

NEW ZEALAND

1. Measures to accelerate progress towards the MDGs by 2015

New Zealand remains strongly committed to supporting Pacific Island countries' achievement of the MDGs. The Pacific is the region second least likely to achieve the MDGs. New Zealand is increasing the size of its aid programme and channelling more aid into the Pacific.

The New Zealand Aid Programme has a core focus on sustainable economic development, which underpins the achievement of all the MDGs. In accordance with developing countries' priorities, support has been increasing in areas such as agriculture and fisheries, transport, energy and strengthening resilience to natural and environmental vulnerabilities. Improving education and health outcomes also remain an important priority.

New Zealand strongly supports the Cairns Compact on Strengthening Development Coordination, adopted by Pacific Forum Leaders in 2009. The Compact is helping strengthen the coordination of available resources to achieve real progress against the MDGs.

2. Changes in development policy, and what drives them

The New Zealand Agency for International Development (NZAID) has been reintegrated into the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in order to improve coherence between development cooperation and foreign policy.

Ongoing changes involve greater attention to measuring outcomes and effectiveness as well as to the value for money, accountability and quality assurance dimensions of the aid programme.

3. Measures to increase the predictability of aid

New Zealand has an excellent record in providing forward information on aid allocations for partner countries. New Zealand has multi-year appropriations for its bilateral programmes and publishes rolling three-year financial allocations. These increase certainty around aid allocations and greatly reduce pressure to spend funds towards the end of each financial year. Allocations are communicated in writing to partner countries as soon as they are definite.