

New Zealand's International Development Principles

Overview

Four principles underpin New Zealand's international development cooperation: effectiveness, inclusiveness, resilience and sustainability. Their purpose is to guide us and those we work with in our shared aim to contribute to a more peaceful world, in which all people live in dignity and safety, all countries can prosper, and our shared environment is protected.

The Development Principles are affirmed in our policy statement on International Cooperation for Effective Sustainable Development (ICESD). They replace our earlier policies on development quality, including the Cross-Cutting Issues Policy and Activity Quality Policy.

We want to ensure that all of our international development cooperation is effective, inclusive, resilient and sustained.

IMPACT

NEW ZEALAND WILL PURSUE IMPACT THROUGH DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES THAT ARE:

- ✖ **Effective** - that are values driven, partnership focused, dynamic, and evidence-based;
- ✖ **Inclusive** - that address exclusions and inequality created across all dimensions of social identity, while promoting human rights, and equitable participation in the benefits of development;
- ✖ **Resilient** - that promote resilience, including to the impacts of climate change, natural disasters and external shocks; and
- ✖ **Sustained** - that respond to context and are locally owned.

PRINCIPLE 1: Effective

Effective development is values driven, partnership focused, adaptive, outcomes-focused, and evidence-based.

New Zealand's approach to effective development focuses on:

- agreeing from the outset what we seek to achieve, and how we will measure progress toward outcomes
- an approach to engagement that is transparent and reflects New Zealand values
- strong and mutually accountable partnerships
- adaptive and innovative approaches that are driven by local context
- fostering a culture of results using evidence-based decision making

How?

We will provide clear direction by transparently communicating what we are seeking to achieve through our development cooperation, and having a shared understanding with our partners on an agreed process to enable change to occur. Working with the right partners and drawing on their expertise and knowledge is fundamental to our approach. We will use evidence of both our successes and failures to continuously improve and will rigorously measure whether we are supporting real progress, moving beyond just delivering outputs.

PRINCIPLE 2: Inclusive

Inclusive development addresses exclusions and inequality created across all dimensions of social identity, while promoting human rights, and equitable participation in the benefits of development.

New Zealand's approach to inclusive development focuses on:

- addressing social inequalities and promoting human rights
- advancing gender equality and women's empowerment, and child and youth well-being
- understanding and responding to the causes of poverty and exclusion
- supporting duty bearers and rights holders to ensure benefits are equitably shared
- enabling groups potentially impacted by an activity to meaningfully participate in the development process

How?

We will identify and address the drivers of inequalities across all dimensions of social identity within local contexts. We will work through existing structures, using culturally appropriate mechanisms to uphold human rights, educate people on their rights, and improve civic engagement — particularly with vulnerable and marginalised groups. Children and young people experience multiple forms of vulnerability and we will promote a holistic life-cycle approach to determine the stage at which exclusion occurs in child and youth development. We will advance gender equality through addressing gender-based violence and equal access to justice and economic opportunities for all.

PRINCIPLE 3: Resilient

Resilient development strengthens the environment, economy, and societies to withstand shocks and manage crises while protecting future well-being.

New Zealand's approach to resilient development focuses on:

- strengthening responses to climate change, and supporting countries' transition away from fossil fuel use
- increasing economic and social resilience to disasters and other external shocks
- supporting durable and inclusive peace and security, particularly addressing the causes of instability in insecure or transitioning environments
- identifying and managing negative impacts on the environment, and promoting sustainable management of natural resources
- promoting the protection and enhancement of ecosystems

How?

We will prioritise climate change mitigation measures in our development cooperation, and promote innovative alternatives to fossil fuels. We will support communities and countries build preparedness to withstand and respond to natural disasters and other external shocks. Where appropriate, we also incorporate disaster risk reduction measures into activities. We will provide support towards strengthened economic management and initiatives that create employment opportunities over the long-term. We will build the capability of governments to deliver public services to their citizens, particularly for vulnerable groups. We will support local communities to sustainably manage their natural resources and ecosystems by strengthening governance and enforcement capacity, and environmental data. Throughout all of our programming we ensure conflict-sensitive approaches at a minimum, and promote partnerships, participatory engagement, and valuing indigenous knowledge and practice to understand and address causes of instability. Addressing these challenges enhances the resilience of people, communities and systems to protect the well-being of all.

PRINCIPLE 4: Sustained

Sustained development enables lasting progress and is locally owned to uphold results in the long term.

New Zealand's approach to sustained development focuses on:

- development cooperation that provides ongoing benefits
- pursuing partner ownership and developing local capacity
- fostering more accountable institutions
- ensuring relevance to partner priorities and needs, without compromising the future

How?

In our development cooperation, we will identify and develop the local capacity and resources to sustain development benefits after an activity's completion. We will work alongside local leaders, institutions or governments to involve them in the planning and implementation of projects, so they own a project's ongoing success. We will promote institutional accountability and transparency in the organisations that we partner with, and support local civil society's capacity to engage. Our work will balance the need to respond to immediate development priorities with opportunities to support more systemic change that is critical to long-term sustainability.