

# NewZAID

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*NewZAID* updates you in brief on key issues and events on the NZAID programme agenda. Please click on the useful links included in this new sletter to explore issues in greater depth.

### New Zealand provides aid for the people of Haiti

A massive global humanitarian effort is underway in Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas in Haiti following the disastrous 12 January earthquake that has left over 100,000 people dead, an estimated 1 million people homeless and affected approximately 3 million people in the impoverished Caribbean nation.



A man walks through the ruins of downtown Port-au-Prince, left ravaged by Haiti's earthquake. UN Photo - Marco Dormino

A United Nations (UN) update on the international relief effort supported by the New Zealand Government's international aid and development programme (NZAID) shows the coordination of humanitarian help in Haiti is improving every day. Major challenges remain because the earthquake happened in a poor, densely populated urban centre, with inadequate building construction standards. The earthquake has had a severe impact on infrastructure in the area. Emergency and humanitarian workers have to move through piles of rubble and debris. The UN's current goal is to help around 3 million people who were affected by the quake.

The UN is leading the coordination of humanitarian assistance. UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon, has said he wants to ensure proper coordination of the huge amount of aid that is pouring into the country, adding that two challenges stand out: unplugging the bottlenecks for aid distribution, and ensuring coordination of humanitarian activities. The Secretary-General said, "The Haitian people need to see that today is better than yesterday. They need to believe that the future will be better than the past."

The New Zealand Government has made a \$2 million contribution to support relief and recovery efforts in Haiti. Of this support, \$1 million has been provided to the UN World Food Programme (WFP) for emergency food aid. The remainder of the funds have gone to the New Zealand Red Cross and several New Zealand-based non-government organisations (NGOs) including UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) New Zealand, World Vision, Christian World Service, Christian Blind Mission, Save the Children, Tear Fund, Rotary and the Salvation Army who already working in Haiti in coordination with the UN and Haiti Government.

Despite 90 percent of Haiti-based WFP staff being made homeless by the quake, the agency has fed close to 450,000 people with the equivalent of nearly 10 million meals since the earthquake. WFP is also facilitating humanitarian assistance into Haiti; opening up air, sea and land corridors; and rehabilitating emergency telecommunications systems for the entire humanitarian community.

The UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is leading the coordination of the international relief effort. OCHA reports that one of the priorities right now is the need for tents as rain is expected. Some 40,000 tents are already in Haiti, but a much larger number is needed. Currently, 800,000 to 1 million people have organised themselves into temporary shelters.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### \$50,000 to assist Solomons after January quakes and tsunami

New Zealand has made an initial contribution of \$50,000 to support the relief efforts in Solomon Islands following the earthquakes and tsunami there in early January.

The impacts of the quakes and tsunami were largely restricted to the 10 villages on Rendova Island. The Solomon Islands National Disaster Management Organisation (NDMO) has advised that of the estimated total population of 4,887, approximately 1,000 people on Rendova have been affected. The immediate needs of those affected were met by NDMO and existing non-government organisation emergency relief supplies.

The New Zealand contribution has been allocated to various agencies working on the ground in Solomon Islands, including an immediate \$10,000 to the NDMO to help them meet fuel costs as they assessed the damage and distributed relief supplies.



A scene of the damage caused by the tsunami on Rendova Island.

### Now accepting applications for the International Development Research Fund!

The NZAID programme is now accepting applications for the International Development Research Fund (IDRF) to carry out and disseminate research that is likely to improve development policy and practice.

The fund is open to New Zealand based researchers to carry out research in partnership with researchers from developing countries. Research supported by the fund will focus on advancing development policy and practice in regions, countries and sectors aligned to New Zealand official development assistance priorities, and is likely to be of relevance and interest to both the New Zealand development community and the region, country or development sector that is the focus of the research.

This year the NZAID programme is particularly encouraging proposals detailing research that focuses on sustainable economic development. However, other proposals will also be considered.

The deadline for applications is 1.00pm (NZT), Friday 14 May 2010.

For more information and to download the application guidelines visit the NZAID programme's [website](#).

### Read the NZAID programme's field blog

The NZAID programme's field blog gives an up-close and up-to-date insight on the realities of aid on the ground and discusses issues relevant to development work. NZAID programme staff regularly update the blog as they travel to the field to visit New Zealand-funded programmes and projects.

The latest blog entry covers Communications Advisor Pip Robertson and NZAID Programme Manager Julie Affleck's visit to two outer islands in the southern Cook Islands. They accompanied Cook Islands government officials and a team of engineers from Beca International who were working on designs for two harbour upgrades, which the New Zealand Government is funding. In the entry Pip shares her impressions of Mitiaro, one of these islands.

Click [here](#) to read the blog and previous entries.

UNICEF is coordinating efforts to care for the needs of children, and breast feeding mothers and infants. Safe drinking water, immunisations, and latrines remain priorities. UNICEF is reinforcing controls in Haiti's hospitals, orphanages, and airport. UNICEF has said it is working with 29 organisations to protect unaccompanied children, and to trace and reunite them with their families. UNICEF have described the situation as a "children's emergency", as 40 percent of all Haitians are under 14. Prior to the earthquake, many were housed in more than 300 orphanages and crèches in Port-au-Prince and facing problems related to the illegal adoptions and exploitation. UNICEF says the problems that existed before the earthquake have "increased manifold" and that for now "children must be found, fed, kept alive and safe, and provided emotional support".

Thousands of Haitians have now gained employment and are rebuilding their neighbourhoods through a cash-for-work scheme run by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) throughout Port-au-Prince and adjacent areas. The programme currently employs 11,500 people and the UNDP's objective is to put 100,000 people to work as quickly as possible, with plans in place to scale it up to 220,000 as conditions allow. Around 40 percent of the hired workers are women and the project gives priority to female-headed households, particularly those whose houses were destroyed and those with deceased family members. The initiative has a dual benefit: while earning a small wage, workers also provide vital services that the Haitian Government cannot coordinate right now, such as clearing the debris and rubble from the roads and removing waste that is piling up on streets.

In addition to the emergency funding provided for the Haiti earthquake response, the New Zealand Government also provides annual funding of NZ\$8 million to UNDP, and NZ\$6 million annually each to UNICEF, WFP and OCHA for their core activities.

For further details about New Zealand's humanitarian assistance to Haiti contact [Ruth Pehbu-Hubscher](#). A full list of New Zealand-based Haiti public appeals is available on the [NZAID website](#).

For more information about the humanitarian relief efforts being undertaken in Haiti visit the following websites: [www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org); [www.wfp.org](http://www.wfp.org); [www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org); and [www.ochaonline.un.org/](http://www.ochaonline.un.org/)

### Latest phase of Solomon Islands Road Improvement Project to concentrate on road and bridges in Makira Province

The latest phase in the Solomon Islands Road Improvement Project (SIRIP) was launched in January and will see major improvements to the coastline road and bridges in the Makira Province.

The SIRIP is funded by the Solomon Islands Government, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), and the NZAID programme within New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The project is helping to rehabilitate roads and bridges in Solomon Islands.

As part of the US\$14.9 million project, 25 river crossings and 70 kilometres of gravel road in the area will be upgraded and rehabilitated. Safe and reliable river crossings were identified as a key priority by local communities with the ability to cross safely during floods seen as a primary issue. The work is likely to be completed by January 2012.

A New Zealand company, McConnell Dowell, has been awarded the contract to undertake the Makira phase of the SIRIP. As part of the project the company expects to hire many local people as labourers and operators, creating cash incomes for both women and men in the area and also providing skills training and business opportunities for small-scale contractors. Equipment required for the roading work is expected to depart New Zealand in early February, arriving in Makira at the end of the month.

Climate change adaptation is a key feature of the SIRIP. Solomon Islands and other low-lying Pacific island countries are considered to be the most at risk from projected rises in sea level and natural disasters. Roads and bridges to be reconstructed under the project will be rebuilt to better withstand extreme weather events.



Representatives involved in the Solomon Islands Road Improvement Project at the contract signing in January.

## New name for the Development Resource Centre

Global Focus Aotearoa became the new name for the Development Resource Centre and its programmes the Global Education Centre and Dev-Zone in December.

Over 15 years, the Development Resource Centre has built a strong reputation as a specialist provider of information and education on global and development issues, particularly for development practitioners, tertiary students, teachers and young people. All of the organisation's existing products and services will be available from [www.globalfocus.org.nz](http://www.globalfocus.org.nz). For further information, contact [megan@globalfocus.org.nz](mailto:megan@globalfocus.org.nz).

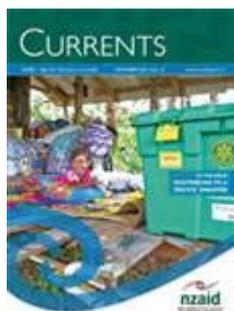
For the 2009/10 financial year the New Zealand Government's international development programme has contributed \$1,770,890 towards the core costs of Global Focus Aotearoa.

## Subscribe to receive your free issue of Currents magazine now!

Published six times a year, Currents magazine is an interesting and informative way to find out more about how New Zealand is working to support development and respond to humanitarian crises in our region, and further afield.

To receive a free copy of the magazine please contact [Nadine Koszler](mailto:Nadine.Koszler@nzaid.govt.nz) with your mailing details or visit NZAID's [website](http://www.nzaid.govt.nz) to download a copy.

The next issue of Currents, available in February, will include articles on NZAID programme-supported tourism initiatives in the Pacific, Afghanistan and the Greater Mekong Sub-region, a story covering White Ribbon Day in the Pacific, and profiles the ongoing New Zealand response to the devastating September 2009 earthquake in West Sumatra, Indonesia.



The latest issue - out now!

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Co-financed by the Solomon Islands Government, the ADB, AusAID, and the NZAID programme, the aim of the SIRIP is to reconnect communities to markets, health and education services and boost economic activities in an effort to support sustainable development and reduce poverty. The project will see up to 100 kilometres of rural roads upgraded, a maintenance programme established, and increased capacity of national contractors, consultants and the Solomon Islands Ministry of Infrastructure Development in contracting procedures, processes and management.

Improving access to markets and social services through reliable, affordable transport is central to promoting broad-based economic growth in Solomon Islands. The SIRIP promotes a more coordinated approach to transport that goes beyond roading to meet the needs of rural communities and stimulate economic activity.

For more information about the SIRIP contact [Matthew Howell](mailto:Matthew.Howell@nzaid.govt.nz).

## Solomon Island scholars celebrated

On 21 January the New Zealand High Commission in Solomon Islands farewellled and welcomed back Solomon Islanders who have received NZAID programme awards to study in New Zealand and Fiji. The celebration was attended by the New Zealand High Commissioner Mark Ramsden, Prime Minister Hon Dr Derek Sikua and Permanent Secretary for Education Ms Mylyn Kuve.

During the reception the Prime Minister, High Commissioner and members of the National Training Council congratulated the students and offered advice to 20 Solomon Island scholars who are on their way to study in New Zealand and Fiji. The students also received advice and words of support from recently returned successful graduates.

Mark Ramsden encouraged awardees to make the most of every opportunity and to aim for excellence in their studies. He also urged students to return to the Solomon Islands and apply their new skills and knowledge in a way that will help strengthen their home country.

Prime Minister Sikua emphasised the importance of students studying hard and reminded them too of the importance of their family, church, and getting involved in extra curricular activities. He joked that New Zealand's cold climate would be an advantage for the students as they will be more likely to stay inside and concentrate on their studies.

The New Zealand Government's support for overseas tertiary study complements its support to the Solomon Islands government for access for all to quality basic education.

Of the 20 students selected for tertiary awards in 2010, 12 will study in New Zealand and eight at the University of the South Pacific in Suva, Fiji. These new students will join the 35 Solomon Islands students already studying in New Zealand and other regional institutions under NZAID programme scholarships.

For more information about the scholarships available under the NZAID programme visit the NZAID programme's [website](http://www.nzaid.govt.nz) or contact [scholarships@nzaid.govt.nz](mailto:scholarships@nzaid.govt.nz)

## New Zealand supported school fee scheme kicks off in Samoa

The official launch of Samoa's School Fee Grant Scheme supported by the New Zealand and Australian governments was held on 29 January. The scheme will offer fee relief to all primary level government, mission and special needs schools and at the same time will introduce significant financial and education reforms.

In June 2009 in response to a direct request from Samoan Prime Minister Tuilaepa, the governments of New Zealand and Australia jointly confirmed their support for school fees relief to assist families who were struggling to keep their children in school in the economic hardship caused by the global economic crisis, inflation, and rising unemployment.

The scheme has been very favourably received by the principals, teachers and the Samoan public, and will be in place by the beginning of the 2010 school year. Speaking to the Samoa Observer, parent Tinei Mausali from Saina said "I feel like I've won a million dollars. I speak on behalf of all the parents that this free education has been a burden lifter. My sister in New Zealand used to send money to help with school fees. That's no longer necessary."

Through the scheme, the Samoan Government is aiming to reduce family hardship, meet its Millennium Development Goal commitments (Goal Two - primary education for all) and to raise the quality of education through the implementation of Minimum Service Standards.

New Zealand is providing up to NZ\$1 million to help disadvantaged families in Samoa meet

23/04/2010

If you have any comments or suggestions to make regarding New ZAID please contact [nadine.koszler@nzaid.govt.nz](mailto:nadine.koszler@nzaid.govt.nz)

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the cost of school fees. The Australian Government will also be contributing A\$2 million to the initiative.

For more information on the NZAID programme's education work in Samoa visit the NZAID [website](#) or email [Mere Asi](#).

## NZAID

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## Past Issues

