

MFAT Management response to the recommendations in the 2016 Tonga country programme evaluation report

Recommendation	Management Response
<p>New Zealand should develop a country strategy that guides its whole-of-government engagement in Tonga. This strategy should focus on two priorities over the next 10-15 years: ‘fostering stability’ and supporting ‘sustainable economic development’. The country strategy should be supported by sector level delivery strategies that articulate how New Zealand’s TCAF expenditure is supporting these priorities in a complementary way.</p>	<p>Agree. The process for developing a new country strategy framework has commenced and we envisage a country strategy for Tonga will be developed in 2017.</p>
<p>New Zealand should develop a policy dialogue strategy for Tonga that prioritises ongoing high level (formal and informal) policy dialogue that focuses not just on New Zealand’s investment priorities under the JCFD but broader development issues of central importance to the GoT. New Zealand should allocate very senior staff to this dialogue.</p>	<p>Agree. Policy dialogue will be informed by the country strategy and provide clarity of New Zealand’s broader policy objectives for Tonga. We agree that senior staff need to participate in this dialogue.</p>
<p>MFAT should devote more resources to pre-post training for NZHC staff undertaking postings to Tonga that focuses on cultural, historical and politics issues in the country and includes a review of the challenges with delivering effective and sustainable activities in Tonga.</p>	<p>Agree to consider. A review of pre-posting training will be undertaken.</p>
<p>New Zealand should fund a medium term Strategic Technical Assistance (TA) Facility (4-6 years) that can provide targeted and consistent TA in support of New Zealand and GoT priorities, including activities that strengthen the enabling environment for development cooperation.</p>	<p>Agree to consider. MFAT recognises that Technical Assistance can be a very valuable part of a country programme. MFAT has used technical assistance in the way recommended in other programmes and will consider the suggestion for the Tonga programme.</p>
<p>New Zealand should consider providing more strategic and programmatic support to the Justice sector that assists Tonga in strengthening accountability and transparency, while also building capacity within that sector.</p>	<p>Agree to consider. We broadly support this recommendation. It will need to be considered as part of the development of the new country strategy and policy dialogue with the GoT.</p>
<p>New Zealand should ensure that more of a ‘Tongan lens’ is applied to the development of aid activities in the country. This would involve freeing up NZHC DPC resources for more timely and in-depth design appraisal, fostering more in-depth in-country feedback on designs and ensuring designs are appraised by consultants with expertise in the Tongan political and institutional context.</p>	<p>Agree.</p>

