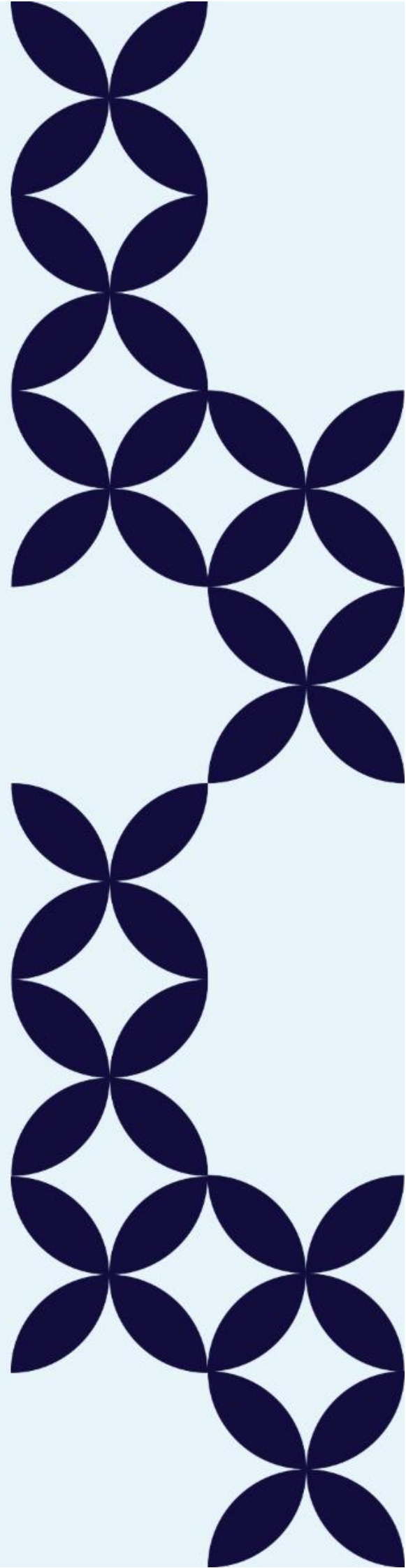
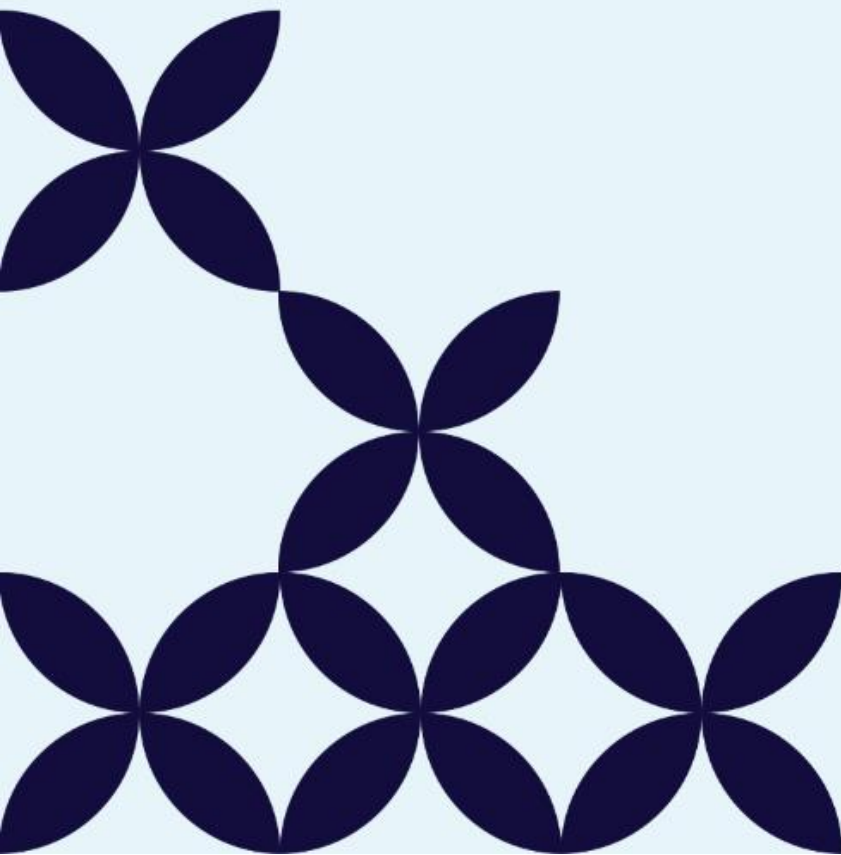
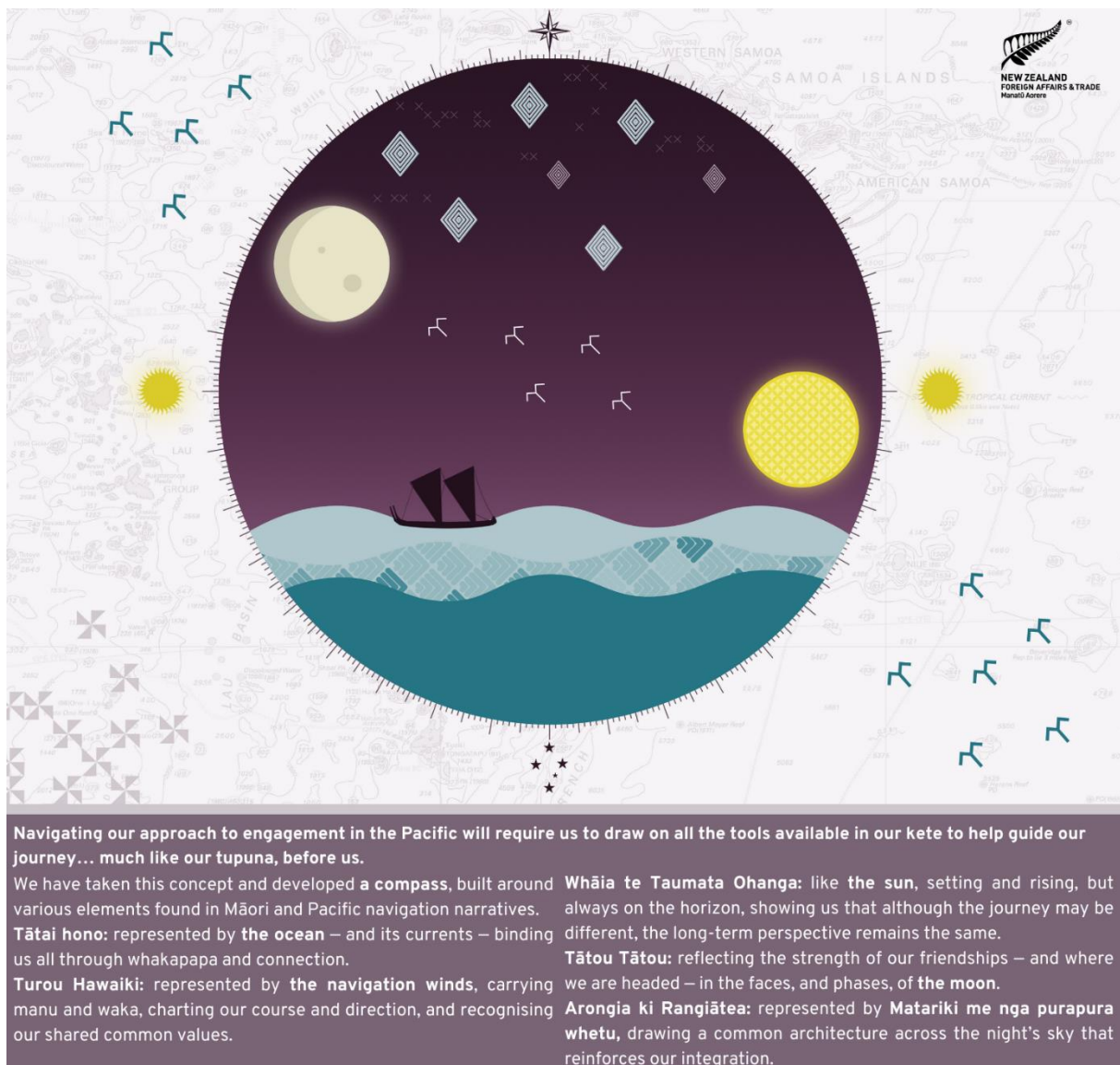


# **Tonga**

## **Four Year Plan**

**October 2021**





This document is one in a series of Four Year Plans for Pacific Island countries published by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. For the latest version please go to [www.mfat.govt.nz](http://www.mfat.govt.nz)

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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 overall engagement with Tonga, and as 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.

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 with Tonga. 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 New Zealand's 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 engagement in the Pacific

The **enduring principles** which guide New Zealand's overall engagement in the Pacific region are:

- **Tātai Hono** (The recognition of deep and enduring whakapapa connections):

Shared history and meaningful relationships will shape our engagement, reinforcing New Zealand's depth of connection within the region and increasing understanding of Pacific peoples. These connections can further be enhanced by the shared value of reciprocity, shared national and regional priorities, shared language connections, and the recognition and celebration of the diversity between and within our indigenous values and those of Pacific partners.

- **Turou Hawaiiki** (Navigating together):

Our engagement will recognise that we share common values, and will reflect the unique and substantial overlap with New Zealand domestic policy decisions in respect of the Pacific. The development of New Zealand regional and national policies will actively consider their implications for the Pacific. We will also actively consider the impact on Pacific Island countries from international treaties and agreements that New Zealand is negotiating.



- **Whāia te Taumata Ōhanga** (Journey towards a circular economy):

Our engagement will recognise that the journey we each take is different but our horizon is the same. We will collaborate in support of the Sustainable Development Goals, with the long-term inter-generational perspective these Goals bring consistent with New Zealand's and Pacific Island countries' enduring journey together. We will aim to achieve lasting resilience through Pacific Island countries' enhanced capability to deliver on national and regional priorities through supporting sustainable human, economic, and social development. We recognise each country's mana to determine and protect its own kaitiakitanga.

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

Our cooperation will be underpinned by the principles of whanaungatanga and friendship, including honesty, trust, and respect. We will listen and have conversations. We will act with predictability, consistency, and based on the values we share as people of the Pacific. We will harmonise our efforts with others. 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 friendship allows us to communicate openly even when our views differ.

- **Arongia ki Rangiātea** (Focus towards Excellence):

We will actively take an integrated approach across each New Zealand Government agency to recognise the centrality of the Pacific. We will amplify our value in the Pacific through encouraging impactful co-investment from actors outside the region, and by supporting regional architecture that reinforces Pacific ownership and priorities.



## Country overview

### Country context

The Kingdom of Tonga is a Polynesian country with a population of just over 100,000 people living on 36 of the country's 170 islands. Globally, it is the second most at-risk country to natural hazards, and is particularly vulnerable to cyclones, earthquakes and the effects of climate change. Tonga's economy and its communities are dependent on the country's rich biodiversity and fragile natural environment.

Tonga is a hereditary constitutional monarchy. King Tupou VI is the Head of State and retains executive power, including approving all legislation passed by Parliament. Democratic reform arrived comparatively recently in Tonga and power is exercised through a combination of traditional leadership structures and democratic institutions. As the only Pacific country not to have been colonised, independence and sovereignty are central to Tonga's identity. Tonga is also a deeply Christian country and its motto 'God and Tonga are my inheritance' enshrines sustainable development as a way of life.

Like many Pacific countries, Tonga has a narrow economic base. It is the most heavily reliant country in the world on remittances (which comprise approximately 34% of GDP). This is due in large part to its disproportionately young population (45.9% are aged 19 years or younger) and a lack of domestic economic and educational opportunities. The country also relies heavily on foreign aid, which comprises approximately 40% of the 2021-2022 national budget. While there is fiscal stability, domestic revenue collection as a share of GDP is in decline. Economic and social development is frequently affected by natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic has also slowed growth.

Tonga also has a high level of indebtedness at approximately 43% of GDP<sup>3</sup>. Public service delivery is the country's largest expenditure, with health spending accounting for 21% of the 2020-21 national budget.

### Tonga Strategic Development Framework

Tonga's National Development Plan is set out in the Tonga Strategic Development Framework 2015-2025 (TSDFI)<sup>4</sup>. TSDFI seeks to achieve the national vision of *a more progressive Tonga supporting a higher quality of life for all*. The national impact statement is supported by specific national outcomes, which include:

- a dynamic knowledge-based economy
- balanced urban and rural development across island groups
- empowering human development with gender equality

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<sup>3</sup> Estimates of current debt-to-GDP range from 41 to 46 percent.

<sup>4</sup> Available at <http://www.finance.gov.to/strategiesplans>



- responsive good-governance with strengthened rule of law
- successful provision and maintenance of infrastructure and technology
- effective land and environmental management, with resilience to climate change and risk
- consistent advancement of external interests, security and sovereignty.

Tonga's 2019 Voluntary National Review on implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)<sup>5</sup> identified several areas requiring strengthening in order to improve SDG implementation outcomes. These included: strengthening the use of national planning systems; having a well-coordinated statistical system; forming durable partnerships; and leveraging ownership and leadership across Government ministries and with civil society stakeholders.

### COVID-19 impacts

While Tonga has remained COVID-19 free, the pandemic poses ongoing risks to its health security, stability and economic recovery. Tonga is predicting a fiscal deficit of TOP 14.1m/NZD 8.61m (1.1% of GDP) for the 2022-23 financial year, down from 3% of GDP (TOP 37m/NZD 22.6m) in the 2021-22 financial year. Remittances have remained steady, but development partner support will be critical to helping Tonga manage the impacts of the pandemic. Border restrictions are likely to remain in place until the target of vaccinating at least 70% of the population is reached. As a result of the border restrictions, thousands of Tongan nationals remain stranded overseas.

### New Zealand's partnership with Tonga

New Zealand and Tonga's relationship is founded on historical ties, close geographical proximity, ever-expanding people to people connections (whanaungatanga/nofo 'a kainga) and shared values. Tonga has a diaspora in Aotearoa New Zealand of approximately 82,000 (the third largest community of Pacific people in Aotearoa New Zealand). Extensive family, cultural, sports, business and church connections add cultural richness and depth beyond our official government to government engagement.

In 2019, New Zealand and Tonga signed a Statement of Partnership that recognised a relationship founded on sovereign equality and governed by a spirit of close friendship. The statement reaffirmed a mutual commitment to democracy, human rights, gender equality, effective governance, the rule of law, environmental stewardship, and strong regional and international cooperation. Partnership, climate change, stability and security, people and prosperity were identified as priority areas for joint cooperation.

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<sup>5</sup> The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all". The 17 SDGs are defined in a list of 169 SDG Targets. Progress towards these Targets is agreed to be tracked by 232 unique Indicators. <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>





Remittances from the Tongan community in Aotearoa New Zealand (and, to a lesser extent, Australia and the USA) are vital contributors to the resilience of Tonga's economy. Until COVID-19 border closures, approximately 4000 Tongans travelled to work in New Zealand each year under the Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) Scheme.

Education also serves as an important pillar of our relationship. Currently there are approximately 80 Tongan students studying at New Zealand or at Pacific tertiary institutions on New Zealand scholarships or short term training scholarships. Pathways to New Zealand residency exist through education, employment, and under the Pacific Access Category visa, whereby 250 Tongans citizens a year are granted New Zealand residency.

Aotearoa New Zealand has a High Commission and an Immigration Office in Nuku'alofa and is represented in-country by MFAT, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, New Zealand Defence Force and New Zealand Police. A significant number of other New Zealand Government agencies also engage with Tonga as part of their core business or through MFAT facilitated programmes, demonstrating the breadth of the cross-government relationship. Tonga does not have a diplomatic presence in Aotearoa New Zealand currently but maintains a consulate. Given the closeness of the relationship, Aotearoa New Zealand would like to see Tonga reopen its High Commission<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>6</sup> Tonga's High Commission in Aotearoa New Zealand closed for administrative rather than political or diplomatic reasons. Tonga has signalled an intention to scope reopening of the High Commission in the next few years.



## New Zealand's 4YP strategic goals in Tonga

**Our strategic vision is:** A deeper New Zealand-Tonga partnership which supports a resilient, prosperous, stable and secure Tonga.

Our three strategic goals are described in the table below. These goals reflect the principles and priorities agreed to by Aotearoa New Zealand and Tonga under the Statement of Partnership signed in 2019 (Partnership, Climate Change, Stability and Security, People and Prosperity) and developed in line with the Tonga Strategic Development Framework 2015-2025 (described earlier in this document). We will look to develop a new Statement of Partnership in 2024 before the current Statement expires.

Strategic goals	
<b>Goal One: Strengthen effective and inclusive governance promoting sustainable and resilient social and economic development</b>	Our engagement will be focused on working with the Government of Tonga to strengthen effective, responsive and inclusive systems of governance and democratic institutions, as well as increasing the economic benefits from labour mobility and trade. Our partnership will see us build on existing systems to support good public financial management and resilient governance, enabling the Government of Tonga to deliver high quality public services for its citizens.
<b>Goal Two: Deepen New Zealand's partnership with Tonga in the areas of human development and well-being</b>	Our engagement will be focused on investing in people and strengthening our existing relationship, regionally and internationally. By supporting Tonga's human development needs and the well-being of Tonga's population we will be contributing to a more inclusive society and keeping people at the heart of our relationship. Our relationship is based on our shared whanaungatanga/nofo 'a kainga, and we have the opportunity to strengthen this through investing in people and enhancing the way we work together. We will focus on working together to maximise opportunities to advance policy issues of mutual importance and better streamline the way our agencies engage.
<b>Goal Three: Strengthen Tonga's stability and ability to manage and respond to domestic and regional security challenges</b>	Our engagement will focus on building Tonga's capacity to respond effectively to domestic and transnational crime, and to national and regional security issues. We also want to work in partnership with the Government of Tonga to ensure that Tonga is more resilient to the effects of both sudden and slow onset crises including climate change, natural disasters, pandemics and other external shocks.





## Specific outcomes linked to our strategic goals

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**. New Zealand will work towards these outcomes in partnership with Tonga.

## Assumptions

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

- The impacts of climate change on Tonga will become more frequent and severe.
- Tonga will continue to work towards becoming more climate resilient.
- Tonga will continue to strengthen its governance systems and institutions, public financial management and public services to promote sustainable, resilient social and economic growth, inclusion and well-being.
- Aotearoa New Zealand will continue to be a destination of choice for Tongans seeking educational and economic opportunities.
- Tonga and New Zealand will continue to enhance their existing links for trade and investment, people and institutions.
- Tonga will remain COVID-19 free, is able to vaccinate at least 70% of its population, and vaccinations are effective.
- Travel to and from Tonga remains constrained until at least 2022.

## Risks

We have also 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
COVID-19 arrives in Tonga and is not contained.	We will continue to support Tonga to maintain its chosen border settings and the quality and availability of quarantine facilities. Through direct financial and technical assistance we will also support Tonga's health system to prepare for and manage an outbreak.
Tonga is affected by a major natural disaster or extreme weather event which results in significant damage and/or loss of life.	We will help Tonga to strengthen its framework for disaster risk management and response, including a sufficiently trained and equipped National Emergency Management Office. If an event occurs we will offer support, if requested, drawing on our humanitarian partnerships and New Zealand Defence Force assistance.

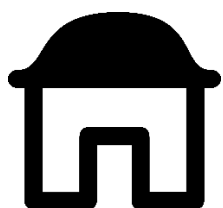


Strategic level risks	Mitigation measures
A global economic crisis occurs in the next four years which significantly impacts Tonga's principal sources of revenue (e.g. remittances, tourism) and its ability to recover from the social and economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.	We will work early to optimise Tonga's recovery across all sectors, with an aim on future-proofing.

## Key themes supporting these outcomes

Aotearoa New Zealand has adopted a number of thematic focus areas for its engagement with the Pacific region, recognising that thematic policy, insights and technical expertise are vital to building strong and resilient partnerships. For our engagement with Tonga the key thematic focus areas are: **governance and institutions**, **peace and security**, and **health**.

### Governance and institutions



In Tonga, our thematic support to **governance and institutions** helps improve: transparency and accountability; institutional capacity and capability; and universal access to justice, health and education. Thematic support to this area contributes to our Strategic Goal One: *Strengthen effective and inclusive governance promoting sustainable and resilient social and economic development*. We support building more effective and inclusive systems of national and local governance, through democratic institutions, and representative and responsive decision-making. This also contributes to Strategic Goal Two: *Deepen New Zealand's partnership with Tonga in the areas of human development and well-being*, as we will continue to build institutional linkages to facilitate this support.

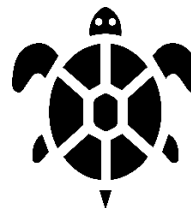
### Health

A focus on **health** is integral to achieving Strategic Goal Two as it is at the core of human development and well-being. Strengthening Tonga's health system will support resilience, deliver high quality affordable and accessible health services to all, and improve overall population health.



## Peace and security

The thematic area of **peace and security** supports the promotion of durable and inclusive peace and security through prevention, awareness raising, capacity building and technical assistance that keeps people and communities safe, sustains economic prosperity and supports national sovereignty. Our focus and engagement in this area contributes to Strategic Goal Three: *Strengthen Tonga's stability and ability to manage and respond to domestic and regional security challenges*. Our support also contributes to Strategic Goal Two and recognises the long history of collaboration between Tongan and New Zealand security agencies for mutual benefit. Security and sovereignty are a priority for Tonga and Aotearoa New Zealand, and many challenges have both a domestic and international component, such as transnational and domestic crime. Our continued security collaboration will support mutual interests in reducing crime and improving both national and regional security.



## 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 New Zealand's work with partner countries: effective, inclusive, resilient and sustained<sup>7</sup>.

Aotearoa New Zealand will work in partnership with Tonga to support this 4YP to ensure outcomes are effective, inclusive, resilient and sustained.

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

In Tonga we deliver effective outcomes by focusing on where Aotearoa New Zealand can best add value to Tonga's priorities, agreeing clear outcomes and outputs, working collaboratively with – rather than delivering to – Tonga, and embedding our work within Tonga's systems to engender ownership and incorporation. We are alert to changing circumstances and flexible enough to adapt.

**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.

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



In Tonga we deliver inclusive outcomes by addressing the question of who will benefit and by ensuring outcomes are targeted at those most in need or under-represented. We listen and take advice about what is most important and how best to help.

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

In Tonga we deliver resilient outcomes by ensuring we consider and plan for the impacts of climate change, the greater frequency of natural disasters, the restricted means available to maintain assets, and the volatility of income to all the work we undertake. We seek and incorporate Tonga's knowledge, approaches and considerations into our activities.

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

In Tonga we deliver sustained outcomes by listening to what is wanted and needed, and providing our expertise when it is required to arrive at a sustainable result. We also provide sufficient ongoing support to enable new systems to bed in, so the benefits are sustained.

## How we put this plan into action

To operationalise this 4YP and therefore contribute to achievement of agreed goals New Zealand uses a range of actions and works with multiple partners.

Work to strengthen effective and inclusive governance promoting sustainable and resilient social and economic development, deepen New Zealand and Tonga's partnership in the areas of human development and well-being, and strengthen Tonga's stability and ability to respond to domestic and regional security challenges will draw upon the strengths, and complement the strategies of, many agencies in Tonga and Aotearoa New Zealand.

Across each of our goals we will:

- draw upon expertise from within and across New Zealand Government agencies and other key stakeholders to put our plan into action
- foster collaboration and identify synergies across New Zealand development programmes and activities, guided by the Government of Tonga's identified needs, and with other development partners
- focus on New Zealand's and Tonga's shared values, Pacific identities and common vision of regional peace and prosperity, leveraging cooperation with others when this offers new opportunities for progress.

International development cooperation funding for this 4YP is managed over a three year period. Over this period, there is flexibility to move funds into and between 4YPs in order to respond to



rapidly changing contexts. Current information about New Zealand's International Development Cooperation appropriation is on the MFAT website<sup>8</sup>.

### **Goal One: Strengthen effective and inclusive governance promoting sustainable and resilient social and economic development**

As well as collaborating with our Tongan partners, our work to achieve this goal will draw on technical and thematic expertise and relationships from within MFAT and New Zealand Government agencies (particularly the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Electoral Commission, Maritime New Zealand, ESR, Counties Manukau District Health Board, and the Public Service Fale). The majority of development funding is attached to this goal, which covers a broad range of sectors.

The Tonga Parliament Buildings Project is a key component of our support for democratic institutions for the next three years, and is being delivered in partnership with the Government of Tonga and Australia.

We engage with a consortia of development partners, including the World Bank, Australia and the EU to support Tonga's policy reform programme and provide linked budget support when key milestones are reached. We also engage in regular dialogue with them regarding public financial management and fiscal resilience.

Private sector support is primarily delivered via multilateral initiatives, such as the COVID-19 Pacific SME Finance Facility.

Key indicators of progress	
<b>Goal One: Strengthen effective and inclusive governance promoting sustainable and resilient social and economic development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post-COVID-19 economic recovery and social protection indicators stabilise and improve beyond 2019 levels – e.g. annual growth rate of real GDP per capita (SDG 8.1.1)</li> <li>• Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age (SDG 1.2.1)</li> <li>• Perceptions of the quality of public services, the quality of the civil services 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 (WGI government effectiveness indicator)</li> <li>• Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, chronic respiratory disease or diabetes (SDG 3.4.1)</li> </ul>

<sup>8</sup> [www.mfat.govt.nz/en/aid-and-development/our-approach-to-aid/where-our-funding-goes/our-planned-aid-expenditure/](http://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/aid-and-development/our-approach-to-aid/where-our-funding-goes/our-planned-aid-expenditure/)



## Goal Two: Deepen New Zealand's partnership with Tonga in the areas of human development and well-being

The operationalisation of this goal overlaps with Goal One and Goal Three, and includes outcomes related to strengthening the New Zealand-Tonga partnership.

Our policy, diplomacy and funding will support a variety of sectors, including health, education (through scholarships), labour mobility opportunities (through the RSE scheme and other activities), trade access (through the Ministry of Primary Industry's Enhanced Biosecurity and Market Access programme) and the 'aid for trade' component of The Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus<sup>9</sup>. This goal also incorporates outreach to business, civil society, sporting and cultural organisations.

This goal will require us to draw on technical and thematic expertise and relationships from within the Ministry, New Zealand Government agencies (including the New Zealand Defence Force, New Zealand Police, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Immigration New Zealand, Oranga Tamariki, and Ministry of Health), New Zealand and Tongan civil society organisations, and New Zealand-based Tongan organisations to strengthen existing pathways and explore new opportunities. We will seek to address the potential impacts of our domestic policy decisions on Tonga and align policy issues of mutual importance.

Health is a key sector of support for Aotearoa New Zealand and we will continue to build on our partnership in this area. The Polynesian Health Corridors Programme, which builds on strong linkages between the New Zealand and Tongan health systems, is a key pillar of our support and will be complemented by a bilateral health programme focussed on workforce development and planning. Our health work is also a key contributor to Goal One and Goal Three.

### Key indicators of progress

**Goal Two:  
Deepen a  
New Zealand's  
partnership with  
Tonga in the areas  
of human  
development and  
well-being**

- Comment on the quality of partnership shared during formal bilateral and regional consultations, and through review of cooperation activities
- Number of workers on overseas schemes (TSDFIL)
- Tonga's ability to more fully meet the primary, secondary and tertiary health needs of its people

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/free-trade-agreements/free-trade-agreements-in-force/pacer-plus/>





### Goal Three: Strengthen Tonga's stability and ability to manage and respond to domestic and regional security challenges

Our work to achieve this goal will draw on technical and thematic expertise and relationships from within the Ministry and New Zealand Government agencies<sup>10</sup>. New Zealand and Tongan civil society organisations will also be key actors in responses to natural disasters and climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives. The work will comprise policy and diplomacy, and funding for specific programmes and activities from a range of sources including: the New Zealand Police Programmes and Salvation Army Drug and Alcohol Reintegration/Deportee Programme; a range of targeted activities from the MFAT Climate Change Programme and Pacific Regional programme; disaster response and disaster risk reduction funding from the Humanitarian programme and New Zealand Defence Force; New Zealand Defence Force funding for the Defence Adviser and military activities through the Defence Partnership Programme; and funding from the Pacific Security Fund for the Pacific Leader Development Programme.

We will also achieve this goal through bilateral policy engagement as well as policy engagement at the regional level through regional processes. In particular, we will continue to support and utilise our relationships with key regional bodies (the Pacific Community (SPC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme) and international organisations (such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, UNDP, EU, UNICEF) and civil society actors with regard to climate change, disaster response and COVID-19 response. We will work together with Tonga at international fora to advocate for stronger action on climate change by the global community and other shared interests, including addressing the biodiversity crises that threaten both nature and people in the Pacific.

#### Key indicators of progress

**Goal Three:  
Strengthen Tonga's  
stability and ability  
to manage and  
respond to domestic  
and regional  
security challenges**

- A reduction in direct economic loss in relation to global GDP, damage to critical infrastructure and number of disruptions to basic services attributed to disasters (SDG 11.5.2)
- Improved information sharing between New Zealand and Tongan security agencies and more integrated policies and processes
- Reduced instances of transnational and domestic crime, with early intervention and consistent practices

<sup>10</sup> For crime and regional security: New Zealand Ministry of Defence, New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF), New Zealand Police and New Zealand Customs Service. For COVID-19 and vaccine rollout: the Ministry of Health and NZDF. For natural disasters: NZDF. For climate change and the environment: Department of Conservation and Crown Research Institutes.



## How we assess progress against this plan

We report back on progress towards our goals in the Pacific overall via MFAT's Annual Report<sup>11</sup>. We also report back on this 4YP to the Government of Tonga via our Annual High Level Consultations and agreed outcomes and action items. This not only gives us an opportunity to discuss what has been achieved in partnership but also to test whether our plan remains fit-for-purpose or we need to change anything.

Shared progress against the key indicators listed for each strategic goal help us to monitor progress at the highest level. We also support and use country-owned statistics and data to monitor progress at the macro level and therefore will not develop a separate country-level measurement framework.

In addition, we monitor and evaluate our development activities in Tonga and other Pacific Island countries 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.

Every 6-8 years we will commission an independent evaluation of MFAT's overall engagement in Tonga in partnership with the Government of Tonga. This evaluation, which will consider progress against outcomes, the challenges and any lessons learned, will inform continued improvement.

### For further information

Contact details for the New Zealand High Commission to Tonga are available on the MFAT website<sup>12</sup>. To find out more about New Zealand's engagement with Pacific Island countries, also go to the MFAT website, at [www.mfat.govt.nz/en/countries-and-regions/australia-and-pacific/](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/countries-and-regions/australia-and-pacific/)

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/mfat-annual-reports/>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/countries-and-regions/australia-and-pacific/tonga/new-zealand-high-commission/>



## Appendix: Logic diagram for Tonga 4 Year Plan

