

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.

JUNE 2009

New Zealand's development assistance in the Pacific

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR REGION

NZAID snapshot

- NZAID is the Government's international aid and development agency within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- In 2008/09 NZAID spent approximately \$471.3 million on overseas development assistance
- Over half of NZAID's expenditure is spent in the Pacific
- NZAID has allocated \$756 million for Pacific development over the next three years.

The Pacific context

- 22 island countries and territories dispersed over 30 million kilometres of ocean
- 8 million people live in the Pacific. The broad ethnic groups are Melanesian, Polynesian and Micronesian
- New Zealand has strong connections with many Pacific countries due to migration, travel, and trade.

The Pacific development challenge

Much of the Pacific still faces challenges to improve the lives of its people. Economic growth remains slow, and the global economic crisis will test the region's ability to make progress towards improved economic and human development indicators.

The challenge is to:

- Accelerate economic growth – current growth rates are below population increases in most countries



- Address basic needs – in Melanesia not all children go to school, many adults are illiterate, and many people do not have access to basic health services
- Support the rule of law and access to justice, which is essential for increased economic activity and poverty reduction.

New Zealand's focus in the Pacific

1) Supporting Melanesian development

NZAID's largest engagements are with Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. This is where the majority of Pacific people live and where they are the poorest. These are NZAID's major bilateral partners.

2) Addressing small states issues

NZAID has significant bilateral development relationships with five other countries in the Pacific – Fiji (subject to sanctions), Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga, and Tuvalu. Our focus on Polynesia also reflects our close people to people ties.

3) Meeting our constitutional obligations

Budgetary and technical assistance is also provided to Niue and Tokelau, and NZAID is the largest donor in the Cook Islands. The people of Cook Islands, Niue, and Tokelau are New Zealand citizens and the New Zealand Government has legal obligations to them.

4) Fostering regionalism

NZAID is the second largest contributor to Pacific regional agencies such as the University of the South Pacific and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. NZAID also supports a range of regional initiatives consistent with the Pacific Plan to strengthen regional cooperation and integration.

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...towards a safe and just world


nzaid

New Zealand's International
Aid & Development Agency

NEW ZEALAND'S CONTRIBUTION

New Zealand's aid policy and the Pacific

New Zealand's aid policy:

- Has a core focus on the Pacific
- Has sustainable economic development as the core focus of NZAID's work
- Focuses on development effectiveness and efficiency
- Recognises close cooperation with Australia is necessary - particularly when supporting developing countries' progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

The Pacific strategic framework guides NZAID's development work with Pacific governments, other donors and civil society. The framework focuses on four outcomes central to development:

1. Sustainable economic growth and improved livelihoods

- Making globalisation work for the Pacific through migration, remittance transfer assistance, recognised seasonal employment, assistance directly related to trade issues (for example market access, biosecurity and customs, and trade capacity building) and New Zealand tax policy
- Creating enabling economic conditions through the regulatory and broader investment environment, infrastructure development and access to natural resources
- Supporting private sector development including market chain development, developing skills, business development and mentoring services, access to finance and savings, and support for tourism
- Ensuring that markets work for poor people, rural livelihoods are improved, and food security issues are addressed.

2. Investing in people (health and education)

- Access to education by 2015 for all primary aged children
- Improving the quality of education



- Providing opportunities for people to develop their skills through tertiary and skills-based training
- Increasing access to basic health services
- Supporting better management of the health sector
- Tackling health issues that impact negatively on development, such as HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, obesity, and smoking.

3. Strengthened governance

- Fostering good leadership at all levels
- Supporting greater participation by people in decisions that affect them
- Improved government, including promoting transparency and accountability in government processes and improving the delivery of public services.

4. Reducing vulnerability

- Supporting police capability and increasing judicial services
- Supporting conflict resolution activities, peace building and human rights
- Improving the management of countries' natural resources
- Strengthening preparedness and management of natural disasters such as cyclones or tsunamis.

Making aid effective

To ensure New Zealand's assistance makes a difference, NZAID has five principles that determine how assistance is implemented:

Ownership – NZAID priorities are determined by development partners and assessed for the strongest match with New Zealand's development policy and Pacific Strategy.

Alignment – NZAID's work aims to strengthen and, wherever possible, use development partners' own systems and processes.

Harmonisation – NZAID maximises efforts to work with other donors to avoid duplication, keep focused, and reduce transaction costs on development partners.

Results – NZAID is focused on outcomes. This includes monitoring and evaluating aid programmes to ensure outcomes meet development partners' needs.

Mutually accountable – NZAID and development partners work together to set accountabilities and obligations that support achieving development outcomes.

NZAID's work on the ground

Sustainable Economic Growth

- Transport and road developments in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands
- Bridge rehabilitation in Solomon Islands
- Shipping improvements in Vanuatu, Tuvalu and regionally
- Air service improvements in Kiribati
- Fisheries development in Solomon Islands, Cook Islands, and regionally
- Fresh Produce Development Agency in Papua New Guinea
- Water, power, harbour, and airport improvements in Cook Islands.

Human development

- Education sector support in Solomon Islands, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu
- Health sector support in Papua New Guinea
- Regional HIV and AIDS prevention
- Scholarship and training awards are offered to Pacific people annually.

Governance

- Elections support
- Leadership – supporting women's participation at all levels of decision-making in the region
- Strategic partnerships with NGOs such as Transparency International and Wan Smolbag Theatre
- Strengthened policing in Tonga, Cook Islands, Niue, Solomon Islands and regionally
- Institutional strengthening in Solomon Islands (tax department) and Samoa (Ministry of Justice).

Reducing vulnerability

- Provision of judges in Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Samoa and regionally
- Urban renewal and squatter settlement initiatives in Kiribati and Fiji (subject to sanctions)

- Tsunami recovery in Solomon Islands
- Regional domestic violence prevention.

Supporting a whole of Government engagement to development

NZAID has developed partnerships with other New Zealand government agencies and engaged them in New Zealand's development activities in the Pacific.

NZAID provides expertise on development impact, working in developing countries, capacity building, institutional strengthening, and poverty reduction techniques.

Agencies working together

The main New Zealand agencies that work with NZAID on development policy are the wider Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), the Police, New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF), and the Ministry of Health.

A broad range of New Zealand agencies also work together on the ground delivering aid and assistance under the NZAID programme. This includes the Police; Customs; Ministry of Fisheries; Treasury; Inland Revenue; Statistics New Zealand; Department of Conservation; Office of the Ombudsmen; Corrections Department; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Education; MFAT; NZDF; Ministry of Research, Science and Technology; Immigration New Zealand; Ministry of Economic Development; Ministry of Defence; Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry; Sports and Recreation New Zealand; the Human Rights Commission; and Crown research institutes.

Examples of cross-government agency work

- Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (NZAID, MFAT, New Zealand Police, Ministry of Defence, NZDF, Treasury and Inland Revenue)
- Oceanic Customs Service (NZAID and Customs)
- Pacific Fisheries Management (NZAID, Ministry of Fisheries and MFAT)
- Community policing in Bougainville (NZAID and New Zealand Police).