

# Aotearoa New Zealand's Human Rights Strategic Action Plan for International Development Cooperation 2021-2025

Goal: Aotearoa New Zealand's development cooperation advances the realisation of human rights, prioritising people and groups at risk of being left behind

Aotearoa New Zealand's approach to human rights is to:

## Build Human Rights Capabilities:

Deepen understanding around human rights, creating a culture where human rights are integrated into development practice

## Improve Implementation of Human Rights:

Ensure development programming contributes to reducing structural and societal inequalities and enhancing well-being for all

## Advance Realisation of Human Rights:

Contribute to empowering rights-holders and strengthening systems to ensure no one is left behind, while doing no harm

Aotearoa New Zealand seeks to contribute to the realisation of all human rights for all people through funding of initiatives that improve economic, social and cultural rights (e.g. access to health, education, clean water, food security, decent work and labour standards), and civil and political rights (e.g. good governance, rule of law, and equitable political participation).

## Strategic Focus Areas 2021 – 2025

Aotearoa New Zealand's will focus its international development cooperation on:



**Capacity and Capabilities**  
*Supporting Duty Bearers*



**People and Groups**  
*Empowering Rights Holders*



**Communities in Crises**  
*Integrating HRBA in crises responses*



**Quality Delivery**  
*Mainstreaming Human Rights*

## Strategic Context

The key challenges to the full realisation of human rights for all are poverty, inequality, and marginalisation. These are exacerbated disproportionately by crises such as COVID-19, climate change, and natural disasters. Inequitable enjoyment of rights can stem from and leads to discrimination, poor health, limited economic empowerment opportunities, poverty and violence.



**Globally:** Ensuring inclusive development and equitable progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals remains a global challenge. There are a multitude of new and growing challenges to the international rules-based system and to democratic principles, from states with growing geo-political influence, non-state actors, and emerging technologies. The work of Human Rights Defenders is increasingly important.



**Regionally:** Engagement by Pacific Island countries in the international human rights system is growing, along with vibrant civil society movements. There is a focus on strengthening National Human Rights Institutions and National Monitoring and Reporting mechanisms. There are also significant challenges: progress is hindered by geographic isolation and resource constraints, which also affect monitoring and reporting. There is a sometimes a perception that cultural and social norms are a further barrier



**In times of crises:** COVID-19, climate change, conflict, and other humanitarian emergencies, have a disproportionate impact on the human rights of those already most at risk of being left behind.

By applying a Human Rights Based Approach, and prioritising people and groups most at risk of being left behind, Aotearoa New Zealand contributes to building a stable and prosperous country, region and world.



## Operating Principles

Aotearoa New Zealand's development support for human rights will:

- ✘ **Integrate Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the values of Aotearoa New Zealand**
- ✘ **Apply a Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA)**
- ✘ **Respect and protect all rights holders**
- ✘ **Uphold and defend human rights** laws and standards and **promote and advance implementation** of human rights
- ✘ **Minimise and mitigate adverse consequences** of development
- ✘ **Build in-country capability**, capacity and data systems through localisation
- ✘ **Work collaboratively** with partners and stakeholders

## Strategic Alignment

- ✘ The International Bill of Rights and Core Human Rights Treaties
- ✘ United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- ✘ Framework for Pacific Regionalism
- ✘ Pacific Regional Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- ✘ Pacific Principles of Practice on National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-Up
- ✘ Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- ✘ The New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990
- ✘ New Zealand's International Cooperation for Effective Sustainable Development Policy
- ✘ New Zealand's International Human Rights Action Plan

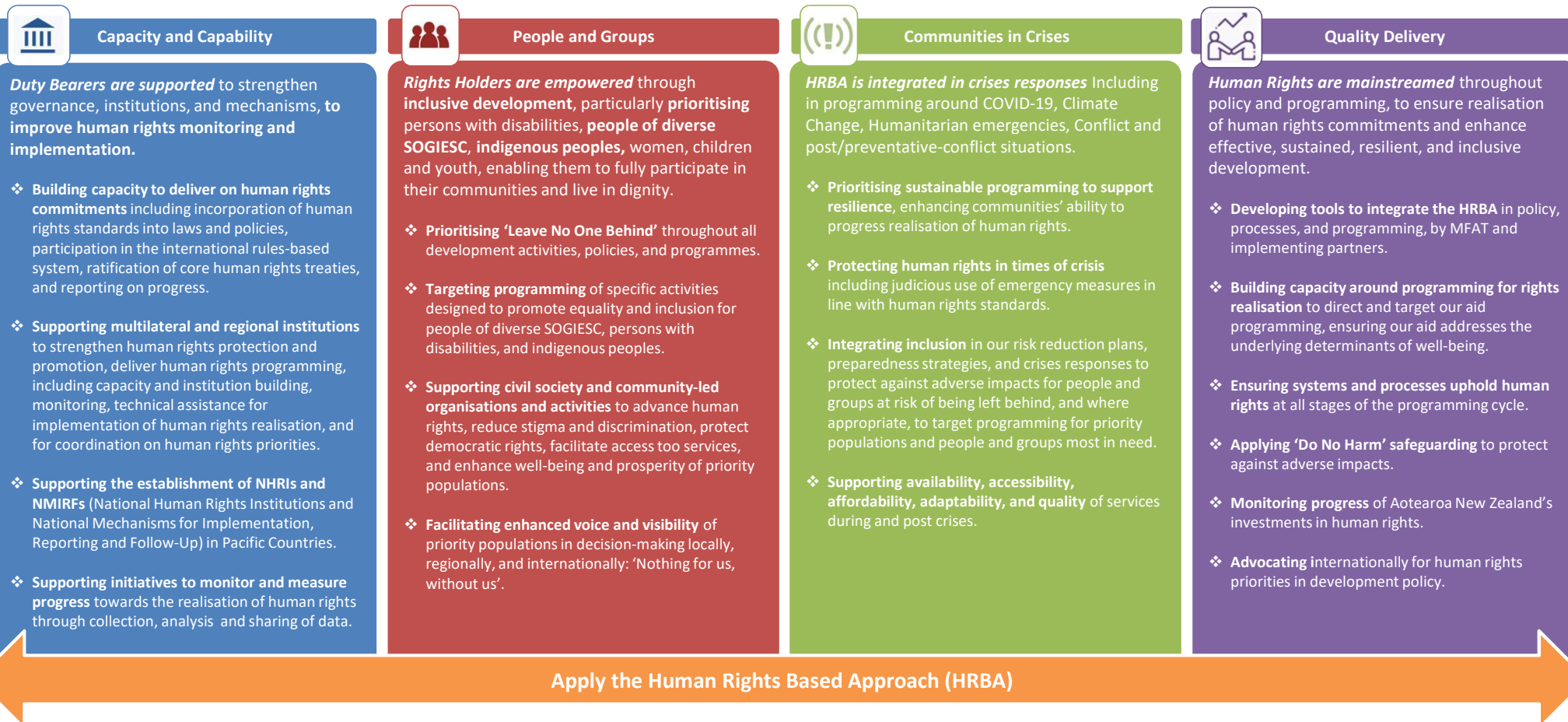


## Aotearoa New Zealand's Investment in Human Rights

8.7% of ODA (\$195M) 2018-2021 Principal Human Rights  
42.6% of ODA (\$958M) 2018-2021 Significant Human Rights

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## Strategic Priorities, Outcomes, and Activity Areas



### How MFAT delivers on Human Rights Priorities – examples of current and previous initiatives:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Scoping for Pacific NHRIs:</b> supporting the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions to advise on strengthening and establishing NHRIs in the Pacific</li> <li> <b>Human Rights Measurement Initiative:</b> developing new ways of measuring human rights indicators, including a Pacific module</li> <li> <b>Non-communicable diseases:</b> strengthening laws and policies to change behaviour and support realisation of universal healthcare</li> <li> <b>Labour standards:</b> enhancing labour standards in the Pacific fisheries industry</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Pacific Sexual and Gender Diversity Network:</b> investing in this regional network of SOGIESC organisations working on awareness raising and legal protection for rainbow communities</li> <li> <b>Pacific Disability Forum:</b> capacity building for disability rights organisations throughout the Pacific, working towards a disability-inclusive 2030</li> <li> <b>Inclusive Education:</b> investing in Pacific education programmes primarily focused on disabled children</li> <li> <b>Partnering for Impact and Manaaki:</b> providing opportunities for targeted programming for human rights outcomes, and for mainstreaming the HRBA</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Disability-inclusive humanitarian responses:</b> partnership with CBM NZ for capacity building in Cook Islands, Samoa, and Tonga, for inclusion of disability organisations in humanitarian clusters</li> <li> <b>Tropical Cyclone Harold response:</b> through the New Zealand Embassy Fund in Vanuatu assisting local disability organisations to provide disability-inclusive relief services</li> <li> <b>Emergency COVID Response Support for Disabled People:</b> in Fiji, through NGO partners PDF, supplying food rations, water, and PPE to disabled people, and ensuring emergency information in accessible formats</li> </ul> |
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### Key Partners:

- ✘ Bilateral partner governments and communities, other donor governments
- ✘ CROP agencies including SPC
- ✘ UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and other multilateral agencies
- ✘ NGOs in Aotearoa New Zealand and key regional civil society organisations, and other organisations representing people at risk
- ✘ NHRIs, the Asia Pacific Forum for National Human Rights Institutions, New Zealand Human Rights Commission
- ✘ Pacific diaspora, private sector, academia