COVID-19 international development forum

By Development Policy Centre

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. We’ll update this list as we go:

**COVID-19 and international development**

- [COVID-19, localisation and locally led development: A critical juncture](https://devpolicy.org/covid-19-international-development-forum-20200331/) 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 Izmostiev 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 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
- 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
- A major labour shortage at harvest time is looming by Richard Curtain
- How to spend K320m to support PNG agriculture, households and businesses by Jotam Sinopane
- Pacific labour mobility in the media spotlight by Stephen Howes
- 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 lottery: 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
- Constraints on the Pacific response to 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
- Closing borders will not stop human trafficking in ASEAN by Erin Anderson
- 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
- India’s COVID diplomacy by Mandakini D. Surie
- COVID-19 vs climate change: what can we learn? by Kim DeRidder
- The pandemic, the fourth development pillar, and the Philippines by Maria Pilar Lorenzo
- South Korea’s COVID-19 response: hard lessons on saving lives by Kwang Kim, Kyung-sook Lee and Jaemyung Lee
- COVID-19 offers hope for Thailand’s troubled south by Don Pathan
- Air quality in Hanoi during the pandemic by Jasmine Ha, Quan Le and Jason Nguyen
- Cancer patients and COVID-19 in Vietnam: disruptions and reforms by Trang Do
- Women’s economic empowerment at a time of crisis: can COVID-19 be different? by Cecilia Reategui and Andrew Rowell
- Nepal: federalism and Zoom under lockdown by Prakriti Nepal, Amol Acharya and Nicola Nixon
- COVID-19: new surveys show poverty crisis in Asia by Ellie Wong, Carolyn Kabore and Angeline Munzara
Turning government failure into success: how Korea learned from MERS to succeed in COVID-19 by Sandra Naranjo Bautista

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

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