

# MFAT Management Response to '*Towards more adaptive approaches to managing the New Zealand Aid Programme*' Phase 1 & Phase 2 research reports

## **Background**

The *Towards more adaptive approaches to managing the New Zealand Aid Programme* research project aimed to examine how the New Zealand Aid Programme could increasingly adopt practical and pragmatic adaptive management and programming approaches in support of locally driven development outcomes.

Phase 1 of the project reviewed international evidence to understand the policies, processes, tools, and systems required for development cooperation agencies and their implementing partners to support and enable adaptive management. A diagnostic framework was developed to assess MFAT's current systems and practices and identify areas that need strengthening in support of adaptive management.

Phase 2 of the project focused on assessing a selection of MFAT Activities against the diagnostic tool in order to understand how adaptive management concepts have been integrated into programming and identify any system and culture enhancements that would better support adaptive approaches within the New Zealand Aid Programme.

## **Response to the Phase 2 report recommendations**

The list of suggested recommendations in the Phase 2 report are under consideration as part of the Development, Capability and Insights Division's work programme to strengthen development quality through effective PDG policy, process and practice. This includes identify and implementing improvements to the business case processes and products, and strengthening the planning, management, analysis and reporting of development outcomes. A guidance note on Adaptive Management has been developed to provide MFAT Activity Managers with a clear definition of Adaptive Management in the MFAT context, including information on planning and managing an adaptive Activity.