

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on aid effectiveness: the case of Vanuatu

Morgane Rosier
PhD Candidate
School of International Development and Global Studies
University of Ottawa

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Is Covid a window of opportunity for localizing aid? Learning from a natural experiment in the Pacific

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By [Duncan Green](#)



Guest blog by [Chris Roche](#), [Josie Flint](#) and [Fiona Tarpey](#)

As the COVID pandemic spread around the world a significant natural experiment took place in the Pacific. The vast majority of non-Pacific international aid workers, technical specialists and diplomats returned to their home countries. Preliminary findings of a [real-time monitoring exercise](#) of the effects on development and humanitarian organisations and their ways of working are revealing some interesting shifts. But will they last?

01 Context

The implementation of aid effectiveness principles has been disappointing

COVID-19 and the closure of borders

More room for aid recipient countries?

02

Question(s)

How has the COVID-19 pandemic slowed or accelerated the application of the principles?

How does it affect their relevance?

03

Methodology & methods



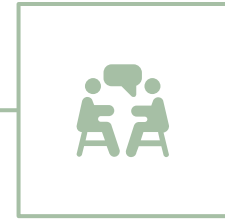
Case study

Unique case study, Vanuatu



Litterature

Academic, grey, press



Interviews

36 online semi-structured interviews

04 Results

Ownership

Alignment

Harmonization

“It really paved the way for domestic response. We used local resources instead of overlooking it as it was done in the past. We realized we had resources: human resources, etc.”

– Vanuatu civil society representative

Ownership

Recognising local resources and capacities

Government ownership

Unclear roles and responsibilities

Slow response to TC Harold

Alignment

Rethinking ways of working

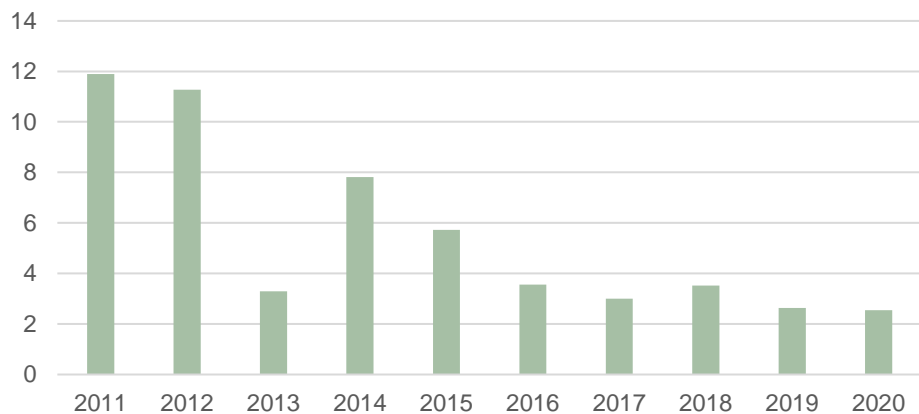
Some flexibility in terms of funding

Large number of needs and objectives

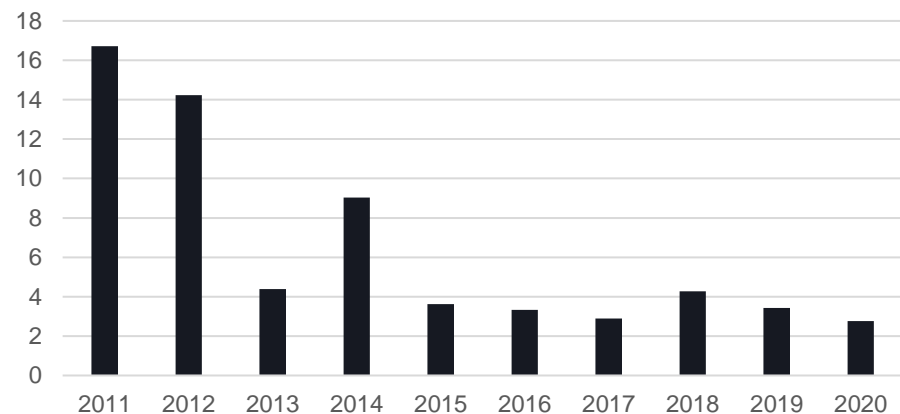
Accountability to domestic audiences

No radical changes in aid delivery channels

Budget support to Vanuatu from OECD-DAC countries 2011-2020
(USD, Millions, 2020)

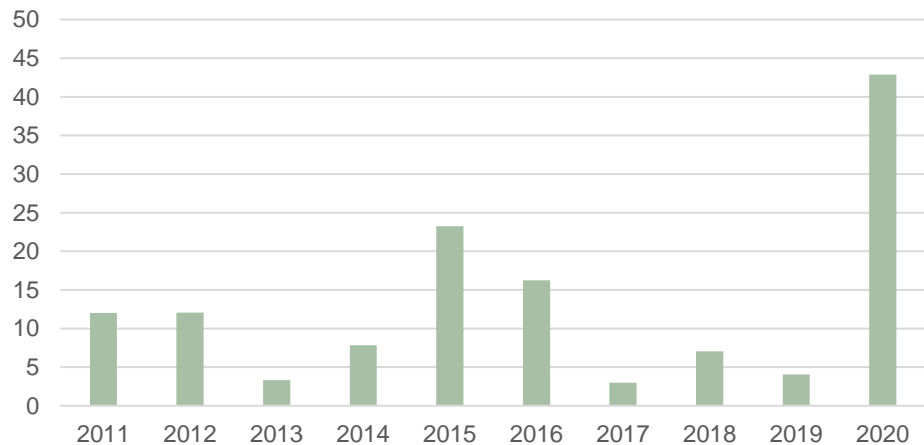


Share of budget support in total aid from OECD-DAC countries to Vanuatu 2011-2020
(%)

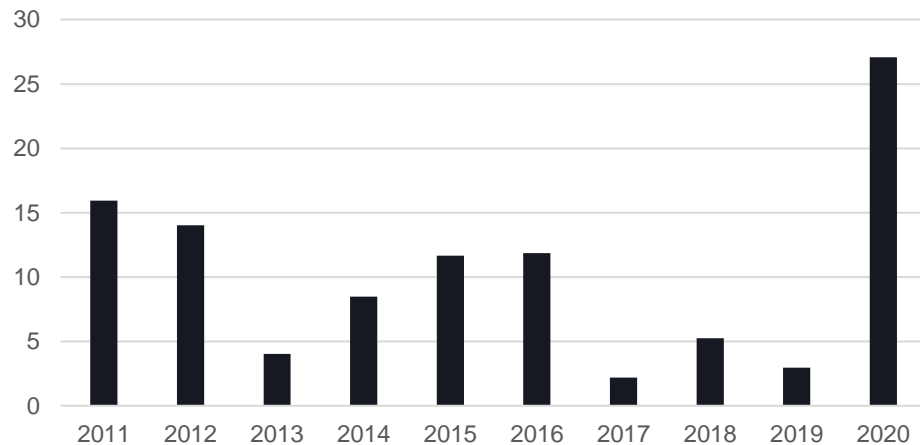


Source: Author's calculations based on data from OECD Creditor Reporting System

Budget support to Vanuatu from official donors 2011-2020 (USD, Millions, 2020)



Share of budget support in total aid from official donors to Vanuatu 2011-2020 (%)



Source: Author's calculations based on data from OECD Creditor Reporting System

Harmonization

The importance of coordination
and coordination efforts

Geopolitical competition

Preference for bilateral
negotiations

Thank you