

SPOTLIGHT ON THE PACIFIC

NEW ZEALAND RESPONDS TO COVID IN THE PACIFIC

\$187.05 million from the New Zealand government to help Pacific countries respond to COVID.

Additional funding has gone to New Zealand's aid organisations to support their work with Pacific partners through the NZDRP Covid-19 rounds. .

While some programmes had to be adapted or postponed, much of the work of New Zealand's aid agencies has continued during COVID, with local partners.

The region is facing an unprecedented rise in poverty:

- 40% increase in people living in poverty
- Informal sector (tourism, textiles and skill services) heavily impacted
- Devastating levels of unemployment
- Lack of social security nets can mean no income
- Countries most dependent on tourism hit the hardest (Fiji, Vanuatu, Palau)

Women and children most impacted

- 70-90% of informal workers are women
- Women most exposed to virus as account for majority frontline health responders
- Children face barriers to education with closed schools and lack of digital connectivity

www.cid.org.nz



How Pacific Countries Allocated COVID funds

- **28.9%** social protection to assist the most vulnerable groups
- **21.3%** support for businesses, particularly tourism
- **14.8%** health preparedness measures
- **8.5%** food security
- **4.7%** infrastructure

New Zealand's focus



Local health systems preparedness to address COVID



Efforts to deal with socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic



Supply of medicines, food, and other essentials



Provision of vaccines: At least 1.2 million vaccines to the Realm Countries (Tokelau, Niue, Cook Islands), plus Samoa, Tonga, and Tuvalu.



Additional funding of \$17m for COVAX (the global mechanism to get vaccines to developing countries, including the Pacific)

The situation in numbers

1.2m

People estimated to be pushed into poverty

5.8%

Contraction in regional GDP for 2020

-19%

GDP growth in Fiji for 2020

7%

Of the total workforce in PNG made redundant due to COVID

21,000

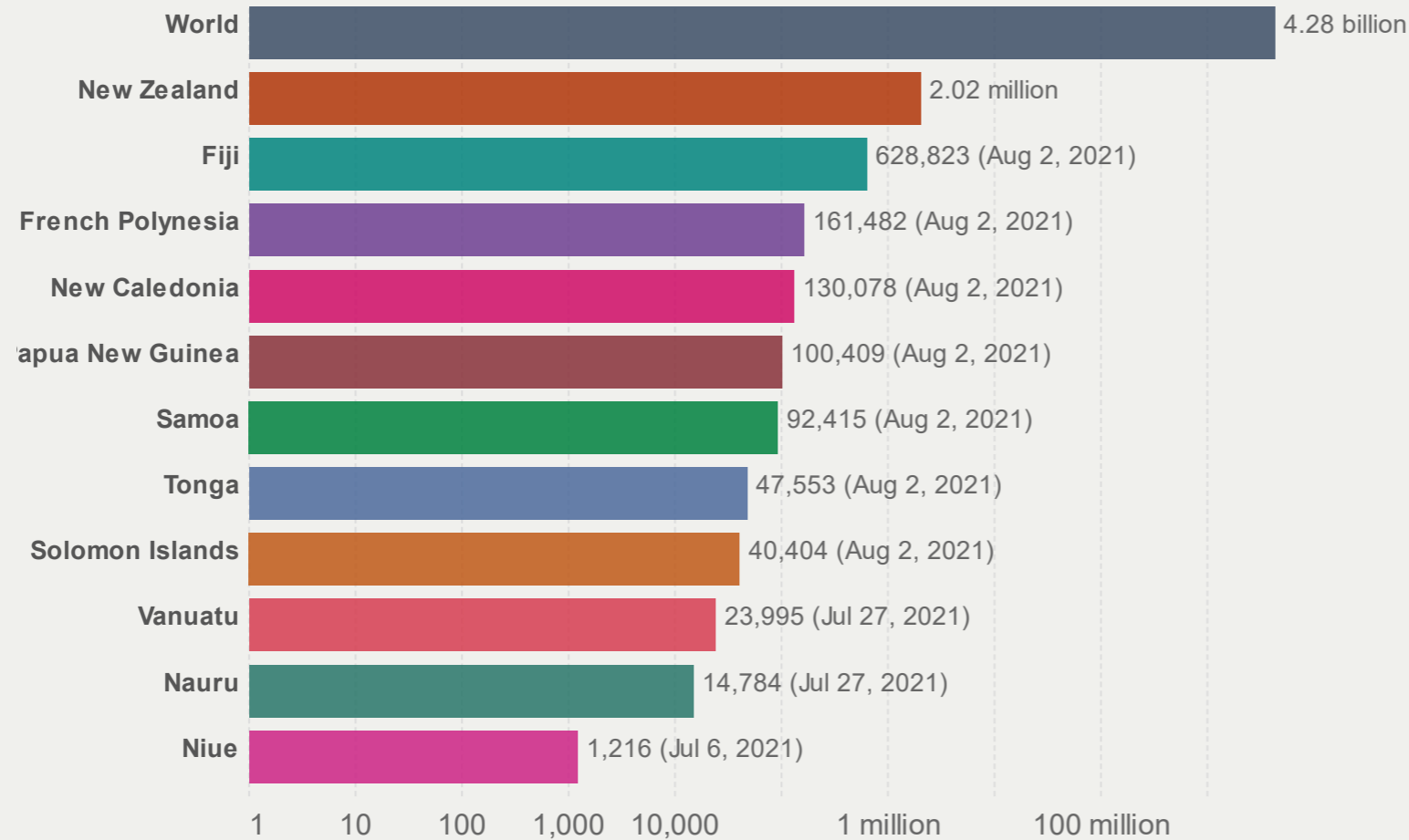
Jobs lost in Vanuatu

115,000

Positions are at risk in Fiji

COVID-19 vaccine doses administered

For vaccines that require multiple doses, each individual dose is counted. As the same person may receive more than one dose, the number of doses can be higher than the number of people in the population.



Source: Official data collated by Our World in Data – Last updated 4 August 2021, 18:10 (London time) OurWorldInData.org/coronavirus • CC BY

Case Studies



Caritas Aotearoa COVID response

Countries - Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga

Covid restrictions caused some delays, limitations of access, and difficulties of providing supplies, but most activities continued as normal. In addition Caritas worked with local partners to support hygiene promotion and awareness, funding of medical equipment, beds, masks and tippy taps, as well as hand sanitiser and soap distribution. In Fiji, new activities also included livelihood support and emergency food distribution.



World Vision COVID response in Bougainville

Focused on WASH and hygiene in four schools in the Keita District (installed seven water tanks and hand-washing facilities) plus COVID awareness in the schools. This included child protection activities to improve community based reporting and referral mechanisms, especially during times of crisis. The students took what they learnt back home and advocated to their families and their younger siblings.

Sources

