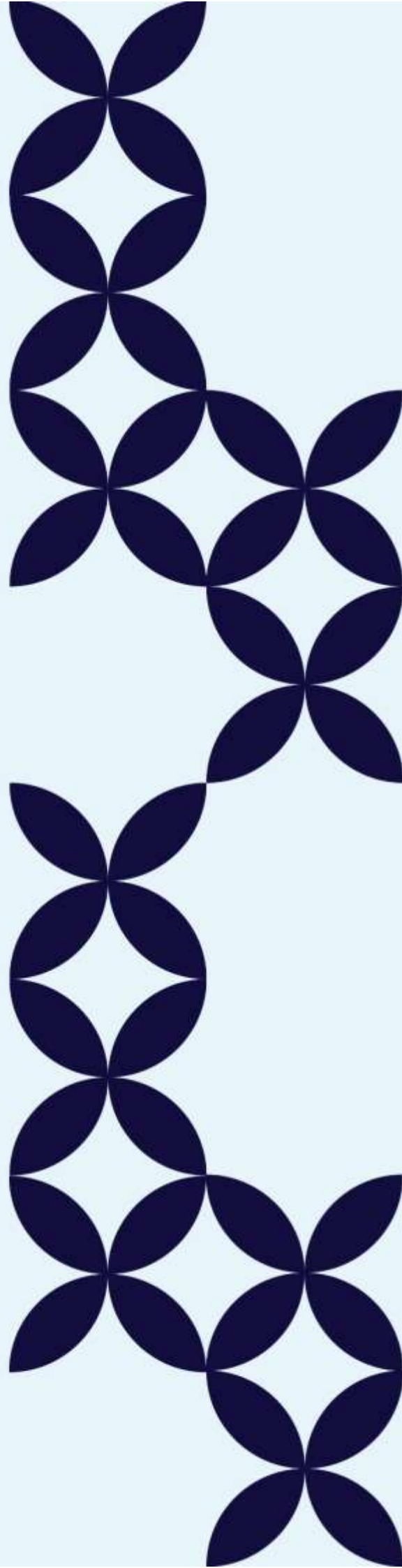
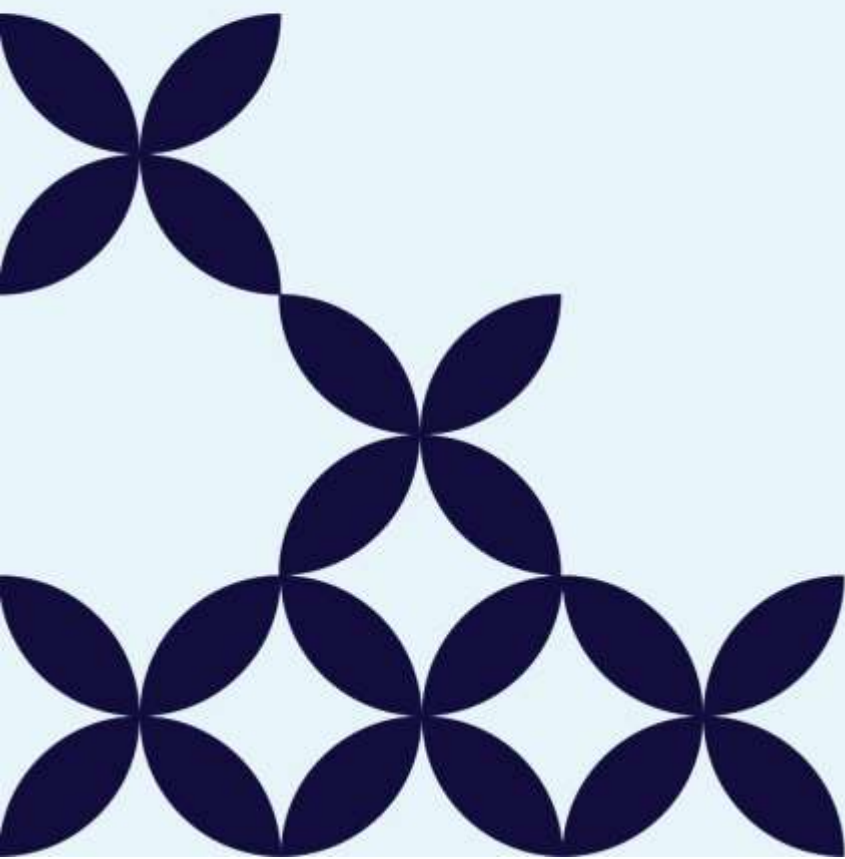


Other Asia

Four Year Plan

December 2021



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Purpose of this document

The New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) has developed this Four Year Plan (4YP) to guide the planning and management of New Zealand's development engagement in the 'Other Asia' region (which spans the non-Africa Middle East and South Asia). It is also a platform for dialogue. The 4YP is used to bring clarity to what work should be prioritised and to help monitor progress to achieve shared outcomes and strategic goals. Humanitarian contributions are covered under a separate 4YP.

This is a living document that will be refreshed annually to ensure it responds to changes in country context, including impacts of external shocks such as COVID-19.

An integrated approach

Aotearoa New Zealand pursues an integrated approach to engagement in the 'Other Asia' region. We focus on coherence across our diplomatic, trade and economic, climate change, environment, security, and development objectives to deliver sustainable progress in developing countries and advance our interests and values. As such, our development contribution (both policy and financial) is an integral pillar of our foreign policy — it reflects our network of international relationships and commitments, and is an expression of our values.

Enduring principles for New Zealand's development cooperation outside of the Pacific

New Zealand's 20-year global development vision is: '**Kia tuitui i ngā muka, koa herea ki tōna painga**' – tying together the strands to make a strong bind for the greater good.

The **enduring principles** that guide our engagement outside of the Pacific are:

- **Te Puna Manaaki** (Fountain of support):

Our engagement will be underpinned by the values of whakahoahoa (partnership), including honesty, trust and respect. We will listen and consult, and act in partnership with predictability and consistency. We will confidently share New Zealand's views and perspectives, being clear about the things we will do and the things we will not do. The strength of our partnerships empower us to communicate openly even where our views may differ.

- **Raranga te Muka** (Weaving the strands):

New Zealand's global development investments contribute towards global and regional security and prosperity, and to our national interests. Our support helps to address global development challenges and issues that are too big for any country to address on its own, while securing a platform on which to advocate for the things we value, including the Pacific. Through this approach we achieve pānga ngātahi (collective impact).



- **Tātou Tātou** (All of us together)

We will focus on collaborating with partners to upscale our ambition and magnify our impact, especially in the Indo-Pacific region where our engagements will contribute to ensuring New Zealand's own prosperity together with that of our regional and country partners. Through this approach we achieve painga takirua (mutual benefit).

- **Te Pae Tawhiti** (A shared horizon):

Our engagement will bring a long-term pakari (resilience) perspective, consistent with New Zealand's enduring interests. We will seek lasting impact through a focus on human capability development; economic and climate resilience, and kaitiakitanga (stewardship).

Other Asia overview

Definition and context

For the purposes of this 4YP, Other Asia includes non-Africa Middle East and South Asia (South East Asia falls under separate plans). This plan covers our development engagement, while humanitarian contributions are covered under a separate 4YP. Partner/recipient countries must be eligible to receive Official Development Assistance, and to be prioritised under this plan.

The Other Asia programme country partners currently include Afghanistan, Iraq, Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) and Sri Lanka³. As progress is made and activities conclude in these countries, and as conditions allow, other country partners may be added under this plan to meet emerging development priorities⁴.

Our current Other Asia partners vary hugely in their level of development: from Afghanistan, which is classified by the World Bank as Low Income, to OPT and Sri Lanka (Lower Middle), to Iraq (Upper Middle). Common challenges include unresolved religious, sectarian and ethnic conflicts that are fuelling violent extremism; low standards of political and economic governance that hinder the economic and social well-being of their populations; and in some cases the legacy of foreign (military) interventions.

The common thread between three⁵ of the current focal locations is that they are countries or territories in which the New Zealand Defence Force has been deployed within multilateral frameworks, acting with like-minded countries to combat violent extremism (and in the case of OPT, to maintain security). In all three states, military deployments have been accompanied by extensive

³ One activity in the Philippines is currently included in the programme. However, it has been agreed that, following its completion, potential future initiatives in the Philippines would need to be funded from the ASEAN programme.

⁴ E.g. Lebanon, Syria and Jordan will be monitored.

⁵ Afghanistan, Iraq and Occupied Palestinian Territories



development efforts intended to improve citizens' well-being. The development focus has transitioned from provision of humanitarian support intended to sustain life in times of extreme hardship and dislocation, to support for initiatives intended to stabilise the situation and build **peace and security**. Afghanistan currently requires humanitarian support⁶ to respond to immediate needs, as well as longer term development assistance.

The Middle East and South Asia will, for the foreseeable future, continue to be of strategic and economic importance to Aotearoa New Zealand. Our development funding is a tangible demonstration of our long-standing support to the region that seeks to alleviate some of the world's most pressing development challenges.

COVID-19 impacts

Rates of COVID-19 infection and deaths in Other Asia focal countries spiked over June-August 2021. While cases have since declined dramatically, vaccination rates are low and it seems likely that there will be further waves of infection.

The lockdowns and border closures imposed throughout the region have severely disrupted economic and education activities, and have had a significant impact on livelihoods and food security.

New Zealand's partnership with Other Asia core partners

Aotearoa New Zealand is a small partner in the Other Asia region, operating among many larger bilateral and regional donors. We established a High Commission in Sri Lanka in 2021, while our relationships with Afghanistan, Iraq and OPT are managed remotely.

The following is a snapshot of the current country partners under this plan.

Afghanistan

Population 40m, land area 653,000km², Human Development Index (HDI) rank 169 out of 189 countries in 2021. Aotearoa New Zealand has disbursed \$109 million in development funding since 1995/96, 63% of this in Bamyan Province which was the location of a New Zealand Defence Force Provincial Reconstruction Team. In the last five years, besides completing Bamyan-based activities, funding (provided through the Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan) has focused on bolstering police and correctional services by ensuring they were paid correctly and reliably. Our Embassy in Tehran is accredited to Afghanistan, although the relationship is in a state of flux following the Taliban takeover in August 2021.

⁶ Provided under our Humanitarian 4YP



Iraq

Population 41m, land area 434,000km², HDI 123/189 (2021). Aotearoa New Zealand has disbursed \$36 million in development funding since 2002/03, with an initial surge of humanitarian support followed more recently by contributions for reconstruction, security and stabilisation. Since 2014, when we joined the US-led coalition in opposing the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (2014-16), our funding has increased. Over the last three years all funding has been channelled via UN agencies operating in Iraq. The New Zealand Embassy in Abu Dhabi is accredited to Iraq.

Occupied Palestinian Territories

Population 4~5m (census information varies), land area 6,000km², HDI 115/189 (2021). Aotearoa New Zealand has provided \$36.4 million in support for OPT since 2000, focusing in recent years on humanitarian grants, support for renewable energy feasibility studies, and de-mining education (via a one-off grant to UNMAS, the United Nations Mine Action Service, in 2020). Our Embassy in Cairo manages our relations with the Palestinian Authority.

Sri Lanka

Population 21.5m (2021), land area 65,600km², HDI 72/189 (2021). Aotearoa New Zealand has a long-standing development relationship with Sri Lanka stemming from our both being original members of the Colombo Plan. We have provided around \$25.8 million in development support for Sri Lanka over the past thirty years, mainly in the agriculture sector and delivered through the non-governmental organisation (NGO) partnerships programme. In line with priorities under this 4YP a future focus for Sri Lanka will be on peace and security initiatives.

Regional

Aotearoa New Zealand has been extending scholarships to countries in the Middle East and South Asia for some time. When border settings allow, new scholarships will be offered in line with our global policy of providing practical and relevant training opportunities to address knowledge and skills gaps.

New Zealand's 4YP strategic goals in Other Asia

The strategic goal set out below provides a clear direction for our efforts to achieve our global 20-year development vision of 'Kia tuitui i nga muka, koa herea ki tona painga – tying together the strands to make a strong bind for the greater good'. It also helps to guide assessments of whether we are successful.

The 20-year global strategy includes the following goal that is highly relevant to our Other Asia 4YP:

- New Zealand's global development assistance contributes to peace, security and stabilisation.



Accordingly, the vision for **development assistance in Other Asia** is:

- to contribute to building peace and stability in the region through effective sustainable development and humanitarian assistance, in support of the achievement of New Zealand's broader strategic objectives.

Strategic goal	
Goal: Improved security and stability enables inclusive development to flourish	<p>Improved delivery of vital services and capacity of individuals and institutions, including through study and training opportunities, enhances conditions for peace and security in targeted areas.</p> <p>Positive and impactful connections between partner countries and Aotearoa New Zealand are sustained.</p> <p>Stabilisation initiatives, including removal of landmines and unexploded ordnance, enable the safe return of displaced people, and knowledge and skills transfer.</p>

Our strategy to achieve this goal is to utilise our diplomatic footprint in the region to deepen existing areas of close cooperation; identify and respond to emerging opportunities; and actively reinforce and highlight points of alignment of our shared values and interests as we support conditions for peace, security, stabilisation, inclusive development and trade growth. We will be savvy in the application of the broad range of tools and resources available to us, including development assistance, to achieve our vision.

Specific outcomes linked to our strategic goal

The logic diagram annexed to this 4YP sets out how our strategic goals, which are long term outcomes, drive more specific **medium and short term outcomes**. Aotearoa New Zealand will work towards these outcomes through partnerships with multilateral and like-minded partners.

Assumptions

In setting out the logic diagram and outcomes, we have made the following **key assumptions** that we will continue to test and monitor during the implementation of this 4YP:

- Conditions in partner countries will be conducive to the implementation of development initiatives.
- Borders reopen to allow Manaaki New Zealand scholars to enter Aotearoa New Zealand.

Risks, mitigations and responses

We have noted the following **key risks** which we will continue to monitor and develop mitigation measures for during the implementation of this 4YP:



Strategic level risks	Mitigation measures
A fundamental risk for this programme is that an upsurge in violence or deterioration in conditions will undermine delivery of existing or planned activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work through agencies that are neutral and have experience of, and a mandate to continue operating in, the most difficult circumstances. This includes giving priority to those with a presence on the ground (which is particularly relevant in the context of the August 2021 Taliban takeover in Afghanistan). • Collaborate with like-minded donors to share information and thinking. • Monitor developments closely, and be prepared to pivot funding toward humanitarian initiatives primarily aimed at saving lives if this becomes necessary.

Key themes supporting these outcomes

The key thematic focus areas for New Zealand's development support for Other Asia partner countries are as follows:

Peace and security

We promote durable and inclusive peace and security through funding initiatives aimed at:

- preventing conflict; e.g. by targeting the causes of violent extremism through awareness raising and capacity building and initiatives to increase social cohesion
- in the event or aftermath of conflict, keeping internally-displaced people safe and facilitating their successful return to their homes through de-mining, capacity-building, repair and reconstruction of infrastructure, and
- supporting stability and national sovereignty through building the capacity of government institutions and local NGOs and civil society organisations (CSOs).



Equity and inclusion



We promote and protect equity, inclusivity, and human rights across all our programming. This is achieved by giving attention to gender equality and women's empowerment; and child and youth well-being; and by providing support for indigenous people, the disabled, and sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) communities, within design and delivery.

This is, or should be, integrated into all peace and security initiatives. However, there will also be activities that target equity and inclusion specifically: for example, an initiative to provide safe refuges for at-risk women, or to ensure that an election is free and credible, or that security and justice officials respect human rights and operate impartially.



Capacity development

We support the development of skills, knowledge and values.

Knowledge and skills development will be integrated into activities and delivered through aligned scholarships offerings.



Achieving development outcomes that are effective, inclusive, resilient and sustained

New Zealand's International Cooperation for Effective, Sustainable Development policy statement identifies four development principles that guide our work with partner countries: effective, inclusive, resilient and sustained⁷.

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

We facilitate effective outcomes by (1) ensuring robust design (normally by delivery partners) of initiatives that reflect MFAT's development principles; (2) monitoring delivery actively; (3) using evidence to support decision making; and (4) managing development interventions adaptively.

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

We identify opportunities for equitable development through our activity design processes, and we learn from evaluating selected interventions. Where appropriate, we target the advancement of human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment, child and youth well-being, and other people and groups at risk of being left behind. Our support contributes to prosperity, including for the most vulnerable and marginalised.

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

We facilitate resilient outcomes by supporting countries emerging from conflict, ensuring an inclusive approach. Our work in the governance sector supports government stability and resilient institutions.

⁷ <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/Aid-Prog-docs/Policy/Policy-Statement-New-Zealands-International-Cooperation-for-Effective-Sustainable-Development-ICESD.pdf>



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

We contribute to sustained outcomes by supporting strengthening of national and local institutions, including election support where appropriate.

How we put this plan into action

To operationalise this 4YP and therefore contribute to achievement of agreed goals Aotearoa New Zealand will generally use the Grant Contribution mechanism, under which contributions are made to enable the implementation of activities that have been designed by the recipient. This mechanism is managed under quality standards that require detailed consideration of risk, including mitigation and management. Since most contributions are made into pooled funding arrangements (i.e. we are one of several donors), funds are mingled with those of other contributors, and partners typically provide collective reporting.

We will also engage through United Nations and multilateral fora on issues confronting this region.

International development cooperation funding for this 4YP is managed over a three year period. Current information about New Zealand's International Development Cooperation appropriation is on the MFAT website⁸.

Programme Goal: Improved security and stability enabling inclusive development

Core bilateral, partnership and scholarship funding will be applied to further this goal, with most support being channelled through multilateral organisations and international NGOs.

Key indicators of progress

Goal: Improved security and stability enables inclusive development to flourish	<p>We will know there is progress towards this goal if the recipient countries' Worldwide Governance Indicators improve. The baseline data at WGI 2021 Interactive > Interactive Data Access (worldbank.org)⁹ measure six broad dimensions of governance:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Voice and Accountability – capturing perceptions of the extent to which a country's citizens are able to participate in selecting their government, as well as freedom of expression, freedom of association, and a free media. 2. Political Stability and Absence of Violence/Terrorism – capturing perceptions of the likelihood of political instability and/or politically-motivated violence, including terrorism.
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⁸ www.mfat.govt.nz/en/aid-and-development/our-approach-to-aid/where-our-funding-goes/our-planned-aid-expenditure/

⁹ <https://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/Home/Reports>



Key indicators of progress

3. Government Effectiveness – capturing perceptions of the quality of public services, the quality of the civil service and the degree of its independence from political pressures, the quality of policy formulation and implementation, and the credibility of the government's commitment to such policies.
4. Regulatory Quality – capturing perceptions of the ability of the government to formulate and implement sound policies and regulations that permit and promote private sector development.
5. Rule of Law – capturing perceptions of the extent to which agents have confidence in and abide by the rules of society, and in particular the quality of contract enforcement, property rights, the police, and the courts, as well as the likelihood of crime and violence.
6. Control of Corruption – capturing perceptions of the extent to which public power is exercised for private gain, including both petty and grand forms of corruption, as well as "capture" of the state by elites and private interests.

The Other Asia 4YP also includes partnerships with Aotearoa New Zealand civil society organisations, scholarships, and multilateral and multi-country activities. These partnerships have a key role alongside the core programme in realising the strategic goal.

MFAT also contributes to furthering objectives through its departmental budget, specifically the:

- Global Security Fund (2021/22 allocation \$625,500), which supports projects that address regional or global security threats. The objectives are to:
 - enhance New Zealand's security by supporting bilateral, regional and global initiatives that promote peace and stability
 - improve the capabilities of partner governments to respond to security threats that could impact regional and global stability, and
 - help strengthen bilateral relations and support New Zealand's participation in regional and global fora in relation to security goals or objectives.
- Head of Embassy Fund (HEF): HEF allocations in the Other Asia region are all funded from MFAT's departmental budget (i.e. are not Official Development Assistance).



How we assess progress against this plan

We report back on progress towards our goals in the Global Programme via MFAT's Annual Report¹⁰. We monitor and evaluate our development activities to ensure their effectiveness and ongoing strategic alignment. The results and any lessons learned from this process are compiled annually and fed into an Annual Reflection discussion and report on progress against the 4YP outcomes. This in turn informs the annual updates of the 4YPs.

We also support and use country-owned statistics and data to monitor progress at the macro level, and therefore will not have a separate measurement framework.

Every 6 to 8 years we will commission an independent evaluation of MFAT's overall international development cooperation engagement in Other Asia. This evaluation, which will consider progress against outcomes, the challenges and any lessons learned, will inform continued improvement.

For further information

For more about MFAT's engagement in Other Asia go to our website at <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/aid-and-development/our-aid-partnerships-beyond-the-pacific-and-south-east-asia/middle-east-and-asia/> or contact GDS@mfat.govt.nz . For more about the scholarships programme, go to our website at <https://www.nzscholarships.govt.nz/> or contact the Global and Scholarships Division, Pacific and Development Group, at scholarships@mfat.govt.nz .

¹⁰ MFAT annual reports," New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/mfat-annual-reports/> .



Appendix: Logic diagram for Other Asia 4 Year Plan

