

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.

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Making a difference in Tokelau

NEW ZEALAND'S DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

NZAID snapshot

- NZAID is the Government's international aid and development agency within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- In 2008/09 NZAID spent approximately \$471.3 million on overseas development assistance
- Over half of NZAID's expenditure is spent in the Pacific
- New Zealand's total assistance to Tokelau in 2008/09 was \$30.3 million. This includes a \$15 million contribution to the Tokelau International Trust Fund, the aim of which is to provide Tokelau with an independent source of revenue in the future
- New Zealand's assistance to Tokelau is managed through the Office of the Administrator of Tokelau, a combined team of NZAID development specialists and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade policy staff.

The facts

- The population is 1,466 (2006 census)
- Tokelau is made up of three coral atolls – Fakaofu, Nukunonu and Atafu
- Tokelau's land totals 12 square kilometres and is around 3.5 metres above sea level
- Tokelau is a non-self-governing territory of New Zealand. Tokelauans are New Zealand citizens.

The issues

- Isolation is a key issue. Tokelau is only accessible via a 24-30 hour boat journey from Samoa
- At only a few metres above sea level, Tokelau is especially vulnerable to the effects of natural disasters and climate change



Tokelau is extremely isolated in comparison to other countries in the Pacific.

- Soil is limited, providing only small-scale subsistence agriculture, requiring the villages to import much of their food
- Three atolls mean that Tokelau requires triplicate facilities for all services, particularly health and education, which is costly. With its tiny population, Tokelau has limited capacity to deliver these services
- Tokelau is heavily dependent on New Zealand assistance, which makes up around 96 percent of its budget. Other sources of revenue include fisheries, stamps and coins
- In February 2006 and October 2007 Tokelau held self-determination referenda. Neither result met the two-thirds support level Tokelau had set for a change of status from that of dependent territory.

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nzaid

New Zealand's International
Aid & Development Agency

NEW ZEALAND'S CONTRIBUTION

Looking to the future

New Zealand is committed to supporting Tokelau to develop more resilient economic and social opportunities whilst retaining its strong cultural identity.

NZAID support focuses on three main areas:

- Direct and targeted support for Tokelau's national budget
- Improving infrastructure, including maintenance of existing infrastructure
- Ensuring Tokelau continues to be served by adequate shipping services.

Economic support

Tokelau is dependent on New Zealand for economic support. The current three-year Economic Support Arrangement between New Zealand and Tokelau (for \$43 million from 2007-2010) is based on Tokelau's strategic plan for this period.

The arrangement focuses on Tokelau's six priorities:

- village development
- health
- education
- transport
- communications and information technology
- economic development.

Improving Infrastructure

Within the Economic Support Arrangement, Tokelau has prioritised development of key infrastructure assets including its schools and health facilities on the atolls. Upgrading this infrastructure is a crucial part of ensuring services can be delivered to an effective standard.

Buildings will be designed and built to cyclone-resistant standards. They will also be energy efficient and low maintenance.

In addition to supporting the development of new infrastructure, the Economic Support Arrangement includes a specific provision for repairs and maintenance of existing assets, which is an important and ongoing task in Tokelau's tropical environment.

Shipping project

Tokelau is one of the most remote places in the world. With no air strips, access is only by sea. It relies solely on shipping for transporting people and cargo. The atolls have been served by the ageing and modest MV Tokelau for a number of years, supplemented by charter vessels. New

Zealand and Tokelau have been working on a new shipping service that will be safer and have greater cargo and passenger capacity and accommodation. It is envisioned that the new service will begin by late 2011.



Supplies are brought to shore. Tokelau imports most of its food requirements, an efficient shipping service is vital to the country.

Tokelau International Trust Fund

The Tokelau International Trust Fund, established in 2004, seeks to provide Tokelau with an independent source of revenue. It now stands at just over \$54 million. New Zealand has contributed around \$36 million to the fund and regular contributions are also made by Tokelau and Australia. The Fund will continue to grow for some years before Tokelau begins to benefit from it.



The MV Tokelau. New Zealand is working with Tokelau to provide an improved shipping service.