

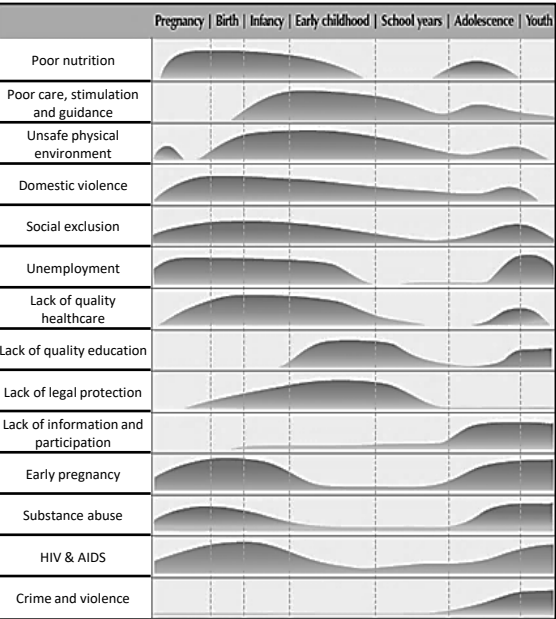
CHILD & YOUTH WELL-BEING STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN 2021 – 2025



GOAL: NEW ZEALAND’S DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION IMPROVES SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WHO ARE MISSING OUT

Child and Youth Well-being Strategic Approach

Child and youth well-being is a critical focus area for New Zealand’s development cooperation – affirmed in New Zealand’s International Cooperation for Effective Sustainable Development Cooperation (ICESD). This reflects New Zealand’s domestic commitment to achieve greater equity through the national Child and Youth Well-being Strategy. The strategic action plan aims to deliver greater impact and equity across our programming by advancing human rights for children and youth and through taking a targeted approach across the life-cycle – from birth, through the early years (0 – 5 years), primary years (6 – 12 years), secondary years (13 – 18 years), and tertiary years (19 – 30 years). The broad scope of this approach promotes multi-sectoral **holistic development** for child and youth well-being, rather than delivering fragmented sectoral and piecemeal initiatives.



Distribution of risk along the life-cycle



A **life-cycle approach** can transform outcomes for children and youth by investing progressively throughout the life-cycle. Targeted strategic interventions mitigate risks when they arise, improve resilience, and maximise the potential of human development from birth, through the early years, adolescence and youth development.

This **holistic approach** has four priority areas (detail on page 2):

- 1. Systems for children and youth**
Governance systems progressively improve child and youth well-being throughout the life-cycle through implemented and resourced policies, monitoring and reporting
- 2. Child and youth influence**
Children and youth act and inform development processes, institutions, programs and decision-making, which contributes to democratic and stable governance
- 3. Healthy, safe, supported and learning**
Children and adolescents have access to services that support their holistic development, protection and well-being throughout the life-cycle
- 4. Realising youth potential**
Young people have the skills and opportunity to participate in their family, community, school, training institution, workplace and with peers

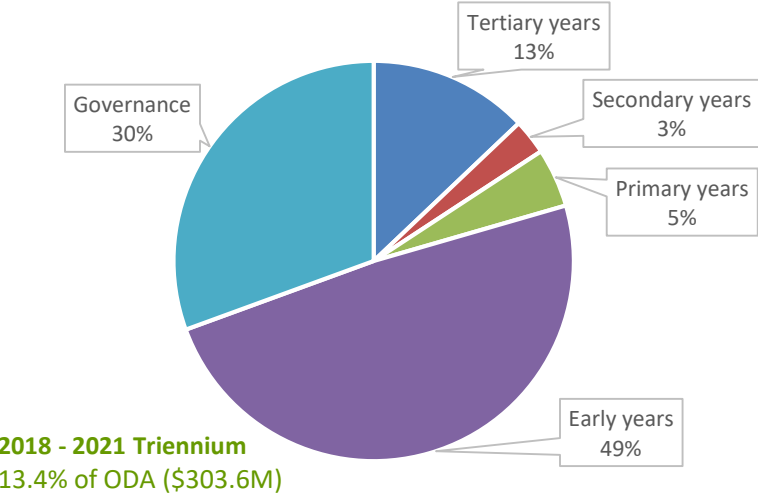
Global, Pacific & Domestic Guidance

- ✗ UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
 - ✗ UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*
 - ✗ Nurturing Care Framework (WHO, UNICEF, World Bank)
 - ✗ Pacific Youth Development Framework, 2014 – 2023 (SPC)*
 - ✗ UN AIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway*
 - ✗ New Zealand’s Human Rights Action Plan (2019 – 2023)
 - ✗ New Zealand’s Child and Youth Well-being Strategy (2019)*
- *Informed by children and youth

Example Initiatives

- Systems for children and youth:** Establishment of a youth diversion scheme within the Tonga Ministry of Justice, as part of the Tonga Justice Sector Support Programme
- Child and youth influence:** Increasing youth leadership and young people’s access to services, training and jobs through support for youth centres and youth organisations in Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and Kiribati
- Healthy, safe, supported and learning:** Partnership with Save the Children New Zealand to deliver holistic support for children in the Pacific and South-East Asia to reduce violence against children, reduce child poverty, and build resilience (safe schools)
- Realising youth potential:** Partnership with NGO, Youth Challenge Vanuatu, to provide services for youth, supporting access to employment or further study, and promoting youth leadership and community engagement

New Zealand's ODA Spend on Child and Youth well-being

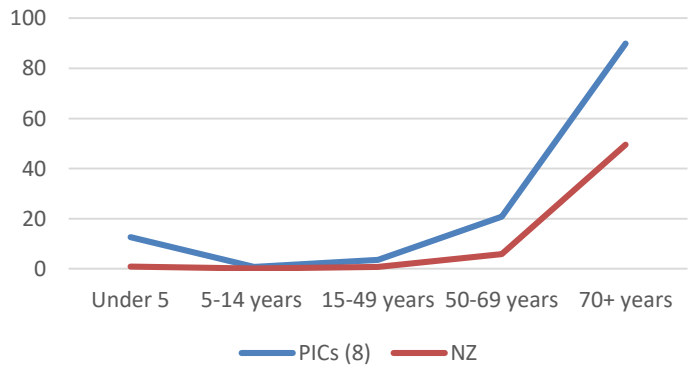


The analysis above presents MFAT’s investment across the life-cycle of child and youth well-being. It does not capture data from the Scholarships Program (240.5M) which has some allocation to school leavers, nor labour mobility initiatives which may benefit young people under 30 years.

Snapshot of Child and Youth Issues

Children and young people account for a demographic bulge and experience multiple forms of risk and vulnerability, creating significant development challenges. For detailed data, see *Appendix A: Pacific Island Country Profiles: Status of Child and Youth Indicators*

Age-cohort-specific deaths per 1000 across the life-cycle (2019)¹



¹ While there are many indicators that substantiate well-being, understanding the incidence of deaths across the life-cycle provides a simplified picture of what we aim to do: reduce child mortality and increase life expectancy.

- ✗ Under 5 child mortality rates have halved globally (38%) and reduced in the Pacific (23%), but are still significantly high
- ✗ Malnutrition is a global concern. Childhood stunting affects 21.3% of under 5 year olds in the Pacific, equal to the global rate
- ✗ The adolescent birth rate in the Pacific (51%) is more than double that of Asia Pacific region (21%) and above world average (42%)
- ✗ Youth unemployment stands at 13.6% globally and 17.4% across the Pacific, with some countries as high as 64.4%
- ✗ All PICs have ratified the CRC – reporting remains a challenge for small-sized administrations

COVID-19 Effects

- ✗ COVID-19 has the potential to have lifelong effects on children’s lives. Interrupted and arrested learning will have serious inter-generational impact on poverty
- ✗ Youth express greatest concerns about mental health, employment and disposable income impacts of the pandemic
- ✗ Young people now face poorer prospects for better jobs and career opportunities, higher risk of job and income loss, and rapidly risk falling below poverty lines

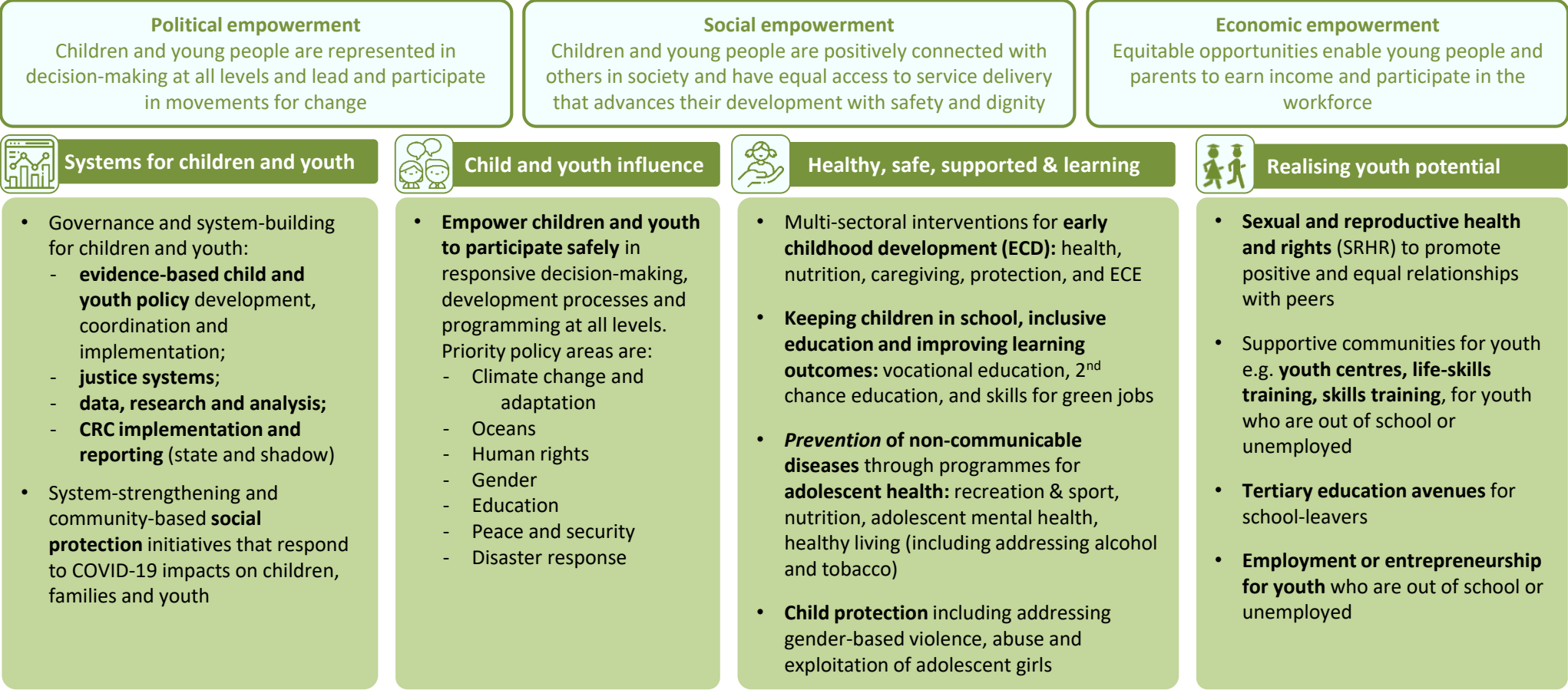
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Child and Youth Well-being Priorities

GOAL: IMPROVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WHO ARE MISSING OUT

Long-term outcomes



Operating Principles

New Zealand’s support for child and youth well-being will:

- Use a Child Rights Based Approach
- Expand from sectoral towards coordinated multi-sectoral investments enabling Holistic Development
- Focus on where acceleration is needed towards SDGs and where indicators are worse than global averages
- Include the most excluded children and youth, in all their diversities
- Work collaboratively with partners and stakeholders
- Keep children and youth safe across all development activity and foreign policy engagement that impacts on their lives

To deliver this action plan, MFAT will:

- Take an internally coordinated approach across all programmes
- Develop mainstreaming tools to integrate a rights-based approach for children and youth across programmes
- Analyse annual investment across the life-cycle and monitor progress towards outcomes
- Disaggregate Scholarships Programme and labour mobility data to understand the proportion of spend and outcomes for school-leavers and youth
- Introduce the Child & Youth Marker to track and analyse relevant activities*
- Provide technical advice and develop guidance for applying the thematic markers for 1). Child & Youth and 2). Reproductive, Maternal, Neo-natal, and Child Health (RMNCH)
- Develop organisational standards for safeguarding and child protection compliance
- Advocate internationally for child and youth well-being priorities

How MFAT will deliver Child and Youth Well-being Priorities

NGO Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Partnering for Impact <i>mahi</i> is a clear opportunity for targeted programming in the priority areas. We will support our partners to deliver impactful programmes at community level that focus on children and youth who are missing out, child and youth influence, child protection, youth and family livelihoods, safe adolescent and youth development, child and adolescent nutrition, mental health, and shadow reporting (CRC)
Pacific Regional	<ul style="list-style-type: none">We will support regional institutions to deliver technical assistance to PICs, and for regional coordination on priorities for children and youth: youth employment; child and youth influence; youth policies; sexual and reproductive health and rights; and child and youth mainstreaming
Multilateral	<ul style="list-style-type: none">We will continue support to multilateral institutions to deliver multi-sectoral programming in early childhood development (ECD), child protection, and system-building including CRC implementation and reportingWe will advocate internationally for child and youth well-being priorities
Sector Thematic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Our programmes in education and child health are maintained as principal thematic investment and can be expanded in the priority areasWe will mainstream child and youth well-being across other sector thematic programmes to enhance holistic development outcomes eg. Industry & Innovation, Infrastructure & Energy, Oceans & Fisheries
Bilateral	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Where country priorities include governance and system-building, including social protection, for children and youth, and where governments determine resource needs or policy reform targets, we will work to respond through our development programme of support.HEF funds can be used to reach those most at risk of being left behind, and enable voices of children and youth to influence decision-makingEnsure safeguarding where policy settings have both domestic and international implications affecting the lives of children and youth, with a focus on adoption and associated child welfare issues
Global	<ul style="list-style-type: none">We will focus on mainstreaming to integrate child and youth well-being across development programming where appropriateWe will support where national efforts seek to focus on tertiary education avenues for school-leavers

Key Partners: Young people and organisations representing children and youth, governments, UNICEF, Pacific Community (SPC), International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), New Zealand & local NGOs, Oranga Tamariki, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Ministry for Pacific Peoples, Ministry of Justice, private sector, Commonwealth Secretariat

* Mark all activities that contribute to child and youth well-being:

- To capture all investments, mark *all* activities that intentionally improve children and young people’s well-being with the Child and Youth Marker (principal, or significant objectives)
- Mark all activities that support reproductive, maternal, neo-natal, and child health up to five years with the RMNCH Marker *in addition* to the Child and Youth Marker