

# 2022 AUSTRALASIAN AID CONFERENCE

## ABSTRACTS

### Panel 1a – Regional development and Australia’s interests

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Growing strategic competition with China, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and shifts in global economy, including the rapid advance of 4IR, are all creating new challenges for aid strategy. This session will explore different perspectives on how national interests in the aid context are now being defined and prioritised, whether competing and sometimes contradictory national interest goals are being de-conflicted, whether and how articulations of national interest at the policy level are affecting aid allocations and aid programs on-the-ground, and what are the long-term risks of getting all this wrong.

*Chair: William Cole, Senior Advisor, Program Strategy, The Asia Foundation*

#### Panelists

*Allan Gyngell, National President, Australian Institute of International Affairs*

*Jacqui De Lacy, Managing Director, Abt Associates*

*Dr Jennifer Gordon, Honorary Professor, Centre for Social Research and Methods, Australian National University*

*Richard Moore, Partner and Principal Strategist, Positive Influence*

### Panel 1b – The what, why and how of results-based financing: a DFAT perspective with a case study on Indonesia Roads Hibah (KIAT)

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This panel will explore the topic of results-based financing and how incentive payments are used across different modalities, sectors, and countries to improve aid effectiveness and efficiency, and will cover the ‘what, why and how’ of performance-based financing, with reflections on tips and tricks on how to get the most out of this approach, along with a case study from DFAT’s Indonesia infrastructure program showing how performance-based payments can work in practice.

*Chair: Andrew Egan, Assistant Secretary, Development Performance and Advisory Services Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade*

#### Panelists

*Kirsten Hawke, Lead Design Specialist, Development Performance and Advisory Services Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade*

*Ian Anderson, Consultant, Ian Anderson Economics*

*Sam Porter, Counsellor (Economic), Australian Embassy, Jakarta*

### Panel 1c – Behavioural science: approaches and impact in development programs

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The panelists will discuss how to identify and select behaviours that will have impact; the context for behaviour change, including barriers and motivators; design of behavioural interventions; implementation of experiments to test behavioural approaches, including mixed method research with randomised controlled trials; evaluation of behavioural approaches; and scaling up of behavioural interventions and policy.

*Chair: Dr Rory Gallagher, Managing Director Asia Pacific, Behavioural Insights Team*

#### Panelists

*Hasrina Muliawan, Accountability and Learning Officer, Siap Siaga, Australia-Indonesia Partnership in Disaster Risk Management*

*Amala Rahmah, Country Representative, Rutgers WPF Indonesia*

*M. Ali Yusuf, Chair, Institute for Disaster Management and Climate Change (LPBI), Nahdlatul Ulama*

### Panel 1d – Aid effectiveness: systems, complexity and change

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**KUWTC: How monitoring, evaluation and learning approaches can keep up with the complexity of systems change initiatives?**

*Abigail Perriman, Evidence, Learning and Impact Specialist, Moonshot Global*

This paper explores the importance of intentional and embedded monitoring, evaluation and learning

(MEL) approaches in the effective design and implementation of innovation-led private sector development through the case of Frontiers Lab Asia (FLA), the DFAT-funded collaborative lab for solving complex entrepreneurial ecosystem problems. Entrepreneurship can address gaps in economic growth and stability. However, achieving such results also requires ecosystem-level change to generate and sustain access to talent, mentorship, skills, finance, and markets needed to grow businesses. Intermediaries, including entrepreneur support organisations (ESO), are central actors in building entrepreneurs' capacity to grow and take actions to facilitate ecosystem change.

Before FLA, DFAT supported entrepreneurs through Scaling Frontier Innovation (2018-2021), and on this project intentional and embedded MEL – implemented through developmental evaluation (DE) and participatory approaches – captured evidence of systems change that was occurring. Rich findings and conclusions were drawn from 33 direct stakeholder organisations, and these insights heavily influenced DFAT's decision to invest in FLA. Preliminary evidence was generated that ESOs played an important intermediary role in ecosystem development and systems change.

FLA was then launched in March 2021 with a more explicit focus on generating solutions to systemic challenges inhibiting the growth of impact-focused entrepreneurship. To evaluate the targeted change at multiple levels – individual, organisation, and ecosystem – and to generate lessons to support multiple actors – innovators, implementing partners, and funder – a similar intentional and embedded approach was required.

This paper reviews the value of the MEL approaches that effectively supported FLA: contextual research; DE methodologies; partnership measurement; 'results reflections'; integration of DEI principles into MEL; a shared measurement system; and, application of adopt-adapt-expand-respond (AAER) framework to assess long term, systemic change.

This paper also shares how FLA continues to evolve as the consortium pursues opportunities with funders to sustain itself in a way that builds on insights from FLA, leveraging another generation of conclusions and recommendations from intentional and embedded MEL.

## **QualKit: creative and remote monitoring, evaluation and learning of gender equality and inclusion changes**

*Melita Grant, Research Director, Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney, Stuart Raetz, Monitoring and Evaluation Manager, Water for Women Fund*

The 'QualKit' supports organisations to monitor gender equality and inclusion changes in development programs with creative, qualitative methods adapted for travel restricted times.

Developed by UTS-ISF and the Water for Women Fund, the QualKit has broad applicability for development practitioners, and is provided as a free and accessible online toolkit. Water for Women is the Australian Government's flagship water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) program investing 118.9 million over five years from 2018 to 2022.

Organisations are increasingly moving beyond simply counting women and girls and people with disabilities in development programs and are investing in qualitative data collection and analysis approaches to better understand gender and social inclusion changes such as norms change. However, measuring gender norms, and especially transformative changes in social norms is inherently complex, contextualised, and long-term. To help organisations understand and use a broader array of qualitative approaches, the QualKit provides adapted and creative qualitative monitoring and evaluation methods, with remote options for travel restricted times.

The QualKit is divided into three sections: theory and practice; approaches; and tools and techniques. Each section provides simple explanations, webinar recordings and training sessions, templates, and tools. The toolkit includes approaches, tools, techniques and methods that support and guide qualitative MEL planning, implementing and utilisation.

This presentation will provide an overview of the QualKit, what it contains and a deeper dive tour of the photovoice and QSort (card sorting) sections of the toolkit. We also present research conducted with Water for Women partners (civil society organisations) on their qualitative data needs and experiences underpinning the project.

## Learning from systems change approaches to address complex development issues

*Denika Blacklock, Head of Knowledge, Performance and Learning, and Ancilla Bere, Provincial Coordinator, East Java, Australia Indonesia Partnership on Disaster Risk Management, Palladium*

Indonesia's disaster management sector transformed following the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, with the promulgation of the 2007 Disaster Management Law and establishment of the National Disaster Management Agency in 2008. With significant national and international partner resources directed at the disaster management sector in the following decade, the country has developed a sophisticated policy, regulatory and institutional environment, and undertaken intensive capacity building of government and non-government actors. More than a decade on, the Government continues to experience systemic challenges, while key impediments to the full implementation of disaster management services remain unaddressed.

One remedy is to implement a systems change approach that identifies key bottlenecks in the disaster management system to determine entry points to address these issues. The Australia Indonesia Partnership on Disaster Risk Management (SIAP SIAGA) undertook one year of research on systemic bottlenecks, and determined that the root of the challenges to effective disaster management were coherence between policies, regulations, and actors, and clarity of roles and responsibilities among key stakeholders. Recognising that policy coherence and coordination among stakeholders is a complex political process, an adaptive management approach is needed in order to respond to the changing dynamics, political context and leverage change emerging from our activity results.

Several lessons have emerged from this systems change work. (1) A systems approach is a valuable model for middle-income countries like Indonesia, where significant resources are already invested and capacity is in place. (2) Systems change approaches, supplemented by adaptive management practices, create space to accommodate the increasing complexity of disaster management — and broader public policy initiatives — including climate change, public health, and social stability. (3) Disaster management is as much about public policy as it is about technical expertise, meaning policy coherence and systems thinking are essential if development outcomes are to be achieved.

## Panel 1e – Climate risk integration: a new era for aid and development programming

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This session includes a diverse set of panelists who will represent a variety of perspectives and practical examples of how commitments on climate action are being met from across the development sector. Perspectives will be shared from backgrounds including gender and social inclusion, Pacific civil society organisations, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) sector, the Australia Pacific Climate Partnership, and broad reflections from an applied research perspective.

*Chair: Dr Keren Winterford, Research Director, Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney*

### Panelists

*Dr Alison Baker, Fund Manager, Water for Women*

*Christine Lemau, Program Director, Adventist Development Relief Agency, Fiji*

*Dr Tazrina Chowdhury, Researcher, Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney*

*Simon Wilson, Climate Change Specialist, Australia Pacific Climate Partnership*

## Panel 1f – Private sector development: Pacific and donor perspectives

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### Partnering to enable Pacific trade

*Andrew Piper, Team Leader PHAMA Plus DT-Global, Jenny Dunn, Director International Capacity Development, Australian Chief Plant Protection Office*

Facilitating improved agricultural trade in the Pacific relies on dynamic partnerships and responsive communication between the public and private sectors to navigate the multiple supply chain disruptions that threaten agricultural trade pathways and economic growth and development.

Threats such as the changing risk profile of pest and disease movement across international borders and increasing complexity in global trade are better managed through collaborative partnerships that work to build regional risk management capability. In response, a partnership between the DFAT and MFAT funded Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access Plus program (PHAMA Plus) and the

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) was initiated in October 2021.

As an international trade development program, PHAMA Plus contributes to established local networks, understanding of market challenges and linkages to Pacific farming value chains. From the public sector, DAFF supports regional economic growth and biosecurity outcomes through capacity building and animal and plant health programs, while regulating Pacific agricultural trade. These complementary partnership roles provide technical engagement and support to Pacific biosecurity agencies and the private sector, enabling operation of well regulated, compliant and sustainable market access pathways for agricultural products.

We explore the advantages and challenges of collaboration, and highlight some unexpected benefits, including exchange on monitoring and evaluation programs. Active learning continues, and we share insights from partnership establishment to the delivery of outcomes on over 20 projects covering capacity development, animal and plant health, biosecurity, market access and market maintenance, training programs and technology upgrades.

These activities are leading market system change, delivering reduced costs to industry and increased trade. The success and growth of this partnership will strengthen relationships in the Pacific, improve regional capability to identify and mitigate biosecurity risks, supporting an increase in economic growth and food security in the Pacific region.

### **Business Link Pacific: localisation and new opportunities from the pandemic**

*Sandra Mendez, Impact and Communications Manager, and Steve Knapp, Director, Business Link Pacific*

Business Link Pacific's (BLP) localisation approach was accelerated by local partners' leadership during the pandemic. A positive consequence of the pandemic has been a renewed interest in localisation, a well-known concept that now takes on a post-pandemic perspective. New research indicates the absence of expatriate aid and development workers during the pandemic opened new opportunities for local leadership and evolved the concept of localisation.

Since 2017, using a market systems-based approach, BLP has established a localised SME-focused business advisory support network across eight

Pacific Island countries, coordinated by 12 national-level private sector organisations (PSO). BLP has engaged PSOs to promote access to business and financial services while encouraging their development and advocacy for SMEs. Partner PSOs have linked SMEs with quality approved local providers of business advisory services and the finance they needed to survive the pandemic, recover and grow.

During the pandemic, this network of over 200 professional advisors specialising in 15 different areas became pivotal to local SMEs, who required support to rapidly adapt and improve operations, become tax compliant to access the support available from national governments, and provide up-to-date financial information and forecasting to manage their debt position with banks. Advisors helped businesses to identify risks and opportunities in the new environment.

BLP's lessons learned about localisation during the pandemic are threefold: increased capacity and resilience improve local stakeholders' ability to react to unexpected changes; this includes trusting local leadership to identify the best ways to achieve outcomes; remote communication and support work well where trust, communication channels, and clarity on common objectives are already established; and providing access to technology and management systems to local partners should be an initial output to underpin localised activities.

### **The practice of public-private partnership in international aid through the ODA agency of Taiwan**

*Chien-Yao Tseng, Specialist, and Tsung-Hao Wang, Research Assistant, International Cooperation and Development Fund*

Since the mid-1990s, 'Public-Private Partnership (3P)' has become a critical component in the field of international aid. USAID introduced the Global Development Alliance (GDA) concept in 2001 as a fundamental reorientation of its foreign operations. After the 2010s, the innovative concept of 'value co-creation' through partnership was promoted, and how this approach unfolds in international affairs is worthy of study.

Currently, most official development assistance (ODA) agencies, such as USAID and DFAT, value contributions from the private sector highly and have initiated their own 3P models, aiming to build collaborative platforms and create social and commercial returns. The TaiwanICDF, the

ODA agency of Taiwan, launched its own 'Public-Private-People Partnership (4P)' strategy in 2018. The 4P strategy was intended as a more inclusive platform providing opportunities to participate in international assistance for both the private sector and the people.

The diverse models on developmental partnerships, including sharing goals, leveraging resources, incubating and accelerating social enterprises, combining funding, and distributing risks, have been adopted by ODA agencies. In 2021, the TaiwanICDF launched the 'Impact Frontier Lab' project, the first international aid accelerator in Taiwan. It facilitates sustainable development in developing countries and sustainable business models for Taiwanese SMEs operating abroad.

This research uses document analysis, case study method, and in-depth interviews to assess the performance of 3P and 4P models using the indexes of "economy", "efficiency", "effectiveness", and "equity" published in Fenwick and Flynn's research in 1995 and 1997. The research objectives are to: compare the variety of models of public-private partnership employed by USAID, DFAT, and the TaiwanICDF; showcase the best practices for catalysing resources and creating innovative incentives to enhance participation of the private sector and the general public; and, study the importance of value co-creation for promoting civil participation in international aid.

## **Panel 2a – Governance and Asia's climate and environmental challenges**

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This panel will examine governance approaches currently used to address key issues of transboundary water resources management, sustainable energy development, climate change, forest resources management, and then draw upon these experiences to examine the critical role of good governance in helping countries address these urgent issues.

*Chair: Kim DeRidder, Regional Director for Environment and Climate Action, The Asia Foundation*

### **Panelists**

*Nandita Baruah, Country Representative, India, The Asia Foundation*

*Nguyen Tri Thanh, Program Specialist, Environment and Climate Change, Vietnam, The Asia Foundation*

*Rahpriyanto Alam Surya Putra, Deputy Director, Environmental Governance Program, Indonesia, The Asia Foundation*

*Winston Chow, Chief of Party, Mekong Safeguards Program, The Asia Foundation*

## **Panel 2b – Chinese development cooperation: trends and implications**

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Amidst tense geopolitical competition and contestation, development cooperation is increasingly leveraged as a soft power tool. In recent years, China has sought to communicate a more public development cooperation narrative, articulated through its three white papers (2011, 2014, 2021) and most recently the Global Development Initiative. What is the GDI, why has it emerged, and where does it sit amongst the various strands of China's global engagement? This panel will discuss the new and ongoing trends in Chinese development cooperation, and their implications for Australia, partner countries, and the future of development cooperation.

*Chair: Professor Jane Golley, Arndt-Corden Department of Economics, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University*

### **Panelists**

*Cheng Chwee Kuik, Professor in International Relations, Head, Centre for Asian Studies, Institute of Malaysian and International Studies, National University of Malaysia*

*Zha Daojiong, Professor of International Political Economy at the School of International Studies, Peking University*

*Anthea Mulakala, Senior Director, International Development Cooperation, The Asia Foundation*

*Denghua Zhang, Research Fellow, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, Australian National University*

## **Panel 2c – The lost years: remote learning, disrupted schooling and disability**

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This panel presentation explores what happened to the students in Fiji and Indonesia with disability; students who were told to go online to continue their schooling but who did not have access to appropriate technology. Were these students forgotten entirely? What learning took place during

periods of lockdown? What lessons can be learnt from such experiences? While this presentation focuses on Fiji and Indonesia, it largely reflects the experiences of nearby Pacific and Asian nations and others where access to technology is a barrier to inclusion.

*Chair: Setareki Macanawai, Chief Executive Officer, Pacific Disability Forum*

### **Panelists**

*Sereana Kunadua, Teaching Assistant, Lautoka School for Special Education, Fiji*

*Sri Sukarni, Chair, Himpunan Wanita Disabilitas (Women with Disability Group), Indonesia*

*Ben Clare, Disability Education Specialist, Exemplar International*

## **Panel 2d – Localisation in the Australian aid program: implementation perspectives**

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This panel will explore some of the practical issues of localisation that have been faced by implementing contractors of the Australian Aid program with a view to informing the future development of the Australian Government's localisation agenda. The panel will discuss three main challenges with localisation, which relate to: the capacity of local organisations to deliver, risk and accountability, and design and contracting.

*Chair: Andrew Egan, Assistant Secretary, Development Performance and Advisory Services Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade*

### **Panelists**

*Anna Winoto, Indonesia Country Representative and Strategic Adviser, Abt Associates*

*Fremden S. Yanhambath, Director, Vanuatu Skills Partnership*

*Barbara Brezger, Director International Business Development, Moerk Water Solutions*

*Ratna Kreshtiana, Partnerships Operations Manager, Australia Indonesia Partnership for Justice 2*

*Dr Bernadette Whitelum, Director and Chief Executive Officer, Alinea Whitelum*

## **Panel 2e – Gender and budget support in the Pacific**

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Budget support is certainly not a new modality, but the scale and velocity of its current use is a pivot in Australia's aid approach. As such, it is critically important to consider the gendered aspects of budget support. A new paper considers how budget support has been used to progress gender equality objectives and identifies issues and opportunities around embedding gender in budget support operations. This panel will highlight the paper's key findings and recommendations and respond and contextualise the research within DFAT's broader gender agenda in the Pacific.

*Chair: Sarah Goulding, Assistant Secretary, Gender Equality Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade*

### **Panelists**

*Mereseini Rakuita, Principal Strategic Lead, Pacific Women, Pacific Community*

*Bob Warner, Consultant*

*Jane Bastin-Sikimeti, Director, Pacific Gender Section, Office of the Pacific, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade*

## **Panel 2f – Inclusive development: states, sponsors and diversity**

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### **Citizen wellbeing in hybrid regimes**

*Dr Robert Hortle, Senior Consultant, Sustineo*

In this presentation, I examine the relationship between different types of hybrid regime (HR) and wellbeing outcomes. The post-Cold War triumphalism regarding the spread of democracy has faded, and HRs — which combine democratic and autocratic institutions — are now the most common type of political arrangement in the developing world. Despite this, there is little agreement in the literature about how HRs should be defined, and a comprehensive typology of HR subtypes is yet to emerge. Concerningly, we also know very little about the socioeconomic consequences of political hybridity. These problems are interrelated: the lack of a shared lexicon has inhibited the execution of comparative analysis among HR subtypes, and the development of subtype-specific bodies of knowledge. First, I put forward a new theory-based HR typology that fully populates the hybrid 'property space' with a set of 11 "mutually exclusive and collectively exhaustive"

subtypes. The typology is operationalised using data from the ‘Varieties of Democracy’ global dataset. Second, I demonstrate the practical utility of the typology by conducting statistical analysis of the links between HR subtypes and four important wellbeing outcome areas (health, education, living standards, and gender equality) using data drawn primarily from the World Bank’s World Development Indicators. Key findings include that more competitive elections do not necessarily improve citizen wellbeing, and that wellbeing is often highest in HRs where the executive is held accountable by other institutions. My analysis is highly relevant for development practitioners. The association between horizontal accountability and wellbeing suggests that strengthening democratic checks on the executive might be an effective way of improving development outcomes, while my findings regarding elections indicate that the current emphasis on electoral competitiveness is unwarranted from a development perspective.

### **‘You can’t change the world, but you can change the life of this child’: child sponsorship and the tension between charity and justice**

*Dr Alana Moore, Visiting Fellow, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, Australian National University*

International child sponsorship schemes have been a staple of non-state development aid for many years. Their stable funding arrangements and long-term community investment opportunities have made them an attractive model for many non-government organisations (NGOs), such that millions of children and billions of dollars in aid move through these schemes globally each year. Despite this widespread use, they are often critiqued for promoting a consumerist approach to development and exploiting vulnerable children for fundraising purposes. These critiques have been challenged by several recent quantitative studies that link sponsorship schemes to better long-term outcomes for participants, such as improved educational attainment, greater job prospects, and increased community engagement as adults.

In this paper, I examine the implications of these findings for the broader debate around child sponsorship programs. Drawing on research on child sponsorship agencies, I argue that the benefit of these schemes (when done well) is in their attempt to reframe an issue of global justice as one of individual duty; reducing a global problem too large to grasp into an understandable relationship between individuals, with an explicitly modest vision of the transformative potential of aid. In

doing so, child sponsorship programs can act as a site of redistributive justice, where children and their families benefit from a stable and targeted wealth transfer from the Global North. These benefits are undermined however, where sponsors and sponsorship NGOs do not recognise the shortcomings of child sponsorship programming as community development, and where narratives of sponsorship privilege the ideal of the charitable sponsor over the dignity and agency of the sponsored child.

### **“Leave no one behind” or respect national ownership? Conflicting development cooperation norms about LGBT+ rights in hostile environments**

*Professor Stephen Brown, School of International Development and Global Studies, University of Ottawa*

Sexual and gender minorities, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT+) people, are among the most marginalised populations in many regions of the world. As such, under the overarching SDG principle of “leave no one behind”, their wellbeing should be a high priority for development cooperation. However, that norm is in direct conflict with the basic aid effectiveness principle of developing country ownership, as recognised in successive international agreements, in countries that criminalise homosexuality or otherwise persecute their citizens based on sexual orientation or gender identity and expression. When norms clash, which one should take precedence?

This paper analyses that tension. It highlights the ambiguities and limits of the concept of ownership in instances of government non-recognition of the rights of a segment of the population. In many of the 67 countries that forbid same-sex sexual acts between consenting adults, the majority of the population supports criminalisation and state-led discrimination and persecution, which suggests that they reflect national ownership, while international efforts to defend LGBT+ rights appear to contradict that principle.

Defending LGBT+ rights, however, appear justified when considering that donors and recipient countries have all committed under Agenda 2030 and the Global Goals to social inclusion and leaving no one behind. Under those principles, some health services have been provided to LGBT+ people as one of several ‘key vulnerable populations’, albeit generally very discreetly. To date, though, the use of foreign aid to defend LGBT+ rights in hostile

environments has been generally ineffective and sometimes counterproductive. To reconcile the two norms, the paper proposes guidelines for more effective development cooperation on LGBT+ rights, emphasising the bottom-up path to national ownership, i.e., supporting local rights defenders and their strategies and priorities in order to build a national constituency for the greater respect of the rights of sexual and gender minorities.

### **More than art and dance – opportunities for a First Nations approach to foreign policy**

*Alice Kemble, Community Development Lead, Equity Economics and Development Partners, Brian Stacey, Professor of Practice, First Nations Portfolio, Australian National University*

The government has committed to a First Nations approach to foreign policy and has established a First Nations Taskforce in DFAT to “weave First Nations voices, perspectives and experiences into Australia’s foreign policy”. This presentation raises critical implementation issues for discussion.

The legitimacy of any approach is inextricably linked to the way Australia treats its First Nations peoples. Addressing our issues domestically is a necessary pre-condition to a strong First Nations Foreign Policy – and we have much work to do on this front.

There is a risk of making superficial changes only, such as more First Nations diplomats, preferential procurement policies for First Nations organisations, or sharing of art and ceremony. Whilst these actions can shape the agenda, they place First Nations people within colonial constructs as distinct from a First Nations led approach to policy.

There is also a risk of perpetuating colonial exploitation where Australia mobilises First Nations’ knowledge and intellectual property for the states’ gain and little benefit for First Nations peoples.

Making real progress on the Uluru Statement from the Heart, including a successful referendum to establish the Voice, will be critical to success. The National Agreement on Closing the Gap also provides a useful implementation model as weaving “the voices and practices of First Nations peoples” into foreign policy will require a genuine partnership between Australian and First Nations representatives to agree the approach and ongoing monitoring arrangements so that it is more than leveraging the power of First Nations peoples for the interests of the state to where First Nations peoples are co-creators and co-beneficiaries.

Done right, First Nations Foreign Policy can increase Australia’s engagement and soft power in the region and re-define approaches to development, built around areas of shared interest and challenges, as well as strengthening ongoing reconciliation efforts at home.

### **Panel 3a – Opportunities for feminist foreign policy in the Indo-Pacific**

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This growing field demonstrates an increasing understanding that traditional approaches are inadequate to dealing with the profound shifts we are seeing in international relations. This panel will be a moderated discussion about what we can learn from the experience of countries which have already adopted a feminist foreign policy approach and incorporate that learning into ongoing and periodic development cooperation policy, process, and architecture.

*Chair: Nandita Baruah, Country Representative, India, The Asia Foundation*

#### **Panelists**

*His Excellency Eduardo Patricio Peña Haller, Ambassador of Mexico*

*Ambika Vishwanath, Founder and Director, Kubernein Initiative, India*

*‘Ofakilevuka Guttenbeil-Likiliki, Director, Women and Children Crisis Centre Tonga*

*Dr Andreas Radtke, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany*

*Bettina Baldeschi, Chief Executive Officer, International Women’s Development Agency*

### **Panel 3b – Australian support for access to pandemic medicines**

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This panel will outline and critique Australia’s role in the COVID-19 response in terms of supporting countries in the region to access diagnostics, vaccines, and treatments, and will include an analysis of our COVAX commitments, vaccine nationalism, vaccine donations and Australia’s approach to the TRIPS waiver.

*Chair: Dr Belinda Townsend, Research Fellow, Australian National University*

#### **Panelists**

*Associate Professor Deborah Gleeson, School of Psychology and Public Health, La Trobe University*



*Brigitte Tenni, PhD candidate, La Trobe University and Senior Technical Advisor, Nossal Institute for Global Health, University of Melbourne*

*Dr Sun Kim, Director, Research Center on Global Solidarity, People's Health Institute, Korea*

## **Panel 3c – Digital development: new frontiers, enduring barriers**

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### **Reducing climate risks through innovative technologies that deliver multi-hazard early warning systems and community water supply monitoring and management**

*Craig McVeigh, Chief Executive Officer, Adam Smith, Chief Technical Officer, and Brandy Roberts, Business Development Manager, Similie*

Many governments throughout Asia-Pacific face financial and technical barriers that prevent them from effectively monitoring and managing their local environment to improve water security and/or mitigating climate risks with real-time multi-hazard early warning system (MHEWS) technologies. Intensified poverty due to climate change adversely affects mostly those living in the poorest communities, as they are less resilient to these climate risks. This has a disproportionate impact on their socioeconomic, environmental and development outcomes.

Our technologies are fast and easy to deploy, decreasing the amount of time between deployment and benefit of use. While technology is key, the adoptability of innovative technologies by governments, communities, and other stakeholders to use in projects addressing climate risks is vital. Our case studies of working within Timor-Leste prove the adoptability and effectiveness of our technologies.

Government and other WASH sector stakeholders are using our IoT water supply monitoring systems to collect data from 16 remote water supply systems, which feeds into our intuitive dashboards. These dashboards inform on the real-time functionality of the systems, and trigger maintenance alerts to water managers. These tools have improved access to, and conservation of, water resources in rural Timor-Leste.

With partnerships between the Government of Timor-Leste and INGOS, our MHEWS is protecting over 215,000 people by linking global forecasting models to local catchment conditions. The MHEWS operates across large urban and rural catchments

and has successfully forecasted and alerted on the high potential for flash floods and wildfires, and monitored the actual events themselves.

### **Beyond sticky floors: understanding behavioural barriers in using digital tools among women necessity business owners in Indonesia**

*Rizqi Ashfina, Researcher – Social Systems, Lia Purnamasari, Design Researcher, and Maesy Angelina, Social Systems Lead, UN Global Pulse – Pulse Lab Jakarta*

Digitalisation has been touted as the panacea for digital inclusion and women's economic empowerment. Since the beginning of COVID-19 pandemic, there have been more than 12 million micro and small businesses that are digitally integrated in Indonesia's digital ecosystem. Despite the projection that this number will continue to increase, one key question remains unanswered: does the promise of digitalisation equally benefit micro and small businesses, especially those owned by women? Guided by human-centered design, we employed in-depth interviews and digital observations to have a deeper understanding on the perceptions, emotions, and behaviours of women necessity business owners who operate their business in the food and beverage industry and urban areas in the country. While structural barriers, such as internet infrastructure and network coverage, are no longer the key limiting factors for them, our research finds that women face invisible behavioural barriers in which we referred to as "sticky floors" that preclude them from leveraging the benefits of digitalisation for their businesses. Specifically, we identified four behavioural archetypes with their respective sticky floors that prevent them from expanding their digital capabilities journey. Leveraging behavioural economic principles, namely social proof, opportunity cost neglect, and gamification, we explored key opportunity areas to help women necessity business owners to overcome their behavioural barriers. Since our work focuses on a specific cohort in the aforementioned sector, it does not aim to be generalised for the whole population of women necessity business owners across the country. Instead, our work offers a deep dive into the lived experiences of this particular group of women and provides a critical lens to understand digitalisation that could be useful for future development agenda to create an inclusive digital ecosystem.

## Developing an international public good – the benefits and pitfalls

*Dr Michael Nunan, Chief Executive Officer, Beyond Essential Systems*

A subset of global public goods are digital public goods. The Global Goods Guidebook showcases a portfolio of mature digital public goods for health systems that are approved for investment by the Digital Square consortium. The latest version contains only 35 global goods from around the world and just one of these was developed in this region Australia – the Tamanu Electronic Health Record (EHR), designed specifically for PICTs and similar contexts.

This paper discusses the development of a ‘digital’ global good and the elements that make it different to other software projects; to also discuss how the process of engagement and auditing by credible international organisations can improve such software; and to engage the subject of why global digital goods (and other open-source products) should be important to donors and partners.

Tamanu EHR was conceived by Beyond Essential Systems in 2017 and first sought inclusion as a global digital public good in 2018, achieving it only in 2021. The process included improvements to the software, proven maturity of the platform, alignment with the Open Health Information Exchange architecture and robust open-source licensing. Today, Tamanu is used in six low and middle-income countries, supporting health needs for over 1 million people.

## Panel 3d – Social protection in Southeast Asia and the Pacific

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### **An unusual partnership: the pandemic, emergency aid and financial inclusion**

*Earla Kahlila C. Langit, Legal and policy adviser, Philippines, Veron Requejo, Chief Legislative Officer, Senator Villanueva, Philippines Senate*

Following the national lockdown put in place in the Philippines starting 12 March 2020, and the consequent suspension of all economic activities, the Philippine government doled out emergency assistance of up to Php5,000 to Php10,000 (approx. AUD145.17 to AUD259.88) to millions of beneficiaries across different economic status and sectors. Because most establishments were closed, strict quarantine protocols were in place, and violations were meted out with imprisonment, traditional modes of providing assistance to

vulnerable groups were not possible. For example, the Philippine Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) typically gives cash assistance to the beneficiaries of its Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers Program in a designated venue on a particular day. Given the national lockdown, however, agencies were forced to immediately adopt alternative means of remitting cash assistance for the intended beneficiaries, including through the use of bank transfers, e-wallets, remittance agents and other digital payment applications.

While there is an impression that the pandemic will widen the digital divide, the distribution of aid and subsidies to beneficiaries through online and digital platforms appears to have accelerated financial inclusion in the Philippines. This paper seeks to explore the extent to which pandemic assistance has spurred financial inclusion among the approximately 51.2 million Filipinos who are still unbanked as of 2019, using available data from the DOLE, the Department of Finance, the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Department of Budget and Management. We conclude that while the pandemic has broadened financial inclusion among Filipinos, government agencies that regularly give assistance to vulnerable and indigent sectors of the economy should be more intentional and proactive in pursuing a policy that would promote financial inclusion for the beneficiaries.

### **Social protection and perceptions of state legitimacy in Timor-Leste**

*Dr Kate Pruce, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Birmingham*

The delivery of public services has been widely identified as a source of state legitimacy – defined here as public acceptance of the underlying system of rules and expectations from which the actions of the government derive – particularly in conflict-affected situations. However, service delivery can undermine as well as support state legitimacy, depending on local perceptions of fairness. Social protection falls under the stability pillar of DFAT’s ‘Partnerships for Recovery’ strategy, and Australia is providing investment through budget support and advice. Development partners, including DFAT, are particularly interested in the relationship between social protection and social cohesion, while recognising that empirical evidence of the effects of social protection on social cohesion and state legitimacy is currently limited.

This study aims to contribute to the evidence base on social protection and state legitimacy through the case study of Timor-Leste. The paper examines the interaction between government narratives and citizen perceptions of social assistance allocation in Timor-Leste, based on data from semi-structured key informant interviews with policy-makers, as well as workshops conducted with community members in selected districts. Adopting a mixed-methods approach, an innovative methodology is used combining a “lab-in-the-field” experiment to reveal targeting preferences among participants with focus groups discussions to gain qualitative insights into the results of the experimental data.

The paper will provide three main contributions based on initial findings from the study. First will be empirical insights into the politics of social protection provisioning in post-conflict contexts, specifically Timor-Leste. The paper will then consider the prospects for shifts in Timor-Leste’s social assistance allocation to address large coverage gaps for the poorest households, and increase the poverty reduction effects of these schemes. Finally, the paper will also make wider contributions to current academic and policy debates on the relationship between social protection, social cohesion and state legitimacy.

### **The Fiji cash assistance program: social protection lessons from Fiji**

*Archie Law, Director of International Programs, Save the Children Australia*

Tourism is one of the major drivers of Fiji’s economic growth and is the largest source of foreign exchange. Prior to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic tourism brought in over F\$1.330 billion per year. The tourism sector employs directly or indirectly more than 40,000 people or nearly 12% of total employment. On 22 April 2020 all foreign arrivals were banned to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus which resulted in the closure of the tourism sector and mass unemployment.

Lessons learned and research suggest that a highly effective way to support people in times of crisis and humanitarian disasters is through providing cash assistance, either to complement or replace the provision of material assistance. In response to this crisis in Fiji, Save the Children staff in Australia and Fiji were grappling with the question of “how do we initiate a Fiji Job Keeper Program?”

Save the Children Australia and Save the Children Fiji established the Fiji Cash Assistance Program

in May 2020. A significant philanthropic donation from a donor who recognised the need for a ‘Fiji Job Keeper’ enabled a large-scale cash assistance program to reach over 39,000 vulnerable households (22% of Fijian population) who received unconditional cash payments of FJD400 and later FJD600 via mobile phone cash transfers, in two phases from December 2020 to June 2022. This program was implemented in a unique partnership with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Vodaphone and Fijian Civil Society.

This presentation will share lessons learned from one of the largest CVA programs implemented in the Pacific. Specifically, it will share learnings on private public partnerships, working with philanthropists and how CVA has met immediate needs, a reduction in negative coping mechanisms and an increased capacity of partners to deliver social protection via cash programming.

### **Supporting a Pacific model of social protection for economic recovery and growth**

*Juliet Attenborough, Senior Social Protection Specialist, Partnerships for Social Protection*

Social protection has gained growing attention in recent decades as a key enabler to sustainable development. COVID-19 saw renewed focus on social protection globally and in the region, with social protection measures emerging as a key policy response to COVID-19 impacts. There is a common perception that formal social protection is still quite limited in Pacific Island countries. However, analysis by Partnerships for Social Protection (P4SP), an Australian Aid initiative to help strengthen social protection programs and systems across the Pacific and Timor-Leste, has highlighted that many countries in the region have in fact made quite meaningful investments, particularly over the past two decades.

This presentation will share analysis of social protection investments across the Pacific and Timor-Leste, pointing to something of a ‘Pacific social protection model’ which prioritises universal life cycle benefits such as benefits for older people and people living with disability. Examples from the region will provide insights into how other countries can go about progressively improving the coverage and adequacy of social protection over time in a sustainable manner.

In the context of COVID-19 and increasing cost-of-living pressures, the role of social protection in responding to shocks and supporting economic recovery and growth has never been more important

or urgent, particularly for a region already extremely vulnerable to shocks and disasters. The presentation will explore how countries, supported by development partners, can avoid a lost decade of growth by protecting — and indeed increasing — investment in social protection.

### **Panel 3e – Are we there yet? Localisation, reform, and accountability in humanitarian action**

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As the pandemic took hold in early 2020 there was an expectation that it would catalyse change in the international humanitarian system, in the way that assistance is delivered, what is delivered and who delivers it. The hope was the pandemic would be the trigger to catalyse reform commitments into action. So where are we now? Has the momentum towards supporting locally led response continued? Has accountability to affected populations increased? This panel discussion will aim to surface examples of good practice and progress and new thinking about how to sustain and normalise these approaches.

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

#### **Panelists**

*Fiona Tarpey, PhD Candidate and Head of International Advocacy, Australian Red Cross*

*Shedrick Singip, Independent Consultant, Papua New Guinea*

*Dr Elisabeth Jackson, Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe University*

### **Panel 3f – Health: investments, innovations and impact**

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#### **Estimating the impact of child and maternal health investment options in the Asia-Pacific region**

*Dr Timothy Robertson, Associate Professor, and Dr Dani Barrington, Lecturer, University of Western Australia, Yvonne Tam, Senior Research Associate, Hannah Tong, Research Associate, and Dr Neff Walker, Senior Scientist, Johns Hopkins University*

In the Asia-Pacific region, child and maternal mortality remain unacceptably high. Although basic life-saving interventions exist for most causes of child and maternal death, coverage of these

interventions is still low, resulting in an estimated 1.76 million under-five child deaths in 2020 and 78,900 maternal deaths in 2017 across the region. In this paper, we estimate the potential lives saved by increasing coverage of 74 reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health and nutrition interventions in 19 countries that have historically been the focus of Australia's development program. We use the Lives Saved Tool (LiST), a well-known model for estimating changes in mortality from changes in intervention coverage and nutrition status, with baseline data from demographic health and multiple indicator cluster household surveys. We estimate what might be possible by achieving universal coverage of the 74 interventions and compare the impact of scaling-up each individual intervention. Our analysis shows that by increasing coverage of common health and nutrition interventions from current levels to 90%, 154,000 child lives could be saved per year in the 19 countries, equivalent to a 39% reduction in child mortality in those countries. The largest gains would come from increasing full supportive care for prematurity, oral antibiotics for pneumonia, and oral rehydration solution for diarrhoea, although the interventions that would save the most lives vary by country. Increasing demand for and access to high-quality obstetric care could save 8,600 maternal lives per year, equal to a 37% reduction in maternal mortality. Investments in nutrition and WASH could avert 5.44 million cases of stunting, with associated gains in child development, schooling, and lifetime earning potential. While achieving universal health coverage will take substantial investment from many actors, these findings offer insight into how Australia might best direct its development assistance to improve child and maternal health in the region.

#### **Public health law training programs: a powerful way to support sustainable development**

*Hayley Jones, Director, and Daiana Buresova, Regional Manager for the Pacific, McCabe Centre for Law & Cancer*

Cancer and other non-communicable diseases (NCDs or chronic diseases) — such as cardiovascular disease, chronic respiratory diseases, and diabetes — are responsible for over 70% of all deaths globally, and stop millions of others from living healthy and prosperous lives. Beyond their impact on health, NCDs cost people a fortune in expensive treatments and lost wages, forcing millions of families into poverty. This puts pressure on societies, particularly in low-and middle-income countries, where the

majority of NCD-related deaths occur. And COVID-19 has only exacerbated these inequalities.

Tackling NCDs is therefore an urgent development priority which requires concerted global action. Law is one of the most influential enablers of health and sustainable development — and one of the most cost-effective tools available to governments to protect and promote the health of their people. Strengthening capacity for effective public health law and policy-making is therefore a wise investment, but how can it be done well?

Since launching in 2014, the McCabe Centre for Law & Cancer's International Legal Training Program has led to real world impact. The flagship three-week, in-person training and online courses have helped more than 270 government lawyers and policymakers from 77 low- and middle-income countries build capacity to develop and defend laws that target NCDs.

We will share lessons learned from our experience in developing and delivering the course, which would be broadly relevant for capacity-building in public health and development. We will outline some critical factors for impactful capacity-building and knowledge-exchange programs across countries and cultures. We will highlight success stories of alumni who have achieved positive change in public health laws, with projects so far completed by participants contributing to at least 22 countries having adopted laws or regulations on NCD risk factors and seven countries successfully defending against legal challenges by the tobacco industry.

### **Evaluation of supportive supervision to improve the quality of primary health care in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu**

*Katherine Gilbert, Head of Health Systems, and Alison Macintyre, Senior Technical Advisor, Nossal Institute for Global Health, Dr Masoud Mohammednezhad, Lecturer, and Dr Gade Waqa, Lecturer, Fiji National University, Cormac Mercer, Technical Advisor, Fleur Smith, Senior Technical Advisor, and Clare Strachan, Principal Advisor, Nossal Institute for Global Health, Wendy Erasmus, Chief of Health, UNICEF Tanzania, Milysia Mereana Tubuna, Planning, Monitoring and Reporting Officer, UNICEF Pacific, Ali Safarnejad, Research and Evaluation Specialist, UNICEF Pacific and PNG*

Recent approaches to improving quality of care, both globally and in the Pacific, emphasise the need to take a systems perspective. We evaluated efforts by

UNICEF Pacific to support Ministries of Health (MoH) in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu to improve the quality of primary health care (PHC) through supportive supervision. We explored the effectiveness and sustainability of the approach in remote and rural settings, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and longer-term stressors associated with under-investment in PHC.

The evaluation combined a formative and summative lens and used a non-experimental, mixed methods design to assess the strategy's effectiveness and sustainability. Data were collected between September and December 2021 and included a document review; 87 surveys with health workers; and interviews with 26 UNICEF staff, MoH and development partners, 12 district or provincial health officials, and 48 health workers at the PHC level. Interview and secondary qualitative data were analysed using a framework analysis and corroborated with survey data analysed using simple descriptive statistical methods.

Good emerging evidence indicates that the approach was effective at improving supervisor and health worker relationships, which motivated health workers to take steps within their sphere of influence to improve quality. Constraints across human resources, financing and transport need to be addressed to make larger gains in improving quality. These broader health system issues were highlighted in the checklists completed during supportive supervision, but strategies are needed to promote accountability at the local, sub-national or national level to respond to issues raised and to use the checklists to inform resource allocation. Evidence from Kiribati also highlighted the role community governance mechanisms can play in increasing accountability for change. While community transmission of COVID-19 was limited in each country before 2022, the pandemic impacted implementation, as well as government financing and provision of PHC services.

### **Panel 4a – Great Debate: ‘geopolitical competition is good for aid’**

Two teams comprising participants from Australia and the region will debate whether the renewed emphasis on aid and development that is accompanying intensified strategic competition can deliver for developing countries in the Indo-Pacific and their communities.

*Chair: Stephen Dziedzic, ABC News Foreign Affairs (Asia Pacific) reporter*

## Panel 4b – Monitoring, evaluation, and learning: portfolios, organisations and individuals

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### Portfolios of development options: an approach to strategic ODA investments

*Diastika Rahwidiati, Strategic Innovation Designer, Luca Gatti, Founder and Director, CHÔRA Foundation*

The added value of programs funded by Official Development Assistance (ODA), especially in middle-income countries, is to support learning and adaptation whilst hedging the risks of experimentation, so that successful solutions can be implemented at scale by key actors within the recipient country. This need to explore, test, and learn from situated solutions is especially pertinent as countries deal with the effects of COVID-19 and move towards socioeconomic recovery. These recovery efforts are essentially efforts to transform systems, which necessitate governments and development partners to engage with the complexity of social systems and the inherent uncertainty.

Within this context, one of the key issues that development organisations grapple with is how to engage with a complex system and strategically allocate resources in order for their investments to have a meaningful positive effect. This paper posits that designing, activating and dynamically managing portfolios of development options is an effective approach to ensure the systemic impact of ODA investments. This approach enables organisations to engage with a complex system to determine where investments should be positioned and what form activities and assets should have in order to generate learning and induce positive effects.

Options here are learning devices that allow organisations to engage with a key structural element of a system. Managing a range of coherent options as a portfolio provides development organisations with the capability to learn, make sense, and extract layered insights from the entirety of their engagement with a particular system. This paper provides an overview of experiential learning from the application of this approach in more than 20 countries. Based on these learnings, this paper explains how leveraging portfolios of development options to enhance the effectiveness of ODA investments can be used as an approach to the formation of country-level strategies for development organisations.

### The big picture versus the nitty gritty: how portfolio-level impact measurement is integral to evidence-based decision making by funders

*Courtney Roberts, Managing Director, Moonshot Global*

In humanitarian and development assistance, interventions are most often planned through some combination of top-down and bottom-up design processes, including but not limited to problem/theory of change and assumptions definition, assessment of stakeholders and the environment, and risk assessment. Funders often support this design process, develop detailed project implementation guidance (e.g., terms of reference) which is shared with entities potentially capable of delivering expected outcomes, and award a project implementation contract. Projects are monitored and evaluated over the course of implementation. Funders sometimes take the opportunity to call for a more comprehensive review of results across projects in the same country or region or that focus on related projects. This is a programmatic review. However, rarely do funders review a portfolio, i.e., a group of programs that can be aggregated based on their linkage to an overarching, time-bound strategy and can include a collection of projects that pursue a variety of interventions all aligned to similar ultimate goals.

This paper reviews how portfolio-level impact measurement is integral to evidence-based decision making by funders and discusses the myriad benefits brought by it. The case is made by exploring two applications of the portfolio-level impact management: DFAT Australia's Blended Finance Learning Program and the US Agency for International Development's Grand Challenges portfolio-level results framework and tools initiative. The premier benefits of surfacing adaptations needed in the near term and learning that can be incorporated into the design of future programs are discussed in detail. Measurement frameworks that emerged from the portfolio-level impact measurement work to evaluate the effects of cross-cutting issues such as partnerships, gender and influence, and cost also are described. Observations are made about why portfolio-level impact measurement is particularly relevant to review results of private-sector-focused humanitarian and development assistance interventions.

## **A qualitative comparative analysis (QCA) of research for development effectiveness: evaluation insights and organisational lessons**

*Professor Jeroen van der Heijden, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand School of Regulation and Global Governance, Bethany Davies, Research Manager for Portfolio Planning and Impact Evaluation, Ruby Annand-Jones, former Research Officer, and Kathryn Allan, former Research Officer, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, and PhD Candidate, Australian National University, Nicola Vernon, independent researcher*

The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) used QCA as a meta-evaluation tool in a participatory, expert-led evaluation that aimed to synthesise key development effectiveness principles and support an organisational change agenda.

The study interrogated over 70 projects from a portfolio of research commissioned between 1994 and 2015 in order to address the question: what elements of the ACIAR model in practice are associated with the most successful project outputs and enduring outcomes in different contexts?

The methods allowed ACIAR to interrogate the organisational approach to project design and implementation and how these related to outcomes in areas of policy, innovation systems, socioeconomics, natural resource management, and the advancement of science.

Still seen as a somewhat novel approach to evaluation, the ACIAR experience indicates that it has great potential to synthesise rich qualitative and quantitative data and identify key operating principles from complex causal relationships across diverse contexts.

The QCA study also presented ACIAR an opportunity to document, test and challenge their own organisational assumptions. A combination of organisational capacity building, internal engagement and stakeholder consultation throughout the evaluation has facilitated the translation of evaluation findings into almost immediate impact on organisational management.

This paper will be an opportunity to share development effectiveness insights from the study and reflections on the application of QCA as an evaluation method, drawing on the perspectives of both the principal evaluator and the commissioning organisation.

## **How international development volunteering shapes volunteers' personal and professional trajectories: evidence from a longitudinal field study of Australian Volunteer Program participants**

*Dr Anthony Fee, Senior Lecturer, University of Technology Sydney*

We present results of a three-year longitudinal study investigating the personal and professional changes experienced by international development volunteers through the Australian Volunteers Program. Forty-nine respondents from diverse backgrounds and assigned to 16 nations in Asia and the Pacific were interviewed at three points: prior to commencing their assignment (T1), at the end of their assignment (T2), and again 12 months later (T3).

Volunteers across a range of professions and career stages emerged with positive personal, cultural and professional outcomes from which many had derived tangible benefits at T3. Nonetheless, positive outcomes were unevenly dispersed. Small numbers of respondents struggled with challenging repatriations, personal upheaval, and career setbacks — mostly associated with forced repatriations due to COVID-19.

This paper highlights two key outcomes. First, volunteers derived ongoing benefits from new social networks, especially with fellow volunteers, which are ballasted by shared values and experiences. These networks serve as both outcomes and propellants of meaningful ongoing change, impacting, for instance, changed patterns of civic engagement and 'prosocial career transitions' among some respondents. Second, many volunteers gained a greater sense of 'global literacy' and developed valuable cultural competencies. Some (not all) respondents also emerged more attuned to their positionality and privilege. Others established ongoing connections and knowledge sharing relationships with host communities which offer continuing opportunities for volunteers to unlearn colonial forms of development while also working for change that is contextually relevant; an outcome at odds with critiques that volunteering reinforces inequality, negative stereotypes and neo-colonial attitudes. The results have implications for other people-to-people centred approaches to capacity strengthening.

## Panel 4c – Development architecture, concessional financing, and sustainability in an era of crises

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The post-COVID-19 global economic development situation is marked by crises in health, climate, security, risk of debt default, and strategic and technological impediments and has led to reviews of existing aid and financing options and their effectiveness in low-income countries. The panelists will present their take on the three challenges to the sustainability of public financial management reforms: ensuring sufficient domestic resource mobilisation to achieve development goals, maintaining debt sustainability when revenues fall short, and spending in a targeted and transparent way.

*Chair: Jeff Singer, Senior Vice President, International Development, Nathan Associates*

### Panelists

*Andrew Oaeko, Secretary of Treasury, Government of Papua New Guinea*

*Dr Uzma Ashraf Barton, Principal Associate, Nathan Associates*

*Alicia Robinson-Morgan, Managing Director, Africa, US Millennium Challenge Corporation*

*Timothy Robinson, Principal Economist, Nathan Associates*

## Panel 4d – Women’s economic empowerment in Southeast Asia

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### Models for women’s economic empowerment in Southeast Asia: lessons from seven years of Investing in Women

*Andrew Rowell, Systems Strengthening Technical Lead, and Dr Julia Newton-Howes, Chief Executive Officer, Investing in Women*

The past ten years has seen elevated emphasis in Australian aid on the role of the private sector in development, and in promoting gender equality. Bringing these themes together, DFAT launched the Investing in Women program (IW) in 2016 as a major economic growth initiative supporting women’s economic participation and empowerment in Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines and Vietnam.

With the program now in its final year, it is timely to present evidence of impact and lessons from implementation, and share models of successful

approaches to support future efforts in the region around increasing women’s economic opportunities. These are drawn from a range of research, surveys and analysis undertaken to inform program directions.

This session will share results and insights from different approaches employed by IW. These include:

- catalysing increased availability of capital for women-owned/led small and medium enterprises by engaging investment partners through a blended finance model
- building the gender lens investing ecosystem
- building business coalitions as local actors to promote workplace gender equality
- engaging companies in data-driven gender assessment processes, to provide the evidence to inform targeted workplace gender equality initiatives
- encouraging business engagement on gender through influencing regimes of corporate sustainability reporting
- supporting diverse groups as local gender equality advocates, to champion positive approaches to women’s and men’s roles in the workforce and at home
- use of social media campaigns targeting urban millennials’ attitudes and behaviour around gender equality.

Discussion will explore issues around the intersection of gender norms and the private sector across target countries; private sector appetite for workplace gender equality initiatives; growing momentum in gender-lens investing; working with early adopters of change to profile their experience and extend influence to others with potential to change behaviour; and the challenges and opportunities presented by disruptions from the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Engaging with the private sector for women’s economic empowerment: lessons learnt from Vietnam

*Phuong Nguyen, PhD candidate, Massey University*

The research aims to interrogate a donor-private sector partnership approach to economically empower ethnic minority women in Vietnam. It explores this approach’s strengths, limitations, and challenges and whether women are empowered through participating in agricultural and tourism value chains. This paper draws on qualitative research on three business cases in which an Australian aid program collaborates with micro and



small enterprises to provide ethnic minority women with better access to the market to improve their incomes. Data collection took place in March and April 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic using local research assistants. A total of 48 structured in-depth interviews and five focus group discussions were conducted with the participation of 62 ethnic minority women and 31 men. The research found that partnering and collaborating with the private sector could create jobs and improve incomes for ethnic minority women. However, business partners were more interested in linking women's economic empowerment with productivity and efficiency. They had no expertise and commitment to address broader issues related to women's empowerment. Thus, women did not always benefit from their engagement with businesses due to unfavourable social norms in patriarchal societies impeding their access to resources and participation in economic, social, and political activities.

The research confirms that the instrumentalist approach to women's economic empowerment, which focuses solely on providing training and access to productive resources for market integration, was insufficient to empower women. Instead, it recommends a holistic donor-private sector partnership with the involvement and participation of civil society organisations (CSOs), NGOs, and local governments to address unequal structures and barriers to women's participation, and bring transformative agency outcomes for women. These research findings will help determine how development agencies can better engage with the private sector to support ethnic minority women's empowerment.

### **Supporting women to benefit from bilateral trade**

*Amanda Robbins, Managing Director, Equity Economics and Development Partners*

Women stand to be both beneficiaries and losers from trade and investment reforms. Trade and investment reform has been found to flow through to women's employment and incomes in a range of positive ways. Globally engaged firms are larger, more productive, more capital intensive and pay higher wages than domestic firms. Women and people with a disability employed by companies who trade get access to training and technology otherwise unavailable to them. As trade increases in sectors such as textiles, garments and tourism, job opportunities for women expand.

However, there are also risks which exist for women linked to trade and investment reform. Women

working at smaller, non-exporting firms and SMEs may be disadvantaged, as larger more competitive firms enter the market. This has implications for women as, according to the International Trade Centre, only 15% of exporting firms are led by women, though 40% of SMEs worldwide are women-owned businesses. Women are also more likely to experience job insecurity, with some countries demonstrating gross job reallocation is larger for women than men, suggesting women are subject to a more volatile employment status.

This presentation will share emerging research and lessons learnt on maximising the benefits of the Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (IA-CEPA ECP) or Katalis, for women. Katalis has mainstreamed gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) across three pillars, of improving market access, increasing two-way trade and investment and promoting inclusive economic growth, alongside the implementation of targeted GEDSI initiatives.

Additionally, the presentation will share original data and qualitative analysis of gender and trade trends across services, agriculture and advanced manufacturing in Australia and Indonesia, to catalyse further research and consideration on the intersection of gender and bilateral trade and investment reforms.

## **Panel 4e – Local leadership and change: perspectives from Indonesia and the Pacific**

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The idea that development requires the leadership of local actors working collectively to pursue social change is now well-accepted within the international development community. But leadership still tends to be understood within Western frameworks. In this panel, we draw on examples from Indonesia and the Pacific to examine how local actors understand and practice leadership and why it is important for donors to provide space for these actors to lead change processes in locally legitimate ways, even if this looks different to how things are done in the West.

*Chair: Joanne Choe, Head of Program Quality and Gender, DT-Global Asia Pacific*

### **Panelists**

*Dr Elisabeth Jackson, Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe University,*

*Dr Mema Motusaga, Chief Executive Officer,  
Ministry of Women, Community and Social  
Development, Government of Samoa*

*Dr Aidan Craney, Senior Research Fellow, Institute  
for Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe  
University*

*Dr Gordon Nanau, Senior Lecturer, Politics and  
International Affairs, University of the South Pacific*

*Marlene Delisa, Assistant Program Manager,  
Justice Accountability and Subnational Programs,  
Australian High Commission, Papua New Guinea*

*Tony Hiriasia, PhD candidate, University of the  
South Pacific*

## **Panel 4f – Pacific labour mobility: impact and inclusion**

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### **The long-term PALM scheme triple win during the COVID-19 pandemic**

*Carli Shilito, Assistant Secretary, Pacific Labour  
Policy and Engagement, Office of the Pacific,  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade*

Labour mobility schemes are often described as creating a ‘triple win’ based on their ability to produce positive economic impacts for workers, sending countries and receiving countries. However, if policy settings and implementation arrangements do not respond to complex implementation challenges, these triple wins are never guaranteed. Using a model created by the Pacific Labour Facility (PLF), we estimate the financial impacts of the triple win for the long-term stream of the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme. The PLF model draws on program data including a cost of living survey, worker surveys, monthly worker arrival data and secondary data provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The positive impacts estimated by the model include industry value added, wages earned, taxes paid, contributions to regional communities in Australia as well as remittances sent to the Pacific and Timor-Leste. The model also demonstrates that the scheme is tax positive to the Australian government, with worker income tax, superannuation tax, and employer corporate taxes exceeding the cost of the Australian government’s investment.

Using program monitoring, evaluation and research data, we will highlight how scheme policy settings and PALM partners responded to implementation challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic to

maintain and amplify this triple win. This includes how border closures and the retrenchment of long-term PALM workers in early 2020 required extensive worker redeployments to keep workers working and remitting money back home. We will also describe how Pacific and Australian stakeholders in 2021 worked in partnership to significantly expand the scheme in despite of lockdowns, travel restrictions and resource constraints. Our presentation will conclude with some reflections on the effectiveness of these policy and implementation settings during the pandemic to create the triple win.

### **Safety and wellbeing of Pacific workers in Australia**

*Lindy Kanan, Senior Research Officer, and Dr Judy  
Putt, Senior Research Fellow, Australian National  
University*

While the Australian government spends millions of dollars facilitating arrangements for Pacific Islanders to work in Australia under the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme, contractual arrangements dictate that responsibility for the welfare of those workers lies with their Australian employer.

Our research project investigated how these arrangements are playing out, what factors influence the safety and wellbeing of PALM workers, and how PALM workers seek help when they experience problems. We spoke to employers, labour hire companies, Pacific workers, Pacific diaspora and community groups to understand the key issues relating to safety and wellbeing, and also the barriers that workers face in accessing appropriate support. We also surveyed over 300 PALM workers and program stakeholders.

The research was designed around a series of community forums called ‘Regional Accelerator Forums’ that have been held across Australia to bring together stakeholders that form a ‘community of care’ for workers in regional areas. Our study focussed on five locations: Cairns and Caboolture in Queensland, Wagga Wagga and Tamworth in New South Wales and Naracoorte in South Australia.

The PALM scheme is a unique aid project, taking place on Australian soil and involving thousands of men and women from the Pacific and Timor Leste, which in turn impacts their families and communities. In this session we present the findings of our research and argue that as the PALM scheme continues to grow and evolve, more can be done to ensure that participants are safe and well.

## **The gendered and social impacts of labour mobility in the Pacific**

*Dr Kirstie Petrou, Social Protection & Jobs Consultant, Ursula Casabonne, Consultant, Dr Dung Doan, Social Protection Economist, and Dr Matthew Dornan, Senior Economist, World Bank*

For more than a decade, Pacific labour mobility schemes have provided opportunities for tens of thousands of Pacific Islanders to work and earn incomes in Australia and New Zealand. Although their economic impacts have been well documented, the social impacts of these schemes on sending households and communities remain poorly understood. There is thus a strong demand from sending governments to better understand and manage the social impacts of labour mobility. This mixed methods research draws upon data collected via qualitative interviews and quantitative surveys with workers, their families and communities in rural and urban areas of Kiribati, Tonga and Vanuatu, to examine the social and gendered impacts of the labour mobility schemes on these communities. The findings from this study will inform policy recommendations to mitigate the negative impacts of participation in labour mobility and enhance their positive impacts.

### **Labour mobility, community perceptions and gender norms**

*Dr Ryan Edwards, Deputy Director and Senior Policy Fellow, Development Policy Centre, Australian National University*

Labour mobility in Tonga is widespread, but the labour mobility schemes Tongans use have become controversial. However, there has been little analysis so far of what Tongans themselves think of these schemes. We analyse a recent migration survey of Tongan households and report on the mostly positive broader community perceptions of the schemes in Tonga, which in general do not differ by households' participation status. We also investigate how participation in labour mobility affects gender norms in migrant versus non-migrant households. We find evidence of a small but positive improvement in gender norms overall, and that these changes tend to be driven by Seasonal Worker Programme rather than Recognised Seasonal Employer workers. Contrary to popular beliefs, most households report an improvement in marital relations during migration,

## **Panel 5a – The new debt crisis?**

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COVID-19, climate change and the food and energy crisis are compounding fiscal and debt pressures in low and middle-income countries in Australia's region. This panel will explore the evolving debt situation in Sri Lanka, Laos, and the Pacific, responses from international financial institutions, private lenders and donors, and implications for the regional development finance landscape.

*Chair: Roland Rajah, Lead Economist and Director, Indo-Pacific Development Centre, Lowy Institute*

### **Panelists**

*Yolani Fernando, Institute of Development Studies, UK*

*Associate Professor Keith Barney, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University*

*Dr Neelesh Gounder, Senior Lecturer & Deputy Head (Research), School of Accounting Finance and Economics, University of the South Pacific*

## **Panel 5b – Disability inclusive development: new research and practice insights**

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### **Mainstreaming disability issues in prison reform work: experiences and lessons-learned from the Australia Indonesia Partnership for Justice**

*Mohamad Doddy Kusadrianto, Director, Law Program, The Asia Foundation Indonesia, Eko Riyadi, Director, Center for Human Rights Studies of Islamic University of Indonesia*

Indonesia's prisons currently have more than 270,000 inmates while the capacity is only for around 130,000 inmates. Unfortunately, there is no real data on the total number of inmates with disability: the unofficial figure from Directorate General of Corrections (DGC) indicates that there are around 2,000 inmates identified with physical disabilities. However, the actual figure can be higher especially if it includes those with psychosocial issues.

The deliberation of Law on the Rights of People with Disabilities (PwDs) in 2016 (Law No.8/2016) provides an opportunity for the Indonesian corrections system to start including PwDs as part of vulnerable groups in the Indonesian prison system in addition to women and children. Unfortunately, most corrections officials are still not familiar with disability issues and how to mainstream this into their daily work. An Australia Indonesia Partnership for Justice 2 (AIPJ2)

and The Asia Foundation (TAF) supported baseline study in 2018 identified that, in addition to the lack of disability friendly infrastructure in prisons, the knowledge and understanding of prison officials should be further improved.

This paper will share the experience, challenges and lesson learned from AIPJ2 support through TAF and the Center for Human Rights Studies of Islamic University of Indonesia in promoting and mainstreaming disability issues in the context of Indonesian prison reform program.

### **The case for disability inclusion in economic development: value for money evaluation of gender and disability inclusive economic development project in Sri Lanka**

*Dr Saba Mebrahtu Habte, Evidence Building Advisor, Viktoria Midelaury, ANCP Disability Advisor, World Vision Australia, Prabani Perera, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Lead, World Vision Sri Lanka*

The costs of excluding people with disabilities from social services are high due to the loss of productivity and additional spending on disability programs, while the benefits of enhancing economic participation of people with disabilities include increased household income, among other societal benefits. Evidence, however, is limited on the program costs of disability inclusive livelihood programs designed in line with the Development for All Strategy for strengthening disability-inclusive development in Australia's aid program (2015-2020; extended to 2021) and the benefits to people with disabilities.

A value for money assessment of disability inclusion for World Vision's Gender and Disability Inclusive Economic Development (iLIVE) project in Sri Lanka was conducted in April-November 2021, with the aim to fill evidence gaps and generate recommendations for future disability inclusion programming. iLIVE used a 'twin-track' approach to gender and disability inclusion within local agricultural value chains by addressing barriers for women and people with disabilities. The findings showed that iLIVE led to transformative and significant improvements in the lives of people with disabilities. It achieved: 14% disability inclusion – 507% higher than the 2% participation rates of people with disabilities shown in meta-analysis of ANCP supported projects at the time of the evaluation; 22% of total project spend, with only a marginal increase in cost per project participant of 12.6%; and, 1:3.8 return on investment (ROI) for people with disabilities.

A twin-track approach, with adequate budget allocation, was shown, through baseline and endline analysis of income, to dramatically increase the engagement of and benefits to people with disabilities. Given that people with disabilities are generally the most vulnerable in the community, and an ROI of 1:3.8, this is money well spent. This approach is recommended for replication and expansion, drawing from existing good practices and lessons.

### **Rethinking disability data in humanitarian shelter response**

*Dr Alex Robinson, Head Disability Inclusion and Rehabilitation, Nossal Institute for Global Health, Leanne Marshall, Shelter Lead, International Programs, Australian Red Cross*

Since the establishment of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics over 20 years ago awareness of the need for disability data in humanitarian response has increased. Accurate data facilitates targeting, the identification of needs and priorities, adaptation to programming, the measurement of equity and impact, and the use of the Washington Group questions are standard recommendations in disability inclusive humanitarian standards and guidance.

While the Washington Group questions have their place, discussions of disability data in humanitarian action have not progressed much further. To borrow from Abraham Maslow: if you only have a hammer, every (data) problem starts to look like a nail. This paper presents findings from a study aimed at moving discussions of disability data in humanitarian action forward.

The study was in collaboration with members of the Global Shelter Cluster to understand the disability data needs of shelter professionals. Shelter experts with a professional interest in disability inclusion took part in a Delphi process that included an iterative series of questions to understand use of disability data, entry points for improving the use of data, challenges, and future pathways.

Our findings suggest guidance on disability data, and disability inclusion more broadly, is lagging behind the needs of increasingly specialised humanitarian actors. There is a need for more sector and activity specific guidance and advisories on the collection and application of disability related data. This will require upskilling of disability and shelter and settlement stakeholders, particularly at the national and sub-national levels where potential influence was considered greater. At the same time, institutional barriers within the shelter sector itself remain a barrier to change.

## Panel 5c – Food security and rural development

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### **The business of food security in Indonesia: working with the private sector to increase smallholder productivity**

*Nina Fitzsimons, Chief Executive Officer, Australia Indonesia Partnership for Promoting Rural Incomes through Support for Markets in Agriculture*

Food security in Indonesia, Southeast Asia's largest economy and agricultural producer, is a critical issue. Of the more than 270 million people who live in the archipelago, almost 23 million are unable to meet their dietary requirements, and 31% of children under 5 are stunted.

In rural Indonesia, where almost one-fifth of farming families live below the national poverty line, food security is a particular challenge. Low productivity is a result of structural problems in the agricultural sector – including small landholding, low quality inputs, lack of services and technology, and under-developed marketing ability – and is compounded by the threat of climate change in a country where 47 million people live in areas that are less than ten meters above the average sea level.

Agricultural development programs can deliver outstanding outcomes at scale in poverty alleviation, addressing food insecurity, and building market resilience by simply engaging the private sector. PRISMA (the Australia-Indonesia Partnership for Promoting Rural Incomes through Support for Markets in Agriculture) operates in some of Indonesia's poorest areas and has successfully changed the way the private sector does their business so more than 1.5 million poor farming households have increased their crop and livestock productivity and incomes.

To shore up food supply and mitigate climate risk, PRISMA conducts comprehensive market analysis to identify market constraints in commodity sectors, and then designs and pitches business models to the private sector to remove these roadblocks. PRISMA targets market changes that grow innovation over the long-term, can increase farmer incomes, and build market resilience.

Using research and case studies on the beef and mung bean sector, PRISMA will provide an overview of the model, learnings and impacts of a market systems approach in action.

### **Transforming agri-food systems to promote inclusion, women's economic empowerment and climate resilience: evidence and lessons from the Asia-Pacific**

*Ellie Wong, Economic Empowerment Manager, and Diana Johannis, Inclusive Economic Development Advisor, World Vision Australia, Holly Krueger, Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) expert, Manager Partner, Canopy Lab*

The global food crisis, climate change and the impact of COVID-19 are threatening the world's progress towards poverty reduction. There is a growing consensus that aid programs working on agrifood systems need to promote inclusion, gender equality and climate resilience outcomes. But how can we balance these in practice?

The world's population is expected to grow to almost 10 billion by 2050, boosting agricultural demand for 60% more food, putting a significant strain on environmental systems. Agriculture is the main source of food and income for most of the world's poor and food-insecure people, with women playing an important role as in agriculture and as caregivers.

This session will present findings from World Vision Australia's meta-analysis of Australian NGO Cooperation (ANCP) working on agrifood systems, as well as two case studies. The Nutrition Sensitive Value Chains for Smallholder Farmers (NSVC) project in Bangladesh prioritised empowering women in vegetables, rice and maize, while integrating nutrition and gender transformative activities. The More Income For Farmers in Eastern Indonesia (MORINGA) project worked in maize, vegetables, and pilinut, with specific climate smart interventions such as promoting bio-inputs (fertiliser) to reduce food waste and tree planting for sustainable forests.

The session will explore:

- How can we incentivise agrifood system actors to promote inclusive and climate smart business models and practices?
- How can we accelerate inclusion, women's economic empowerment and nutrition outcomes for rural and vulnerable households?
- What are the key challenges and lessons with balancing different outcomes linked to growth, inclusion, and climate resilience?

## **Participation and agency in school garden food security interventions: comparing case studies from Kenya and Papua New Guinea**

*Graham J. Walker and Amy Vos, Australian National University, Kenneth Monjero, Fun and Education Global Network, Trudie Sikas-Iha, Morobe School Gardens Project, Robyn G. Alders, Honorary Professor, Australian National University*

Here we investigate the establishment and initial operations of school garden projects in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) — Kenya and Papua New Guinea (PNG) — through a lens of engagement, participation, and stakeholder agency. The projects are intersectional interventions contributing to community development including education, health and nutrition, food security, livelihoods, career development and life skills. We focus on gardens' establishment phases where engagement between donors, implementing agencies and schools determines garden governance and organisational and educational cultures. While similar projects, establishment engagement processes in each country were distinct, providing insights for those using school gardens as interventions in LMICs.

Following a synthesis of the literature around school gardens, the LMIC contexts, and models of participation related to engagement between donors, implementing agencies and schools — including youth participation — we present two case studies based on narrative interviews with in-country project managers. These narratives reveal distinct typologies of participation and engagement: Kenya employed a bottom-up approach, whereas PNG was top-down, with student participation and agency prominent in Kenya but not in PNG. These factors appear to have influenced school and student ownership and motivation towards the gardens. Results are interpreted using two theoretical models of public engagement and youth participation which show the influence of changing goals and priorities in engagement processes and outcomes, the cultural nuance of student participation, and how wider contextual factors such as COVID-19 can affect engagement and outcomes.

We conclude with recommendations, in particular engaging with all stakeholders including students from the beginning regardless of the primacy of different goals over time, the importance of student agency for ownership and motivation, the value of community engagement and traditional knowledge, methods to enhance classroom-specific cultural aspects while respecting wider cultural norms, and

the value of school gardens to encourage student-centred teaching methods and student agency more broadly.

## **Exploring the potential for carbon trading in Papua New Guinea's smallholder coffee sector: institutional and governance considerations**

*Ellis Mackenzie, Research Consultant, Dr Matthew Allen, Principal Consultant (Research), and Isabel Bremner, Intern, Sustineo, Dr Rachel Friedman, Postdoctoral Fellow, and Dr Steven Crimp, Research Fellow, ANU Institute for Climate, Energy, and Disaster Solutions*

Coffee is a vitally important agroforestry cash crop in Papua New Guinea (PNG), where it directly or indirectly supports the livelihoods of over half the population, the majority of whom reside in rural areas. Despite this, PNG's coffee industry has seen declining productivity and quality over the last four decades in the context of stagnant coffee prices and minimal government extension services. Increasing the carbon stored in coffee farming systems through improved farm management practices, and earning credits from this sequestration, has the potential to increase incomes from coffee and support positive social and environmental benefits, including climate change resilience and community development.

This paper presents collaborative research conducted by Sustineo and the ANU Institute for Climate, Energy and Disaster (ICEDS) as part of a DFAT-funded project investigating the potential for carbon sequestration and trading in PNG's smallholder coffee sector. Specifically, the paper explores the governance and institutional requirements to successfully establish carbon trading initiatives in the sector. The research utilised a mixed-methods approach, comprising a desk study highlighting lessons learned from similar projects in other developing-country contexts, 30 semi-structured interviews including with key actors in PNG's coffee industry and international experts, and a stakeholder workshop. The research revealed strong interest in and opportunities for collaboration among public, private and civil society stakeholders for the development of carbon trading projects in the coffee sector. Significant challenges will need to be addressed, including deep-seated gender inequalities in coffee production, smallholder capacity constraints, and PNG's under-developed institutional environment for carbon trading. However, the unique features of PNG's coffee industry — including relatively stable and legible land tenure arrangements, well-established supply

chains, and existing capacity support associated with private sector and NGO-driven speciality coffee market development activities — present significant opportunities for the introduction of carbon trading initiatives in PNG's smallholder coffee sector.

## **Panel 5d – Gender equality as transformative development and humanitarian practice**

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### **Women's rights in Timor-Leste after independence, including economic inequality, political representation, domestic violence and autonomy**

*Berta Antonieta Tilman Pereira, Researcher, feminist, and activist, Timor-Leste*

20 May 2022 marked the twentieth year of independence for Timor-Leste. Women have come far since independence, including successfully reaching the 30% quota in parliament and political parties. In Dili, women enjoy freedoms that were unheard of in the Indonesian and Portuguese period, including education. Yet women still face difficulties and inequality. Women remain primary caregivers, but it is work that is not valued. Post-independence trauma has led to high rates of domestic violence and police brutality. Economic equality remains elusive, and despite high levels of participation in the parliament, men continue to make the important decisions at all levels. In the family setting, women lose their autonomy and are not allowed to own land, and remain vulnerable economically. Grassroots organisations and cooperatives, such as the handicraft cooperative Boneka Atauro, are proving to be examples of successful women's empowerment. Along with mental health initiatives and counselling for men, they are combatting gender inequality in Timor-Leste.

### **Walking our talk – journey towards gender justice**

*Anila Schroers, Strategic Lead Gender Justice, Oxfam Australia*

At Oxfam, we recognise that women, men, people with disability and SOGIESC communities get exposed differently to risks and uncertainties and are affected differently by them. A complex web of interrelated 'identities' (determined by people's race, gender, socioeconomic class, ethnicity, sexual orientation, etc) define how people experience vulnerability, power and privilege that is unique to them. These vulnerabilities overlap, intersect, are complex and multi-dimensional.

Over the last six years, Oxfam Australia has been on a journey of developing a gender-just resource called Social and Economic Empowerment Dialogue (SEED) that explores and unpacks interdependencies between gender, inclusion, economic contexts and natural resource use. SEED engages organisations, local partners and communities in a series of structured discussions and action planning to facilitate a deeper understanding of their specific socio-cultural contexts and vulnerabilities to enable self-directed change.

It is known that economic initiatives can make women even more vulnerable, unless accompanied with an intentional approach that addresses the social and relational aspect of women's lives. SEED is a consolidation of tools and activities from sources that are both internal and external to Oxfam, brought together in a sequence that enables stakeholders to build a holistic picture of 'economic activity' that includes the full range of women's work, including the scope and diversity of activities necessary for wellbeing and survival in communities.

SEED has been co-created as an iterative, experiential learning process alongside Oxfam teams and partners in Vanuatu, Fiji and Timor Leste. In this paper we will share the SEED resource, as well as our co-learning journey with country partners in developing SEED. We will contribute to a collective learning on what has worked and what hasn't in the complex process of ensuring gender justice and unpacking taboo issues like power differentials within a community setting.

### **Gender equality as a transformative agenda**

*Dr Keren Winterford, Research Director, Jessica MacArthur, PhD Candidate, and Professor Juliet Willetts, Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney*

The development sector has a long-standing interest in strengthening gender equality, with various iterations in approach over past decades. The most recent is gender-transformative approaches, arising from a call to return to efforts to tackle structural inequalities and go beyond instrumentalist approaches to women's participation in aid and development. This paper identifies the key principles of gender-transformative approaches and provides practical insights from experiences of its application in diverse country and sectoral contexts.

Today's aid landscape highlights both the imperative and the opportunity to take a transformative focus. Every development program has gendered

outcomes, whether intentional or not. Policies and programs either reinforce and exacerbate existing gender inequalities and patriarchal norms or create change to realise the potential to move towards equality for all. Leaving behind ‘women’s empowerment’ which places the focus on ‘women’ as the actor that must change, this reorientated focus brings to the fore feminist principles and proactive engagement with systemic and structural change.

In this presentation we introduce five foundational principles of gender-transformative approaches distilled through applied research by the Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney. We apply this strengthened theoretical basis to clarify key signposts for action for donors, development practitioners, civil society organisations and academics. The presentation will provide examples of principles in practice such as within the gender-transformative social accountability and exploring change ‘QualKit’ which highlights the transformative potential of intentional motivations and transformative methodological practices. Gender-transformative climate change action highlights the critical focus on strategic gender interests and systemic change. The presentation will share examples of actionable ideas, available tools and guidance to promote gender transformative change in water and sanitation programs. These practical examples bring the principles to life and offer insights and debate on how best to enact gender-transformative approaches.

### **Women lead in emergencies**

*Sunita Maharjan, Gender and Protection Coordinator, CARE Bangladesh, Jill Aru, Program Manager Inclusive Governance, CARE International Vanuatu*

Under the Grand Bargain and with the drive towards greater localisation, how do we move from women being ‘beneficiaries’ of assistance to women leading effective humanitarian responses? CARE has aimed to address this challenge through piloting an innovative approach, ‘Women Lead in Emergencies’ (WLiE), which brings the best of development practice into humanitarian assistance. The WLiE approach enables women to lead the design and delivery of humanitarian responses through placing decision making and resources into women’s hands as a collective, whilst addressing patriarchal structures and norms that constrain women’s active participation.

CARE’s recent global study, spanning 15 locations across 6 countries, has found that WLiE has had

notable impacts on the lives of crisis affected women to engage in collective action to claim their rights, improve their living conditions, and influence humanitarian stakeholders. Through piloting this approach in diverse locations and different humanitarian crises, WLiE has sought to understand the challenges, barriers and enablers in different contexts, and to distil the key components essential to gender transformative humanitarian programming.

Work in the Oceania region has contributed to building CARE’s global WLiE approach, with the first WLiE pilot conducted in Tonga in response to Tropical Cyclone Gita, and the most recent WLiE project established in the Solomon Islands in partnership with Live and Learn Solomon Islands. This pilot and ongoing programming draws on over 30 years of experience in the Pacific working with civil society and government stakeholders on disaster risk reduction and emergency response. In our region, WLiE forms part of a broader approach to supporting women’s leadership humanitarian programming, which builds on 12 years of such experience in Vanuatu.

This presentation will share the findings of the global study on what does and does not work to enable women’s leadership in emergencies, with a case study from the Pacific region.

## **Panel 5e – Issues in service delivery**

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### **Results-based financing in education for subnational government and school administrators: conceptual framework and practical recommendations**

*Dr Arushi Terway, Senior Lead Research Associate, Private Sector Approaches, NORRAG*

This paper examines the use of RBF to incentivise actors and institutions in charge of education system management and administration at either local government (e.g., province, region, district) or school level (e.g., school directors, school management committees). While contributing to the global evidence base on RBF, authors provide lessons on the use of RBF at this understudied sub-national level, along with recommendations for strengthening the link between results and funding.

The study draws upon the implementation of over 50 RBF interventions in low-and middle-income countries and the experience of experts who have designed, implemented and/or researched RBF in education initiatives at the sub-national level.



The study applies the principal-agent theory – the framework used to explain the causal mechanisms at work in using RBF to improve education service delivery. The study finds, however, a divergence from the universal theory needed to explain the unique nature of sub-national actors' work. Based on this, the authors propose broadening the definition of RBF to view it as a set of reforms that align the objectives of multiple stakeholders by focusing on a common results framework, linking financing to results, strengthening results measurement, and giving autonomy to actors on how to achieve results. The study proposes to apply learnings from the performance-based budgeting literature so that RBF for sub-national administrators and managers in education systems can be implemented in a differentiated manner, depending on the contextual reality of each system. Researchers provide recommendations to consider when designing RBF interventions in education at the sub-national level. This study was commissioned by the World Bank's Results in Education for All Children (REACH) program.

### **Upgrading informal settlements in Indonesia: using discrete choice experiments to understand resident priorities and taxpayer support**

*Dr Rohan Sweeney, Senior Research Fellow, Monash University, Jumriani Ansar, Assistant Professor, Universitas Hasanuddin*

Upgrading urban informal settlements is a global development priority. Improving water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure is a key focus for development and public health practitioners. However, WASH-focused community upgrading projects often fail because they have not focused on the priorities of communities, nor understood community willingness to own responsibility for ongoing maintenance of new infrastructure.

We trialled the use of Discrete Choice Experiments (DCE) to better understand community upgrading priorities for residents of informal settlements in Indonesia. We measured the relative importance respondents place on standard WASH-project outcomes versus other potentially important community upgrading and economic development outcomes. We also investigated general Indonesian population support for public funding of such upgrading projects.

Discrete choice experiments (DCE) were conducted with a purposive sample of residents of informal settlements in Makassar, Indonesia (N=160) and a

general Indonesian population sample (N=1000). Literature, focus groups and pilot testing informed the DCE survey question design. Data were analysed using conditional and mixed logit models to identify the relative importance of different potential community upgrading outcomes.

Preliminary results show residents prioritise improving quality and reliability of water supply, and also embed economic development opportunities (e.g., paving roads and skills training), relative to flood prevention and preventing childhood diarrhoea – the primary aim of most WASH studies. The general population were supportive and believed government should be responsible for maintaining new infrastructure, not residents.

Despite the relative complexity of DCEs, both samples responded well, demonstrating this can be a valuable technique for understanding priorities and preference intensity for community development projects in a democratic and rigorous way. Respondents have provided unique insights that can help improve the design, implementation and sustainability of such projects. Importantly for Indonesian decision-makers, this project provides some evidence of broader population support for funding informal settlement upgrades.

### **COVID-19 and the risks and opportunities in addressing the Pacific region's NCD burden through law: a spotlight on Fiji and Papua New Guinea**

*Daiana Buresova, Regional Manager for the Pacific, McCabe Centre for Law & Cancer*

The law is a powerful tool to address the noncommunicable disease (NCD) crisis facing the Pacific region and this is reinforced by the Pacific NCD Roadmap and various global instruments. NCDs account for 70–75% of all deaths in the Pacific region. In Fiji, NCDs account for 80% of all deaths and this number is growing compared to Papua New Guinea (PNG) where 45% of male and 42% of female deaths arise from NCDs.

The global COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the interaction between NCDs and communicable diseases in that it places a significant burden on health systems and resources and presents particular risks for people living with NCDs. It further strengthens the position of Pacific governments to implement stronger regulatory controls on tobacco, alcohol and sugar as well as call for better investments in healthy diets and physical activity.

This presentation will focus on how some of the COVID-19 lockdown measures/responses by Fiji and PNG as well as the role of the industries whose products are the drivers of NCDs has potentially undermined the efforts by these two Pacific countries to combat the NCD crisis. It will also outline some of the opportunities for strengthening regulatory controls on NCD risk factors to support better health outcomes.

This presentation will conclude that COVID-19 should be a catalyst for Pacific governments to build back better and exercise greater political will to address the policy inertia on NCDs through law.

## Panel 5f – Research, learning and development policy

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### Effective development policy for post-normal times

*Dr Michael McAllum, Strategic Projects & Foresight Lead, CHÔRA Foundation, Adjunct Fellow, University of the Sunshine Coast*

While the effects of COVID-19 may endure for some time, the suddenness of its arrival has made visible the fragility of many systems (tourism, education, health for instance) in both the so-called developed and developing world and in many places the negative sustainability impacts of conventional development. To further confuse recovery there is evidence of increasing systemic uncertainty, complexity and volatility as part of a 'new normal'. The challenge with this situation is that conventional policy approaches to development solutions are ill equipped to deal with such effects and have few frameworks for system enquiry and transformation. As a consequence, it is highly likely that mostly incremental investments in aid and development will be suboptimal. In response to this concern, the Netherlands-based CHÔRA Foundation has been working with international agencies across six continents and in a wide variety of situations to facilitate system transformational conversations and build and dynamically manage 'portfolios of learning options' intended to discover and then enact the system transformation required. This paper intends to explain how CHÔRA's system approaches can inform both policy and investment where system transformation is necessary and to illustrate through real world development case studies how this has and is occurring.

### Engagement with emerging donors amid changing development landscape: analysis and implications for Korea

*Dr Jisun Song, Assistant Professor, Korea National Diplomatic Academy*

Global challenges, from the pandemic, climate, food to war, have not only reversed years of development progress made but also increased the amount of development finance needed to achieve the SDGs by 2030. Simultaneously, the world is witnessing weakening global solidarity and a widening gap between development finance provided and needed. This calls for stronger cooperation among all development actors in both Global North and South.

Against this backdrop, this research aims to analyse emerging donors' aid patterns and draw policy recommendations for partnership with emerging donors. First, this study will analyse key emerging donors' aid in the last five years (2016–2020) to determine their aid patterns. The scope of emerging donors will be limited to those that report aid data to the OECD due to data availability. Second, the study will take a closer look at emerging donors' engagement with traditional donors to identify potential areas of cooperation, mainly through the case studies of Indonesia and Mexico. Lastly, based on the analysis, the study will draw policy recommendations for Korea, which has strived to play a bridging role between traditional and emerging donors.

Based on the preliminary analysis, the result shows that emerging donors tend to prioritise their national interests in the forms of geopolitical, commercial and cultural interests. At the same time, there is room to engage with emerging donors in terms of development finance, establishing international standards of key issues (e.g., blended finance, South-South cooperation), and sharing development experience and expertise. This is particularly noteworthy for Korea, who itself transformed from a small emerging to a middle-sized Development Assistance Committee (DAC) donor. Korea can promote emerging donors' participation in the DAC while upgrading its small, project-based triangular cooperation to a larger-scale cooperation in strategically important countries and sectors.

## **The influence of research on policy and programming: insights from bureaucrats and professionals in Australia's international development sector**

*Ujjwal Krishna, PhD Candidate, and Chris Roche, Professor of Development Practice, La Trobe University*

Decision making in Australia's international development bureaucracy is driven by a variety of political, technical, and administrative factors, and is, more often than not, the outcome of complex interactions between these domains. Reviews of the integration of the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) into the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) in November 2013 have pointed out that post-merger, a substantial amount of development expertise, leadership, and capacity exited government. With this shift, it is argued that decisions on Australian aid policy and programming have been increasingly determined in closer coordination with the government's foreign policy priorities and objectives. Do these circumstances still leave room for bureaucrats to engage with research expertise emanating from outside DFAT, and in what ways, if at all, does this contribute to shaping development policy and programs?

This paper presents emerging findings from the Developmental Leadership Program (DLP)'s Embedded Research Impact Project. Using data from interviews with DFAT officers and local staff, and with researchers and managing contractors closely engaging with DFAT in their respective contexts, we explore the ways in which research is produced, disseminated, captured, commissioned, contextualised, and consumed in different parts of the Australian aid ecosystem. Further, we explore issues around the framing of research, the function of networks and coalitions in the research-to-policy spectrum, the role of leadership, and the institutional incentives and bounded rationality of development actors both within and outside government. Finally, we present some provisional recommendations, for both producers and consumers of research, on effective ways of working that can ensure that research and expertise is valued and used effectively in development policy and programming, even within the constraints of the complex political economy and organisational culture of donor agencies.

## **Panel 6a – Indigenous voices in development: current perspectives and future directions**

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This 'all-Indigenous' panel of international development professionals will share their perspectives on current and emerging issues, opportunities to inform future practice and approaches to increase Indigenous participation in development. A 'voice' for Indigenous Australians is a central focus of the Uluru Statement from the Heart and recognises the importance of Indigenous participation in policy making at all levels. However, conversations with First Nations Australians rarely inform our approaches in international development. Panelists will explore the establishment of an Office for Indigenous Engagement within DFAT and draw on their own experience from advising on Indigenous participation and inclusion through the Indigenous Diplomacy Agenda, Australian Volunteers Program and Partnerships for Infrastructure (P4I).

*Chair: Jenna Hawes, Project Manager International Development, Ninti One*

### **Panelists**

*Tony Kiessler, Managing Director and Principal Consultant, Akaltye*

*Braiden Abala, Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion Adviser, Partnerships for Infrastructure*

*Alice Tamang, Manager, Indigenous Programs, Australian Volunteers Program*

## **Panel 6b – Aid, conflict transformation and peacebuilding in the Indo-Pacific**

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This roundtable brings together four experts with contemporary, grounded research and peacebuilding experience in the Indo-Pacific. The panelists will outline some of the most significant conflict risks for the region, and discuss the peacebuilding work ongoing and required for a more peaceful and prosperous future. Consideration will be given to the implications for aid donor countries to support peace initiatives, drawing from recent experience in Myanmar, the Philippines, Bougainville, and elsewhere.

*Chair: Dr Tania Miletic, Senior Research Fellow and Assistant Director, Initiative for Peacebuilding, University of Melbourne*

## Panelists

*Nathan Shea, Assistant Director, Conflict and Fragility, The Asia Foundation*

*Ciaran O'Toole, Director, Southeast Asia and the Pacific Department, Conciliation Resources*

*Dr Siad Darwish, Senior Associate, CDA Collaborative Learning Projects*

## Panel 6c – How do we best serve the missing middle? Lessons from small business programs in Myanmar and Ghana

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In developing countries, poor access to finance remains the single largest constraint to the growth of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) which are the backbone of economic growth. This dampens demand for labour, stifles the creation of new jobs and weakens prospects for national and regional trade and growth. Small and growing businesses (SGBs) are a subset of MSMEs with significant potential and ambition to grow, thus providing an exponential return in terms of financial and social impact. This panel will discuss the state of the market for SGBs, innovative and sustainable finance solutions, and will focus on a recent project to provide loans linked with technical training and mentoring to SGBs in Myanmar and Ghana.

*Chair: Dr James Gordon, Research Fellow, College of Business and Economics, Australian National University*

## Panelists

*Clay O'Brien, Financial Inclusion Advisor, World Vision Australia*

*Arpita Pal Agrawal, Managing Director, M-CRIL*

*Vincent Potier, Evidence Building Advisor, World Vision Australia*

*Dr Matthew Gamser, Chief Executive Officer, SME Finance Forum, International Finance Corporation*

*Dr Jodi York, Principal, ImpactAbility Solutions, and Chief Impact Officer, Kilara Capital*

## Panel 6d – Ex-post evaluation and the aid effectiveness challenge: examples from rural development

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This panel brings together evaluation collaborators to discuss their experiences conducting ex-post outcome and impact evaluations that aim to meaningfully address questions of sustainability of project outcomes, scaling and diffusion of outcomes and the tangible difference that projects have made in partner countries. They will discuss the challenges of realising the promised value of this style of evaluation, how the sector can meaningfully address this gap in our collective practice and what processes and methods we should be investing in to do this.

*Chair: Bethany Davies, Research Manager, Portfolio Planning and Impact Evaluation, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research*

## Panelists

*Professor Gill Westthorp, College of Indigenous Futures, Education and the Arts, Charles Darwin University*

*Dr Jennifer Gordon, Honorary Professor, Centre for Social Research and Methods, Australian National University*

*Dr Alex Peralta, Senior Lecturer, Centre for Global Food and Resources, University of Adelaide*

*Monica van Wensveen, Development Research Broker, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation*

## Panel 6e – Infrastructure and gender equality: worlds apart or closer than we think?

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Given the dominance of men in infrastructure development, one could surmise that infrastructure development is at odds with the government's ambition to ensure that at least 80% of Australia's aid investments address gender issues. This panel session aims to examine what is happening on the ground in infrastructure programs in the region, and provides case studies where gender issues feature highly and where approaches are helping to increase gender equality and address gender-based violence.

*Chair: Sarah Goulding, Assistant Secretary, Gender Equality Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade*

## Panelists

*Dr Philip Martin, Director, Gender, Inclusion and Social Safeguards, Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade*

*Natalia Beghin, Senior Consultant, Alinea Whitelum*

*Belinda Bayak Bush, Senior Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion Adviser, Economic and Social Infrastructure Program, DT-Global*

*Dr Pallavi Mandke, Technical Director and National Lead, Social Sustainability, GHD*

## Panel 6f – Education: inclusion, intersectionality, and resilience

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### **Universal secondary education, schooling, and women’s empowerment: evidence from Uganda**

*Douglas Kazibwe, PhD Candidate, Deakin University, Dr Jinhu Li, Senior Research Fellow, Australian National University*

Following the widespread adoption of free primary education, governments in Sub-Saharan Africa with the backing of aid agencies have embarked on improving access to post-primary education. However, there’s limited evidence on the impacts of such post-primary education expansion. We evaluate the long-term impacts of Uganda’s Universal Secondary Education (USE) expansion policy on women’s educational achievements and women’s empowerment. This USE policy, introduced in 2007, aimed to improve access to secondary school education through abolition of fees and increased school capacity at the community level. We exploit both birth cohort variation and regional variations in exposure to the program and employ a difference-in-differences model to identify the causal effects of the policy.

Our results indicate that women eligible for the program in areas with higher program intensity, captured by lower pre-program primary to secondary school transition rates, experience a significant increase in educational attainment and improvement in women’s empowerment. The effect on women’s empowerment is most pronounced in the domain of human and social assets (in particular age at first sex, age at first birth, age at first cohabitation, and spouse schooling attainment difference), and less significant in the domain of gendered beliefs and attitudes. The policy does not translate into any improvement in women’s

empowerment in the household decision-making domain. These results are robust to a range of placebo tests and sensitivity analyses.

We further explored some potential causal pathways underlying the effects of USE expansion on women’s empowerment. We find that the effective mechanisms include better access to information and better employment outcomes for women due to the USE policy. Our study establishes the potential of leveraging a secondary education expansion policy to generate sustained improvement in women’s empowerment.

### **Inclusion, intersectionality, and participation: a contextualised and sustainable model for gender, disability and social inclusion in education in Kiribati**

*Tekaniri Kirata, Associate Lecturer Inclusive Education, Kiribati Teachers College, Nnenne Kanere, Inclusive Education Officer, Kiribati Ministry of Education, Teburantaake Kaei, Gender and Inclusion Officer, Dr Joanne Mosen, Disability Inclusion Advisor, and Dr Tanya Caufield, Gender and Social Inclusion Advisor, KEIP*

There has been much discussion and debate surrounding aid effectiveness and inclusion. The practice of gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) is typically reflected as a funding and reporting obligation, with much variation and success within development programs.

Australia has been working in partnership with the Kiribati Ministry of Education (MoE), through the Kiribati Education Facility, for the past decade and with the benefit of this long-term partnership, has established a good practice example of GEDSI, embedded within MoE policies and practices that impact on how education is delivered to be more inclusive. This includes integrating the intersectionality of GEDSI in pre-service teacher training, in-service training, curriculum development, community and family engagement and partnerships with organisations of persons with disabilities and the Ministry of Women, Youth, Sports, and Social Affairs. Evidence based approaches have been utilised and contextualised to integrate with local practices to ensure a sustainable and locally owned model of GEDSI throughout the education sector in Kiribati. Activities have resulted in a significant increase in children with disability successfully attending mainstream schools, and increased awareness about and practices that promote gender equality

within schools and in Kiribati's Ministry of Education. Partnerships, approaches, evaluation findings and lessons learned will be shared in this presentation to showcase what has worked from a practitioner/ implementor perspective.

### **Building resilient education systems: evidence from large-scale randomised trials in five countries**

*Claire Cullen, University of Oxford/Youth Impact, Noam Angrist, University of Oxford/Youth Impact/World Bank, Micheal Ainomugisha, Building Tomorrow, Saipramod Bathena, Alok, Peter Bergman, University of Texas Austin, Colin Crossley, Thato Letsomo and Moitshepi Matsheng, Youth Impact, Rene Marlon Panti, Innovations for Poverty Action, Shwetlena Sabarwal, World Bank, Tim Sullivan, New Globe*

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, more than two billion people lived in countries affected by conflict, climate shocks, or disease. During these emergencies, schools often close, necessitating interventions that can complement or substitute traditional schooling. Ideally, these interventions can promote learning during a crisis, scale rapidly, induce high levels of engagement across different geographies and models, and personalise instruction to children of varying levels and cultural backgrounds. However, rigorous evaluation in emergency humanitarian settings is challenging and rare, especially across multiple countries. We present results from large-scale randomised trials across five countries (India, Kenya, Nepal, Philippines, and Uganda) and 16,000 students working with NGOs and governments delivering phone-based, remote instruction to children and their caregivers during COVID-19. We find high engagement across sites. Despite highly heterogeneous contexts, we find consistently large and robust effect sizes on learning ranging from 0.10-0.40 standard deviations. In a subset of trials, we randomised whether the intervention was provided by NGO instructors or government teachers. The results show similar effects, indicating scalability within government systems.

## **Keynote panel**

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### **The state of Australian aid**

This panel will showcase three pieces of research on Australian aid. Researchers from the Development Policy Centre, Huiyuan Liu and Dr Terence Wood, will discuss the findings from the 2022 Aid Transparency Audit and the Centre's recent work on public opinion about aid. Huiyuan will talk about how Australian aid transparency has changed, and how it can be improved. Terence will talk about whether public opinion matters for aid policy, as well as recent unexpected trends in Australians' views on aid. Development Intelligence Lab Founder and CEO, Bridi Rice, will present results from a recent project surveying development thinkers in Australia and the region on the key questions facing the new development policy. Bridi will also touch on recent analysis into what the last 40 years of independent aid reviews can tell us about where the policy should focus its attention.

*Chair: Dr Cameron Hill, Senior Research Officer, Development Policy Centre, Australian National University*

### **Panelists**

*Huiyuan Liu, Research Officer, Development Policy Centre, Australian National University*

*Dr Terence Wood, Research Fellow, Development Policy Centre, Australian National University*

*Bridi Rice, Chief Executive Officer, Development Intelligence Lab*

## **3MAP (3-minute aid pitch) with audience vote**

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*Ashlee Betteridge, Better Things Consulting*

*Lautoa Faletau, Deloitte*

*Neal Forster, Consultant*

*Bianca Gay, Catalpa International*

*Clay O'Brien & Mark Ingram, Australian, International Development Network/ Brightlight*

*Raphaël Merx, Catalpa International*

*Melody Zavala, The Asia Foundation*