

# Evaluation of the 2018–2021 Tuvalu Programme

Tuvalu Four Year Plan (4YP)

## Evaluation Focus and Objectives

### Four key evaluation objectives:

- 1 Assess alignment and coherence of MFAT's engagement in Tuvalu over 2018–2021
- 2 Assess achievement of strategic goals articulated in the 4YP and NZ's impact
- 3 Assess effectiveness and efficiency of NZ's approaches and ways of working to achieve desired strategic objectives
- 4 Offer insights into the sustainability of current and future support.

### Three focus areas:

- 1 Climate change resilience
- 2 Fiscal management
- 3 Mutually beneficial NZ–Tuvalu bilateral regional relationship.

**“** I am very happy with the solar project because I have my business at home that used freezers and refrigerator and also using water pump that can be used at any hour of the day especially at night for my old father.”

Community member

**“** They would not only be quick to send medical supplies, but they were also amongst the first that were ready to deploy their pool of medical staff to help Tuvalu on any medical related matter.”

Government of Tuvalu staff member

## Key Findings

NZ's work is responsive to priorities outlined in the 4YP, and NZ's ICESD quality domains, with strengths around resilience and further opportunities in relation to effectiveness, sustainability, and inclusiveness.

NZ is working well with other donors in Tuvalu. We found evidence of complementary activities and no duplication.

Capacity building was often integrated into project delivery and helped promote sustainability of project outcomes by encouraging local ownership.

Programme results and anticipated outcomes are typically clear, and specific reviews of core pieces of work were undertaken to increase the learning and evidence base.

NZ's 4YP activities built efficiencies through synergies across activities, regional projects and focusing on a relatively small number of sectors.



## Key Findings – Improvement Areas

**There are opportunities to improve knowledge and information sharing and consistency of communication between NZ and other donors and agencies in Tuvalu.**

COVID-19 had a large impact on 4YP goals and activities – projects were delayed and/or experienced cost escalations. It is difficult to draw objective conclusions about what might have happened in the absence of this disruption.

It is too early to ascertain impact in relation to climate change activities due to delays in project delivery caused by COVID-19.

Despite relationship building in 2018 and 2019, relationships were negatively impacted by the inability to meet face to face during COVID-19 and the offshore High Commission based in NZ.

There was mixed achievement of immediate objectives across the programme. Opportunities to improve monitoring of how the outputs of NZ's activities are being used, medium and long-term outcomes to better understand likely impact on the 4YP.

NZ's current and future projects are likely to experience sustainability challenges without further investment stemming from population mobility and capacity building issues, coastal degradation, and maintenance capacity.

## Strength in Engagement

**The evaluation team was able to engage with a wide variety of stakeholders, including those from the outer islands.**

Over the course of the evaluation the team interviewed 68 stakeholders and reviewed 95 documents to answer the key evaluation questions. Despite border-restrictions and logistical challenges, local evaluators enabled the evaluation to take a participatory approach with stakeholders from the different islands in Tuvalu. Headline evaluation findings and potential recommendations were tested with Tuvaluan stakeholders through sense-making sessions, generating additional nuancing and increasing our confidence in the findings.



## Recommendations

- 1** Offer long-term investments in a select range of sectors.
- 2** Build a senior in-country presence to strengthen key relationships, visibility of projects, local needs and monitoring of activities and outcomes.
- 3** Improve staffing levels and staff retention and rotation across the Tuvalu bilateral MFAT team.
- 4** Continue to invest in regular donor communication and collaboration.
- 5** Work with Tuvalu and other regional partners to develop a Pacific approach to labour mobility that is cognisant of the impacts on local capacity.
- 6** Undertake a review of the medium-term outcomes of the scholarship work in Tuvalu, and scholarship uptake, to inform actions and better align these with local needs and circumstances.
- 8** Ensure that infrastructure planning considers coastal conditions in the choice of materials and future maintenance plans.
- 9** 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.
- 10** Improve the accountability for maintenance of infrastructure, for example by explicitly including accountability for maintenance budgets as part of initial partnership agreements.
- 11** In future work, utilise inclusive approaches across programme delivery processes to enhance equity and measurement of outcomes for women, children, youth, rural populations and other marginalised groups.