



Media Release

Tuesday 6 October 2020

'Extra help' of \$305 million is on the way for Pacific and Timor-Leste in a special Aid Budget

News that Australia has announced vital new spending to support the Pacific and Timor-Leste respond to the COVID-19 crisis is being welcomed today by the End COVID For All Campaign, but humanitarian agencies have warned the overall aid budget still needs to be increased to meet the needs facing our region.

Tim Costello AO, Executive Director of Micah Australia and spokesperson for the campaign:

“This increased one-off support of \$305 million for the COVID-19 response and recovery in the Pacific and Timor-Leste is good news for our closest neighbours whose economies and livelihoods are reeling from the pandemic.”

“But it comes at the cost of cuts to other programs, including aid to South and West Asia, Afghanistan, Africa and the World Food Programme.”

“This aid budget does not go far enough to address the greatest threat to global progress on poverty we have seen in our lifetime.”

“The World Bank predictions released this week suggest that by 2021 an additional 110 to 150 million people will have fallen into extreme poverty.”

“We’ve seen promising signs of Australia’s generosity and leadership in the region; such as the \$123 million committed for the COVAX initiative, but we are still to see an overall repair of the Aid budget.”

Pacific Friends of Global Health Board Chair Prof Brendan Crabb AC, and supporter of the End COVID For All campaign:

“This pandemic has hit those furthest behind in the poorest of nations. Our health security, as well as that of our neighbors, is linked to our generosity. These new investments over the next two years in the Pacific and Timor-Leste are welcome to create a more secure region.”

Over 24k Australians and 200 organisations have signed the End COVID For All pledge to encourage the Australian government to continue to provide vital support to developing nations through this crisis.

Find out more about the [End COVID For All Campaign](#).

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- Tim Costello available for interview