

Background

By way of background, the objectives of NZAID's Kiribati Country Strategy for 2002-2007 and 2006-2009 were to improve educational outcomes, improve public sector performance and to apply the cross-cutting themes of gender equity, environmental improvement and human rights. The second strategy also had human resource development and urban renewal as objectives.

Purpose and Objectives

The evaluation's aim was to assess the achievements of the strategy and to identify lessons and opportunities for the new country strategy. The evaluation's approach involved a desk-based study, analysing information obtained by reviewing documents at NZAID and elsewhere and from interviews in person or by telephone with key stakeholders in NZAID, MFAT, the Government of Kiribati and AusAID.

Main Findings

The evaluation's findings indicated that there had been substantial achievements in improving education outcomes, human resource development and public sector performance, but that it was too early to assess urban renewal results. The evaluation noted substantial achievement in incorporating the gender equity and environment themes into strategy activities and partial achievement in the theme of human rights. The evaluation noted the lack of 'absorptive capacity' in Kiribati and the importance of NZAID working to align and coordinate aid interventions with other donors.

Follow-up

Evaluation recommendations included the need for regular and ongoing engagement between partners, regular monitoring and evaluation and mid-term reviews of the strategy and individual projects, and a strengthened focus on cross-cutting themes. The evaluation also highlighted the need to measure the efficiency of the scholarships programme and the importance of asset management and maintenance.

To request a copy of the full report email aidevaluation@mfat.govt.nz and quote the reference number - Eva0903.