



COVID-19 international development forum

By Development Policy Centre
18 April 2020

All of us in the international development space - in Australia, the region and worldwide - have had our work disrupted. What do we do now? We need to debate the big picture issues ([here](#) and [here](#)) but we also need to trial and share practical solutions.

We propose to use the Devpolicy Blog to provide a forum for discussion and solutions. Add your contribution to the comments section below. Focus on the big- picture reforms needed, or the practical responses required. Add your comment, critique or suggestion below. Debate, applaud, respond, add.

Are you refashioning your project? Starting again? Or just giving up? What are you doing to support the aid project you are funding now that you can no longer visit it? How are you supervising your staff? Which digital tools are best? Or have you just let go? How is that working? And what is like to be working in country, perhaps with more autonomy than ever?

Are you having to downsize in Australia? And/or hire more in country? How are you dealing with funding uncertainty? Is it time for a major rationalisation and shake-up? Will things never be the same again? Is this the end of an era? What changes will and should endure? Or will this all be forgotten in six months?

Start by adding a comment below. Who knows you might even end up writing a [blog](#). All voices welcomed, wherever you are based. It's for NGOs and contractors and academics as well as for government and multilateral employees.

Comments will be (as always) moderated by the Devpolicy Blog editors, but all views are welcome.

Never in our lifetime have we been more isolated yet so significantly connected both by common purpose and by virtual tools. This modest initiative might present an opportunity to connect ideas to shape some positive solutions.

Thanks to Mel Dunn, VP of DT Global, for the suggestion and initial work on this forum.

Have a look at the comments below. You can also check out our COVID-19 blogs and podcasts published in 2020 below.

[COVID-19 and international development](#)

- [COVID-19: implications for Australian aid](#) by Stephen Howes
- [COVID-19, localisation and locally led development: A critical juncture](#) by Chris Roche and Fiona Tarpey
- [COVID-19: exposing shortfalls in support to human, animal and plant health in our region](#) by Robyn Alders
- [Cry the beloved world](#) by Stephen Howes on Lowy Institute's The Interpreter
- [Will COVID-19 lead to half a billion more people living in poverty in developing countries?](#) by Andy Sumner, Chris Hoy and Eduardo Ortiz-Juarez on UNU-WIDER's WIDERAngle
- [COVID-19: food, nutrition and the global poor](#) by Colin Chartres
- [Fixing the WHO](#) by Joel Negin
- [Does COVID-19 mean the end of the aid and development sector?](#) Good Will Hunters podcast with Fiona Tarpey and Chris Roche
- [International \(development\) cooperation in a post-COVID-19 world: a new way of interaction or super-accelerator?](#) By Artemy Izmetiev and Stephan Klingebiel
- [The endgame for COVID-19 has no end: thinking through your pivot strategy](#) by Byron Pakula and Mark Pruden
- [Pivoting New Zealand's Aid Programme to respond to COVID-19](#) by Jonathan Kings
- [COVID-19: three ways to support women, girls and vulnerable groups in humanitarian settings](#) by Leisa Gibson and Leda Tyrell
- [Time to end the hustle culture in international development](#) by Kate Wilson
- [Fragile states need support to fight COVID-19](#) by Nematullah Bizhan
- [Water and COVID-19](#) by Marian J. Neal
- [Australia's new COVID-19 development response strategy: strengths and contradictions](#) by Stephen Howes
- [With COVID-19, the SDGs are even more important](#) by Dane Moores
- [Microfinance and the informal economy under COVID-19](#) by Stephen Taylor
- [COVID and disability](#) by Alexandra Bingham and Lucy Daniel
- [Scholarship students and COVID-19](#) by Karen McNamara, Olivia Dun, Carol Farbotko, Celia McMichael and Fanny Thornton
- [COVID-19 has not caused a fall in Australians' support for aid](#) by Terence Wood, Ryan Edwards and Chris Hoy

- [Australian aid in five years' time](#) by Graham Teskey
- [US foreign policy and COVID-19: a Timorese perspective](#) by Loro Horta
- [Australians support the Pacific travel bubble](#) by Ryan Edwards, Chris Hoy and Terence Wood
- [Altruism, China and attitudes to aid](#) by Chris Hoy, Ryan Edwards and Terence Wood
- [Why has Peru been so badly hit by COVID-19?](#) by Sandra Naranjo Bautista
- [The international humanitarian response to COVID-19](#) by Fiona Tarpey
- [COVID-19: innovations from governance and justice programs](#) by Lisa Denney, Leisha Lister and Veronica L. Taylor
- [COVID-19, development and a Green New Deal](#) by Matthew G. Allen
- [COVID-19 and violence against children](#) by Mercy Jumo, Karen Flanagan and Sophie Shugg
- [Mental health: the key to 'building back better' after COVID-19?](#) by Carsten Bockemuehl
- [Learning from COVID-19 to strengthen food and nutrition security in the Indo-Pacific](#) by Robyn Alders, Steve Crimp, Lisa Robins, Federico Davila and Michael Bourke
- [The pandemic is giving Australians a small taste of how the rest of the world lives](#) by Luke McKenzie
- [Imagining a more inclusive world: a new video](#) by Alexandra Bingham
- [A moment in time: COVID, localisation and the Pacific](#) by Josaia Jirauni Osborne, Linda Kenni, Shirley Abraham, Josie Flint, Fiona Tarpey and Chris Roche

COVID-19 and the Pacific

- [Life in Port Moresby under lockdown](#) by Dek Sum
- [COVID-19: the situation so far and challenges for PNG](#) by Michael Kabuni
- [Border closures and grounded international travel - implications for Pacific seasonal workers](#) by Rochelle Bailey and Charlotte Bedford
- [COVID-19 and the horticultural sector: addressing the pending labour supply shortfall](#) by Henry Sherrell and Stephen Howes
- [Fake news and other viruses: helping our seasonal workers stay safe](#) by Michael Rose
- [COVID-19: personal reflections from Fiji](#) by Sadhana Sen
- [COVID-19 and Timor-Leste's readiness to fight](#) by Angelo M. G. Aparicio and Michael Rose

- [SWP and Approved Employers: time for a high-level dialogue](#) by Richard Curtain
- [Timor-Leste and COVID-19: we will find a way through](#) by José Ramos-Horta
- [How is Tuvalu securing against COVID-19?](#) by Carol Farbotko and Taukiei Kitara
- [A re-shaping of development assistance to avert a Pacific collapse](#) by Dan McGarry
- [Thinking collectively, acting individually: governance in a time of COVID-19](#) by Miranda Forsyth and Gordon Peake
- [COVID-19 and Solomon Islands: the first casualties and possible ramifications](#) by Transform Aqorau
- [COVID-19, and Australian and New Zealand aid to the Pacific](#) by Terence Wood
- [COVID-19: RSE responses, challenges and logistics](#) by Rochelle Bailey and Charlotte Bedford
- [Keeping COVID-19 at bay in the Marshall Islands](#) by Theresa K. Koroivulaono and William Reiher
- [COVID-19 can spark cooperative and generous action on climate change](#) by Luke McKenzie
- [God, health and COVID-19 in remote Papua New Guinea](#) by Monica Minnegal and Peter Dwyer
- [Fiji's economic freefall, and the government's response](#) by Neelesh Gounder
- [Allowing seasonal workers to continue to work in Australia: what more is needed](#) by Richard Curtain
- [Potential response to COVID-19 in PNG: support for food production](#) by Michael Bourke and Matthew'wela Kanua
- [Tonga's double whammy: COVID-19 and tropical cyclones](#) by Ofakilevuka ('Ofa) Guttenbeil-Likiliki
- ['How is Tuvalu securing against COVID-19?': a response from Funafuti](#) by Tala Simeti and Jess Marinaccio
- [The Pacific's economic response to COVID-19: will it be sustainable?](#) by Odo Tevi
- [PNG's economic stimulus: an assessment](#) by Jotam Sinopane
- [COVID-19 and emergency care in the Pacific](#) by Georgina Phillips and Megan Cox
- [COVID-19 and its likely impact on the tuna industry in the Pacific Islands](#) by Transform Aqorau
- [Thinking about PNG's COVID-19 economic response: part 1](#) by Dek Joe Sum, Maholopa Laveil and Stephen Howes
- [Thinking about PNG's COVID-19 economic response: part 2](#) by Dek Joe Sum, Maholopa Laveil and Stephen Howes
- [Good news for the Pacific on COVID-19](#) by Stephen Howes and Sherman

Surandiran

- [Recovering from COVID-19: a Pacific pathway](#) by Richard Curtain
- [Suffering in Vanuatu: COVID-19, Cyclone Harold and a distracted political leadership](#) by Dan McGarry and Rachel Mason Young ([listen to podcast interview here](#))
- [Responding to COVID-19 in PNG: NGOs and health workers](#) by Klara Henderson and Aisha Kakinuma Hassan
- [Vanuatu: a tourism sector perspective on potential recovery from COVID-19 and TC Harold](#) by Elizabeth Naru Pechan
- [Faith and health in the time of COVID-19](#) by Aletia Dundas
- [The PNG kina during COVID-19: standing out from the crowd](#) by Dek Joe Sum
- [The Pacific bubble takes shape](#) by Stephen Howes and Sadhana Sen
- [Women are key to an effective COVID-19 Pacific response](#) by Isabelle Gurney
- [Increasing blended and online learning in PNG universities: the DWU experience](#) by DWU Teaching Staff
- [A travel pathway to revive Pacific tourism](#) by Richard Curtain
- [China's COVID-19 Pacific diplomacy](#) by Denghua Zhang
- [How are seasonal workers in Australia faring behind closed borders?](#) by Richard Curtain
- [Immobilised Solomon Islands seasonal workers](#) by Olivia Dun, Karen McNamara, Carol Farbotko, Celia McMichael and Fanny Thornton
- [Fiji civil society solidarity driving the COVID-19 humanitarian response](#) by Nalini Singh and Maryann Lockington
- [A plan for Fiji to open its borders](#) by Brian Hennessey
- [Social distancing struggles as PNG schools resume](#) by Joseph Pundu
- [Poverty and the pandemic in the Pacific](#) by Chris Hoy
- [The importance of radio for PNG's COVID-19 school response](#) by Fredrick Guande
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- [How to spend K320m to support PNG agriculture, households and businesses](#) by Jotam Sinopane
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- [COVID-19 messages and PNG sociocultural beliefs](#) by Gabriel Kuman
- [In Timor-Leste, WASH investments help drive COVID-19 success](#) by Edd Wright
- [PNG and the next pandemic](#) by Joseph Pundu and Patrick Kaiku
- [Bartering in Samoa during COVID-19](#) by Ramona Boodoosingh
- [Extreme weather and COVID-19 impact Pacific exporters](#) by Caleb Jarvis

- [Youth resilience to COVID-19: indigenous knowledge in Tuvalu](#) by Taukiei Kitara and Carol Farbotko
- [RSE COVID-19 responses, supporting seasonal workers in New Zealand](#) by Charlotte Bedford
- [RSE COVID-19 responses, getting Pacific seasonal workers home](#) by Charlotte Bedford
- [Stuck in New Zealand: the experiences of Pacific seasonal workers](#) by Rochelle Bailey
- [What more can be done to mobilise resources for Pacific recovery?](#) by Brendan Ma
- [APTC and the pandemic](#) by Soli Middleby and Mere Nailatikau
- [Why do Canada and Germany allow in seasonal and other workers, but Australia and New Zealand do not?](#) by Richard Curtain
- [Supporting small business in the Pacific in the wake of COVID-19](#) by Andrew Simpson, Alma Pekmezovic and Terry Reid
- [Coastal fisheries in a pandemic: Solomon Islands and Vanuatu experiences](#) by Hampus Eriksson, Anouk Ride, Delvene Boso, Dirk Steenbergen and Pita Neihapi
- [What's more important: defence funding on Manus or helping PNG fight COVID-19?](#) by Michelle Nayahamui Rooney
- [PNG's job crisis and COVID-19](#) by Stephen Howes and Jotam Sinopane
- [Like winning the lotto: the SWP in good times and bad](#) by Jemma Mackinnon, Kerry McCarthy and Rachel Mason Nunn
- [How Tuvalu is doing repatriation](#) by Taukiei Kitara and Carol Farbotko
- [COVID-19: economic damage and Pacific strengths](#) by Stephen Howes and Sherman Surandiran
- [COVID-19 spending across the Pacific: the self-funded, the aid-financed, and the constrained](#) by Stephen Howes and Sherman Surandiran
- [Now is the time to reduce remittance costs](#) by Pär Liljert and Rose Payne
- [The NT seasonal worker pilot: managing worker safety in the COVID-19 era](#) by Charlotte Bedford and Rochelle Bailey
- [What are Pacific governments spending on in response to COVID-19?](#) by Stephen Howes and Sherman Surandiran
- [From Dili to Warrnambool](#) by Cornelio Dos Santos and Michael Rose
- [How to get from response to recovery in the Pacific](#) by David Abbott and Steve Pollard
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- [Food as if by magic: how can Australia thank its seasonal workers?](#) by Michael Rose
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- [New Zealand's seasonal labour shortage, and how to solve it](#) by Charlotte Bedford
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- [The role of 'working hostels' in the horticulture sector](#) by Kaya Barry
- [The 'new normal': life with COVID-19 in PNG](#) by Joseph Pundu
- [Starving the virus while feeding the people: Timor-Leste's COVID-19 challenge](#) by Leonardo Soares, Li-Li Chen and Michael Rose
- [The growing problem of absconding SWP workers](#) by Rochelle Bailey
- [A Fijian in Wuhan during lockdown](#) by Varun Kapoor
- [COVID-19 and challenges to PNG's aviation industry](#) by Desmond Narongou
- [Timor Leste's COVID-19 cash transfer: good if you got it](#) by Bu Wilson, Iram Saeed, Laura Afonso de Jesus, Caitlin Leahy and Pauline Tweedie
- [Pacific remittances: holding up despite COVID-19](#) by Stephen Howes and Sherman Surandiran

COVID-19 and Asia

- [Pivoting to respond to COVID-19: early thoughts from the Philippines](#) by Nicola Nixon, Sam Chittick and Jaime Faustino
- [In Asia, not all homes are safe: we need an urgent shift in thinking](#) by Asia Foundation staff
- [Peace and the pandemic: the impact of COVID-19 on conflict in Asia](#) by Adam Burke
- [Working across Nepal's data ecosystem as the economic crisis starts to hit](#) by Suswopna Rimal, Nicola Nixon and Pranaya Sthapit
- [COVID-19 and China's soft-power ambitions](#) by Anthea Mulakala and Hongbo Ji
- [COVID-19 reveals cracks in Malaysia's access to marginalised communities](#) by Natalie Shobana Ambrose
- [Taiwan's experience with COVID-19, and aid to the Pacific](#) by Yun-Ching Tseng, Yan-Tzong Cheng and Chun-Hsuan Sung
- [On the lookout for the silver lining: supporting e-commerce in Laos](#) by Tarama Failor and Nicola Nixon
- [Stop widening gender inequalities: Asia's COVID-19 responses must leave no one](#)

[behind](#) by Chamaiporn Siangyen

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- [Vietnam's low-cost COVID-19 battle shows the world what can be done](#) by Misha Coleman and Margaret Sheehan
- [Vietnam: a COVID-19 success story](#) by Tran Chung Chau, Michael D. Gregorio and Nicola Nixon
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- [Turning government failure into success: how Korea learned from MERS to succeed in COVID-19](#) by Sandra Naranjo Bautista
- [Adapting and responding to the pandemic: civic spaces in Southeast Asia](#) by Nicola Nixon

Want more? Check out COVID-19 content on the ANU's [Policy Forum](#) (and their Pacific COVID-19 response map [here](#)) or [East Asia Forum](#), or on the Lowy Institute's [The Interpreter](#).

About the author/s

Development Policy Centre

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Date downloaded: 1 February 2023



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