



SUPPORT FOR KIWIS WHO ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

New Zealand-based NGOs play an important role in giving New Zealanders opportunities to support international development efforts as volunteers, fund raisers, researchers, consumers of fair trade products, and development practitioners.

New Zealand non-government organisations	2008/09 FUNDING (\$)
TOTAL	32,559,032

NZAID provides funding to a number of New Zealand-based NGOs that are working to support international development. Some have expertise and specialist knowledge of specific areas of development, and good access to particular communities due to their perceived independence from government. Some are New Zealand branches of international organisations, so are part of a global network.



Q CASE STUDY

TE TŪAO TĀWĀHI VOLUNTEER SERVICE ABROAD

The global recession has reinforced the need for development organisations to step up to the challenge of ensuring assistance is targeted to really make a positive difference, says Volunteer Service Abroad (VSA) Chief Executive Debbie Snelson.

For VSA, an NGO that sends skilled New Zealanders on volunteering assignments to Asia, Africa, and the Pacific, that challenge has led to a tighter than ever focus on being able to measure real outcomes.

“VSA now has staff based in nine of the 12 countries where we have volunteers so that we can ensure close relationships with development partner organisations that are creating positive change in their own communities and countries,” Ms Snelson says.

“We’ve also tightened our focus more specifically on sustainable economic development, social development, education and health assignments. Our largest programme is in the Pacific, with most volunteers working in Melanesia. This is because Melanesia is where around 85 percent of Pacific people live, and where there is the most poverty and greatest need for development assistance.”

In East New Britain, Papua New Guinea, for example, VSA has developed a cluster of sustainable economic development assignments. Two of the seven volunteers (of a total of 22 in PNG) work with the Kokopo Business College, a government-owned tertiary institution that offers a range of courses and collaborates closely with local businesses.

Volunteer Ron Rowe, a management training adviser, spends his time working alongside the college teachers, supporting them to deliver training and build relationships with local businesses that will open job opportunities for graduates – and in turn lead to a stronger local economy.

“We are literally taking the college into the business and commercial community through one-on-one meetings, involvement with the East New Britain Chamber of Commerce, and other meetings and events where the college can have a practical input and make its presence and expertise known,” Mr Rowe says.

“The business community also now comes into the college for events and training. My role has enabled staff to look outside the college to the wider economic drivers of the province.”

The other VSA volunteer at the college is IT adviser Tony Bray, who works alongside staff to build computer skills and establish IT services that can also be offered to the business community. Mr Bray says there have been several requests for college assistance with designing tourist brochures, conservation guides and other desktop publishing work.

“Local organisations have also shown a strong interest in the college setting up a web design and hosting consultancy. Several teachers and I are investigating this possibility.”

For more information about VSA, visit www.vsa.org.nz

| Ron Rowe helps staff at the Kokopo Business College in East New Britain, PNG.
Photo – VSA



Q CASE STUDY

TRADE AID

A gleaming new coffee warehouse looks strikingly out of place amidst aging and rust-roofed houses in the village of San Vicente I. This village, nestled high in the cloudforest in Guatemala's Coban region, is home to many coffee farmers who together supply Trade Aid in New Zealand with coffee through the APODIP co-operative.

Mariano Cal, a member of APODIP, helped to build the warehouse and takes great pride in its recent construction. It is a concrete expression of a growing community spirit that has developed between Mariano and dozens of other coffee farmers in his neighbourhood.

Within the last decade, Mariano has seen unparalleled change in his way of living. Where he used to have to load his coffee onto horseback, descend steep tracks, and sell his

coffee down in the Polochic valley to hard-nosed coffee traders, a four-wheel drive road now allows him to send his harvest by truck to the city of Coban, where it will join other coffee from the co-operative he has now joined for shipment to fair trade buyers around the world.

“Before fair trade, the only way we could sell our coffee was to the coyotes (street traders),” says Mariano. “Now we get higher prices through fair trade and we’re also well organised as a co-operative group. We decided to use our extra income to strengthen our community, and we bought some land together. I’m enjoying being part of a group!”



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Now, he can take his coffee cherries down to the motorized depulping machine that his co-operative owns and process his coffee in a fraction of the time it used to take. Once, he had to struggle to dry his coffee on tarpaulins in his yard in a region where misty rain is an almost daily feature. Now, he can run his coffee through the rotational drying machine that his co-operative owns until it is dry enough to load into sacks. Once, he would store his coffee in his house. Now, he can store his coffee in the clean and airy warehouse that he co-owns.

It is not only Mariano who sees the benefits of fair trade and of co-operative organisation; his family does too.

In 2008/09 NZAID supported APODIP's business development programme through a capacity building funding grant via Trade Aid.

In 2009 APODIP began exporting its own coffee directly to fair trade buyers for the first time.

"I've also used some of the extra income I've received through sales of fair trade coffee and cardamom to put my son through further education in Guatemala City."

For more information about Trade Aid, visit www.tradeaid.org.nz 

1 The town of San Vicente, Guatemala. Photo – Trade Aid

2 Sorting coffee cherries. Photo – Trade Aid