

COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
*Kaunihera mō te Whakapakari Ao Whānui*



# Aid works

Why New Zealand aid is effective – stories from an NGO perspective



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## INTRODUCTION

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### Why New Zealand aid works

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*“We see so many successes of foreign aid, we ought to learn from them: the green revolution, the health revolution in so many parts of the world, disease control, eradication of smallpox, near eradication of polio, children in school, spreading literacy, declining fertility rates. So many successes, that we should learn from those successes and apply them to the problems that our world faces in the 21st century.”*

*Jeffrey Sachs – Special Adviser to UN Secretary-General, Professor of Health Policy and Management at Columbia University, Director of Earth Institute and best-selling author*

The effectiveness of aid to developing countries is one of the most pertinent questions faced by the international aid sector. While most New Zealanders believe that we should be fair and give development assistance to struggling neighbours, many question the effectiveness of the aid. Examples are given of millions of dollars given to African countries since their independence, for example, while many of their peoples still try to survive on less than \$US1 per day.

There are many reasons for current poverty in Africa and other parts of the world. The policy environment needs to support development, rather than undermine it. The rules on international trade need to be made fairer to developing countries; the burden of debt, much of it the responsibility of lenders, needs to be lifted; and exploitation should be tackled, so that developing countries gain a fair share of benefits from natural resources and their labour. These policy conditions are important, but so is effective aid.

The benefits of well-targeted aid, moreover, are often not immediately apparent. Good quality sustainable development in areas such as education and health can often take years before their effects can be demonstrated.

Those who work in the international development sector are in no doubt about the positive aspects of aid that is appropriately targeted and is in response to the articulated needs of the people. However, there is still much to be done in order to meet the global target of significantly reducing extreme poverty by 2015.

The following section attempts to answer some of the questions about the necessity for aid and how it can be more effective. The second section gives some examples of aid programmes by New Zealand non-governmental organisations (NGOs), showing how they have benefited people in developing countries.

### How is aid from New Zealand distributed?

There are two main channels of aid. They are Official Development Assistance (ODA) and private (non-official) aid.

Official Development Assistance (ODA) is that given directly from Government. New Zealand’s ODA level in 2007/08 is \$NZ 429 million. Some of that money is provided as a grant to other governments through bilateral agreements. Other money is sent to international institutions such as the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the Asian Development Bank, which then uses the funding for projects or programmes through grants or loans.

Private (non-official) aid is the funding that individuals have donated, usually to NGOs. Many of the larger NGOs in New Zealand undertake fund-raising activities as part of an ongoing process or in response to an international disaster or emergency. They then usually apply for subsidies for this funding through NZAID’s KOHA-PICD or HAF schemes.

### Kaihono hei Oranga Hapori o te Ao – Partnerships for International Community Development (KOHA-PICD) and HAF, the Humanitarian Action Fund

Approximately \$22.5 million of NZAID funding is made available through New Zealand based NGOs to fund community development and humanitarian/emergency assistance programmes of partners around the world.

A special feature of both KOHA-PICD and HAF is that the NGOs have an influence over the criteria and policies that apply to government co-funding of NGO programmes. This is achieved

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## INTRODUCTION **Why New Zealand aid works**

via an independent body, the Programme Management Committee (PMC), comprising an independent chair, one NZAID representative, four elected NGO representatives and one member of the NGO Disaster Relief Forum (NDRF) for HAF funding. Meeting every two months, the PMC approves programmes and projects, evaluates their outcomes and monitors the effectiveness of the projects being funded.

As an additional check, independent reviewers review the nine NGOs that receive block grants from the PMC every four to five years and select a number of individual grant NGOs for review each year on a regular rotational basis. The outcomes of the annual review are shared at the Annual NZAID/NGO meeting through a Lessons Learned document. Workshops on the major concerns are conducted by the Council for International Development (CID) during the following year.

The PMC is widely recognised as a model of good practice in relation to peer assessment, accountability and transparency. The KOHA-PICD joint funding scheme has also been used within other government ministries as a good example of cooperative and accountable working relationships involving funding. The PMC works with CID to promote learning and growth within both New Zealand based NGOs and their partners overseas.

NGOs are able to access other forms of funding from NZAID such as ANGOF (Africa), LANGOF (Latin America), ADAF (Asia), Pacific Participation Fund and the Pacific Good Governance Funds.

### **Is New Zealand's ODA considered to be effective?**

It is very effective, according to international reports, such as the OECD review, 2005<sup>1</sup> and the review by Dr Marilyn Waring, 2005<sup>2</sup>.

The main reasons for this effectiveness is that most of our international aid is based on humanitarian needs and poverty elimination, not on political considerations, or linked to promoting New Zealand business. NZAID ensures that aid is responsive to real needs expressed by its developing country partners.

The OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) peer review for 2005 described New Zealand's achievements as "impressive", but it also called for New Zealand to spend more on aid. The DAC report welcomed the Government's focus on poverty elimination and working with the priorities of developing countries.

Unlike some other aid donor countries, New Zealand aid is mainly untied. This means that NZAID is free to choose its contractors and funding recipients on merit rather than sourcing services, contracts and products only in the donor country.

### **Is NZ NGO aid effective?**

The focus by New Zealand NGOs on grassroots development and working alongside partner organisations in developing countries ensures that the aid given is driven by the needs of local people and that they are directly responsible for ensuring the ongoing success of the projects and programmes.

The NGO sector provides many examples of innovative ways to deal with the issues facing the poorest communities. NGOs focus on working in partnership with people at the community level in order to understand their needs and facilitate the development of possible solutions. The shared activities may often include building up the capacity of the local partner. Working in partnership with local NGOs means that NZ NGOs do not necessarily have to deploy to the field and can support the synergies that are already in place in the country.

With communities working on their own projects, NZ NGOs have noticed more positive project and programme outcomes. Some activities may be microfinance projects, for example, to assist those who would not normally be granted access to funding.

Many NGOs take a rights-based approach to development, seeing their role as empowering and assisting people to realise their social, cultural and economic rights as well as their civil and political rights. They work with poor women, men and children to enable them to access their rights, whilst working at the same time with local and central government to ensure that the government is aware of and can extend support to those communities.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.oecd.org/document/34/0,2340,en\\_2649\\_33721\\_34728674\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/34/0,2340,en_2649_33721_34728674_1_1_1_1,00.html)  
<sup>2</sup> [www.nzaid.govt.nz/library/docs/nz-aid-waring-review-full-report.pdf](http://www.nzaid.govt.nz/library/docs/nz-aid-waring-review-full-report.pdf)



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## How can Global Aid be more effective?

A series of discussions led by the OECD DAC culminated in the *Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness*, drawn up by developed and developing countries in 2005. New Zealand is a signatory to the document. This process was looking mainly at government bilateral aid, not that disbursed through developed country NGOs.

The Paris Declaration sets out a number of core principles believed to increase the impact of aid in “reducing poverty and inequality, increasing growth, building capacity and accelerating achievement of the MDGs”. The principles are:

- **Ownership** – Partner countries exercise effective leadership over their development policies and strategies and coordinate development actions
- **Alignment** – Donors base their overall support on partner countries’ national development strategies, institutions and procedures.
- **Harmonisation** – Donors’ actions are more harmonised, transparent and collectively effective.
- **Managing for Results** – Managing resources and improving decision-making for results
- **Mutual Accountability** – Donors and partners are accountable for development results.

If these principles are strictly followed, they should do much to counteract many of the practices, such as tied aid, donors’ harmful conditionalities and corruption, that have led to ineffective aid.

Civil society organisations throughout the world, however, consider that the Declaration needs revision. It takes almost no account of the role of civil society in promoting aid effectiveness. Ownership and mutual accountability, for example, should go beyond governments to include the people. Management for results should be a fully participatory process. Another concern is that the cross-cutting themes of gender, human rights and environmental sustainability are submerged and not included among the measures used to determine aid effectiveness. The Declaration thus implies that core principles underlying development agendas are not part

of aid effectiveness. Civil society organizations consider that poverty eradication should be the core principle underlying all development strategies and progress towards its achievement should be the base measurement of aid effectiveness.

These issues will be discussed at a high level meeting in Accra, Ghana in September 2008.

## Where does NZ NGO aid go?

NZ NGOs assist in community development and humanitarian crises through many parts of the developing world. A third, based on traditional links, still goes to Africa, which is also the region of greatest need. South and Southeast Asia receive another third for similar reasons.

Over recent years, however, there has been a growing focus on the Pacific in recognition of the needs closer to home and the special ties between New Zealand as a Pacific country and the Pacific Islands.

The UN has reported that the Pacific is in danger of failing to meet the Millennium Development Goals. Aid to the region can contribute to these targets.

The Pacific is a region where many people experience levels of poverty or hardship due to lack of access to education, poor health care, lack of resources, conflict, poor infrastructure, poor governance, environmental vulnerability and gender imbalances.

Parts of Melanesia, such as Papua New Guinea, have levels of poverty almost as low as parts of sub-Saharan Africa – the poorest region in the world. PNG has the lowest average life expectancy and the highest maternal and infant mortality rates in the Pacific.

To put that in perspective, a mother is over 40 times more likely to die in childbirth in Papua New Guinea than in New Zealand. In Vanuatu more than two thirds of adults are illiterate and in Kiribati, one person in six is not expected to survive to the age of 40.

*The following pages are examples of just a few of the aid programmes and projects supported by New Zealand NGOs, mostly with some funding from NZAID and a great deal from the New Zealand public.*



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## CASE STUDIES

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### Fruits of HAFOTI – Community Enterprise Development in Timor-Leste

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**Caritas-sponsored programmes in Timor-Leste aimed at increasing women’s business skills and selling local produce, have continued to flourish despite turbulent times and recent outbreaks in violence in the fledgling nation.**

The office of Hamahon Feto Timor (HAFOTI – the name means “Timor Women’s Umbrella”) is surprisingly peaceful. Outside, in their location at Vila Verde in Dili, politically polarised groups – mainly youth – had battled with stones and home-made explosives when post election violence erupted in August 2007. However, since then the Timorese capital has been relatively calm.

Despite political mayhem in recent times, the membership of the 20 women’s groups which make up HAFOTI has increased to 400 women. Membership is now open to men in recognition that gender development must involve the participation of both women and men. The organisation is managed by a community-based marketing committee.

In a recent training programme, 120 people learnt to make cassava cake and chips, banana chips, marmalade and tamarind sweets. Products such as these are destined for the markets in Dili and will help create addition income to support local families. HAFOTI has also provided seeding-loans and production training and marketing for members of the scheme.

As part of the marketing plan, promotion cards have been distributed through NGO networks, and products displayed in two expositions: one in Baucau at district level, and the second a national exposition in Dili. Sales have steadily increased, and there is a plan to develop a pricing model.

#### **Lisalee’s story – how HAFOTI helped empower her life**

Lisalee and two other women submitted a proposal to the Managing Committee to borrow money to purchase and jointly rear three piglets. The loan repayments were made in the interim through the cultivation and sale of vegetables in home gardens. When the pigs had grown to marketable size, two were sold for a profit of approximately \$152.00NZ.

With this, Lisalee bought bamboo to repair her home and the group reinvested the balance in the purchase of two more piglets. Lisalee was very proud of her pig! More than anything she felt empowered by the process, and able to improve the conditions of her life.



Lisalee in her home repaired through HAFOTI activity.

Photo: Tara D'Souza/Caritas ANZ

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CASE STUDIES **Fruits of HAFOTI** – Community Enterprise Development in Timor-Leste

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## Grant for pineapple plantation

In another case, a group of 50 women applied for and received a government grant of \$nz 1215 to prepare land for cultivation of pineapples. Seedlings were also provided. The women collectively terraced the hillside and planted 15,000 pineapples. It's expected that each pineapple will earn \$1.50 for the collective and there is also a possibility of preserving the fruit for later sale. In addition to this, the women are beginning to use some of the natural forest resources through harvesting shenke (cloves) and pimenta (pepper). The bushes and vines grow naturally between the coffee plants on the hillsides and are a good source of revenue.



Photo: Tara D'Sousa/Caritas ANZ

Domingas and Martina of Haburas inspect some of the 15,000 pineapples planted.

## Timor in Context

Timor-Leste emerged as the first new nation of the 21st Century in May 2002, following independence from Indonesia. It is one of the world's least developed countries. It faces challenges in land ownership, unemployment, poverty, ethnic and politically motivated conflict, and addressing injustices for crimes committed under 25 years of Indonesian occupation.

Violence in 2006 and 2007 displaced an estimated 160,000 people across the nation. The August 2007 attacks focused on Church and NGO institutions, including Caritas Baucau, whose offices were trashed, and associated kindergarten burnt out. Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand responded with solidarity funding for its partner, to help replace office equipment. Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand supports six partners in Timor-Leste, working in areas such as community development, health, advocacy, peacebuilding, and relief and rehabilitation.

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CASE STUDIES

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## Providing a future for children affected by HIV and AIDS

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**Deprived of their basic needs and at risk from HIV infection, children in the Kenyan town of Emali are being supported by their community in partnership with ChildFund New Zealand. With funding from NZAID, ChildFund is helping the community of Emali to meet the many needs of their orphans and vulnerable children. Now, many people living with, and affected by, HIV are able to stand tall in their community and the children have a brighter future.**

In southern Kenya on the main trans-Africa highway sits the town of Emali where an estimated 30 per cent of the population has HIV, three times Kenya's national average. With more than two thirds of the population living on less than US\$1 a day and the area severely affected by drought, many have resorted to commercial sex with truck drivers to generate an income. Subsequently, thousands have died from AIDS and many children are now orphaned or left at risk – deprived of their basic needs, often stigmatised within the community and vulnerable to HIV infection.

To support children and adolescents in this community, ChildFund New Zealand had two key objectives: to increase the capacity of the target community to provide care and support for 2,500 orphans and vulnerable children and 1,000 youth affected by HIV/AIDS; and to increase access to information and skills for HIV prevention among 2,000 youth.

With funding from NZAID, ChildFund implemented a 'weaving the safety net' campaign. In part, this involved psychosocial training of 120 local people who work closely with children such as caregivers, teachers, community health workers and community representatives. A further 60 people participated in training to train others in home-based care.

As a result, 45 people living with AIDS have made public their HIV status and prepared memory books and succession plans for their families. An orphans and vulnerable children peer support club has been formed at one school.

One of the most positive outcomes was the formation of two support groups for people living with HIV. One woman spoke of the impact of the project on her life.

"Before we associated with the Emali Dedicated Project most of us were lonely and faced stigma and discrimination. I was bed ridden and there was no one to support us. After the project we came together and started this support group. We



Orphans and vulnerable children are targeted by the project.

support and care for each other. I am on ARVs [antiretroviral drugs] and I am okay running my small-scale business."

Another woman described how before she received ChildFund training she "hated" herself but the training had helped her to "live positively" and that she was motivated to help support other people living with HIV. The group also reported that they had noticed reduced stigma in their own communities and were now able to openly discuss their HIV status.

In November 2006, following on from child rights training, a one-week campaign on child protection issues involved discussions on local radio about issues facing children, including HIV and AIDS, care for orphans, and female genital mutilation. Children themselves spoke about these issues, with the views of parents and teachers also aired. This was seen as a significant step in breaking the silence on these taboo topics.

Overall, the project increased the community's capacity to care and support more than 3,300 orphans and vulnerable children and 1,200 youths. In addition, more than 2,700 youth were reached through training, membership of youth groups which received assistance, and voluntary counselling and testing campaigns.

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[www.childfund.org.nz](http://www.childfund.org.nz)

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## Changing lives in Nicaragua's forgotten communities

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**“Our dreams are coming true thanks to CEPAD,” says Socorro Sanchez. “I will be able to depend on myself and not on people outside.” Christian World Service has for the past 20 years supported CEPAD (Council of Protestant Churches in Nicaragua) in a programme aimed at lifting Nicaragua’s rural poor out of extreme poverty. It aims to help build self-reliance within communities neglected by the government and struggling with poverty and environmental degradation.**

Life is hard in Nicaragua, one of the world’s poorest countries. With almost 80% of families living in poverty, massive unemployment and few government services, life is a constant struggle to feed the family and to give children an education so they can enjoy better opportunities.

The Sanchez family are typical of many. Three generations, eight people, live in a small house that is little more than a shack with a dirt floor. They collect water from the river, but are worried that irrigation for commercial farms upstream is drying up the rivers. There is no electricity. The dirt roads are appalling – very rutted with large potholes and full of diversions. When the rains come they are impassable. People must walk for a couple of hours to reach a main road and public transport. Now CEPAD has brought them hope.

Socorro first got involved in CEPAD by joining an adult education literacy course. She never had the chance to finish school. Excited by this experience she moved on to their patio project, eager to do something to benefit her family. Patios are small farms and through CEPAD women receive training, animals and seedlings to develop their plots. Socorro has planted over 100 trees – including 52 mango trees, other fruit varieties, cedro for timber and neem to use as a natural pesticide. “It is going to help my children. I can sell the fruit and have money for the things my children need.” CEPAD has also taught her about soil conservation and irrigation and gives information on marketing. Before the projects, vendors would come to the communities and buy produce at low cost. If the people take it to market themselves and sell cooperatively, they get better prices.



Socorro joined the project to do something to benefit her family – three generations living under the one roof.

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## CASE STUDIES **Changing lives in Nicaragua's forgotten communities**

With food supply and income increasing, all the family benefits. But one of the biggest changes is in people taking control of their own lives. Like many women in the patio project, Socorro has gained the confidence to tackle other problems in her community. "I have formed a committee to go to the municipal government offices. We want electricity. We want better roads. In September-October you can't get out."

CEPAD's vision is "to transform" people in just this way. The organisation, now receiving NZAID funding through its Latin American programme, works with poor rural communities who feel forgotten by government policies. The challenges they face include water access, housing, food supply, deforestation, family conflict, lack of income opportunities, and poor communication services. CEPAD's approach is to meet with a community, anything from 100 to 700 families and help them identify the changes they want to see, set priorities and find solutions. CEPAD staff and volunteers accompany the community for six years, providing the necessary skills training and support for the local people to achieve their own development objectives.

"The philosophy is that people have to solve their problems by themselves", explains CEPAD's Gilberto Aguirre. "It is easy to build a well. Give me \$500 and I can pay anyone to build wells. But who will look after them? Who will maintain them? It is far better to educate the community. To give them the skills to build and care for wells, to give them the skills to look after themselves." "I am proud of how we work," says another staff member. "Other organisations just go in for one or two years to work on one specific thing and then leave. We stay and work on a range of issues with the community."

In the district of Kelambe, people are coming to the end of their CEPAD journey. For the last five years, CEPAD has been working with seven communities, assisting them in many ways including the formation of ASDECK (the Association for the Development of Communities from Kelambe). The Association produces and sells coffee, some of which is exported. ASDECK have also recently secured a grant for US\$30,000 to develop an eco-tourism venture. This is great news for an area that has experienced a high degree of illegal logging over the years.

It means that people now feel both ready and equipped to continue with their programmes on their own.

To CWS and its partners, this is how aid works best. It is about building up skills and resources so people can build a better future for themselves and no longer have to rely on outside help. As Sorocco says: "I don't want to depend on other people. I want to depend on myself. To make my own work, my own produce."



Fruit from mango trees, as well as timber and neem from over 100 trees will provide money for children's needs.



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### Cambodia project changes lives

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**“Without this project, I would be dead” was the answer one woman gave amidst lots of nodding of heads in a feedback session on an HIV and AIDS project in Cambodia that is supported by New Zealand Family Planning International (FPI).**

The session was part of an evaluation carried out in January by FPI programme assistant Diane Ryan of a home-based care project in Svay Rieng Province for people living with HIV and AIDS. It is four years now since the Rural Economic Development Association (REDA) established the project with help from FPI. During that time, two home care teams have worked in 40 villages to provide support to around 96 people living with HIV, and 372 children affected by AIDS. Services include nursing care, HIV and AIDS and other health education, counseling, referral for services, and support for income generation.

Funded through NZAID’s PICD-KOHA fund, the project is vital to support people living with HIV in Cambodia, which has the highest HIV prevalence in Asia. Numerous factors render Cambodia particularly vulnerable to HIV. These include a legacy of genocide, civil war and famine. In tandem with persistent poverty and political turmoil, this scenario has led to a weak health infrastructure badly in need of rehabilitation. HIV transmission in Cambodia is primarily through sexual intercourse.

The Home Based Care project provides services to people who would otherwise die. After four years, the project is entering a new and exciting phase as a result of REDA growing stronger as an organization. REDA will be increasing its focus on orphans and vulnerable children, and will also expand its strengths in work it carries out to reduce stigma and discrimination in the community towards people living with HIV, and towards AIDS orphans.

Diane Ryan says that the feedback sessions were a good opportunity to hear directly from people for whom the project has made a vast personal difference, with stories such as this one from Seng Naiy.

Seng Naiy was born in 1959 in Prek Tup village, Svay Rieng province. Seng Naiy has three children, two daughters and one son.

Naiy started going to school in 1970. In 1976, she gave up her studies because of the war. She married in 1979 and moved with her husband to Pailin, near the border with Thailand. Her husband was a soldier. At that time, their living conditions were very good and they had many good friends. They were very happy.



Charya (right) and Samphol. Orphans and vulnerable children are becoming an increasing focus for REDA.

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### CASE STUDIES Cambodia project changes lives

Then her husband became sick. He got fevers, headaches, and diarrhea, and became weaker by the day. Seng Naiy tried hard to find some Khmer traditional medicine to cure him but nothing helped him and eventually he died. Seng Naiy had sold nearly all her belongings to pay for her husband's treatment. Now she was alone, poor and had no means of support.

Finally, she sold her remaining land and decided to come back to Svay Rieng. Shortly after her return, she too fell ill, with symptoms similar to that of her husband. She did not know what was wrong with her. A REDA home care team met Naiy and encouraged her to get a blood test. Naiy tested positive for

HIV. Naiy now has frequent consultations with her doctors and is visited regularly by the REDA home care team who support her to take care of herself. She has her CD4 count checked regularly and if it decreases, she will start anti-retroviral therapy.

Naiy is now healthier and happier. She looks forward to the future.

FPI looks forward to working with REDA to continue to support and sustain valuable work with their communities.



Home-based care helps women living with HIV provide an income for their families.

<http://www.fpaid.org.nz>



## Alternative development model improves production in Timor Leste

**Oxfam New Zealand's partner, Movimento Cooperativo Economico- Agrícola (MCE-A) has been staging a quiet revolution since 1999 without any outside assistance. By organising rice and coffee farmers into agricultural cooperatives, building schools and lobbying the government for more support for agriculture MCE-A has shown that Timorese people have the capacity to revive their country through a strong and economically viable rural sector.**

MCE-A believes Timorese people need to protect their democracy and to do this they need to understand how it works and actively participate in it. Education on issues such as human rights, participation in a democracy and women's independence are part of MCE-A's agenda to hold government accountable to the people.

A fundamental principle of MCE-A is that farmers in Timor-Leste can produce a surplus and with improved processing and astute marketing can compete successfully with imported products. Research into alternative markets for its members including fairtrade opportunities and the formation of a producer cooperative for the marketing and sale of agricultural produce are strengths of the MCE-A model.

Traditional laws and practices particularly around social and natural resource activities remain strong and are built on by MCE-A. Many rural Timorese work cooperatively and own land communally. When organised and supported the cooperative is one of the best forms of economic enterprise.

Currently there are 35 cooperatives operating – aimed at increasing coffee and rice production throughout Timor-Leste. These co-operatives have improved the lives of approximately 1500 people by helping to transform poor rural areas from subsistence agriculture to ones that produce surplus rice that can be traded. As a result, locally-produced rice is now available in the Dili supermarkets whereas in the past only imported rice had been available.

In this part of Timor Leste, people have serious challenges - poor roads become impassable in the wet seasons –and the period between the maize and rice harvest, November to February, is known as the hungry season. Few Government

MCE-A is an agricultural movement which aims to:

- build the economic independence of the people of East Timor by increasing farmers' productivity and market return from agriculture;
- provide employment opportunities in rural communities to stop urban drift;
- develop basic educational opportunities through the provision of formal and informal education facilities and programmes;
- Protect farmers' land titles against attempts to sell to foreign interests

Through Oxfam New Zealand's assistance, MCE-A has been able to employ a full time manager and accounts secretary, provide technical assistance to rice and coffee farmers and encourage farmers to grow more rice and coffee.



Farmers preparing a concrete slab for coffee processing.

services are available, and even fewer benefit the rural sector. A visit to the health clinic can mean a three kilometre walk for people in some villages. And literacy levels of 58 percent are the amongst the lowest in Asia. Until the establishment of the MCE-A, there were no village organisations or marketing efforts for coffee production or any other agricultural product.

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## CASE STUDIES **Alternative development model improves production in Timor Leste**

In the eight years since MCE-A was established, results have included:

- recognition by the new Government of Timor-Leste which has requested MCE-A to establish more farmer cooperatives
- authority to manage and operate a large government rice milling machine
- the establishment of a producer cooperative to market and sell rice and coffee on behalf of farmers
- marketing cooperative rice in supermarkets and public markets in Dili
- farmers paid \$5.60/kg for paddy in 2006 where previously they had never sold surplus
- price subsidy provided to farmers in one district where production was less than expected.

### **Coffee farmers Laurindo and Lorenda**

Laurindo de Silva and her husband Lorenda are coffee farmers in a small community in Maubaralisa, Liquica District. They have two children Alberto and Domito who attend the local primary school. Their home is a 12 km walk from Maubara town and approximately 80km south west of Dili.

Laurindo and Lorenda are members of the Timorese coffee farmers cooperative MCE-A along with 50 other farmers. The coffee harvest begins with the first cherries picked in April and finishes in August. Their two hectare coffee farm yields approximately 400kg of the high quality Arabica coffee. Last season they were paid 30 cents per kg of red beans or \$US120 for the crop.

Laurindo and Lorenda have had to face challenges such as declining coffee yields. During the Indonesian rule the coffee plantations were used as revenue for the Indonesian army. They were poorly maintained with no investment in research and maintenance and consequently most trees are old, large and rangy.

Like the other farmers in Maubaralisa, Laurindo and Lorenda supplement their livelihoods by raising goats, pigs and chickens and selling vegetables in the community market.

Lorenda hopes that with the support of MCE-A he will learn new techniques for maintaining his trees and even get new varieties to plant to increase production. Lorenda along with other cooperative members has been building a concrete pad for drying and sorting beans. With the support of MCE-A a new processing machine will be installed in time for this year's harvest enabling the farmers to process their beans to the more valuable green bean stage.

MCE-A will also assist the farmers to negotiate a better price for their coffee and investigate the options for accessing Fairtrade markets.

Laurindo hopes that any increased income for their coffee will allow her to repair her house and improve the water supply.



Laurindo de Silva and her husband Lorenda with their two children.

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<http://www.oxfam.org.nz>



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## Tengeru Women's Market and Educational Facility, Tanzania

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**A New Zealand Rotary-NZAID project in Tanzania has transformed a dirty dusty chaotic market on the side of the main Cape Town to Cairo highway into a clean, covered facility which has been described as a working model for markets of its type.**

In the past, women in the Tengeru province of Tanzania carted vegetables and fruit every Wednesday and Saturday to a chaotic market on both sides of the main verges of the roadway. Once there, the goods were displayed in the hot sun, along with dust, rain, mud and generally filthy conditions. Hygiene was non-existent and there was no water or toilet facilities except for one stinking pit latrine. People relieved themselves often where they stood or back off the road. There were no rubbish bins. The area was a filthy unpleasant stench. Cholera outbreaks were a regular occurrence. As well, many people were killed by passing vehicles as they crossed from one side of the road to the other.

That was two years ago. Now the dirt and chaos has been replaced by a new purpose-built facility covering three acres thanks to a New Zealand Rotary-NZAID project.

The project was designed by the community and built by the men and women of the community under guidance by a qualified building supervisor. The community effort continued with elders trained in construction through earlier projects passing on those skills to the younger generation. This had the added benefit of giving younger people skills to help them find paid work in the construction area.

The covered structure now means that the women selling their goods have shelter and are away from the dusty highway. The access road has been upgraded and parking is now available for the hundreds of mini buses that call each day.

Most importantly, a new water bore means that clean water is available and there are sixteen new on-site pit latrines.

The market has been described in Tanzania as a working model for others that are desperately needed throughout the country.



The covered market allows vendors, mainly woman, to display goods in a clean, sheltered environment.

These days, more than 2,700 women are registered as vendors – a big jump from the 300 previously. On top of this, more than 20,000 buyers visit the markets over the two days each week. These include buyers from hotels, safari park operators and resorts who recognize that the produce now meets all the required health standards.

The market is managed by a community of elected representatives – each with specific responsibilities such as maintaining hygiene, security and so on.

Downstream benefits have included the development of demonstration gardens where on non-market days the women receive training on improving production through controlled composting and soil management.

New Zealand donors contributed \$106,083 to the scheme.

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# Aid works

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## Fiji Mobile Playgroup brings education to pre-schoolers

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**Save the Children has been involved in a project in Fiji to bring early childhood education to disadvantaged communities where children often miss out on early learning opportunities. As a result of this, children who have attended the project have shown big improvements in learning ability, emotional and physical development, socialisation and nutrition. But as well as providing education for children, the programme has also helped improve the income of the families.**

Around 1700 children in Fiji have received a pre-school education thanks to the Fiji Mobile Playgroup Project (MPP), which began in 2001. As a result these children have been well prepared for formal education.

Originally the playgroup was run out of a bus in Suva, hence its name 'mobile playgroup', which travelled between the communities so that large numbers of children could join in

on a regular basis. Now the project has grown to 17 centres in Suva and in the northern town of Labasa in Vanua Levu and includes 'stationary' playgroups, which are set up permanently in communities, some attached to community centres and meeting halls. A smaller van is currently used in Labasa to cater to rural settlements in the town's margins.

As part of the project, Save the Children NZ works with its partner SC Fiji to train teacher aides; provide education on child rights, health, nutrition and child safety; supply parenting support; support mothers' groups; develop professional networks that support the playgroups; and build up the skills of MPP staff.

The MPP targets children in poor communities who often miss out on pre-school educational opportunities. Preschool education has been shown to improve children's performance at school and in the long term helps break the cycle of poverty.



The mobile playgroup travels between communities so large numbers of children can join regularly.

Photo: Dennis Uba / Save the Children

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### CASE STUDIES **Fiji Mobile Playgroup brings education to pre-schoolers**

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Sepo and Raejeli, who attended the school-on-wheels six years ago, are good examples of this. They have consistently topped their respective classes in separate primary schools in Suva. Interviewed recently, Sepo echoed the innovative scheme when asked for his suggestion regarding the future of the programme: “If the children in the villages cannot go to the centres, maybe you (Save the Children) should go to them.”

As a spin-off, the children’s mothers have been supported in their efforts to improve their family’s incomes. This of course enhances their children’s wellbeing. Selling handcraft in local fairs is one way that family incomes can be supplemented as

well as empowering women with knowledge and experience to improve their income in the future. At one particular fair, each member earned between \$80 and \$100 for themselves. They also managed to get access to capacity building activities such as cooking, sewing and finance management.

The improvements in the children’s well-being has been monitored and detailed through the MPP advisory group, which includes members from the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Social Welfare. Focus groups with parents and the community are used to monitor progress.



Photo: Dennis Uba / Save the Children

Mothers’ group in Jittu, on the outskirts of Suva, where women learn to supplement family incomes through creating and selling handcraft.

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### Success in battle against malaria in isolated Mentawai

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**A successful pilot scheme by Surfaid International to combat malaria through distributing insecticide-impregnated mosquito nets and providing health education in villages in Mentawai in Indonesia has been expanded into a five year programme reaching most of the villages on the island chain off the West Sumatra coast.**

A pilot scheme in a small number of villages ran from 2001 to 2003 and in the most highly infected village, blood parasite tests showed a 90% drop in carriage rate. Since then, about 230 villages in the Mentawai and Nias have received nets and an extensive monitoring scheme has been put in place to determine if the success of the pilot scheme can be repeated on a much larger scale.

Working with the Indonesian Health Department and UNICEF, and with funding from NZAID, Billabong and Lonely Planet, the overall plan is to blanket 80 percent of the population with mosquito nets. The net programme is part of a wider Community Health Development Programme that employs 130 people and all but six of them are local.

Surfaid founder Dr Dave Jenkins says the key to the combined malaria and community health project is that it's being done in partnership with local people. The aim is to turn around a dire health situation caused by thousands of years of isolation, poor education and the misunderstandings of the causes of disease and ill health. Establishing "representative village groups" is a key function at the village level and this evolves in each village to fully elected representatives of which 50 percent or more are women. A high level of involvement of women is critical to the success of any community development programme in this region. It is the goal of SurfAid that with time, RVGs will manage their own community health programme with Surfaid guidance and partnership.



Photo: Bob Parker / Roving Eye

Rates of malaria in some villages have dropped by 90 percent.

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CASE STUDIES **Astounding success in battle against Malaria in isolated Mentawai**



Photo: Bob Parker / Roving Eye

Small boats are used to reach villages via mangroves, beaches and rivers.

This approach has already worked well in the last year. In the initial villages the RVGs managed the care of the nets and the local education about how they are used to control malaria.

The new expanded programme uses a large yacht to sail to the remote villages. The 90-foot boat, the Indo Jiwa, transports the cargo of mosquito nets and equipment as well as providing accommodation for the field staff. Smaller boats are used to access the villages via mangrove swamps, beaches and rivers. Access to many villages has been difficult and dangerous and some were only accessible at high tide. Such is the isolation that there have been times when the villages were only located through smoke rising from local fires.

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<http://www.surfaidinternational.org>

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## Project Hope – improving the lives of India’s poorest

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**ASHA – the Hindi word for hope – has been one of TEAR Fund’s indigenous partners since 1988 and works to improve community health and development in the Mayapuri slum colonies of New Delhi.**

New Delhi is a chaotic, polluted, sprawling city of well over 12 million with at least 4 million people living in slums. Urban influx is putting such pressure on living space that many people sleep in the dust by the road and families live on the median strip under motorway flyovers. The numerous slums range from plastic sheeting tents to more established brick hovels, but most have few facilities, open drains, children playing in the dirt and pigs rooting through the rubbish.

In West Delhi there is a long thin strip of land between the railway and a metal recycling area. This is where 11 slum colonies are situated, housing at least 2500 families and where Asha is focusing its health care efforts.

Asha operates a Community Based Health Centre within the slum in a six room building provided by the government of Delhi. The team there includes two part time doctors, two nurse midwives, four multipurpose volunteers and a part time public health engineer. Obviously such a small team couldn’t begin to meet the needs of over 10000 people but Asha has set up an outstanding network of volunteers.

Women who previously were thoroughly downtrodden, afraid to emerge from their tiny dwellings, now proudly meet in Mahila Mandals (women’s groups) where they have gained remarkable self esteem and a powerful united voice. Some are trained to be Lane Volunteers – responsible for the health needs, environmental improvement, resource mobilization and community organization for 25-30 households.

Other women are trained as Community Health Volunteers to provide healthcare at the grass roots level. They have a basic medical kit and blood pressure device and are able to make a real impact on reproductive and sexual health issues, HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis, maternal and infant mortality. Traditional birth attendants are trained and equipped by Asha to provide skilled natal care.

These days the women have reason to laugh and chat and have



Bal Mandals, or children’s clubs, give children a sense of accomplishment, friendship and pride.

the confidence to take on local authorities and exert real influence.

One of the indigenous leaders remarked “The police used to push us round and give us a hard time. Now they salute!”

Asha also initiated a child advocacy programme within the slum communities through Bal Mandals (children’s clubs). These clubs consist of 20-25 children aged 7 – 14 years. They receive training on health, hygiene, sanitation, environmental improvement and children’s rights in a variety of interesting ways including story telling, role play, song and discussion. The children respond very positively to the responsibility they are given. They undertake practical tasks in their neighborhoods – and educational campaigns, for example discouraging bottle feeding and open field defecation.

The clubs perform plays they have written to educate their communities. They even make placards and take to the streets protesting against injustices such as child labor.

Slum life is extremely dull. There are few opportunities for children to feel a real sense of accomplishment so the Bal Mandals provide their members with focus, direction, friendship and pride.

It would be easy to feel overwhelmed by the scale of poverty in urban India and all the ensuing social problems but in the midst of the harshest environments Asha is providing hope in a practical, effective, life changing way.

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[www.tearfund.org.nz](http://www.tearfund.org.nz)

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## Turning soap-making into an export industry

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**When new machinery for making footwear left thousands of low-caste leather workers in South India without work, the future was looking bleak, especially for women.**

**Now, thanks to a grant from NZAID, channeled through New Zealand Trade Aid, an increasing number of families that depended on the leather factories are being supported through a new and successful soap making venture exporting to Europe, USA, Canada and New Zealand.**

In India, leather workers have traditionally come from the lowest sub caste among the Harijan, (untouchable) caste. Women of that caste are generally illiterate and economically totally dependent on men, even for decisions within the family.

When work opportunities in the leather industry started to collapse in the mid 1970s, the only source of income for most leatherworkers was a very meagre amount they could earn from the labouring in fields.

Partly in response to this, the Palam Rural Centre, (an initiative set up by a committed group of individuals) came into being and began to train leather workers in the art of soap making. Initially it began as a venture alongside the leather industry for both men and women. But then in the mid-1990s the leather industry went into another decline and it was agreed that only one person in each family – usually the man – could be employed.

Expansion in recent years has now meant women are back in the majority. Twenty-seven women and seven men are now employed. This was made possible because development funding from NZAID channeled through Trade Aid (\$9633 in the past three years) has helped enable new products to be developed and increase the skill level of the workers.

But even more importantly, the Palam Centre has made extraordinary changes to the literacy levels of the families involved.



Children at Palam now look forward to career opportunities that in the past would have been impossible.

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## CASE STUDIES Turning soap-making into an export industry

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Cucumber soap: Soaps have proved popular amongst international customers.

Adult classes have meant that everyone can now at least sign their name and write a few words in Tamil. Education for the children of Palam was made compulsory and paid for by the centre. The spin-off from this is that many of those children have career opportunities that would have been impossible in the past. In total there are 12 nurses, six teachers, seven accountants, eight medical assistants and six office assistants employed outside the centre. On top of this, 48 girls and 32 boys are currently studying at different levels.

Clearly the benefits that the centre has passed to its workers will continue to benefit the next generation.

The changes have also altered the social status of women and particularly their total lack of participation in decision-making. Even the custom of dowry, where the bride's family must pay the groom for the privilege of marrying their daughter has been overturned. Now the bridegroom must pay the bride's family as compensation for the expenses involved in educating a daughter, the cost of the wedding ceremony, and the loss of an asset when she goes to live with her husband's family.

As for the soaps, international customers have been impressed with a new range including gift boxes and guest soaps. A new range of shampoo and liquid soap is currently being developed. All this has meant that export orders have increased by 50 percent – an optimistic outlook for the future of the centre and for the workers and their children.

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## Aid's human dimension

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**Successful aid is measured not just by statistics on poverty, but by how well people connect. For VSA volunteers, interaction is a critical aspect of our country's contribution to the Millennium Development Goals. But it's one that can't be measured in facts and numbers .**

The success of international aid is usually measured by such things as maternal and infant mortality, literacy, and the number of people living on less than a dollar a day. These measurements are especially significant now as the collective efforts of countries and aid donors internationally gain momentum to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. The MDGs are eight key goals, which include halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education. New Zealand is one of the countries that has made a commitment to meet the goals.

CEO for New Zealand international development agency Volunteer Service Abroad (VSA), Deborah Snelson, thinks of the MDGs as beacons to work towards. "Behind these targets, there is a lot of work needed to shore up the foundations," she says. "Attending primary school and having books in every classroom is laudable, but in places like Africa, many of those children might come from orphanages without the support that makes them achieve in school. It's important not just to have 100 children in school, but that they're performing well in school. Success lies in the detail."

The importance of behind-the-scene activities that help lead to successful outcomes is not easy to calculate or measure. In fact, says Snelson, a lot relies upon a simple belief in this supplementary work, gleaned from experiences in one's own life. As well, it's important to invest in whatever makes communities safe, in the broadest sense of the word. From that basis, communities are in shape to meet the targets of the Goals more fully. No one would deny this is good aid, but it is never going to show up in statistics.

The work of Wellingtonian Alan Reader is one example of this. A civil engineer in his early 60s, Alan and his wife Joan have just returned from nearly four years in Bhutan. The country's traditional buildings with their carved and painted eaves, backdropped by the snow-capped Himalayas, have helped earn Bhutan a place as one of the Holiday Shoppe's picks in their Top 10 Destinations for 2007. However, these picturesque buildings



Alan Reader, a civil engineer, used Civil Defence experts he knew in New Zealand to help coordinate a Disaster Management Plan in Bhutan.

are not designed to withstand major earthquakes and, should one strike – not an implausible scenario – death tolls are likely to be high. In particular many taller buildings, constructed in the sixties and seventies before earthquake standards were introduced, are now known to be at risk of collapse if a significant earthquake were to happen.

Officially, Reader was sent to Bhutan by VSA to work with Phuentsholing City Corporation to improve building standards in this small town on the Indian border in the country's south. As the only chillips (foreigners) in a town of around 20,000 people, the Readers found themselves constantly being asked to 'help' – to volunteer their time after-hours, on top of their 'official' volunteer assignment during the day. One such request was to help the town develop a civil defence strategy, including what to do in the event of an earthquake or flood.

Reader contacted Civil Defence experts he knew in New Zealand, equipping himself with the very latest information on dealing with disasters. He shared this information with

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a committee of townsfolk, and Phuentsholing now has a coordinated Disaster Management Plan. Workshops involving the principals and head teachers from all the local schools have led to each school preparing its own disaster management plan. Emergency drills are now regularly conducted involving all the teachers and pupils, disaster management is being introduced to the curriculum, and clubs have been formed in some schools. It is hard to dispute that this contribution is 'good' aid – particularly as it comes on top of introductions he helped initiate in his formal role to strengthen building structures.

Another New Zealander, Lesley Young, reflects on her two year-long assignment in Africa, and can see that while her work there won't be represented by improved MDG statistics, she has contributed to every one of the Goals.

Young, also working through VSA and a nurse and counsellor by background, was helping improve systems and conditions at the Daily Bread Children's Home outside of East London, South Africa. Eighty-two children aged between seven and 18 live at Daily Bread. They stay on-site in simple cottages, with about 20 children and two caregivers to a house. A quiet observer, Young detected a feeling of detachedness amongst the children at the orphanage. While they were provided food, education and a roof over their heads, her impression was that many of the children wanted more – a home. She suggested to the caregivers that they operate more as families, with set meal times, tablecloths on the tables, and the caregivers sit with the children to eat.

Young also noted the way bread, delivered free from a supermarket in town each day, was distributed to children. The vehicle would pull up, and there would be a wild clamber of hungry hands, grabbing the food which was passed out from the van's rear. At Young's suggestion, caregivers now collect the bread and prepare a small snack of bread and jam or peanut butter with a drink. The children go home to their cottages at lunchtime to eat together. "The child who is sitting in class feeling someone's at home preparing something for them has a different self perception to someone scavenging food from the back of a van," says Young. She has also worked to introduce play into the Home, encouraging interaction between caregivers and children.



Lesley Young spent two years working at a Children's Home in East London, South Africa.

Such small changes have the potential to significantly affect how the children feel about themselves and how they shape their lives – and ultimately the lives of others in their community and their own future families. These kinds of aid impacts are particularly difficult to quantify, but the likely flow-on is a reduction in unemployment, household violence, and crime, stemming from an improved feeling of self-worth. This surely earns it a reputation as 'good aid'.

Neither is aid a one-way street. Aid relationships also benefit New Zealand. In a recent speech to development professionals at Otago, Minister of Pacific Island Affairs and Associate Minister of Trade, Luamanuvao Winnie Laban, said that New Zealanders engaged in development "are ambassadors for our nation, for our Kiwi values, and for Kiwi culture. New Zealanders have been very successful in development work because of the Kiwi values of humility and respect for others, our 'can do' approach, and our ability to listen to people and work with them to find ways to solve problems together through partnership, participation, localisation, empowerment, and sustainability," she said.

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CASE STUDIES **Aid's human dimension**

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New Zealanders like to hear such things about themselves. And experience suggests it is more than rhetoric. Ask Victoria University lecturer Kabini Sanga this opinion of the Minister's sentiments, and he will tell you a story. The story is about Wane, who grew up, like Sanga, in the Solomon Islands. Wane went to the village school, where he was taught by a VSA teacher from New Zealand, learning all about sheep and Rotorua's mudpools – but he also learnt to read and write well. His good teaching and studiousness earned him a place at high school, leading to teacher's college and an aid-funded scholarship to complete his studies in Australia. As a teacher back in the Solomon Islands, Wane taught his students using textbooks funded by Japan. Moving on up the ranks, Wane got a job in the Ministry of Education, and was sent to conferences in many countries around the world – all aid funded. In his fifties, he became a senior advisor in the education department, helping decide where donors' aid money would be spent. This involved working with European-funded consultants, who provided advice on the curriculum. In his sixties, Wane retired. And as he thought back over all his years and his association with aid, there was only one thing that really stuck in his mind. That was the VSA teacher: the person who went fishing with his family, ate with him, enjoyed his friendship. "Good aid is about real rather than remote controlled friendship," says Sanga. He uses the term 'Allophilia' – the regard/love/aroha one (or a group) has for another's help or assistance.

Indirectly, it is 'allophilia' – remembered connections and the feelings of fondness that stirs – that makes many Solomon Islanders differentiate Kiwis from other expatriates in the Solomon Islands. The positive regard stems from the nature of the original connection, which is – generally speaking – not a case of "we have the knowledge and we're going to help you", but "let's work together to see what we can do". Ultimately, working together is the best way of achieving sustainable development.

This article tells just three volunteer stories, but in any year around 150 Kiwi volunteers are doing this sort of work around the world. Magnify these types of successes by the number of volunteers over VSA's 45-year history, and you can quickly realise the difference New Zealanders have made in the world – and to the MDGs. And that's a contribution we should celebrate.

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## Aid works in Zambia

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**World Vision has completed a programme which has improved the lives of 400 families in Zambia. In order to provide a sustainable, long term income, the Siachitema Livestock Restocking Project provided families with dairy cows.**

Rearing livestock is a major part of agricultural activities in Siachitema, Kalomo District, southern Zambia. Livestock are a source of income and food, transport, ploughing, skins, manure and financial security (animals are viewed as an asset). However, livestock numbers have steadily declined for more than a decade because of the spread of corridor disease, poor veterinary and agricultural extension services and a lack of medicines and appropriate knowledge.

Siachitema Livestock Restocking Project, jointly funded by World Vision and the New Zealand Government, improved the incomes of 400 farming families in the local area. It set up a sustainable breeding programme for an improved breed of cattle, established a basic veterinary service, revolving animal medicine fund and a local marketing system for cattle, and trained livestock keepers in pasture use and animal husbandry and disease reduction initiatives.

This project was evaluated by World Vision in July 2006 and by New Zealand Government consultants in November 2006.

The World Vision evaluation involved an in-depth assessment with project beneficiaries. In terms of livelihoods, the evaluation says that provision of livestock to vulnerable households has led to improvement in their lifestyles as they now are in possession of productive/prestigious assets, get income from sale of milk and are now able to cultivate larger fields and use manure from their animals to fertilise their fields.

The project established a number of systems to ensure the improvements in livelihoods are sustainable. A cattle marketing system provides information on market prices and helps farmers access buyers for their cattle. Cattle record books and trained community livestock auxiliaries keep accurate records of dipping, disease and breeding patterns, to ensure quality, a livestock cooperative established through the project is continuing project activities in the long-term. Veterinary care is now locally available, as are medicines. Improved variety of pasture and local water points help the cattle to keep in



Accurate records and marketing systems help farmers access buyers for cattle and helps ensure quality control.

good condition. These initiatives are available for all cattle in the region, not just the project cattle, thereby reducing the incidence and spread of disease.

Siachitema Livestock Restocking Project also worked with local leaders to improve the status of women and ensure their right to own livestock is protected. Copies of livestock ownership papers are kept with project beneficiaries, community leaders and the local police station.

The project was match-funded by the New Zealand Government through its KOHA-PICD. It began in April 2003 and finished in March 2007. The total cost of the project was NZ\$0.5m, 2/3 of which was provided by the New Zealand Government.

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## CASE STUDIES Aid works in Zambia

### Yolanta's story

Before the Siachitema Livestock Restocking Project, Yolanta, a 48-year-old widow with five children, struggled to provide for her family.

In the 1980s, raising cattle in the newly opened area of Siachitema was too good an opportunity to pass up. So, Yolanta's husband gave up his secure tailoring job and moved his family from Livingstone to rural Siachitema.

Farming prospects were worthwhile until the early 1990s when outbreaks of corridor disease took the family's herd of cattle. This, in turn, affected food production because animals are used for land cultivation. As if this was not enough, the area experienced drought in 1992/93 and 1996/97. The dreams of Yolanta's family were swept away when their ploughs were stolen.

In 1999, Yolanta's husband passed away. "Life was easy when my husband was alive, but now I have to look for food, clothing and pay for school and medical fees for the family. Life has been hard for me since my husband died," she says.

Like many widows in Zambia, Yolanta experienced what is commonly referred to as 'property grabbing' following the death of her husband. Zambian women have no property ownership rights, so relatives of the deceased literally grab the deceased's property and leave the widow with nothing.

With little left of her home and few options to earn an income, Yolanta struggled, doing everything in her power to provide for her family.

In 2003, Yolanta was one of the first to receive a heifer through the Siachitema Livestock Restocking Project. In preparation, she was trained in animal husbandry and dairying. The project provided her with a book to record dips, vaccinations and calves, and Yolanta built a secure shed to make sure her cow wouldn't be stolen.

When the cow arrived, Yolanta was thrilled: "I could not believe I would receive a heifer until I saw it with my own eyes! This cow is a constant reminder that there is hope for my family



Yolanta, a widow with five children, was one of the first to receive a heifer through the Siachitema Livestock Restocking Project.

because there are people who care for us. I make sure it is well looked after and regularly take it for dipping at the dip tank which was rehabilitated by World Vision," she says.

During the past two years, Yolanta's cow has born two calves; she kept one and passed the other back to the project for allocation to another family. Yolanta milks her cows every second day, using some milk for her family and selling the rest. "I am so grateful to World Vision that my children now drink fresh milk – they had not tasted milk in a long time!" Yolanta says.

Brent Morgan, Director of Programmes for World Vision New Zealand, visited the project in November 2006. He said: "This project has made a huge difference for Yolanta and her family; they now have milk to drink, a nutritional addition to their meals; they can sell milk, giving them some income to spend on necessities, and the animal power from the two cows helps them to work their fields while the manure improves crop growth. I was really impressed with what I saw!"

<http://www.worldvision.org.nz>

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## FURTHER INFORMATION

### New Zealand's international obligations

New Zealand gives aid as part of its international obligations and to play a role as a respected and responsible country internationally.

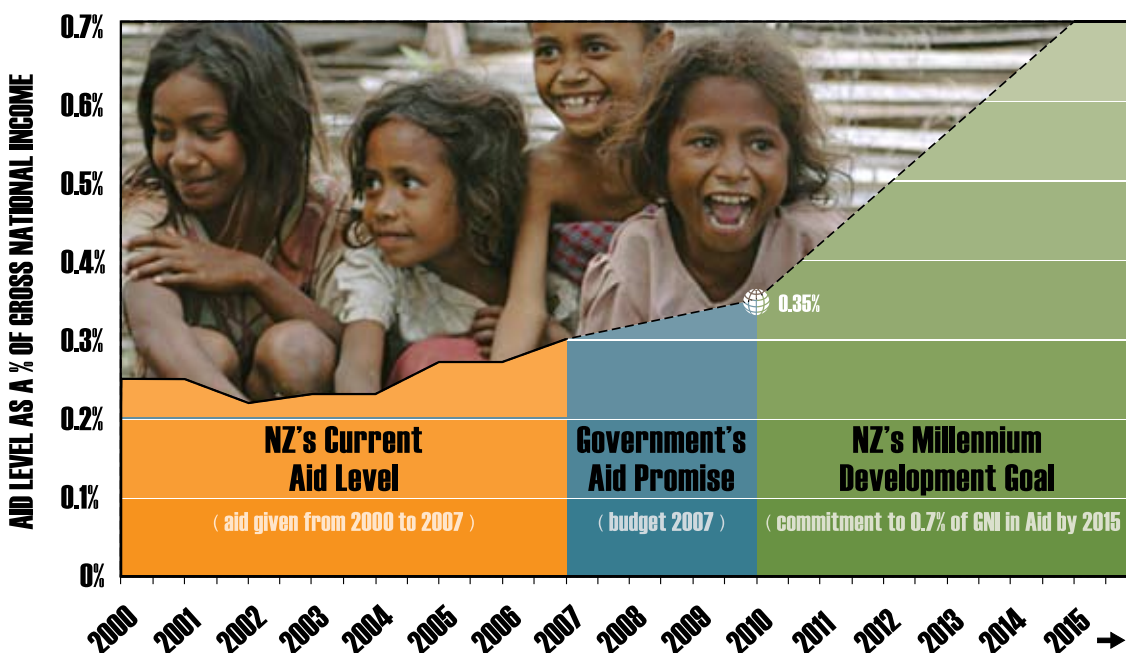
In 2000 New Zealand was one of 189 countries that signed the United Nations Millennium Development Goals – a series of new millennium targets that aim to significantly reduce extreme poverty by 2015.

Specifically the eight goals are:

1. To eradicate extreme poverty and halve the proportion of people living on US\$1 a day
2. To provide universal primary education
3. To ensure women's equal rights and opportunities
4. To reduce infant mortality by two-thirds
5. To reduce maternal mortality by three-quarters
6. To halt the spread of HIV/AIDS and other diseases
7. To ensure environmental sustainability
8. To establish a global partnership for development.

In order to achieve these goals it was agreed that developed countries would need to give 0.7 percent of the Gross National Incomes in aid by 2015.

#### How close are we to the target?



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FURTHER INFORMATION **New Zealand's international obligations**

## Where does New Zealand's aid, through NGOs go?

New Zealand NGOs spent about \$100 million, spread throughout many parts of the world, on overseas development in 2006. About \$43 million was from NZAID subsidies.

The following table shows the distribution to different countries and regions (of money that was distributed through the NGO sector).

2006 Financial Year

COUNTRY	FUNDS DISBURSED	COUNTRY	FUNDS DISBURSED
India	\$ 9,001,207.03	Angola	\$ 343,834.00
Papua New Guinea	\$ 7,455,078.82	Middle East – Regional	\$ 291,039.00
Tanzania	\$ 6,384,545.72	China	\$ 267,134.58
Bangladesh	\$ 5,295,001.01	Mozambique	\$ 238,042.30
Indonesia	\$ 4,992,943.70	Ecuador	\$ 236,367.83
Kenya	\$ 4,189,819.81	Haiti	\$ 224,184.27
Cambodia	\$ 4,113,885.74	Samoa	\$ 199,616.00
Uganda	\$ 4,003,948.82	Peru	\$ 191,370.45
Malawi	\$ 3,527,290.00	Iraq	\$ 185,443.69
Zambia	\$ 2,268,886.00	Dominican Republic	\$ 184,892.98
Pakistan	\$ 2,266,099.00	Colombia	\$ 184,323.09
Sudan (North)	\$ 2,184,573.00	Somalia	\$ 172,263.00
Pacific ñ Regional	\$ 2,139,059.00	Palestine	\$ 154,205.97
Timor-Leste	\$ 2,001,651.02	Cook Islands	\$ 153,728.00
Honduras	\$ 1,727,277.85	Gambia	\$ 150,172.00
Mali	\$ 1,624,283.00	Bhutan	\$ 139,140.00
Nicaragua	\$ 1,622,619.46	Fed States Micronesia	\$ 136,000.00
Philippines	\$ 1,560,657.27	Liberia	\$ 123,750.00
Solomon Islands	\$ 1,542,567.00	Mauritania	\$ 108,850.00
Ethiopia	\$ 1,385,821.78	Lebanon	\$ 104,569.00
Sudan	\$ 1,370,029.91	North Asia ñ Regional	\$ 103,048.00
Afghanistan	\$ 1,217,654.00	Kyrgyzstan	\$ 84,000.00
Vanuatu	\$ 1,052,694.00	Senegal	\$ 83,074.00
Sudan (South)	\$ 1,011,251.00	Tokelau	\$ 68,150.00
Fiji	\$ 956,775.88	Marshall Islands	\$ 67,998.00
Niger	\$ 954,814.00	Costa Rica	\$ 66,711.00
Nepal	\$ 945,976.10	Burkina Faso	\$ 50,794.04
Southeast Asia ñ Regional	\$ 943,393.00	Chile	\$ 41,928.00
Bougainville	\$ 899,824.00	Madagascar	\$ 39,706.00
Mongolia	\$ 873,661.00	Kiribati	\$ 34,049.00
Burma	\$ 864,334.00	El Salvador	\$ 33,206.46
Sri Lanka	\$ 841,849.00	Niue	\$ 26,181.00
Brazil	\$ 816,043.61	Palau	\$ 20,000.00
Thailand	\$ 814,317.05	North Korea	\$ 18,189.00
Rwanda	\$ 794,149.70	Cuba	\$ 14,256.00
South Asia ñ Regional	\$ 665,762.00	Paraguay	\$ 13,394.00
Vietnam	\$ 637,671.00	Nigeria	\$ 12,647.00
Laos	\$ 632,071.00	Congo	\$ 11,194.00
Guatemala	\$ 622,433.27	Americas ñ Regional	\$ 10,451.00
Zimbabwe	\$ 603,932.00	New Caledonia/Kanaky	\$ 5,500.00
South Africa	\$ 545,919.00	Tuvalu	\$ 4,000.00
Bolivia	\$ 532,397.42	USA	\$ 3,503.00
Ghana	\$ 498,061.47	Sierra Leone	\$ 2,876.00
Tonga	\$ 411,617.00	DR Congo	\$ 1,000.00
Africa ñ Regional	\$ 408,317.00	Unspecified	\$ 3,232,377.00
Mexico	\$ 390,032.86		
		<b>TOTAL \$</b>	<b>97,429,353.96</b>

# Aid works

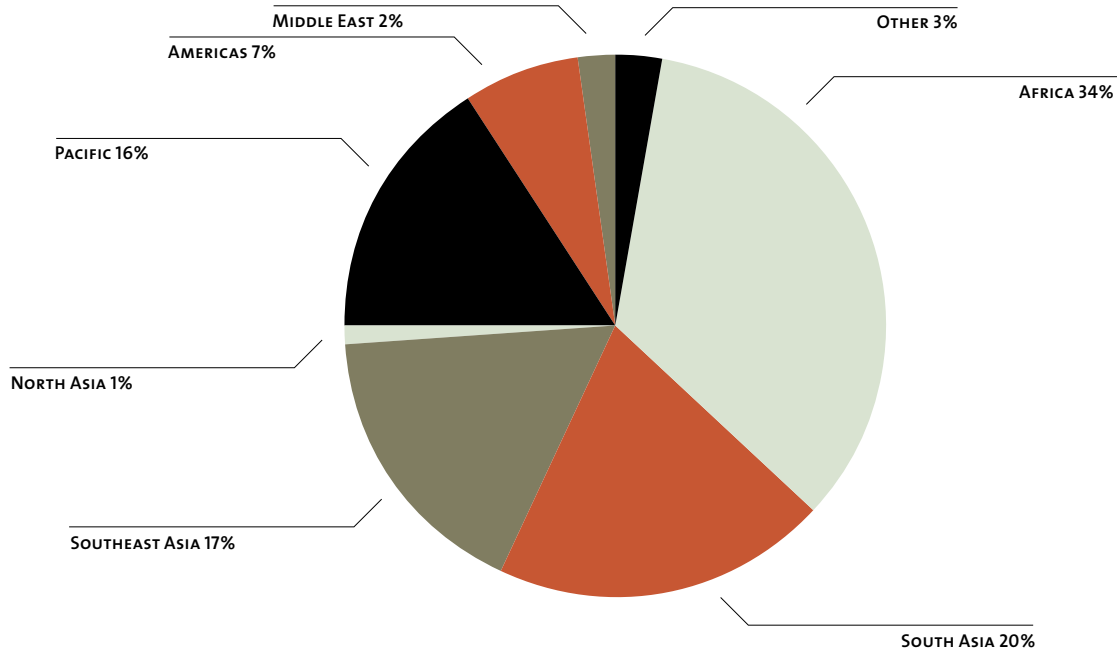
Why New Zealand aid is effective – stories from an NGO perspective

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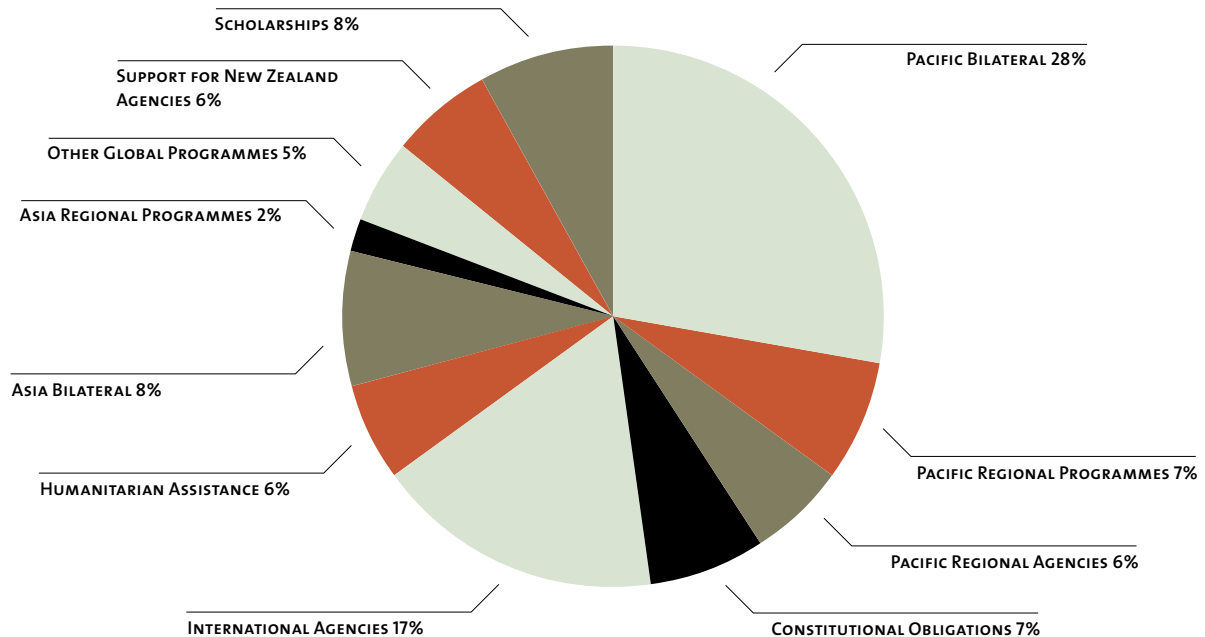


FURTHER INFORMATION **New Zealand's international obligations**

## The percentage breakdown of aid distribution by NGOs: funds distributed by region 2006



## The percentage breakdown of the NZ distribution of ODA, 2006–07



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# Aid works

Why New Zealand aid is effective – stories from an NGO perspective

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FURTHER INFORMATION **New Zealand's international obligations**

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## What do New Zealanders think of giving aid to poor countries?

Most New Zealanders, according to recent surveys believe that New Zealand should give aid to poorer countries.

The latest survey, conducted in 2007, indicated that 76 percent of New Zealanders approve of New Zealand giving international aid and more than half of New Zealanders believed that New Zealand has a responsibility to provide what help it can to people who are living in poverty overseas.

Recently the Government announced an increase in its level of aid - to 0.3 percent of GNI in aid in 2007/08. This means that the Government is giving \$429million this year. It also promised to increase aid to 0.35 percent of GNI by 2010. That will get us half way to the internationally-agreed goal of giving 0.7 percent in aid by 2015.

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# Aid works

Why New Zealand aid is effective – stories from an NGO perspective

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## Useful websites

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<http://www.pointseven.org.nz>

<http://www.cid.org.nz>

<http://www.nzaid.govt.nz>

<http://www.oecd.org/countrylist/>

<http://www.realityofaid.org/>

<http://hdrstats.undp.org/indicators/>

<http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/>

<http://www.socialwatch.org/en/portada.htm>

[http://www.ipsnews.net/new\\_focus/devdeadline/](http://www.ipsnews.net/new_focus/devdeadline/)

# CiD

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