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,

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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: implications for Australian aid by Stephen Howes
- COVID-19, localisation and locally led development: A critical juncture by

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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’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

**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

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• 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

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

Want more? Check out COVID-19 content on the ANU’s Policy Forum or East Asia Forum, or on the Lowy Institute’s The Interpreter.

About the author/s

Development Policy Centre