

COVID-19 IMPACT ON MIGRANTS IN AN IRREGULAR SITUATION – A HUMANITARIAN PERSPECTIVE –



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ICRC

Content

- Introduction: ICRC & Migration
- Measures taken by States under the COVID-19 pandemic and humanitarian consequences on migrants
- Recommendations



ICRC & Migration

- Neither encourage nor discourage migration
- Vulnerability approach, while recognizing legal frameworks (to capture full extend of the humanitarian concerns)
- Complementarity (RCRC Movement)
- Expertise:
 - RFL/Missing/Forensics: separated, dead, missing migrants
 - dialogue with state authorities on the respect of international law
 - detention/closed immigration facilities.
- Working modalities (confidentiality)



Border closure

Measures

- Increase of border restrictions
- Closure of ports
- Resettlement procedures on hold
- (Collective expulsions)

Humanitarian consequences on migrants:

- Limited/ No access to international protection
- Increased endangering of people's life
- Longer uncertainty, poor living conditions
- Exposure to COVID19

Mitigating measures by states



Temporary suspension of Asylum

Consecutive Measures

- Access to territory
- Registration
- Submitted applications
- Appeals

Humanitarian consequences on migrants

- Reduced feasibility to exercise the right to asylum & related rights
- Extension of irregular situation/ limbo

Mitigating measures by states



Movement restrictions – Encampment

Measures

- Encampment
- Movement restrictions (from centres/ camps)

Humanitarian consequences on migrants

- Overcrowding (at times)
- Increased need for services/ dependencies
- Increase in tensions / violence
- Limited access to work, markets
- Increased limbo/ uncertainty



Movement restrictions – Encampment

Mitigating measures

- Relocation
- Access to information
 - prompt, reliable, official
 - languages
- Participation of migrants
 - two-way communication
 - Preventive measures



Courtesy: Croatian Red Cross



ICRC

Movement restrictions – Closed settings

Measures

- Movement Restrictions

Humanitarian consequences on migrants

- Suspended visits from outside (family, lawyers)
- Suspended release of detained migrants

Mitigating measures

- Release/ Relocation of migrants
- Temporary regularization of their stay
- Decrease of arrests



Recommendations

- Emergency measures need to comply with international law
- Regular revision of restrictive measures
- Include migrants into national response plans
- Access to essential services & reliable information
- Prepare institutions, including law enforcement
- Reduce immigration detention
- Preserve family unity/ contact



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



Questions ?



ICRC



www.icrc.org
www.familylinks.icrc.org



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