk of exploitation and trafficking during second COVID wave, UN expert warns](#)

**Source:** UN HRC

**Date:** October 28, 2020

**Notes:** “The second wave of COVID-19 now hitting many countries has increased the risk of exploitation of women, children, migrants and other vulnerable people, a UN expert told the General Assembly today. ‘The risks of exploitation in the current economic climate are great,’ Siobhán Mullally, UN special rapporteur on trafficking, said as she presented her annual report.”

**Headline:** [Deadliest Shipwreck of the Year Claims at Least 140 Lives](#)

**Source:** IOM

**Date:** October 29, 2020

**Notes:** “At least 140 people have drowned after a vessel carrying around 200 migrants sank off the Senegalese coast, the deadliest shipwreck recorded in 2020. According to media sources, the Senegalese and Spanish navies, and fishermen who were nearby, rescued 59 people and retrieved the remains of 20 others.[...] With this tragic shipwreck, at least 414 people are known to have died along this route in 2020 according to IOM’s [Missing Migrants Project](#), which recorded 210 fatalities there in all of 2019.”

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*Compiled by Katherine McCann*