

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.

AUGUST 2009

Helping in times of need

NZAID PACIFIC DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

NZAID snapshot

- NZAID is the Government's international aid and development agency within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- In 2009/10 NZAID will spend approximately \$500 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
- Disaster risk management in the Pacific is part of the Pacific Regional Environment and Vulnerability Programme which had a allocation of \$6.5 million in 2008/09
- In 2008/09 NZAID spent approximately \$2.5 million on disaster risk management activities in the Pacific.

Pacific disasters

Pacific islands are particularly vulnerable to natural disasters such as cyclones, droughts, floods, tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions. The Pacific is one of the most vulnerable regions in the world. The number and intensity of reported disasters is growing and the impact that they have on the physical, social, cultural, and economic livelihoods of communities can be devastating.

New Zealand's role in responding to Pacific natural disasters

NZAID is responsible for coordinating New Zealand's assistance in the event of a natural disaster in the Pacific, and responds with a hands-on approach.

Once immediate needs have been identified, New Zealand, often the first donor on the scene,

is well-placed to assist with immediate relief efforts. This includes emergency funding to partner governments, multilateral agencies or non-government organisations (NGOs), or sending essential relief supplies such as tarpaulins, building materials and water containers. A response may also include technical expertise such as engineers or communications experts to assist in the restoration of essential infrastructure, such as phone lines and power. One of the key response mechanisms in the Pacific is the government to government arrangement with France and Australia (FRANZ).

As well as responding to immediate needs, NZAID promotes longer-term disaster risk reduction, preparedness, and recovery initiatives in Pacific communities.

Whatever form the response takes, it is designed to ensure that the affected country is helped back onto its feet as quickly as possible.



Children in an NZAID-supplied tent after the Solomon Island earthquake and tsunami (April 2007). Photo: AusAID.

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nzaid

New Zealand's International
Aid & Development Agency

NZAID PACIFIC DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

Pacific regional natural resources and disaster management programme

NZAID's disaster risk reduction work in the Pacific forms part of the Pacific Regional Natural Resources and Disaster Management Programme which helps to fund organisations and initiatives that are designed to identify and reduce hazards and risks, help reduce the impact of, and build community resilience to, natural disasters. The Programme supports activities that promote better preparedness as well as working for an appropriate response and recovery. Projects also aim to build the capacity and capability of disaster management agencies in the Pacific.

As part of these initiatives, NZAID works with and helps to fund regional agencies such as the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC); multilateral agencies including the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) which has a regional office in Fiji; partner governments; the Red Cross; and NGOs.

NZAID's investment helps to ensure that Pacific communities are better placed to prepare for, deal with, and recover from natural disasters.

New Zealand's assistance in action

Niue

Cyclone Heta struck Niue in January 2004 causing considerable damage and destroying the country's only hospital, most of its businesses, the government centre, many houses, and half of the island's tourist accommodation.

In cooperation with other government agencies, donors, and NGOs, NZAID responded by providing tarpaulins, water containers, medical supplies, building materials and equipment for the clean-up. Most of this was flown in by the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF).

Cook Islands

In early 2005, five cyclones struck the Cook Islands causing over \$20 million worth of damage - mainly to public infrastructure and homes.

New Zealand provided \$1.5 million towards immediate disaster response and recovery and a further funding package of up to \$10 million towards a cyclone reconstruction programme which included repairs to damaged harbours, building cyclone-proof shelters and providing

ground-water systems to enable a supply of fresh water.



Clearing roads was an essential task after the devastation caused by Cyclone Meena in the Cook Islands (2005).

Solomon Islands

The earthquake and tsunami which devastated Solomon Islands in April 2007 left 57 people dead and thousands homeless. NZAID was one of the first agencies to respond with two flights of immediate relief supplies and a third providing a specialist NZDF air loading team to assist with the distribution of international relief items. New Zealand, through NZAID, funded a range of short and longer-term water and sanitation and shelter projects.

Fiji

In January 2009, floods in Fiji destroyed homes and infrastructure and forced 11,000 people into evacuation centres. New Zealand provided water containers and funding to United Nations agencies, the Fiji Red Cross and NGOs to assist with immediate recovery efforts. A longer-term reconstruction programme is underway.

NZAID was involved from the start in each of these examples and continues to provide assistance and support for the long-term recovery of each country.

New Zealand Government