NEW ZEALAND'S POLICE SUPPORT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The rule of law, access to justice and community safety are important factors in allowing people to generate income and improve their lives. Police work is, therefore, an important part of New Zealand's international development assistance.   An independent evaluation of New Zealand's police work under the New Zealand Aid Programme found improvements in community safety and a particular strength in community policing. It recommends how we can build on this success and increase the effectiveness of police support.

Key points from the evaluation

- **New Zealand's police work has effected positive changes to the technical ability of partner police forces. A clear strength has been a model of providing assistance from one police service to the partner police service.**
- **New Zealand's community policing approach was successful, through establishing close professional relationships with partner police forces.**
- **There have been positive results, often in highly challenging situations.**
- **The New Zealand Aid Programme has delivered or is on track to deliver intended results.**
- **The New Zealand Aid Programme should continue to fund the international development work of the New Zealand Police.**
- **A more strategic approach to future engagements is recommended.**

Context

Over the last 10 years the New Zealand Aid Programme invested in 33 police-related interventions. This investment totalled NZ$66.4 million. New Zealand Police have focused their contribution on community policing and capacity development work in post-conflict and fragile contexts.

Police work is a vital component of 'building safe and secure communities[1]', essential foundations for a well-functioning state and sustainable economic development. Security and justice are recognised as core state building and peace building goals by the international community[2].

Purpose of evaluation

In 2012, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade commissioned a strategic evaluation of police work funded by the New Zealand Aid Programme from 2005 to 2011. The evaluation assessed the extent to which the New Zealand Aid Programme's support for work implemented by the New Zealand Police was relevant, effective, efficient and sustainable.

Two reports were produced, covering New Zealand Police work in:

- the Pacific region, focusing on four countries (Cook Islands, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tonga) as well as three multi-country interventions.
- Fragile and conflict-affected contexts - Afghanistan, Papua New Guinea (including Bougainville), Solomon Islands and Timor Leste.

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[1] One of the five strategic themes from the New Zealand Aid Programme's Strategic Plan 2012-2015..

[2] Endorsed on 30 November 2011 at the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness: http://www.g7plus.org/new-deal-document.

What did the evaluation find?

- New Zealand police work saw positive changes in the technical ability of police forces of partner countries. For example, as a result of mentoring and training provided to the Afghan National Police (ANP) in Bamiyan, ANP instructors' training abilities were enhanced and sustained basic training for new and existing patrolmen is in place.
- New Zealand's community policing approach was successful, through establishing close professional relationships with partner police forces. The model worked better when working with partner countries, for example Tonga. Where the community policing model was part of a multi-national intervention, the model has proved more challenging, for example Bougainville.

New Zealand Police Officer working on community policing in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea. Credit: New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

- The professionalism of the New Zealand Police and the quality of their contribution was highly regarded by partner countries. The ability of members of the New Zealand Police to work sensitively in different cultural settings is an asset in their international work.
- New Zealand Police contributed to restoring stability in challenging situations, for example Afghanistan and Bougainville.
- Partner police forces appreciated that the New Zealand Police were prepared to engage for the long haul (for example Bougainville since 2000, Solomon Islands since 2003 and Timor Leste since 2006).
- New Zealand funded police work linked well to New Zealand international objectives. New Zealand engagement was relevant to each context and responded to the needs of the situations.
- The technically-led approach was not sustainable in the long term. A more strategic approach is required to deliver on a goal of safe and secure communities.
- The evaluation identified issues with short term deployments; a tendency to substitute for local staff without a clear exit strategy; imperfect skill matches and differences between ranks of New Zealand Police and those in partner countries.

What was recommended?

The evaluation recommended that the New Zealand Aid Programme continue to fund New Zealand Police's international development work.

A more strategic and context-specific model of engagement was recommended. This approach would embed policing in the broader security and justice context. It would also mean undertaking more diagnostic work before engagement and stronger diplomatic engagement at the policy level.

Recommended improvements to the New Zealand Police deployment model include a stronger focus on capacity development, longer deployments and better matching skill sets and ranks.

What are the next steps?

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the New Zealand Police have prepared a response to the evaluation which accepts most of the recommendations.

The two organisations are currently developing a new Partnership Arrangement for New Zealand Aid Programme-funded police work. This Arrangement will build on existing successes and draw on the evaluation's findings to increase the effectiveness of international police work.

Refer to the <u>evaluation reports</u> for more detailed information.