DEVPOLICYBLOG

AID NEWS
•JUNE 2022•

June 2022 aid news

By Development Policy Centre
30 June 2022

Our monthly update of news and analysis on aid and international development, with a focus on Australian aid.

Australian aid

Anthony Albanese's first visit to Indonesia as Prime Minister in early June included agreement to prioritise several areas of cooperation, including climate change and energy, health and agriculture, trilateral cooperation in the Pacific (via a 2021 MOU), and planning support for Indonesia's new "clean, green, hi-tech" capital, Nusantara.

At the June G20 health ministers' meeting Australia confirmed that it will contribute to a new Financial Intermediary Fund, hosted by the World Bank, for improved pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. Australia's contribution will come from within the existing aid budget, potentially placing further strain on stretched global health programs. With the TB, malaria and HIV situation worsening due to the disruptions caused by COVID-19, the Global Fund has indicated that it will seek $450 million over three years (2023-25) from Australia at its September replenishment meeting, a big increase on our previous pledge ($242 million for 2020-22).

Sri Lanka's economic and fiscal crisis is rapidly turning into a wider humanitarian and food security crisis, with the World Food Programme seeking US$47 million from donors to assist the 1.7 million people hardest hit by spiralling prices for food, medicines and fuel over the next few months. Australia has pledged $22 million to the WFP appeal.

Australia has pledged $1 million to support UN agencies' response to the recent earthquake in Afghanistan. ACFID have an appeals page for those wishing to donate to NGOs working in Afghanistan.

Foreign Minister Penny Wong's early visits to Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, New Zealand and Solomon Islands have further clarified the new government's priorities in areas such as

climate change and strengthening Pacific regionalism, enhancing labour mobility opportunities and implementing the new Pacific Engagement Visa, and ongoing support for COVID-19 and economic recovery. Australia has also joined the US, Japan, New Zealand and the UK in a new "[Partners in the Blue Pacific Initiative](#)" aimed at enhancing coordinated support for Pacific development priorities and institutions.

The Asia Pacific Development, Diplomacy and Defence Dialogue (AP4D) has produced a [new set of policy recommendations](#) aimed to support an integrated, long-term approach to Australia's Pacific relationships when it comes to climate change, economic and social development, human security, and digital resilience. A recording of the [AP4D launch event](#) is online.

As [preparations](#) for the next climate summit (COP27) in Egypt in November intensify, a new [working paper](#) from the UK-based Overseas Development Institute finds that, as at 2020, Australia had provided just 23% of its fair share of global climate finance.

As part of Australia's wider support for the 2022 Papua New Guinea national elections, Australian Defence Force troops have [touched down](#) in Port Moresby. Henry Ivarature and Michael Kabuni [explore the challenges](#) facing PNG electoral authorities on *Policy Forum* and DevPolicy has [a database](#) of previous PNG election results.

DFAT has released its *[2022 Development Evaluation Plan](#)* with 42 evaluations scheduled for this year, including PNG and the Pacific (19), Southeast Asia (15), South and West Asia (3), Global (3) and Sector (2) programs.

The 2022 Lowy Institute poll shows [increased public support for aid](#), with two thirds of respondents saying that Australia's aid should either be kept at current levels (42%) or increased (24%). A third (34%) continue to say that aid spending should be decreased, a 13-point fall since 2019.

Regional and global aid

The Foreign Minister's travel to the Pacific came in the wake of China's [failure to secure](#) a regional deal with Pacific countries on development, trade and security. China did however secure bilateral deals with several individual Pacific countries and has subsequently released a revised ["position paper"](#) on its regional proposal that omits the controversial security elements.

The US and the Republic of the Marshall Islands have held [face-to-face talks](#) aimed at finalising a new agreement under their Compact of Free Association, an arrangement which gives the US control of compact states' defence in exchange for access to US federal

programs and finance.

India's new High Commissioner to Solomon Islands has outlined [potential areas](#) for strengthened development cooperation between New Delhi and Honiara, including digital development, education, climate change and renewable energy.

DevEx explores some of the [potential implications](#) for global sexual and reproductive health, gender equality and foreign aid in the wake of the US Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe vs Wade*.

The World Bank's 2022 *Global Economic Prospects* report [paints a bleak picture](#) of a disrupted world economy, warning of the threat of a new era of high inflation, rising interest rates and debt burdens, and write-downs in global growth.

G7 leaders [have launched](#) a new "Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment", aiming to mobilise US$600 billion in public and private finance for infrastructure in the developing world over the next five years as an alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative. In the same week, China's President hosted an [online summit](#) on global development which included the leaders of Indonesia, India, Cambodia and Fiji.

The UK House of Commons' International Development Committee is holding [an inquiry](#) into the impact of the global debt crisis on poor nations, including the future role of debt relief initiatives.

UNHCR's latest [Global Report](#) finds that there were almost 100 million "people of concern" worldwide in 2021 (up from 68 million just five years ago), placing further strain on a frayed and under-resourced global protection system.

World Trade Organization Ministers have agreed to [waive patents on COVID-19 vaccines](#) for up to five years to support increased vaccine production for poorer nations but have deferred a decision on a similar waiver for diagnostics and treatments, a [move criticised](#) by civil society groups.

Books, papers, speeches, podcasts, etc.

In the final instalment of Devpol and The Asia Foundation's 2022 AAC Speaker Series, Professor [Lant Pritchett delivers](#) a historically informed and thought-provoking graphic depiction of why prolonged economic growth is both a necessary and sufficient condition for improved human development.

Administrator [Samantha Power discusses](#) the global humanitarian impacts of the war in Ukraine, future directions for US development assistance and USAID's ambitious

localisation agenda at the Council on Foreign Relations.

On the ANU [National Security College podcast](#), Bridi Rice from Development Intelligence Lab and Erol Yayboke from the US Center for Strategic and International Studies outline evolving approaches to development, conflict and security, including the US 'Fragility Act', and their application in the Pacific.

On the [CGD Podcast](#), Patience Marime-Ball and Ruth Shaber interrogate the data behind the economic case for gender inclusion and their new book, *The XX Edge: Unlocking Higher Returns and Lower Risk*.

And at LSE, Mark Lowcock, a former head of DfID and UN humanitarian coordinator, [launches his new book](#), *Relief Chief: A Manifesto for Saving Lives in Dire Times*.

Material for this update has been collected by Devpol staff; editorial responsibility lies with Stephen Howes.

About the author/s

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