

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

**JANUARY 2009**

**Making a difference in Kiribati**

## NEW ZEALAND'S DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

### NZAID snapshot

- NZAID is the Government's international aid and development agency
- In 2008/09 NZAID will spend \$471.3 million on overseas development assistance
- Over half of NZAID's expenditure is spent in the Pacific
- NZAID's assistance to Kiribati in 2008/09 is \$6 million.

### The facts

- Kiribati is made up of 33 islands and three groups of coral atolls spanning 3000 kilometres
- The population is 95,000
- Half of the population live on the atoll of Tarawa
- There is little extreme poverty as most households support themselves with fishing, carpentry and making handicrafts
- Remittances from Kiribati sailors employed on overseas ships are an important source of revenue, as are the fees paid by foreign vessels fishing in Kiribati waters.

### The issues

- Most of the land is only a metre or so above sea level, which makes it vulnerable to climate change, however its location in the northern Pacific means it does not suffer from natural disasters such as typhoons and cyclones

- The vast ocean territory provides marine resources but land-based resources are limited
- Lack of opportunity is a major challenge as employment options are limited
- Rapid urban population growth is putting pressure on the fragile environment and limited resource base
- A high percentage of young people don't complete secondary school
- There is a high incidence of domestic violence
- The social, legal and economic status of women in Kiribati is comparatively low, and traditionally women do not have a direct role in community decision making.



NZAID supports education from primary school right through to tertiary training

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...towards a safe and just world

  
**nzaid**

New Zealand's International  
Aid & Development Agency

# NEW ZEALAND'S DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

## A partnership focus

NZAID and AusAID work closely together in delivering their development assistance programmes in Kiribati.

Work is also underway to better align development assistance with the Government of Kiribati's own development priorities and systems, and to encourage other development partners to do the same.

Currently NZAID's programme is focused on four key areas:

- Sustainable Towns programme
- better educational outcomes
- improved public sector performance
- human resource development

## NZAID on the ground

Recognising the importance of education in eliminating poverty, NZAID is working in both the basic and tertiary education sectors.

### *Basic education*

New Zealand has an historical relationship with the Kiribati Teacher's College. In 2008/09 NZAID is providing specialist planning support for teacher training to assist with future development.



A class of children from a Kiribati primary school

NZAID, alongside AusAID, is working with the Government of Kiribati to develop a comprehensive programme of support for basic education development. This will include a focus on reviewing the school curriculum.

### *Tertiary education*

NZAID continues its long history of support to the Kiribati Marine Training Centre (MTC) which delivers vocational training to I-Kiribati seamen. Remittances from seamen working on overseas vessels are a significant source of revenue in the Kiribati economy (up to 15-20 percent of Gross National Income).

NZAID support to the MTC includes providing specialist management and maritime training expertise, scholarships, and equipment. The aim is to improve strategic planning and management of the MTC, and to improve the quality of training provided. It will also increase the number of graduates and courses offered. Work has begun on construction of a \$1 million classroom-dormitory block. The dormitory block under construction will allow for increased training of female sea-going personnel.

NZAID also currently provides the following scholarships and training awards to support Kiribati's human resources development programme:

- scholarships for undergraduate or postgraduate study at Pacific regional universities (usually 10 new scholarships are awarded per year)
- scholarships for undergraduate or postgraduate study at New Zealand universities (usually 4 new scholarships are awarded per year)
- mid-career vocational training in New Zealand
- support to I-Kiribati pursuing tertiary training opportunities in Kiribati
- funding for training provided in Kiribati.

### *Sustainable Towns Programme*

NZAID has recently begun the Kiribati Sustainable Towns Programme (STP). This is a significant new long-term programme of support to assist Kiribati in addressing the many challenges it faces in its rapidly growing urban areas, mainly on South Tarawa where nearly 50 percent of the population now live.

The STP will support Kiribati's three Urban Councils and their communities to develop their own solutions to their local problems - overcrowding, poor housing, lack of access to basic services such as water and sanitation, weak local government, poor urban planning, and the resulting social problems.

### **Government and leadership**

NZAID currently supports Kiribati's Office of the Attorney-General. Other support is provided to public sector development as requested by the Government of Kiribati.

NZAID also supports civil society development, including providing financial support to KANGO, the Kiribati Association of Non-Governmental Organisations. KANGO has a crucial role in supporting and coordinating the work of local NGOs.

### **Other projects**

Small scale project funding assistance is provided to a range of 'grassroots' community development projects through the NZAID Small Projects Fund, as well as through the High Commissioner's Fund.

In 2008/09 the NZAID Small Projects Fund will become part of a better funded, more effective and accessible joint NZAID/AusAID scheme.

NZAID also provides a fund to pay for tertiary medical treatment of I-Kiribati in New Zealand.

New Zealand Government

For more information visit [www.nzaid.govt.nz/programmes/c-kiribati.html](http://www.nzaid.govt.nz/programmes/c-kiribati.html)