

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.

Understanding and valuing migrants' contributions globally on International Migrants' Day

On this International Migrants' Day, it is more important than ever to reflect on the [contributions of migrants](#) globally. COVID19 has laid bare the contributions of migrants as essential to many societies, including in times of crisis, extending well beyond their economic contributions. Migrants are more than just workers, playing diverse roles in society as students, entrepreneurs, inventors, scientists, investors, consumers and taxpayers.

Increasing disinformation on migrants and migration is acting to obscure our understanding of the valuable contributions of migrants globally. Find out more [here](#).

Marie McAuliffe, PhD  @MarieLMcAuliffe · Jun 17

For years we have been talking about the so-called 3D jobs - dirty, dangerous & demeaning' - performed by migrant workers.

Given the #COVID19 reality check, isn't it time we started calling them the "3D&E" jobs?

Dirty, dangerous, demeaning and ESSENTIAL.

#migrants
#Refugees



New research & analysis on migrants' contributions and COVID-19

[“Disposable” and “essential”: Change in the global hierarchies of migrant workers after COVID-19](#), by A. Triandafyllidou and L. Nalbandian

[A collection of reforms, new initiatives and campaigns from across the world on migrants' contributions to the COVID-19 response](#), by the Overseas Development Institute

[Contribution of migrant doctors and nurses to tackling COVID-19 crisis in OECD countries](#), by OECD

[Immigrant key workers: Their contribution to Europe COVID-19 response](#), by F. Fasani and J. Mazza

Recognizing the contributions of migrants during the pandemic and beyond

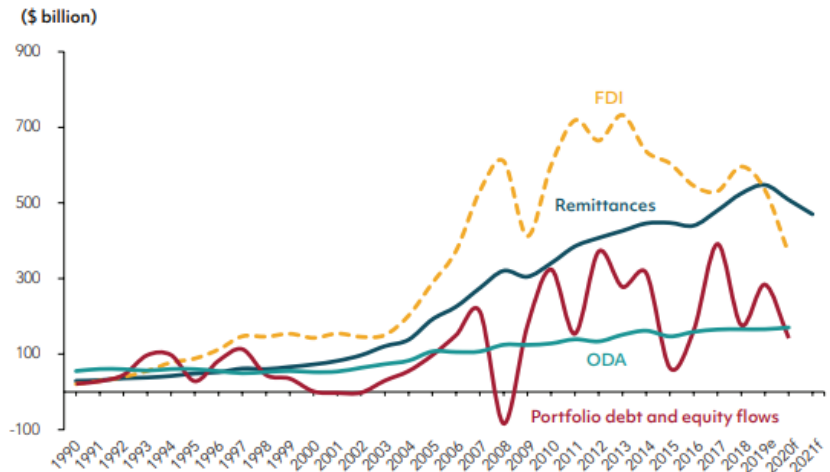
The contributions of migrants depend on the legal-policy frameworks that support them. In response to COVID-19 some countries have adopted diverse measures to support migrants, including:

- ⇒ credential recognition for foreign-born doctors ([Spain](#), [United States](#), [France](#))
- ⇒ renewals and extensions of work visas ([UK](#), [Poland](#), [Greece](#), [South Korea](#)) and temporary regularization ([Portugal](#), [Italy](#))
- ⇒ Entry exemptions for temporary foreign workers ([United States](#), [Canada](#))
- ⇒ Extension of permitted work hours of international students working in essential services ([Canada](#), [Australia](#))
- ⇒ Inclusion of migrants in wage subsidy and cash assistance programmes ([Qatar](#), [Costa Rica](#), [Japan](#)).

Such support measures and migrants' full inclusion in COVID-19 recovery plans will be critical as migrants are [essential to recovery post COVID-19](#).

Contributions to countries of origin

Migrants contribute to their home countries through the transfer of [remittances](#). While the pandemic has raised concerns about significant declines in the flow of international remittances, remittance inflows have increased to some countries including [Pakistan](#), [Mexico](#), and [Nepal](#). International remittance flows to low- and middle-income countries are projected to remain higher than foreign direct investment flows in 2021.



Source: [Knomad](#), World Bank, 2020

"Migrants help provide the building blocks for prosperous societies bringing knowledge, support, networks, and skills in countries of origin, transit and destination... Yet the development benefits of migration are not guaranteed. Positive outcomes depend on having conducive social, cultural, political and economic structures in place." [António Vitorino, IOM Director-General, 2020](#)

Contributions in destination countries

In addition to delivery of essential services, migrants' civic participation and volunteerism should not go unnoticed. As exemplified by the stories below, migrants actively participate in the social fabric of communities during the pandemic:

- ⇒ refugees in [Canada](#) volunteering in long-term care homes
- ⇒ refugees in the [Netherlands](#) volunteering to disinfect grocery carts
- ⇒ refugees in [Bangladesh](#) volunteering to distribute healthcare packages

Migrants also continue making significant contributions as innovators and entrepreneurs during the pandemic. Two immigrants are for instance behind the development of the [BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine](#).



Migrants' contributions to the healthcare sector

The contributions of migrants are most prominently recognized in the labour force as migrants across the globe deliver [essential services in key sectors](#), such as agriculture, domestic and care work, public health, food production and transport. Most critically, migrants are overrepresented in the health sector where they are vulnerable to the spread of COVID-19. Among the 20 countries with the highest number of COVID-19 cases, [data](#) shows that at least 8 countries — the United States, France, Spain, the United Kingdom, Italy, Germany, Chile and Belgium — depend heavily on foreign-born workers in the healthcare services. The [OECD](#) reports that nearly one-quarter of all doctors are born abroad and 16% of nurses in the OECD are foreign born.

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

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