

Background

The Global Education Fund (GEF) was established in October 2005 as a contestable fund allocated through NZAID (now the Ministry of Foreign Affairs). Administration of the GEF is contracted to the Development Resource Centre (DRC) (now Global Focus Aotearoa). The GEF aims to fund small projects to develop awareness and understanding of global perspectives among New Zealanders, and to encourage them to become responsible global citizens. A selection committee assesses applications and makes recommendations to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on which projects should be funded. The GEF has an annual budget of NZD160,000 split across two funding rounds.

Purpose and Objectives

The reviews aim was to explore issues relating to the operation of the GEF in relation to the following objectives: to assess the effectiveness, efficiency and relevance of the Fund; identify any issues associated with the Funds current application criteria and reporting requirements; assess the management and administration of the Fund; and to assess whether the Fund provides value for money. The review was asked to provide suggestions for improvement in these areas. The reviews approach included analysis of primary data relating to the operation of the Fund, interviews with selection committee members, analysis of the results of questionnaires emailed to 32 successful applicant organisations, and telephone interviews with a sample of nine organisations.

Main Findings

The reviews findings were that the fund was attracting a diversity of organisations that target a broad range of New Zealanders, the committee was consistent in the application of its criteria, and that the quality and variety of events supported and resources produced provided excellent value-for-money. Although it identified some opportunities to improve the funds operation, the review found that DRC management of the fund was positive and should continue.

Follow-up

Review recommendations sought improvements such as reviewing the website, devolving communications other than signing grants from NZAID to the GEF administrator, shifting timing of funding rounds to avoid bottlenecks, lifting funding levels, and providing clearer guidance on what is meant by global education.

To request a copy of the full report email aidevaluation@mfat.govt.nz and quote the reference number - Eva0919.