

# Helping the Humanitarian and Private Sectors Understand Each Other

A Guide to the Pacific NGO Ecosystem



# Overview

It is important to understand that NGOs typically work within two different spaces: development or humanitarian aid. While these are both distinct areas of work with separate skills and expertise, a number of staff or agencies can work across both areas but may have specialities in one or the other. It is also worth noting that both are needed for the delivery of aid – for example, humanitarian response is not effective if it does not align with overarching development plans. Humanitarian work is like the ambulance service and development work is like the hospital. You can't have one without the other. Left outlines the scopes for these two areas of work.

In order to understand the humanitarian and development sector throughout the Pacific, it is vital to understand the overarching international, regional and national documents, standards and key players, which guide all humanitarian, and international development works.

## **Humanitarian Aid**

- Short term
- Delivered in international disaster zones
- Focus on saving lives and minimising impacts

## **Development Assistance**

- Long term goals
- Delivered in developing countries
- Responding to systematic problems
- Focused on economic, social and political development

## International Political Framework and Influences

Over the past 20 years, the global aid sector has moved away from the donor – recipient, transactional relationship to partnerships. This movement can generally be described as **localisation** and is one of the largest overarching principles across the global humanitarian and development sector. Localisation involves devolving implementation to local partners, and therefore guides the overall design of a development or humanitarian programme.

**The Grand Bargain** is an agreement between some of the largest donors and aid providers, which aims to get more funds and decision-making directly into the hands of people in need. The Grand Bargain also drives localisation, as it requires 25% of donor funding to be channelled directly to local partners by 2020.

The humanitarian and development sector has played a major role in pushing and implementing the **Sustainable Development Goals**. Linked to the localisation principle is SDG #17 Partnerships for the Goals (between charities, governments and the private sector for example) which links to harmonisation and alignment under the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, which was launched in 2005 to meet targets in 2010.

The **Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness** was a practical, action-oriented roadmap to improve the quality of aid and its impact on development (with greater alignment and harmonisation between development actors, and a focus on results). It provided the basis for a number of the other frameworks and the current **Global Partnership for Effective Development**. The Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation is a multi-stakeholder platform to advance the effectiveness of development efforts by all actors, to deliver results that are long lasting and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

# International

## International Political Framework and Influences

The **Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS)** on Quality and Accountability is a voluntary code that describes the essential elements of principled, accountable and quality humanitarian action. The CHS sets out nine Commitments to which humanitarian actors can adhere to improve the quality of the assistance they provide. The CHS focuses on building resilience prior to a disaster event through building local partnerships and relationships without undercutting local communities. Through these partnerships, agencies/companies etc. then become instinctively involved in disaster response through understanding the local context and having trust with local communities.

**International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI)** is a global initiative that aims to improve the transparency of development and humanitarian resources and programmes to address poverty and crises across the globe. IATI brings together governments, multilateral institutions, civil society organisations and others to increase the transparency of resource flows. In 2016, Agenda for Humanity held the World Humanitarian Summit **Humanitarian Core Commitments**. These included:

- Political leadership to prevent and end conflicts
- Update the norms that safeguard humanity
- Leaving no one behind – a commitment to address forced displacement
- Women and girls: catalysing action to achieve gender equality
- Changing people's lives – from delivering aid to ending need
- Natural disasters and climate change: managing risks and crises differently, and
- Humanitarian financing – investing in humanity



# International

## International Relevant Players

### Multilateral Organisations

A multilateral organisation is an international organisation whose membership is made up of member governments, who collectively govern the organisation and are its primary source of funds. The United Nations (UN) Organisations make up many of the Multilateral Organisations for development and humanitarian assistance. There is also the World Bank, the Asia Development Bank, ASEAN and others active in the Pacific and South East Asia regions. The UN has six principle organisations; the General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council, Secretariat, and the International Court of Justice. These six principle organisations then oversee ~80 organisations, agencies, departments, offices, commissions, funds, programmes and other bodies that make up the United Nations System. Most active in the Pacific, is the World Food Programme, UNICEF, International Organisation for Migration, and more.

### Multilateral and Government Donor Agencies

Humanitarian aid and development assistance is mostly carried out through grants or funding provided by governments or multilateral donor agencies (as well as public donations to NGOs and aid charities). As explained above, governments donate funds to multilateral donor organisations who then design and implement development or humanitarian aid activities. Multilaterals on the whole fund local civil society groups in developing countries directly. Governments provide large amounts of funding through their aid budgets. For example the EU, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), USAID, Chinese government, South Korea and others as well as through the New Zealand Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and Australia's Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) who also provide financial/donor assistance.

# International

## **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network through its global organisation and local implementing Red Cross offices. Red Cross sits as an observer typically outside of the general NGO sector because of its global mandate to protect its impartiality, as opposed to a number of NGOs, which have religious affiliations or advocacy mandates as mentioned above. This impartiality gives them a unique position to work more broadly across the humanitarian and development area and often then have access to different funding and activities. However, although they sit slightly outside of the general network, they may still work in partnership with other NGOs to carry out such activities. They are active observers on CID's Humanitarian Network (a full list of CIDs humanitarian network members can be found at the Council for International Development at [cid.org.nz](http://cid.org.nz)).

# Regional

## Regional Political Framework and Influences

In the humanitarian and development space the Pacific, Australia and New Zealand strive to act as one cohesive region. Work is carried out closely between Australia, New Zealand and Pacific NGOs as well as government-to-government alignment. This is also true for the private or for profit sector as businesses will often have a presence across both New Zealand and Australia. Whilst climate change is the biggest issue we face globally, and frames the majority of the humanitarian and development work throughout the Pacific, the biggest priority (according to recent UN polling) remains health, education and jobs, although seen through the lens of climate change and its negative impact on these. The ***Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development*** guides regional responses for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the ***Sustainable Development Goals*** within the context of national plans and priorities, the ***SAMOA Pathway*** and the ***Framework for Pacific Regionalism***. The roadmap builds on the leadership demonstrated by the Pacific in shaping the global agenda and reaffirms the need for national ownership backed by regional and international cooperation. The destination is a region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion, and prosperity so that all Pacific people can lead free, healthy, and productive lives.

## Relevant Regional Players

### Intergovernmental Organisations

There are a number of government-to-government organisations, which help to drive sustainable development throughout the Pacific. The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) is the principal scientific, technical and development organisation owned and governed by 26 country and territory members. The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat is the region's premier political and economic policy organisation. The Pacific Islands Forum works to achieve this by fostering cooperation between governments, collaboration with international agencies, and by representing the interests of its members. This encouragement for partnership and cooperation aligns with the political frameworks and influences described above for sustainable development and humanitarian aid.

# Regional

## Non-Government Organisations – Regional and International

Non-Government organisations within NZ ranging from small community-based organisations to large international NGOs (INGOs) with head offices based internationally (e.g. World Vision, OXFAM). These range from advocacy groups to organisations who are affiliated with religious groups - some examples are outlined below (a full list can be found at the Council for International Development at [cid.org.nz](http://cid.org.nz))

### INGO

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency

Caritas Aotearoa

Tearfund and Banzaid

World Vision

LDS

### INGO Religious Affiliation

Seventh-day Adventist church

Catholic

Baptist

Anglican

Latter Day saints

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# National

## Political Framework and Influences

The New Zealand Aid Programme through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) delivers New Zealand's official support for developing countries, with a particular focus on the Pacific Islands region. 2018 saw the reprioritisation of the MFAT Strategic Intentions, which introduced the government's *Pacific Reset* to drive localisation and genuine partnerships with Pacific countries, and increase its efforts to help improve the economic and social well-being of Pacific island countries.

The *CID Code of conduct* is a voluntary, self-regulatory sector code of good practice that aims to improve international development outcomes and increase stakeholder trust by enhancing the transparency and accountability of signatory organisations. It serves both as a guide to good practice and as a risk management document, like a 'Master Builders' tick.

## Relevant National Players

### Umbrella Organisations

Australia, New Zealand and the wider Pacific all have umbrella organisations for international development. Organisations based in their respective areas are: the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID), the Council for International Development (CID) and Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental organisations (PIANGO). PIANGO is the regional network of national umbrella NGOs and National Liaison units across 24 Pacific Island Countries and territories. It therefore has a slightly different structure to the Australian ACFID and New Zealand CID.

The umbrella organisations represent a focal point for understanding the current state of their local NGOs. Their purpose is to support, promote, lead and unite their members and partners to increase development impact, and demonstrate their value to international development. They also work closely together and support each other to have a common approach to frameworks like localisation. CID also coordinates its humanitarian members in an emergency response, through its Humanitarian Network, and liaises on behalf of them with MFAT and the NZ government. Within NZ, CID represents more than 45 members (a full list of CIDs humanitarian network members can be found at the Council for International Development at [cid.org.nz](http://cid.org.nz)).

# National

## **Government Departments**

Approximately 33 Government Departments are currently working throughout the Pacific to support development and humanitarian work. Some examples of this are the Ministry of Health, District Health Boards, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency management, New Zealand Defence Force, Police, Corrections and Crown Research Institutes (GNS and NIWA).

## **Local Implementing Partners**

International and regional NGOs, as well as multilaterals like United Nations agencies, will typically also have local implementing partners, or local branches operated by local people (e.g. Oxfam or Save the Children in Suva). These local implementing partners may carry out global or regional initiatives funded by the larger NGO office, or directly by governments or multilaterals. They may work on separate local activities, and sometimes several NGOs will work with the same local partner.

## **Community Groups and social enterprises**

Community groups are typically organisations, which do not call themselves NGOs, or charities, such as gender or housing focused organisations. They can often be social enterprise type organisations driven by a mission or purpose rather than profit. Community groups can carry out development or humanitarian works in partnerships with larger or regional NGOs or government departments. Religious groups may also work outside of NGO partnerships as community organisations or groups. The term Non-Government-Organisation is not as widely used in the Pacific as it is in NZ.

# The Pacific NGO and Humanitarian Ecosystem

