

#AAC2020



**ABSTRACTS**  
**2020**  
**AUSTRALASIAN**  
**AID CONFERENCE**

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### Tuesday 18 February 2020 (Day One)

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Monday 17 February 2020

## **LAUNCH - Where is the money for women and girls in the Pacific? Mapping funding gaps, opportunities and trends**

**3.30 to 4.40pm, Barton Theatre**

*Ever wondered where the money is for women and girls in the Pacific? Across the world, the funding of women's organisations represents less than 0.5% of all bilateral allocable aid. In the region, less than 1% of grant funding is directed to Pacific women's organisations. The Fiji Women's Fund and Urgent Action Fund Asia & Pacific commissioned a study to better understand the funding realities and trends of women's organisations and gender equality in the Pacific. Join us as we launch our report and share key findings and recommendations.*

Chair: Tulika Srivastava  
*Executive Director, Women's Fund Asia*

Panellists:

Michelle Reddy  
*Fund Manager, Fiji Women's Fund*

Virisila Buadromo  
*Co-Lead, Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights Asia and Pacific*

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## **LAUNCH – Fit for the future: priorities for Australia's humanitarian action**

**3.30 to 4.40pm, Weston Theatre**

*Australia has a proud history of supporting people affected by crises. It has been a champion for the rights of women and girls, led the charge on disability inclusion, and been a steadfast supporter of crisis-affected countries and communities in our region. DFAT's humanitarian budget is one of the only budget lines that has seen an increase in recent years. But as the global humanitarian landscape shifts, is Australia's humanitarian policy still fit for purpose?*

*Join ACFID's Humanitarian Reference Group as they launch their new report 'Fit for the Future: Priorities for Australia's Humanitarian Action' to explore the changing humanitarian environment, and its implications for Australia's humanitarian assistance. Speakers from within the ACFID membership, government, and academia will reflect on the themes and ideas presented in the report, including how to promote principled humanitarian action, strengthen humanitarian effectiveness, and address the root causes of humanitarian crises.*

Chair: Marc Purcell  
*CEO, Australian Council for International Development*

Panellists:

Fiona Tarpey  
*Head of International Advocacy, Australian Red Cross*

James Gilling  
*First Assistant Secretary, Humanitarian, NGOs and Partnerships Division, DFAT*

Bina D'Costa  
*Professor, Department of International Relations, Coral Bell School of Asia-Pacific Affairs, ANU*

Jeremy Wellard  
*Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, International Council of Voluntary Agencies*

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## **LAUNCH – Pacific perspectives on the world**

**3.30 to 4.40pm, Barton Theatre**

*This Whitlam Institute research project, led by Peacifica, analyses the views of a diverse group of Pacific islanders from Fiji, Vanuatu, and the Solomon Islands on their countries' and region's future place in the world. It has also sought their views on the role that Australia can play as a partner in realising that future. The objective of this research is to positively influence Australia's foreign policy effectiveness and our political, economic, developmental and cultural engagement with the Pacific. It is hoped it will also have value as an advocacy resource for Pacific islander policymakers and civil society groups.*

Chair: Leanne Smith  
*Director, Whitlam Institute*

Panellists:

Dr Tess Newton-Cain  
*Principal, TNC Pacific Consulting*

James Cox  
*Executive Director, Peacifica*

Dr Geir Henning Presterudstuen  
*Lecturer, Anthropology, Western Sydney University*

Linda Kenni  
*Local Consultant, Vanuatu*

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## **LAUNCH – The Asia Girls' Leadership Index**

**3.30 to 4.40pm, Weston Theatre**

*The Asia Girls' Leadership Index gives insights into key trends and issues that enable or constrain empowerment and leadership of adolescent girls and young women across six domains: education, health, economic opportunities, protection, political voice and representation, and laws and policies. Using available data from official sources, the index compares ASEAN and SAARC members' performance in these areas. The first research of this kind, the Asia Girls' Leadership Index offers insights into how legal frameworks in countries are delivering (or not) for girls and young women. Primary research complements the review of frameworks and bring the voices of girls and young women into the picture. At this launch, the key findings of the report will be presented. Discussions will focus on how this new analysis helps those working in government, academia, aid and development to further understand how investments in certain areas can help to close the gaps in gender inequality and 'leave no one behind'.*

Chair: Susanne Legena  
*CEO, Plan International Australia*

Panellists:

Dr Ratchada Jayagupta  
*Thailand Representative to the ACWC for Women's Rights*

Chamaiporn Siangyen  
*Regional Research and Evidence Lead, Plan International Asia-Pacific*

Krista Zimmerman  
*Head of Influencing and Program Strategy, Plan International Asia-Pacific*

Tara Chetty  
*Gender Adviser, Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development Support Unit*

**KEYNOTE – ‘Good intentions, great policies, crappy outcomes: the difficult dynamics of deals’**

*5.00pm, Weston Theatre*

**Dr Lant Pritchett**

*Research Director, RISE Programme; Fellow, Blavatnik School of Government, Oxford University*

We all have simple intuitions about the impact and politics of ‘rules’: stronger rules (on the environment, on safety, on land-use) lead to better outcomes but are opposed by ‘business’ who resist regulation. However, when organisational capability for the enforcement of rules is weak then all these common sense intuitions can get reversed. Stronger rules lead to differential enforcement in which ‘deals’ determine outcomes and the most powerful elements of business are in favor of stronger rules precisely because they have deals that others cannot get and the capability for enforcement gets weaker. The difficult dynamic is that, once in deals world, the usual ‘best practice’ prescriptions are as likely to make things worse as better and the low level trap of good rules and bad outcomes can persist.

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Tuesday 18 February 2020

## CONFERENCE INTRODUCTION

8.30am, Molonglo Theatre

**Ashlee Betteridge**, Manager, Development Policy Centre, ANU

**Dr Gordon Hein**, Senior Vice President, Programs, The Asia Foundation

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

8.50am, Molonglo Theatre

**Dr Radhika Coomaraswamy**

Lawyer, diplomat and human rights advocate

### Women, peace and security: an agenda for the future

The presentation will discuss the evolution of the women peace and security agenda both within the Security Council of the United Nations and the different agencies of the international system. It will discuss the representation and participation of women in peace processes, transformative justice, women combatants, livelihood and empowerment of women in the post conflict era and the role women play and can play in the prevention of conflict. It will also address the dilemmas women face when confronting situations of violent extremism. An evolving agenda of the international community, women, peace and security as an international initiative also has many detractors from the global south who state that it is losing touch with the day to day lived realities of women in conflict and post conflict theatres of war.

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## PANEL 1A – Aid design, management and adaptive programming

10.10am – 11.35am, Molonglo Theatre

*'Problem-driven'; 'Best-fit'; 'Context-specific'; 'Flexible' and 'adaptive'; 'Scaling up, out and deep'; 'TWP'; 'PDIA'.... Is there a risk that these principles become mere jargon and lead to development results being MIA?*

*This panel will explore these key themes across the programming cycle. Drawing on insights from investments in the DFAT portfolio, delivered through a range of partners, they will examine the extent to which these principles are usefully applied in practice. Is adaptive management a fad? Or a way to help ensure development programs are locally led? Adaptive or not, where and how can we make strategic investment decisions that will have the greatest impact, and support sustainable long term change?*

Chair: Ally Bridges,  
Assistant Director, Investment Design Section, DFAT

### Key strategic issues in design – unpacking where and how to invest to maximise development impact

Kirsten Hawke  
Lead Design Specialist/Director, DFAT

### Creativity in confronting the challenges of adaptive and flexible programs

Sarah Boddington  
Director, Governance Advisory Section, DFAT

### Adaptive management: is it too FAR-fetched an idea to make progress?

Graham Teskey  
Principal Technical Lead, Governance, Abt Associates

## **PANEL 1B – Connecting farmers to markets**

**10.10am – 11.35am, Weston Theatre**

*Disappointment with the impact of some of its more traditional 'direct delivery' programs targeting agricultural and rural development has prompted DFAT to explore approaches that focus more on strengthening market linkages. DFAT has recently completed two reviews of its efforts that embrace such an approach: a 'synthesis review' of its suite of market systems development initiatives; and a thematic review under the Australia-NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) of approaches to agricultural and rural development and food security. This panel will explore findings and lessons from both of these reviews and from broader experience with market based approaches.*

Chair: Jenny Gordon  
Chief Economist, DFAT

### **The ANCP Review**

Dr Julie Delforce  
Senior Sector Specialist, Agriculture and Food Security, DFAT

### **The Market Systems Development Synthesis Review**

Bob Warner  
Academic Visitor, Development Policy Centre, ANU

Discussants:

Andy Hunter  
Principal Adviser (Market Systems Development), World Vision Australia

Dr Alwyn Chilver,  
Director of Economic Growth, Palladium

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## **PANEL 1C – Capacity development in infrastructure**

**10.10am – 11.35am, Barton Theatre**

*With large scale infrastructure programs increasingly becoming a preferred delivery model in aid programming, significant portions of aid budgets are being allocated to design and construction activities. However, while investment in infrastructure activities is desperately needed, the expertise, skills and knowledge levels to service these projects remains a key challenge.*

*This roundtable conversation will feature perspectives from project implementation, financing, capacity development and skills development specialists; sharing experiences in incorporating capacity building activities within infrastructure facilities, including specific examples from recent projects, and engage in a discussion on the challenges and opportunities for future infrastructure programs.*

Chair: Joel Bird  
Senior Development Coordinator, International Development, The University of Queensland

Panellists:

Alison McKechnie  
Regional Manager – Physical Infrastructure, Cardno

Dr Neil Paulsen  
Associate Professor, The University of Queensland

Soli Middleby  
CEO, Australia Pacific Training Coalition, TAFE Queensland

Anna Naupa  
Country Director for Vanuatu and Nauru, Australia Pacific Training Coalition, TAFE Queensland

## **PANEL 1D – Global lessons from Indonesia’s anti-poverty programs**

**10.10am – 11.35am, Acton Theatre**

*Offering social assistance programs has become an increasingly prominent strategy to alleviate poverty in many parts of the developing world, including in Indonesia. Drawing upon Indonesia’s decades-long experience in developing social assistance programs, government officials and The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab Southeast Asia (J-PAL SEA), a leading evidence-based policy research institution, highlight proven methods to address key emerging challenges and improve anti-poverty programs.*

Chair: Professor Budy Resosudarmo  
*Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU*

Panellists:

Dr Vivi Yulaswati  
*Senior Advisor to the Minister of National Development Planning for Social Affairs and Poverty Reduction of Indonesia (Bappenas).*

Dr Elan Satriawan  
*Chief of Policy Working Group, National Team for the Acceleration of Poverty Reduction (TNP2K) of Indonesia*

Lina Marliani  
*Executive Director of The Abdul Latief Jameel Poverty Action Lab Southeast Asia (J-PAL SEA)*

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## **PANEL 1E - Education**

*10.10am – 11.35am, Brindabella Theatre*

Chair: Karyn Docking

*Program Director, Principal, Cardno*

### **The transformational possibilities of a peer education program to address child marriage in Nepal: peer educators unveiling women's plight**

Dr Maria Amigo

*Academic Director of PACE in the Faculty of Arts, Macquarie University*

Child marriage affects girls in great part of the developing world. It curtails their education, makes them prone to early and numerous complicated pregnancies, and increases the chances of them being exposed to gender and domestic violence, thus fuelling the cycle of poverty. Myriad programs, legislation, and education and health promotion campaigns have been deployed over the years to stop the practice, with various levels of success but limited signs of sustainable positive results. This presentation will revolve around the possibilities entailed in a peer education program to address child marriage in Nepal, delivered by a consortium of international and local NGOs. Although peer education has been a popular strategy in health promotion campaigns willing to reach large populations at manageable costs, the modality has been critiqued for engaging a poorly trained and cheap workforce. Qualitative findings stemming from an evaluation of a program to address child marriage in Nepal show that, beyond their job description, peer educators can become empowered to advocate for women's liberation in their communities. Findings suggest that the authority carried by local and international NGOs and imparted on these young community workers can lead to transformative community awareness-raising around child marriage in particular and women's emancipation in general. This presentation will propose that when young volunteers are properly trained, supported and compensated, peer education could be promoted as a successful and sustainable strategy for activism and advocacy leading to positive social change around gender equity.

### **Evaluating long-term impacts: challenges and lessons learned from tracing Australia Awards alumni**

Amanda Taylor, Dr Daniel Edwards and Jo Doyle

*Research Fellow, Australian Council for Educational Research; Facility Manager, Research Director, Australian Council for Educational Research; Deputy Facility Manager, Australia Awards Global Tracer Facility, Australian Council for Educational Research*

This presentation describes the methodological approach taken in evaluating at a global level, the long-term outcomes of Australia's investment in scholarships in low and middle-income countries. It details the development of a research facility for DFAT to provide comparable and consistent data across Australia Awards country programs. The Australia Awards Global Tracer Facility has spent the past four years collecting and evaluating data from alumni of Australian scholarship programs from the 1950s to the 2010s. The discussion will outline the aims and objectives of the research, explore the approaches taken in similar contexts by others, detail the mixed-methods design for this Facility, discuss the practical implementation of this approach, and reflect on the benefits and the limitations of the work and its outputs. The lessons learned in this work have a wide-ranging relevance for research and evaluation in the development sector. The Facility research tracing the long-term outcomes of alumni has involved the development of an approach based on a set of current outcomes, finding research participants, and managing travel and logistics across a variety of countries, all while maintaining a level of consistency in data collection and reporting.

### **Building students' ownership: a case for the necessity of youth participation in effective education programming**

Reyna Selga-Eaton

*Timor-Leste Programs Director, Oaktree*

Despite the vast efforts of NGOs, IGOs, and states to improve education in 'developing' countries, much of the development sector's aid programming utilizes interventions and approaches which actively disempower students by rendering them indirect and passive beneficiaries with no role to play in their education. This paper documents Oaktree's Inspiring Young Leaders Through Quality Education program, conducted in partnership with Ba Futuru, in Timor-Leste, and focuses on a case study of Quelicai Secondary School. This paper draws on Oaktree's own evaluation findings from our most recent evaluation conducted in Timor-Leste. Our evaluation utilized both participatory and traditional evaluation methods (including semi-structured interviews), and was conducted with the School Management Committee which was established as a participatory school

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governance mechanism as part of the Quality Education Program. Our evaluation found that at Quelicai Secondary School, students played an integral role in improving education quality at their school and strengthening project outcomes. School Management Committees contributed to building the capacity of students and expanding space for their involvement in the school's decision-making processes. Students began auditing their own teachers and collaborating with school administration to improve accountability for teaching methods, and contribute to the Quality Education program's other programmatic outcomes. The study has important potential implications for education programming and indicates that, in some contexts, increasing engagement with students and incorporating them into governance mechanisms can have powerful flow-on effects for education outcomes.

### **Big data for better education spending in Indonesia**

Astrid Dita and Dr Gary Deng

*Budget Policy Adviser, PROSPERA, and Senior Data Analytics Adviser, PROSPERA*

In Indonesia, as a result of constitutional mandate for minimum education spending set at 20% of the national budget, the government spending on education has doubled over the past decade. While enrolment is up, measures of outcomes, such as PISA scores, have barely moved from their low starting points. Meanwhile, unemployment rates, particularly those amongst secondary high school graduates, remained high at around 9.2% and contributed to over 50% of total unemployment in the country in 2018. The challenge is how to obtain better outcomes from education spending, by increasing spending quality. So far, complex sector governance leads to lack of sufficient granularity in the education spending data to shape how best to rebalance. Prospera, working with Indonesia's Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Education & Culture, is adopting a "big data" approach to review spending of vocational education and training at upper secondary level. This first of a kind study in Indonesia looks to link government spending, by category, on education all the way to the performance of students. The study combines a variety of data sets, including government and geo-spatial data, into one database. Budget data, education data (such as school and teacher profiles), student examination results, socioeconomic and geographic data are combined to take a holistic view.

Almost half of Indonesian vocational graduates ended up working in fields completely unrelated to their vocational specialisation. Significant mismatches have been identified between what is being taught at vocational schools and what is needed in the labour market. Performance varies greatly according to factors such as public or private provision, school size, teacher competency and experience, and geographic access. Private schools account for the majority of vocational senior secondary education but consistently underperform, suggesting a different approach is urgently needed. Armed with comprehensive evidence, the national government can then determine how best to invest in Indonesia's skills for the future. The analysis reveals macro patterns at a national level, local trends and clusters at a district level, and micro patterns at school level. This creates opportunities to design policies that are targeted at specific segments and improve the effectiveness of government spending.

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## **PANEL 1F – Identity, poverty and development**

*10.10am – 11.35am, Lennox Room*

Chair: Therese Faulkner

*Senior Development Specialist, Coffey International Limited*

### **Sustainable development, legal identity and statelessness: convergence or divergence?**

Dr Christoph Sperfeldt

*Senior Research Fellow, Peter McMullin Centre on Statelessness, University of Melbourne*

The issue of legal identity has seen in recent years a rapid ascent on the agendas of national and international policymakers. Most significant was its inclusion into the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which now aim to "provide legal identity for all" by 2030. A proliferation of registration and identification initiatives has accompanied the implementation of this goal. While the fast-paced implementation of new identity management systems provides opportunities to expand capabilities and development, they conceal an insufficient scrutiny of the risks associated with such systems. More and more services and benefits are linked to identification, posing new barriers to political and economic participation for people without an officially recognised legal identity. Developing countries in particular have become a laboratory for new identification initiatives. In a context of weak institutions and complex political economies, formalised identification can lead to even greater exclusion for some unregistered, stateless or marginalised populations – threatening the SDG's

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'leave no one behind' agenda. While human rights, governance and development actors stress the synergies between their respective agendas, significant frictions exist between technocratic and rights-based approaches. This paper maps the emerging legal identity field, and critically interrogates the interrelationship between the different actors and agendas constituting the field and how their, at times competing interests shape the legal identity space.

### **Poverty as deprivation of wellbeing or as deprivation of material means to wellbeing?**

Trang Pham

*PhD Candidate, ANU*

Over the last 60 years, the framework within which poverty is defined and measured has been increasingly broadened. When Rowntree first attempted to measure poverty rigorously, he understood 'poverty' means the lack of income to achieve a minimum physical efficiency. When Townsend proposed the relative conception of poverty, poverty was defined as the lack of material resources to achieve a standard of living that is regarded as 'normal' by the society in which poverty was measured. Since Townsend, the conception of poverty has gotten increasingly broadened from deprivation of material resources to 'deprivation of material wellbeing', 'deprivation of wellbeing' itself, and then 'deprivation of basic capabilities'. There emerged a new measure named 'multidimensional poverty' in which poverty is defined multi-dimensionally and within the framework of wellbeing. Its key distinct characteristic is the inclusion of non-monetary dimensions into the poverty measure. The main argument advocates of wellbeing-based poverty used for broadening the conception of poverty from deprivation of material resources to deprivation of wellbeing is that although income and/or material resources are often a necessary means to human wellbeing, they are not a sufficient indicator of welfare or well-being. In this paper, I will argue that although well motivated and well-intentioned, the argument for measuring poverty in terms of wellbeing has been poorly justified and the conclusion that poverty measure should include non-material dimensions has been prematurely drawn. Secondly, I will argue that the new wellbeing-based poverty measure provides neither conceptual clarity nor productive policy guidance to poverty alleviation. Poverty is a political concept. Different conceptions of poverty are likely to lead to different identifications of the poor and may suggest different policy recommendations toward poverty alleviation strategies. Therefore, a clear understanding of the conception of poverty is critically important.

### **Thicker diagnostics**

Stevan Lee

*Principal Economist, Office of the Chief Economist, Oxford Policy Management Limited*

A Thicker Diagnostic would integrate political, social and economic evidence to understand the issues that are limiting progress in a country, and to inform reform, policy and managerial choices. The approach set out has strong implications for the selection of policy options and for the use of evidence. Growth Diagnostics (Hausman, Rodrik, Velasco, 2008) are a neoclassical short cut to identifying really important economic distortions that are impeding investment and growth in an economy, and they are a useful and systematic way of ranking priorities. The authors of Growth Diagnostics do not suppose that economic distortions, like very high interest rates or electricity prices, are random occurrences and in actual applications, they search for causes. Most development economists would accept that there are deeper institutional causes of persistent economic distortions, grounded in politics and social structures. Likewise, most political economists and historians think that powerful groups alter the economy to suit their interests and maintain their power. The Thicker Diagnostics paper finds that political and economic approaches intersect at "institutions" – the formal and informal rules of economic activity, which are set up by powerful groups. Yet there are tensions between political and neoclassical economic approaches which is perhaps why, even in countries where large amounts of serious political and economic work has been done, there is not much fusion of the approaches and the work tends to be independent. Thicker Diagnostics offer a practical way of fusing these analyses. Ambition has to be limited – it does not claim to offer a clear set of reform priorities, but could be very useful in framing the analysis of options for solving different problems. A critical insight is, if superficially similar problems have different socio-political underpinnings in two settings, then a given reform or intervention will work differently in each setting.

### **Re-examining the terms of aid**

Jessica Mackenzie and Nelly Mecklenburg

*Director of Country Programs, Institute for State Effectiveness and Program Officer, Institute for State Effectiveness*

Despite 15 years' of international commitments on improving development assistance in fragile states, age-old practices on both sides of the 'handshake' continue to hamper transitions out of fragility to self-reliance.

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Our *Re-Examining the Terms of Aid* report aims to unpack the ways we as a community of practitioners can work to unlock the stalled development agenda, and to harness the potential for development partnerships to help build core state functions, close the governance gap, and facilitate pathways out of aid dependency.

Our report draws on the policy and programming experience that we and other partners have gathered over years of working in fragile states, in addition to field visits to Afghanistan, Colombia, Rwanda and Somalia, conducted specifically for this research. It builds on the insights and contributions of the many organizations globally working to align complementary agendas, recognise and distil successes, establish new ways to share experiences, and re-assess how we as a community approach development partnerships in fragile contexts. It also draws on interviews of country practitioners, security actors, parliamentarians, and civil society organisations, among others – perspectives that are essential to effective development programming but often left out of conversation.

Emerging from our research, we argue, is a need to disentangle the symptoms of ineffective development assistance from the factors that drive it. We suggest five key areas of focus for unlocking the stalled development agenda: leadership, whole of society approaches, national strategies and plans, implementation and accountability, and donor incentives. In each of these areas of focus, we provide recommendations for how we as practitioners can help unlock the potential for development partnerships to facilitate transitions out of fragility.

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## **PANEL 1G – Gender case studies**

*10.10am – 11.35am, Griffin Room*

Chair: Professor Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt  
*Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU*

### **Utilising a gender-responsive approach to more effectively prevent non-communicable disease in the Pacific region**

Daiana Buresova  
*Regional Coordinator – Pacific Region, McCabe Centre for Law and Cancer*

Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) – comprised predominantly of cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases - account for approximately 80% of all deaths in the Pacific Region, having major implications not only for health, but also economic, social and ultimately sustainable development in the region. However, it is evident that NCDs do not affect women and men equally. Biological differences, gender norms, and entrenched inequalities underpin differences in NCD indicators between men and women including exposure to NCD risk factors (tobacco use, alcohol use, overweight and obesity, physical inactivity and air pollution), adoption of healthy behaviours, and health outcomes. It is therefore essential that a gender-responsive approach is integrated within any NCD prevention policy and regulatory response. This paper will outline the NCD burden in the Pacific region and highlight five key principles integral to adopting an effective gender-responsive approach to NCD prevention - the need to collect, analyse and utilise sex-dis-aggregated data to inform NCD prevention regulatory responses; the importance of interventions to address gender norms and stereotypes; gender-inclusive participation in NCD prevention policy responses; the need for specific action to address gender inequality; and recognition of the intersection between gender and other social inequalities including gender identity, disability, race, educational status and socio-economic status. This gender-responsive approach harnesses the interrelationship between Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 on gender equality and empowerment of women and SDG 3.4 of reducing NCD-related premature mortality by one-third by 2030 in order to achieve an effective, targeted and evidence-based NCD prevention policy response.

### **Add women and stir is not enough: learnings about promoting gender equality from a review of DFAT program evaluations**

Jo Hall  
*PhD student, ANU*

I completed a review of the learnings on promoting gender equality, from 37 program evaluations for the Office of Development Effectiveness in Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs, in 2019. This paper briefly explains the methodology and considers the five main learnings from the review: Learning One: Add women and stir is not enough; the most striking finding, given DFAT's very long commitment to promoting gender equality

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through the aid program, was the level of confusion around thinking of gender as meaning a focus on women. 'Add women and stir' is simply not sufficient as a means of addressing inequality and unequal power relations. Learning Two: Articulating a clear and realistic strategy to transforming gender norms based on sound gender analysis is critical; it was perhaps also surprising that there was little by way of articulated strategy among the investments evaluated, even those specifically targeting gender equality. Learning Three: Community mobilisation and building networks and coalitions are effective strategies; while explicit strategies were difficult to find in the evaluation reports or design documents, two strategies in practice were effective in transforming gender relations. These strategies are founded on community mobilising theory and coalition theory. Learning Four: Local ownership and leadership are crucial to success; more successful examples had the backing of male local leaders. While some believe that directly challenging the status quo is the only way to achieve change, evidence suggests changes in gender norms are more likely to come about when no one's power is threatened. Learning Five: An influential critical mass is needed to sway norms and behaviours that support gender equality; the long and difficult path in changing gender norms through community mobilisation and supporting networks and coalitions also relies on achieving sufficient critical mass – in communities, institutions, provinces or countries – to influence change.

### **Economic development, women's employment and empowerment: how these terms interrelated in the life of ready-made garment workers in Bangladesh?**

Dr Sadika Haque

*Bangladesh Agricultural University*

Through different stages of (women in, and) gender and development, now women have the opportunity to working outside the home and earn money, which is also an indicator of (social and economic) development. Bangladesh has employed 3.2 million Ready Made Garment (RMG) workers. Anyone can see them from outside and think that it is a gender equitable state but how is the feeling of equitability to themselves. It is well argued that economic freedom gives women happiness, courage, independence, a better livelihood opportunity. But what is 'empowering' about their lives and where are they struggling with lack of rights, unmet needs, subordination etc? How far are the day to day realities removed from the current concepts and claims about women's empowerment? What have women gained and what have they lost, and how far does the context have to change to enable the work to be in any way empowering? In this piece of work, we have seen the measures of empowerment on the basis of women's rights and agency at work and managing care work, women's control over their bodies like abused by family members and society, violence against women, their mobility, control over their own income, women's participation in decisions making at all levels, what is happening to education and literacy for women and their children specially the daughters, access to core services- housing status, access to health facilities, water and sanitation etc. Alternatively, time demands that we need to identify the sources of women's dis-empowerment to explain what cost women are paying- emotionally, physically and otherwise for their 'new happiness'.

### **Shifting gender norms through integrated gender and WASH programming: lessons from Timor-Leste**

Chelsea Huggett and Livia da Costa

*Technical Lead – Equality & Inclusion, WaterAid, and Program Effectiveness Manager, WaterAid Timor-Leste*

In rural Timor-Leste, socially prescribed norms reinforce a gendered division of household labour, resulting in women doing significantly more unpaid water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) work than men. While improving WASH access brings benefits for women and girls [such as reduced time carrying water (Grant et al, 2019)], WaterAid sought a gender transformative approach through integrating gender focussed 'community dialogues' into WASH programming. Community WASH processes were leveraged to motivate households towards redistribution of women's domestic work burden, and to support women into community-level leadership and technical roles. To achieve this, WaterAid developed a facilitation guide (2016) that integrated 'community dialogue' approaches into rural WASH project implementation. The approach embedded discussions and activities about gender norms with communities at five key points of WASH project implementation. WaterAid sought to ascertain what changes had come about for communities, in support of greater gender equality, as a result of implementing the transformative approach. A primarily qualitative study in 2018-19, led by the Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney (ISF-UTS) examined the strategic and practical gender changes that had been experienced by men and women at community and household levels. The study engaged 172 people across nine communities and had an explicit focus on reflection, learning, and action research with 18 field staff. Communities reported that the facilitated discussions have led to positive changes such as men and women being more willing to share household tasks and work better together; women having more status and being more involved in household level decision-making; and

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men doing more water collection and household hygiene work. WaterAid, in partnership with CARE Timor-Leste is drawing on the study findings to strengthen monitoring systems; improve facilitators' skills and to support government and non-government rural WASH actors to also addresses women's unfair work.

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## **PANEL 1H – Inclusive WASH**

*10.10am – 11.35am, Canberry-Springbank*

Chair: Dr Jo Spratt

*Advocacy and Campaigns Director, Oxfam New Zealand*

### **Participatory Action Research in Practice - WASH for women and people with disabilities**

Lana Woolf

*International Programs Director, Edge Effect*

Indonesia has made significant progress on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and development projects are making meaningful contributions towards SDG 6, but still millions of Indonesians face significant challenges to obtaining safe, accessible and inclusive WASH. Existing research reinforces a need to seek strategies that utilise the strengths of communities to create sustainable, locally relevant, long term positive change.

Through DFAT's Water for Women Fund, Yayasan Plan International Indonesia (YPII), Plan International Australia and Edge Effect are undertaking an iterative Participatory Action Research (PAR) approach with five groups of women and People With Disabilities (PWD) in Manggarai and Sumbawa Regencies in Eastern Indonesia. Each group has chosen their own specific WASH challenge, are building their advocacy skills and undertaking various advocacy activities to progress their WASH agendas. By utilising a PAR methodology, this project focuses on supporting participants to set their own WASH agenda, to undertake their own data collection and research activities and make project decisions based on each cycle outcome. Each PAR cycle includes a series of shared ideas and collaborative methods focused on the participants knowledge development through experiential learning and localised actions that result in social change. This paper will focus on the successes, challenges and learnings of undertaking a participant led approach to community development and research and how flexible project planning is an imperative in order to be responsive to the needs and rhythms of the participants and their communities. Results of the PAR cycles, discussion of the use of this methodology, implications and recommendations for future research will be explored.

### **Why and how to 'do no harm' in development policy and practice: insights from the Water for Women Fund**

Joanna Mott and Gabrielle Halcrow

*Gender and Social Inclusion Adviser, Water for Women Fund, and Multi-Country Project Manager, SNV Netherlands Development Organisation*

In the era of the Sustainable Development Goals, development approaches that genuinely 'leave no one behind' are crucial, and must account for the risks that arise in shifting the status quo. Emerging global evidence from integrating Do No Harm (DNH) approaches in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programming, research and organisations can provide the aid sector with fresh and readily applicable insights. People in marginalised situations, including women and girls, people with disabilities and sexual and gender minorities, can unintentionally be exposed to further risks from aid interventions, such as greater stigmatisation, aggravated poverty, unjust workload, unsafe workplaces and environmental impacts, or violence. This paper looks at the effectiveness of existing efforts to operationalise DNH principles and safeguard the rights, dignity and wellbeing of women and people from marginalised groups, while supporting their meaningful engagement in decision-making processes. The application of DNH in the WASH sector contributes towards reducing vulnerabilities and inequalities that can arise through service delivery mechanisms, and provides important and applicable insights for a range of other sectors. In particular, the use of the International Women's Development Agency's (IWDA) DNH toolkit focused on gender, violence and women's empowerment, developed as a result of extensive research in the Pacific, to a program in Fiji, will be explored. We also examine efforts to apply a DNH approach within workplaces and development agencies themselves, towards the means to upholding stronger safeguarding measures, particularly relating to sexual exploitation and environmental impacts. This is a collaborative initiative that engages DFAT's Water for Women Fund partners, including WaterAid, SNV, UTS Institute for Sustainable Futures and Habitat for Humanity, as well as IWDA. The Fund is supporting adaptation, piloting, implementation and sharing of DNH

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strategies, and as such is well-placed to provide evidence-based strategies for applying DNH principles in policy, programs and organisations.

### **Gender dynamics of WASH under political restructuring in Nepal: the need to move beyond 'engineering fixes'**

Manita Raut

*Research Officer, International Water Management Institute*

Development actors and policies have historically emphasised gender equality and meaningful participation of women in the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH sector). The sustainability and functionality of WASH services especially in remote, rural locations, as is often stated, relies on collective community engagement and interventions. However, gender is not the only indicator of exclusion. In Nepal, social identities by caste, class and ethnicity intersect with gender in determining access to, and use of, WASH infrastructure and services, as well as the planning, management, financing and implementation of systems. How these intersectional inequalities shape power relations in the functionality and sustainability of WASH infrastructure and services is the core question asked in a research project funded by Australian Aid. Undertaken in two districts in Western and Central Nepal, through analysis of ongoing WASH projects by a partner international NGO, our preliminary findings indicate that intersectional inequalities determine access to, use and success in planning and managing WASH services. That these exclusions persist at a time of significant socio-political reforms in Nepal is intriguing. The shift to federalism -supposed to enable local governments to shape local development is also informed by a recognised need for more inclusive political restructuring. In practice, however, we find that power and privilege continue to be skewed along the lines of caste, class and gender in WASH and, more widely, in new political restructurings. We argue that more transformative approaches and interventions, going well beyond 'engineering solutions' and including capacity development, are needed to reverse deep-rooted exclusionary cultures and mindsets which prevail across institutions. The new political dispensation in Nepal provides a critical opportunity to tackle some of these structural barriers, including the intersectional gender dynamics in WASH policies and practice – in the process enabling a more inclusive and equitable WASH in Nepal.

### **Who understands systems? Civil society, the WASH sector and social transformation**

Dr Alison Baker

*Fund Manager, Water for Women Fund*

Development interventions are always delivered in complex settings. Gaining an understanding of the systems that make up these settings is challenging and expensive to acquire. And even once acquired, that understanding often presents as many barriers as it does solutions. We can build capacity but what if government won't provide finance? We can design policy but have no control over how it will be devolved to the sub-national level. This paper considers systems thinking through the lens of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), using a systems framework adopted by the global Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) platform. It analyses how ten different civil society organisations (CSOs), both Australian and international, working in 15 countries have understood the development context from a systems perspective; and the ambition and complexity of their resulting systems strengthening interventions. The study is based on CSOs engaged in DFAT's \$110.6m Water for Women Fund, which looks beyond health and well-being outcomes and uses WASH as an entry point to drive broader social transformation, particularly around gender and social inclusion. In this way, the study offers insights that are relevant for a wide range of development interventions. Four 'building blocks' within the SWA framework—policy/strategy, institutional arrangements, financing, and planning, monitoring and review—provide the basis for analysis. The paper explores how CSOs have understood these blocks in their differing contexts, both rural and urban and spanning the Pacific and South and South East Asia, and which aspects they have chosen to address. There is a strong private sector element to the Water for Women portfolio and the paper also analyses the ways in which private sector interventions engage in system strengthening.

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## **PANEL 1I– NGOs and civil society**

*10.10am – 11.35am, Seminar Room 7*

Chair: Cheryl Johnson

*Assistant Secretary, Humanitarian, NGOs and Partnerships Division, DFAT*

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### **Post development practice in action and the future of international non-government organisations**

Caitlin Finlayson and Professor Chris Roche

*PhD Student, La Trobe University, and Professor of Development Practice, La Trobe University*

International Non-Government Organisations (INGOs) have made important contributions to global cooperation on human rights, social justice, poverty alleviation and humanitarian relief. However, if INGOs are going to remain relevant they will need to address a number of growing challenges to their legitimacy and effectiveness, including falling revenues, declining public support and an increasingly competitive environment. Leading INGOs recognise the significance of these challenges. As a result, they are reflecting on their organisational purpose, identity and leadership and some are implementing substantial changes in practice. They are exploring new business models; seeking to rebuild public trust; developing different relationships with supporters and partners; and are constructing new narratives about their role in a rapidly changing world. At the same time there is an emerging interest in the exploration of what has been called 'post-development principles' of devolved agency, shifting power dynamics and co-production of knowledge, in the field of development studies. However how such principles might be embedded in mainstream development practice, is unclear. Furthermore the application of this to actual INGO practice at the organisational level is a current research 'black hole'. This paper will summarise findings from a 2 year embedded action research project undertaken as part of a PhD project which has explored these questions with a prominent NGO in New Zealand. In particular we will explore the results of attempts to: shift organisational culture and identity; to connect to indigenous value-systems; to change relationships with stakeholders, and to engage in domestic politics more fully. The paper also explores how these changes enabled the organisation to deal with significant challenges which emerged during the course of the research. Finally we will posit what lessons other NGOs might learn from this close exploration of the practice of organisational change, and the leadership required to initiate and sustain these processes.

### **Negotiating between program design and local implementation: an ethnographic study of Save the Children and Wahana in Sumba, Indonesia**

*Bizhao Zhang, Jessica Stone and Rambu Asana*

*Master Candidates, ANU and Project Assistant, Yayasan Wahana Komunikasi Wanita*

International Non-governmental Organizations (INGO) often use local implementing partners to ensure sustainability and increase community engagement. However, programme design frequently remains conceptualised at the macro level, which entails an inherent drawback that the top-down approach does not follow the political and cultural logic of field practices at the micro level. This paper aims to understand how programme design is reimagined and negotiated at the local level by examining the relationship between an INGO, Save the Children (STC), and their local partner Yayasan Wahana Komunikasi Wanita (Wahana), in Central Sumba, Indonesia. The research was conducted by closely investigating a case study of the pos baca (reading camps), a literacy enhancement program implemented by Wahana. The methods incorporated a 3-week participant observation of pos baca promotion programmes, as well as qualitative interviews with diverse stakeholders including Wahana, STC, local teachers, school counsellors and community members. Such an ethnographic approach addressed an existing research gap by looking beyond traditional measurements for programme success and analysing how policy requirements are translated into the local context. This study argues that although Wahana staff proactively exercise their agency as a broker by negotiating discrepancies between the STC's programmatic visions and local complexities, the top-down control-oriented programme design cannot provide adequate support for ground practitioners. These results contribute to the debate on how local priorities should feed back to donors for better support, and argue that the insights of local knowledge could be better integrated into INGO's goals to bridge the gap between policy making and implementation.

### **Building together: civil society engagement and infrastructure in the Pacific islands**

*Rebecca McNaught and Sally Baker*

*Research for Development Impact Network and Partner, Pacific Connections (Australia); and Disability Inclusion Adviser*

It is widely acknowledged that infrastructure needs of the Pacific islands are significant and growing. The Asian Development Bank estimates the Pacific region needs USD 3.1 billion in infrastructure investment each year until 2030. Correspondingly, the Australian government has increased financing for infrastructure in the Pacific, with a focus on telecommunications, energy, transport and water. Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne suggests new financing will help address the need for 'high-quality infrastructure that will help boost living standards'. New Australian infrastructure financing has been made available both as grants and loans, and bilateral lending for infrastructure represents a new trend in the Australian aid program. It is anticipated the Australian private sector will play a more significant role in infrastructure projects in the Pacific islands. This

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paper considers the role that civil society plays (and might play) in the development of climate resilient and inclusive infrastructure in the Pacific. Based on research undertaken in Pacific island countries – and consultation with Australian civil society organisations delivering aid in the region – this research suggests new investments in built infrastructure will be strengthened if they are integrated within a wider system of “soft infrastructure” including resilient institutions and robust governance systems at all levels. Engaging civil society and community representatives in the oversight, design, implementation and maintenance of built infrastructure, is likely to improve outcomes for all – including society’s most marginalised and vulnerable. Experience suggests local involvement in, and ownership of, infrastructure investment is critically important for sustainability of outcomes. Finally, robust engagement with civil society in infrastructure investments in the Pacific can differentiate Australian investment from other lending sources, and is likely to pay dividends for Australian public diplomacy.

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS – ‘The future of aid in the 21st century: five paradigm shifts’

11.40am Molonglo Theatre

**Speaker: Jonathan Glennie**

*Principal Associate, Joep Lange Institute*

The language and theory of ‘aid’ is outdated. But something like it is still needed as the world faces huge common challenges, new and old. This speech sets out a new approach for the 21st century: **global public investment**. Jonathan Glennie proposes five paradigm shifts for the future of concessional international public finance, as we move on from an old-fashioned ‘aid’ mentality.

## PANEL 2A – Navigating new dynamics

1:00pm – 3:30pm , Molonglo Theatre

*The disparities between ‘developing’ and ‘developed’ countries are narrowing. In many cases aid and development budgets from donor countries have become less significant in recipient countries. This could be an opportunity for re-shaping the traditional dynamics of the donor-government relationship. There could be more equal relationships, more honesty and more political realism to set realistic boundaries about what can be achieved – less supply-driven assistance could mean better results. But how to navigate this? What analysis is needed? What types of dialogue and planning?*

Chair: Dr Mark Henstridge,  
*Chief Economist, Oxford Policy Management*

Panellists:

Dr Selim Raihan  
*Professor at the Department of Economics, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh*

Saku Akmeemana  
*Principal Specialist – Governance, Development Policy Division, DFAT*

Sandra Naranjo  
*Former Vice President, Ecuador*

Ben French  
*Portfolio Manager, Public Management & Accountability, Oxford Policy Management*

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## **PANEL 2B – One health and regional health security**

*1:00pm – 3:30pm, Weston Theatre*

*Human health is fundamentally linked to animal and environmental health. This is particularly relevant in the Indo-Pacific region, where agricultural practices, climatic conditions and wildlife species richness favour emergence of zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance and other health security threats. Consequently, One Health approaches, based on sustainable collaborations between sectors responsible for human, animal and environmental health, are key to ensuring optimal health outcomes in the Indo-Pacific region. The intention of this panel is to present several case studies highlighting the value of One Health for preventing, detecting and responding to infectious diseases in the region.*

Chair: Emma Zalcmán,  
*Consultant, Ausvet*

Panellists:

Dr Francette Geraghty-Dusan,  
*Associate Research Program Manager – One Health, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research*

Dr Ben Coghlan  
*Program Director, Health Security (Expansion Program), Burnet Institute*

Jonathan Happold  
*Senior Consultant, Ausvet*

Erin Nunan  
*Director, Regional Health Security, Beyond Essential Systems*

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## **PANEL 2C – Aid effectiveness case studies**

*1:00pm – 3:30pm, Barton Theatre*

Chair: Dr Berdnadette Whitelum  
*CEO, Whitelum Group*

### **Australian aid project effectiveness – what shapes it, and why is it worse in the Pacific?**

Dr Terence Wood and Sabit Otor  
*Research Fellow, and Associate, The Development Policy Centre*

Understanding the drivers of aid project success can improve aid quality. This presentation draws on a new dataset of aid project assessments to study why some Australian Government Aid Program projects are more effective than others. We find recipient country contexts influence project success, but we also find project effectiveness varies more within countries than between. Although, on average, Australian aid projects are more effective when the country context is easier, some Australian projects succeed even in challenging countries. When we look at project attributes, we find larger projects perform better on average. We also find Australian humanitarian work tends to be more successful than ongoing development work. Worryingly, we find Australian aid projects are less effective on average in the Pacific. Using data from Australia and other donors, we attempt to isolate the reasons why projects are less successful in the Pacific.

### **Impacts of a rice production project's intervention in Nicaragua: an ex-post evaluation of the effectiveness of the TaiwanICDF Rice Production Project**

Yan-Tzong Cheng and Yun-Ching Tseng  
*Division Chief and Director, Development and Evaluation Department, International Cooperation Development Fund (TaiwanICDF)*

Objectives: To explore the Taiwanese government's development aid and the effectiveness of the rice production project's intervention. Introduction: Nicaragua has been unable to improve its rice production because the rice produced is of poor quality due to a lack of qualified seed. Therefore, the TaiwanICDF conducted the Rice Production Project (2009-2014) with the aim of establishing a three-level system of rice

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seeds, increase the yield per unit area and improve the quality of rice, thereby increasing farmers' income. Methods: This study is a cross-sectional study using a quasi-experimental design and mixed methods. We recruited local interviewers to conduct surveys in the field and collect data. For the qualitative approach, we dispatched a team to conduct interviews with the stakeholders, through which we collected their opinions on the project. Overall, we used yield, income and household food security status of the interviewees to explore the effectiveness of the project's intervention. Results: A total of 314 valid questionnaires were collected, including 46 participants and 268 non-participants. The results show that participants have a significantly higher yield of rice than before joining the project ( $P < .05$ ). Comparing the means of income and the HFIAS Score, the results show that the income of the participants is 3.93 times higher than that of non-participants ( $P < .05$ ). Also, the participants have a significantly lower HFIAS Score than non-participants ( $P < .05$ ). Conclusions: The three main components of the project including provision of certified seeds, training sessions and assistance of cooperatives improved the livelihood and household food security of participants. Additionally, the model of assistance of cooperatives has a certain value for reference. The study suggests strengthening the cross-functionality of the cooperative headquarters and establishing a platform for information sharing. In general, there are statistically significant intervention effects on yield, income and household food security status.

### **Using lab studies to estimate the causal impact of development programs**

Mark Millrine and Aya Vang

*Technical Lead, Busara Center for Behavioral Economics, and Associate, Busara Center for Behavioral Economics*

Managers of development programmes must decide how to estimate the causal impact of their programme (e.g., what is the effect of the TV show on the likelihood that people eat healthier?). To do this, they must choose between alternative methodologies. This typically involves trading off rigour (i.e., the confidence that they can have in the results) against cost and time (i.e., when they will have the results). Due to these tradeoffs, managers can end up implementing programme evaluations which do not estimate the causal impact of their programme. We argue that lab studies are a valuable but neglected tool which can help managers estimate the causal impact of their programme. We support this assertion by drawing on a case study from our experience as working as the monitoring, evaluation and learning partner on the Pacific Island Food Revolution (PIFR). PIFR tries to encourage Pacific Islanders to switch away from eating unhealthy, foreign foods toward eating healthy, local foods through a reality TV cooking competition, where Pacific Islanders in Fiji, Tonga, Samoa and Vanuatu compete against each other to produce the best dish using local ingredients. We discuss how a lab study helped us to estimate the causal impact of the TV programme on Pacific Islanders' food choices and perceptions of local food, and how this fed back into programme design. We also discuss several of the caveats inherent in using lab studies to estimate the causal impact of programmes.

### **Branching out – building evidence for the farmer managed natural regeneration approach for land restoration**

Anne Crawford

*Senior Evidence & Learning Adviser, World Vision Australia*

In the current milieu of shrinking development resources, development organisations are under increasing pressure to demonstrate that their interventions are making an impact. Demand for evidence on the effectiveness of interventions, both from individual and institutional donors, is growing. Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) is a rapid, low-cost and sustainable land restoration and natural resource management approach, currently practised across more than 25 countries to restore and improve forest, agricultural and pasture lands. As the world pivots to addressing the challenges of climate change, it offers significant possibilities in terms of food security and improved resilience for vulnerable communities. In this presentation, we will outline our journey to deepen our understanding of impact - from independent evaluations, to evidence gap analyses and most recently, meta-analysis. To illustrate this, we provide results of the meta-analysis of impact in FMNR across recently completed World Vision projects incorporating the FMNR approach. The meta findings are triangulated and explored further using results and insights from one of the projects undertaken in Talensi, Ghana. Results suggest FMNR leads to improved land and soil quality, improved tree cover, increased availability of wood and forest products as well as improvements in income, poverty, food security and wellbeing of children. More broadly, World Vision- supported projects with an FMNR component appear to improve trust and social cohesion within a community, with increased opportunities for women to engage in community decision making, and project participants more confident in the ability of their community to work together to solve problems. Both the strategy to evidence building for

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development, and the insights from this innovative land restoration approach will be explored. Learning from World Vision Australia's experience can be of use to other development and community organisations faced with similar challenges.

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## **PANEL 2D – Workplace gender equality in Southeast Asia and Australia**

*1:00pm – 3:30pm, Acton Theatre*

*This panel presents insights from Australia's engagement with the private sector in Southeast Asia and domestically to promote workplace gender equality (WGE) and close gender gaps in economic opportunities and outcomes. Quantitative findings from the region draw on data from ~150,000 staff across 39 firms, covering issues including career/family compatibility and company culture. Trends from six years of data on WGE in Australia will be highlighted, with insights on approaches that have proven effective in supporting change. Regional representatives will discuss the state of WGE in their countries and reflect on experiences in driving change through the private sector.*

Chair: Dr Julia Newton-Howes  
*Chief Executive Officer, Investing in Women*

Panellists:

Andrew Rowell  
*Director of Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning, Investing in Women*

Dr Janin Bredehoeft  
*Research and Analytics Executive Manager, Workplace Gender Equality Agency*

Julia A. Abad  
*Executive Director, Philippines Business Coalition for Women Empowerment*

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## **PANEL 2E – The global learning crisis**

*1:00pm – 3:30pm, Brindabella Theatre*

*Come along and be part of an important conversation focused on what works in education and how we can improve. Raising learning outcomes remains a huge challenge despite progress on school enrolments. The Office of Development Effectiveness has brought together four inspiring and informed speakers who draw on research, key partner and practitioner experience to unpack the global learning crisis and what we need to do about it. We will link with other important panels on education at the AAC and discuss how the global conversation relates to the real work Australia is doing in the region.*

Chair: Dr Robert Christie  
*Head, Office of Development Effectiveness, DFAT*

Panellists:

Dr Lant Pritchett  
*Research Director, RISE Programme; Fellow, Blavatnik School of Government, Oxford University*

Dr Elizabeth Cassity  
*Senior Research Fellow, Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER)*

Dr David Coleman  
*Senior Adviser, Education, DFAT*

Dr Wendy Jarvie  
*Adjunct Professor, School of Business, UNSW Canberra*

## **PANEL 2F – Social and indigenous procurement**

*1:00pm – 3:30pm, Lennox Room*

*Incorporating social and Indigenous procurement into development sector supply chains can maximise the benefit of development programs both in the target region and in Australia. There is a rapidly growing focus on this type of procurement at all levels of government (see the Victorian Government's recently released Social Procurement Framework) and as such, a panel discussion on the topic is both timely and consistent with the 'International development themes and trends' topic of the AAC. This panel will explore supplier, contractor, and government perspectives on how to effectively implement and maximise social and Indigenous procurement, and their community impact.*

Chair: Alessia Anibaldi

*Manager, Africa and South and West Asia, International Development, The University of Queensland*

Panellists:

Nina Yousefpour

*Manager, Social Impact and Standards, Social Traders*

Darren Godwell

*President and CEO, i2i Global Development*

Joel Bird

*Senior Development Coordinator, and Founder & Senior Consultant, Keprah*

Simon Cann-Evans

*Director Aid Business Engagement*

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## **PANEL 2G – Technology in development practice**

*1:00pm – 3:30pm, Griffin Room*

Chair: Mel Dunn

*Vice President, Strategy & Innovation, DT Global*

### **Technology for behavior change: moving beyond information management to technology that persuades**

David Roach

*Director & Co-Founder, Catalpa International*

The prevalence of mobile technology uptake in developing countries is providing new opportunities to strengthen outreach and improve access to essential services. However, its application still remains largely confined to monitoring and evaluation and knowledge management. This presentation argues for the application of persuasive technology in international development practice. Persuasive technology is an interdisciplinary field that focuses on the design, development and evaluation of interactive technologies. It marries traditional modes of persuasion — using information, social influence, incentives, and triggers -- with the new capabilities of devices to change peoples' behavior. I will outline the conceptual model for persuasive technology and its field of study, captology, pioneered by BJ Fogg at Stanford University's Persuasive Tech Lab, and detail its application in a development context before presenting findings from two projects where captology has influenced program design. Firstly, a case-controlled mobile-health program in Timor-Leste, utilising persuasive technology to increase uptake of health services for over 50,000 mothers. Secondly, the application of micro-learning and nudges to support primary school teachers lesson preparation and subject matter knowledge, to further student learning outcomes.

### **Improving women's access to & persistence in technology jobs across sectors: a case study in Fiji**

Kara Chesal,

*Head of Gender & Education, Catalpa International*

The development of new technologies brings the promise of higher productivity, increased efficiencies, safety,

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and convenience. But these technologies also raise important questions about equity in jobs, skills, and wages. Around the world women, LGBTQ people, ethnic, religious, and other minorities often face increased risks of violence and surveillance when entering the digital sphere. Many still have been purposefully left out of training and job opportunities associated with the digital economy. Helping all people adapt to a fast-changing world and mitigating against negative impacts will be a defining challenge of our time. In developing countries, men are 2.7 times more likely to work in the digital sector and 7.6- times more likely to work in ICT occupations. Globally, fewer than a quarter of digital jobs are held by women. There is a growing imperative to include women in the labour market as trillions of dollars are being forfeited because of women's non-participation. When workforces are diverse, they're also more competitive, and better able to create products and services that represent all people. This presentation explores the current state and opportunities for engaging more women in ICT jobs across the Pacific, with a case study focusing on Fiji. The presentation will outline research outcomes from interviews and surveys and make recommendations for improving the ICT ecosystem. These recommendations center on trying to get ahead of entrenched inequity by investing early in culturally-responsive secondary and tertiary education, positive early-career experiences, inclusive organizations and diverse leadership in the Pacific. By addressing cultural barriers and fixing the leaky pipeline and from education to careers and beyond, we believe there are better ways to support women in making inroads into digital jobs while doing no harm.

### **The benefits of cloud-computing and the Internet of Things (IoT) to WASH and DRR in Timor-Leste**

Craig McVeigh

*Chief Executive Officer, Similie*

This presentation illustrates the benefits of linking the Internet of Things (IoT) and cloud-computing technologies to address community water supply management and sustainability issues, to detect flash flood events, and to deliver effective early warnings for natural disasters. A field-based data logger was developed as the base field technology for four flash flood alert systems and for the smart metering of three community water supply systems in Timor-Leste. Each project was designed to positively impact on the livelihoods of communities, by empowering them with knowledge to make their own decision on how to respond to flood, or water supply management and maintenance issues. Both projects have been operating for nearly six months, and through our cloud-platform the smart metering project now provides near real-time analytics on supply system water availability, water usage (per HH and individual) and variance in water supply system performance over time or against its design specifications. The flash flood alert system monitors high intensity rainfall events and river-levels and analyses live data at single or multiple sites across a catchment. The cloud platform provides a powerful analytics tool and allows user defined automated alerts and messaging for both projects. Water supply system managers receive updates on system performance or alerts as a result on the system operating outside a set of parameters, and disaster response authorities at national and local level receive alerts based actual events that exceed thresholds defined in the platform. These projects highlight the untapped potential for the WaSH and DRR sectors to address old problems in new and novel ways through cloud-computing and the internet of things.

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## **PANEL 2H – Child-focused aid**

**1:00pm – 3:30pm, Canberry-Springbank**

*Children represent half the world's 1.3 billion people living in poverty. They are a growing population in fragile and very low developing contexts. According to UNICEF, about 19.5% of the world's children live in extreme poverty on \$1.90 per person per day compared to 9.2% of adults. Childhood experiences of multi-dimensional poverty often lead to stunting, mental health, behavioural and social problems that extend into adulthood. The panel will explore how children experience poverty and inequality differently to adults, why children should be prioritised in Australian Aid, and what this would mean in practice.*

Chair: Graham Strong  
*Chief Field Impact Officer, World Vision*

Panellists:

Jahin Tanvir  
*Youth Advocate, Vision Youth*

Mercy Jumo,  
*Senior Policy Adviser, Child Rights, World Vision Australia*

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Dr Ani Wierenga,  
*Honorary Senior Fellow, School of Social & Political Science, University of Melbourne and  
Academic Coordinator, Post Graduate Studies, Adolescent Health & Wellbeing, Melbourne Medical  
School*

Courtney Innes  
*Senior Adviser, Child Rights and Protection, Plan International Australia*

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## **PANEL 2I – Peacebuilding and justice**

**1:00pm – 3:30pm, Seminar Room 7**

Chair: Assoc. Prof. Susan Harris Rimmer  
*Deputy Head of School (Research), Griffith Law School, and Associate Fellow of the Development  
Policy Centre, ANU*

### **Geographies of aid: security zones, colour codes and everyday life in intervention spaces**

Dr Jonathan Fisher  
*Reader, University of Birmingham*

This paper explores the everyday practices and ramifications of security mapping by the United Nations in the context of its global peace and humanitarian operations. Many peace missions use security maps to define which areas are accessible to UN officials, and which are considered to be off-bounds. These zones are allocated colours to denote specific perceived risks in, or particularities of, the areas concerned, with examples to be found in a range of UN interventions, including in Afghanistan and Iraq ('green zones'); in Somalia ('white zone'); in South Sudan and Kenya ('blue zones'); or in CAR and the DRC ('red zones'). We know very little, however, about the rationales that underpin these mapping practices, and how knowledge from one mission can translate to other missions. More significantly, the ramifications of security mapping for local populations hosting peace missions – how it structures their everyday lives – have received limited scholarly attention. The analysis of these phenomena will be the main focus of this paper, which will explore two sets of questions around the politics of security mapping, namely: 1) What logic of securitization does security mapping serve? Which security information/threat is privileged, and why? 2) How do security maps impact and shape statebuilding processes on the ground? How do local actors in host countries of peace missions perceive and react to these maps? In answering these questions, we bring together two areas of literatures which have not yet spoken to one another: critical international relations and political geography, especially critical cartography. We also focus on a range of empirical case studies, including Haiti, Somalia, and Afghanistan. The paper therefore speaks clearly to at least two AAC conference topics: aid and security, and humanitarian aid.

### **The link between development and prevention of violent extremism: lessons learned from PVE programming in Southeast Asia**

Malcom Brailey  
*Regional Director Indo-Pacific, The Stabilisation Network*

The 'security-development nexus', both as academic concept and key trend in international development, rose to notoriety two decades ago with Mark Duffield's *Global Governance and the New Wars* (2001). The concept captured the commitment from donor governments and aid agencies to conflict resolution and the reconstruction of societies ravaged by armed violence, thus bringing security and development closer. One area that remained siloed from this merging of development and security were the global efforts to counter 'violent extremism'. Indeed, perhaps the most relevant acknowledgement of the relevant linkages between development and the fight against violent extremism came only four years ago, with the UN Secretary General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (2015). The following year, UNDP recognised the need to closely link the prevention of violent extremism (PVE) with the SDGs, namely with the aims of strengthening social cohesion and community resilience. For example, SDG 16 on the 'Promotion of Just, Peaceful and Inclusive Societies', includes the target of 'building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.' Based on lessons learned from bottom-up, in-country PVE programming, this paper explores the linkages between development and the prevention of violent extremism with a specific focus on South East Asia, namely Indonesia. It analyses promising avenues in the areas of social cohesion and community resilience that are relevant for donors and practitioners, such as the empowerment of vulnerable individuals and groups (such as youth and women)

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through innovative off-ramping activities, positive occupational alternatives and skills. It also considers the challenges to creating greater synergies between development and PVE programming, such as those that arise with the selection of target audiences/beneficiaries. For example, vulnerable/at risk communities to recruitment and radicalisation to violent extremism are not necessarily those at risk of poverty.

### **Lessons learned: preventing violent extremism in Southeast Asia**

Dr Adam Burke

*Director, Conflict and Fragility, The Asia Foundation*

Documented assessment of locally defined efforts to prevent violent extremism is still limited in Southeast Asia. This presentation will highlight the findings from a recent study of civil society-led initiatives in this field, based on research in The Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand. The study aims to support future efforts to prevent violent extremism by explaining the ground realities and summarizing practical experience of preventative approaches. It finds that the meaning of violent extremism varies across Southeast Asia, reflecting local contexts and political currents. Civil society responses, many of which cooperate extensively with government agencies, follow an array of approaches depending on their aims and on local conditions. Many of these approaches engage communities on tightly identified 'drivers' of extremism rather than addressing broader socio-economic development. The report highlights priorities for future civil society initiatives and directions for foreign assistance. It is the latest product of ongoing collaboration between the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and The Asia Foundation.

### **Practicing law and justice development: can we adapt?**

Professor Veronica Taylor

*School of Regulation and Global Governance, ANU*

There is good reason to think that law and justice development practice is being forced to change. Until recently, strengthening national law and justice institutions - as part of governance or rule of law - was a pillar of post-conflict statebuilding and post-peace economic development. That work now encompasses the transnational elements of combatting violent extremism, securing national borders and curbing corruption. Australia undertakes this work in a region shaped by authoritarian politics and new donor competition, while aiming to co-create a regional 'rules based order'. These shifts in geo-politics demand more adaptive approaches to law and justice development, even as the content of the work is shifting. Yet we have paid comparatively little attention to the people who design and implement such interventions. There is a well-developed ethnographic literature on development practice and an international relations focus on how international humanitarian interventions are implemented, but we know very little about who animates Australia's aid investments in law and justice. This matters for debates about the utility of technical assistance; and it begs questions about our capacity to deliver whole of government programming or adaptive practice. This paper reports on the first empirical study of Australian law and justice practitioners, comparing them with counterparts in Europe and Asia. Drawing on an international survey of more than 200 practitioners qualitative interviews, we analyze the 'who' of the law and justice practice field; how practitioners perceive themselves; how categories such as 'international' and 'local' matter and when they blur; and current political, professional and ethical challenges for practitioners. Going beyond structure and agency, we look at the transnational regulatory character of this work and what this means for Australia.

### **Keynote panel – Australian aid to Indonesia: a high-level conversation**

**3.30pm, Molonglo Theatre**

*Australia's longstanding development cooperation partnership in Indonesia is a vital part of one of our most important bilateral relationships. Indonesia is transforming and with it the nature of Australia's support. This panel, comprising senior representatives from Australia's development programs and the Government of Indonesia, will explore the continuing relevance of aid to Indonesia's development and the Australia-Indonesia relationship, and how Australia's development cooperation with Indonesia is changing in response to contemporary challenges and trends. It will showcase, using evidence from Australia's flagship development programs, how Indonesia and Australia are working together to assist a transforming Indonesia to tackle big-picture development problems that demand increased coordination, evidence-based policy and greater institutional capacity.*

Chair: *Allaster Cox, Deputy Ambassador, Australian Embassy, Jakarta*

Panellists:

*Pungky Sumadi, Deputy Minister for Population and Labor Affairs, Indonesia's Development Planning Ministry (BAPPENAS)*

*Dr Elan Satriawan, Chief of Policy Working Group, The Secretariat of National Team for the Acceleration of Poverty Reduction (TNP2K), Indonesia's Vice President's Office*

*Astrid Kartika, Unit Manager, Governance and Human Development, DFAT, Australian Embassy Jakarta*

*Dr Della Temenggung, Deputy Director for Policy and Adviser, PROSPERA*

### **Keynote panel – Debating RCTs, and other topics in impact evaluation**

**3.30pm, Barton Theatre**

*This year the Nobel prize for economics went to three economists who have promoted the use and importance of Randomised Control Trials (RCTs) in development economics and interventions. But how useful are RCTs in the real world of development assistance? And what more generally needs to be done to improve the quality and impact of impact evaluations, and to promote learning in aid?*

Chair: *Professor Stephen Howes,  
Director, Development Policy Centre, ANU*

Panellists:

*Hon Dr Andrew Leigh  
MP, Member for Fenner, ACT*

*Dr Lant Pritchett  
Research Director, RISE Programme; Fellow, Blavatnik School of Government, Oxford University*

*Dr Jyotsna Puri  
Head, Independent Evaluation Unit, Green Climate Fund*

**Keynote panel – Views from the frontlines: advancing the women, peace and security agenda in Asia and the Pacific**

*3.30pm, Weston Theatre*

*This year marks the twentieth anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS). Panellists will discuss the updated WPS Index, which reveals areas of progress, stagnation, and reversal on WPS as well as current opportunities for advancing the WPS agenda in Asia and the Pacific. These include new models of resourcing and working horizontally across silos. Case studies will include ensuring local engagement by women-led CSOs working alongside government and security sector actors in Mindanao, getting women’s issues to the table in Bougainville, and ensuring effective implementation of Australia’s new National Action Plan on WPS.*

Chair: Jane Sloane  
*Senior Director, Women’s Empowerment Program, The Asia Foundation*

Panellists:

Noraida Chio,  
*Senior Program Officer, The Asia Foundation Philippines*

Dr Jeni Klugman  
*Managing Director, Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security*

Sharon Bhagwan-Rolls  
*Chairperson and Gender Liaison of the Board of Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)*

Dr Susan Harris Rimmer  
*Associate Professor, Griffith University Law School and Adjunct Reader, Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy, ANU*

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## Wednesday 19 February

### PANEL 3A – What drives learning in Indonesia and beyond? Insights from INOVASI and RISE

8.00 to 9.30am, Molonglo Theatre

*While Indonesia has improved educational access, with close to 100 per cent of children in primary school, it has yet to produce better learning outcomes. Why is it that more finance and schooling have failed to produce learning? How can education systems in Indonesia and around the world make investments and reforms that improve learning outcomes? This panel brings together development practitioners and researchers from the Innovation for Indonesia's School Children (INOVASI) and Research on Improving Systems of Education (RISE) programmes to discuss insights from both team's work in the quest to better understand the underlying features of innovation and systems-level accountability that contribute to improved learning outcomes in schools in Indonesia and beyond.*

Chair: Dr Lant Pritchett

*Research Director, RISE Programme; Fellow, Blavatnik School of Government, Oxford University*

Panellists:

Niken Rarasati

*Researcher, RISE Indonesia, SMERU*

Dr Shintia Revina

*Researcher, RISE Indonesia, SMERU*

Dr Mark Heyward

*Program Director, INOVASI*

Dr David Coleman

*Senior Strategic Education Adviser, DFAT*

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### PANEL 3B – Women's economic empowerment

8.00 to 9.30am, Weston Theatre

*This panel will reflect on different approaches to achieving women's economic empowerment in the Asia Pacific region. The panel will discuss the complex pathways to women's access and agency. It will explore approaches that work through private sector and market actors, those working directly with women, households and communities, and hybrid approaches seeking to do both. Bringing together diverse viewpoints, the discussion will highlight the successes, challenges and lessons learnt from different approaches to WEE and the extent they contribute to women's access and agency. Key topics will include women's collectives, gender inclusive business models, and promoting positive gender norms.*

Chair: Annemarie Reerink,

*Acting Assistant Secretary and Principal Sector Specialist, Gender Equality Branch, DFAT*

Panellists:

Ellie Wong

*Senior Women's Economic Empowerment Adviser, World Vision Australia*

Maryam Piracha

*Head of Portfolio, Australia Indonesia Partnership for Promoting Rural Incomes through Support for Markets in Agriculture (PRISMA)*

Tara Chetty

*Gender Adviser, Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development Support Unit*

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Dr Alice Pollard  
Founder, West 'Are'Are Rokotaniken Association (WARA)

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### **PANEL 3C – Frontier global aid issues** *8.00 to 9.30am, Barton Theatre*

Chair: Fiona Yap  
Associate Professor, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU

#### **The state of ODA funding for gender equality** *Raimund Zuhr, Project Manager, SEEK Development, Berlin*

The Donor Tracker's latest report, 'Words to action: The state of ODA funding for gender equality', analyzes trends in the 14 major OECD donors' development assistance funding and policy for gender equality in 2017 and compares them with spending in previous years. • In 2017, the 30 DAC members spent US\$39.0 billion on overall bilateral allocatable ODA in gender-equality related projects (projects in which gender equality is either a 'principal' or at least 'significant' objective). This is 6% (US\$2.2 billion) higher than spending for the same in 2016 and double the amount given in 2009 (US\$19.7 billion), the first year of reliable data based on the DAC gender equality policy marker. • The share of total bilateral ODA that DAC donors spend on gender equality (including both significant and principal funding) is increasing over time. This share of funding has increased from 27% of total DAC ODA spending in 2009 to 35% in 2017 • A concerning trend in funding for gender equality initiatives emerges from the data; the 6% (US\$2.2 billion) increase in gender-related funding in 2017 was entirely driven by funding for projects that integrate gender equality as just one of multiple significant goals. By contrast, funding for projects with gender equality as the principal goal dropped by 5% between 2016 and 2017 (from US\$4.9 billion to US\$4.7 billion). • Donors urgently need to scale up funding for projects whose principal objective is the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment. More funding is critical to ensure that gender equality is taken seriously as a stand-alone development goal, rather than as an add-on to existing aims.

#### **Human rights violations, political conditionality, and public support for foreign aid** *Professor David Hudson, Professorial Research Fellow, Politics and Development, University of Birmingham*

There has been much criticism levelled at Western donors and development agencies who provide aid to states that commit human rights abuses. This has led to concerns about the effects of such coverage on public support for foreign aid. In response, donors have increasingly used aid suspensions to signal to domestic audiences that a regime has been sanctioned and that aid is being 'spent wisely'. In this article, we examine how reports of human rights violations affect public support for foreign aid, and what impact donor responses to these rights abuses has on public opinion. To test these relationships, we conduct a survey experiment using a nationally representative sample of the British public. Our findings demonstrate that reports of human rights abuses lead to a decline in public support for aid. However, contrary to the conventional wisdom, any response from donors, whether it be to justify continuing aid provision or to cut aid, prevents a decline in public support. These findings show the importance of government responsiveness in maintaining public support for a frequently contested aspect of foreign policy.

#### **What are we learning about paradigm shift and measuring it, in climate change** *Dr Jyotsna Puri, Ph.D, Head Independent Evaluation Unit, Green Climate Fund*

One of the most often used words today is 'transformative change'. But what does it mean and more importantly, how can we measure it? The paper identifies key necessary attributes of transformational change and discusses key findings in the area of climate finance investments. It uses the examples of projects and investments of the Green Climate Fund.

## **PANEL 3D – Labour mobility and the diaspora**

*8.00 to 9.30am, Acton Theatre*

Chair: Rachel Jolly

*Acting Assistant Secretary, Pacific Labour Mobility and Economic Growth Branch, DFAT*

### **Development with care: migrant families and Australia's Pacific Labour Scheme**

Dr Matt Withers

*Research Fellow, Macquarie University*

Australia's new Pacific Labour Scheme (PLS) recruits temporary migrants workers from Pacific Island Countries (PICs) into a variety of rural and regional industries experiencing labour shortages, including aged and disability care, hospitality and tourism. The PLS is framed by government as a 'triple win' migration-development program. It is anticipated to become a highly feminised migration pathway, with many PLS recruits likely to be young mothers and primary caregivers. With no provision for familial accompaniment under the scheme, migrant households will have to renegotiate their established care practices within the constraints of transnationalism. The implications for families 'left behind' have not been adequately considered within the migration-development literature, despite substantial evidence of social and economic challenges arising from transnational care regimes in the wider Indo-Pacific region. We argue that temporary labour migration induces the disassembly of gendered work and care regimes in countries of origin, and the reassembly of these forms of labour in countries of destination, producing complex forms of care depletion for migrant households and their communities. While migrant families have embraced adaptive strategies to manage their transnational care needs – including substitutive care, digitally intermediated care and financially 'remitting care' – these are only partial remedies to the hardships of transnational family life. Without greater attention to the developmental importance of care activities, and the intrinsic obligation of employers and government to support the reassembly of care resources in the Pacific, the PLS risks reproducing unsustainable development outcomes for migrant households, their communities and PIC economies more broadly.

### **Crossing the divide: Pacific diaspora in humanitarian response to natural disasters**

Jeevika Vivekananthan

*Research Assistant (Lead Researcher), Centre for Humanitarian Leadership*

The humanitarian ecosystem requires an acceleration of alliances by creating a networked way of working between traditional and newly recognised actors to address the growing scale and complexity of humanitarian crises. This urges the current system to recognise, include and promote a variety of actors, their worldviews and practices. Pacific diaspora's responses to natural disasters in the Pacific Island Countries (PICs) remain largely unexplored and often misunderstood due to the gap in the knowledge of why and how Pacific diaspora engage in the humanitarian response. We argue that we need to think outside of the dominant humanitarian paradigm to understand non-traditional humanitarian actors or newly recognised humanitarian actors such as diaspora. We propose a model for understanding Pacific diaspora humanitarianism grounded in neo-institutional and diasporic perspectives in a constructivist approach. Based on this model, this paper discusses what factors drive Pacific diaspora humanitarianism and how Pacific diaspora responds to natural disasters in PICs. It also highlights the unique characteristics of Pacific diaspora humanitarianism and suggests that these characteristics can be harnessed for increasing the overall effectiveness of Pacific humanitarian ecosystem by acknowledging them as the legitimate features of diasporic humanitarianism- the third humanitarian domain. The local knowledge, trust and relationships, different forms of solidarity, the ability to mobilise resources as a community-to-community response to a disaster, multidimensional networks and flexible ways of working signal the potential of Pacific diaspora in contributing to community resilience in PICs in the face of climate-induced disasters.

### **Clean energy and household remittances in Bangladesh: evidence from a natural experiment**

Dr Gazi Hassan

*Senior Lecturer, The University of Waikato, New Zealand*

Are remittances from overseas migrants a vital source for a household's access to affordable cleaner energy? Except for some anecdotal evidence, no study using microdata at the household level in developing countries has empirically investigated a causal relationship between remittances and clean energy for cooking. This paper fills this gap by using a natural experiment of rainfall-driven remittances inflows to give an experimental measure of the effect of remittances on selecting LPG or cylinder gas as a cooking fuel over other alternative fuels among rural households in southern Bangladesh. Household choice of LPG and remittances are jointly

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related, making an instrumental variable approach necessary. The treatment of remittances is assigned randomly to households suffering losses due to a natural shock from the cyclone-Roanu enabling the instrument – exogenous variation in rainfall interacted with cyclone-affected migrant household's distance to the local weather stations – to identify the average treatment effect for the treatment group (cyclone-affected remittances recipient households). For a cross-section of households where average remittances receipt is 25,000 Taka, the paper finds that an exogenous increase in remittances by 1,000 Taka causes the probability of using LPG to rise by 1%. In terms of percentage change, the implied elasticity shows that a 10% increase in remittances income can raise the probability of using LPG by 2%. The impact of remittances is found conditional on household health expenditures. Controlling for household health expenditures interacted with provision for supply of clean water and sanitary toilet in the dwelling, the marginal effect of remittances gets stronger. These findings counter some existing case studies and views of many policymakers that economic factors are less significant in promoting cleaner household energy. The results of the paper are robust to potential violations of the exclusion restriction, to alternative specifications and instruments, and possible omitted variable bias.

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### **PANEL 3E – Partnering with business for the SDGs**

**8.00 to 9.30am, Brindabella Theatre**

*Developing countries face an annual gap of \$2.5 trillion to meet the SDGs. Multi-stakeholder partnerships between government, the private sector and NGOs play an important role in closing the gap to achieve the SDGs.*

*Under the Business Partnerships Platform initiative DFAT has partnered with Fairtrade ANZ, Samoan manufacturer Krissy Co. and the Savai'i Coconut Farmers Association to achieve commercial returns while delivering sustainable development and social impact. The partnership improves access to markets for smallholder coconut farmers by scaling up production and expanding the supply of Samoan Fairtrade organic coconut products. In doing so, it promotes investment in the coconut farmers' supply chain and boosts Samoa's participation in global markets.*

*The panel of the four partners will share lessons from the partnership by exploring: success and failure factors; how NGOs, private sector and donors can enhance their value propositions; and effective collaboration approaches.*

Chair: Ariane Gauchat  
*Team Leader, Business Partnerships Platform (Palladium)*

Panellists:

Jamie Isbister  
*Ambassador for the Environment and First Assistant Secretary, Economic Growth and Sustainability Division, DFAT*

Molly Harriss Olson  
*CEO, Fairtrade Australia & New Zealand*

Perise Toala  
*Secretary, Savai'i Coconut Farmers Association*

Wayne Liubinskas  
*Co-Founder and Chief Growth Officer, Village Energy*

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### **PANEL 3F – Health**

**8.00 to 9.30am, Lennox Room**

Chair: Stephanie Williams  
*Principal Specialist Health, DFAT*

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### **Building consortium to increase private sector access to GeneXpert in the Philippines**

Soliman Guirgis

*Project Director, TB Innovations and HSS Project, Family Health International (FHI 360)*

Increasing private sector access to TB diagnostic testing and involvement in mandatory TB notification is critical to optimizing early detection and treatment of persons with active TB disease in the Philippines and ensuring 2.5 million TB cases are diagnosed and treated by 2022. To achieve this, nearly 32% of cases must undergo GeneXpert testing, yet the Philippines had the second highest private-sector pricing for GeneXpert globally, due to high costs for shipping, import duties, distributor margins, doctor incentives, and mark-ups by laboratories and hospitals. To mitigate this barrier, the FHI 360-led TB Innovations and Health Systems Strengthening project and its partner, Interactive Research and Development, supported the establishment of a private-sector diagnostic consortium for the Philippines. The consortium-building process was informed by a detailed analysis of the current business model/market and participatory consultative and planning meetings with the National TB Program (NTP), professional TB societies, private hospitals and laboratories, the GeneXpert manufacturer (Cepheid) and a local distributor. More than 40 health professionals, pathologists, and TB experts from 20 private tertiary hospitals, large laboratory networks, private hospital associations, and diagnostic and ambulatory clinics joined the consortium. The NTP was involved and supportive. Members developed a consortium charter, including parameters for quality-of-care, monitoring a ceiling price for GeneXpert, packaging GeneXpert as a primary diagnostic tool for several communicable diseases, and establishing linkages for case notification. Cepheid subsequently agreed to lower the price of GeneXpert cartridges from \$98 to \$22.10. Employing a consortium in the Philippines effectively facilitated affordable diagnostic testing in the private sector, which will increase access to testing and eventually reduce catastrophic costs to patients, while balancing market-driven forces. This model can be used in other settings to amplify public health efforts to find and treat TB cases early.

### **Transformation of Interventions to address barriers to women's group participation and improve coverage and quality of nutritional services**

Ajay Acharya

*Ward Cates Research fellow- FHI 360*

Government led platforms like health mothers' groups (HMGs), which have been used in Nepal since 1990 as a primary means of delivering health and nutrition services to women of reproductive age, particularly women in the 1000-day period (from conception to the child's second birthday), need a refresh. Recognizing that mobile phone technology is increasingly being used to deliver public health programming and because in Nepal mobile phone ownership, including among women in the 1000-day period, is common, FHI 360 conducted a qualitative study to examine the potential for using a short message service (SMS) both to encourage HMG participation and for direct nutrition service delivery. Researchers conducted 8 focus group discussions and 35 in-depth interviews with 1,000-day women, key decision makers in their homes (husbands and mothers-in-law), and healthcare providers and a mobile phone skills test. All health care providers of the study site and a selection of 1000-day women from the HMG registry were included in the study. The majority of participants had sufficient skills to engage in an SMS intervention and such an intervention was perceived as acceptable and desirable. Reasons for wanting an SMS intervention varied. Healthcare providers saw SMS as providing new information and helping them to retain information and thus improving their performance. They also saw messages as a prompt to encourage women to join the HMG both by serving as a reminder and by impressing upon them the quality of the service. Many participants also mentioned that messages would help them to learn about nutrition topics and 1000-day women expressed interest because messages would give them something to discuss with peers. This study suggests an SMS intervention may minimize HMG participation barriers and provide an additional information channel in Nepal and that such interventions in under-resourced settings may result in higher service coverage.

### **Beyond the champions. Fiji's post-military regime, the tobacco industry, and the unlikely triumph of public interests in tobacco control**

Dori Patay

*PhD Scholar, School of Regulation and Global Governance, ANU*

Unhealthy commodity industries are influencing governments for the sake of profit, and as a result, low- and middle-income countries are often mistaken commercial private interests with public interests and economic development. Pacific Island Countries (PICs) are especially vulnerable to commercial influence due to their colonial past, small size, islandness, and often weak bureaucratic systems. The non-communicable disease (NCD) crises of the Pacific is fueled by the increasing availability and affordability of unhealthy commodities,

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and PICs are challenged to regulate these products because of the direct and indirect industry influence on their governments. There has been little empirical research done on the ways PICs handle the influence of commercial interests on the regulation of unhealthy commodities; therefore, the aim of this research is to uncover the conditions which enable the elevation of public health interests in the governance of unhealthy commodity industries in the Pacific. The story of Fiji shows what happens when a post-military competitive authoritarian government forms links with the tobacco industry. The odds are against the small public health lobby, yet the country becomes one of the best performers in tobacco control in the Pacific. This research reveals the conditions which made the elevation of public health interests possible in the Fijian government despite the powerful commercial influence of the tobacco industry. The results show that having a leader acting as a champion is not the only way public interest can overcome commercial influence. Although implementing the global health policy recommendations on policy coherence and terms of engagement can be problematic in the context of PICs, the demonstration of socioeconomic costs of smoking, external pressure through international frameworks, coalition building, and proactive involvement to “sit at the table” of policy making are all conditions which enabled the elevation of health interests in the regulation of unhealthy commodities.

### **Private sector models of partnership with government are not all about money**

Ingrid Glastonbury

*Head of Health, Oil Search Foundation*

Papua New Guinea is implementing a major reform aimed at bringing together the disjointed hospital and rural health systems into one entity managed by a Board of Governance, Chief Executive Officer and skilled management team.

The reform, established under the *Provincial Health Authorities (PHA) Act (2007)*, has now been implemented in all Provinces with 50% of those transitioning in the last twelve months. A review of the progress in 2014 identified several issues that were constraining the potential that the PHA model promised for improving health outcomes. In 2016, Hela, a new Province declared in 2012, launched its PHA with the support of several partners across the government, donor and private sector. Results exceeded all expectations, with the new PHA not experiencing the same constraints as other Provinces and improving its performance from 14<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> within 2 years.

Development partners were not convinced that the approach could be replicated or bought to scale claiming that the significant interests of oil and gas sector partners created a unique circumstance. However, the approach has now been rolled out in two more Provinces without substantial private sector funding providing a framework for a new model of partnership.

The theory underlying the approach suggests a successful outcome – frontline services improved and health indicators changed for the better – requires adequate funds and technical support are available from a range of sources including government, donors and other partners and that these resources are coordinated, planned and allocated strategically, with effective governance.

The paper to be presented discusses the approach and demonstrates that the partnership model can be replicated and bought to scale in PNG with lessons on partnership that are also relevant for other developing countries

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## **PANEL 3G – Agriculture and rural development**

**8.00 to 9.30am, Griffin Room**

Chair: Dr Peter Horne

*General Manager, Country Programs, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research*

### **Gender relations and the management of agricultural water and land in the farming collectives at Saptari, Nepal**

Manita Raut

*Research Officer, International Water Management Institute*

This research study examines collective farming approach in relation to gender for the management of land and water resource demonstrated in Saptari district of Nepal under the ACIAR funded project, “Improving Dry Season Agriculture for Marginal and Tenant Farmers in Eastern Gangetic Plains”. A total of 5 collective farming groups consisting of women, marginal and tenant farmers in Saptari are studied examining how the traditional gender roles shape collective farming rules and labor division decisions on farm activities and water allocation mechanisms. Collective farming is a new approach where marginal, tenant and women farmers collectivize by pooling in land and managing the groundwater resource together as a way to address entrenched class,

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caste, and land inequities in the region. This research investigates whether collective approach can bring new dynamics among the farming communities and influence gender roles on management of irrigation infrastructures and agronomic practices. Relevant data were collected with the help of qualitative and case study research methods through a series of structured and unstructured key informant interviews, focused group discussions with the farmers and the project staffs. Findings demonstrate that collective farming approach can strengthen women's bargaining power to access resources and influence their decision making to some extent. However, the project facilitation to engage men and women in the groups played an important role to gender inclusiveness. Findings reveal that while women are increasingly making farm decisions, the traditional gender roles still dictate agricultural labor division in some fronts such as the operation and maintenance of farm machineries, negotiations with landlord and purchasing inputs.

### **Landscape restoration in drylands: what drives the transition from subsistence to sustainable economic development?**

Rob Kelly

*Food Security and Resilience Adviser, World Vision Australia*

The Drylands Development Programme (DryDev), a five-country Dutch-funded initiative in the drylands of the Sahel and Horn of Africa, aimed to transition farmers from subsistence and food aid to market-led production through landscape restoration. In Ethiopia and Kenya, the success of this transition was closely linked with a rapid (1-2 years) recovery of landscape function and water buffering within the sub-catchment, a result of: (1) community-led landscape restoration efforts at the catchment and farm levels; (2) sequential integration of sustainable natural resource management with farming, and linkages with markets; (3) contextualisation of interventions; (4) the presence of supportive government policies; and (5) leveraging available government mechanisms. In Ethiopia, these success factors led to the mobilisation of 59,000 farmers to rehabilitate over 42,000 hectares. Rainwater harvesting, farmer managed natural regeneration (FMNR) and tree-planting were readily adopted in communal areas, encouraging uptake on-farm and expanding irrigated land. This, combined with training and other on-farm interventions, increased production while improved market linkage boosted income. Number of hungry months reduced from 3.4 to 1.6, dietary diversity and household income and expenditure doubled, indicating better economic capacity. Reduction in out-migration and renewed hope in farming as a livelihood were major impacts of landscape restoration. In Kenya, the process of integration was longer owing to slower recovery of landscape function as most degraded land was privately owned. However, the six-year' implementation rehabilitated 14,677 hectares with over 35,500 farmers being mobilised. Riparian zones became a key focus, including adoption of sand dams, tree-planting and FMNR; on-farm areas incorporated farm ponds and zai pits to retain water for longer, and over 11,000 farmers were connected to markets, leading to stronger market linkages and access to financial services. These efforts doubled household dietary diversity and increased household assets by 35%.

### **Poverty dynamics, food security and rural change in Indonesia**

Dr John McCarthy

*Associate Professor, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU*

While extreme poverty has fallen rapidly in Indonesia, we still see the problem of persistent rural poverty combined with high rates of stunting. The literature frames rural transformations in terms of three specific trajectories. However, how well do such framings help us understand contemporary changes in rural Indonesia? What are the mechanisms and processes that produce and reproduce rural poverty along with patterns of seasonal food deficits and nutritional insecurity in food producing areas? What is driving vulnerability and insecurity in the key rural production systems found in Indonesia and what are the characteristic causal pathways enabling people to leave poverty? This paper draws together results from an Australian Research Council project involving mixed-method research undertaken across a range of agro-ecological regions of Indonesia. In each case we find dynamics of de-agrarianisation, adaptive diversity and rural stagnation that problematize settled ideas of agrarian change. This suggests that while change is occurring, it rarely occurs as expected. Moving beyond the classic deadlock between agrarian optimists and their critics, the study finds patterns of rising consumption coinciding with persistent insecurity. Exploring how patterns of vulnerability, precarity and even food poverty persists in some contexts despite a fall in official poverty rates, the paper locates vulnerability and under-nutrition in an understanding of the political economy shaping specific rural contexts. This leads us to explain how, despite a fall in official poverty rates and significant progress for many, patterns of precarity, vulnerability and food poverty persist. The paper ends with a discussion of the implications of this study for development policy.

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## **PANEL 3H – Aid effectiveness methods**

**8.00 to 9.30am, Canberra-Springbank**

Chair: *Beth Delaney, First Assistant Secretary, Contracting and Aid Management Division, DFAT*

### **Evaluation and value for money - a practical approach**

Julian King

*Director, Julian King & Associates Limited*

As aid budgets come under increasing scrutiny from domestic and international stakeholders, the longstanding concern with developmental effectiveness has morphed into an urgent and commonplace obligation for donors and implementing partners to demonstrate Value for Money (VfM). Despite this, current approaches to assessing VfM are incomplete. Aid programs are routinely subjected to process and outcome evaluations, but these do not examine costs. Economic evaluation (e.g., cost-benefit analysis) is often used prospectively to assess a business case for a new program, but is rarely revisited during program delivery. In practice, VfM is often assessed on the basis of a narrow set of indicators, with no clear basis for judging and defending whether the program provides excellent, good, adequate, or poor VfM. There is a risk that such assessment could focus on activities that are easy to measure but unimportant, or on the quantification of outputs and outcomes at the expense of more nuanced consideration of their quality and value. In this paper I present an approach to VfM assessment which makes use of explicit evaluative reasoning – with performance criteria and standards tailored to the program context – to support well-reasoned judgements about VfM that respond to donor accountability requirements as well as supporting reflection, learning and improvement. The approach is now being used globally to evaluate VfM in complex and hard-to-measure programs and policy reforms. It has been applied in diverse settings spanning public financial management, governance, international trade, market development, climate change, health, education, and social development, among others. Recent examples will be shared to demonstrate the use and value of the approach.

### **Evidence-based approach to delivering better development outcomes**

Sloan Mann and Orion Wilcox

*President, DT Global US, and Research Analyst, DT Global*

Over the past decade, the development community has increasingly committed itself to evidence-based programming. Unfortunately, where rhetoric has advanced practice and “how-to” often lags far behind. Donors, implementers, and non-profits continue to rely on top-down planning, rigid logic frames, and generic indicators. In response, a community of practitioners, primarily in the conflict and stabilization space, have experimented with approaches to community-led, mixed-methods research to inform program design, develop context-specific indicators, and improve learning and adaptation. The approach relies on technology tools that are inexpensive, easy-to-use, and can succinctly communicate massive amounts of information through powerful data visualizations. Pair the right technology with trained field researchers in a developing country, and meaningful data can be captured from even the hardest-to-reach environments. Researchers can then apply rigorous analysis to data to ensure programming addresses the root cause of the development problem. While quantitative data collection can uncover important local perceptions and attitudes, qualitative methodologies are crucial to understanding the systemic cause of the problem. For example, during DT Global’s research into drivers of radicalization in Syria, residents of Idlib province identified health care as a motivation for supporting the al-Qaeda-linked Hay’at Tahrir a-Sham. Many experts in countering violent extremism (CVE) initially took issue with this finding. However, through key informant interviews and focus groups, our team of Syrian researchers were able to link support for Hay’at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) to the group’s provision of health care in an area where the Syrian regime regularly bombed hospitals. The program team then worked with moderate civil society actors to provide alternative healthcare options not linked to extremists. This research approach is not limited to transition and stabilization programs. As all development problems are rooted in local context, evidence-based research can provide an alternative to top-down development planning and provide insight for more impactful programs.

### **Participation, power and politics in evaluation**

Dr Linda Kelly, Lavinia Tyrrel and Lucy Moore

*Co-Director, Institute for Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe University; Senior Policy Adviser, Governance, Abt Associates Australia; Monitoring and Evaluation Manager, PNG Australia Governance Partnership*

Monitoring and Evaluation is an inherently political exercise in which forms of knowledge and evidence are

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valued and used differently. In international development, the more powerful at the top of aid agencies seek certain forms of aggregated, succinct, unambiguous evidence about 'what works'. Generalisable data is valued. However, 'front-line' staff usually need contextual, tailored data, which reflects the complexity of the environment, capturing tangible and intangible elements. Approaches which seek to value, integrate and use different types of knowledge and evidence are increasingly being developed (Cowen and Cartwright, 2019; Yuen Yuen Ang, 2018, 2019; and, Oliver et al 2019). This is helpfully moving the debate beyond the relative merit of 'big' versus 'thick' data to calling for integration in order to address complex social and development issues (Ang 2019). Starting by collecting 'thick' qualitative, ethnographic data to understand what is important to people, can inform the right questions are asked in 'big' data collection. Some gaps remain however with limited attention being given in assessment frameworks to understand people's experience in context (Cornwell, 2014), giving explicit attention to power and other structural constraints, and the social, cultural, political and other dimensions which shape people's experience (Batiwala & Pittman, 2010). This paper draws upon experience in Indigenous Australia, PNG and Solomon Islands to demonstrate the critical value of data collection which gives voice to the different views and experiences of the people targeted by development programs. It suggests that this information is often devalued because of politics, interests and world-views, as well as engrained habits, - including those who make policy or run programs, and monitoring and evaluation practitioners themselves. In some challenge to the prevailing approaches, the examples demonstrate how participatory data collection processes can provide more significant accountability as well as help shape ongoing program adaptation and implementation.

### **Treating obsessive measurement disorder**

Dave Green and Damien Sweeney

*Principal Consultant, Clear Horizon and Principal Consultant and Team Lead, Clear Horizon*

There is a now weighty body of evidence showing the limitations of top-down target setting as a tool for performance management, particularly in less predictable settings (Honig, 2018). However, there is limited guidance available about its practical alternatives. Perhaps for this reason, DFAT's portfolio strategy and investment design tools continue to emphasise top-down performance target-setting and measurement for performance management. Based on experience supporting innovative M&E across multiple DFAT programs and investments, this presentation will explore the potential to mainstream alternative performance management tools across the Australian Aid Program. In particular, the presentation will argue for use of rubrics, performance dialogues, and peer review among implementing agencies as vehicles of discursive accountability.

### **Applying developmental evaluation to catalyze better results on innovative programming in complex or changing environments**

Courtney Roberts

*Principal, Moonshot Global*

Developmental evaluation (DE) is an emerging approach to program evaluation that emphasizes innovation and learning. According to founder Michael Quinn Patton, DE "is grounded in systems thinking and supports innovation by collecting and analyzing real-time data in ways that lead to informed and ongoing decision making as part of the design and implementation process." As such, DE is well suited to evaluating innovative programs and adapting existing programs to complex or changing environments. This paper presents DE as a complementary approach to traditional formative-summative evaluation. It elaborates ways that DE can be useful in evaluating innovative programs and programs being implemented in complex or changing environments; provides a framework for practitioners to use to apply DE; and proposes a decision tree for donors and funders to follow when considering whether DE is right for their programs. The paper also illustrates 'DE in action' through the case study of the application of DE on the Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (DFAT) Scaling Frontier Innovation program, managed by the innovationXchange. The case study draws out Moonshot Global's experience as monitoring, evaluation, and learning partner to DFAT; reviews how the team implemented the key features of the DE approach (e.g., embedding evaluation staff and gathering/analysing data for continuous program improvement); and explores the effects of investigating such questions as -What is emerging as the programming takes shape? -What do initial results reveal about expected progress? -What variations in effects are we seeing and how should the program adapt to help ensure the most promising results can be achieved? -How have different relationships among program partners influenced program outcomes? -How is the larger system or environment responding to the program and vice versa? -How should an evaluation framework be adjusted to respond to the analysis of real-time data or program adaptations?

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## **PANEL 3I – Humanitarian challenges**

*8.00 to 9.30am, Miller Theatre*

Chair: Jennifer Clancy

*Humanitarian and Advocacy Advisor, Australian Council for International Development*

### **How inclusive disaster legislation is strengthening locally led humanitarian action: lessons from Asia and the Pacific**

Fiona Tarpey

*Head, International Advocacy, Australian Red Cross*

In 2018 over 70 million people were affected by natural disasters, costing over USD\$300 billion in damage. The Asia Pacific region is the most disaster prone in the world, with five of the ten most at-risk countries located in the Pacific. Whilst there is growing capacity for disaster management in the region, the aftermath of a natural disaster is characterised by the often chaotic influx of international actors and intense pressure on domestic agencies. Recognising this, the Red Cross has supported a global program over the last decade aimed at advocating for and strengthening domestic laws and policies for disaster management and coordination. The adoption of the Sendai Framework for DRR and Paris Agreement on Climate Change has seen a significant increase in demand from States for this regulatory support. A global evaluation of the Disaster Law Program in September 2019 is reviewing the impact of this program on disaster management and humanitarian policy. Using case studies drawn from the evaluation in Asia and the Pacific, this presentation will highlight the extensive and highly consultative process underway in Fiji to develop a new Disaster Risk Management Act that embeds national and sub-national perspectives from across government and civil society. It will also highlight emerging regional disaster risk management frameworks under development with PIFS, SAARC and ASEAN. Examples of how human rights, humanitarian principles and protection measures are integrated into the legislative process will be highlighted. And finally, it will identify how the program is evolving to address the increase in demand for climate sensitive disaster management frameworks and early warning protocols in the Pacific region. (Note that the evaluation is taking place in September/October 2019. The focus of the presentation may be modified – based on final findings and recommendations)

### **Responding to menstrual hygiene management needs in disaster settings, in Vanuatu**

Sandra Downing and Sandrine Benjimen

*Senior Lecturer, James Cook University, and Health Coordinator, Vanuatu Red Cross National Society*

Managing menstruation in a safe and dignified manner can be challenging for girls and women in resource poor settings. These challenges can be compounded by societal taboos, secrecy and embarrassment around menstruation. Displacement and living in emergency contexts can further increase the challenges experienced by girls and women due to a lack of access to sanitary materials, private/safe water and sanitation facilities, places to dry reusable sanitary materials or dispose of used pads and reduced privacy and dignity especially in overcrowded, temporary and transit settings. The increasing global focus on improving Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) interventions in emergency contexts is recognized in the recent (2018) revision of the Sphere Guidelines, which highlight the importance of understanding MHM related practices, social norms and myths to inform this aspect of the humanitarian response. Increasingly, the Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS) have been working to integrate MHM considerations in disaster preparedness and response programming. In 2019, James Cook University and Australian Red Cross partnered with VRCS in a study to explore the sanitary protection needs and preferences of girls/women in Vanuatu and the socio-cultural aspects of menstruation likely to impact MHM in disaster settings. Four communities, one rural and one urban on both Efate and Espiritu Santo islands, that had previously experienced disasters were selected for the study. Participating women and girls each received a MHM kit which included one of four sanitary products, two disposable and two reusable. Qualitative data was collected through eleven focus group discussions involving 125 participants and two interviews of women with disabilities. Quantitative data focusing on sanitary product acceptability was obtained via a simple paper-based survey which was completed by 136 participants. This paper will present the key findings and discuss the implications in disaster preparedness and response for the VRCS.

### **Making cash inclusive in humanitarian responses**

David Brown and Dr Manuel Rothe

*Senior Adviser, Program Development, CBM Australia and Visiting Lecturer, University of St. Gallen, Switzerland*

Provision of cash is a way to allow aid to take a form which responds to the real needs of people affected by disasters. However, barriers remain to the participation of persons with disabilities in such schemes. A review

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of the use of cash in different recent humanitarian responses in Indonesia, Niger, Philippines, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Zimbabwe sought to identify how implementing agencies responded to the needs of people with disabilities. Following a case study research approach, we documented the six responses in-depth to understand if persons with disabilities were able to equally participate in and benefit from the program and which practices of program implementation helped or hindered them in doing so. In a cross-case analysis, using the cash program cycle of the Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP) and five criteria for disability inclusive development (CBM DID Toolkit) as an analytical framework, we identified patterns of successful inclusive practice. The preliminary findings of our analysis suggest that a participative targeting process, involving self-representative organisations of persons with disabilities, and the provision of specific support to overcome physical and institutional barriers to cash access, are the two most important conditions for full and equal participation of persons with disabilities in humanitarian cash transfer programming.

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## **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

*9.40am Molonglo Theatre*

**Speaker: The Hon Alex Hawke MP**

*Minister of International Development and the Pacific*

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## **PANEL 4A –Climate change and social inclusion**

*11.00am to 12.30pm, Molonglo Theatre*

*Climate change disproportionately affects socially marginalised groups who often do not control the resources to respond and are underrepresented in key decision-making. The livelihoods of women and indigenous peoples, particularly in the Indo Pacific, are often dependant on sectors such as agriculture, water resources. People with disabilities are particularly vulnerable in coping with other extreme weather events. While climate change has pronounced impacts on these groups, they are also active and valuable contributors to climate change responses. This panel will discuss the need for socially inclusive responses to climate change in order to ensure we leave no one behind.*

Chair: Jamie Isbister

*Ambassador for the Environment and First Assistant Secretary, Economic Growth and Sustainability Division, DFAT*

Panellists:

Dr Veronica Doerr

*Research Director, Sustainable Pathways, CSIRO*

Joe Morrison

*Managing Director, Six Seasons*

Jahidul Islam

*Australia Award recipient for Bangladesh, Masters of Climate Change, ANU*

Elizabeth Cowan

*Global Gender Cohort Coordinator, CARE*

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## **PANEL 4B – Still broken. Global humanitarian reform and the Asia Pacific.**

*11.00am to 12.30pm, Weston Theatre*

*The global international humanitarian system is struggling to deliver the transformative change required to best meet the needs of the most vulnerable impacted by crises. This is despite best efforts to act on agreed changes through the Agenda for Humanity and Grand Bargain.*

*This panel will discuss how to action transformative change in ways that are most relevant to the*

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Asia-Pacific region, including a unique approach to country-led humanitarian reform. It brings together the latest thinking from the Australian Government, Indonesia-based Pujiono Centre, Australian Red Cross and Humanitarian Advisory Group.

Chair: Jo-Hannah Lavey  
Executive, Humanitarian Advisory Group

Panellists:

Rachael Moore  
Director, Protracted Crises Section, DFAT

Dr Puji Pujiono  
Founder and Director, Pujiono Centre

Louise McCosker  
Humanitarian Diplomacy Lead, International Programs, Australian Red Cross

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#### **PANEL 4C – Food system crises – or not: how we choose to eat** 11.00am to 12.30pm, Barton Theatre

*The current direction our food systems is unhealthy, environmentally unsustainable and inequitable. The world is waking to the challenge of meeting growing demands for food - but can a new food revolution come fast enough to meet the SDGs?*

*A major rethink of food systems, to provide sufficient, safe and nutritious food for all within planetary boundaries is urgent. How do we integrate political, institutional and technical innovation to transform the global food system? Panellists will discuss emerging disruptive changes and what they mean for the roles of government, business and civil society.*

Chair: Professor Robyn Alders  
Development Policy Centre, ANU and Senior Scientific Adviser, Centre on Global Health Security, Chatham House, London, UK

Panellists:

Julian Cribb  
FRSA FTSE, Science author, Julian Cribb and Associates

Dr Emily Schmidt  
Research Fellow, Development Strategy and Governance Division, International Food Policy Research Institute

Dr Anna Okello  
Research Program Manager, Livestock Systems, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research

Dr Jim Woodhill  
Lead, Global Foresight4Food Initiative, Oxford University, UK, Food Security Adviser to the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Sustainable Development Investment Portfolio in South Asia

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#### **PANEL 4D – Measuring deprivation with an individual and gendered lens** 11.00am to 12.30pm, Acton Theatre

*The Individual Deprivation Measure (IDM) is an innovative gender-sensitive measure of multidimensional poverty which assesses 15 dimensions of poverty at the individual level. The panel will show how this gender-sensitive measure enriches our understanding of gender and poverty, and can better inform policies and programmes. The papers will demonstrate the value of measuring poverty at the individual level and show*

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*how applying a gendered lens adds to our understanding of deprivation, broadening the measurement space to reveal missing dimensions and illustrating variations in deprivation across the life course, using data from the Indonesia and South Africa IDM country studies.*

Chair: Dr Helen Suich  
*Senior Research Fellow, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU*

Panellists:

Dr Janet Hunt  
*Associate Professor, Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, ANU*

Trang Pham  
*Researcher, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU*

Dr Angie Bexley  
*Senior Research Fellow, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU*

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## **PANEL 4E – Private sector**

**11.00am to 12.30pm, Brindabella Theatre**

Chair: Tanya McQueen  
*Senior Manager, Strategic Engagement and Partnerships, Cardno*

### **Private sector delivery of multisectoral nutrition interventions - exploring possibilities through implementation research**

Jennifer Crum

*Project Director, Multisectoral Nutrition Project, Family Health International (FHI 360)*

Innovative service delivery models through the private sector are needed to accelerate plateauing nutrition progress and achieve human and economic development aims. However, how governments can best engage the private sector for sustained, nationally scaled up responses remains unknown. The FHI 360 led Strengthening Multisectoral Nutrition Programming (MSNP) through Implementation Science Activity is helping the government of Bangladesh to answer these questions. MSNP is an implementation research project designed to improve the nutritional status of women and children under two years of age from poor, rural households in Bangladesh. MSNP also aims to help the Government of Bangladesh identify feasible and affordable service packages for sustainably addressing malnutrition at scale. To do so, the Project is engaging multiple private sector actors to deliver agriculture, health, and social and behavior change communication (SBCC) interventions and linking these actors into the public sector network. Through MSNP, FHI 360 is examining the acceptability, affordability, and feasibility of engaging the private sector in delivery of these nutrition interventions and determining successes and challenges to private sector delivery. FHI 360 is conducting qualitative research with activity beneficiaries and service providers to understand supply and demand factors critical for successful service delivery and investigating how and why private sector engagement could support Bangladesh to avoid pitfalls of public sector delivery and make recommendations for scalability. Results will enable program experts and policymakers in Bangladesh to consider the private sector in evidence-based multisectoral nutrition program and policy development. The findings from this country example will contribute to the global body of evidence to improve sustainability of multisectoral nutrition interventions.

### **Viability gap funding – tapping up the private sector to extend infrastructure services**

*Alwyn Chilver, Director Economic Growth, Palladium*

In many emerging economies, small private operators play a key role in providing water and electricity services in the absence of an effective public service. In Cambodia for example, 300 private water operators supply over 1.4 million Cambodians with clean piped water in small towns and rural areas. Many of these operators could expand to unserved areas but are constrained by expected returns, reliable information on payback periods, and capital availability. Palladium's Investing in Infrastructure (3i) program has developed and refined a known public subsidy financial tool – viability gap funding (VGF) – to overcome this. VGF is used by

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governments to incentivise private investment in infrastructure projects that are economically and socially viable but are not financially viable in the short term. VGF has been used in the past to encourage private investment in large scale and lucrative infrastructure projects, but it has not been applied for smaller infrastructure investments and in less profitable sectors, such as water. To date, 3i has successfully demonstrated that by providing business viability information and viability gap funding, private water operators will invest and expand into unserved areas. The program has so far triggered an additional investment from 92 private water and electricity operators at an average of \$1.54 USD for every \$1 invested by 3i. Future connections of 232,462 households and companies may reach nearly 1.1m Cambodians. Palladium have also successfully deployed VGF in the electricity sector in Cambodia with similar results. Opportunities to utilise the same approach in other sectors and in other economies – potentially the Pacific – are emerging. Whilst the technical and management skills in deploying and refining a VGF approach in any country or sector require a significant upfront investment in understanding that market, there seems considerable potential to expand the application of VGF.

### **Harnessing the power of local business advice**

Steve Knapp and Sandra Mendez

*Managing Director DT-Global New Zealand, and Communications and Impact Manager, Business Link Pacific*

Very often in our industry we focus on leveraging global expertise to enable local development solutions. This approach has perhaps led us to lose sight of an important factor: How to best leverage local expertise and talent to achieve sustainable development outcomes? How can we enable existing networks and markets to foster local prosperity? Increasing local business confidence and encouraging trust in local expertise is the underpinning strategy for DT-Global's approach to private sector growth. Inherently challenged by geographic isolation and barriers of scale, DT-Global is supporting the economies of the Pacific Islands Countries develop their technological and human networks, necessary to connect local business expertise with the growing private sector. DT-Global is building confidence and service quality, so regional businesses can capture market export linkages to Australia and New Zealand and non-traditional opportunities such as investment in the Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) sector. Presented in this Paper will be the tactics applied and the lessons learned from the Business Link Pacific team and its stakeholders. The paper covers how we have approached the need to harness local talent to address a specific development objective, in this case job creation and increased business revenue for Pacific island businesses. The authors will describe how a quality assurance process for business service providers based on evidence of competencies and supported by a professional development programme has led to the establishment of a quality-assured network of more than sixty local providers servicing the local market and the key partners involved in this transformative process.

### **Does market systems development impact the ultra poor: an examination of the evidence**

Timothy Stewart

*Senior Manager, Economic Growth, Palladium*

Market Systems Development (MSD) programmes aim to address the underlying barriers to inclusion for the poor in market systems by engaging private and public sector actors to develop, test and enlarge viable, sustainable and scalable pro-poor models. Despite some notable results from MSD programmes around the world, such programmes have been criticised for not being pro-poor enough: i.e. only impacting the “not-so-poor” and not the “ultra-poor (UP)”. Often this criticism has underpinned a call for “blended” or “push-pull” approaches that combine elements of MSD and traditional direct delivery of goods and services to poor people. This paper explores the validity of this criticism by examining design documents, reports and other literature from a range of MSD programmes from different donors, and interviewing team leaders and others associated with the design and implementation of such programmes. It attempts to answer questions such as who are the UP; are MSD programmes asked to impact the UP; do MSD programmes impact the UP; are there limitations for the ability for MSD to reach the UP (with the model, or/and design and implementation of programmes); and how can MSD programmes improve their impact on the UP? We argue that whilst this criticism may be valid in some instances, limitations lie more in the way that MSD is deployed and designed by donors, and the way it is implemented. Moreover, that the answer to improving MSD's impact on the ultra-poor isn't more NGOs, more Managing Contractors (MC)s, or a “hybrid” approach, it is for better designed programmes implemented by committed and capable implementers. Indeed, MSD arose as a response to overwhelming evidence that non-systemic approaches were unsustainable and did not produce sustainable pro-poor benefits at a meaningful scale. Rather than abandon the approach, we argue that we need to strengthen its application.

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## **PANEL 4F – The Developmental Leadership escape room**

**11.00am to 12.30pm, Lennox Room**

*The DFAT funded Developmental Leadership Program is looking to deepen our understanding of how to more effectively share the results of our research. We are particularly interested in exploring variations of the 'escape room' game as a means of doing this. In this workshop we will introduce our ideas about how such a Thinking and Working Politically escape room might work and how it builds on our research findings, and engage participants in a real time exercise to test the validity and relevance of our initial ideas.*

**This workshop will be limited to 5 tables of 6 people i.e. 30 participants.**

Chair: Dr Chris Roche  
*Professor of Development Practice, La Trobe University*

Panellists:

David Hudson  
*Director, Developmental Leadership Program*

Claire Mcloughlin  
*Deputy Director, Developmental Leadership Program*

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## **PANEL 4G – RCTs in the Pacific**

**11.00am to 12.30pm, Griffin Room**

*There's no simpler or more powerful tool for finding out what policies and programs work than a randomised control trial (RCT). While more than 5000 RCTs have been conducted around the world, only a handful have taken place in PNG and the Pacific. This panel will discuss three recent RCTs in PNG and the Pacific related to gender, private sector development and revenue mobilisation as well as touch on the prospects for further RCTs in the region.*

Chair: Cate Rogers  
*Assistant Secretary, Human Development and Governance Division, DFAT*

Panellists:

Dr Pauline Grosjean  
*Professor of Economics, University of New South Wales*

Dr Russell Toth  
*Senior Lecturer, University of Sydney*

Christopher Hoy  
*Research Fellow, Development Policy Centre, ANU*

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## **PANEL 4H – Increasing the diversity of Australian aid professionals**

**11.00am to 12.30pm, Canberra-Springbank**

*The panel will discuss the different approaches a global program can take to increase the diversity of its staff and volunteers, using the concrete example of the Australian Volunteers Program. Increasing the diversity of volunteers is a key part of the Program's design and theory of change, and it has recently reviewed disability inclusion, LGBTI+ inclusion, the engagement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and gender equality. The panel will explore the implications of this research and present recommendations from specialists in different areas.*

Chair: Zoe Mander-Jones  
*Program Director, Australian Volunteers Program*

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Panellists:

Emily Dwyer,  
*Managing Director, Edge Effect*

Jen Blyth, and Laura Taylor  
*Disability Inclusion Adviser, CBM Australia, and Assistant Director, Volunteers Section, DFAT*

Alice Tamang  
*Indigenous Programs Coordinator, Australian Volunteers Program*

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## **PANEL 4I – Rethinking civic space in Southeast Asia**

*11.00am to 12.30pm, Miller Theatre*

*Throughout 2019, The Asia Foundation, in collaboration with the Whitelum Group and other researchers, carried out research on civic space in seven Southeast Asian countries, with support from DFAT: in Thailand, Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Myanmar, Malaysia, the Philippines and Cambodia. The resulting study explores the changing relationships between governments and civil society actors; internal debates within civil society over the space occupied by ‘illiberal’, ‘uncivil’ or ‘conservative’ social movements, online and offline; the role of transnational networks, in supporting various forms of civic activism across the region; and the double-edged nature of evolving digital technologies which expand opportunities for civic engagement and collective action while also providing new mechanisms for states to restrict and manipulate civic space.*

Chair: Saku Akmeemana  
*Principal Specialist – Governance, Development Policy Division, DFAT*

Panellists:

Cameron Hill  
*Senior Consultant, Whitelum Group*

Pauline Tweedie  
*Country Representative for Timor-Leste, The Asia Foundation*

Emily Rudland  
*Assistant Director, DFAT*

Nicola Nixon  
*Governance Director, The Asia Foundation*

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## **PANEL 4J – Development challenges in Indonesia**

*11.00am to 12.30pm, Seminar Room 7*

Chair: Jacqui De Lacy  
*Managing Director, Abt Associates*

### **Progress and stagnation in the livelihood of informal workers in an emerging economy: long-term evidence from Indonesia**

Dr Daniel Suryadarma  
*Senior Researcher, SMERU Research Institute*

The informal sector could exist because of barriers to enter the formal sector. But exclusion is not the only possible explanation. First, the benefit of working in the formal sector could be lower than the costs. Second, the informal sector exists separately from the formal sector. Effective public policies to address informality depends on which explanation prevails. Most studies suggest that the dual economy theory best explain the conditions in emerging economies. However, most of these studies do not differentiate low-tier and high-tier informal jobs. Also, virtually none of them provides a long-term perspective. In this study, we use a rich household longitudinal dataset from Indonesia, the Indonesia Family Life Survey that spans 26 years from 1988

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to 2014. We examine what happened to the livelihood of informal workers during the period. Since the data allow us to differentiate between low-tier and high-tier informal workers, we can estimate the earnings premium of switching from being a low-tier informal worker to a high-tier informal or formal worker. Also, the data spans a period in which Indonesia grows from a low-income to a middle-income country. Thus, we can examine the proportion of low-tier informal workers as an economy grows. Our findings contribute a long-term perspective on informal workers in an emerging economy.

### **How should Indonesia government promote competitiveness of Indonesia's micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the borderless trade era?**

Nika Pranata

*Researcher, Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI)*

E-commerce has immense potential to Indonesia economy that mostly benefited MSMEs. However, there are several issues related on global competition as the global trade is becoming borderless such as massive product expansion through e-commerce cross border platforms from China (Alibaba, AliExpress, etc.) and the US (Amazon, etc.) that flooded Indonesian market which leads to fierce competition for Indonesian businesses including MSMEs. Ministry of Industry stated that about 90% of products sold in Indonesian e-commerce market are imported products. It is worsened by the fact that three major e-commerce marketplace platforms in Indonesia (Shopee, Lazada, and JD.ID) provide facilities for overseas merchants to directly sell their products in Indonesian market. Using mostly qualitative approach by conducting an online survey to 1626 respondents (806 online sellers and 820 online shoppers) as well as field observation in four provinces in Indonesia, in-depth interview, and focus group discussion with various stakeholders, this study aims to investigate current dynamics of Indonesia e-commerce ecosystem towards global competitions. The study found that online local sellers and producers are threatened by these practices and lead to even fiercer competition. In addition, the study also conducts comprehensive literature review by taking case of China e-commerce development as the benchmark considering that China e-commerce development in the past is similar to current Indonesia development. By mostly learning from China's case, the study proposes twelve holistic policy recommendations that are classified into three categories including domestic protection, domestic competitiveness enhancement, and global expansion. Keywords: E-commerce, Global Competition, Borderless Trade. JEL Codes: L81, F13, F18 This paper was presented and won the best paper award in Indonesia Development Forum 2019, the largest development forum in Indonesia. My presence at the conference is fully funded by Knowledge Sector Initiative and Bappenas as reward for the best paper.

### **Village deliberation and community involvement in village development planning in Indonesia: Transformation of the CDD approach in the New Village Law implementation**

Katiman Kartowinomo

*PhD Student, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU*

Over the last twenty years many developing countries have embraced community driven development (CDD), an approach that aims to empower communities facing poverty issues. Welcoming World Bank advice and support and with the support of Australian development assistance, Indonesia deployed CDD approaches cumulating in the national wide PNPM Mandiri program. Subsequently the government introduced the New Village Law number 6/2014 which aimed to build on CDD design principles, aiming to support rural development by giving more autonomy over planning and allocating special village grant (dana desa) for eighty thousand villages. Under the new regulations, villages would undertake deliberation (musyawarah desa) over village development planning in a fashion that enhanced villager participation in the decision-making process. Drawing on deliberative democracy theory and based on extended fieldwork in three villages in Central Java, this study assesses the Musyawarah Desa (Musdes) process following village governance reforms. The study analyses how villages make decisions during the formulation of village development plans. It considers how deliberation and decision-making work at the village level and how patterns of deliberation and decision-making influence developmental outcomes, exploring the role of the state in the formulation process.

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## **PANEL 5A – Working with men and boys to end violence against women**

*1.30 to 3.00pm, Molonglo Theatre*

*In the Pacific, over the past three decades, women's domestic violence services have led advocacy for policy for increased gender equality, women's human rights and engaging men and boys as allies and advocates in prevention of violence against women. In partnership with regional governments, development partners and Australia's aid and development resources this model has provided agency, leadership and a significant shift*

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towards building support and a more strategic approach. A panel of experts will discuss their views on how best we engage men and boys for primary prevention of violence against women

Chair: Glenn Davies  
*Director, Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion Asia and Pacific Coffey International Development*

Panellists:

Melkie Anton  
*Male advocate for ending violence against women and Development Project development adviser*

Amy Gildea  
*Managing Director Asia and Pacific, Coffey International Development*

Abigail Erikson  
*Program Specialist, UN Women*

John Kali  
*Current PNG High Commissioner to Australia, PNG Government*

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## **PANEL 5B – Australian aid and foreign policy**

*1.30 to 3.00pm, Weston Theatre*

Chair: Professor Caitlin Byrne,  
*Director of the Griffith Asia Institute, Griffith University*

### **Security through sustainable peace**

Dr John Langmore AM, and Dr Tania Miletic

*Professor, School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Melbourne, and Research Fellow, Melbourne School of Government, University of Melbourne*

One of the essential conditions for global security and human flourishing is achievement of relative peace. Violent conflict is a serious impediments to human, social and economic development and environmental wellbeing. This paper reviews the experiences of DFAT's diplomatic personnel and its ongoing efforts to help reduce violent conflict, and to support peacemaking and peacebuilding. The paper discusses first, the necessity for political leadership to prioritise diplomatic engagement and therefore develop strategy and policy. Second, how to re-establish and develop DFAT's functions, capacity and structure to support conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Third, the imperative for guiding the Commonwealth's rationale and resourcing for diplomacy, to ensure that political solutions are afforded the primacy they require in whole-of-government approaches to addressing global challenges. There is a strong case for enhancing analytical and contingency planning within DFAT in all areas. There would be value in establishing a section of the Department to specialise in peacebuilding; and that diplomatic staff with expertise in conflict prevention and peacebuilding also be included within functional branches. Therefore, training programs must be expanded. These recommendations lead to concern about the low political priority given to Australian diplomacy throughout the last quarter century. The proportion of total Commonwealth outlays allocated to diplomacy has fallen from 0.38% in 1995-96 to 0.22% in 2018-19, a decline of 42%. This has caused tight constraints on DFAT's capacity to promote the Government's agenda, including in support of peace and stability. The total quantity of aid must be increased to provide funding to address the causes of conflict as well as to restore a credible Australian contribution towards the SDGs. The paper argues that as Australia's experience demonstrates, interventions in conflict and instability must prioritise diplomatic engagement and seek political solutions. This learning stands in contradiction to increasing trends of militarisation and securitisation.

### **Feminist foreign policy: a new approach for a new era**

Joanna Pradela and Alice Ridge

*Director, Knowledge Translation, IWDA and Research Policy and Advocacy Adviser, IWDA*

It is increasingly apparent that Australia's approach to foreign policy is no longer up to today's challenges. Our current understanding of the world was premised on the assumption of the United States as an unshakeable ally and global hegemon. In the face of China's rising power, this approach to foreign policy is beginning to crack. When faced with a challenge as great as the re-negotiation of the global world order, we should be

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looking for commensurate responses. Australia should adopt a feminist approach to foreign policy – one which is grounded in human rights, and aims above all else to advance the wellbeing and equality of its citizens. While several countries have adopted this approach, there is no internationally agreed standard or definition of feminist foreign policy. To address this unique opportunity for critical investigation into the scope of feminist foreign policy and what it could mean for Australia, IWDA will present findings from different strands of our research and analysis:

- *Feminist Foreign Policy: Key Principles & Accountability Mechanisms*, a collaborative action research project with women from 19 countries with the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) and Dr Anne Marie Goetz of New York University's Centre for Global Studies;
- IWDA and CARE Australia's analysis of the most recent aid budget; and
- IWDA's on-going research and analysis on feminist foreign policy.

#### **'Send them a shipload of rice': food aid and Australia-Indonesia bilateral relations, 1960s-70s**

Dr Pierre van der Eng

*Associate Professor, Research School of Management, ANU*

This paper analyses the rapid expansion of Australia's foreign aid to Indonesia during the late 1960s and 1970s in the context of the reshaping of Australia's foreign policy towards the countries of Asia. The paper reveals that humanitarian, commercial and international relations interests converged to shape Australia's rapidly growing food aid to Indonesia after 1966. Food aid alleviated food shortages and famines in Indonesia during the 1960s. It also supported Australian firms in regaining their share in the growing market for wheat-based products in Indonesia, and in building market share for Australian rice exports, both in competition with US producers and the US PL480 program. Food aid allowed Australia to expand its foreign aid program to Indonesia rapidly after 1966, in support of the new government in Indonesia and improved bilateral relations.

#### **Where's the dirty laundry? DFAT APPRs and the public diplomacy imperative**

Dave Green and Kaisha Crupi

*Principal Consultant, Clear Horizon; Consultant, Clear Horizon*

DFAT's Aid Program Performance Reports (APPRs) are its principal mechanism for assessing country and regional aid program performance. DFAT expects APPRs to be "robust and credible" (APPR Good Practice Note) and states that "it is not expected that all AIP objectives will be assessed as being 'on track' each year, reflecting the challenges of achieving development outcomes" (DFAT Aid Programming Guide). To incentivise balanced APPR reporting, the Office of Development Effectiveness (ODE) has undertaken an annual Quality Review of APPRs. In 2018, this review noted that "managing the tension between the role of APPRs in performance management and their role as a public diplomacy tool is challenging, but good quality APPRs demonstrate that a balance can be reached." Despite these commitments, there is a sense that APPRs are increasingly becoming summaries of positive achievements and light on critical self-reflection. This presentation will present mixed methods analysis of the extent to which APPRs – for the five largest DFAT aid programs over the past four years – displayed 1) balanced analysis of achievements and challenges; and 2) self-critical reflection on causes of shortfalls. Based on findings, the presentation will explore the challenges associated with balanced public reporting on program performance; and explore ways in which the tension between public diplomacy and performance management objectives might be better managed in the future.

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## **PANEL 5C – Disability and inclusive design, monitoring and evaluation**

*1.30 to 3.00pm, Barton Theatre*

*Australia is a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which mandates the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in all international cooperation processes. Persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations, must be meaningfully and systematically consulted on decisions that affect their lives. Design, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (DMEL), as a core development tool, is therefore essential for achieving inclusion in line with the CRPD. The panel will discuss strategies and approaches to inclusive DMEL, drawing on their lived and professional experience.*

Chair: Sarah Leslie

*Senior Consultant, Clear Horizon*

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Panellists:

Asahel Bush  
*Disability and Inclusion Adviser, CBM*

Dr Manjula Marella  
*Research Fellow, Nossal Institute*

Malik Munir  
*Master of Public Policy Student*

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## **PANEL 5D – Using innovative financing for impact**

*1.30 to 3.00pm Acton Theatre*

*The use of impact investing or other types of innovative financing to advance development goals has grown dramatically in recent years. As development actors use grant dollars to de-risk commercial investments, take venture capital-inspired approaches to sourcing and scaling innovations, and launch impact investing funds, a new period of business model experimentation is inspiring new and creative ways of using capital to create change. This interactive panel will discuss what is possible when social sector actors adopt an investment lens and will point to what new business models may look like in global development of the future.*

Co-chairs: Stephanie Marienau Turpin and Stephanie Kimber  
*Director, Strategic Partnerships, FHI 360 and Assistant Director, DFAT InnovationXchange*

Panellists:

Sandra Carvajal  
*Adviser, Tri-Sector Partnering, World Vision Australia*

Cassian Drew  
*Managing Partner, Palladium*

Dr John Marsh  
*CEO, Inclusiv Ventures*

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## **PANEL 5E – The changing world order**

*1.30 to 3.00pm, Brindabella Theatre*

Chair: Bridi Rice  
*Director of Policy and Advocacy, ACFID*

### **Ocean of debt? Belt and Road and debt diplomacy in the Pacific**

Roland Rajah  
*Director, International Economy Program, Lowy Institute*

China's Belt and Road Initiative has raised important questions about the risk of debt problems in less developed countries. The risks are especially acute for the small and fragile economies of the Pacific. However, the latest Lowy Institute analysis on debt sustainability in the region finds a nuanced picture. The evidence thus far suggests China has not been engaged in such problematic debt practices in the Pacific so as to justify accusations of so-called 'debt trap' diplomacy. Nonetheless, the sheer scale of China's lending and its lack of strong institutional mechanisms to protect the debt sustainability of borrowing countries poses clear risks. If China wants to remain a major development financier in the Pacific, without fulfilling the debt trap accusations of its critics, it will need to substantially restructure its approach. By contrast, there is scope for Australia's more modest infrastructure lending plans to remain sustainable. If Australia wants to do more in the Pacific though, it will need to reverse the current stagnation in its overall aid budget. Pacific nations, meanwhile, have an opportunity to push for more favourable financing from external partners. Care however will be needed to avoid overly geopolitical aid that prioritizes short terms wins at the expense of undermining the incentive for domestic reform and good governance.

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### **Positive disruption? China's humanitarian aid**

Dr Denghua Zhang and Jo-Hannah Lavey

*Research Fellow, Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU and Executive, Humanitarian Advisory Group*

China's fast-growing global aid program and unique approach to humanitarian aid provides challenges and opportunities for an international humanitarian system undergoing reform. Traditional humanitarian actors are increasingly curious and interested in engaging with a more active China on humanitarian aid. The lack of transparency around China's motivations for providing humanitarian aid, how China makes decisions on humanitarian aid, how it implements and coordinates humanitarian aid and the standards it applies appears to be a barrier, particularly when many traditional humanitarian actors do not have the relationships or obvious entry points to engage. Much attention has been paid to Chinese aid. Most work examines the topic from geo-political, development aid and security policy angles, rather than examining the operational and policy implications for humanitarian aid more broadly. There is less work on how Chinese and traditional actors can engage with each other on different approaches and humanitarian reform. This practice paper aims to address that gap. By engaging extensively with the literature and stakeholders in Australia, China and other countries in Asia-Pacific, this paper identifies what we do know about China's humanitarian aid. It proposes that China's different approach could positively disrupt entrenched approaches to international humanitarian aid and support key humanitarian reform objectives in response to natural disasters: localisation, the humanitarian-development nexus, and diversity of funding. It examines how traditional and Chinese humanitarian actors can effectively engage to capitalise on this opportunity. The role of newly established China International Development Cooperation Agency in the delivery of Chinese aid including humanitarian aid is also briefly discussed.

### **The role of philanthropic foundations in international development: Rockefeller, Ford and Gates**

Dr Patrick Kilby

*Senior Lecturer, School of Archaeology and Anthropology, ANU*

What is generally overlooked in foreign aid debates is the role of the great philanthropic foundations in shaping international development. This paper is part of another chapter in my ongoing research project the Story of Aid, and is based largely on archival research. The Rockefeller and Ford Foundations had an endowment of around \$5b each (GDP adjusted) and the Gates ten time larger at \$50b. The Rockefeller Foundation (RF) arguably initiated and dominated international development assistance as we know it in the first half of the 20th century, prior to the post war rise of large scale bilateral and multilateral agencies, and NGOs. RF eradicated common diseases with public health programs, was a major contributor to the League of Nations Health Organisation (LNHO), instituted post-graduate study fellowship to the US from developing countries from 1920, established a medical program in China in the 1920s with a public health program across East Asia, and kick started the Green Revolution in Mexico and India from the 1940s. The Ford Foundation from 1950 built on the work of Rockefeller with fellowships and capacity building in developing countries, development education in the US, and notably in India from 1951, funded key institutions such as the Planning Commission. It has a strong community development focus, worked on population issues, and cultural and social development, and with Rockefeller on agricultural research. The most recent Foundation is the Gates Foundation and similar to the Rockefeller Foundation has a strong technical focus on disease eradication with the LNHO's successor the WHO; health care; nutrition and sanitation; and agriculture. This paper explores the motivation of the Foundations, their effectiveness, how they have changed over time, and the level of influence they have had on development policy and practice.

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## **PANEL 5F – Financial inclusion**

*1.30 to 3.00pm, Lennox Room*

Chair: Dr Hoa Nguyen

*Senior Lecturer, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU*

### **How do economically active people with disabilities access microfinance?**

Debashis Sarker

*PhD Candidate, The University of Queensland, Australia*

Fifteen percent of the world's population is estimated to have some form of disability (WHO, 2011). A large number of people with disabilities live in the global south, mostly in rural areas (Handicap International, 2006). People with

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disabilities experience marginalisation, poverty, prejudice, and social exclusion. They have very limited livelihood opportunities (WHO, 2011). Many economically active people with disabilities do not get access to affordable and existing financial products and services. The consequence is that not only do people with disabilities experience social exclusion, but they also struggle to secure their financial lives. Though microfinance has been used substantially over three decades for reducing poverty and empowering poor people, very little evidence exists to show how people with disabilities get access to microfinance in Bangladesh. This study uses a qualitative case study approach for data collection. Thirty-five economically active people with disabilities and ten stakeholders have been interviewed for this study. Based on the thematic analysis, findings suggest that accessing microfinance is not easy for people with disabilities as they face discrimination in microfinance lending. Moreover, harder credit conditions, lack of social capital, negative staff attitudes, almost no or insufficient training, absence of integrated approach become major barriers to ensure financial inclusion of economically active people with disabilities. This study suggests that the government could formulate an integrated policy framework for mainstreaming people with disabilities particularly for financial inclusion. Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), Disabled People Organizations (DPOs), Microfinance Institutions (MFIs), people with disabilities-all these stakeholders could come forward to develop an effective partnership for designing social and economic development programs that might empower people with disabilities. Moreover, microfinance provider's antidiscrimination policy and its implementation, convenient credit design, capacity development could enhance the financial inclusion of people with disabilities.

### **Does political ideology matter for financial inclusion?**

Farhan Shazia

*PhD Candidate, Department of Banking and Finance, Monash University*

Financial inclusion is access to formal financial services, which is often a condition for people to participate in the economy. Governments in many countries are taking initiatives to accelerate financial inclusion, mainly by stimulating account ownership. However, governments are led by politicians who take different ideological positions, from left-wing to right-wing. Using granular survey level data from Global Findex, we find that right-wing politicians stimulate account ownership more when compared to left-wing politicians. This effect also applies to mobile banking. In subsequent tests, we show that this effect is driven by capitalistic policies because the economy is stimulated under right-wing governments, as people save less and use their accounts more frequently. We conclude that right-wing capitalistic policies are more successful in enhancing inclusion than left-wing societal policies.

### **Does group lending matter? The role of microcredit in improving the wellbeing of women borrowers**

Zahra Murad and Prof Brett Inder

*PhD Candidate, Monash University and Professor, Econometrics and Business Statistics, Monash University*

Over the past few decades, the importance of investing in women as a way to alleviate poverty and improve family wellbeing has been widely recognised and is treated as one of the keys for sustainable development. By providing aid to the poor in the form of working capital, microcredit have been widely adopted in developing countries and has been claimed to increase employment and income. However, there is a growing concern about whether microcredit initiatives benefit participants since the findings of various studies are inconclusive where microcredit increases business activities but limited evidence on the impacts to other social aspects such as women decision's making, health, and education expenditures (Banerjee, Duflo, Glennerster, & Kinnan, 2015). Building on the concepts of Capability Approach by Sen (2001), this paper will seek to explain how the capabilities might increase as a result of involvement in microcredit. Social cognitive theory is used as the theoretical framework to explain the processes and outcomes related to the impact of microcredit on the borrowers' capabilities. This study investigates the effects of various components of a microcredit group lending system - staff facilitation, membership of the loan group, and the loan itself. Accordingly, this study explores whether microcredit provision can improve social capital and the personal psychological traits of women borrowers such as self-efficacy, hope, resilience, and optimism. A 2018 quantitative survey of over 600 women was conducted in the largest microcredit institution in West Java, Indonesia. The results suggest that the involvement in the microcredit program has positive impacts both in the social capital and personal psychological traits of the participants. Overall, this research is contributing to the goals of improving financial inclusion for low income women in Indonesia who are not covered by the banking system.

### **Empowering women through microfinance based self-help groups in India: who becomes a member and for how long**

Danish Ahmad

*PhD Candidate, Faculty of Health, University of Canberra*

Background: Microfinance is a widely promoted developmental initiative to provide poor populations with

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affordable financial services. One adaptation of Microfinance popular in South Asia, the Self -Help Group (SHG) Model, is leveraged by India as part of a federal poverty alleviation program and is also trialled as an approach to integrate health literacy services for rural populations. However, research is limited about who joins such programs and how long they stay members, potentially missing marginalised populations-often the 'poorest of the poor'. This paper examines the determinants of membership and duration of membership (outcomes) in an integrated microfinance and health literacy program from one of India's poorest and most populated states, Uttar Pradesh. This analysis examines determinants across a range of explanatory variables related to economic, sociodemographic and area-level characteristics that recognise the broader interconnectedness and influence on membership.

Method: Using secondary survey data from the Uttar Pradesh Community Mobilization project comprising 14,777 women from SHGs in rural India, this paper conducted Multivariate Logit and Hurdle Negative Binomial Regression analysis to examine the association of economic, socio-demographic and area-level variables with SHG membership and duration. The results reveal that while the general poor are more likely to be SHG members, the poorest households are excluded from membership, but are more likely to become members when borrowing for health reasons. Also, the odds of membership is associated with increasing pregnancy loss(es) and higher contact with community health workers in last pregnancy among women. This paper generates evidence on who community-based programs such as microfinance reach and for how long.

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## **PANEL 5G – Engaging civil society for development in Indonesia**

*1.30 to 3.00pm, Griffin Room*

*Over the past two decades, Indonesia has undergone several successive democratic transitions of power, has seen an increase in decentralised governance, and is approaching upper middle-income status. The civil society sector has been a key driver of these transitions.*

*This panel will discuss opportunities and challenges in engaging civil society for development impacts in Indonesia. Representatives from Australian development programs and CSO partners will draw on their experience across a range of reform areas: improved governance, accountability and service delivery; more inclusive decision-making, policies and institutions; increased access to justice; and greater economic opportunities for poor women and marginalised groups.*

Chair: *Saku Akmeemana, Principal Specialist – Governance, Development Policy Division, DFAT*

Panellists:

### **Making hidden populations visible: Lessons from combining governance and social approaches for poverty alleviation**

Abdi Suryaningati

*Team Leader, Peduli, Australia's social inclusion program, The Asia Foundation*

### **Women's Collective Action - influencing policy at the grassroots and national levels**

Misiyah

*Director, Kapal Perempuan, a CSO partner supported by the Australia Indonesia Partnership for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (MAMPU)*

### **Triangular collaboration to achieve better outcomes for women and girls**

Dio Ashar Wicaksana

*Executive Director, Indonesia Judicial Monitoring Society (Mappi-FHUI), a CSO partner supported by the Australia Indonesia Partnership for Justice Phase 2 (AIPJ2)*

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## **PANEL 5H – Evaluating skills projects**

*1.30 to 3.00pm, Canberry-Springbank*

*This submitted panel presentation focusses on approaches to evaluation with skills development programs in Kiribati, Vanuatu, Sri Lanka and Tonga funded under DFAT's Strategy for Australia's aid investment in education 2015-2020. The programs vary in design but share some common elements: emphasis on inclusion and inclusive economic growth, decentralised service delivery and improving the match between labour demand and skills training supply. The panel members will share practical examples of evaluating skills development activities in rural and remote locations; insights into designing and using innovative evaluation tools; strategies for involving partner organisations and local communities in evaluation; results of evaluation*

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activities; and lessons learned.

Chair: Anthony Bailey  
*Facilitator, Program Director, Kiribati Facility*

Panellists:

Jamine Makinon,  
*Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Coordinator, Vanuatu Skills Partnership*

Eroshan Alagaretnam  
*Senior Manager, Results Hub, Sri Lanka Skills for Inclusive Growth*

Stuart Kinsella  
*Monitoring and Evaluation Adviser, Kiribati Facility*

Sisilia Takapautolo  
*Skills Coordinator, Tonga Skills for Inclusive Economic Growth*

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## **PANEL 5I – Climate change**

*1.30 to 3.00pm, Miller Theatre*

Chair: Professor Meg Keen  
*Director, Australia Pacific Security College, ANU*

### **Public perception of climate change and disaster preparedness: evidence from the Philippines**

Vincenzo Bollettino  
*Director, Program on Resilient Communities, Harvard Humanitarian Initiative*

The Philippines is highly susceptible to both geophysical and climate related disasters. This paper explores Filipinos knowledge of climate change, its expected impacts and other factors associated what action Filipinos take to prepare for natural hazards. Understanding the perceptions of climate change impacts and the preparations Filipino households are taking to cope with and prepare for disasters are important data for educators and policy makers concerned with measures the Philippines is taking to adapt to climate change. Data for this study were collected in household interviews conducted between March and April of 2017 across the Philippines. Filipinos self-report relatively low levels of knowledge of climate change and cited increased temperatures, shifts in seasons and heavier rains as the most likely consequences. Levels of disaster preparedness in the Philippines differs widely by region. Although the majority of Filipinos perceive that natural hazards are a risk to them, only a third of Filipinos undertake measures to prepare for disasters. The expected impacts of climate change call attention to the gap between levels of disaster preparedness and steps being taken to mitigate or prepare for these impacts. Filipinos that perceive climate-related changes have directly impacted their households report taking greater action to prepare for disasters. Filipinos who believe they have been directly impacted by climate-related changes are 17.8% more likely to prepare for disasters, 32% more likely to take planning actions and 11.6% more likely to undertake material actions to prepare. Membership in a community organization is the single most highly correlated factor with actions to prepare for disasters. Those households where members were part of an organization were 2.6 times as likely to undertake disaster training, 1.4 times as likely to plan for disasters and nearly 1.5 times as likely to materially invest in disaster preparedness.

### **Humanitarian health leadership for a climate change world**

Elizabeth Irvine, Sonia Brockington and Stephen McDonald  
*Research Fellow, Centre for Humanitarian Leadership, Lecturer in Humanitarian Health, Centre for Humanitarian Leadership, and Associate Director for Stakeholder Engagement and Partnerships, Centre for Humanitarian Leadership*

The pace and scale of climate change has far reaching health implications – from the spread of new and re-emerging infectious diseases, to escalating food insecurity, the mental health impact on people who have lost their homes and livelihoods, and more. As a result, the health needs of populations are becoming more complex, systems are being stretched even further and hard-fought gains in health system improvements are

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being eroded. Arguably, the effects of climate change are being felt most keenly in countries that can least afford it. These are the countries in which humanitarian agencies commonly work, but despite growing interest in the nexus between climate change and health it remains uncertain just how 'climate ready' humanitarian organisations are. As climate change transforms the nature of health emergencies, this research analyses current practices relating to leadership in climate change and humanitarian health practice. It is the first step towards developing a robust evidence bank that will help the sector understand how leadership in the sector and humanitarian health systems might be strengthened to meet climate change demands. Through an online survey, and roundtable discussions this research explores the knowledge, attitudes, practices of humanitarian actors with respect to climate change and health. Through identification of barriers, challenges and enablers, resourcing gaps and opportunities for progressing humanitarian health preparations and responses in a climate change world are identified. Preliminary results indicate that although humanitarian practitioners are aware of climate challenges generally, more progress can be made on preparing the humanitarian health workforce and introducing frameworks and guidance targeted at the organisational and team levels. Results also suggest that leadership on climate change and humanitarian health is established within some humanitarian organisations and more progress can be made on connecting activities to locally-led health system strengthening and resilience building activities.

### **Confronting the climate emergency in development policy and programming: experience in water and sanitation service delivery in Indonesia, Timor-Leste and Nepal**

Anna Gero

*Research Principal, Institute for Sustainable Futures, UTS*

To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and avoid undermining aid effectiveness, it is essential for the impacts of climate change be deliberately addressed in development policy, programming and research. This is particularly true for sectors reliant on built infrastructure to deliver services from natural resources, such as the water and sanitation sector. This paper synthesises research conducted in three countries, explicitly addressing how to practically integrate climate change considerations into existing development approaches and projects. This research was conducted by UTS Institute for Sustainable Futures with three partners, namely World Health Organisation, WaterAid and Plan International, as part of two programs: a DFID-funded five-country program on Climate Resilient Water and Sanitation and the DFAT Water for Women Fund. Water and sanitation services are directly affected by climate change, particularly for disadvantaged populations. Storms, drought, floods and sea-level rise all present significant risks to services, with likely flow-on effects in the form of disease epidemics such as cholera. Leaving no one behind presents an imperative to better respond to specific vulnerabilities, risks and interlinkages to realise the human rights to water and sanitation in a climate change-impacted future. Approaches are needed at national, local and community levels to ensure climate uncertainty, variability and future climate changes are taken into account. This paper presents recently tailored and applied approaches at each of these levels, including climate vulnerability assessments (CVA) at national/regional level, incorporation of climate into local level risk assessment by local authorities and community action planning. Key implications include the need to take a systems approach that reaches beyond single-sector thinking, funding and planning; the need for readily accessible forms of climate information and expertise; and the importance of building on existing formal and informal knowledge concerning climate variability effects in developing adaptive responses at national, local and community level.

### **Governance for climate change in the Pacific**

Dr Linda Kelly, Moortaza Jiwangi, Aminisitai Delaisainiai and Nicola Glendining,  
*Co-Director, Institute for Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe University and Program Manager, UNDP, Deputy Program Manager, UNDP and CCDRM Advisor, UNDP*

The Pacific region is facing considerable economic and social development challenges due to the increasing impact of climate change and geo-hazards. A key concern is the governance of climate change and disaster risks (DFAT, 2018), that is support for Pacific governments and citizens to understand, manage and resource their responses to the challenges of climate change and geo-hazards. Climate change and disaster risk reduction is often uncoordinated within countries and is located outside mainstream development planning and financing. Further, recent reviews suggest that many donor projects do not support Pacific led governance of climate change and disaster risks. Pacific policy (FRDP, 2018) and DFAT research (ODE, 2018) recommend that best practice is a risk informed development approach. That is, for Pacific governments to mainstream the risk of climate change and disasters, including gender and social dimensions, into development policy and practice. Australia has supported this approach within the Pacific - the UNDP led Pacific Risk Resilience Program (PRRP). PRRP utilised multiple strategies for mainstreaming of climate change and disaster risk reduction through national, subnational and community planning and programming. After five years, the program has demonstrated effective outcomes from this approach. It has utilised multiple change strategies and pathways to influence and support new narrative and capacity around climate change

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adaptation in the Pacific. Critically it has started to shift the 'governance' of climate change in Pacific countries, with evidence that new alliances for change are emerging in the Pacific. PRRP has also modelled an adaptive program management approach making extensive use of evidence, deliberate learning and co-design to drive its implementation. This paper summarises research about the pilot program and its outcomes, as well as the lessons being taken forward into new climate change governance in the Pacific.

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## **PANEL 5J – Humanitarian aid and technology**

*1.30 to 3.00pm, Seminar Room 7*

Chair: Paul Kelly

*Assistant Secretary, Humanitarian Response, Risk and Recovery Branch, DFAT*

### **Data analytic platform for logistics planning and information management following natural disasters**

Anissa Zahara

*Data Engineer, Pulse Lab Jakarta*

Many countries prone to natural disasters are lacked of accurate data to inform decision-making process in response to natural disasters. Information such as number of people affected, exact locations, and damages caused by disasters are needed immediately in time of disasters. The vast variety of data sources present during disaster creates the need for integration and aggregation of data and more effective visualization. In response to this, Pulse Lab Jakarta builds a platform that aimed to support disaster information management and logistic planning that is so-called DisasterMon/MIND. Since time is one of the most critical factors for disaster response at early stages, non- traditional and big data sources such as social media and mobile phone data can significantly improve and speed up decision-making processes. The platform is built on automated data pipeline that combines non-traditional datasets into a single platform. This highly contextual and visualized information will be provided in real-time and made available to aid and humanitarian organizations as well as governments.

### **Unblocked cash: harnessing the power of Blockchain technology to revolutionise humanitarian cash transfers**

Joshua Hallwright, Elsa Carnaby and Bjorn Rust

*Humanitarian Lead, Oxfam Australia, Disaster Risk Reduction, Oxfam Australia and Research Consultant*

Blockchain technology is one of the most promising innovations to have emerged during the last decade, with the potential to fundamentally transform existing economic, institutional and social systems. The promise of blockchain to deliver aid at low cost while reducing transaction times and streamlining reporting has obvious when humanitarian budgets are under increasing pressure. Blockchain technology has seen increasing support in the aid sector as a means of delivering financial assistance in place of traditional in-kind support, especially among the unbanked. The technology has potential to address existing pain points of traditional cash and voucher assistance (CVA), now widely accepted as the most dignified and appropriate form of humanitarian assistance. In the Unblocked Cash pilot, Oxfam investigated whether blockchain can reduce the cost and transaction time of CVA, while improving transparency, security, and overall user experience within the urban context of Port Vila, Republic of Vanuatu. Oxfam worked with private sector partners Sempo and Consensys to distribute 966,443 Vanuatu Vatu to 187 households and 29 vendors via the Ethereum token DAI, 'wrapped' in a Crypto Collateralized Voucher and issued near-field communication cards designed for low-connectivity environments as a means of payment whereby recipients could purchase goods through a local vendor network. The pilot showed significant cost and time savings related to operational activities. Enrolling recipients in the Unblocked Cash assistance programme reduced to an average of 3.6 minutes per individual compared to over an hour during previous cash assistance programmes. Additionally, the tested system eliminated slow identity verifications and reduced dependency on post offices or banks to deposit cheques and/or withdraw cash. This paper presents the research findings of the Unblocked Cash pilot and addresses some of the most common assumptions surrounding blockchain-based CVA including capturing the lessons and implications of private sector partnerships and localisation in humanitarian action.

### **Making sense of sense-maker – trial of the sense maker research tool to evaluate earthquake recovery**

Jessica Kenway and Jordan Hoffmann

*Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Manager, Australian Humanitarian Partnership, and Senior Project*

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Officer, CARE Australia Managed Country Presences, CARE Australia

In 2019 the Australian Humanitarian Partnership trialled SenseMaker to evaluate the effectiveness of their support to communities affected by the 2018 earthquake in Papua New Guinea, with support from Geosciences Australia. The evaluation team identified data on inclusion, recovery and NGO accountability, which broadly complemented and sometimes contradicted data from traditional evaluation methods. What is SenseMaker and how does it work? SenseMaker is a research tool which uniquely integrates qualitative and quantitative methods. Individuals are prompted to share a personal experience and interpret their story through follow up questions. The tool then enables visual detection of data patterns, ease of inclusion analysis, and links between quantitative data and corresponding stories and context. How did we apply it? In addition to the traditional methods of interviews, focus groups and document analysis, local Papua New Guineans collected SenseMaker interviews from 130 women and men from displaced and host communities using iPad minis. What did we learn about recovery and what questions did it raise? SenseMaker data indicated that of those who were able to stay in their local communities, the recovery for women was considerably lower than for men. For displaced individuals, however, women recovered better. SenseMaker data also found communities prioritised better communication and cooperation while the traditional evaluation methods found the priority was more equipment. What did we learn about SenseMaker? The tool's ease and immediacy has the potential to democratise the evaluation process by giving more power to respondents and implementers, while enabling analysis in real-time, a vital aspect for humanitarian responses. The presentation will provide a practical demonstration of SenseMaker in action, what we learnt from our initial investigation, and the value of the tool to monitor inclusion and impact.

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### **KEYNOTE PANEL – Australian aid: PNG and transparency**

*3.30pm, Molonglo Theatre*

Australia's aid program to PNG is its biggest, its highest profile and most controversial. Annual aid of \$550 million is only 4% of PNG's GDP, but it is 70% of all aid to PNG, 13% of PNG government revenue, and about the same ratio of all Australian aid. Lowy Pacific Research Director Jonathan Pryke will share the findings of his research into Australia's aid program to PNG, and his recommendations for what needs to be done to deliver more impact.

Transparency is one the basic principles of aid effectiveness, and a commitment of the Department of Foreign Affairs. But how transparent is the Australian aid program? And are things getting better or worse? Devpolicy's Terence Wood will release the third Australian aid transparency audit (authored by himself and Luke Minihan, based on 2019 data and compare it to findings from the two earlier transparency audits of 2013 and 2016.

Chair: *Professor Stephen Howes, Director, Development Policy Centre, ANU.*

Panellists:

*Jonathan Pryke, Director, Pacific Islands Program, Lowy Institute*

*Dr Terence Wood, Research Fellow, Development Policy Centre*

*Stephanie Copus Campbell, CEO, Oil Search Foundation*

### **KEYNOTE PANEL – Labour mobility**

*3.30pm, Acton Theatre*

The welfare gains from increasing cross-border labour mobility are likely to be several times larger than those from complete trade liberalization, offering significant benefits to migrants, receiving, and sending countries. This panel outlines the case for international labour mobility, summarizes the lessons learned from the first year of Australia's new Pacific Labour Scheme, and provides an overview and initial assessment of recent recruitment reforms in Papua New Guinea.

Chair: *Dr Ryan Edwards, Senior Policy Fellow, Development Policy Centre, ANU*

Panellists:

*Farah Hani, Senior Policy Analyst, Labor Mobility Partnerships team, Centre for Global Development*

*Danielle Heinecke, First Assistant Secretary, Pacific Operations and Development, DFAT*

*Dr Matthew Dornan, Senior Economist, World Bank*

### **KEYNOTE PANEL – Aid and the national interest in the Indo-Pacific**

*3.30pm, Weston Theatre*

This panel will look at the intersection between Australian foreign assistance and the changing geopolitical context in the Indo-Pacific region. It will explore from a range of perspectives how Australia can effectively support host country development priorities, while at the same time meeting its broader geostrategic interests. It will explore the emerging lessons for how aid can be more effectively allocated and delivered to achieve meaningful development ends, deepen bilateral relationships, and strengthen regional architecture from the ground up. It will also consider the growing interest in using limited resources to continue to support reform in more advanced developing countries.

Chair: *Dr William Cole, Senior Adviser for Program Strategy, The Asia Foundation*

Panellists:

*Professor Caitlin Byrne, Director of the Griffith Asia Institute, Griffith University*

*Richard Moore, Principal Strategist, Positive Influence, Manila*

*Thomas Parks, Country Representative (Thailand), The Asia Foundation*

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*Dr Selina Ho, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore*