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

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



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

Build Human Rights Capabilities:

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

Improve Implementation of Human Rights:

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

Advance Realisation of Human Rights:

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

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



Operating Principles

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

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

Strategic Focus Areas 2021 – 2025

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



Capacity and Capabilities
Supporting Duty Bearers



People and Groups
Empowering Rights Holders



Communities in Crises
Integrating HRBA in crises responses



Quality Delivery

Mainstreaming Human Rights

Strategic Alignment

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



Aotearoa New Zealand's Investment in Human Rights

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

Strategic Context

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

Globally: Ensuring inclusive development and equitable progress towards the Sustainable

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

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

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

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

Aotearoa New Zealand's Human Rights Strategic Action Plan for International Development Cooperation 2021-2025 Strategic Priorities, Outcomes, and Activity Areas





Capacity and Capability

Duty Bearers are supported to strengthen governance, institutions, and mechanisms, to improve human rights monitoring and implementation.

- Building capacity to deliver on human rights commitments including incorporation of human rights standards into laws and policies, participation in the international rules-based system, ratification of core human rights treaties, and reporting on progress.
- Supporting multilateral and regional institutions to strengthen human rights protection and promotion, deliver human rights programming, including capacity and institution building, monitoring, technical assistance for implementation of human rights realisation, and for coordination on human rights priorities.
- Supporting the establishment of NHRIs and NMIRFs (National Human Rights Institutions and National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-Up) in Pacific Countries.
- Supporting initiatives to monitor and measure progress towards the realisation of human rights through collection, analysis and sharing of data.

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People and Groups

Rights Holders are empowered through inclusive development, particularly prioritising persons with disabilities, people of diverse SOGIESC, indigenous peoples, women, children and youth, enabling them to fully participate in their communities and live in dignity.

- Prioritising 'Leave No One Behind' throughout all development activities, policies, and programmes.
- Targeting programming of specific activities designed to promote equality and inclusion for people of diverse SOGIESC, persons with disabilities, and indigenous peoples.
- Supporting civil society and community-led organisations and activities to advance human rights, reduce stigma and discrimination, protect democratic rights, facilitate access too services, and enhance well-being and prosperity of priority populations.
- Facilitating enhanced voice and visibility of priority populations in decision-making locally, regionally, and internationally: 'Nothing for us, without us'.

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Communities in Crises

HRBA is integrated in crises responses Including in programming around COVID-19, Climate Change, Humanitarian emergencies, Conflict and post/preventative-conflict situations.

- Prioritising sustainable programming to support resilience, enhancing communities' ability to progress realisation of human rights.
- Protecting human rights in times of crisis including judicious use of emergency measures in line with human rights standards.
- Integrating inclusion in our risk reduction plans, preparedness strategies, and crises responses to protect against adverse impacts for people and groups at risk of being left behind, and where appropriate, to target programming for priority populations and people and groups most in need
- Supporting availability, accessibility, affordability, adaptability, and quality of services during and post crises.



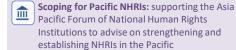
Quality Delivery

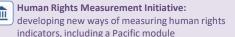
Human Rights are mainstreamed throughout policy and programming, to ensure realisation of human rights commitments and enhance effective, sustained, resilient, and inclusive development.

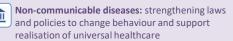
- Developing tools to integrate the HRBA in policy, processes, and programming, by MFAT and implementing partners.
- Building capacity around programming for rights realisation to direct and target our aid programming, ensuring our aid addresses the underlying determinants of well-being.
- Ensuring systems and processes uphold human rights at all stages of the programming cycle.
- Applying 'Do No Harm' safeguarding to protect against adverse impacts.
- Monitoring progress of Aotearoa New Zealand's investments in human rights.
- Advocating internationally for human rights priorities in development policy.

Apply the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA)

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





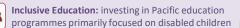






Pacific Sexual and Gender Diversity Network: investing in this regional network of SOGIESC organisations working on awareness raising and legal protection for rainbow communities









Disability-inclusive humanitarian responses:

partnership with CBM NZ for capacity building in Cook Islands, Samoa, and Tonga, for inclusion of disability organisations in humanitarian clusters



Emergency COVID Response Support for Disabled People: in Fiji, through NGO partners PDF, supplying food rations, water, and PPE to disabled people, and ensuring emergency information in accessible formats

Key Partners:

Bilateral partner governments and communities, other donor governments

X CROP agencies including SPC

UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and other multilateral agencies

NGOs in Aotearoa New Zealand and key regional civil society organisations, and other organisations representing people at risk

NHRIs, the Asia Pacific Forum for National Human Rights Institutions, New Zealand Human Rights Commission

X Pacific diaspora, private sector, academia