

New Zealand's aid helps to eliminate poverty and create a safe and just world.

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| NZAID'S RESPONSE TO HUMANITARIAN CRISES

## NZAID HELPING PEOPLE IN TIMES OF NEED

### NZAID snapshot

- NZAID is the Government's international aid and development agency.
- In 2008/09 NZAID's overseas development assistance budget is \$471.3 million.
- Of this, \$34 million is budgeted to be spent on humanitarian and emergency assistance.

### Humanitarian crises – the facts

- Crises can arise from natural disasters or factors such as conflict or the collapse of governments and their systems.
- NZAID leads the Government's response to humanitarian crises in developing countries.
- NZAID's first priority when responding is to save lives, reduce suffering, and maintain human dignity during and in the aftermath of the emergency. Activities aimed at prevention, preparedness 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, the disabled and those affected by HIV and 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.
- The relationship between humanitarian disasters and the environment is important. Environmental issues can both contribute to the incidence and severity of natural disasters and create conflict over resources.
- 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.

- Humanitarian action is 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 nature of armed conflict has changed. It now tends to be within, rather than between states and often involves the deliberate targeting of civilians.

### Humanitarian crises - the figures

- An average of 250 million people a year are affected by natural disasters.
- In 2007, 25 million people were displaced from their homes because of conflict and natural disasters.



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

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## New Zealand's Pacific focus

Pacific Islands are particularly vulnerable to natural disasters such as cyclones, droughts, floods, tsunami, earthquakes, and volcanic activity. The number and intensity of natural disasters is growing and the impact that they have on the physical, social and economic livelihoods of communities can be devastating.

NZAID leads the Government's response in the Pacific, working closely with a range of government agencies as well as France and Australia under the FRANZ Arrangement, United Nations agencies such as the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Red Cross/Red Crescent, and non-governmental organisations to ensure an effective and timely response.

## Beyond the Pacific

Outside of the Pacific, NZAID's response is generally part of a 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), OCHA, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF).

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's humanitarian action is guided by a number of principles that include protecting and promoting human rights; following international humanitarian law; ensuring that any assistance enables longer-term development opportunities and is fair and equitable; working with the local government and other partners to ensure 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. Assistance needs to be aligned with the overarching principle of working towards a safe and just world free of poverty.

NZAID has an increasing focus on prevention, disaster preparedness and risk reduction. It is recognised that, for example, early warning systems and flood protection initiatives save lives and are economically prudent.

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.



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

**New Zealand Government**