

Background

By way of background, NZAID provided around NZD1.7m to support the Pacific Support Programme (PSP) implemented by Transparency International New Zealand (TINZ) from December 2005-June 2009. The PSP supports Pacific Island chapters of TI to address corruption and accountability issues in their countries. The programme was redesigned in 2007 to give more attention to organisational capacity building of chapters, cross-chapter collaboration and mutual approaches to evaluation and learning. Programme activities included provision of core support to chapters, capacity building, supporting the development of civic education projects, and inter-chapter visits.

Purpose and Objectives

The review's purpose was to assess the PSP's progress and to inform decision making regarding its future. The review's objectives included: understanding the programme; assessing achievement towards its goal and objectives; assessing whether the programme design was functional and valid and the strategies to implement the programme had been effective; determining the level of demand from Pacific chapters for ongoing technical assistance; and making recommendations on the future of the programme. The review's approach was to consider relevant documentation, consult NZAID, TINZ, programme managers and country and regional stakeholders, and to visit the Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu which have TI chapters supported under the programme.

Main Findings

The review's findings indicated that the PSP was well aligned with NZAID policies and objectives and to Pacific aid effectiveness principles. Stakeholders saw TINZ as an appropriate organisation to implement the initiative, and the programme had made good progress in achieving its goal and objectives. However, gaps in capacity and high staff turnover in chapters were a constraint and would take time to build. And the absence of an operational M&E framework made it difficult to identify exact achievements. It was difficult for chapters to find alternative sources of funding, and reliance on external core funding was reasonable and understandable.

Follow-up

Review recommendations indicated that NZAID should continue to support the programme. The review suggested using a more structured programme design with particular attention to planning, identifying anticipated outcomes and strategies for their achievement and an increased emphasis on monitoring and evaluation, learning, and programme reporting. The report recommended that the major elements of the PSP programme be retained with consideration given to various initiatives to, for example, encourage higher chapter salaries and support the start up of new project initiatives.

To request a copy of the full report email aidevaluation@mfat.govt.nz and quote the reference number - Eva0920