

ENDING POVERTY BEGINS WITH HEALTH

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NZAID | Nga Hoe Tuputupu-mai-tawhiti | The paddles that bring growth from afar

...towards a safe and just world

The logo for NZAID, featuring a stylized red wave above the word "nzaid" in a bold, dark green, lowercase sans-serif font.

New Zealand's International
Aid & Development Agency



Good health

"We know that the vast majority of human suffering and early deaths in the world are poverty related...Ill health leads to poverty and poverty breeds ill health. People in developing countries carry 90% of the disease burden yet have access to only 10% of the resources used for health."

Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland, Director General
World Health Organisation (WHO), 1998

Improving the health status of those living in poverty is a cornerstone of NZAID's commitment to achieving a safe and just world free of poverty. Good health enables people to break out of the vicious cycle of poverty and improve their lives through factors such as lower risk of unemployment, higher productivity, and better control over their own lives and the lives of their families.

Health is a human right

"Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and wellbeing of themselves and their family including food, clothing and medical care."

Article 25 Universal Declaration of Human Rights

...which is why NZAID supports the improvement of health care delivery and health outcomes for people in our development partner countries.

NZAID views health through a human rights lens, which ensures that freedom from avoidable ill health and premature death are seen as an intrinsic part of human wellbeing as well as a fundamental development goal.

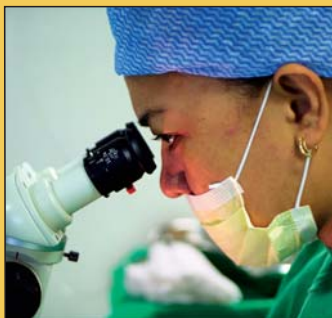
reduces poverty



Health is essential for development

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are the globally agreed framework to progress poverty elimination. While all the MDGs are indirectly linked to health and health outcomes, three MDGs relate specifically to the health sector:

- MDG 4. Reduce child mortality (Target: Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate)
- MDG 5. Improve maternal health (Target: Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio)
- MDG 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases (Target: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS, as well as the incidence of malaria and other major diseases).



NZAID supports

"NZAID is working with its Pacific partners to help protect the region's most precious asset, its children. For example, NZAID is supporting a coordinated programme to deliver routine immunisation to children across the Pacific, which is saving at least 3000 Pacific children's lives every year. New Zealand's support in the Pacific also played an important part in the elimination of polio in 2000. We are making a difference in the Pacific and beyond."

New Zealand Aid Minister Marian Hobbs

Poverty is a global problem, but its effects can be seen close to home. Statistics from our neighbours in the Pacific paint a challenging picture: Papua New Guinea (PNG), for example, has the lowest living standards of any country in the Pacific, the lowest average life expectancy and the highest maternal and infant mortality rates. According to the 2004 Human Development Report, a mother is over forty times more likely to die in childbirth in PNG than in New Zealand.

New Zealand knows the Pacific well. It is a region where we can play a significant role in future development. Key aspects of NZAID's support for health in the Pacific include HIV/AIDS, sexual and reproductive health, women and children's health, mental health, health promotion/disease prevention, improving health services and access to specialist medical treatment.

NZAID supports development partners' efforts to increase the wellbeing of people through:

- improving access to and provision of primary health care including health promotion, health protection and disease prevention;
- providing limited specialist care for some Pacific countries through mechanisms that are cost-effective and strategic in focus; and
- promoting a multi-dimensional view of health through collaboration across sectors.

health in our region...

NZAID also supports health care globally

Although NZAID's core geographical focus in health is the Pacific region, the agency also supports partnerships in health in other parts of the world including Asia, Africa and Latin America.

CASE STUDY

Viet Nam maternal health

In some areas of Viet Nam more than 200 mothers from every 100,000 who give birth die from complications of pregnancy and childbirth. Child mortality nationally is five times higher than in New Zealand – 30 deaths for every 1000 babies born.

Concern over high death rates among mothers and babies in Viet Nam lies behind a major NZAID maternal and child health project in Binh Dinh province. It is NZAID's largest single bilateral aid project outside the Pacific.

Over the next four years NZAID will work with the Vietnamese Government and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to provide improved maternity and birth care, particularly in Binh Dinh's remote and mountainous back country. New Zealand funding will total some NZ\$4.2 million.

A major focus is on strengthening the province's health professionals through activities such as training and the standardisation of reproductive care across the province.



a focus on

NZAID regards primary health care as a cost-effective and equitable way of improving the health status of people and combating poverty. For example, it is estimated that for every US\$1 invested in primary health care, such as immunisation, there is a US\$10 rate of return. With the implementation of NZAID's Health Policy, the agency will increase its support towards primary health care while keeping support for specialist medical services.

While no universally applicable definition of primary health care exists, the key features are:

- it is affordable – basic health care that is universally available
- it is acceptable – community participation in defining and implementing health priorities
- it is accessible – equitable access to basic health care by all in a community, giving priority to those most in need
- it is intersectoral – health care that cuts across all aspects of the community, not just the health sector.

Support for specialist medical care

Support for specialist medical care also contributes to poverty elimination through the improvement of quality of life and the prevention of premature death. NZAID's Medical Treatment Scheme (MTS) supports limited specialist medical care for participating Pacific Island countries where treatment is not available, and for conditions which have a good prognosis.

NZAID will improve the quality of its contribution to specialist medical care by improving the accessibility and equity of NZAID's MTS and by helping build the capacity of Pacific countries participating in the schemes to meet as many of their specialist medical health care needs as possible.

primary health

CASE STUDY

East Sepik women's health

In the remote East Sepik province in PNG, NZAID is investing \$10.2 million dollars to 2011 in a Save the Children NZ project which trains village health workers to deliver primary health care to their communities. Services include malaria prevention, treatment of common illnesses and improved access to sexual and reproductive health services for women, including assistance during pregnancy, birth and the post-natal period.

NZAID's ongoing commitment to health

Because of the clear links between health and poverty elimination, NZAID has identified support for health as an essential strategy within its 2005-2009 Strategic Plan. NZAID is committed to increasing the level of support it provides to health, and to improving the effectiveness of this support. It is envisaged that the proportion of NZAID's overall expenditure on health will increase considerably within the next five years.

We gratefully acknowledge the photographers and the copyright holders.



If you want to know more...

...about NZAID's Health Policy, please contact NZAID's communications team on communications@nzaid.govt.nz or at our postal address: **Private Bag 18-901, Wellington.**

For a copy of the policy or any other NZAID policies visit our website: www.nzaid.govt.nz

Other useful web addresses are:

UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) – www.unicef.org

GFATM (Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria) – www.fundthefund.org/gfatm

WHO (World Health Organisation) – www.who.int/en/

UNAIDS (Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS) – www.unaids.org

UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) – www.unfpa.org

ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) – www.icrc.org

IPPF (International Planned Parenthood Federation) – www.ippf.org

Relief Web – www.reliefweb.org

World Bank – www.worldbank.org

Secretariat of the Pacific (SPC) – www.spc.int

