

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.

JUNE 2009

| NZAID making a difference in Tonga

## 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
- NZAID's total support for Tonga in 2008/09 was \$16 million, including regional funding.

### The facts

- The Tongan population is 101,134 (2006 Census)
- Youth comprise approximately 50 percent of the population
- Tonga is an archipelago of 129 islands, of which only 39 are inhabited
- Its human development outcomes, including under-five mortality rate, life expectancy and literacy, are among the best in the Pacific, and on a par with its Middle Income Country status.

### Working in partnership

In September 2008, New Zealand and Tonga launched a 10-year strategy focusing on three priority areas:

- lifting economic performance
- strengthening governance and supporting democratic reform
- supporting quality education.

This strategy was developed to reflect the priorities of the Government of Tonga's Strategic Development Plan 8. NZAID will continue to support Tonga's national development planning as it makes the transition to implement the new National Strategic Planning Framework.

New Zealand also works closely with Australia in a number of areas including industry-based skills training, policing and political reform.

### Lifting economic performance

NZAID will be increasing support for sustainable economic development. This support will include assistance to tourism, industry-based skills training, small to medium enterprise development, and infrastructure development.

Tourism has the potential to provide significant economic benefits to Tonga. Recently NZAID has been working with the Tongan tourism sector to identify a range of opportunities for sustainable tourism development. While a few small-scale tourism activities are currently in progress, a comprehensive, multi-year programme of support will be designed in 2009.

Enhancing the provision of quality technical and vocational training in Tonga is a priority area for NZAID. NZAID is currently supporting a 10-year technical and vocational education and training programme which aims to improve training standards and access to technical and vocational training, which is aligned to industry needs. The programme will look to reduce youth

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New Zealand's International  
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unemployment and increase the number of skilled employees throughout Tonga.

NZAID is also looking at ways to improve private sector development opportunities. This support will include looking at how businesses can be assisted with accessing business development services and finance as well as improving trading and business links with New Zealand companies.

## **Strengthening governance and supporting democratic reform**

Unique in the Pacific, Tonga is the only country with a constitutional monarchy. Tonga is now undergoing a historic and fundamental change from an executive monarchy to a modern parliamentary democracy.

In December 2008, New Zealand committed \$1.5 million to supporting the democratic reform process in Tonga. This three year programme supporting the formal path to the planned 2010 elections focuses on civic education and public participation in the reform process.

The funding supports the Constitutional and Electoral Commission. This independent commission will report on the future roles of the monarchy and Executive in Tonga, and also on the type of electoral system to be adopted for democratic elections. New Zealand's contribution will be matched by a similar payment by the Governments of Tonga and Australia.

## **Walking the beat: the Tonga Police Development Programme**

Following riots in November 2006, at the request of the Tongan Government, New Zealand and Australian Police were sent to Tonga to assist with post-riot recovery efforts.

From early 2007 onwards, the role of the New Zealand Police changed to helping to rebuild the relationship between the Tongan Police Force and the community, which had been strained by the civil unrest.

Established in early 2008, the Tonga Police Development Programme is a joint initiative

between the governments of New Zealand, Australia, and Tonga. This includes a strong in-country advisory presence from New Zealand Police. The aim of the programme is to increase public trust and confidence in the Tongan Police.

The programme focuses on:

- community policing
- resource and operational capacity building
- legislative and policy reform
- infrastructure and information technology improvements.

## **Supporting quality education**

Since 2005, NZAID has been involved in the Tonga Education Support Programme (TESP).

The TESP aims to improve the quality of educational outcomes through curriculum reform, teacher training, improved texts and resources and a range of other activities.

In-country training is another way that NZAID aims is supporting education and training efforts in Tonga. With NZAID assistance Tonga's Ministry of Training, Employment, Youth and Sport, is providing quality short-term training in a range of areas. Recent courses have included ecotourism tour-guide training, food processing and food safety, basic accounting, counselling services, and cultural handicrafts.

NZAID offers tertiary scholarships for Tongan students to study in New Zealand and other Pacific island countries at regional universities such as the University of the South Pacific.

NZAID also supports human resource development by providing Tongan employees with vocational short-term training in New Zealand.