

**Headline:** [Border Report: Travel Restrictions Are Taking a Toll On Businesses](#)

**Source:** Voice of San Diego

**Date:** November 2, 2020

**Notes:** “A new Voice of San Diego poll sheds light on how people in San Diego feel about the restrictions — and the border, in general. The poll shows that while more San Diego County residents favor a more open movement of people and goods across the U.S.-Mexico border, more residents oppose than support re-opening the border at this time.”

**Headline:** [COVID-19: Remittance Flows to Shrink 14% by 2021](#)

**Source:** World Bank Group

**Date:** October 29, 2020

**Notes:** “As the COVID-19 pandemic and economic crisis continues to spread, the amount of money migrant workers send home is projected to decline 14 percent by 2021 compared to the pre COVID-19 levels in 2019, according to the latest estimates published in the World Bank’s Migration and Development Brief.”

**Related:** [Migration and Development Brief 33](#)

**Headline:** [Federal judge blocks Trump rule denying green cards to immigrants getting food stamps, other benefits](#)

**Source:** Associated Press via KTLA

**Date:** November 2, 2020

**Notes:** “Under the Trump administration policy, immigration officials could deny permanent residency to legal immigrants over their use of food stamps, Medicaid, housing vouchers or other public benefits. Green card applicants had to show they wouldn’t be burdens to the country or ‘public charges.’ On Monday, a federal judge in Chicago struck down the key immigration rule that would deny green cards to immigrants who use food stamps or other public benefits.”

**Headline:** [Despite closed border and pandemic, desperate Venezuelans return to Colombia](#)

**Source:** Reuters

**Date:** November 1, 2020

**Notes:** “At the beginning of the pandemic, Venezuelan migrants flocked homeward, unable to find work when Colombia entered a strict lockdown. Colombian officials estimate more than 100,000 migrants returned home. Hundreds are already crossing illegally each day on foot along the porous 2,219 kilometer (1,380-mile) border, avoiding patrols by the army, police and migration officials.”

**Headline:** [Asylum seekers in limbo look to US election with hope and fear](#)

**Source:** Al Jazeera

**Date:** November 1, 2020

**Notes:** “In Ciudad Juarez – one of the most dangerous cities in the world – some migrants and refugees face an even more precarious situation than the one they fled: kidnappings, extortions, killings and sexual abuse. Migrants are dispersed across the border, but Ciudad Juarez has become a hub for asylum seekers because nearly a third of all MPP cases are scheduled to be heard in El Paso, Texas, the city just across the US border.”

**Headline:** [South Korea takes in 164 asylum seekers from nearly 6,000 applicants](#)

**Source:** Reuters

**Date:** November 2, 2020

**Notes:** Per authors, South Korea, where immigration is a contentious issue and many pride themselves on ethnic homogeneity, “has accepted just 164 asylum seekers this year from nearly 6,000 who applied despite coronavirus travel curbs.”

**Headline:** [Small fire burns tents in squalid Greek island refugee camp](#)

**Source:** KSAT San Antonio, Texas

**Date:** November 2, 2020

**Notes:** “A small brush fire that started at an overcrowded refugee center on Greece's eastern Aegean island of Samos has burned about 15 tents but caused no injuries, Greek authorities said Monday. The fire department said the blaze started Monday morning in low-growing vegetation near the camp and was brought under control soon after. The Migration and Asylum Ministry said the tents that were burned had been evacuated, and no injuries were reported. It said the reasons for the blaze were unclear.”

**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 Sabeen Rokerya*

**Headline:** [Lampedusa hotspot near collapse as hundreds of migrants arrive in less than a day](#)

**Source:** ANSA via InfoMigrants

**Date:** November 4, 2020

**Notes:** “The migrant hotspot of Lampedusa is on the verge of collapse after at least 460 people arrived on the Italian island” on Monday and Tuesday (November 2-3). So far this week, 27 boats have arrived on Lampedusa, which now hosts more than 1,350 migrants. Several hundred migrants were to be tested for COVID-19 and transferred to a quarantine ship, the Allegra, which arrived on the island on Tuesday morning.

**Headline:** [‘Super typhoon’ Goni: Towns cut off as COVID-19 impacts response](#)

**Source:** UN News

**Date:** November 3, 2020

**Notes:** “Super storm” Typhoon Goni “has left several towns inaccessible and destroyed thousands of homes in the Philippines” according to UN OCHA. Relief efforts have been complicated by the coronavirus pandemic. The Bicol region, where the typhoon made landfall on Sunday, has 425 COVID-19 cases. Risk of transmission remains high in evacuation centers, where 361,000 people are currently sheltering. Another 54,400 are housed with relatives and friends. COVID-19 testing was suspended due to damage to Bicol’s main laboratory. IOM has deployed teams to assess the needs of displaced persons and plans to deliver PPE, hand sanitizer and modular tents.

**Headline:** [Ivorians flee to neighbouring countries fearing post-electoral violence](#)

**Source:** UNHCR

**Date:** November 3, 2020

**Notes:** Electoral tension and unrest in Côte d’Ivoire has caused 3,200 refugees to flee into neighboring countries. “Violent clashes erupted after the presidential election that was held on 31 October leaving at least a dozen dead and many more injured, according to the latest reports.” Despite restrictions linked to the COVID-19 pandemic, Liberia, Ghana and Togo have kept their borders open to Ivorian refugees.

**Headline:** [House Dems ask Trump admin to halt COVID border expulsions](#)

**Source:** AP News

**Date:** November 2, 2020

**Notes:** “A group of Democratic lawmakers called on the Trump administration Monday to stop the expulsion of unaccompanied children and other asylum seekers at the U.S. border using emergency powers granted during the coronavirus pandemic.” The letter, signed by 58 lawmakers and addressed to acting Department of Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention director Robert Redfield, states that “expulsions lack a public health rationale.” Expulsions are being carried out under the March 20<sup>th</sup> order under Title 42 of the Public Health Service Act.

**Related:** [How Trump officials used COVID-19 to shut U.S. borders to migrant children](#)

**Headline:** [Asylum Seekers With Disabilities Challenge Trump Admin's 'Remain in Mexico' Policy in New Lawsuit](#)

**Source:** TIME

**Date:** November 2, 2020

**Notes:** A class-action lawsuit filed in a U.S. district court on Monday “alleges the government has violated laws that protect people with disabilities from discrimination and administrative procedure laws” related to the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP), also known as the “Remain in Mexico” policy. The plaintiffs are among more than 24,500 asylum seekers waiting in Mexico to have their immigration cases heard. The COVID-19 pandemic has slowed down hearings and left many migrants waiting in dire conditions. Due to travel restrictions, “most lawyers aren’t able to visit with asylum seekers in person anymore.” Even if lawyers tried presenting clients with disabilities to customs officials at ports of entry, “the implementation

of “expulsions” at the border that began as a response to COVID-19 mean that anyone trying to enter the U.S. could immediately be sent back to their last country of transit without a hearing.”

**Headline:** [Space, shelter and scarce resources – coping with COVID-19](#)

**Source:** UNHCR

**Date:** November 4, 2020

**Notes:** A new data visualization from UNHCR “shows just how hard it is for refugees and internally displaced people to adhere to physical distancing restrictions and advice on handwashing.” The visualization illustrates population density, access to soap and water, reported COVID-19 cases and UNHCR response activities in displaced communities.

**Headline:** [Sending money home during the coronavirus pandemic can feel impossible, but there are ways to make it easier](#)

**Source:** ABC News

**Date:** November 3, 2020

**Notes:** Job cuts and losses related to the COVID-19 pandemic are making it harder for migrants in Australia to send remittance payments to relatives abroad. The UN estimates that three-quarters of remittance payments received by families abroad are used to cover essential items like food, medical expenses, school fees or housing. Lack of digital connectivity and closures of money transfer shops have also made sending and receiving remittances more difficult.

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*Compiled by Jennifer Ostrowski*

**Headline:** [Home Office accused of breaching court order over asylum seeker evictions](#)

**Source:** The Guardian

**Date:** November 6, 2020

**Notes:** “The Home Office [of the U.K.] has been accused of breaching a high court order that halts the eviction of asylum seekers during the pandemic lockdown, the Guardian has learned. During the first lockdown in March, the eviction of refused asylum seekers from Home Office accommodation was paused for public health reasons to protect asylum seekers and the general public from Covid-19.”

**Headline:** [Venezuelans face mounting challenges as flow increases back to Colombia](#)

**Source:** Devex

**Date:** November 3, 2020

**Notes:** “Venezuelans have been crossing into Colombia at greater numbers in recent weeks as COVID-19 restrictions loosen, and NGOs are struggling to meet the expanding needs. Marianne Menjivar, Colombia and Venezuela country director at the International Rescue Committee, said many of the Venezuelans coming into Colombia are members of vulnerable groups such as children under age 6, pregnant women, older people, and unaccompanied minors. More are also beginning the “caminante” — or walking — route through Colombia to other cities and countries rather than staying in crowded border areas.”

**Headline:** [Germany deports Ethiopian asylum seekers](#)

**Source:** Info Migrants

**Date:** November 5, 2020

**Notes:** “Ten men were deported from Germany to Ethiopia last week. Asylum seeker support groups say deportations should be stopped during the COVID pandemic. [...] Almost all deportation flights from Germany have been suspended during the COVID pandemic. Pro Asyl said deporting people during the pandemic, which is ongoing, was irresponsible.”

**Headline:** [Swiss asylum centres almost at maximum capacity](#)

**Source:** SWI - SwissInfo.ch

**Date:** November 5, 2020

**Notes:** “Federal asylum centres are reaching their limits due to the coronavirus pandemic and the increase in applications. Switzerland has approximately 4,400 places in asylum centres across the country. Due to the pandemic, hygiene and distancing measures had to be taken which has meant the number of available places has halved, the State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) said in a statement on Thursday.”

**Headline:** [Taiwan to subsidize COVID-19 quarantine for migrant farmworkers](#)

**Source:** Taiwan News

**Date:** November 5, 2020

**Notes:** “Taiwan’s agricultural authorities announced Thursday (Nov. 5) that the government will partially cover quarantine costs for migrant farm workers as it works to facilitate the introduction of such laborers. Foreign workers subject to isolation at designated hotels and who abide by relevant rules during the quarantine period are eligible to apply. [...] Each laborer is eligible for a subsidy covering 50 percent of the fees, which should not exceed NT\$10,500 (US\$368). The measure is in response to calls by the country’s agricultural businesses, which have experienced a labor shortage, according to the Council of Agriculture.”

**Headline:** [Neglect of migrant workers could hurt Malaysia's economic recovery](#)

**Source:** CNBC

**Date:** November 4, 2020

**Notes:** "Researchers said Malaysia has done little to protect low-wage migrant workers from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic — which could hurt an economy that's struggling to recover from the virus. Migrant workers are an important part of Malaysia's economy and failing to protect their jobs would affect 'the survival of industries and businesses,' said Tan Theng Theng, an independent researcher. Malaysia is home to at least two million migrant workers, who comprise around 15% of the total workforce, said Jarud Romadan, a researcher at Khazanah Research Institute."

**Headline:** [Migration: Worsening conditions for migrants and refugees across Europe](#)

**Source:** FRA - European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

**Date:** November 6, 2020

**Notes:** "The Coronavirus pandemic continues to severely affect migrants and refugees. Difficulties to enter the EU, increasing reports of pushbacks and violence at the borders, and worsening conditions in reception centres are some of the main concerns the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) identifies in its latest migration quarterly bulletin. At the same time, the European Commission's new Migration and Asylum Pact kicks off new discussions about the future EU migration and asylum framework."

**Headline:** [Inclusion key to protecting refugees and their hosts amid COVID-19 pandemic](#)

**Source:** UNHCR

**Date:** November 4, 2020

**Notes:** "Restrictions impeding access to asylum, spiraling gender-based violence, risks of unsafe returns, and loss of livelihoods are among some of the deep and hard-hitting impacts the coronavirus pandemic has inflicted on refugees, UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Gillian Triggs, warned today. Opening a virtual session of UNHCR's annual High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection challenges, Triggs urged states to maintain access to asylum and to safeguard the rights of refugees and displaced and stateless people."

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*Compiled by Katherine McCann*

**Headline:** [Italy's use of ferries to quarantine migrants comes under fire](#)

**Source:** The New Humanitarian

**Date:** November 9, 2020

**Notes:** "Outrage is growing among human rights advocates at the use of commercial ferries by Italian authorities to quarantine asylum seekers and migrants due to COVID-19 – not just new arrivals, but also people from reception centers inland who have been in Italy for years."

**Headline:** [Churches shut down by coronavirus offer refuge to immigrants released from detention](#)

**Source:** Los Angeles Time

**Date:** November 8, 2020

**Notes:** "In response to federal lawsuits in California, judges have compelled the release of hundreds of immigrants at the state's five ICE facilities to permit space for social distancing, quarantine and isolation." In turn, congregations in California, Texas, and the region including Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C., are sheltering immigrants released from detention.

**Headline:** [Populations at risk: Implications of COVID-19 for hunger, migration and displacement, November 2020](#)

**Source:** IOM and World Food Programme (WFP) via ReliefWeb

**Date:** November 9, 2020

**Notes:** A joint study by the World Food Programme and the International Organization for Migration explores the impacts of COVID-19 and related containment measures on migrant workers, remittance-dependent households and the forcibly displaced. It assesses the implications of the pandemic for people's mobility, food security and other livelihood outcomes in major migration and hunger hotspots around the world." In the report, the two organizations recommend eight priority actions to "mitigate the immediate and long-term impacts of COVID-19 on mobile and displaced populations and remittance-dependent households."

**Headline:** [Over 1,600 migrants reach Spain's Canary Islands, 1 dies](#)

**Source:** Associated Press via Minneapolis Star Tribune

**Date:** November 8, 2020

**Notes:** "More than 1,600 migrants have either been rescued at sea or reached Spain's Canary Islands in small boats over the weekend, emergency services for the archipelago said Sunday. The body of one person who had died during the perilous journey was recovered by rescuers in waters near the island of El Hierro. The Canary Islands have received over 11,000 migrants so far this year, and the Atlantic route has become the deadliest seaborne path to reach Europe with more than 600 confirmed dead or missing people."

**Headline:** [Child drowns as migrant boat runs into trouble off Samos](#)

**Source:** InfoMigrants

**Date:** November 9, 2020

**Notes:** "The body of a young boy, thought to be six years old, was discovered by the Greek coast guard near the island of Samos in the Aegean Sea. A woman, still conscious, was located in the same spot along with ten other migrants nearby. Six others were located on land after their boat ran into trouble off the Greek island. The boat, which set off from Turkey, was thought to be carrying 24 people when it set off."

**Headline:** [Two Lebanese Offer Migrant Workers A Way Back Home](#)

**Source:** Associated Press via Voice of America

**Date:** November 9, 2020

**Notes:** "Déa Hage-Chahine and Serge Majdalani are two young Lebanese who have partnered on a mission to repatriate domestic migrant workers stranded in Lebanon by the worst economic crisis in the

country's modern history. In two months, they have helped get home more than 120 women, mostly Kenyans and some Ethiopians, fundraising more than \$35,000 for flights and coronavirus tests through an online campaign and working tirelessly to clear bureaucratic and legal hurdles.”

**Headline:** [Visa rules forcing migrant NHS workers to leave UK amid Covid second wave](#)

**Source:** The Guardian

**Date:** November 9, 2020

**Notes:** “Migrant healthcare workers are having to return to their countries of origin, potentially hampering Britain’s response to the second wave of coronavirus, after the expiry of visas to support the NHS.”  
Meanwhile, “along with key workers forced to return to their home countries, many who are still in the UK are struggling to renew their visas due to delays and prohibitive costs and have become overstayers as a result, something which can further hamper their ability to renew their visas.”

**Headline:** [Lawyers can't find the parents of 666 migrant kids, a higher number than previously reported](#)

**Source:** NBC News

**Date:** November 9, 2020

**Notes:** “Lawyers working to reunite migrant families separated by the Trump administration before and during its “zero tolerance” policy at the border now believe the number of separated children for whom they have not been able to find parents is 666, higher than they told a federal judge last month.”

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*Compiled by Sabeen Rokerya*



**Headline:** [Malaysia denying U.N. access to detained asylum seekers, agency says](#)

**Source:** Reuters

**Date:** November 11, 2020

**Notes:** “The United Nations’ refugee agency said Malaysia has not allowed it to meet detained refugees and asylum seekers for more than a year.” Earlier this year, Malaysia’s government toughened its stance on immigration and began rounding up undocumented foreigners in “what authorities say are efforts to stop the spread of the coronavirus.” COVID-19 outbreaks have been reported in at least five of the detention centers where asylum seekers are being held.

**Headline:** [US accused of using Covid as excuse to deny children their right to asylum](#)

**Source:** The Guardian

**Date:** November 10, 2020

**Notes:** Since March, “US authorities have radically accelerated the expulsion of unaccompanied children to Guatemala.” “Advocates accuse the Trump administration of using the Covid-19 pandemic as a pretext to rob vulnerable youngsters of asylum protections.” The US has deported more than 1,400 unaccompanied minors to Guatemala since March. There has also been a sharp rise in deportations of Cameroonian and other African asylum seekers during the pandemic.

**Related:** [US to send asylum seekers home to Cameroon despite 'death plane' warnings](#)

**Headline:** ['A stain on our country': ICE efforts to stop COVID-19 spread fail to protect immigrant detainees from virus](#)

**Source:** USA Today

**Date:** November 11, 2020

**Notes:** An analysis of data from 92 immigration detention centers in the US found that detainees are infected coronavirus at a higher rate than the rest of the country. The case rate among detainees was, on average, 13 times the rate of the general population. Case rates also surpassed those in US federal and state prisons. Lack of data transparency, minimal testing and anecdotal reports of inconsistent compliance with health guidelines suggest that case numbers could be even higher.

**Headline:** [UN agency for Palestine refugees runs out of money as COVID-19 spreads](#)

**Source:** UN News

**Date:** November 10, 2020

**Notes:** UNRWA spokesperson Tamara Alrifai said at a UN press briefing that the agency has run out of cash to keep vital services going amid the worsening COVID-19 health emergency. Per Ms. Alrifai, the agency will no longer be able to pay the salaries of its frontline staff if it does not receive additional funds by the end of November. UNRWA has enacted measures to slow the spread of the virus in the region, but “support for lockdown measures has increasingly given way” to mounting economic concerns.

**Headline:** [Over 50,000 Afghan refugee families hit by COVID-19 get UNHCR emergency cash](#)

**Source:** Arab News

**Date:** November 11, 2020

**Notes:** UNHCR “provided emergency cash assistance to over 50,000 vulnerable Afghan refugee families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in Pakistan.” The cash program follows Pakistan’s Ehsaas program, under which vulnerable Pakistani families receive a one-time cash grant to mitigate the coronavirus-related economic downturn. Pakistan hosts over 1.4 million Afghan refugees, many of whom were left without a source of income during the pandemic.

**Headline:** [Refugee crisis brews on Canary Islands with record arrivals](#)

**Source:** Al Jazeera

**Date:** November 10, 2020

**Notes:** Nearly 2,200 refugees and migrants landed in the Canary Islands over the weekend. Due to a lack of housing, more than 1,500 people are sleeping in tents on the Arguineguin dock in Mogán. Another 5,000 are being housed in empty hotels. During 2020, there has been a 664% increase in refugees and migrants landing in the Canary Islands compared with the same period in 2019. According to IOM, at least 414 people are known to have died along this route so far this year.

**Headline:** [Coronavirus turns teeth on refugees in camps in Rwanda](#)

**Source:** The East African

**Date:** November 10, 2020

**Notes:** “A surge of coronavirus cases in refugee camps in Rwanda now threatens to further delay planned repatriation.” Over a span of two weeks, Mahama and Kiziba refugee camps have both recorded 140 cases of COVID-19. During the same period, other parts of the country have recorded 116 cases. UNCHR has responded with stringent measures to contain the spread of the virus, including partial lockdown and face masks.

**Headline:** [COVID-19 Is Making the Latest Migrant Exodus From Venezuela Even Worse](#)

**Source:** World Politics Review

**Date:** November 11, 2020

**Notes:** As countries gradually reopen their economies after months of COVID-19 lockdowns, a new wave of migrants and refugees is leaving Venezuela. Their journeys to neighboring countries have grown more perilous amid the pandemic and economic recession, and host countries are especially short on resources to welcome more Venezuelans.

**Headline:** [IFRC concerned about impact of Hurricane Eta on coronavirus transmission](#)

**Source:** IFRC via ReliefWeb

**Date:** November 10, 2020

**Notes:** Hurricane Eta is causing flooding and devastation across Central America. Thousands of people have been evacuated from their homes and 200 deaths have been recorded. The Red Cross is supporting affected areas with COVID-19 prevention measures. Dr María Tallarico, IFRC Health Coordinator in the Americas, warned that COVID-19 cases may increase in the coming weeks due to the difficulty of applying public health measures in evacuation shelters, overcrowded family homes and other places housing those who have been evacuated.

**Headline:** [COVID-19 exposes the Singapore migrant worker experience](#)

**Source:** East Asia Forum

**Date:** November 11, 2020

**Notes:** 95% of Singapore’s 58,000 COVID-19 cases have been among low-wage migrants. Migrants are often housed in dormitories with shared sleeping quarters, toilets and bathrooms. In some cases, migrants have been subjected to longer lockdowns and greater surveillance and testing than the general population. Free, high quality health care is provided to migrants by the Singaporean government, but mobility restrictions are taking an emotional and economic toll. Public awareness of the conditions of migrant workers is growing and grassroots efforts to identify solutions are underway.

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Compiled by Jennifer Ostrowski

**Headline:** [Fire Erupts At Greek Migrant Camp On Samos](#)

**Source:** Agence France Presse via Barron's

**Date:** November 11, 2020

**Notes:** "A fire destroyed tents at an overcrowded migrant camp on the Greek island of Samos on Wednesday, emergency services said, with an NGO warning hundreds of asylum seekers had been affected. Several fires have broken out in recent weeks in the camp on Samos, which was initially intended for 648 migrants but now houses roughly 4,000." Conditions in the camp have previously been [criticized by MSF](#) as the number of COVID-19 cases grow.

**Related Opinion:** [Greece Is Weaponizing the Coronavirus Against Refugees](#)

**Headline:** [UK homeless charities call for suspension of 'reckless' eviction of asylum seekers](#)

**Source:** The Guardian

**Date:** November 13, 2020

**Notes:** "Homeless charities are calling for evictions of asylum seekers to be suspended as growing numbers are being left destitute as winter approaches. While many asylum seekers were temporarily accommodated and tested for Covid-19 during the first lockdown under the government's "everyone in" scheme, the Home Office restarted evictions in September. This group has no right to work and no recourse to public funds or statutory homelessness services."

**Headline:** [COVID-19 in northwest Syria: Taking risks simply to survive](#)

**Source:** MSF

**Date:** November 10, 2020

**Notes:** "As the numbers of COVID-19 in northwest Syria steadily increase, local authorities have imposed a limited lockdown of 1 week from the 6th of November to help slow transmission. [...] In the camps, people have to adapt to the new situation although they are still facing an economic crisis and the fighting hasn't stopped. Many of the 16,000 residents of Abu Dali camp live with their extended families in crowded tents, some as small as six square meters."

**Headline:** [As COVID cases surpass 120,000 in Jordan, refugees struggle to feed their families](#)

**Source:** IRC

**Date:** November 12, 2020

**Notes:** "In tandem with Jordan's surging COVID cases - which have now surpassed 120,000 - the International Rescue Committee (IRC) is deeply concerned about the financial impact the pandemic is having on refugees and vulnerable Jordanians, who are struggling to feed their families and pay for other basic necessities. The IRC has received a record number of requests for assistance since the start of the pandemic: in the past seven months alone, the organisation had already received triple the number of calls to its hotline than it did throughout the whole of 2019."

**Headline:** [Coronavirus could push migrant workers and their families into hunger, UN agencies warn](#)

**Source:** WFP

**Date:** November 11, 2020

**Notes:** "Families dependent on remittances — cash transfers from relatives working abroad — risk going hungry as coronavirus restrictions take their toll on migrants and displaced people, according to a report published on Tuesday. Most of the world's 164 million migrant workers are in the informal sector — typically in low-skilled, cash-in-hand jobs in the agriculture, construction or service sectors — and disproportionately affected by the pandemic."

**Headline:** [UNHCR urges states to end limbo for stateless people by 2024](#)

**Source:** UNHCR

**Date:** November 11, 2020

**Notes:** “COVID-19 is worsening the plight of millions of stateless people worldwide, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi warned today. Marking the sixth anniversary of UNHCR’s #IBelong Campaign, aimed at ending statelessness by 2024, Grandi called on world leaders to include and protect stateless populations and make bold and swift moves to eradicate statelessness.”

**Headline:** [Biden plans sweeping reversal of Trump's immigration agenda, from deportations to asylum policy](#)

**Source:** CBS News

**Date:** November 11, 2020

**Notes:** Biden’s team has announced intentions to renew DACA, end MPP, discontinue the immigration restrictions on 13 African and/or predominately Muslim countries, and halt deportations for the first 100 days of his presidency. It is not clear how COVID-19 will impact the reversal of these policies, especially in light of the Title 42 restrictions on asylum seekers entering the U.S.

**Headline:** [Safety for all: Responding to the humanitarian crisis in Central America, restoring the U.S. asylum system, and protecting the most vulnerable](#)

**Source:** IRC

**Date:** November 10, 2020

**Notes:** “The [Biden] administration must be prepared to take bold action in its first 100 days by surging humanitarian assistance to both sides of the border, including COVID-19 response; rapidly restoring protections to vulnerable people seeking safety; and creating a credible rapid response infrastructure to process asylum seekers in an orderly manner that ensures dignity, safety, and recognition of rights for all. It must also expand processing from the region, work to protect migrants in transit, and address root causes of forced displacement throughout the Americas.”

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*Compiled by Katherine McCann*

**Headline:** [Melbourne's COVID-19 restrictions are easing, but hundreds of refugees still face indefinite lockdown](#)

**Source:** ABC News (Aus)

**Date:** November 15, 2020

**Notes:** "It's been a tough year for Melburnians, who are now experiencing their first taste of relative freedom after one of the world's longest and harshest COVID-19 lockdowns. But for hundreds of asylum seekers and refugees living in Melbourne, their perpetual lockdown remains in place with no end in sight." Authors document the story of Minah, an asylum seeker from Iran who has been living in detention for 13 months now.

**Headline:** [Immigration judges turn down asylum seekers in droves in Fiscal Year 2020](#)

**Source:** Border Report via FOX40

**Date:** November 13, 2020

**Notes:** Author Julian Resendiz documents asylum denial rates in the United States in FY 2020, reporting rates reached a record high of 71.6% in the year. "Overwhelming evidence shows that the (AG's Office) has long allowed immigration judges to violate noncitizens' rights in a systemic, pervasive manner that undermines the integrity of the court system" reported the Southern Law Poverty Center in a June 2019 report.

**Headline:** [Greece Is Weaponizing the Coronavirus Against Refugees](#)

**Source:** VICE News

**Date:** November 13, 2020

**Notes:** Author Moira Lavelle documents reports from refugees and asylum seekers in Greece's camps, where social distancing is impossible and residents are blamed by the government for the spread of COVID-19. "In the island of Chios, as of this week, most residents must send a text to a government number when they go to the grocery store or out for a walk, and are kept inside with a 9:00 p.m. curfew. Twenty minutes away, refugees at the camp of Vial are virtually held captive. None of the 4,000 or so asylum seekers or refugees can exit the area for a walk, no one can go to the town's grocery store, and police are stationed on the surrounding roads. In tents and containers strewn across craggy olive fields, people must just sit and wait."

**Headline:** [IOM organizes first relocation Italy-Spain since outbreak](#)

**Source:** ANSA via InfoMigrants

**Date:** November 16, 2020

**Notes:** On November 12, IOM assisted the first group of asylum seekers to relocate from Italy to Spain since the start of the coronavirus pandemic. IOM stated that 15 asylum seekers were transferred from Rome to Madrid.

**Headline:** [One storm after another: Southeast Asia's typhoon barrage](#)

**Source:** The New Humanitarian

**Date:** November 16, 2020

**Notes:** A weeks-long barrage of destructive storms in Southeast Asia has claimed hundreds of lives and is stretching aid funding and disaster responses amid the coronavirus pandemic. "Typhoon Vamco is the latest storm to strike both the Philippines and Vietnam since early October. Vamco hit central Vietnam on November 15th, bringing heavy rains and meter-high storm surges to areas already dealing with severe floods and landslides. The storm, known as Ulysses in the Philippines, churned across the main island of Luzon days earlier, submerging whole towns with roof-high flooding in some areas. Philippine authorities say at least 80 people are dead or missing after Vamco as of Monday, and some 320,000 people have left their homes. At least 239 people are dead or missing from Vietnam's disasters."

**Headline:** [Open Arms rescue ship brings 255 migrants to Italy](#)

**Source:** Duetsche Welle via InfoMigrants

**Date:** November 16, 2020

**Notes:** “Over 200 migrants have disembarked the humanitarian vessel Open Arms off the coast of Sicily and are undergoing quarantine. About a hundred migrants have died in the Mediterranean Sea this week alone.”

**Headline:** [‘Human rights ignored’ at asylum seeker camp](#)

**Source:** BBC News

**Date:** November 12, 2020

**Notes:** “Asylum seekers being temporarily housed at an Army training camp in Pembrokeshire say their living conditions are deteriorating. Men staying on the site in Penally have staged a protest and claimed their human rights were being ignored. A video purportedly filmed inside the camp showed broken toilets, broken washing machines and communal showers. The Home Office insists the site is the best option while the claims for asylum are being processed.”

**Headline:** [Demonstrators Demand Better Conditions for Canary Islands' Migrant Arrivals](#)

**Source:** Reuters via Voice of America

**Date:** November 14, 2020

**Notes:** Over 700 migrants in small boats were rescued Saturday, coast guards said, bringing the number of people who have reached the islands by the dangerous Atlantic route from Africa to nearly 17,000 this year — more than 10 times last year's total. “Demonstrators on the Canary Islands on Saturday demanded better living conditions for thousands of migrants who have reached the Spanish archipelago from Africa.”

**Latest PFMH Blog Post:** [Reproductive Justice, the Criminalization of Migration, and the Duty of Public Health to Intervene](#) by Sally Beirut, 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 Sabeen Rokerya*



**Headline:** [French police clear migrant camp near national stadium](#)

**Source:** Reuters

**Date:** November 17, 2020

**Notes:** French police cleared hundreds of migrants from a camp just north of Paris before dawn on Tuesday. Migrants were ordered onto buses and police deployed tear gas to control crowds. Police say the objective of the eviction was “the safety of the people at the camp, especially during the COVID-19 epidemic.” According to NGO representatives, there were at least 2,000 people living in the camp, primarily asylum seekers from Afghanistan, Somalia and Sudan.

**Headline:** [Migrant crisis: Hundreds evicted from Gran Canaria port as arrivals surge](#)

**Source:** BBC News

**Date:** November 18, 2020

**Notes:** 225 migrants have been removed by police from a crowded dock in Spain's Canary Islands. Island authorities arranged buses to take the migrants to a reception facility, but a local news agency reported that the evicted migrants “have been left without food, drink or [a] destination to go to.” The eviction follows a sharp rise in the number of people arriving from Africa in recent weeks.

**Headline:** [Europe's chain of migrant expulsion, from Italy to Bosnia](#)

**Source:** The New Humanitarian

**Date:** November 17, 2020

**Notes:** “Italian authorities are drawing criticism from legal advocacy groups for returning asylum seekers and migrants across Italy’s northeastern land border to Slovenia, triggering a series of often violent pushbacks through the Balkans and out of the European Union.” Returns “began to take place in larger numbers following an uptick in arrivals [...] as the first round of coronavirus lockdowns ended in the spring.” Pushbacks “violate EU law and are prohibited by the European Convention on Human Rights.”

**Headline:** [Pace of Ethiopian refugee arrivals in Sudan unseen in the last two decades](#)

**Source:** UNHCR

**Date:** November 17, 2020

**Notes:** UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, “is warning that a full-scale humanitarian crisis is unfolding as thousands of refugees flee ongoing fighting in Ethiopia’s Tigray region.” More than 27,000 people have crossed into eastern Sudan since November 10th. In some locations, relief organizations are providing clean water and soap to address hygiene concerns. Sudan’s Ministry of Health has set up two clinics to conduct health screenings and medical referrals. In Tigray, mobility restrictions and lack of electricity, telecommunications, fuel and cash continue to severely hamper any humanitarian response.

**Related:** [As Fighting Rages in Ethiopia, Aid Groups Plead for Access to Refugees](#)

**Headline:** [Hurricane Iota, Weakening But Dangerous, Slams An Already Sodden Central America](#)

**Source:** NPR

**Date:** November 17, 2020

**Notes:** Hurricanes Iota and Eta have devastated parts of Nicaragua and Honduras over the past two weeks. The two storms made landfall just 15 miles apart and caused flooding and landslides. Makeshift shelters in Honduras are overcrowded with evacuees, raising concerns amid the coronavirus pandemic. Iota is the most recent storm in the busiest Atlantic hurricane season ever recorded.

**Related:** [Editorial: Double hurricanes could make the Central America migration crisis even worse](#)

**Headline:** [Commentary: Refugees in San Diego are struggling with pandemic challenges. We know, we surveyed them.](#)

**Source:** The San Diego Union-Tribune

**Date:** November 16, 2020

**Notes:** A survey of 300 households representing more than 1,400 refugees and new immigrants in San Diego, California found that 70 percent of families are concerned about having enough food and 60 percent are unable to pay all of their rent. Many families reported losing a means of income generation, lacking support for school-age children to participate in distance learning, struggling to access health care, and feeling extremely concerned about the emotional health impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.

**Headline:** [Trans women in Ice custody already suffered sexual harassment and abuse. Then came Covid-19](#)

**Source:** The Guardian

**Date:** November 17, 2020

**Notes:** LGBTQ+ immigrants detained in the US say the pandemic has worsened their situations by “making it harder for them to escape the gender-based harassment and violence many of them have long faced” in immigration detention centers. Since March, over 7,200 people held in US immigration detention centers have been infected with the coronavirus. LGBTQ+ people and others have complained that authorities have “failed to institute adequate protocols to curb the spread of the virus.”

**Headline:** [The Coronavirus Is Now Another Risk of U.S. Migration](#)

**Source:** Foreign Policy

**Date:** November 17, 2020

**Notes:** As of June, “at least 2,500 Mexicans in the United States, many of them essential workers, have died from COVID-19. Back home in Mexico, their grieving families are left without support.” Many families rely on remittances sent by relatives in the US to pay for housing and other necessities, particularly as Mexico suffers its worst economic recession in nearly a century.

**Related:** [“Either I risk it all or nothing at all”: Migrant workers’ need for income outweighs Covid-19 concerns](#)

**Headline:** [Social media-based trafficking on the rise during coronavirus pandemic](#)

**Source:** UN News

**Date:** November 11, 2020

**Notes:** CEDAW, the UN women’s rights committee, highlighted the increasing use of social media and chat apps to recruit trafficking victims during the COVID-19 pandemic. The committee called on social media platforms to use artificial intelligence and big data to help identify involved parties and eliminate trafficking in women and girls.

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Compiled by Jennifer Ostrowski



**Headline: [Judge stops Trump policy of ‘expelling’ child migrants, questioning legality of border controls linked to COVID crisis](#)**

**Source:** The Washington Post

**Date:** November 18, 2020

**Notes:** “A federal judge on Wednesday ordered the Trump administration to halt its practice of “expelling” underage migrants who enter the United States without a parent, a ruling that also cast doubt on the broader legality of the emergency public health measures the U.S. government has used since March to impose strict border controls. U.S. District Judge Emmet G. Sullivan’s preliminary injunction requires the Trump administration to once more process the humanitarian claims of minors who cross the U.S. border alone, rather than returning them to Mexico or flying them back to their home countries without due process.”

**Headline: [Greece Commits to End “Protective” Child Detention](#)**

**Source:** Human Rights Watch

**Date:** November 19, 2020

**Notes:** “In a huge victory for children’s rights, the Greek government is ending the long-standing practice of detaining unaccompanied migrant children in jail cells. The announcement was made on November 18 by the Migration and Asylum Minister of Greece, Notis Mitarakis. As of that date no unaccompanied migrant children remained in police custody, he said.”

**Headline: [Malaysia: End Abusive Immigration Detention](#)**

**Source:** Human Rights Watch

**Date:** November 20, 2020

**Notes:** “Malaysia should immediately release all children held in immigration detention facilities and allow the United Nations refugee agency regular access to those facilities, Human Rights Watch said today. Malaysia’s Home Ministry reported that, as of October 26, 2020, 756 children were being held in immigration detention facilities nationwide, including 326 from Myanmar who are detained without parents or guardians. Malaysia has denied the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) access to immigration facilities since August 2019, leaving the agency unable to determine whether those children and others detained have already been determined to be refugees or are entitled to refugee protection.”

**Headline: [Pushbacks in Greek Waters Put Lives at Risk](#)**

**Source:** Human Rights Watch

**Date:** November 19, 2020

**Notes:** “Mounting evidence suggests the Greek government has been secretly expelling thousands of migrants trying to reach its shores. An EUObserver article published on November 18 also suggests the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) is aware of this practice. A redacted email chain from Frontex, made available to the EUObserver following a freedom of information request, shows the Hellenic Coast Guard gave orders in March to a Danish patrol boat taking part in the Frontex-run Operation Poseidon to push people back into Turkish waters.”

**Headline: [Refugees must have access to COVID-19 vaccine: IOM](#)**

**Source:** Al Jazeera

**Date:** November 19, 2020

**Notes:** “Refugees in the European Union should have equal access to promising COVID-19 vaccines, the head of the United Nations migration agency told the European Parliament on Thursday. ‘It is for the sake of their safety and wellbeing of the entire host communities’ in the countries taking them in, said Antonio Vitorino, director general of the International Organization for Migration (IOM).”

**Headline:** [COVID-19, Insecurity Slow Afghan Refugee Returns From Pakistan and Iran](#)

**Source:** VoA

**Date:** November 18, 2020

**Notes:** “The U.N. refugee agency reports the COVID-19 pandemic, violence and insecurity in Afghanistan have discouraged Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran from returning to the homes they fled many years ago. After the fall of the Taliban in 2002, Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran began going home in droves. [...] Afghan returns now have slowed down to a trickle. This year, the UNHCR reports upwards of 2,000 refugees have returned to Afghanistan from Pakistan and Iran. It says all returns were suspended in March because of COVID-19.”

**Headline:** [How the information diffusion system is helping keep migrants safe in Mexico](#)

**Source:** Télécoms Sans Frontières

**Date:** November 18, 2020

**Notes:** “Télécoms Sans Frontières has started its information diffusion project in Mexico three years ago, and with each year, the project has evolved and adapted better to migrants and refugees’ needs. In fact, thanks to our screens in 11 locations, we are able to give migrants information about COVID-19, alerts and news, risks and dangers, consulates from several countries, their rights, procedures to ask for asylum, as well as information for women, children and young people. These are all updated regularly and are also adapted to the region in which the shelter is.”

**Related News:** [Mexico: Asylum seekers face daily threats to their health and safety](#)

**Headline:** [Evacuees from dismantled Paris migrant camp are housed and screened for COVID-19](#)

**Source:** InfoMigrants

**Date:** November 19, 2020

**Notes:** “In a bid to stem the spread of the coronavirus, French health teams on Tuesday conducted tests and carefully explained sanitation guidelines to migrants relocated from a dismantled camp. InfoMigrants reports from a hotel in a Parisian suburb where 60 migrants have been provided accommodation.”

**Headline:** [Second camp set up on Canary Islands to ease first reception pressure](#)

**Source:** InfoMigrants

**Date:** November 19, 2020

**Notes:** “The Spanish authorities have set up a second temporary camp on the island of Gran Canaria after a first temporary structure on a pier in the south-west of the island quickly became overcrowded. [...] There has been a] huge increase in migrant arrivals on the Canary Islands this year, which is 1000% higher than the previous year. In response to this increase, the island authorities opened a second camp for first reception, or processing center, on Wednesday. According to AP, it is expected to hold up to 800 people. A first camp on the pier at Arguineguin was only planned to shelter 400 people in tents provided by the Red Cross.”

**Related News:** [Spain in diplomatic push over migrant flow to Canary Islands](#)

**Headline:** [Mixed Migration Review 2020](#)

**Source:** Mixed Migration Center via ReliefWeb

**Date:** November 18, 2020

**Notes:** “In the 2020 edition of its annual flagship publication, the Mixed Migration Centre (MMC) of the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) focuses on mixed migration and cities as the urban frontlines for displacement and mobility. In an updated ‘normalisation of the extreme’ section, the Review also documents how migration policies, actions and attitudes are becoming more and more extreme, and how in 2020 Covid-19 was sometimes used as a pretext to justify this “new normal”.”

**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*

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*Compiled by Katherine McCann*

**Headline:** [As coronavirus spreads, refugees stuck on Spain's Canaries](#)

**Source:** Duetsche Welle via InfoMigrants

**Date:** November 23, 2020

**Notes:** “More than 2,300 displaced people are currently housed in the provisional tents on Gran Canaria, which have an intended capacity of just 400. Yet both the island's administration and the central government in Madrid could have done more to prepare for the arrival of these people in search of shelter.” Jan-Philipp Scholz reports on the Spanish government's opposition to demands from politicians to transfer some of the displaced people to the Spanish mainland.

**Headline:** [The migration surge is coming](#)

**Source:** The Hill

**Date:** November 19, 2020

**Notes:** “With the arrival of the coronavirus pandemic, governments worldwide closed their borders, issued travel bans and limited human mobility. Those measures, however, have been ineffective in halting the virus's spread. And the pandemic's devastating impact has heightened people's desire to migrate to wealthy countries that offer opportunities, freedoms and safety nets.”

**Headline:** [UNHCR, EU Slam Greece Over Migrant Pushbacks, Abuse](#)

**Source:** Voice of America

**Date:** November 21, 2020

**Notes:** UNHCR is urging “Greece to stamp out migrant abuse and investigate multiple accusations of pushbacks at the country's sea and land borders with neighboring Turkey.” UNCHR's issued statement “echoes portions of a report published by the Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT),” which states that “Greece repeatedly forced migrants to turn back and encouraged similar actions by European forces deployed along its porous frontiers as part of a concerted effort to crack down on illegal migration.”

**Headline:** [Q&A: How Migrant Women in the UK Are Joining Together in the Era of COVID-19](#)

**Source:** Open Society Foundations

**Date:** November 19, 2020

**Notes:** “London's Latin American Women's Rights Service is a grassroots charity that supports Latin American migrant women displaced by poverty and violence. Recently, Open Society's Megan Wong spoke to the organization's director, Gisela Valle, about the ways the coronavirus pandemic has affected its work.” Valle reported that the government has made it even more difficult for the charity to do its work, and discusses how the no recourse to public funds policy disproportionately affects migrants.

**Headline:** [Editorial: Double hurricanes could make the Central America migration crisis even worse](#)

**Source:** Los Angeles Times

**Date:** November 17, 2020

**Notes:** The LA Times Editorial Board reports on the impact of Hurricane Iota in Nicaragua and Honduras. They write, “chances are, the hurricanes will only make these situations worse. It has long been apparent that the best approach for combating migration from Central America is to help stabilize the governments, disrupt the gangs and build a local and inclusive economy sufficient to support the people who live there.”

**Headline:** [In storm-hit Honduras, a climate crisis drives needs and fuels migration](#)

**Source:** The New Humanitarian

**Date:** November 18, 2020

**Notes:** “As Honduras endures its second major hurricane in as many weeks, international aid agencies and local volunteer groups are scrambling the best responses they can to assist people displaced by flooding and landslides.” The World Food Programme estimates that the combined effects of catastrophic

flooding and pre-existing economic precarity worsened by COVID-19 lockdowns mean that the number of food insecure Hondurans will jump from 1.6 million in 2019 to three million by the end of 2020.

**Headline:** [Hunger, death, exploitation: The plight of the poor in India in the pandemic](#)

**Source:** Channel News Asia

**Date:** November 23, 2020

**Notes:** “The International Labour Organisation warns that about 400 million Indians — including migrant workers and daily-wage earners — are now at risk of falling deeper into poverty during the pandemic.” Authors describe the story of Avdhesh Chaudhary who, like many migrant workers in India, have lost their jobs and have been struggling to survive.

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*Compiled by Sabeen Rokerya*

**Headline:** [Eight dead as migrant boat capsizes off Canary Islands, more missing](#)

**Source:** Reuters

**Date:** November 25, 2020

**Notes:** “At least eight people were drowned after a boat carrying more than 35 migrants from the Maghreb region of North Africa and heading towards the Canary Islands capsized on Tuesday, emergency services said on Wednesday.” Migrant arrivals in the Canary Islands have surged this year “as north and sub-Saharan Africans grow desperate after losing incomes from tourism, among sectors hit worst by the coronavirus pandemic.”

**Headline:** [Anger grows over use of 'brutal force' by French police dismantling refugee camp](#)

**Source:** The Guardian

**Date:** November 24, 2020

**Notes:** “The French government is facing growing anger over the “shocking” use of excessive force by police dismantling a protest refugee camp in central Paris.” Dozens of tents were removed by police, who later used tear gas and chased people through the streets. The makeshift camp appeared a week after police had dismantled a bigger camp near the national stadium, citing concerns about the coronavirus pandemic.

**Related:** [French police clear migrant camp near national stadium](#)

**Headline:** ['No right way': Rapid migrant expulsions transform remote border crossing](#)

**Source:** Arizona Public Media

**Date:** November 24, 2020

**Notes:** “Aid groups say the Trump administration's pandemic-era expulsions” under Title 42, a public health protocol, “trap migrants in a borderland ill-equipped to care for them.” The protocol “allows U.S. Border Patrol agents to circumvent normal processing and send migrants back to Mexico within hours of apprehending them.” This practice has shifted most removals to the nearest port, causing an “unprecedented influx” in the number of expulsions to remote border communities.

**Headline:** [Punishing hurricanes to spur more Central American migration](#)

**Source:** AP News

**Date:** November 24, 2020

**Notes:** Millions of people in Central America have been affected by hurricanes Eta and Iota in recent weeks. “The hurricanes’ destruction comes on top of the economic paralysis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the persistent violence and lack of jobs.” The situation is expected to spur internal displacement as well as migration to other countries.

**Related:** [Battered by storms, Central Americans struggle to survive amid COVID-19](#)

**Headline:** [MP: Migrants head back to other cities amid coronavirus 2nd wave](#)

**Source:** Times of India

**Date:** November 24, 2020

**Notes:** As north central India braces for a second wave of COVID-19 cases, “the districts in Bundelkhand are witnessing another round of migration due to joblessness.” Individuals and families are heading back to cities in an attempt to find work, reportedly “in larger numbers as compared to the previous months.”

**Headline:** [In Malaysia's Sabah, pandemic rages as migrants flee testing](#)

**Source:** Reuters

**Date:** November 23, 2020

**Notes:** “All across Malaysia’s Sabah region on Borneo island, stateless residents and undocumented migrants are fleeing public health officials conducting coronavirus screenings, fearful of being detained or deported.” An estimated one million undocumented migrants and stateless residents live in Sabah,

making up a third of the population. Malaysia has detained thousands of migrants since the start of the pandemic, worsening fears of detention and deportation.

**Headline:** [The muffled advance of COVID-19 in Syrian refugee camps in Lebanon](#)

**Source:** Syria Direct

**Date:** November 22, 2020

**Notes:** Stigma, misinformation and reluctance to report to authorities have contributed to the spread of COVID-19 in Syrian refugee communities in Lebanon's Beqaa Valley. UNHCR covers the cost of testing and treatment for Syrian refugees in Lebanon, but lack of awareness and fear of stigma lead some to avoid reporting cases or to pay for health services themselves.

**Headline:** [Gavi and IOM join forces to improve immunization coverage for migrants](#)

**Source:** GAVI and IOM Press Release

**Date:** November 24, 2020

**Notes:** The Vaccine Alliance (Gavi) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) signed an agreement to strengthen collaboration on COVID-19 vaccination efforts and routine immunizations for migrants and forcibly displaced persons. The agreement focuses on reaching people in humanitarian settings and boosting advocacy for the inclusion of displaced persons in governments' COVID-19 responses, particularly vaccination efforts.

**Headline:** [UNHCR warns second wave of COVID pandemic driving further violence against refugee women and girls](#)

**Source:** UNHCR

**Date:** November 25, 2020

**Notes:** UNHCR officials warned that "as the coronavirus pandemic prolongs, a lethal mix of confinement, deepening poverty and economic duress is unleashing a renewed wave of violence against refugee, displaced and stateless women and girls." Reports from the UNHCR-led Global Protection Cluster indicated increases in gender-based violence in at least 27 countries.

**Headline:** [The COVID-19 crisis has highlighted barriers to vital digital financial services for refugees | View](#)

**Source:** Euronews

**Date:** November 25, 2020

**Notes:** The economic shock of COVID-19 has underscored the importance of access to financial services, like money transfers and cash assistance, as "a lifeline for refugees." A recent report from the International Rescue Committee finds that "many refugees struggle to navigate the complex and often restrictive regulatory environment in order to access financial services," in part due to identification requirements and limited internet access.

**Related:** [COVID-19 and refugees' economic opportunities, financial services and digital inclusion](#)

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*Compiled by Jennifer Ostrowski*



**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 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

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