Remittances have been a lifeline for many developing countries, uplifting communities and households above the poverty line. The COVID-19 or Coronavirus pandemic outbreak from January 2020 onwards have seemingly changed many parameters in the world economy, society, politics and culture. As researchers and students of this field, it is likely that for a long while, we will be occupied with analysing and understanding the causes, processes and outcomes of the pandemic in terms of remittance sending behaviour, trends, volumes as well as domino effects in sending communities and households. We know that at times of crisis, altruistic remittance sending behaviour strengthens, understandably to support families left behind. This can still be the case. For example, the National Bank of Georgia reported that remittances received in the country in February 2020 were 9.5 per cent up from February 2019.\(^1\)

However, vulnerability is often higher among migrant workers, and it curbs the capability to send remittances. During the 2008-2009 global financial crisis, we have observed some resilience in remittances flows in certain corridors\(^2\). However, there was also a clear decline in many corridors. For example, Orozco reports about 10% drop in remittances in that period while estimating about 3% drop due to the COVID-19 pandemic.\(^3\) There have been many similar reports predicting a significant decline in remittances, and unexpectedly, the poorest countries seemingly will suffer worst. African economies have already shown signs of recession and remittances play a significant role in many of the small economies.\(^4\)

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Anthony Williams from European Bank for Regional Development has warned around mid-March, that lockdowns in many countries will cause migrant workers jobs as well as preventing them to travel back and forth to home countries. As a result, economies will take a hit as remittance flows will be sharply declining.

One way of mitigating the pandemic effect perhaps is loosening the regulations, at least temporarily, to entice more remittance sending. This may also lead to a decline in the cost of sending remittances, which has been very high in some less developed regions. Some of these countries have eased of lockdown measures to allow people access to banking, enabling the use of remittance receipts.

On behalf of the Editorial Team, I would like to invite articles, opinion pieces, reviews and special issue proposals on remittances and coronavirus pandemic.

In this issue of Remittances Review, we are pleased to share articles focusing on Mexico, Kosovo, and SubSaharan Africa. Jamie Lara Lara draws attention to Mexican communities that received remittances in the past with a focus on human capital. Kotorri and colleagues shed light on an old question: investment, entrepreneurship and remittances in Kosovo. They found broad support for the household approach. Ebadi and colleagues compared the food (in)security between households receiving domestic remittances or international remittances and found that households receiving domestic remittances were likely to be food insecure. Chaudhary looks at development-remittances nexus in rural Nepal. The last paper by Naujok brings a theoretical debate drawing on four principal effects; the rights, identity, naturalisation and good-will effect.