



Education is a human right

EDUCATION IS A HUMAN RIGHT

The logo for nzaid, featuring a stylized red wave above the word "nzaid" in a bold, dark green, sans-serif font.

nzaid



Education is

...yet many of NZAID's partner countries are struggling to provide quality education that is accessible to all children.

NZAID is committed to helping these partners meet the internationally-agreed Education for All goals, which emphasise improved access to quality education – especially for girls, who are the most likely to miss out.

Countries can achieve the Education for All goals by:

- developing priorities for the effective delivery of basic education
- maintaining support for education up to tertiary level
- supporting initiatives that improve access for women and girls.

NZAID is working with partner countries to make sure they have the resources and technical support they need to achieve the Education for All goals by 2015. This reflects NZAID's commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the elimination of poverty and to building local leadership through partnership with other countries and donors.

NZAID intends to ensure that education makes up around a third of its total overseas development budget. It is looking to increase funding for basic education to around half of its total education spending.

“Access to even the most basic education is a human right. It is an investment in the future labour force – education and employment go hand and hand.”

*Associate Foreign Affairs and Trade (ODA)
Minister Marian Hobbs, 2003*

a human right



CASE STUDY

Since 1994, NZAID has provided \$2.9 million for the distribution of school journals that back up Papua New Guinea’s core curriculum texts. It has also provided training and other support for the local writers, illustrators and production team. One in three PNG primary school students now receives a copy of the journals. They are intended to be enjoyable texts that reflect the life that PNG children lead, while also providing positive role models and a strong sense of national and cultural identity.



Education helps

...which is why NZAID places a high value on the ability of education to provide people with opportunities for a better future.

NZAID considers that knowledge is the key to a better life and helps people to:

- earn more
- enjoy better health
- be free from poverty
- live longer.

Good basic education establishes skills in literacy, numeracy, speaking, reasoning and social interaction. These last a lifetime and lay the foundation for benefits to wider society that include:

- improved productivity and economic growth
- better governance and less conflict
- greater life expectation.

"If we want to build stronger wealthier communities, if we want to combat illness and poverty, if we want fairer and more equal societies, then education is the only way forward."

Rt Hon Don McKinnon, Commonwealth Secretary General, 15th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers, October 2003

eliminate poverty

EDUCATION HELPS ELIMINATE POVERTY



CASE STUDY

NZAID is partnering the Indonesian government, UNICEF and UNESCO in a major basic education initiative that has been piloted successfully since 1999 in 124 schools in Central and East Java, South Sulawesi and West Timor. The aim is to improve the quality of teaching and learning in primary classrooms by providing training on use of resources and grants that supplement funding by the Indonesian government. Now NZAID funding is being extended to another 140 schools in the eastern islands of Indonesia. NZAID's contribution to the expansion of the project is expected to exceed \$4.5 million to June 2005.



NZAID works

.... by prioritising education programmes in the 11 Pacific countries we assist.

New Zealand works to make sure it is a good neighbour to countries in the Pacific. We have historical education ties to most Pacific islands, and we know that Pacific island countries have education needs and priorities that differ from our own.

Some Pacific countries have difficulties attracting teachers, or have few or no books in the classroom. In several countries a large proportion of children do not even complete primary school – some families are unable to afford school fees while others live too far away from the nearest school. Commonly in Pacific countries there are few opportunities for young people to complete their secondary education, or technical and vocational training.

NZAID spends around \$30 million a year on education in the Pacific. This is used to support partner governments, institutions and agencies to:

- train teachers
- improve school buildings
- provide school resources such as chalk and books
- develop and print textbooks and readers
- improve student: teacher ratios
- provide teachers with specialist training
- develop and review curriculum.

“Good quality early childhood care and education programmes seek to address all of children’s basic needs. In addition to food, protection, and health care, programmes must also provide affection, intellectual stimulation, supportive human interaction, and opportunities and activities that promote learning.”

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat Education Ministers Meeting, 2002

for education in our region



CASE STUDY

As the result of a coup in 2000, education services in the Solomon Islands have been seriously disrupted, education facilities have been deficient and instructional materials non-existent in most schools. NZAID is contributing \$36 million of financial and technical assistance until 2006 to support the Solomon Islands government’s implementation of its Education Strategic Plan. This plan focuses on ensuring universal access to quality basic education. The funding will go toward improved management and development of primary school teachers, providing basic teaching and learning materials, updating the education curriculum, and improving school facilities.

We gratefully acknowledge
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If you want to know more ...

...about NZAID's education policy *Achieving Education for All*, please contact the Communications Manager at **communications@nzaid.govt.nz** or at the postal address: **Private Bag 18-901, Wellington.**

For a copy of the policy or other NZAID policies visit our website: **www.nzaid.govt.nz**

Other useful web addresses are:

Dev-Zone (Development Resource Centre) **www.dev-zone.org** –
or Email: **schools@globaled.org.nz**

CID (NZ Council for International Development, the NGO umbrella group) – **www.cid.org.nz**

The Australian government's overseas aid program, AusAID –
www.ausaid.gov.au

The United Kingdom's Department for International Development –
www.dfid.gov.au

The Canadian International Development Agency, CIDA –
www.acdicida.ca/home

The United States Agency for International Development, USAID –
www.usaid.gov

Unicef (United Nations Children's Fund) – **www.unicef.org**

Unesco (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) – **www.unesco.org**



Nga Hoe Tuputupu-mai-tawhiti
New Zealand Agency for International Development