

# MFAT Management Response to the Strategic Evaluation of the Tuvalu Programme 2018-2021

Evaluation Report Recommendation	MFAT Response and Action (Agree, Partially Agree, Reject)
<p><b>1. Offer long-term investments in a select range of sectors.</b> Long term investments reduce some of the scoping and setup costs, allow for longer-term capacity building, a wider set of possible actions, and offer certainty for implementing partners, the Government of Tuvalu, and other donors. MFAT should continue work in sectors such as finance, health, and fisheries where New Zealand has had a long-term presence, and work with the Government of Tuvalu to identify other potential areas for long-term investments.</p>	<p>Partially Agree. We are working with the Government of Tuvalu to identify long-term, climate change related, investments.</p>
<p><b>2. Build a senior in-country presence.</b> This is needed to strengthen relationships, visibility of projects, and local needs, as well as monitoring of activities and outcomes. The offshore presence combined with border closures has constrained the building and maintenance of relationships, the visibility of New Zealand's work, and knowledge about project progress and outcomes. The prominence of the relationship between Tuvalu and New Zealand may continue to fade in the absence of a stronger presence, given that Taiwan and Australia are now more accessible through the opening of local high commissions.</p>	<p>Partially Agree. We look to strengthen relationships via in-person engagement, to the extent possible in a fiscally constrained environment.</p>

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<p><b>3. Address staffing levels, staff retention, and staff rotation across the Tuvalu bilateral MFAT team.</b> Frequent movement of staff disrupts relationships which are critical to bilateral engagement in a Pacific context. It contributes to inefficient processes for the team and implementation partners and reduces MFAT's organisational knowledge about its work in Tuvalu. Staff within the bilateral team had a large scope of development work and budget to manage in addition to their policy portfolios.</p>	<p>Partially Agree. However, we acknowledge the benefits of MFAT's rotational system.</p>

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<p><b>4. Continue to invest in donor collaboration.</b> Prioritise consistent donor engagement and invest to support coordination if needed. Maintenance challenges appear to be widespread across donor-funded projects in Tuvalu, therefore collaborative work in this space may benefit all donors.</p>	Agree.

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<p>5. Work with Tuvalu and other regional partners to develop Pacific approach to labour mobility that is cognisant of the impacts on local capacity. In addition to economic benefits through remittances, New Zealand-based work placements were widely considered to be a valuable tool for capacity building. This will need to remain cognisant of the risk of removing those who already have skills in these areas from the local economy in Tuvalu.</p>	<p>Agree. The next phase of New Zealand's labour mobility development support will provide enhanced support to Pacific partners, including Tuvalu.</p>
<p>6. Undertake a review of the medium-term outcomes of the scholarship work in Tuvalu, and scholarship uptake, to inform actions to better align these with local needs and circumstances. Potential issues around relevance, uptake, representation of young people, and temporary negative impacts on local capacity were raised in this evaluation but could not be assessed with the information provided.</p>	<p>Agree. DCI MERL will undertake this review with assistance from GDS and PACPF.</p>

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<p>7. Plan capacity building activities with an expectation that these will be impacted by population mobility; repeat or ongoing capacity building may be needed to ensure capacity is maintained. Staff rotation, scholarships, and migration mean that one-off training for individuals is unlikely to build resilient capacity.</p>	<p>Agree. We will continue to action effective, inclusive, resilient and sustained development activities.</p>
<p><b>8. Ensure that infrastructure planning considers coastal conditions in the choice of materials and future maintenance plans.</b> Project materials and maintenance plans need to align with the realities of the local environment (e.g., rust, fast degradation of metals).</p>	<p>Agree.</p>
<p><b>9. Improve dual accountability for maintenance of infrastructure.</b> This could be promoted through a commitment to budget and responsibilities as part of a partnership agreement at the outset of infrastructure activities. Expectations need to consider the ability of Tuvalu to fund and deliver maintenance work across a wide range of donor infrastructure investments. New Zealand, or New Zealand in partnership with other donors, should consider an infrastructure maintenance facility that enables access to the required technical expertise, potentially as a regional facility.</p>	<p>Agree.</p>

<b>Evaluation Report Recommendation</b>	<b>MFAT Response and Action (Agree, Partially Agree, Reject)</b>
10. Utilise inclusive approaches across programme delivery processes to enhance equity and measurement of outcomes for women, children, youth, rural populations, and other marginalised groups.	Agree.

