



Minister of Foreign Affairs' report on the International Development Cooperation non-departmental appropriation within Vote Foreign Affairs 2024–25

This report is prepared under s19B of the Public Finance Act 1989: Provision of end of year performance information by Ministers.

Cover photo: Women preparing flax for weaving. Taratai Village, North Tarawa, Kiribati. Credit: MFAT

New Zealand's International Development Cooperation (IDC) Programme — Ngā Hoe Tuputupu-mai-tawhiti¹ is funded by a non-departmental appropriation within Vote Foreign Affairs. The Pacific and Development Group of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (hereafter 'the Ministry') manages the IDC Programme, disbursing the funding provided under this appropriation to a range of delivery partners (including New Zealand government agencies, partner governments, non-government organisations, companies, and regional and multilateral organisations).

The non-departmental IDC appropriation for the triennium July 2024–June 2027 is **\$3.064 billion**². Three-year appropriations allow expenditure to be managed across years, which enables the Ministry to focus on longer term quality and impact. A separate departmental appropriation is provided under Vote Foreign Affairs to fund the Ministry's management of the IDC Programme.

This report provides an overview of IDC Programme performance for the 2024–25 financial year. The first section features key achievements for the year, including the Ministry's work with other development partners, and delivery against the 2022–25 climate finance commitment.

The second section sets out achievements from across the entire IDC Programme, and impact towards the Ministry's three strategic goals:

- a safe, secure and just future
- a prosperous and resilient future
- a sustainable future.

¹ Ngā Hoe Tuputupu-mai-tawhiti can be translated as 'The paddles that bring growth from afar'

² As at 1 July 2025. For latest allocation figures see: <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/aid-and-development/our-approach-to-aid/where-our-funding-goes/our-planned-idc-expenditure>



Aerial view of the New Betio Hospital site in Kiribati, showing the maternity ward, paediatric ward, kitchen, laundry, staff areas and traditional maneaba funded by New Zealand and constructed by Reeves International, with engineering services provided by Egis. Credit: Reeves International

International Development Cooperation Programme — Ngā Hoe Tuputupu-mai-tawhiti

The Ministry has primary responsibility for administering New Zealand’s international development cooperation, which it does through the IDC Programme. We deliver funding³, knowledge and skills to improve sustainable development and reduce poverty in developing countries, with a strong focus on the Pacific. Our humanitarian action saves lives and relieves suffering in natural disasters and protracted crises. We seek coherence across development, diplomatic, security, economic, climate change, and environmental objectives to ensure we deliver sustainable progress, and advance New Zealand’s interests and values. New Zealand’s international development cooperation (policy and financial) is an integral pillar of our foreign policy, reflecting our network of international relationships and commitments, and as an expression of our values.

New Zealand’s Policy Statement on International Cooperation for Effective Sustainable Development⁴, and the Ministry’s Strategic Framework provide an overarching strategic direction for our IDC — including how we allocate and deliver funding, work with partners, and achieve outcomes. We seek effective, inclusive, resilient, and sustained outcomes, and work in line with international development effectiveness principles.

³ OECD Development Assistance Committee determines at a high level what can be counted and reported as Official Development Assistance (ODA) — i.e. support with a primary purpose of economic development and welfare of developing countries and provided on concessional terms. New Zealand’s support under the IDC is more expansive than ODA, as some high-income Pacific countries are also eligible.

⁴ ICESD. See: <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/Aid-Prog-docs/Policy/Policy-Statement-New-Zealands-International-Cooperation-for-Effective-Sustainable-Development-ICESD.pdf>

Overview of 2024–25

As various global challenges transform our world, development needs are intensifying in the Pacific and beyond. We continue to work with likeminded donors to deliver on the needs of our priority partners.

Global challenges and responses

Over the past year, several large donors, including France, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States, have announced major development funding reductions. Official Development Assistance (ODA) provided by the OECD Development Assistance Committee members dropped 7 percent in 2024, and is expected to fall further — reshaping the international development landscape. While the Pacific is insulated to some degree from the reductions, impacts in Southeast Asia, Africa and other regions are likely to be significant. The international humanitarian system, which is already struggling to respond to increasing global humanitarian need, will face significantly declining access to funding. The Ministry continues to assess the impacts of this on our priority partners and work closely with likeminded donor partners as any impacts play out.

New Zealand’s development cooperation outside the Pacific has a primary geographic focus on Southeast Asia, and in line with the Government’s Foreign Policy Reset, there has been a significant lift in funding for the region in the last year. New Zealand provided targeted support in economic and climate resilience (primarily agriculture and renewable energy), governance, peace and security, and knowledge and skills. We prioritised the least developed countries of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Timor-Leste; and middle income countries of Indonesia, Philippines, and Viet Nam. New Zealand also delivered a substantial ASEAN⁵ regional programme which supports New Zealand’s ambition to achieve a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with ASEAN.

In response to global crises, New Zealand provided IDC funding to conflict-affected areas such as Afghanistan, occupied Palestinian territories, Ukraine, and Myanmar (where conflict-related needs were exacerbated by an earthquake and severe cyclone). As a direct result of New Zealand’s support, over 159,000 people were provided with essential humanitarian assistance in 2024–25. IDC was also directed to eastern and southern Africa to support climate and economic resilience, and to a lesser degree to Latin

America and Caribbean for low emissions agriculture initiatives, renewable energy, and scholarships.

A Pacific focus

Our engagement in the Pacific is partner-led, supporting each country’s determination to chart its own development path, with a shared commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals⁶ (SDGs). Of the \$953.1 million total IDC expenditure in 2024–25, 60.1 percent was delivered to the Pacific (\$573.0 million), demonstrating our strong commitment to our Pacific partners and the region.

We continued working alongside our partners to deliver tangible long-term impact with an emphasis on climate change adaptation, peace and stability, social and economic resilience, and good governance.

A key focus over the year was on taking a more strategic and deliberate approach to collaboration and coordination with Australia, and other likeminded partners, on shared Pacific priorities — including leveraging support into the region.

We provided support to help lessen the impact of crises, including a coordinated response between New Zealand government agencies (NZ Inc) and development partners France and Australia, that delivered timely and effective relief after the Vanuatu earthquake in December. Recovery support has commenced and will remain a focus, particularly the repair and reconstruction of damaged infrastructure.

New Zealand continues to support and invest in regional unity through our membership of regional organisations and advocating for Pacific-led outcomes. We championed the priorities of PIF⁷ Leaders through support for Tonga’s hosting of the PIF Leaders Meetings in August 2024 (including transport for many Pacific Leaders); support for Samoa’s hosting of Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in October 2024; and strong engagement in the PIF Review of Regional Architecture. In our engagement with global partners, we consistently advocated for approaches that advance Pacific priorities, are consistent with established regional practices, and support existing regional institutions.

⁵ Association of Southeast Asian Nations

⁶ The SDGs are a collection of 17 interlinked objectives, adopted by the UN in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity. Countries have committed to prioritise progress for those who are furthest behind.

⁷ Pacific Island Forum — the region’s top political and economic organisation, with 18 members across the Pacific Ocean.

Results at a glance

In the 2024–25 financial year as a direct result of New Zealand's international development cooperation funding:



17,300+
PEOPLE

participated in a **labour mobility initiative**



2,100+
PEOPLE

received training or capability-building support in **fisheries and oceans'**



3,180+
PEOPLE

in the **education workforce** received training or capability-building support

965+
PEOPLE

completed **tertiary or vocational scholarships**

3,390+
PEOPLE

benefitted from **enhanced learning through ICT**



163,842+
PEOPLE

benefitted from **sexual and reproductive health services**

5,995+
PEOPLE

in the **health workforce** received training for capability-building support



21,115+
PEOPLE

received training or capability-building support in **equity and inclusion**



2,999,000+
PEOPLE

benefitted from initiatives which aim to increase resilience to **climate change and environmental degradation**



360,100+
PEOPLE

were provided with essential and useful **humanitarian assistance** following a natural or human-induced disaster



2,192,900+
PEOPLE

benefitted from **improved infrastructure** and services

3,440+
PEOPLE

received training or capability-building support in **infrastructure**



86,970+
PEOPLE

received training or capability-building support in **peace and security**



13,240+
PEOPLE

received training or capability-building support in **governance**



9,829,000+
PEOPLE

were supported to **improve their livelihoods**



Solomon Islands

TOTAL SPEND: \$47.04m

The Solomon Islands Provincial Airfield Upgrades activity sealed Seghe airfield in July 2024, enabling the airport to operate in all weather conditions. The upgrades will boost economic development for Solomon Island's Western Province (population of more than 90,000) through improved and more reliable flight connections.



Nauru

TOTAL SPEND: \$4.38m

Public sector governance was strengthened through the launch of Parliament's first Strategic Plan and Community Engagement Strategy, digitisation of civil and legal records, and development of a civic education curriculum for Year 10 students.



Papua New Guinea

TOTAL SPEND: \$38.56m

Business Link Pacific provided \$2.5 million in loan capital to Kina Bank and Women's Micro Bank, alongside technical assistance on green finance, gender equality, social and disability inclusion. With BLP support, Women's Micro Bank is providing loans to women entrepreneurs to grow their business.



Vanuatu

TOTAL SPEND: \$38.23m

The South Paray Wharf was completed through the Vanuatu Interisland Shipping Support Programme, boosting economic development, service access, and resilient inter-island infrastructure.



Fiji

TOTAL SPEND: \$37.45m

The Government of Fiji formally adopted the revised National Housing Policy in March 2025, aiming for all Fijians to have access to affordable, safe and climate resilient housing by 2030. This complements the 25 additional houses built in the Koroipita social housing settlement.



Tonga

TOTAL SPEND: \$44.63m

A new c-band weather radar at Fua'amotu International Airport has enhanced Tonga's early warnings systems and provided radar coverage for 99,260 people – 95 percent of the Tongan population.



Niue

TOTAL SPEND: \$43.30m

The Government of Niue's financial reporting and audit reports are now up to date, marking a significant achievement for the public sector and improving the transparency of government finances for the people of Niue.

Pacific impacts

Each box shows total IDC expenditure in that country and one example of a result achieved during the year



North Pacific

TOTAL SPEND: \$9.79m

With support from the Private Sector Development Initiative, Palau has launched its Sustainable Tourism Strategy 2025-2028, establishing clear national direction for building a tourism sector that protects Palau's unique environment, strengthens communities, and delivers long-term economic value.



Kiribati

TOTAL SPEND: \$40.67m

1,500 students and 80 staff are benefitting from the new Institute of Technology administration and student support services building and outside kitchen. 30 local workers were employed during construction, including graduates gaining practical experience.

PALAU

North Pacific

FSM

RMI

NAURU

KIRIBATI

**PAPUA
NEW
GUINEA**

**SOLOMON
ISLANDS**

TUVALU

▲ TOKELAU

VANUATU

FIJI

SAMOA

NIUE

TONGA COOK ISLANDS



Cook Islands

TOTAL SPEND: \$12.77m

Polynesian Health Corridors helped Cook Islands secure direct access to Boostrix vaccines in response to the recent Pertussis outbreak.



Samoa

TOTAL SPEND: \$51.37m

Through the NZ-Samoa Climate Finance Partnership, a seawall was constructed in Lauli'i Village, on the north coast of the country's most populated island, safeguarding homes and crops.



Tuvalu

TOTAL SPEND: \$36.45m

43 students were supported to undertake enrolled nursing training, delivered by Fiji School of Nursing in Tuvalu. This training helps school leavers who do not initially meet registered nurse entry criteria.



Tokelau

TOTAL SPEND: \$33.10m

786 Tokelauans had their eyesight screened through the Strengthening Tokelau Health Services Programme, with 52 identified for follow-up treatment, and 23 operations for cataracts and pterygiums carried out.

Working with other development partners

New Zealand collaborates with other development partners across all of our international development cooperation. With our primary focus being the Pacific, New Zealand works closely with Australia to support Pacific development outcomes. We also coordinate and collaborate with other governments who bring valuable resources to the Pacific in support of a Pacific-led approach and the regional priorities set out in the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. New Zealand advocates for resources to be directed towards the region's priorities in a way that complements, rather than competes with or duplicates, other development support.

Recent examples of successful partnerships to co-finance and deliver development initiatives across the region include:

- collaboration with Australia, Japan, Taiwan, and the United States to support construction of Tuvalu's first international undersea telecommunications cable. The Vaka Cable is transformative, significantly improving Tuvalu's internet connectivity, enabling better access to education, healthcare, government services, and economic opportunities. Beyond infrastructure, the Vaka Cable represents a shared vision for a connected Pacific, highlighting the power of regional cooperation in addressing development challenges and ensuring no nation is left behind in the digital age. In December 2024, the cable was landed in Funafuti.
- securing political commitment from South Korea to financially contribute to construction of a Pacific Community (SPC) research vessel — a Pacific priority to help monitor the impact of climate change on tuna fisheries. This builds on a financial commitment from the United States in April 2024.
- with development partners Australia, the United States, France, Germany, Japan and the United Kingdom, establishing the Pacific Humanitarian Warehousing Programme that supports 14 Pacific Island countries and Timor-Leste to strengthen disaster preparedness and build resilience. The warehouses will provide access to humanitarian relief supplies within 48 hours of a disaster to help meet immediate needs following an emergency.
- with partners Australia and the Pacific Community, supporting experts within Pacific education departments through a multi-year process to enhance the Pacific Assessment for Lower Secondary (PALS) and the primary-level Pacific Islands Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (PILNA). Overall, pilots for PALS and PILNA have engaged 3,471 students, reinforcing a comprehensive, equitable, evidence-driven approach across all levels of education in the Pacific.
- completion of Phase One construction of New Betio Hospital in Kiribati in January 2025. New Zealand designed and built Phase One, comprising of a maternity ward, children's ward, and hospital management facilities. Japan is funding the necessary fittings and equipment for the unit to be operational, and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) will fund Phase Two construction (adults' in-patient unit, out-patients unit, and emergency department). The hospital serves the Betio population of around 20,000 people.



Landing of the Tuvalu Vaka Cable in Funafuti.
Credit: Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific

- with Australia, delivering the Education Sector Support Programme in Solomon Islands. The Programme sought to improve basic education participation and completion, numeracy and literacy outcomes, learning outcomes of disadvantaged children, and education system management. When the programme concluded in April 2025 it had:
 - delivered 39 infrastructure projects, including new classrooms, dormitories, specialist buildings, and water, sanitation and hygiene facilities
 - distributed over 78,000 textbooks and 92,000 learner books and teacher guides, alongside other resources such as sign language books, and computer labs
 - supported more than 2,500 teachers to receive professional development training, and 1,000 teachers to attain qualifications from Solomon Islands National University or University of the South Pacific. 902 people received Solomon Islands Sign Language Training.
- working with Australia through our labour mobility development programmes to support Pacific countries to adopt Australia's 'In-country Recruitment Database'. This system seeks to streamline the data collection, recruitment and mobilisation of people participating in labour mobility schemes.
- the formation of Bula Lima in April 2025 — a development partners' collaboration group for health in the Pacific region, bringing together regional technical health agencies SPC, the Pacific Islands Health Officers Association, and World Health Organisation, as well as Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the Ministry. The formal collaboration mechanism, focused on long-standing (and emerging) health issues, will look to identify the challenges that the combined capabilities of each organisation are best placed to address, making the most of combined technical and financial resources, and accelerating action on the issues identified at the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting: health workforce, climate change and health, and non-communicable diseases.
- working with Australia and other like-minded partners during negotiations on the US\$100 billion International Development Association 21 Replenishment (IDA21), to secure outcomes that make financing for small states simpler, larger, and more concessional. Consequently, the Pacific region is expected to receive higher country allocations and increased financing to meet their development needs amidst global fiscal tightness.
- partnering with the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific on construction of a second international subsea telecommunications cable for Tonga, following damage to the country's only international and domestic undersea cable in the Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha'apai volcanic eruption. The cable, due for completion in early 2026, will help Tonga build a knowledge-based economy, while also protecting its cyber security and disaster resilience.
- commencing Phase 2 of the Accelerated Immunisation and Health System Strengthening programme in Papua New Guinea, with funding from New Zealand, Australia, Gavi, and The Vaccine Alliance. Achievements to date include:
 - integrated service delivery of immunisation and other primary health care services to over 300 health facilities in 14 provinces and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville
 - 1,247 Village Health Attendants active in 13 provinces, providing services to support healthcare workers
 - development of microplans for all health facilities in 10 provinces to guide efficient delivery of services
 - outreach to all 28 zero-dose districts and all 18 districts classified as disadvantaged by access to services.



Students at RC Nicholson College, Western Province, Solomon Islands, celebrating the handover of their new science laboratory, female dormitory, and ablution block. The works benefit 682 students (372 female). Credit: Solomon Islands Education Sector Support Programme



Construction of reclaimed land under the Tuvalu Coastal Adaptation Project. See p.44 for story. Credit: Rebekah Robertson, MFAT

Supporting climate resilience

Climate change is the most significant security and development issue facing the Pacific. Building resilience to the impacts of climate change is an important focus of New Zealand's engagement with the Pacific.

Supporting our priority partners to develop climate and economic resilience is a focus of the Ministry's development planning for each country and is a key contribution to the 'sustainable future' goal in the Ministry's Strategic Framework. Over the past three years, the Ministry has scaled up the IDC climate portfolio and built a strong foundation of climate and environment programming that can deliver impact in the Pacific and beyond. The portfolio is on track to meet the NZ\$1.3 billion climate finance commitment for 2022–25⁸. IDC projects contributing to climate change and environment outcomes are in advanced stages of delivery, with increasing visibility of positive impact. Independent evaluations are scheduled for 2026 and 2027.

The long-term nature of climate responses, combined with a focus on sustainability and a lasting impact from our investment, means that many benefits will be realised after the end date of the current commitment. However, our investment is making a difference.

Enhancing resilience and adaptation to the impacts of climate change

- The NZ–Samoa Climate Finance Partnership — supported through the Ministry's Country Flexible Finance modality — has supported the construction of a seawall in Lauli'i Village, on the north coast of the country's most populated island, providing vital protection for the community, safeguarding homes and crops. It will be duplicated in other parts of Samoa to improve resilience, protecting people and livelihoods.
- Financial preparedness for the impacts of climate change and natural hazards is being strengthened through the Pacific Insurance and Climate Adaptation Programme (PICAP). This Programme provides market-based meso- and micro-insurance schemes in seven Pacific countries, has delivered financial competency development activities to over 44,500 individuals across over 1,486 initiatives, and has launched tailored products for social welfare recipients and persons with disabilities supporting the most vulnerable. See p.41 for story.

⁸ Commitment is for January 2022–December 2025, with a target to invest at least 50 percent in adaptation activities and 50 percent in the Pacific.

- Through the Tonga Climate Change Fund (TCCF), the Water Security Programme has successfully delivered 3,500 rainwater harvesting tanks and 380 latrines across Tonga. This provides access to 17.5 million litres of additional rainwater catchment and storage for approximately 4,000 households, improving water security for 20,460 people. The Programme has significantly enhanced water access, hygiene, and sanitation, particularly benefitting women, children, those with disabilities, and the elderly. This investment has strengthened public health outcomes and provided climate-resilient infrastructure for some of Tonga's most vulnerable communities.

Improving institutional capability and evidence-based decision making

- The Climate Finance Capacity Support Programme supports the Ministry's flexible finance modality and provides technical assistance and personnel to 15 Pacific countries and territories to support their planning, delivery and reporting on climate finance investments. The programme has now filled 32 priority positions across 15 countries helping build capacity within government systems to better prepare for and respond to climate change.
- SPC's Climate Change Flagship Programme supported the training of 30 participants from Fiji's Ministry of Health on guidelines for climate resilient and environmentally sustainable healthcare facilities, and the assessment of five healthcare facilities using the guidelines; the inaugural Pan Pacific Conference on Climate and Health in Nadi bringing together participants from 11 Pacific Islands alongside 15 partner organisations, facilitating knowledge exchange; a Leptospirosis Early Warning System Model in Fiji, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, and Wallis and Futuna; and regional engagements on vector control and insecticide resistance monitoring, with a focus on diseases likely to be exacerbated by climate change — dengue, chikungunya, and Zika viruses.

Accelerating climate change mitigation

- New Zealand's contribution to the ADB's Energy Transition Mechanism (ETM) is supporting the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in Indonesia, Viet Nam, and the Philippines. These include the early retirement of the Cirebon-1 coal fired power plant pilot (Indonesia), technical assistance to the Mindanao Coal fired power plant early retirement project (Philippines), and the PLN Clean Energy Transition Programme (Indonesia).
- The Ministry is supporting renewable energy development across the Pacific, including the Niue Renewable Energy project which has made steady progress in 2024–25. This will contribute to the Government of Niue's goal to achieve their renewable energy target of 80 percent by 2025 through the installation of a 2.79MWp photovoltaic solar array, 8.19MWh Battery Energy Storage System, and significant upgrades to the Niue electricity network to increase safety and resilience. The project is expected to be completed in 2026 and will result in savings of 816,000 litres of fuel and 2,202 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent during its first year of operation, supporting Niue to deliver on its climate goals and Nationally Determined Contributions.

Leveraging investment to achieve greater climate impact

While New Zealand funded projects are making a visible difference, the need for funding is greater than we can support alone. Many activities have been designed to leverage other finance streams, are co-funded by other donors, or are delivered through multilateral funds to increase the impact of our collective investments. We are working closely with likeminded partners, such as Australia (PICAP, Tuvalu Coastal Adaption Project, Weather Ready Pacific), France (Vanuatu Solar, KIWA: Improving Ecosystem Resilience Programme), and the United Kingdom (TiDES — a project aiming to unlock private and public finance to support renewable energy development in the Pacific).

Through partnering with Australia, we have made a significant investment in climate and weather information, and early warning across the Pacific region. This has included an expansion of the Climate and Ocean Support Programme in the Pacific, partnering with Pacific stakeholders to develop climate and weather services for island communities, as well as supporting the development and delivery of the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders-endorsed Weather Ready Pacific Programme and working to crowd in additional donors behind this important Pacific-led programme.

New Zealand also contributes to multilateral organisations and funds to provide support at scale and in areas where we don't have expertise or reach to engage directly. These include the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and The Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Global Fund for Coral Reefs, the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage, and the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund. Through the current GEF-8 period (2022–2026), GEF-supported activities have protected over 218.4 million hectares of critical ecosystems, restored 8.6 million hectares of degraded land, avoided 1905.4 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions, supported transboundary cooperation in 40 shared water ecosystems, and eliminated 261.8 thousand tonnes of hazardous chemicals and waste.

New Zealand's development and humanitarian programmes in 2024–25

The following pages provide an overview of how the Ministry works to deliver results, the focus on impact across the IDC Programme, and highlights of results achieved through New Zealand's IDC Programme in 2024–25.



For nearly 65 years, New Zealand Police has been a trusted partner in supporting the Fiji Police Force, evolving from foundational assistance in police dog operations to a comprehensive programme that now spans leadership development, and investigative interviewing. A key achievement in 2024 was the graduation of Fiji's first General Patrol Dog team — trained and certified entirely by the Fiji Police Force. This achievement marks a significant step toward operational independence and sustainability in the role of patrol dogs in frontline policing in Fiji. Photo credit: MFAT

How we deliver results

International development cooperation is delivered through many different partnerships and mechanisms, including:

Support for civil society partnerships

Civil society plays a vital role in achieving sustainable development and resilience in ways that also promote democratic processes, human rights, active citizenship, and a strong sense of community. The IDC Programme supports New Zealand non-government organisations (NGOs) to deliver a range of development and humanitarian outcomes in the Pacific and beyond. NGOs, through their local partners, bring strong relationships with local communities, civil society organisations and local authorities to their partnerships with the Ministry. These established networks enable New Zealand's international development cooperation to reach communities, and vulnerable and marginalised populations — including in remote and hard to reach places.

In 2024–25, the IDC-funded Partnerships programme worked across 20 countries in the Pacific, Southeast Asia, and other Least Developed Countries, through 30 NGOs and 46 programmes and initiatives. Over the course of the year, NGO partners reported that approximately 213,000 people were supported with development outcomes delivered across a range of IDC priority areas, including social resilience and inclusion, improved livelihoods, human rights, strengthened democratic norms and governance, and climate change resilience and adaptation.

Support to multilateral agencies

The multilateral development system continues to deliver global development and humanitarian outcomes, operating in the context of funding constraints, unprecedented levels of humanitarian need, negative trends on democratic norms and human rights, and reversal in progress toward the SDGs. New Zealand advocates for Pacific priorities, an effective and innovative multilateral system, and principles-driven development. The Ministry works to ensure effective, transparent, and collaborative action focused on development (including sustainable and inclusive social and economic development), peace, human rights, and responding to humanitarian challenges.

In 2024–25, New Zealand delivered \$90.65 million in funding to multilateral organisations and participated in the governance mechanisms of those agencies funded. In line with the Government's Foreign Policy Reset, and recommendations from the Ministry's Activity-based Review, investment into the multilateral development system was targeted towards fewer, and higher priority, UN agencies and international financial institutions. The 27 multilateral entities that received funding in 2024–25 were identified by balancing New Zealand's key foreign policy (including development) priorities, our international credibility and standing, and our ability to have the most impact.

Support for Pacific regional agencies

A strong regional architecture, owned and supported by all Pacific countries and territories, enables the Pacific region to deliver its own solutions to regional challenges and take advantage of strategic opportunities. New Zealand's support as a member and key funder of the Pacific regional agencies, enables these inter-governmental organisations to apply their technical and policy capacity, established programmes and relationships, and deep knowledge of the region, to support Pacific countries and territories to strengthen their resilience.

New Zealand's core funding to Pacific regional agencies supports delivery of their work programmes and strategic priorities in line with the 2050 Strategy. In 2024–25, the IDC Programme provided \$28.6 million in core contributions to the following seven Pacific regional agencies.

- **Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)** — coordinator for implementation of Pacific Leaders' decisions, including policy advice on regional economic growth, political governance, and security.
- **The Pacific Community (SPC)** — scientific and technical services to Pacific countries in agriculture, public health, geosciences, fisheries, statistics, educational assessment, disaster risk reduction, transport, energy, climate change, gender, youth and human rights.
- **University of the South Pacific (USP)** — research institute and the Pacific region's primary provider of tertiary education, including distance and flexible learning.
- **Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)** — advice and services to enable Pacific countries to maximise economic and social benefits from the sustainable management of their tuna fisheries.

- **Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)** — technical and policy assistance on environmental issues, such as climate change, biodiversity and ecosystem management, waste management, and pollution control.
- **Pacific Aviation Safety Office (PASO)** — aviation safety and security services to the Pacific.
- **Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO)** — regional tourism sector umbrella organisation focused on destination marketing and sustainable development, data and statistics.

Manaaki scholarships

The Manaaki New Zealand Scholarship Programme (MNZSP) — from mana to manaaki — supports individuals from eligible developing countries to pursue undergraduate and postgraduate studies at New Zealand institutions, developing knowledge and skills that contribute to development outcomes for their communities and countries. In 2024–25, in line with the Government’s Foreign Policy Reset, an additional 150 tertiary MNZSP scholarships across Southeast Asia boosted people-to-people links and strengthened technical capability in the region.

Across all MNZSP programmes, 967 scholars completed their study. Of those, 209 studied at a tertiary institution (including 113 female), 556 studied on thematic or vocational short-term training scholarships (including 273 female), and 202 undertook English Language Training for Officials (including 111 female). Regionally, the largest number of completing scholars came from ASEAN countries followed by the Pacific.

Humanitarian assistance

Throughout the year, New Zealand disbursed a total of \$74.2 million⁹ in humanitarian assistance in response to humanitarian crises and disasters. We provided support in 19 countries or regions, with \$3.87 million (5 percent) going to responses in the Pacific, \$17.6 million (24 percent) to responses in Southeast Asia, and \$52.7 million (71 percent) to global responses. Overall, in 2024–25, as a direct result of New Zealand support, over 360,000¹⁰ people were provided with essential humanitarian assistance.

We provided core funding to global humanitarian organisations, including the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA), the Central Emergency Response Fund, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). New Zealand also provided support in many of the world’s largest and most severe humanitarian crises, including Gaza and the West Bank, Myanmar (where conflict related needs were exacerbated by an earthquake and severe cyclone), Ukraine, Sudan, Afghanistan, and the Rohingya refugee response in Bangladesh. Supporting humanitarian responses remains a central pillar of New Zealand’s response to global crises, alongside clear and consistent advocacy for upholding international humanitarian law; the protection of civilians; and ensuring safe, rapid, and unimpeded humanitarian access.

In the Pacific, New Zealand responded to the needs of the Vanuatu Government following the magnitude 7.3 earthquake in December 2024 through provision of relief supplies and support to non-governmental organisations, as well as deploying personnel to provide engineering, health, response planning and logistical support.

New Zealand also contributed to ongoing Pacific preparedness initiatives, including investment in disaster resilience among our Pacific partners — for example, through contributions to the Pacific Humanitarian Warehousing Programme and Pacific Islands Emergency Management Alliance, and to regional Emergency Medical Team development through the World Health Organisation. The funding ensured New Zealand’s operational readiness to respond to requests for assistance from our Pacific partners, including New Zealand’s deployable capabilities held by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ), the New Zealand Medical Assistance Team (NZMAT), New Zealand relief supplies held in Auckland, and early warning information provided by the Meteorological Service of New Zealand.

⁹ This figure excludes funding for the Ministry’s humanitarian preparedness investments.

¹⁰ Reported figures are an estimate of the number of affected people provided with humanitarian relief. Some Pacific response calculations are partly based on an estimated average number of people per household. For New Zealand contributions to appeals/response plans by global humanitarian partners, we have only included figures where specific New Zealand attribution data is available.

FIGURE 1: HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE — PACIFIC & SOUTHEAST ASIA

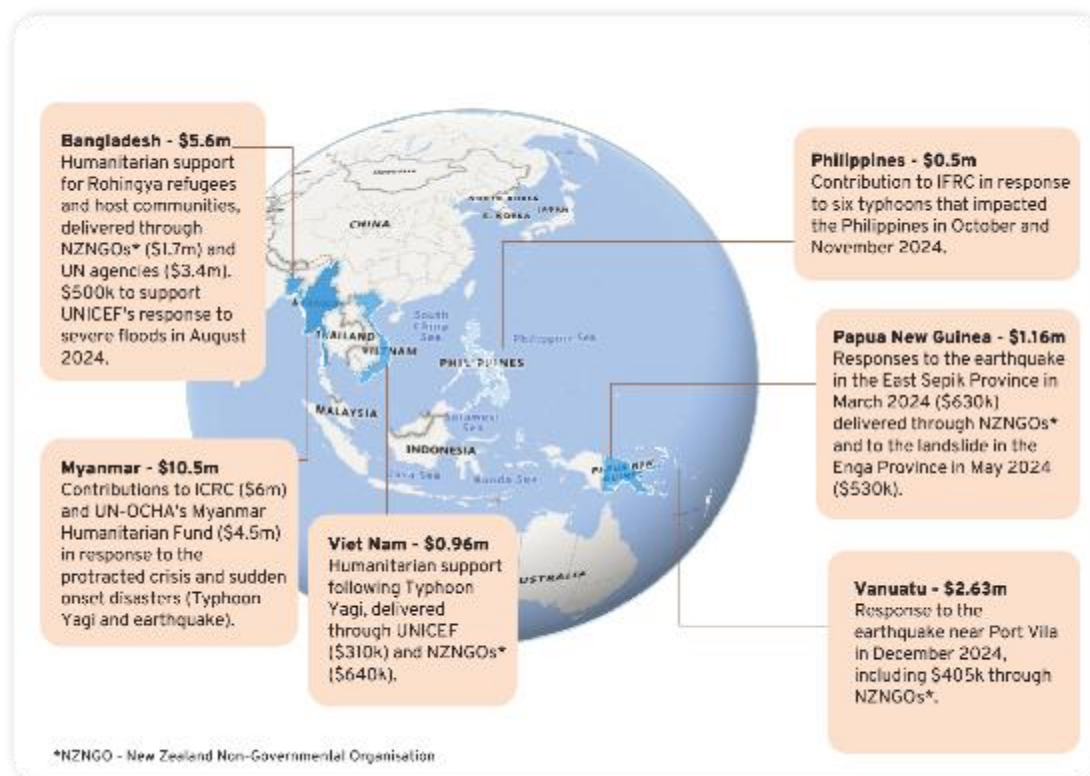
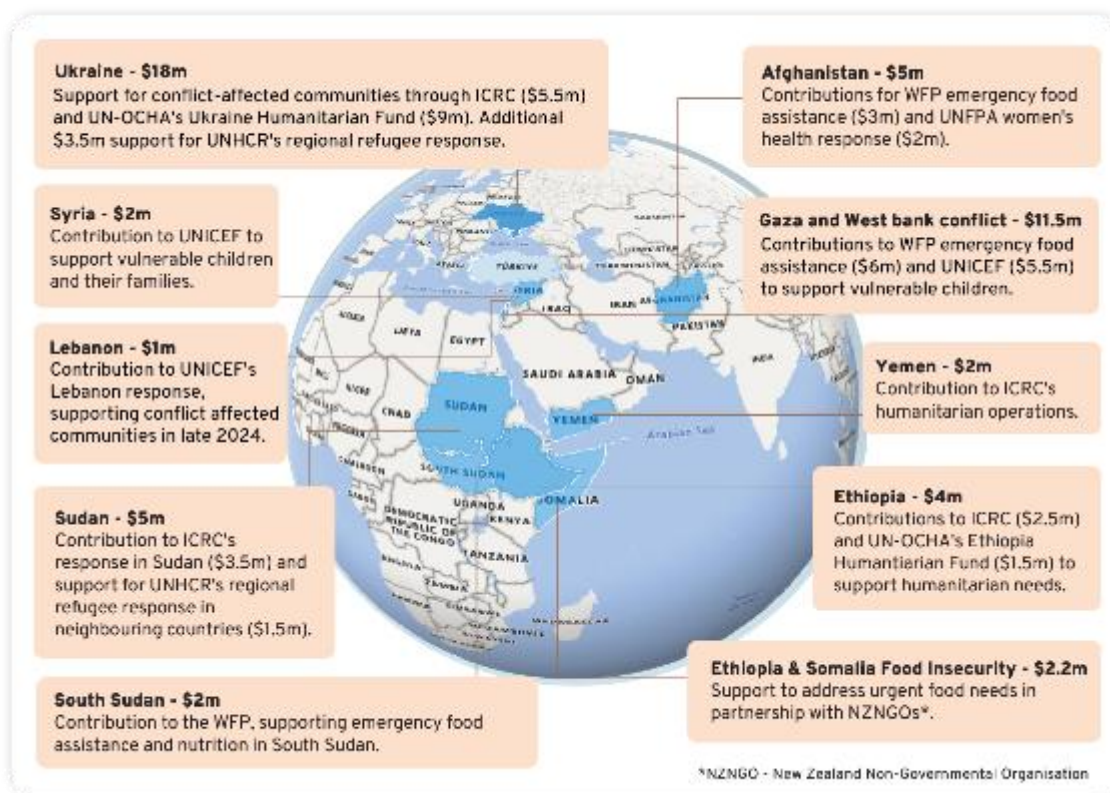


FIGURE 2: HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE — REST OF THE WORLD



Focus on impact

The IDC Priorities Framework¹¹ demonstrates how the IDC Programme contributes to the Ministry's three strategic goals¹² and sets out the key outcomes sought.

STRATEGIC GOAL 1: A SAFE, SECURE AND JUST FUTURE

New Zealand promotes security and stability in the Pacific and Indo-Pacific through bilateral partnerships and engagement with regional fora. We deliver initiatives that address trans-boundary security issues; champion the rule of law; deliver regional capacity-building initiatives; and support well-governed institutions and established regional architecture. We also support our partners to prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural disasters and other crises. Our objectives for 2024–27 are:

- Pacific countries have strengthened democratic norms, accountable institutions, and public services.
- The Pacific has enhanced ability to address wide-ranging trans-boundary security threats.
- Pacific national security sectors can manage internal security challenges, consistent with human rights.
- Partner governments and other humanitarian actors in the Pacific are prepared for, and lead effective and inclusive humanitarian responses to, disasters and crises.
- New Zealand's global development assistance contributes to peace, security, and stabilisation.
- Crisis affected countries and communities can access the assistance and protection they need, especially those most vulnerable.

STRATEGIC GOAL 2: A PROSPEROUS AND RESILIENT FUTURE

We work with partners to strengthen and support the social and economic resilience of Pacific and Indo-Pacific partners. We support inclusive human development, including in health, education, civic empowerment, and social protection; invest in sustainable economic development, including through trade, employment, labour mobility, food security, debt management, and support for private sector investment; and promote investment in essential services. Our objectives for 2024–27 are:

- Strengthened social resilience and inclusion supports achievement of the SDGs in the Pacific.
- Functioning Pacific economies, with strong and stable institutions, support livelihoods and benefit from trade, labour mobility and other safe people movement.
- South and Southeast Asia benefit from enhanced resilience and economic integration.
- Climate-smart agriculture creates increased economic returns and food security benefits.

STRATEGIC GOAL 3: A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

New Zealand promotes international cooperation to address climate change and other global environmental and natural-resource challenges. We enable, and advocate for, action to enhance resilience of Pacific countries to climate impacts and natural hazards. We support developing countries to mitigate and adapt to climate change and deliver initiatives that address water insecurity and threats to biodiversity; champion climate-resilient infrastructure and emissions-reducing technologies; and support sustainable management of natural and shared resources, including fisheries. Our objectives for 2024–27 are:

- Pacific countries have enhanced resilience and adaptation to the impacts of climate change.
- Across the Pacific, biodiversity is sustainably used and managed, and ecosystems valued, maintained, and enhanced.
- Developing countries accelerate action on their mitigation priorities in a cost-effective way.
- Developing countries increasingly adopt emissions-reducing technologies and practices in agriculture, land-use, forestry, tourism, energy and land and maritime transport.

The following pages provide highlights of key achievements from across the entire IDC Programme toward each of the Ministry's three strategic goals.

¹¹ See: <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/Aid/Aid-General/IDC-Priorities-Framework-2024.pdf>

¹² See the Ministry's Strategic Intentions: <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/About-us-Corporate/MFAT-strategies-and-frameworks/Strategic-Intentions-2024-2028.pdf>



Staff at Labasa Branch of Fiji Women's Crisis Centre advocate for women's rights. Credit: J Anderson, MFAT

Goal 1: A safe, secure and just future

Tackling gender-based violence across the Pacific

The Pacific region reports some of the highest rates of violence against women globally, with up to 67 percent of women in Kiribati, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, and Vanuatu experiencing violence in their lifetime. Our partnerships with governments, civil society, and regional and international agencies improve accessibility and quality of services for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) and make efforts to shift harmful norms that lead to GBV.

- In Vanuatu, the GBV Prevention and Women's Empowerment programme promoted gender-equitable norms, improved access to quality services for survivors, and enhanced national and provincial leadership and coordination capacity. During the year, a National Gender Equality Policy (NGEP) and six Provincial Gender Equality Action Plans (PGEAPs) were developed and disseminated. The launch of the NGEP by the Prime Minister of Vanuatu marked a significant milestone, reflecting decades of advocacy and partnership. In addition, New Zealand funding to the Vanuatu Kaljoral Centre enabled the Centre to engage with chiefs, provincial government, and community members to raise awareness that GBV is a human rights violation and to shift harmful norms that lead to acceptance of violence; and support to the Vanuatu Women's Centre contributed to supporting survivors and collecting data for a second national GBV prevalence study.
- In Fiji, together with other development partners, our long-term support to the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre enabled over 2,500 survivors (including disabled and rural women) to access support, such as legal advice, counselling, and referrals. The Centre also delivered training to over 1,800 service providers, leaders, and community members, including the Fiji Police, aimed at challenging attitudes that tolerate violence, and leading to more respectful, rights-based responses.
- IDC funding at the regional level supports leadership and accountability for implementation of family violence laws. The Ministry has supported the Regional Working Group (RWG) on the Implementation of Domestic Violence/ Family Protection Legislation since 2019. Hosted by SPC, the RWG brings together ministries that coordinate national implementation of domestic violence legislation across the Pacific, providing technical guidance and shared tools, coordinating responses, sharing learning on effective approaches, and promoting alignment with regional commitments on family and gender-based violence. Over the reporting period, SPC provided specialised technical assistance to RWG members in 12 Pacific countries, improving their capacity to monitor implementation of national family protection legislation. This included development of a rights-based, Survivor Counselling Framework for the Pacific, that will be used by Pacific countries to improve survivors' pathways to support, healing, and better outcomes.
- With IDC funding support, the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) has prioritised empowerment of frontline staff. Pacific Niu Vaka Strategy Phase II is focused on strengthening IPPF's member associations to become national leaders in survivor-centred sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) services. In the past year,

the first cohort of SGBV Fundamentals trainers from member associations have delivered nine SGBV training courses to over 120 staff and partners. Solomon Islands, Samoa, and Cook Islands trainers have gone on to deliver customised SGBV trainings for youth volunteers, clinical staff, and community partners, constituting a major leap in regional ownership. IPPF also launched Youth OCEANS — a regional platform to amplify youth leadership and advocacy on SGBV and Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) across the Pacific; member associations launched regional advocacy campaigns and integrated SGBV into emergency response programmes; and stronger referral systems have led to over 140 clinical referrals for SGBV survivors.

Pacific Maritime Safety Programme

The Ministry continued to support maritime safety across the Pacific, working closely with Maritime New Zealand and local Pacific maritime authorities. The Pacific Maritime Safety Programme (PMSP) delivered capacity building and in-country support for safe ship management, improved regulatory frameworks, operational safety standards, marine pollution and emergency response capabilities across Cook Islands, Kiribati, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga, and Tuvalu.

- In Cook Islands, PMSP’s maritime technical advisors provided extensive support ahead of an International Maritime Organisation Member State Audit Scheme assessment. PMSP delivered a maritime casualty investigation course to 16 participants; helped develop a revised Maritime Transport Strategy; and conducted a mock internal audit to identify where the gaps are in anticipation of the formal audit later this year.
- In Samoa, PMSP helped update the Samoan Shipping Act, including establishing a quality management system in legislation to enable Samoa’s maritime authorities to regulate the ships under their jurisdiction.
- In Tonga, the ‘Be Ready, Be Safe’ campaign was launched. Delivered by Tonga Police and the Tonga Maritime Administration Office, and aimed at small craft operators, it promotes safe behaviours and maritime safety equipment through workshops, social media, safety videos, and public awareness material.
- PMSP delivered the Water Skills for Life (WSFL) programme in Niue where 15 teachers were provided with WSFL refresher training, and around 200 primary school children participated in water safety classes. Alongside the training, the teachers identified WSFL champions for each year group to support it being embedded in the Niue curriculum.



Children participating in the Water Skills for Life programme in Niue. Credit: Maritime New Zealand

A multi-pronged approach to strengthening public financial management in Solomon Islands

New Zealand provides reform-linked budget support to the Solomon Islands Government (SIG), through the SIG-led Joint Policy Reform Group (JPRG), as a way of incentivising and supporting the Government to address an agreed set of systemic fiscal policy challenges. Comprising ADB, Australia, the European Union, Japan, New Zealand, and the World Bank, the JPRG provides direct budget support to Solomon Islands once the Government has successfully implemented jointly agreed reforms. New Zealand also provides funding to ADB to strengthen Solomon Islands domestic revenue mobilisation and provides technical assistance directly to the Solomon Islands’ Ministry of Finance and Treasury (including funding for the Accountant-General position), and to the Office of the Auditor General to strengthen transparency and accountability mechanisms. Additionally, New Zealand provides co-financing to key regional technical assistance facilities — including the Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre (PFTAC) and Private Sector Development Initiative (PSDI) — that provide complementary support to SIG’s reform programme.

SIG has remained ambitious in its reform agenda and, while it has not achieved all its policy reform priorities, it has continued to make satisfactory progress towards its targeted economic and financial reforms in the view of JPRG donor partners. This includes positive progress in developing budget regulations, and Cabinet approval of a Value Added Tax Bill which is set to simplify the taxation system. Progress has also been made on financial governance, with Cabinet approval of policy enhancing the independence of the Office of the Auditor General.



On 17 December 2024, a 7.3 magnitude earthquake that struck Vanuatu caused significant destruction, claiming 14 lives and displacing thousands. New Zealand provided a coordinated whole-of-government response, alongside development partners Australia and France, that delivered timely and effective assistance to the needs of the Government of Vanuatu. This included New Zealand Defence Force aerial surveillance and transportation of humanitarian supplies and personnel; deployments from FENZ Urban Search and Rescue, National Emergency Management Agency, and a New Zealand Medical Assistance Team; and funding to support the responses of Child Fund, World Vision, ADRA, and Red Cross. Credit: FENZ

Technical assistance in support of the wider Vanuatu earthquake response and recovery

In addition to the humanitarian assistance provided to the Government of Vanuatu following the December 2024 earthquake, New Zealand provided engineering capability as part of the multi-pronged response. During the humanitarian response phase, engineering firm Beca was engaged to provide post-disaster assessments of New Zealand-funded projects (Port Vila seafront and South Paray Wharf), alongside other critical infrastructure in Port Vila, providing guidance for the Government of Vanuatu, the Ministry, and other partners to support prioritisation of effort. PacificTA (a local government technical assistance programme) leveraged Canterbury earthquake experience and existing trusted relationships to provide timely assistance to Port Vila City Council (PVCC) and the Public Works Division to manage the central business district cordon and damaged buildings.

Subsequently, engineering advisers were provided to support the Vanuatu Ministry of Education and Training with earthquake recovery efforts, including structural and geotechnical engineers deployed from New Zealand to advise and prepare repair plans for damaged schools, working alongside local engineers to ensure suitability to local conditions.

Additional support was mobilised to address urgent infrastructure needs, including a temporary correctional facility to ensure detainee safety. Future funding will focus on repair and reconstruction of damaged schools, in alignment with priorities identified by the Vanuatu Ministry of Education and Training, reinforcing New Zealand's ongoing commitment to strengthening secondary education in Vanuatu. The support underpins a broader recovery plan, including repairs to the Port Vila waterfront, building on post-cyclone investments from 2022–23.



Engineering assessment of a school in Port Vila. Credit: © CHartnett

Pacific aviation safety and security

The Ministry's programme of aviation activities has strengthened resilience across the Pacific by mitigating security threats and enhancing aviation safety for Pacific Islanders and New Zealanders. In collaboration with NZ Inc partners, such as Civil Aviation Authority; regional agencies, such as Pacific Aviation Safety Office; and local airport authorities, we have delivered targeted support in capacity and capability building, regulatory oversight, and training and technical assistance, enabling Pacific states to maintain robust and compliant aviation transport systems.

In 2024–25, under the Pacific Aviation Security Programme, we supported installation of new airport security screening equipment in seven airports across Tonga (Fua'amotu and Vava'u international airports), Solomon Islands (Henderson airport), Kiribati (Cassidy and Bonriki airports), Samoa (Faleolo International Airport), and Niue International Airport. This included upgrades to critical security infrastructure, new Computed Tomography (CT) X-Ray imaging devices, walk through metal detection systems, and other important threat detection systems, alongside technical training and capacity building support for airport operating staff. These upgrades have enhanced safety and improved operational efficiency, ensuring Pacific airports remain safe, resilient, and secure hubs for the transport of people and goods.



Screening equipment at Faleolo International Airport.
Credit: Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand

Ahead of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in August 2024, New Zealand completed installation of a package of new airport security screening equipment at Faleolo International Airport in Samoa, accompanied by operator training. The installation of security screening equipment strengthened safety and security in line with International Civil Aviation Organisation standards. The Hold Baggage Screening Equipment includes a CT X-Ray machine that provides high-resolution 3D images for quick and accurate threat detection in space or weight restricted environments.

In 2023–24, the Solomon Islands Aviation Sector Support programme funded repairs and upgrades for two airport fire trucks, new personnel protective equipment, an on-site fire rescue refresher training course, and establishment of an on-site water supply.

In 2024–25, we built on that, providing 18 Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting personnel (17 male, one female) with live simulated 'hot' fire training in New Plymouth, New Zealand. The fire fighters practiced practical tactics and techniques used to control and extinguish live 'hot' aircraft fires in a range of scenarios. All personnel had no prior experience with wearing breathing apparatus or participating in real-life firefighting. The training significantly enhanced the team's operational competency, instilled confidence under pressure, and fostered leadership skills. These outcomes ensured that Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting personnel can respond swiftly, decisively, and safely to real-world aircraft fire emergencies, strengthening the overall emergency preparedness and resilience of Honiara airport.



On-ground training of the ARFF crew, supported by Woods' trainers. Credit: ©Riddell

Community security support in Timor-Leste



A suco police officer visiting a community as part of her routine duties.
Credit: The Asia Foundation

New Zealand has been a long-standing partner in supporting the Timor-Leste Police force (Policia Nacional de Timor-Leste — PNTL) to strengthen its capability to effectively fulfil its functions, including through deployment of New Zealand Police advisors. The Community Security Support Programme (Programa Apóiu Seguransa Komunitade — PASK), implemented by The Asia Foundation, is focused on improving the quality of community policing, strengthening customary dispute resolution processes, reducing burden on the formal justice system, and contributing to more peaceful communities.

Since its commencement in 2021, PASK has supported:

- 57 percent increase in domestic violence case registrations in target municipalities, indicating improved reporting and police responsiveness
- re-establishment of Community Policing Councils in 48 priority sub-districts
- enhanced access to justice for over 2,250 people in vulnerable groups, including women, youth, and persons with disabilities, through community dialogue and legal information sessions
- revision of 'Tara Bandu' (customary law) in many sucos (sub-districts) to align with national law and reduce discriminatory practices
- a new land rights guide, helping women secure land ownership through customary and legal channels
- paralegal support to resolve disputes and access court information for 101 community's cases
- publishing of 15 articles and reports by local NGO Fundasaun Mahein, which has been credited with influencing public discourse, police accountability, and youth security; reducing election-related conflict; and increasing transparency in the security sector.



Police Officers meeting with Community Policing Council and community members to discuss community security issues. Credit: The Asia Foundation

Coordinating Pacific anti-corruption leadership

The Teieniwa Vision Taskforce, hosted by the PIF Secretariat, is a foundation for regional coordination in the Pacific's collective anti-corruption response. The Taskforce transforms the principles of the Teieniwa Vision into coordinated, practical actions across 14 Pacific Island countries, and strengthens Pacific ownership in advancing the United Nations Convention against Corruption. It also serves as a constructive platform for mutual accountability, where members are encouraged to share progress, showcase national achievements, and collaborate on national efforts. Through the Taskforce, Pacific countries have enhanced coordination, reduced duplication, and accelerated reform efforts. Results supported by the Taskforce over the past year include:

- a comprehensive review of Samoa's *Crimes Act* (2013), which will support alignment of legislation with international anti-corruption standards, criminalising new offences, such as passive foreign bribery and misappropriation, and enhancing Samoa's investigative and prosecutorial capacity
- drafting of National Anti-Corruption Strategies in Nauru and Palau, and National Anti-Corruption Strategy implementation support for Solomon Islands, in response to those countries' request for technical assistance through the Taskforce mechanism.
- increased peer-learning and information sharing on anti-corruption related issues through collaboration with diverse stakeholders, such as a recent UNESCO-led briefing on Freedom of Information policies and avenues for engagement.

Regional approaches to Pacific policing

CHOGM 2024 — Pacific unity in action

In October 2024, Samoa successfully hosted a safe and secure Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), which proudly centred fa'asamoa (the 'Samoan Way') and Pacific priorities. In support of this effort, over a dozen New Zealand Government agencies worked alongside Samoa agencies to address capability and capacity gaps — providing training and technical advice, supporting planning, and procuring essential equipment. This close partnership strengthened core systems and skills in Samoa in areas such as border management, emergency response and event logistics, leaving a lasting foundation for future cooperation. As a result, Samoa safely and successfully showcased the realities and aspirations of Pacific Small Island Developing States to Commonwealth partners, while also positioning itself as a vibrant tourism and conference destination.

The hosting of CHOGM by Samoa marked a milestone in Pacific regional security cooperation, as domestic deployment of Police was supported by other Pacific partners. The event showcased the strength of Pacific policing partnerships and the inter-operability of Pacific Police Services.

New Zealand contributed the largest contingent of international policing support, with nearly 150 officers (many of Samoan heritage) being deployed to ensure the safety and security of attending leaders and delegates.

New Zealand's contribution included 96 Constables, 17 Specialist Search Group members, 24 Police intelligence and administration personnel, and 4 explosive ordinance detector dogs, as well as their

police/defence handlers. New Zealand Police conducted crucial operational pre-event planning with Samoa Police counterparts, conducting venue assessments, perimeter security planning, and collaborating on emergency response simulations.



New Zealand and Pacific police, deployed to support Samoa's hosting of CHOGM, at an event to meet the Prime Ministers of Samoa, New Zealand, and Australia. Credit: MFAT

Pacific Detector Dog Programme — a regional force against transnational crime

The Pacific Detector Dog Programme (PDDP), led by New Zealand Police and Customs, is a cornerstone of regional security in the Pacific, enhancing capacity of Pacific Island nations to detect and disrupt trafficking of illicit substances. The training programme, hosted at the New Zealand Police Dog Training Centre in Trentham, provides detector dog handlers from across the Pacific instruction in canine handling, operational deployment, and scent detection techniques. To date, 18 PDDP trained detector dogs have been deployed across the Pacific, stationed at key border points, airports, and seaports in Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, and French Polynesia. Their presence has enhanced the region's ability to detect narcotics, firearms, and currency smuggling, acting as a frontline defence against transnational crime.

A flagship success is the Fiji Detector Dog Unit (FDDU), which is a model for regional cooperation and operational excellence. Since its establishment in 2016, the FDDU has played a critical role in Fiji's domestic drug enforcement efforts, successfully intercepting narcotics valued at over NZ\$13 million, and including significant quantities of cocaine, methamphetamine, and marijuana. These seizures have disrupted local drug distribution networks, contributing to public health and safety.

In the reporting period, the FDDU conducted 417 drug-related seizures, resulting in 363 arrests across a range of offenses, from possession and trafficking, to organised criminal activity. In 2024, the FDDU was instrumental in uncovering two major international methamphetamine shipments, totalling 4.2 tonnes. These seizures, among the largest in Pacific history, were linked to transnational criminal syndicates attempting to use Fiji as a transit hub. The operation, conducted with international partners, highlighted the FDDU's role in regional security and its capacity to contribute to global counter-narcotics efforts.

Supporting humanitarian responses to extreme weather events in Southeast Asia

Southeast Asia experienced a range of extreme weather events in the second half of 2024. Typhoon Yagi was the strongest cyclone to impact Viet Nam in 30 years, also displacing over 330,000 people in Myanmar. The Philippines experienced a particularly intense cyclone season, with six consecutive tropical cyclones impacting the country in quick succession between late October and mid-November 2024. In response to these events, the Ministry mobilised a range of contributions to help humanitarian response partners on the ground meet needs amongst affected communities.

In Viet Nam, funding supported three New Zealand NGOs and their local partners to provide humanitarian assistance. World Vision New Zealand delivered cash assistance and hygiene support for over 500 households, Childfund New Zealand supported over 1,700 affected children with education materials and counselling and provided dignity kits to over 800 girls, and Habitat for Humanity New Zealand supported approximately 50 households with significant household repairs and worked to reconstruct an evacuation centre.

In the Philippines, the Philippine Red Cross (via the IFRC appeal) provided urgently needed support for affected communities, including cash assistance, shelter and essential household items, water and sanitation services, healthcare, and psychosocial support.

In Myanmar, New Zealand contributed to the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund, administered by UN-OCHA, shortly after Typhoon Yagi's impacts. The Myanmar Humanitarian Fund and its partners delivered a broad range of protection and assistance, including shelter and non-food items, food security, WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene), and education.



A recipient of a New Zealand Disaster Response Partnership-funded response to the impacts of Typhoon Yagi in Viet Nam receives disaster relief, including a water tank and hygiene supplies. Credit: World Vision

Ukraine stabilisation

Since 2024, New Zealand has contributed NZ\$6 million to the World-Bank administered Ukraine Relief, Recovery, Reconstruction and Reform Trust Fund (URTF). This is complementary to the NZ\$18 million in humanitarian support provided to Ukraine in 2024–25.

The URTF supports the Government of Ukraine to deliver critical functions in the face of destruction caused by the Russian invasion. It protects existing essential services, mitigates against further humanitarian needs, and lays the ground for recovery and reconstruction to take place once the situation stabilises.

New Zealand is one of 17 likeminded donors¹³ to the URTF, which together mobilised US\$2 billion in donor support by the end of 2024. In 2024, the URTF reached over 20 million Ukrainians, providing housing, education, health, and other vital assistance. Critical results delivered in 2024 include¹⁴:

- health services to 6.3 million people and 5.2 million doses of essential childhood vaccines
- improved secondary education for 380,000 secondary students
- 20,000 teachers trained
- free school transportation for 12,000 vulnerable children
- access to finance for 33,000 farmers to improve food supply and resilience.

¹³ Austria, Belgium, Canada, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, RoK, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and United States.

¹⁴ Results not disaggregated for New Zealand contribution, which was approximately 0.15 percent of all donor contributions for the calendar year.

Enhanced security cooperation through disposal of unexploded ordinances

New Zealand's security relationship with Kiribati has been strengthened through cooperation in reducing the hazards of Explosive Remnants of War (ERW). Funded under the Pacific Security Fund, the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) undertook a scoping visit to South Tarawa in September 2023 to engage with Kiribati Police Service, who have responsibility for ERW within Kiribati. The scoping visit confirmed that there were over 300 recovered ERWs located in an unsecured storage facility on Tarawa (Bonneyman's Bunker). Current storage of ERW is inadequate to mitigate the significant hazards to the local community of an explosive event at the bunker.

In July 2024, NZDF conducted reconnaissance of ERW unearthed at critical infrastructure project sites in Tarawa, including at the New Betio Hospital construction site and the Betio Pipeline construction site. Kiribati Police Service assisted NZDF with locating, identifying, and removing ERW to storage in preparation for disposal.



Kiribati Police Service explosive ordinance device operator setting up Line Main disposal of six sub-munitions with NZDF assistance. Credit: NZDF

In April 2025, three Kiribati Police Service officers completed explosive ordnance disposal training with NZDF in New Zealand. The training resulted in all three officers receiving certification to International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) Level 2 Operator standard. With this new international standard of certification, these officers will strengthen the capability of the Kiribati Police Service to safely identify, contain, and dispose of ERW.

Further work will continue in 2025 and 2026, with NZDF supporting Kiribati Police Service to safely dispose of remaining ERW. This ongoing partnership enhances New Zealand's standing as a responsive security partner and builds Kiribati capacity to manage ERW in the future.

Supporting disaster response readiness in Cook Islands

In August 2024, through the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Programme, NEMA supported Emergency Management Cook Islands with development and delivery of their national exercise. The Programme worked closely with Emergency Management Cook Islands and partnered with Cook Islands Green Climate Fund Programme Manager to design Exercise Uriia Turanga Toru, simulating a Category 3 cyclone impacting Aitutaki and Rarotonga, and testing the emergency management system's ability to respond to outer island impacts and potential international assistance needs.

The hybrid functional/table-top exercise ran for three days and covered pre-event, landfall, and post-landfall cyclone response. There was strong participation, with over 90 attendees from across the Cook Islands emergency management system, including senior government officials, emergency services, emergency management volunteer groups, welfare and advocacy organisations, and international partners from Pacific National Disaster Management Offices, the New Zealand and Australian High Commissions, and deployable response teams.

Post-exercise, an evaluation identified strengths and areas for improvement within the Cook Islands emergency management system. The exercise highlighted strong planning frameworks and interagency collaboration and identified opportunities for system-wide enhancements. Exercise recommendations will inform updates to the forthcoming Disaster Risk Management Act, Policy, and Plan, creating an opportunity for long-term improvements in disaster preparedness and response.

Changing lives in Fiji

The Ministry is halfway through a five-year partnership with Tearfund New Zealand that works in Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Solomon Islands, Fiji, and Vanuatu to protect vulnerable households from exploitation and enhance economic self-sufficiency.

In Suva, Tearfund partnered with Homes of Hope — Fiji's only long-term residential care facility for young women and children who have survived, or are vulnerable to, sexual abuse. With Tearfund support, Homes of Hope has developed community action plans and conducted awareness training to protect children and young people from sexual exploitation.



Childcare facility and playground at Homes of Hope Campus in Suva, Fiji.
Credit: Tearfund New Zealand

Sio's (a pseudonym) life was turned around after she attended a Homes of Hope awareness session in her community. After her father died from COVID when she was 15 years old, Sio was forced to seek work to ensure her family had an income stream. She left school and fell into alcohol and drug use, giving birth to a son when she was 17 years old. Sio's sense of hopelessness led her deeper into a lifestyle of drugs, alcohol, and other negative influences. At the community awareness event, Sio spoke to a Homes of Hope Field Officer who introduced her to available training, life skills lessons, counselling, and therapy. Sio struggled to overcome her sense of despondency and poor self-image but was determined to complete the training and support offered. In doing so, she was able to leave the Homes of Hope after a year to live independently. Sio is now in training so she can help transform the lives of others.

Manaaki scholarships strengthening the justice sector in Tonga

New Zealand's IDC contributes to the safety and security of Pacific neighbours through investments in the education of those in the justice sector. With the support of a Manaaki New Zealand Scholarship, Lisi Ki Moana Tupou (Senior Policy Officer, Tonga Police) graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Business in 2018.

Being from a rural island group, Vava'u, in the north of Tonga, access to tertiary education is not a given for many people in Lisi's community. Lisi attributes her career success to her studies. *"The Manaaki Scholarship gave me the knowledge and the skills I bring to my role now."*

Lisi follows a long line of relatives committed to an effective Tonga Police Force and a just Tongan society. *"I want the policies that I draft to help members of the Tonga Police and to strengthen their passion for law enforcement."*

Lisi is committed to continuous improvement and believes she has already made contributions to achieve this. *"When we're better at policing, the community is safer."*



Lisi Ki Moana, Senior Policy Officer, Tonga Police Force, and Manaaki New Zealand Scholarship Programme alumnae. Credit: Education New Zealand Brand Lab

Lisi also reports that the manaaki she received in New Zealand instilled in her the importance of connection and helping others. In addition to her policy work, Lisi is involved in her community. Through her connections with New Zealand, she was able to fill the shelves of her community hall with books, providing local children with access to reading material.

Preventing violent extremism in the Philippines

New Zealand collaborates with the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), supporting community-based initiatives to address the root causes of violent extremism in the Philippines. GCERF works in fragile and conflict-affected locations, delivering social cohesion and peacebuilding initiatives through local organisations who work closely with communities to identify early signs of radicalisation. The programme delivers rehabilitation support for ex-combatants, women, children, and youth returnees, helping them play a valued economic and social role in their communities, including promoting peace. Results over the past year include:

- 54 former rebels participated in a ProPEACE reconciliation process led by Mahintana Foundation in General Santos City. Participants received psychosocial assistance to support their reintegration into society and foster community cohesion, and dialogue was facilitated to address past conflicts and rebuild trust.
- 145 youth completed youth leadership training programmes run by Initiatives for Dialogue and Empowerment through Alternative Legal Services (IDEALS) in Lanao del Sur and Basilan. IDEALS also delivered a media literacy workshop in Iligan City that trained youth and media practitioners to counter disinformation and hate speech during the upcoming election period.
- over 1,300 participants were reached through Teach Peace Build Peace Movement (TPBPM) peace education and youth leadership programmes in Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao del Sur, and Metro Manila. Participant evaluations indicated that families are becoming more open to peaceful communication.
- The Consortium of Bangsamoro Civil Society helped 38 local administrative divisions create development plans and trained 80 farmers to boost economic opportunities from agriculture and improve livelihoods. This recognises unemployment and poverty as a driver of violent extremism.



IDEALS youth radio programme in Maguindanao and PROTECT PEACE Project handing over various farming materials. Credit: GCERF

Strengthening governance through electoral reform, digitisation, and youth engagement

In 2024, the Nauru Accountable and Inclusive Governance programme (NAIG) supported a suite of initiatives aimed at strengthening public sector governance in Nauru. Funded by New Zealand and Australia, and delivered by the UNDP, this included a comprehensive legal review of the Electoral Act, launch of the Parliament's first Strategic Plan and Community Engagement Strategy, digitisation of civil records, and development of a civic education curriculum for Year 10 students. The Electoral Commission also continued its flagship youth engagement initiative — the Nauru Secondary School (NSS) Prefect Elections — providing students with hands-on experience in democratic processes.

The Electoral Commission's legal review produced a detailed reform proposal, and while not adopted by Cabinet, the process built institutional knowledge and capability around governance advocacy. Parliament's Strategic Plan led to improved internal governance, staff training, and the launch of its first Facebook page and Open Day. Meanwhile, the digitisation of civil registry improved data integrity and accessibility, reducing reliance on unreliable paper systems. The civic curriculum, piloted in schools, and the NSS elections helped build electoral literacy and leadership skills among youth, fostering a new generation of informed citizens.

These initiatives are embedding transparency, participation, and resilience into Nauru's institutions. Digitisation ensures critical records are preserved and accessible, while civic education empowers young people to engage in public life. Together, these efforts strengthen democratic processes and build public trust — key foundations for long-term stability and inclusive development.



The Asian Mega-Deltas, home to millions of people, are facing increasing threats from climate change that have a direct impact on agricultural productivity and food security. To combat climate change impacts in the agricultural systems of the Ganges Delta regions of Bangladesh and India, technological innovations and community-driven strategies are being invested in, such as Integrated Aquaculture-Agriculture (IAA) that integrates fish farming with crop cultivation on the same land. IAA provides farmers with diverse food sources, improves water efficiency, and enhances nutritional and economic outcomes for farming communities. Credit CGIAR

Goal 2: A prosperous and resilient future

Improving food security through low emission agriculture practices

Southeast Asia is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, while also comprising some of the highest-ranking carbon emitting countries. Low emission agriculture production is key to addressing food insecurity challenges and improving livelihoods. New Zealand's contribution to the CGIAR¹⁵ Asian Mega-Deltas Initiative (AMD) initiative has developed climate-smart agriculture innovations and policies to improve food security and reduce emissions in the fertile but climate-vulnerable Asian mega-deltas. Across the AMD target countries (Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Myanmar, and Viet Nam) new climate information tools have directly benefitted over 340,000 farmers. Advanced warning of weather events and providing advice on adapting farming to manage the impacts of climate change has increased crop yields and profits.

In Viet Nam, AMD has assisted the government to implement its national programme to sustainably produce one million hectares of high value and low-emissions rice in the Mekong River Delta by 2030. Results include increased production and a reduction in Global Green House Gas (GHG) emissions by up to 50 percent and farmer profits increased by up to 50 percent.

In Cambodia, AMD rice-fish model pilots have resulted in a 50 percent increase in farmer profits, from increased fish and rice yields, and greater access to affordable, nutritious food. This has been boosted through AMD's support to develop and implement national nutrition and food system strategies in Viet Nam, Cambodia, and Bangladesh.

AMD has also collaborated with the Ministry's Climate Smart Agriculture project to implement 'RiceMoRe' — a regional rice GHG measurement, reporting and verification system, that supports adoption of low-emission practices and

¹⁵ CGIAR is a global research partnership, that supports countries to sustainably improve food security and respond to climate change issues. Key centres for the AMD work include World Fish, the International Rice Research Institute, and the International Potato Centre.

provides the basis for a carbon credit system. RiceMoRe is being implemented by 28 provinces, covering 75 percent of Viet Nam's rice planting areas.

The Climate Smart Agriculture Initiative is a partnership between the Ministry, Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI), New Zealand Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Centre, and overseas partners. It delivers on New Zealand's obligations as a member of the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (GRA), which has a goal to grow food production without increasing greenhouse gas emissions. The Climate Smart Agriculture Initiative supports partner countries across six ASEAN and nine African countries to quantify agricultural greenhouse gas emissions, and understand the contributions made by different livestock, by developing emission inventories. The inventories enable accurate counting of emissions from livestock based on international best practice, and therefore, allow international climate reporting obligations to be met.

The Initiative has set up science hubs in Viet Nam, the Philippines, Kenya, and South Africa to lead mitigation research across each region, with scientists undertaking research on options that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions while continuing to produce the same or more food. It has also hosted policy dialogues and created policy briefs for government stakeholders. The policy briefs guide how countries can reduce emissions while growing food production, boost food security, development climate smart food systems, and create better policy and planning for climate change adaptation and mitigation.



Science technicians at Viet Nam's National Institute for Animal Science (NIAS) conducting a New Zealand-funded experiment to determine emissions from pig manure. Technicians were trained using New Zealand expertise. Credit: MPI

CGIAR's Ukama Ustawi initiative worked with the Rwandan Agriculture Board to update land-use maps for fertiliser application that were last updated in 1960s, and then partnered with the private sector to provide the content online to 90 percent of Rwanda's farmers (2.8 million people) and other key actors in the supply chain. This single source of data has enabled farmers to maximise crop production and reduce losses such as those caused by fertiliser over-use. In eastern and southern Africa, New Zealand supported crop diversification, improved farm irrigation and mechanisation through trials, demonstrations, and digital services. These tools and changes to farm practices assisted over 1.4 million people¹⁶ to improve productivity, climate-resilience, nutrition, and social inclusion.



High yield maize harvest in Rwanda supported by FtMA.
Credit: Michael Upton, MFAT

In Rwanda, through the World Food Programme Farm to Market Access (FtMA) programme, farmer uptake of climate-smart agriculture practices resulted in a 48 percent increase in agriculture income. The average yield from maize, beans, and potatoes more than doubled from 2023 to 2024 (to 4.75 metric tonnes per hectare). Since FtMA programme inception, maize sourced locally and bought by the WFP for humanitarian relief efforts has increased from 10 to 60 percent.

¹⁶ Defined as 632,000 beneficiaries attributable to New Zealand's IDC funding, as a 45 percent donor of the programme.

Polynesian Health Corridors support for Samoa's Pertussis response

In November 2024, Samoa declared a pertussis (whooping cough) outbreak that posed a health threat, particularly to babies and children too young to be vaccinated. The Samoa Ministry of Health (SMOH) identified pregnant women and frontline health workers as priority groups for vaccination but was unable to procure the vaccines directly through existing mechanisms. New Zealand and Samoa's long-standing partnership, as well as established relationships with relevant domestic partners such as the IDC-funded Polynesian Health Corridors (PHC) programme, proved critical in securing the necessary support.

The SMOH urgently requested assistance, via the PHC programme, to access 6,000 doses of the Boostrix vaccine. And while Tokelau did not have any confirmed pertussis cases, their Department of Health (DOH) also requested 30 doses for pregnant women in anticipation of potential risks, given travel patterns between Samoa, Tokelau, and New Zealand. PHC coordinated with the Ministry, MedSafe, Pharmac, and logistics partners to source, purchase and transport the vaccines, and worked with UNICEF to support SMOH and Tokelau DOH with vaccinator training and other wrap-around services once the vaccines arrived and were cleared for use.



Patient receiving a Boostrix shot in Samoa.
Credit: Samoa Ministry of Health

The SMOH implemented a timely and effective vaccination rollout, with the first shipment of 3,000 Boostrix vaccines arriving in Apia in late January 2025. Another shipment of 3,030 doses was delivered in late February for Samoa and Tokelau. Tokelau's 30 doses were successfully delivered in all three atolls, on 14 March, with the support of Samoa MOH and UNICEF, ensuring that the vaccines reached those most at risk. PHC also supported Niue with communication materials and Cook Islands to secure direct access to Boostrix vaccines.

The success of these interventions underscores the impact of strong, pre-existing relationships with Pacific Island countries, that ensured a rapid and effective response to the pertussis outbreak and health security in the region.

Enhancing infrastructure quality

New Zealand focuses on supporting the broader Pacific infrastructure ecosystem through tailored support to Pacific partners. In 2024–25:

- Through our partnership with Standards New Zealand, 56 Pacific institutions gained free access to 230 Australian and New Zealand construction standards (AS/NZS), and workshops and e-learning in infrastructure standards, and in conformance systems.
- The Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility (PRIF) delivered technical assistance support across energy, infrastructure, transport, climate change and disaster risk reduction projects. This included supporting Vanuatu to update its National Building Codes, updates to Solomon Islands' and Federated States of Micronesia's National Infrastructure Investment Plans, a feasibility study for a Pacific National Building Codes Regional Secretariat, and Pacific Aviation Safety Office sustainability studies.
- The PacificTA Local Government Technical Assistance Facility established new partnerships with Luganville Municipal Council (Vanuatu) and Nasinu Town Council (Fiji). It delivered Asset Management NZ Study Tours for Cook Islands and Samoa agency partners and an Urban Planning NZ Study Tour for Honiara City Council (HCC) staff, Minister and Permanent Secretary of Home Affairs; advised on Vanuatu's post-earthquake building management/ compliance and demolition plan; delivered two-day training on 'Introduction to Plumbing' in Suva for Port Vila City Council, HCC, Lami, Nasinu and Nausori Town Councils; and structural performance training for HCC building inspectors.
- The Pacific Infrastructure Technical Assistance Fund (PITAF) supported nine projects, including energy infrastructure technical and organisational reviews in Tonga and Timor-Leste, design upgrades for an airport facility in Cook Islands, hydrological modelling and planning of the Waimanu and Sigatoka Catchments in Fiji, construction supervision of roads in Niue, and training support to Solomon Islands Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting. Across each of these projects, the technical assistance provided supports our partners to seek funding for subsequent project development from other development partners or donors.

Leadership in inclusive early childhood development

IDC supports UNICEF to lead the Building Better Brains initiative, that strengthens early childhood development (ECD) across the Pacific. This collaborative effort brings together policy and programming approaches across education, health, welfare, and child protection, helping Pacific countries deliver coordinated, impactful support for children and their families.

New Zealand's IDC funding is a catalyst for Pacific countries¹⁷, enabling support to develop national ECD policies and increase government funding to the sector. In many Pacific nations ECD is now embedded as a strategic priority, ensuring children receive vital support during their formative years and providing a foundation for learning, health, and wellbeing which, in turn, contributes to a more equitable, productive, and healthy society.



At the 2025 ECD Forum, hosted by the Government of Samoa, children from across the Pacific took the stage in a talanoa session, sharing their hopes and dreams for the future through powerful artworks and heartfelt messages to leaders. Source: UNICEF Pacific

Since 2022, New Zealand's support for the Building Better Brains initiative has contributed to meaningful progress in ECD across the Pacific. In collaboration with national governments and partners, every Pacific nation has made measurable progress to strengthen its ECD sector:

- 10 Pacific nations have adopted national ECD policies and five are in implementation
- 11 Pacific nations have incorporated ECD into their national development plans
- 15 Pacific nations have established Parent programmes, supporting parents and communities to nurture children in their first five years of life
- 12 Pacific nations have implemented continuous training for ECD professionals.

New Zealand's support for multi-sector ECD initiatives in the Pacific has positioned us as a preferred partner and regional leader in ECD. Continued ministerial leadership by Pacific nations has played a vital role in driving progress and visibility of this work, reaffirming New Zealand's commitment to equitable development outcomes — starting with the youngest children in the Pacific.

Boosting retirement savings through labour mobility

The Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme sees more than 16,000 people travel to New Zealand from the Pacific to work in the horticulture and viticulture sectors each year. The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's 'Toso Vaka o Manū (TVOM) team — IDC-funded through the Strengthening Pacific Labour Mobility development programme — has led a project to increase long term economic security by supporting RSE workers to contribute to their home-country superannuation schemes.

TVOM is focused on increasing the number of workers that access the benefits of retirement savings and the amount individuals contribute to retirement funds. TVOM hosts webinars connecting RSE employers with Pacific National Provident Funds on Pacific retirement saving schemes and facilitates awareness sessions with workers at RSE accommodation and farm sites around New Zealand about the benefits of retirement savings. Since 2020, workers have sent more than NZ\$13.2 million in voluntary contributions to their home-country retirement savings schemes. In the last year, the number of workers registered with the project increased by 29 percent and the combined value of remittances increased by 32 percent. Some workers are even contributing through this project to their children's retirement savings. In the coming year, TVOM will expand access to workers from Tuvalu, Kiribati, and Nauru.

¹⁷ New Zealand funds the BBB Programme in eight countries: Fiji, Tuvalu, Tokelau, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, RMI, and FSM, with support for ECD in other Pacific countries coming from other donor partners.

Targeted support and market facilitation creates economic opportunities for Pacific businesses

The Ministry supports regional economic development through the Pacific Trade and Invest Partnership, which includes funding for Pacific Trade and Invest New Zealand (PTI NZ). PTI NZ works closely with Pacific Island exporters to promote their products and services internationally and attract investment into Pacific businesses. PTI NZ supports Pacific-based businesses seeking to expand into the New Zealand market, connecting them with importers, distributors, and wholesalers. It also works with Pacific enterprises and state-owned entities to attract investment from New Zealand and international financiers. In 2024, PTI NZ assisted 466 businesses and entrepreneurs, and facilitated a 6 percent increase in the value of New Zealand imports from Pacific Island Forum economies.

Over the past year, the Ministry partnered with MPI and PTI NZ to hold fresh produce ‘Mini Trade Forums’ — in Vanuatu in September 2024 and in Tonga during the Pacific Week of Agriculture and Forestry in May 2025. The forums were aimed at enhancing Pacific exporters’ understanding of the New Zealand fresh produce market and brokering and building trade connections with New Zealand importers. They successfully brought together 150 participants from Pacific growers, exporters, and government agencies, with New Zealand importers and development partners, providing valuable insights into compliance requirements, trade facilitation processes, and market access challenges and opportunities. The forums also provided market intelligence on New Zealand’s fresh produce sector and connected farmers and exporters directly to support services.



Vanuatu Mini Trade Forum held in September 2024, Port Vila. Credit: MPI

Key results from the Tonga forum included a signed contract with growers to supply the New Zealand market, commitment from an importer to support exports of a new product, and a trial shipment to New Zealand to test out existing systems.

In 2024, PTI NZ launched the New Zealand Market Insights Series — a practical guide designed to help Pacific farmers and exporters understand New Zealand market demand and export potential. The first edition focused on root crops, turmeric, and ginger, followed by a second release covering coconut, Tahitian lime, pineapple, and mango. These insights help Pacific producers make informed decisions about crop selection and export readiness. A feasibility study on fresh pineapple farming and export to New Zealand was also initiated in response to New Zealand market demand and interest in diversifying Pacific agricultural exports.



Weave Cacao from Papua New Guinea with PTI NZ at Wellington’s Chocstock event. Credit: PTI NZ

PTI NZ’s responsiveness to market opportunities is demonstrated by its collaboration with the Wellington Chocolate Factory. Following a request from the company to source Pacific-grown ingredients for a new Pacific chocolate bar, PTI NZ facilitated connections with suppliers. The resulting product showcased at Wellington’s Chocstock festival, highlighting the value of Pacific ingredients and strengthening brand visibility for Pacific producers.

Labour mobility addressing skill shortages around the Pacific

The PACER Plus Labour Mobility Secretariat is facilitating a Niue–Solomon Islands Labour Mobility Pilot, currently underway, where three Solomon Islands nurses with significant experience have travelled to Niue to work predominantly in the Niue Aged Care Unit.

The pilot is the first managed intra-Pacific labour mobility programme for the Pacific and targets Niue’s acute labour shortages, which are a critical development constraint. This Inter-Agency Understanding serves as the prototype for future labour mobility into Niue.

Uto Bulabula — Healthy Hearts: A regional solution to a regional problem

Many Pacific countries face challenges in providing cardiac care locally and sending patients overseas for treatment can be expensive. Recognising this gap, the Uto Bulabula — Healthy Hearts initiative was developed as a regional solution to a regional problem. Funded by IDC, through the New Zealand Medical Treatment Scheme (NZMTS), the Uto Bulabula initiative brought together thirty-five medical professionals from New Zealand's Hearts4Kids Foundation and provided life-saving cardiac surgeries to 15 children from Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu, Kiribati, and Tuvalu. The initiative is a united effort between local and regional organisations, marking a milestone in Pacific-led, regional healthcare collaboration and stems from the critical need for accessible and affordable paediatric cardiology care in the region. Pacific values were upheld throughout the initiative by providing comprehensive cultural and safety briefings for visiting specialists and tailored support for families.

Dr Kiki Maoate, Paediatric Surgeon, Urologist and PMA President, states: *"The primary objective of the medical treatment scheme is to alleviate health burdens and enhance the quality of life across the region. Through this programme, we have collaborated with countries to fortify their healthcare systems, build capacity, facilitate overseas referrals, and deploy medical experts to achieve this mission... The Uto Bulabula initiative goes beyond just conducting surgeries; it also focuses on developing the local Fijian workforce, strengthening partnerships, and reinforcing our commitment to a regional approach in our efforts."*

From a Ni-Vanuatu mother whose four-year-old daughter successfully underwent cardiac surgery: *"Our lives have pretty much been on hold until we could get the surgery. This means the world to us. To be able to move past this and to support her in the best way possible — that's a huge thing for us".*

Shaping futures in Timor-Leste

The Ministry partners with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, and Myanmar to increase protection and economic resilience for women and girls, increase the food and income security of farming communities, and improve the health of rural communities.

In Timor-Leste, ADRA Timor-Leste, is achieving significant success improving household income security and economic resilience through village-level savings and loans schemes, as well as a focus on value chain agriculture. In 2023–24, 124 village savings and loans groups were established, with average savings of US\$3,918 per programme.

One community member who benefitted from the value chain programme that supports farmers to link their products to the domestic market, was Viqueque-based mother of three, Jelaurlina, who is president of the local cooperative. The programme transformed the cooperative's traditional coconut oil processing techniques by providing advanced training, state-of-the-art machinery, improved packaging, and enhanced marketing strategies. As a result, the cooperative was able to join others in producing for a local coconut oil brand MINUVI (Mina Nu Viqueque). From there, the cooperative moved into ginger candy production, leveraging Viqueque's reputation as a leading ginger producer in Timor-Leste. By mid-2024, the cooperative was known for producing high-quality products and had secured a contract with a national retailer.

Before the programme, Jelaurlina had struggled to meet household needs, but like other cooperative members, she has seen a significant increase in income. Jelaurlina has been able to secure the education of her children and improve the family house. She has also resumed the university course she had earlier stopped due to affordability.



Jelaurlina making ginger candies. Credit: ADRA New Zealand

Modernising business laws and tax systems in the Pacific

New Zealand funds the ADB's Pacific Private Sector Development Initiative (PSDI), a technical assistance centre designed to improve the business enabling environment in the Pacific region. PSDI supports Pacific countries to establish online business registries, providing a platform to streamline registration processes and regulatory compliance. To date, Pacific countries have adopted online registries later than most global regions, with many relying on labour-intensive processes, such as paper-based systems, that drive up costs, reduce tax compliance, and heighten the risk of non-compliance with anti-money laundering requirements.

As of 2025, PSDI has supported development of online business registries in Cook Islands, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu, and is continuing to work with Kiribati and Palau. In 2025, PSDI partnered with Tonga's Ministry of Economic Development to launch an upgraded online registry featuring online payments, investment certification, digital filing and access to business information, and secure storage of personal property records. This is one of many reforms that PSDI are supporting to address private-sector challenges and help the Tongan economy fulfil its long-term growth potential.

New Zealand also supports the Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre (PFTAC). Through the Pacific Taxation Digitalisation project, PFTAC is modernising tax systems across Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, and Tuvalu. In Nauru, PFTAC worked with the Nauru Revenue Office to support its transition to a modern tax system, reviewing capacity development and training needs, assessing progress against previous recommendations, and developing a digitalisation roadmap. This work supports Nauru to progress their digital transformation, including implementing a digital system for tax filing that improves tax revenues and compliance, and reduces administrative burden.

PHAMA Plus Programme promoting 'green gold'

Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access (PHAMA Plus) operates across nine Pacific countries and works directly with Pacific businesses to provide practical and targeted assistance to manage regulatory aspects associated with exporting primary and value-added products. Three years into the current phase, PHAMA Plus has helped Pacific businesses earn, or protect export revenue valued at, more than NZ\$25 million, benefitting almost 42,000 people. PHAMA Plus's work has been particularly prominent in the kava sector — also called 'green gold'. It has conducted research into kava varieties and plant disease, supported partner governments to establish kava legislation and regulations, established national and regional kava standards, and co-invested with kava exporters to boost their processing capacity, improve quality, and add value to exports. Kava is now the leading agricultural export in Fiji and Vanuatu. Between 2011 (when the programme commenced) and 2023, the value of Fiji's kava exports rose from FJ\$6.6 million to FJ\$47.8 million.

Adre Canakaicina, 25, once saw homeownership as an impossible dream. After dropping out of school, he returned to Nalidi village in Ra province, Fiji with an uncertain future. But kava farming changed everything. Lami Kava, an established Kava retailer and exporter, began buying green kava from his village, providing a steady market and transforming Canakaicina's future. Guided by elders, he and other young kava farmers formed a group, committing to three years of disciplined kava production. His goal, to build a house before marriage.



Adre and Lite Canakaicina outside their newly built house. Credit: PHAMA Plus

Lami Kava was able to provide market confidence for farmers like Adre because of accelerated business growth. PHAMA Plus de-risked Lami Kava's expansion with a wash bay, industrial microwave for sanitisation, laboratory facilities, and training videos for farmers, making green kava farming more viable, boosting prices, and securing better livelihoods for farmers. More recently, the partnership also helped Lami Kava to diversify its product line and secure improved export market access through key developments, such as business certifications and in-house food safety testing capabilities. Their business has expanded 73 percent since 2020 and opportunities for kava farmers continue to grow.

In 2024, Canakaicina completed his home with his wife, Lite Marama. *"Owning our house and living on our terms is incredible. We rule our own lives and come and go as we please. This is freedom."* Canakaicina added that with their income from kava, Lite can finally finish her studies in teaching. *"I'm also planning to start my own kava business one day. We will need to have this to help pay for the education of our children sometime in the future. So many plans and dreams to achieve, and we know with kava, many things are possible!"*

Pacific Disability Forum's Growing Stronger Together programme

Around 1.7 million people in Pacific countries live with disability. Through the Growing Stronger Together initiative, funded by New Zealand and Australia, the Pacific Disability Forum supports organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) across the region. Over the three-year programme (2022–25), 26 OPDs across 14 Pacific countries were supported to lead disability inclusive development and advocate for the rights of people with disabilities. In Fiji, this support led to the inclusion of disability-related questions in Fiji's 2023 Labour Force Survey, meaning data on employment barriers and opportunities for persons with disabilities was collected for the first time.

Growing Stronger Together is guided by the principle 'nothing about us, without us' and was designed and delivered by Pacific OPDs — a localised approach that ensures governance, financial management, human resources, and



16 OPDs from 12 countries attended the OPD Reflection Workshop in Fiji to share their experiences under Growing Stronger Together. Credit: Pacific Disability Forum

monitoring and evaluation systems are strengthened from within each organisation, fostering ownership, sustainability, and cultural relevance. The programme has been recognised by development partners, including the UN, as a best practice example of movement-led organisational strengthening and resilience.

Through the programme, over 200 OPD staff and volunteers gained governance, leadership, and finance skills; OPDs have engaged more effectively in national policy forums to promote rights-based legislation and secure budget commitments; and 16 OPDs from 12 countries participated in regional peer learning and future planning at an inaugural Reflection Workshop in Fiji in 2024.

Manaaki scholarships driving prosperity

The Ministry recognises the importance of high-quality, efficient transport systems in enabling business and prosperity, with the Manaaki New Zealand Scholarship Programme seeking to advance the skills of transport professionals in eligible countries. Through the Programme, William Sabandar (Willy) completed a PhD in Geography in New Zealand in 2004.

Soon after returning to Indonesia, Willy began a role as operations lead for Jakarta's Mass Rapid Transport System project. *"After completing my PhD, I was filled with hope that I can bring my experience in New Zealand to Indonesia."*

Later, Willy became the Chief Operating Officer for the Indonesian Business Council, and Commissioner for Mass Rapid Transport System. At the time, Jakarta was the fourth most congested city in the world. *"I want to change the culture of Jakarta's transportation, moving from using private vehicles, to public transport."*

Willy notes there is still progress to be made, but under his management, Jakarta has graduated from the fourth most congested city in the world to the thirtieth. *"In New Zealand, I learnt it's not just about building infrastructure, but changing people's way of life."*

In Willy's role with the Business Council, he seeks to promote the economic welfare and business competitiveness of the country. Like many Manaaki alumni, Willy is an overachiever. While in New Zealand Willy connected with several coffee importers, and upon his return home, founded an Association that connects importers with Indonesian coffee growers. Focused in the Toraja District, this Association improves coffee farming practices, and seeks to expand market access.



William Sabandar, Chief Operating Officer, Indonesian Business Council, and Manaaki New Zealand Scholarship Programme alum. Credit: Education New Zealand Brand Lab

Public health support in Kiribati

New Zealand has invested substantially in critical health infrastructure in the Pacific region to help countries provide quality and resilient health systems. In Kiribati, Phase One construction of the New Betio Hospital completed, comprising a new maternity ward, children's ward, and hospital management facilities, providing a major boost to maternity, birthing, and paediatrics capacity in the country, while significantly reducing patient travel times. The hospital serves the Betio population of around 20,000 people. New Zealand is also funding construction of 25 public health clinics in the outer islands through the Kiribati Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS). Five clinics were completed in 2024–25, strengthening critical primary health care services to 9,536 people.

In addition to healthcare infrastructure, New Zealand is improving access to public health services through partnerships with MHMS and UNICEF Pacific, including supporting the delivery of the Kiribati Non-Communicable Diseases Strategic Plan 2020–23 and delivery of training to 12 nurse trainees who will become Medical Assistants in outer island health centres. The Ministry also funds UNICEF to work with MHMS to strengthen healthcare services for mothers and children that address malnutrition and stunting in Kiribati.

Sexual Wellbeing Aotearoa (SWA) worked with Kiribati Family Health Association (KFHA) to strengthen sexual reproductive health and rights, and reduce sexually transmitted infections and unplanned pregnancies. 7,646 people benefited from improved SRHR services and 2,851 people received SRHR training and capability building support. SWA and KFHA completed the Identifying Future Priorities to Improve Sexual and Reproductive Health in Kiribati research report, which provides a roadmap for KFHA to improve effective delivery of SRHR services in Kiribati.

UNICEF's 1st 1000 Days programme supported Kiribati to introduce National Nutrition Guidelines and School Food Policies and reviewed the Breastfeeding Policy and Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) Guidelines. KMC is a revolutionary skin-to-skin technique supporting survival of preterm babies.

Productivity and diversification through the RISE initiative

While Timorese farmers can generally meet their subsistence needs, earning a cash income from cash-crops is more difficult, with a lack of post-harvest handling systems and poorly developed commodity markets. The New Zealand-funded RISE (Raising Incomes through Sustainable Exports) project addresses these constraints and contributes to increased cash income from coffee, cocoa, and spices for participating farmers.

Coffee is Timor-Leste's largest non-petroleum export product, however, the trees can become unproductive with insufficient fertiliser and pruning¹⁸. To address this, RISE facilitated the pruning of 2.6 million coffee trees across 10,200 participating farms.

In 2025, with strong yields and favourable market conditions, farmers are seeing meaningful improvements in income. Record high coffee prices, combined with significant productivity gains, are on track to more than triple incomes for farmers by the end of the year, compared to pre-tree-pruning income. As more pruned trees mature and diversified crops reach harvest, the positive impacts are expected to significantly increase.

Beyond coffee, the project is also enhancing household income and resilience by promoting crop diversification. Over 2,500 cocoa farmers are receiving support to raise the quality and amount of cocoa produced by their trees. With improved post-harvest quality control, farmers began producing premium-grade cocoa beans. In 2024, this culminated with the export of cocoa to Singapore, marking the first commercial sales to an international market. The competitive price of Timorese cocoa is drawing attention from potential buyers across Southeast Asia and has scope for expansion. Vanilla, pepper, and cloves are also being promoted through RISE, and all are showing promising signs of providing good returns to growers.

By 2034, CCT estimates that RISE project farmers will receive total additional income of an estimated US\$5 million per year, due to cash crop productivity gains following RISE support.



Cooperativa Café Timor coffee bean quality control line in Dili. Credit: John Claasen, MFAT

¹⁸ Pruning brings substantial benefits over time — a RISE on-farm study in May 2025 confirmed pruned trees yield 3.2 times more coffee beans than un-pruned trees.

Building resilient livelihoods through inclusive community-based training

Since 2020, the Ministry has partnered with the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) and the University of the South Pacific to expand access to education and training. Open, Distance, and Flexible Learning (ODFL) brings the classroom to learners and reduces barriers to education. To date, 4,671 people across the Pacific have benefited from ODFL courses, with more than 1,700 learners accessing training in 2024–25. The programme anticipates reaching an additional 600 learners by December 2025.

Mrs Melanie John, a 30-year-old mother of three from Middle Jimi in Papua New Guinea's Jiwaka Province, demonstrates the life-changing impact of vocational education. Having left school in Grade 10, and with her husband working away from home, Melanie faced limited opportunities to support her family. Her circumstances began to change in 2024 when she enrolled in a basic accounting and book-keeping course, funded through the Ministry's partnership with COL.



Mrs Melanie John in her general store.
Credit: Commonwealth of Learning

The training ignited Melanie's entrepreneurial spirit. *"The best thing in training was the courage given. It empowered me to venture into doing small business in the community. I have the lecture notes whereby I regularly look back and rely on for the business opportunity and how it should be shaped into reality."* Today, Melanie runs a small general store along the local highway — a business she launched using the skills and confidence gained from the course. *"I am using the business skills taught and renting a store after discussion with my family. I believe in self-reliance to sustain life with the skills and knowledge gained."*

Melanie's story is one of many that reflects how vocational training changes lives. The programme equips women and youth with practical skills, opening pathways to education, employment, and economic independence for those who might otherwise be left behind.

Preventing and controlling noncommunicable disease across the Pacific

Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) are the leading cause of mortality in the Pacific, and are a key intervention focus for the Ministry. In the past year:

- SPC and WHO provided technical assistance to 12 Pacific Island countries to update the Pacific Monitoring Alliance for NCD Action (MANA) dashboard. The dashboard tracks countries' NCD policies and programmes to identify gaps, monitor progress, and enable data-driven decision-making on NCD initiatives.
- WHO technical assistance supported Cook Islands, Samoa, and Solomon Islands to develop health tax policy proposals for alcohol, tobacco, and sugar-sweetened beverages, which have been submitted to their respective governments for approval.
- WHO supported Solomon Islands to develop a sustainable model for diabetes foot care, with scaling potential across the Pacific. Together, they reached 362 health workers in diabetes management (94 percent of Honiara's health workers), and 273 in diabetic foot screening and care (71 percent of Honiara's health workers). Quality improvement work is underway at five clinics, that will be replicated throughout Honiara, that is showing success in transforming clinic systems, with staff and patients noting improvements in efficiency, quality of care, and client satisfaction. The programme will also procure and provide essential resources to targeted health facilities throughout the country to enable health workers to carry out their roles and deliver high quality primary care.
- SPC supported Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu to increase noncommunicable disease prevention and control capability through health promotion and education resources tailored to the Pacific, delivery of training and awareness programmes on NCD risk factors, and expansion of diabetes care services at primary health care level.
- WHO technical assistance enabled Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, and Tuvalu to implement the WHO STEPS survey to NCD risk factor surveillance. STEPS is a globally recognised tool that assesses prevalence of key NCD risk factors, generates data to inform national policies and interventions, and strengthens local capacity in public health monitoring. The survey plays a critical role in generating standardised, population-based data.
- PHC carried out cancer control country surveys and stakeholder engagements across Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa, and Tonga, and have now finalised design of their Noncommunicable Diseases (Cancer Control) Workstream.



Danny Shadrech, Oceanographer and University Lecturer, and Manaaki New Zealand Scholarship Programme alum. Credit: Education New Zealand Brand Lab

Goal 3: A sustainable future

Manaaki scholarships boosting capability in ocean science

Danny Shadrech, Oceanographer and University Lecturer, Solomon Islands, completed a Bachelor of Science in 2018, majoring in oceanography and geology —a key priority area for Solomon Islands given that only two percent of its territory is land.

Danny is passionate about how Solomon Islanders interrelate with the ocean. After graduation he became the only oceanographer in the country, although this title may be short-lived. Since returning, Danny has introduced oceanography as a subject at the Solomon Islands National University, where he now teaches.

Danny exemplifies the reason New Zealand invests in scholarships. By training one scholar, many more benefit. *“My favourite thing about teaching is to give back what I’ve learned.”*

Danny notes that Solomon Islanders are reliant on the ocean for their livelihoods. *“The climate change issues we’re facing in the Solomons affect the sea surface temperature, fisheries, and cause coral bleaching. It is important for us to understand these aspects, so that we can keep our ocean productive.”*

Danny is also now managing an ocean monitoring system. *“I am teaching others how to collect the data and turn it into something useable.”* In addition to ocean health, Danny has introduced the routine monitoring of swells for ocean safety. This has resulted in fewer capsizes, boating incidents, and drownings.

Danny attributes his career successes to the Manaaki New Zealand Scholarship Programme. Facing the challenges of climate change requires the skill and knowledge of people like Danny and their commitment to pass that learning on to others.

Eradicating pests on Palmerston Atoll



Palmerston Atoll, Cook Islands. Credit: DOC

“Rats infested the Atoll for over a century. They ate our crops, invaded our homes, and harmed wildlife. We saw the rat problem becoming worse, with the potential to seriously undermine our resilience in the face of climate change impacts.”

This was the reality for Arthur Neale, Executive Officer on Palmerston Atoll, a remote outer island in Cook Islands. The Atoll community, in partnership with New Zealand’s Department of Conservation (DOC) and Cook Islands’ Te Ipukarea Society, have now successfully removed rats from their island.

The Restoring Island Resilience project, delivered through SPREP’s Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS), responds to climate adaptation and biodiversity priorities in 14 Pacific countries and territories. Working with communities to remove invasive animals and plants transforms island ecosystems, not just on land but in the surrounding reefs due to improved nutrient flows. Since June 2023, the programme has benefited 5,869 people across Pacific communities. Key successes have been protecting and enhancing 13,009 hectares of critical habitat, including through eradication work, delivery of safely tested biocontrols, and locally led restoration initiatives; and establishing regional databases that track 217 invasive species, to underpin evidence-based decision-making.

Palmerston Atoll is just one of many Pacific islands benefiting from this expertise and support, which makes a huge impact on island lives. Arthur reflects on the significant benefits the community is already seeing following eradication. *“Our food security has improved massively. Fruits like guava, mango, and star fruit are now abundant and free from rat damage. Our nu mangaro are thriving. Vegetables, especially cucumbers, have seen an astonishing increase in yield.”*

By building local capacity to manage the significant impacts of invasive species, PRISMSS is strengthening communities beyond the direct ecological benefits. Other benefits include:

- reviving traditional food sources by protecting native crops
- creating green jobs in biosecurity and restoration
- preserving cultural sites from invasive plant encroachment
- enabling people in 127 communities to contribute to monitoring and ownership of projects, through ‘citizen science’ approaches and ensuring long term sustained impact.

New Zealand’s unique expertise in managing invasive species is highly valued to other island nations. And New Zealand is also gaining from strengthened capability within the Pacific — the SPREP Protect Our Marine Areas programme, supported by New Zealand’s National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, is significantly increasing our own understanding and management of tropical marine invasive species.

The ongoing success of PRISMSS has attracted the attention of other partners. The United Kingdom have now joined as donors, complementing New Zealand's investment and increasing the impact and scope of PRISMMS.

With climate and biodiversity challenges intensifying globally, the services delivered by PRISMSS are being expanded to support more communities across the Pacific. Work is also underway to access additional funding from global climate funds to ensure continued sustainability of the work, which is helping Pacific islands to achieve their targets under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Pacific Insurance and Climate Adaptation Programme

Over the past four years, the United Nations Capital Development Fund's (UNCDF's) Pacific Insurance and Climate Adaptation Programme (PICAP), with funding from Australia, New Zealand, and other partners, has been a catalyst for climate resilience in the Pacific. It was established to improve the financial preparedness and resilience of Pacific governments and communities against climate change and natural hazards through innovative and inclusive Climate Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance (CDRFI) instruments. These instruments, like parametric insurance, are a new medium for reaching low-income people and those left behind — vulnerable populations comprising women, youth, and individuals employed in micro, small, and medium enterprises from the agriculture, fisheries, and tourism sectors.

To date, PICAP has:

- introduced market-based parametric insurance solutions in Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu to strengthen the financial resilience of these vulnerable communities.
- supported the design and launch of 37 inclusive insurance and digital products, demonstrating UNCDF's 'leave no one behind' approach. Working closely with governments and non-governmental organisations, the programme has supported tailored parametric insurance solutions for women, persons with disabilities, and social welfare recipients. With over 47,500 households registered, PICAP is actively promoting inclusivity — 48 percent are women; 3,836 are social welfare recipients; 1,864 are persons with disabilities.
- reached 47,603 individuals through capacity-building interventions, enhancing climate risk insurance awareness and financial literacy.

PICAP has made climate risk insurance more accessible, especially in remote areas, through its iOnboard platform which simplifies registration, transfers data to the insurer and reinsurer, and improves scalability. A facilitated partnership between Tower Insurance and the global InsurTech firm, CelsiusPro, allowed for a tailored distribution system for cyclone response cover, which now provides rapid payouts following cyclonic weather events. Informed by meteorological data, and geographic information systems, parametric insurance provides automatic payouts based on predefined weather thresholds, helping communities recover quickly and efficiently from climate-related events.

PICAP has also contributed to advancements in disaster risk financing across the Pacific through participation in the Disaster Risk Finance Technical Working Group. In 2024, PICAP supported development of national disaster risk financing and financial inclusion strategies in Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu; and collaborated with regional central banks to enable introduction of climate risk insurance solutions through regulatory sandboxes¹⁹. These efforts have significantly strengthened institutional capacity and embedded disaster risk financing into national planning — enabling Pacific countries to enhance their capacity for financial preparedness and resilience in the face of climate change.

¹⁹ A regulatory sandbox is a controlled environment where businesses can test innovative products, services, business models, or delivery mechanisms under regulatory supervision. Regulatory authorities provide a framework where insurers can experiment with new ideas and concepts without facing the total regulatory burden.

Conservation International Aotearoa expedition to Tokelau



At the northern end of Atafu's lagoon Iuta Isaako, the Tokelau climate change programme manager summons students from Matauala School around an underwater frame. Their job is to pick posies of live coral from the adjacent reefs and fix them to netting to grow. Surviving coral will be transplanted on cooler reefs — an insurance policy for a warming world.
Credit: Conservation International

With IDC support, Conservation International Aotearoa works with communities and schools across Samoa and Tokelau, implementing environmental programmes that aim to foster a new generation of ocean stewardship and climate champions. During March and April 2025, an expedition to Tokelau focused on co-developing an environmental education programme, conducting scientific marine assessments, and supporting sustainable ocean management policies across Tokelau's three atolls: Nukunonu, Atafu, and Fakaofu.

Community consultations were conducted with aumaga (men's groups), fatupaepae (women's groups), and local youth to gather Tokelauan perspectives on environmental issues and priorities, helping to strengthen collaborative environmental conservation efforts, and informing development of environmental education programmes and ocean management policies. Citizen science training was delivered to raise awareness about conservation and empower communities to act.

The expedition included a review of marine research sites that had not been surveyed for a decade, employing cutting-edge research techniques to conduct avian and invasive species monitoring, fish surveys, photogrammetry, and environmental DNA sampling. Dive teams conducted surveys at two sites on Atafu's northern and southwestern points, documenting diverse marine ecosystems featuring healthy populations of fish across all trophic levels including globally endangered species, such as humphead wrasse, bumphead parrotfish, and various shark species. This was documented with high-resolution 360-degree cameras to create immersive virtual reality educational resources for schools that will bridge Tokelauan traditional knowledge with modern conservation science.

Advancing climate and economic resilience through women-led enterprises in ASEAN

The Ministry partners with UN Women and the UN Environment Programme to deliver EmPower: Women for Climate-Resilient Societies Phase II. EmPower aims to expand access to finance and low-carbon technologies for women-led enterprises and promote participatory approaches to climate change in policy and planning.

Mobilising finance and private sector investment for renewable energy and low-carbon technologies across Southeast Asia is a core priority of EmPower, and in 2024, the programme established partnerships with nine financial institutions, three climate technology providers, and three business associations; and mobilised US\$19.45 million through the establishment of seven financial mechanisms that promote low-carbon, climate-resilient livelihoods. 4,053 micro-businesses from 28 climate-vulnerable provinces in the Philippines accessed funding for local retail, agriculture and food processing, fishing, and trading; and seven small- and medium-sized businesses received loans for procuring renewable energy/low-carbon technologies, such as solar photovoltaic (PV) systems for clean drinking water and biofertilizers in Indonesia.

EmPower also strengthened women's leadership across ASEAN in climate and disaster risk reduction. A total of 68 women's civil society organisations were supported to participate in the twenty-ninth Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP29) preparatory processes, and the Regional Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Gender Equality and Climate Action. EmPower also supported development of five national Climate/Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) frameworks.

Piloting weather radar for Tonga

Tonga, like many Pacific nations is frequently impacted by severe weather events, including tropical cyclones, thunderstorms, damaging winds, and high swells. The Tongan Meteorology Service's ability to accurately forecast these events is critical to ensuring an effective early warning system. The Pacific-led Weather Ready Pacific programme addresses the need for enhanced forecasting technology, such as weather radar. In support of the Weather Ready Pacific vision, New Zealand has funded Weather Radar programmes — with Tonga selected as the first pilot in 2024.

Installation of a new weather radar at Fua'amotu International Airport has enhanced Tonga's early warnings systems, provided radar coverage for 99,260 people across all three main island groups (95 percent of the population), and improved Tonga Meteorological Service's ability to forecast, prepare, and respond to severe weather. Though a partnership with New Zealand's MetService, training has been provided to over 20 staff across multiple agencies to ensure proactive use of the information and continued maintenance of the radar infrastructure.

Following the success of the radar pilot in Tonga, the programme will next be expanded to Solomon Islands, equipping its National Meteorological Service with this vital technology to strengthen the multi-hazard early warning system.



Weather radar at Fua'amotu International Airport.
Credit: NZ MetService

Applying a health focus to climate change

Health systems play a critical role in safeguarding the well-being of communities in the face of risks associated with climate change. Investments are being made in climate-resilient health infrastructure, enhancing healthcare delivery, and developing the capacity of climate specialists and agencies to provide high-quality evidence for resilient health systems.

In 2024, SPC's Climate Change Flagship Programme included:

- training of thirty participants from the Fijian Ministry of Health on guidelines for climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable healthcare facilities, and assessment of five healthcare facilities using the guidelines
- the inaugural Pan-Pacific Conference on Climate and Health in Nadi, bringing together participants from 11 Pacific Islands alongside 15 partner organisations, facilitating knowledge exchange
- a Leptospirosis Early Warning System Model in Fiji, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, and Wallis and Futuna, piloting a dashboard that will help to make the results more accessible for users and decision makers
- regional engagements on vector control and insecticide resistance monitoring — with a focus on dengue, chikungunya, and Zika viruses.

Through Weather Ready Pacific's Climate and Ocean Support in the Pacific programme, NIWA supported the Solomon Islands Government Meteorological Service to operate a malaria early warning system, utilising weather information, such as temperatures and rainfall, to help predict malaria outbreaks.

The Polynesian Health Corridor programme helped to prepare health systems in the Pacific for climate-exacerbated health crises (for example, increased epidemics and vector-borne diseases) through activities, such as investment in the pertussis outbreak response in Samoa, and support for capability building, including the WHO Joint External Evaluation meeting in Cook Islands.

Fresh water, improved futures

In Kiribati, having sustainable access to safe drinking water is critical to improving health outcomes. With IDC support, Engineers Without Borders New Zealand are supporting local organisations, Tobaraoi-Green Living and Kiribati Local Government Association, to improve water security for communities.

Their work started in June 2023 on Tabiteuea North and after the first year of activity, the impact was clear: 54 percent of sampled households that had initially tested positive for E. coli were now testing negative. Much of this decrease was due to establishment of 21 Village WaSH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) Champion groups — one for every community ward — and increased



Rurueta Tebwanei, Tobaraoi-Green Living WaSH Officer, undertakes a water quality test as part of a household water safety outreach.

Credit: Engineers Without Borders New Zealand

hygiene awareness in the community. Community education campaigns were carried out by these groups to highlight the importance of clean drinking water and to discuss basic actions to improve household water safety.

Toka, a Tobaraoi-Green Living WaSH Officer states: *"We already have seen the changes of the mindsets of people that we have visited. People are now reluctant to drink water that is not boiled. But we continue to tell them that it's good you are thinking about boiling water, but everything else needs to be cleaned as well, such as containers and hands, and so on."*

In addition, thirty solar still distillation farms were also established in Tabiteuea North, enabling the conversion of sea water into fresh, potable water. The distillation farms are managed and maintained by the Village WASH Champion groups. Working closely with Kiribati's Ministry of Health and Medical Services, and local partner Tobaraoi-Green Living, this support is helping to deliver against the Government of Kiribati's goal of ensuring all households have access to potable water by 2036.



Toka Rakobu, Tobaraoi-Green Living WaSH Officer, and Tabomoa Tinte, from the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS).

Credit: Engineers Without Borders New Zealand

Tuvalu coastal adaptation

Strengthening resilience against the impacts of climate change is Tuvalu's key priority, and the Tuvalu Coastal Adaptation Project (TCAP) forms a central part of the Government of Tuvalu's agenda - reflecting its focus on addressing sea level rise and the associated threats. Recognising this priority, New Zealand increased its contribution to the TCAP in 2025.

The first phase of TCAP — delivered through the United Nations Development Programme — was funded by the Green Climate Fund, the Government of Tuvalu, and Australia. This phase involved the successful reclamation of 7.3 hectares of land (730 metres long and an average of 90 metres wide) in Funafuti. It demonstrated the feasibility of the approach, and generated interest across the region and beyond.

Building on this proven success, New Zealand contributed NZ\$6.15 million to the Southern Extension in 2024, in partnership with Australia and the UNDP. The implementation of the southern extension has now been executed successfully, with reclamation completed in mid-2025. Significant planning has also been undertaken for the Northern Extension, which will benefit from the preliminary work underpinning phase one, and existing human resources and logistical structures, if delivered consecutively.

New Zealand's contribution to the second phase of the TCAP is a significant example of our climate financing in action, producing tangible results through reclaimed land that is now available for the people of Tuvalu through the Tuvalu Government's land use planning. This additional funding also demonstrates a strong working relationship with Australia's DFAT, which sought additional funding for the project to cover an unexpected shortfall in the project. New Zealand has recently contributed NZ\$3 million to the planning and feasibility stage for the Northern Extension, with implementation expected over the coming year.

Protecting forests for a sustainable future

The Ministry's partnership with Live and Learn Environmental Education is delivering the Carbon Financed Community Forest Conservation (CFFC) project in Solomon Islands, that supports communities to formally protect forests and access the voluntary carbon market. The project aims to improve the environmental and economic sustainability of Solomon Islands' communities by introducing a carbon financing mechanism — the Nakau Programme— that enables rural landowners to protect their forests, and at the same time, generate revenue to fund community development. It provides an alternative income stream to logging, strengthens livelihoods, and offers a replicable model for community-led conservation.

The project is active across five sites: Padezaka, Vuri, and Garasa in the Babatana rainforest, Choiseul Province; Lake Tegano in Rennell and Bellona Province; and Lupa Vangunu-Zaira in Western Province. Progress varies by site, each with unique challenges. Some key milestones in 2024–25 include:

- Babatana: having already achieved Protected Area status, Padezaka and Vuri continue to advance toward carbon market readiness. In October 2024, Vuri Clan Association signed a Payment for Ecosystem Services²⁰ agreement, with Padezaka Tribal Association (PTA) following in June 2025. These agreements enable financial returns and technical assistance in exchange for forest protection. PTA conducted its first Carbon Project Audit Verification in June and is on track to begin selling carbon credits by the end of 2025.
- Lake Tegano: following awareness-raising through CFFC, and the GEF-funded Ensuring Resilient Eco-Systems and Representative Protected Areas in Solomon Islands project, 12 of 14 tribes around Lake Tegano agreed to pursue Protected Area declaration and carbon project development. Participatory land-use and benefit-sharing planning has now commenced.
- Lupa Vangunu-Zaira: progress remains challenging due to ongoing logging pressure. However, in January 2025, local rangers pushed back against a key logging operator, preserving forest areas while efforts toward legal protection continue. Despite receiving a development consent, the company opted out of proceeding with logging operations due to strong opposition from the local Zaira community who depend on the area for hunting, gathering wild fruits and nuts, collecting water, and obtaining building materials.



Protected Area Rangers in the Babatana Conservation Project undertaking forest monitoring training. Rangers are a key element of successfully managing, projecting and maintaining the integrity of protected and conserved areas. They help identify potential threats to biodiversity and species, collect data on wildlife, and work closely with the Protected Area Committee to conserve the areas and natural resources. Credit: Babatana Rainforest Conservation Project

Culturally-informed engagement has been essential in this project — building trust, navigating natural resource tensions, and supporting community consensus. This work requires long-term commitment, flexible resources, and deep understanding of local context.

The CFFC activity complements New Zealand's broader support to Solomon Islands' climate policy framework, including development of a Carbon Trading Policy with Global Green Growth Institute through the Low Emissions Climate Resilient Development in the Pacific activity. The policy aims to strengthen the enabling environment for forest carbon projects — under both Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, which enables emissions trading between countries and the voluntary carbon market, where projects can sell credits to companies or individuals.

With continued support, these sites are on track to access carbon finance, demonstrating a viable, community-led alternative to logging that supports both environmental conservation and economic resilience.

²⁰ Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) represent a game-changing approach to development in the Pacific by targeting the protection and enhancement of economically valuable and resilience enhancing ecological infrastructure. Trading carbon instead of rainforest timber is one example of this approach. PES mechanisms, like carbon trading, leverage the international private sector, which can provide most of the financing for scaling ecosystem-based development, harnessing a largely untapped source of funds outside the public purse for doing good.

New Zealand's global geothermal expertise accelerates renewable energy

New Zealand's world-leading geothermal expertise is highly sought-after through our long-running geothermal support programmes to Indonesia, East Africa, and the Caribbean. Our global geothermal technical assistance programmes partner with regional institutions, such as the Africa Union Commission, Organisation of Eastern Caribbean states, national governments, and state-owned geothermal development companies, to provide demand-driven technical assistance and capacity supporting all aspects of geothermal development, including planning and exploration, commercial powerplant operations, managing assets and socio-environmental issues, and exploring direct uses of geothermal heat.

New Zealand's assistance has catalysed progress, providing expertise that builds local capability, drives progress, and helps to unlock significant investment for geothermal development. Key achievements in 2024–25 include:

- the launch of the Indonesia–New Zealand Geothermal Energy Partnership Programme (PINZ) moving to a new localised delivery hub. While still in the early stages, PINZ is delivering assistance for critical regulatory reforms at the Directorate General of New Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation (EBTKE). It will support development of clearer sector policies, improve the feasibility of public geothermal projects, strengthen exploration planning, and help build a skilled and diverse geothermal workforce. Improved regulations will enable faster, more inclusive energy transition.
- through the New Zealand–Caribbean Facility for Renewable Energy (FRENZ) programme, the provision of comprehensive technical, environmental, and social advisory assistance to the Government of Grenada as it prepares to drill its first geothermal well in 2026. The resulting plan provided sufficient confidence to expand the funding envelope and secure a GB£10 million grant from the UK — an essential step in de-risking a project that can provide over 50 percent of the electricity needs for the country, without adding to government debt. In St Lucia, FRENZ support helped secure US\$22 million in funding from the World Bank to explore uncharted geothermal areas of the country, and in Dominica, New Zealand's support helped the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica assess the size, scale, and location of a new geothermal resource — information that will help secure future financing.
- training and capability-building support for 232 African geothermal professionals (of which 20 percent were women), through the New Zealand–Africa Union Geothermal Facility (AGF). Ensuring sustainability through asset management of drilling equipment was a specific focus, bringing eight drilling specialists from Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Djibouti to New Zealand to undertake three-week residential training at world class facilities in Taupō. Follow-up support from the AGF enabled participants to share customised asset management systems and skills with their colleagues.
- intensive AGF technical support to help prepare the Tanzania Geothermal Development Company to drill the first geothermal well in the country's history, which could be used to establish Tanzania's first geothermal power plant. In addition, New Zealand helped partners to de-risk geothermal exploration and secure financing, including for two projects that qualified for US\$7 million in Geothermal Risk Mitigation Facility (GRMF) funding. Since 2017, AGF has helped partners unlock US\$22 million in new finance for exploration across nine GRMF projects and has been instrumental in leveraging a further US\$56 million of World Bank funding for drilling in Ethiopia.



Flow testing a geothermal well in Dominica. Credit: JRG Energy

Supporting sustainability of fisheries

Climate science ensures Pacific tuna access

The Western and Central Pacific Ocean — home to the world’s largest wild capture tuna fisheries — is seeing the adverse effects of climate change degrading coral reefs and changing the distribution of tuna. Oceans modelling forecasts that tuna in equatorial areas will likely shift progressively to the east, and into subtropical waters, as the ocean continues to warm. Redistribution of tuna would have profound implications for Pacific national economies, that derive as much as 70 percent of their (non-aid) government revenue from tuna fishing, and may also impact decisions on tuna processing plant locations and bilateral fisheries access negotiations.

Currently, Pacific tuna fisheries are managed at biologically sustainable levels. However, with a greater proportion of tuna populations moving into areas beyond national jurisdiction, that is, into high seas areas, Pacific island countries will face challenges retaining control over the management of tuna fisheries. Through the Climate Science for Ensuring Pacific Tuna Access (CSEPTA) project, SPC are supporting Pacific island governments to transform the way they manage tuna fisheries. SPC is developing the Tuna Climate Intelligence System, which combines climate, oceanographic, fisheries, and economic models to forecast and monitor shifts in tuna populations in response to impacts of climate change.

The project has also funded a new region-wide tuna genetic sampling programme and an expanded genetics analytical laboratory at SPC, which includes a section dedicated to cutting-edge genomics — and the only DNA sequencing capabilities in the South Pacific. These new capabilities have already resulted in a new understanding of Pacific tuna population structure (including tuna in New Zealand waters) and has accelerated the use of a world-leading genetics-based fisheries stock assessment approach in Pacific fisheries, which will result in more precise estimates of tuna population sizes and sustainable catches.

To further support tuna fishery management, funding has also allowed for doubling the capacity of the SPC Taxonomy Laboratory and the associated Pacific Marine Specimen Bank that stores fish samples from around the Pacific. The Bank provides vital information to fisheries models by improving our understanding of the ocean ecosystem (that is what eats what, where, and when) and of fish reproduction, age, growth, and contaminant concentrations. Funding has also supported training of 374 people from across 21 Pacific island countries and territories in related skills, such as taking genetic samples from tuna, data management, and incorporating climate change considerations into policy analysis and advocacy.

This work, alongside the recently established Green Climate Fund programme ‘Adapting tuna-dependent Pacific Island communities and economies to climate change’, provides opportunities to apply new insights and techniques to better understand and manage climate change impacts on coastal fisheries and aquaculture, which are critical to livelihoods and food security in the Pacific.

Tuvalu fisheries support

New Zealand also provides bilateral support to individual Pacific countries. For example, the fisheries sector is critical for Tuvalu, where around 55 percent of Tuvaluan households fish for food or income — rising to 75 percent in the outer islands. The Tuvalu Fisheries Support Programme focuses on sustainable fisheries management, improved coastal fisheries, and a stronger enabling environment for fisheries development. In 2024–25, the Programme supported national consultations on draft legislation to transition the Tuvalu Fisheries Department to a Fisheries Authority. This facilitated bipartisan support for the establishment of the Authority in Tuvalu and helped form a strong base for the new institutional framework, with the legislation has passed and taking effect on 1 July 2025. The transition to a Fisheries Authority represents a major step forward in reforming fisheries governance in Tuvalu and will improve efficiency and management within the sector.

The Programme also supported fisheries sustainability and resilience through the commissioning of a Mariculture hatchery for giant clams (fasua in Tuvaluan), including design and construction of the building and procurement of equipment. The hatchery became fully operational in March 2025 and has been holding clam broodstock since April. One species of giant clam has been spawned successfully but the larvae did not survive to the settlement stage. The hatchery’s work on restocking efforts and culturing giant clams will improve Tuvalu’s food security and enhance conservation efforts.

Strengthening water resource management

In the absence of surface water resources, people living on atolls and raised limestone islands in the Pacific face significant risk of water insecurity. These communities rely on rainwater collected from roofs, shallow groundwater harvested from bores, wells or galleries, and supplementary sources, such as desalination and bottled water. Water supply is further impacted by the accelerating impacts of disasters and climate change, and small variations have an impact on health, quality of life, food security, economic development, and the ability for communities to stay in place.

Through the New Zealand-funded Managing Water Scarcity through Strengthened Water Resource Management project, SPC works with the governments of Pacific atoll countries and raised limestone islands²¹ to engage with their most at-risk communities, and develop multi-year investment plans based around essential water capture and storage infrastructure; water monitoring, assessment and management systems; sustainable management of water infrastructure and resources; and drought preparedness and drought crisis response activities. To date, each of the countries involved is successfully progressing their multi-year implementation plans, making targeted communities more resilient. Results include:

- 8,845,000 litres of new or refurbished rainwater collection and storage capability
- 644,000 litres of new desalinated water supply per week
- 540,000 litres of refurbished groundwater supply per day
- improved water security and increased resilience to climate change for 36,148 people across 74 communities.

In Tokelau, SPC supported the Department of Economic Development, Natural Resources & Environment (EDNRE) to successfully repair leaking, damaged and inadequate domestic, community and school rainwater harvesting systems on each of Tokelau's three atolls and install new community and household water tanks—including 48 polyethylene rainwater tanks delivered by HMNZS *Canterbury*. In total, this has resulted in 1.12 million litres of improved and new water storage.



EDNRE completing installation of community rainwater harvesting system at Fakaofu, Tokelau
Credit: Government of Tokelau

Community impact statements indicate the significant importance of this work. Schools are no longer closing for days due to lack of access to water for students; households have improved water security, enabling them to tend to home food gardens, improving food security and healthy eating; and office areas have adequate water on site. In response to a survey of rainwater harvesting infrastructure systems undertaken across all islands, and with SPC's ongoing support, EDNRE has delivered three water security awareness raising events, established a pilot water demand monitoring initiative, and developed a leakage maintenance plan, including training of local plumbers to support sustainable water use and management and improve resilience.

In Tuvalu, the first of four new 360,000 litre water cisterns was completed, providing safe water to 581 residents in Nukufetai and increasing water security and drought resilience for the island. The remaining three cisterns are under development in the communities of Nui, Vaiaku and Fakaifou. The project also provided 40 x 10,000 litre water tanks for desalinated water storage for outer islands communities.

In Kiribati, groundwater surveys on all 14 islands of the Gilbert Group have identified potential new groundwater sources of water for wells and galleries. As a result, five new groundwater galleries have been developed, with the groundwater complementing existing water supplies to make the villages more climate resilient.

In Niue, more than 270 people (20 percent of the total population) now have access to safe, secure and sustainable water supplies through strengthened water supply infrastructure in the villages of Liku, Lakepa and Tuapa, coupled with improved water monitoring and management systems. The communities and the Department of Utilities are also co-developing drinking water safety plans.

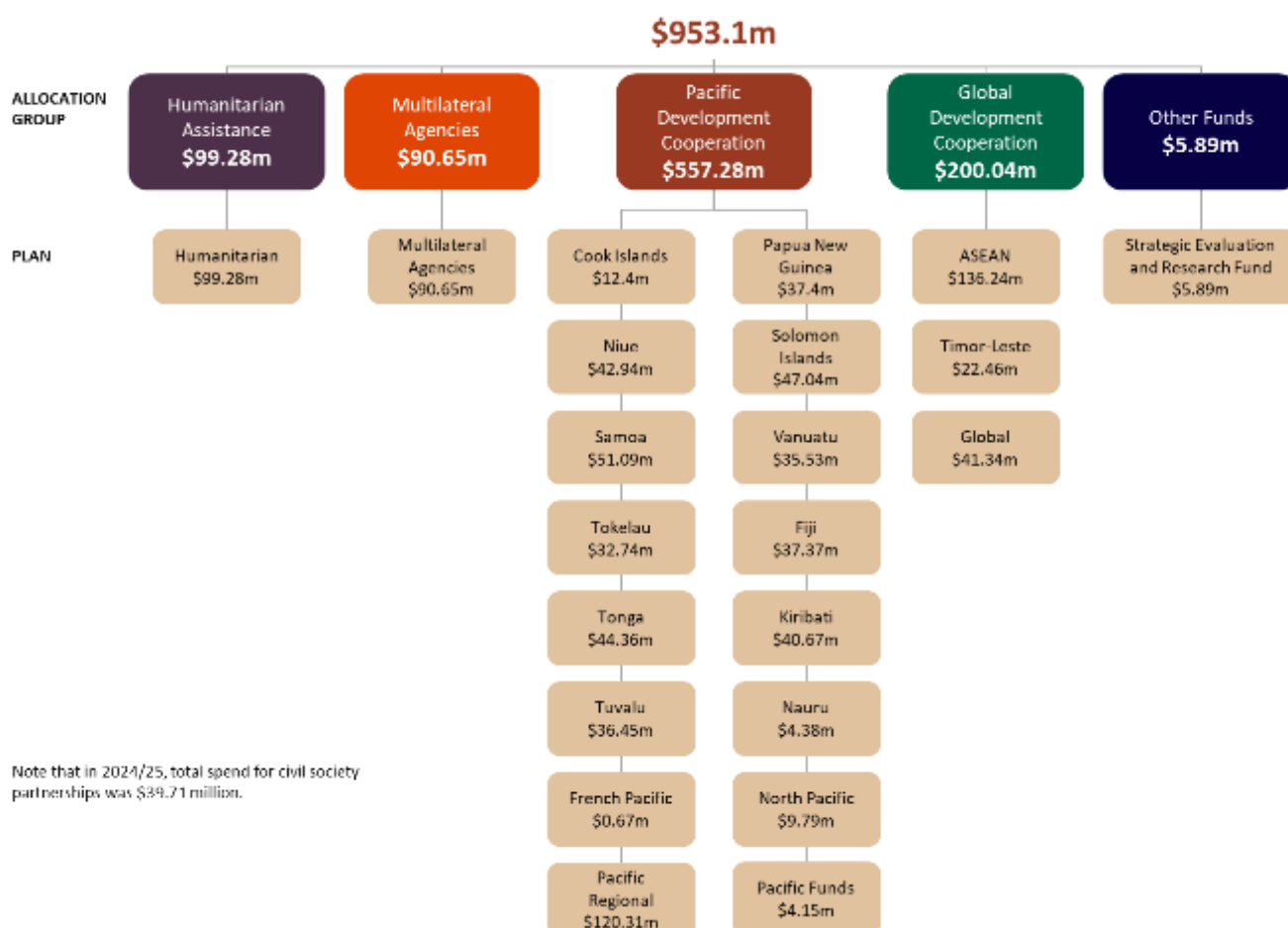
²¹ Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Republic of Marshall Islands, Tokelau, Tonga and Tuvalu.

Delivery of the IDC in 2024–25

New Zealand’s total IDC spend for 2024–25 was NZ\$953.1 million. The following pages provide an overview of where IDC Programme expenditure was delivered, the sectors it contributed to, and performance against key indicators.

The Crown IDC appropriation is split into five allocation groups (Humanitarian Assistance, Multilateral Agencies, Pacific Development Cooperation, Global Development Cooperation, and Other Funds). For each of these allocation groups, multi-year plans provide strategic direction for how funding is planned and spent. The below diagram shows expenditure over the year by allocation group and plan. Each bilateral and regional plan includes expenditure on scholarships, multi-country activities, partnership activities, and High Commission Embassy Funds for that country or region.

FIGURE 3: IDC 2024–25 EXPENDITURE BY ALLOCATION GROUP AND PLAN



The following table provides a geographic view of IDC expenditure, by region and sub-region. Individual countries are specified where they received more than NZ\$1 million in IDC. This view includes all spend apportioned to relevant countries, including humanitarian assistance.

New Zealand's primary focus is on the Pacific, where we spent NZ\$572.95 million, or 60.1 percent of IDC. Our secondary focus is on Southeast Asia (ASEAN and Timor-Leste), where we spent NZ\$166.21million (17.4% of total IDC).

TABLE 1: IDC 2024–25 EXPENDITURE BY REGION, SUB-REGION AND COUNTRY.

REGION, SUB REGION & COUNTRY	EXPENDITURE 2024-25 (\$)	% OF TOTAL IDC
PACIFIC	572,954,708	60.1%
Polynesia	223,530,537	23.5%
Cook Islands	12,765,151	1.3%
Niue	43,299,208	4.5%
Samoa	51,370,120	5.4%
Tokelau	33,103,122	3.5%
Tonga	44,634,953	4.7%
Tuvalu	36,445,364	3.8%
Polynesia regional / Other Polynesia	1,912,619	0.2%
Melanesia	163,809,252	17.2%
Fiji	37,453,151	3.9%
Papua New Guinea	38,560,945	4.0%
Solomon Islands	47,040,899	4.9%
Vanuatu	38,228,116	4.0%
Melanesia regional / Other Melanesia	2,526,141	0.3%
Micronesia	55,174,161	5.8%
Kiribati	40,668,903	4.3%
Republic of the Marshall Islands	3,486,700	0.4%
Federated States of Micronesia	2,929,667	0.3%
Nauru	4,378,057	0.5%
Palau	3,370,764	0.4%
Micronesia regional	340,071	0.0%
Pacific regional	130,440,758	13.7%
Pacific regional	130,440,758	13.7%
ASIA	207,147,930	21.7%
South & Southeast Asia	179,223,673	18.8%
Bangladesh	9,253,967	1.0%
Cambodia	24,986,706	2.6%
India	1,279,044	0.1%
Indonesia	23,460,016	2.5%
Laos	18,004,549	1.9%
Malaysia	4,835,037	0.5%
Myanmar	28,871,304	3.0%
Philippines	13,913,723	1.5%
Sri Lanka	2,167,157	0.2%
Thailand	5,553,614	0.6%
Timor-Leste	22,680,765	2.4%
Viet Nam	22,505,179	2.4%
South & Southeast Asia regional / Other South & Southeast Asia	1,712,613	0.2%
Central Asia	8,845,101	0.9%
Afghanistan	8,400,000	0.9%
Asia Central regional / Other Central Asia	445,101	0.0%
Middle East	17,803,446	1.9%
Lebanon	1,000,000	0.1%
Occupied Palestinian Territories	11,512,267	1.2%
Syria	2,000,000	0.2%
Yemen	2,000,000	0.2%
Other Middle East	1,291,178	0.1%
Asia Regional	1,275,710	0.1%
Asia Regional	1,275,710	0.1%

AFRICA	33,762,133	3.5%
Ethiopia	6,295,106	0.7%
Kenya	2,204,993	0.2%
Tanzania	1,864,966	0.2%
Zambia	1,341,366	0.1%
Rwanda	1,528,741	0.2%
South Sudan	2,000,000	0.2%
Somalia	1,080,000	0.1%
Sudan	3,500,000	0.4%
Africa regional / Other Africa	13,946,962	1.5%
EUROPE	21,075,000	2.2%
Ukraine	17,500,000	1.8%
Europe regional / Other Europe	3,575,000	0.4%
AMERICAS	8,825,667	0.9%
MULTILATERAL & WORLDWIDE	109,368,158	11.5%
GRAND TOTAL	953,133,596	100.0%

New Zealand's IDC funding is strategically directed to sectors that align with the needs of partner countries and New Zealand's strengths. These sectors address critical global and regional challenges while promoting sustainable, inclusive development. The three sectors with the highest expenditure in 2024–25 were multi-sector activities (core support to multilateral and regional agencies); government and civil society; and humanitarian aid.

TABLE 2: IDC 2024–25 EXPENDITURE BY SECTOR

SECTOR GROUP	TOTAL
MULTISECTOR AND GENERAL SUPPORT	302,795,715
Multisector / Cross-Cutting	206,172,421
General Budget Support	78,651,276
Administrative Costs of Donors	8,783,795
Sector Unspecified	5,808,223
Debt Relief	3,380,000
GOVERNANCE	180,885,167
Government And Civil Society	157,008,147
Other Social Infrastructure and Services	23,877,020
HUMANITARIAN	111,277,101
Humanitarian Aid	111,277,101
EDUCATION	107,554,288
Education	107,554,288
AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND OTHER PRODUCTION SERVICES	100,269,028
Agriculture	54,551,413
Fishing	27,782,058
Trade Policies and Regulations	5,999,398
Tourism	5,630,874
Industry	3,290,299
Construction	2,221,389
Forestry	793,598
ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES	78,077,680
Energy	36,097,651
Communications	16,957,316
Transport and Storage	14,697,302
Banking and Financial Services	6,768,224
Business and Other Services	3,557,187
HEALTH	72,274,617
Health	47,844,030
Population Policies/Programmes and Reproductive Health	13,820,140
Water and Sanitation	10,610,448
GRAND TOTAL	953,133,596

The Ministry has various targets and commitments associated with the way that IDC expenditure is managed. The tables below show how we are performance against key targets.

TABLE 3: IDC 2024–25 PERFORMANCE AGAINST KEY TARGETS

Commitment	Target	2024–25 actual	Commitment source
IDC spend in the Pacific	At least 60% of IDC	\$572.95 million 60.1% of total IDC	ICESD Policy Statement
IDC spend on Aid for Trade in the Pacific ²²	At least 20% of IDC	\$113.5m 11.9% of total IDC 19.8% of IDC in the Pacific	PACER Plus Implementation Arrangement
IDC spend on initiatives where gender equality and women’s empowerment is a principal objective	4% of IDC	\$47.9m 5.0%	Ministry internal target, based on OECD DAC average
IDC spend on initiatives where gender equality and women’s empowerment is a significant objective	60% of IDC	\$477.0m 50.0%	Ministry internal target, based on OECD DAC average
IDC spend with NGO Partnerships	3.5% of IDC over the 2024–27 triennium	\$39.7m 4.2%	Ministry internal target for allocation of IDC

TABLE 4: IDC PERFORMANCE AGAINST 2022–25 CLIMATE FINANCE COMMITMENT

Climate Finance Commitment January 2022 to December 2025		
	Target for 2022–25 Commitment	Actual to date, at 30 June 2025
Expenditure	\$1.300 billion	\$1.152 billion
Proportion of climate finance expenditure applied to the Pacific.	At least 50% in the Pacific	59% (\$682.1 million)
Proportion of climate finance expenditure applied to adaptation.	At least 50% for adaption	86% (\$989.2 million)

²² Aid for Trade is an initiative developed by the World Trade Organisation to promote development assistance to developing countries to improve their ability to reap the benefits of trade liberalisation. New Zealand is a participating donor in this initiative, with a focus on enabling better outcomes for the Pacific.

Measuring effectiveness of IDC expenditure

We measure results and impact at all levels of the IDC Programme, including through annual assessments of all activities, independent evaluations of programmes, and qualitative and quantitative measurement of impact across the entire IDC.

All IDC-funded activities have a monitoring and evaluation framework that includes measurable indicators of success. Internal assessments of progress are carried out through implementation, and at their conclusion, to appraise achievement of outcomes.

We also have independent evaluations of projects, and of entire country or region programmes, to assess whether IDC interventions were relevant, cohesive, achieved the outcomes sought, and delivered results in an efficient and sustainable way. This allows us to trace the impact of IDC over time. Over the 2024–27 funding triennium the Ministry will evaluate progress against all plans that guide the delivery of the IDC. Fiji and Vanuatu have been completed to date, and several others are under way. Evaluation findings inform the design of new activities and activity phases, and evaluation reports are published on the Ministry’s website, making findings and recommendations publicly available.

Performance measures for the IDC appropriation are reported on the next page. In addition, the Ministry is also measured on its effectiveness in managing the IDC Programme under the departmental appropriation category ‘Management of New Zealand’s International Development Cooperation’. The full set of measures against this appropriation is set out on pages 56–58 of the Ministry’s Annual Report 2024–25 and include key areas of focus such as mainstreaming of climate objectives and gender objectives across the Programme, channelling of funding through Pacific partner governments, and quality of activity management.

Improving how we manage the IDC Programme

Over the past year, in response to the Government’s Foreign Policy Reset and the 2024 Activity-based Review of the IDC Programme, significant effort has been placed into streamlining and reshaping the Programme to generate greater impact, drive efficiency, and provide headroom for new priorities in the Pacific and Southeast Asia. We have developed strategic plans for each of our bilateral and regional programmes, consolidated activities across the IDC, and reduced the number of core-funded multilateral agencies to focus on high impact and priority UN agencies and international financial institutions. Work is ongoing to generate greater impact - including increasing the use of reform-linked budget support in the Pacific and implementing more strategic approaches to working with others.

During 2024–25, we also reviewed and restructured the IDC Programme governance model and assurance ecosystem, implementing changes to increase governance focus on strategic oversight and direction.

International Development Cooperation (MYA)

13/14
MET BUDGET
STANDARD

What we intend to achieve

This appropriation is intended to achieve progress by Pacific island and developing countries against their sustainable development priorities and against the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals.

TABLE 5: ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE

	2024–25		2023–24	2022–23	2021–22
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION RESULTS	Budget Standard	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
Number of Pacific island countries that remain on track on their economic and public sector reform programme	Maintain or improve trend	7/7 countries assessed as on track (Kiribati, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu)	8/8 countries assessed as on track (Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, PNG)	5/6 countries assessed as on track (Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands)	8/8 countries assessed as on track (Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, PNG)
Number of people participating in a labour mobility initiative	Maintain or improve trend	17,348 people (M: 15,872; F: 1,476)	17,911 people (M: 16,214; F: 1,697)	15,792 people (M: 14,357, F: 1,418, unspecified: 17)	14,882 people (M: 13,722; F: 1,148, unspecified: 12)
Number of people directly benefitting from activities that aim to increase resilience to climate change and environmental degradation	Standard dependent on need ²³	2,999,155 people (M: 747,102; F: 723,185; gender diverse: 84,152; Unspecified: 1,444,716)	79,994 people (M: 37,290; F: 38,276; unspecified: 4,428)	5,947 people (M: 2,344, F: 2,216, unspecified: 1,387)	9,795 people (M: 2,538; F: 2,256; gender diverse: 5; unspecified: 4,996)
Number of people supported to improve their livelihoods	Standard dependent on need	9,829,596 people (M: 4,721,871; F: 4,694,797; unspecified: 412,928)	480,518 people (M: 24,6297; F: 203,453; gender diverse: 71; unspecified: 28,528)	184,255 people (M: 72,459, F: 92,763, unspecified: 19,033)	69,880 people (M: 34,873, F: 32,519, unspecified: 2,488)
Number of people directly benefitting from improved infrastructure and services	Standard dependent on need	2,192,954 people (M: 395,735; F: 400,177; unspecified: 1,397,042)	136,272 people (M: 48,164; F: 47,910; unspecified: 39,526)	64,145 people (M: 9,453, F: 9,491, unspecified: 45,201)	45,271 people (M: 3,922, F: 3,903, unspecified: 37,447)
Number of people benefitting from sexual and reproductive health services	Standard dependent on need	163,842 people (M: 18,701; F: 136,727; unspecified: 8,414)	192,424 people (M: 713; F: 96,732; unspecified: 94,979)	172,123 people (M: 56,339, F: 115,784)	177,310 people (F: 83,001, unspecified: 94,309)
Number of people benefitting from enhanced learning through ICT	Standard dependent on need	3,394 people (Male: 97; unspecified: 3,297)	8347 people (M: 3,325; F: 4,371; unspecified: 651)	12,598 people (M: 5,030; F: 5,434; gender unspecified)	8,037 people (M: 1,331; F: 2,470; unspecified: 4,236)

²³ Performance measures with standard 'dependent on need' aggregate the number of beneficiaries reached through a collection of IDC-funded initiatives every year. In general, where funding increases, we would expect the number of beneficiaries reached to slowly increase. However, this varies gently from year to year depending on the stage of delivery of individual initiatives. As such, it is not appropriate to assign a specific overall target of 'increasing trend' standard to these aggregated measures, and this could lead to perverse incentives around volume of delivery.

				diverse: 39; unspecified: 2,095)	
Number of people receiving training or capability-building support in priority sectors ²⁴	Standard dependent on need	140,068 people (M: 40,947; F: 47,120; gender diverse: 7; unspecified: 51,994)	92,325 people (M: 44,404; F: 37,714; gender diverse: 519; unspecified: 9,452)	101,536 people (M: 26,480; F: 26,828, gender diverse: 5; unspecified: 48,222)	88,441 (M: 31,090, F: 42,495; unspecified: 14,856)
Number and percentage of people, who have been awarded scholarships, that complete tertiary or vocational/professional scholarships	>90% of people who were awarded scholarships	Vocational/professional: 100%. 758/758. (M: 372; F: 384; unspecified: 2) Tertiary: 100%. 209/209 (M: 95; F: 113; unspecified: 1)	Vocational/ professional: 100%. 702/702. (M: 368; F: 330; unspecified: 4) Tertiary: 100%. 174/174. (M: 69; F: 105)	Vocational/ professional: 100%. 332/332. (M: 145; F: 185; unspecified: 2) Tertiary: 82%. 164/201. (M: 75; F: 89)	Vocational/ professional: 87%. 345/399. (M: 150; F: 194; unspecified: 1) Tertiary: 97%. 295/303. (M: 130; F: 165)
Number of affected people provided with essential and useful assistance following a natural or human induced disaster	Standard dependent on need	360,136 people (M: 95,234; F: 110,281; unspecified: 154,621)	159,652 people (M: 15,360; F: 18,828; unspecified: 125,464)	251,633 people (M: 75,934; F: 87,091; unspecified: 88,608)	552,135 people (M: 6,258; F: 6,870; unspecified: 539,007)
Number of hectares of natural resources and natural ecosystems strengthened by NZ supported activities	New measure — establish baseline	1430.4 hectares			
Number of countries NZ is supporting to deliver on, and accelerate delivery of, their National Adaption Plan or equivalent	New measure —establish baseline	17 countries			
Tonnes of CO2 emissions reduced as a result of NZ's IDC Activities	New measure — establish baseline	47.81 tonnes			
Quality					
Percentage of Activities with effectiveness rated as good or better ²⁵	Maintain or improve trend	72.5%	70%	73%	62%

Financial Performance (figures are GST exclusive)

30/06/24 Actual \$000		30/06/25 Actual \$000	30/06/25 Appropriation \$000	30/06/25 Variance \$000
1,201,799	International Development Cooperation (MYA)	953,134	1,115,649	162,515

Explanation of significant budget variance

Expenditure for the year was lower than planned due to several factors, including a review and subsequent changes to the focus of the Programme to ensure greater alignment with the Government's Foreign Policy Reset, and delays arising from partner country constraints, such as elections, natural disaster recovery. This is a multi-year appropriation, to be delivered over a triennium, and as such, year one under-expenditure will be transferred to the two remaining years of the triennium to fund delayed activities.

²⁴ Priority sectors are Health, Education, Equity and Inclusion, Infrastructure, Fisheries and Oceans, Governance, and Peace and Security.

²⁵ Ministry Activity Completion Assessments



MFAT

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE
MANATŪ AORERE