

*These COVID-19 Analytical Snapshots are designed to capture the latest information and analysis in a fast-moving environment. Topics will be repeated from time to time as analysis develops. If you have an item to include, please email us at [research@iom.int](mailto:research@iom.int).*

## COVID-19: a global governance crisis

With most countries and territories in the world now affected by COVID-19—[185](#) as at 10 April 2020—global governance systems have been under pressure not seen since WWII. While pressures have been felt most on health, economic and social systems, early analysis is also showing that the pandemic is affecting critical areas of security, with [some](#) arguing that the pandemic arrived as our “frameworks to prevent catastrophic confrontation are crumbling”. In his 2011 book, [Pandemics and Peace](#), William Long shows how global economic and political stability could fall victim to a pandemic, such as COVID-19.



### Socio-economic impacts and global governance

Beyond the immediate coordinated health response to COVID-19, the UN is assessing and responding to the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic. In the launching the UN’s report “[Shared responsibility, global solidarity: responding to the socio-economic impacts of covid-19](#)”, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres argued that:

“*...we must tackle the devastating social and economic dimensions of this crisis, with a focus on the most affected: women, older persons, youth, low-wage workers, small and medium enterprises, the informal sector and vulnerable groups, especially those in humanitarian and conflict settings.*”

More on the UN response can be found [here](#).

### Migrants, human rights & COVID-19

Rapid responses to COVID-19 involving the imposition of [travel restrictions](#), new visa requirements, quarantine, limited/no internal movement as well as export restrictions have been central to combatting the spread of the virus. However, some analysts are pointing to the [unexpected boon](#) to nativist nationalists, and likely impacts on longer-term reductions in global mobility. Some travel restrictions [may not be lifted](#), and there are concerns about [human rights abuses](#) being reported that relate to COVID-19 [responses](#).

Migrants can be particularly vulnerable to abuse, especially those who have been displaced, those in immigration detention, and those in communities who may be marginalized, such as irregular migrants. IOM, along with other organisations, has called for the [urgent need to ensure migrant-inclusive approaches](#) in the overall COVID-19 response.

## Health in the Global Compact on Migration

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) features health as a cross-cutting priority with references to health and health-care access in several objectives. Key health-related objectives within the GCM are outlined in the [Migration and health](#) chapter of the [World Migration Report 2020](#). The GCM provides the health community the opportunity to use it as a tool to advance migrant-sensitive health policies and services within discussions on migration governance, where health often remains left behind.

### New articles on COVID-19 and migration governance

[How Will the COVID-19 pandemic reshape refugee and migration governance?](#) by Kristin Sandvik & Adèle Garnier

[“We are all fragile, but we are not all equally fragile”: Humanitarian operations amidst the COVID-19 pandemic](#) by Andrea Silkoset

[Mekong governments urged to protect migrants workers](#) by Michelle Russell

[COVID-19: consequences for international migration and development](#) by Jason Gagnon

[The coronavirus pandemic could be devastating for the world's migrants](#) by Marie McAuliffe and Celine Bauolz

[Coronavirus is spreading across borders, but it is not a migration problem](#) by Natalia Banulescu-Bogdan, Meghan Benton and Susan Fratzke



**United Nations  
Network on Migration**

*Working Better Together*

The UN [Network on Migration](#) works to ensure effective, timely and coordinated system-wide support to Member States in the implementation, follow-up and review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).

“*As the world confronts the COVID-19 pandemic, the United Nations Network on Migration salutes the immense efforts to date to combat this crisis and urges that all – including migrants regardless of migratory status – are included in efforts to mitigate and roll back this illness’s impact.*”

Read the full statement [here](#). See also the Network’s [Community of Practice: Voices from the Ground](#), which aims to facilitate the exchange of factual, constructive, information on COVID-19 responses. Posted contributions include those from PICUM, ICMC, CGD and others.

This COVID-19 Analytical Snapshot has been produced by [IOM Research](#) ([research@iom.int](mailto:research@iom.int)).

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