

Through NZAID, all New Zealanders are making a difference in the lives of some of the poorest people in the Pacific, Asia, Latin America and Africa.

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| NZAID'S RESPONSE TO GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN CRISES

NZAID HELPING PEOPLE IN TIMES OF NEED

NZAID snapshot

- NZAID is the Government's international aid and development agency
- In 2007/08 New Zealand will spend \$429 million on overseas development assistance
- In 2007/08 NZAID will spend \$27 million on humanitarian and emergency assistance.

Humanitarian crises – the facts

- Crises can arise from natural disasters or factors such as conflict and collapse of governmental systems
- NZAID's first priority in humanitarian crises is to save lives, reduce suffering and maintain human dignity during and in the aftermath of the emergency. Activities aimed at prevention and recovery are also a focus for NZAID
- Poor people and communities tend to be worst affected in humanitarian crises as are vulnerable groups such as women, children and those affected by HIV/AIDS
- An international humanitarian response follows an affected country government's request for assistance where a disaster is of such a nature or scale that they cannot manage it alone
- Humanitarian action is both for the protection of civilians and those no longer taking part in hostilities in conflict situations; and the provision of assistance. This may include food, water and sanitation, shelter, health services, and emergency education

- The relationship between humanitarian disasters and the ecological context is very important. Environmental issues can both contribute to natural disasters and create conflict over resources.

Natural disasters

- In 2005, natural disasters impacted on the lives of 250 million people
- NZAID has an increasing focus on prevention, disaster preparedness and risk reduction. It is recognised that early warning systems and flood protection are vital in allowing countries to respond effectively to unavoidable crises.



Sri Lankan children celebrate their new World Vision-funded school which replaces the one destroyed in the 2004 Tsunami

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...towards a safe and just world


nzaid

New Zealand's International
Aid & Development Agency

NZAID'S RESPONSE TO HUMANITARIAN CRISES

Conflict & governance breakdown

- A complex emergency is a humanitarian crisis in a country or region where there is considerable or total breakdown of authority resulting from internal or external conflict
- A protracted emergency is a humanitarian crisis that is prolonged over many years – often escalating, then dying down again
- The nature of armed conflict has changed. It now tends to be within rather than between states and often involves the targeting of civilians
- 45 million people were directly affected by war in 2005
- In 2005, 25 million people were displaced from their homes because of conflict and natural disasters.

New Zealand's Pacific focus

With natural disasters in the Pacific, NZAID leads the NZ Government's response. With all humanitarian crises it works closely with a range of government agencies as well as Australia, France, UN agencies such as OCHA, the Red Cross and NGOs to ensure an effective and timely response.

Beyond the Pacific

Outside of the Pacific, New Zealand's role is more a strategically targeted part of the broader international effort.

Practical assistance is channelled through humanitarian agencies of the United Nations (UN), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC); national, international and New Zealand NGOs.

NZAID also provides annual core funding to UN agencies that specialise in humanitarian assistance such as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the World Food Programme (WFP).

This contributes to the ability of these agencies to maintain readiness and capacity to respond effectively, flexibly and appropriately to humanitarian crises around the world.

In addition to the funding, NZAID is involved in the governance of these agencies which sets their policies and direction, makes sure international responses are timely and ensures that protracted situations are not forgotten.

How NZAID works

NZAID follows a number of principles when taking humanitarian action. These include following international humanitarian law and international human rights conventions; ensuring that it assists longer-term development opportunities; ensuring that assistance is fair and equitable; working together with the local government and partners to make sure that decisions are reached in a participatory way; strengthening local capacity and ownership; and monitoring how effective the action is in order to improve future actions.

NZAID also places importance on the coordination of international and local resources, as this is critical in getting the most effective response to a crisis.

NZAID in complex emergencies

Afghanistan, Sudan and Iraq are currently the key focus for NZAID assistance in complex emergency situations.



Health workers in the NZAID-funded Aga Khan Foundation aim to improve the health status of women and children in the Bamyan province