

2015 New Zealand aid stakeholder survey questions

Introductory message

This survey of stakeholders in the New Zealand Government's overseas aid programme is designed to solicit views regarding the effectiveness, management and volume of New Zealand's official aid.

Your response to this survey is strictly anonymous and will remain secure.

The survey, adapted from the 2013 Australian aid stakeholder survey in order to maximise comparability, should take roughly fifteen minutes and is split into four sections:

Section 1: Information about the respondent

Section 2: General views about the effectiveness of the New Zealand aid programme

Section 3: (*If applicable.*) Views on the effectiveness of New Zealand aid based on your direct engagement with the aid programme

Section 4: Views on the volume of New Zealand aid

Most of the questions are multiple-choice. Comment boxes are provided at the end most sub-sections in case you would like to say more.

If you have questions at any time about the survey or the procedures, you may contact Camilla Burkot at +61 2 6125 1844 or by email at camilla.burkot@anu.edu.au.

Results of the survey will be released in February 2016.

If you are happy to participate please start the survey now by clicking on the *continue* button below. If you do not wish to participate in the survey please click the 'stop' button to opt out.

Privacy statement

(Listed in the introduction and at the bottom of each page of the survey)

Your response to this survey is strictly anonymous and will remain secure.

Section 1. About the respondent

1. Sex

- Male
- Female
- Other
- Don't want to answer

2. Age

[text box]

3. How would you rate your level of knowledge of the aid programme as a whole?

Very strong

Strong

Average

Weak

Very weak

4. From the list below, which best describes where you work?

Academia (university or think tank)

New Zealand development NGO

Other NGO (local or international)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Other New Zealand government (national, regional or local)

Developing country government (national, provincial or local)

Multilateral or regional intergovernmental organisation

Aid contracting company

Independent consultant

Other (list)

5. How long have you worked in the field of international development?

Less than 6 months

6 months to a year

1-2 years

2-5 years

5-10 years

10-15 years

15-20 years

20+ years

6. Where do you mainly live?

New Zealand

Other

If other, which country?

If you work or volunteer for an organisation, please answer the next two questions.

7. How would you describe your seniority in that organisation?

Highest level (e.g. Director, CEO, etc.)

Senior management level

Middle management level

Entry or early-career level

8. How long have you been at your current organisation?

- Less than 6 months
- 6 months to a year
- 1-2 years
- 2-5 years
- 5-10 years
- 10-15 years
- 15-20 years
- 20+ years

Section 2. Questions about the New Zealand aid programme

These questions refer to your broader perceptions of the New Zealand government aid programme (i.e. flows from New Zealand to developing countries that are reported to the OECD as Official Development Assistance), which in 2015-16 will total \$603 million.

Answers should be given on the basis of your overall views about the aid programme. The questions in Section 3 are intended to elicit more specific views derived from your personal engagements with the aid programme, if any.

2A. Objectives

1. Adding to 100, what weight do you think the following objectives *actually* have in guiding the work of the New Zealand aid programme? (If you do not want to answer please skip this question.)

- Reducing poverty
- Promoting New Zealand's strategic interests
- Promoting New Zealand's commercial interests
- Don't know
- Don't want to answer

2. Adding to 100, what weight do you think the following objectives *should* have in guiding the work of the New Zealand aid programme? (If you do not want to answer please skip this question.)

- Reducing poverty
- Promoting New Zealand's strategic interests
- Promoting New Zealand's commercial interests
- Don't know
- Don't want to answer

3. The New Zealand aid programme has a clearly defined purpose.

- Strongly agree
- Agree

Neither agree nor disagree
Disagree
Strongly disagree
Don't know
Don't want to answer

4. As per the [International Development Policy Statement](#), the New Zealand Government now formulates the objective of the aid programme in the following way:

“The mission of the New Zealand Aid Programme is to support sustainable development in developing countries, in order to reduce poverty and to contribute to a more secure, equitable, and prosperous world... within this, the core focus [is on] sustainable economic development.”

Are you satisfied with this as the objective of the aid programme?

Very satisfied
Satisfied
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
Dissatisfied
Very dissatisfied
Don't know
Don't want to answer

5. Prior to 2009, the New Zealand Government formulated the objective of the aid programme in the following way:

“Our Mission: eliminating poverty through development partnerships.”

Which objective is closer to your preferred view of what the aid programme's objective should be?

The definition prior to 2009
The current definition
The two are equivalent
Neither
Don't know
Don't want to answer

[Comment box]: If you would like to expand on any of your answers in this subsection, please do so here. (Please indicate which question you are referring to in your response.)

2B. Aid effectiveness

The questions in this section relate to the effect per dollar of aid spending. Questions on the ideal volume of aid are addressed in Section 4.

1. How would you rate the effectiveness of the New Zealand aid programme?

Very effective
Effective
Neither effective nor ineffective
Ineffective
Very ineffective
Don't know
Don't want to answer

2. Over the last two years (since 2013), has the effectiveness of the New Zealand aid programme declined or improved?

Improved significantly
Improved moderately
Stayed the same
Declined moderately
Declined significantly
Don't know
Don't want to answer

3. The New Zealand aid programme budget has increased to \$603 million in the 2015-16 financial year, up from \$588 million in 2014-15. What impact will this increase have on the effectiveness of New Zealand aid?

Very positive
Positive
No effect
Negative
Very negative
Don't know
Don't want to answer

4. How would you rate the effectiveness of the New Zealand aid programme by comparison with the aid programmes of other OECD bilateral donors?

A lot better
Better
Same
Worse
A lot worse
Don't know
Don't want to answer

5. This survey is based on the 2013 Australian aid stakeholder survey. That survey referred to the 2011 Australian [*Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness*](#), which identified a number of attributes that characterise effective aid programmes.

Please indicate the extent to which you believe the New Zealand aid programme as it currently stands possesses each attribute in the list.

[Matrix response]

Great strength
Moderate strength
Neither strength nor weakness
Moderate weakness
Great weakness
Don't know
Don't want to answer

Strategic clarity
Predictability of funding
Selectivity and avoidance of fragmentation
Strong monitoring
Rigorous evaluation
Effective use of partnerships
Transparency
Effective communication and community engagement
Political leadership
Realism of expectations

[Comment box]: If you would like to expand on any of your answers in this subsection, please do so here. (Please indicate which question you are referring to in your response.)

2C. Scope of the aid programme

1. The four priority themes for New Zealand's aid programme, per the International Development Policy Statement, are listed below. Please indicate the extent to which you believe the right emphasis is being placed upon each theme.

[Matrix response]

Too much weight
The right weight
Too little weight
Don't know

Investing in economic development
Promoting human development
Improving resilience and responding to disaster
Building safe and secure communities

2. What proportion of the New Zealand aid programme budget should be spent in the following regions?

[Slider allowing people to select between 0 and 100% for each region:]

Pacific [76% of country allocable ODA in 2013/14]

Asia [19% of country allocable ODA in 2013/14]

Africa [2% of country allocable ODA in 2013/14]

Middle East [2% of country allocable ODA in 2013/14]

Americas [1% of country allocable ODA in 2013/14]

Percentages calculated from figures reported in MFAT 2013/14 Annual Report.

[Comment box]: If you would like to expand on any of your answers in this subsection, please do so here. (Please indicate which question you are referring to in your response.)

2D. Aid delivery

1. The aid programme uses a variety of implementing agencies to channel or deliver aid, as listed below. Please indicate the extent to which you think that the aid programme should rely on each type of implementing agency.

[Matrix response]

More than at present

The same

Less than at present

Don't know

New Zealand NGOs

Other NGOs (local or international)

Private contractors (companies or individuals)

Multilateral and regional organisations (e.g. World Bank, UN agencies, Pacific regional organisations)

Universities and other research institutes

New Zealand Government agencies (e.g. NZ Police, NZ Defence Force, Ministry of Health)

Partner government agencies

2. A significant use of aid programme funding is for the provision of specialist advisers to assist partner governments in policy planning and execution, and for building the capacity of local counterparts. Please indicate whether you consider the use of New Zealand aid to fund advisers to be:

Excessive

At about the right level

Insufficient

Don't know

Don't want to answer

[Comment box]: If you would like to expand on any of your answers in this subsection, please do so here. (Please indicate which question you are referring to in your response.)

2E. Response to the overarching policy direction

1. Following the reintegration of NZAID into MFAT in 2009, a new development policy statement was released: [New Zealand International Development Policy Statement: Supporting sustainable development](#). How would you rate the appropriateness of this policy statement as a strategy for improving the New Zealand aid programme's effectiveness?

- Very appropriate
- Appropriate
- Neither appropriate nor inappropriate.
- Inappropriate
- Very inappropriate
- Don't know
- Don't want to answer

2. How would you rate the effectiveness of the New Zealand government's implementation of this strategy?

- Very effective
- Effective
- Neither effective nor ineffective
- Ineffective
- Very ineffective
- Don't know
- Don't want to answer

3. From your interaction with MFAT how much has this new strategy changed operations within the New Zealand aid programme?

- A lot
- Slightly
- Not at all
- Don't know
- Don't want to answer

[Comment box]: If you would like to expand on any of your answers in this subsection, please do so here. (Please indicate which question you are referring to in your response.)

2F. MFAT

About 90% of New Zealand aid is managed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which also plays a central role in the oversight and evaluation of New Zealand's whole overseas aid effort.

1. Describe in one sentence the biggest strength of MFAT in managing New Zealand aid.

[text box]

2. Describe in one sentence the biggest weakness of MFAT in managing New Zealand aid.

[text box]

Answers to the following question should be given on the basis of your overall views about MFAT's performance in managing New Zealand aid. An opportunity to answer more specific questions on the basis of your personal engagement with MFAT, if any, is provided in Section 3.

3. The 2011 Australian [*Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness*](#) mentioned above also identified a number of attributes that are particularly important for aid programme quality.

Please indicate the extent to which you believe New Zealand's aid programme possesses each of the attributes listed, using the following scale:

[Matrix response]

Great strength
Moderate strength
Neither strength nor weakness
Moderate weakness
Great weakness
Don't know
Don't want to answer

Appropriate attitude to risk
Quick decision making
Staff continuity
Staff expertise
Avoidance of micromanagement
Focus on results
Strong aid programme performance management and reporting

4. Please indicate your perception of the rate of turnover in MFAT staff working on aid-related matters:

Very high
High
Neither high nor low
Low
Very low
Don't know

Don't want to answer

5. How has the rate of aid-related staff turnover changed at MFAT in the past two years (2013-2015) in comparison to the preceding two years (2011-2013)?

Greatly improved (i.e. turnover has declined)

Improved

Stayed the same

Worse

Much worse (i.e. turnover has increased)

Don't know

Don't want to answer

6. How would you rate MFAT's tolerance of risk with respect to the use of aid programme funds?

Too high (i.e. should take fewer risks)

Moderately too high

Right level

Moderately too low

Too low (i.e. should take more risks)

Don't know

Don't want to answer

7. Between 2002 and 2009, New Zealand government aid was delivered through the semi-autonomous agency NZAID. In 2009, NZAID was reintegrated back into MFAT as the International Development Group (IDG). What has been the impact of the reintegration on the effectiveness of staff primarily engaged in the New Zealand aid programme?

Greatly improved

Improved

Stayed the same

Worse

Much worse

Don't know

Don't want to answer

[Comment box]: If you would like to expand on any of your answers in this subsection, please do so here. (Please indicate which question you are referring to in your response.)

2G. Overall changes in the New Zealand aid programme

Please answer the following questions based on your active engagement with the New Zealand aid programme. If you don't know, or were not actively engaged with the New Zealand aid programme over the specified time period, please leave blank:

1. What is the most notable improvement in the New Zealand aid programme over the last ten years?

[Text box]

2. What is the most notable improvement in the New Zealand aid programme over the last two years?

[Text box]

3. What is the area where the New Zealand aid programme has made least progress or gone in the wrong direction over the last ten years?

[Text box]

4. What is the area where the New Zealand aid programme has made least progress or gone in the wrong direction over the last two years?

[Text box]

5. What has been the most notable improvement for the New Zealand aid programme as a result of the reintegration of NZAID into MFAT?

[Text box]

6. What has been the most notable negative consequence for the New Zealand aid programme of the reintegration of NZAID into MFAT?

[Text box]

2H. Political management

1. How effective do you think New Zealand's current Minister of Foreign Affairs is in managing New Zealand's aid programme?

- Very effective
- Effective
- Neither effective nor ineffective
- Ineffective
- Very ineffective
- Don't know
- Don't want to answer

2. Do you think there should be a minister with specific responsibility for the aid programme and with no other ministerial responsibilities?

- Yes
- Yes, but only if that minister is in Cabinet

- No
- Don't know
- Don't want to answer

[Comment box]: If you would like to expand on any of your answers in this subsection, please do so here. (Please indicate which question you are referring to in your response.)

Section 3. Questions arising from your direct engagement with the aid programme

I am involved in the management or implementation of an activity or activities which are at least in part funded by the New Zealand aid programme, either as an individual or through the organisation for which I work.

- Yes (you will be asked follow-up questions in section 3)
- No (you will skip this section and continue to section 4)

The questions which follow should be answered ONLY in relation to that specific part of your work that involves an activity or activities funded at least in part by the New Zealand aid programme. If you are a senior manager or CEO, or your effort is spread across a range of activities, please focus on the relevant set of New Zealand Government-aid funded activities taken as a whole.

3A. General questions

1. How would you describe the activity or activities? (Even if there is more than one activity or way to describe it, please choose just one option which in your opinion provides the best fit.)

- Provision of advisory services to a partner country government or other organisation
- Volunteer placement
- Implementation of New Zealand Government funded aid project(s) (e.g. infrastructure, service delivery, community development, etc.) not covered by the two prior options
- Aid management
- Provision of specialist advice to New Zealand aid programme
- Research or evaluation activity
- Aid coordination (partner government)
- Other (list)

2. How much of the funding for the activity or activities comes from the New Zealand aid programme?

- All
- A majority
- A minority
- Don't know

Don't want to answer

3. Does your activity or activities receive core or earmarked funding or both? (Core funding is not tied to specific purposes, earmarked funding is. If you are a contractor funded to execute a project, consider that earmarked funding.)

Core funding only
Earmarked only
Both
Don't know
Don't want to answer

[Comment box]: If you would like to expand on any of your answers in this subsection, please do so here. (Please indicate which question you are referring to in your response.)

3B. Effectiveness questions

The following questions relate to the activity or activities you have identified at the start of this section, which must be at least partly funded by the New Zealand aid programme.

1. How would you rate the effectiveness of your activity or activities?

Very effective
Effective
Neither effective nor ineffective
Ineffective
Very ineffective
Don't know
Don't want to answer

2. The following criteria have been selected from the two lists presented earlier (in Sections 2B and 2F). Rate each of the following as a strength or weakness of the specific aid activity or activities you are reflecting on in this section.

[Matrix response]

Great strength
Moderate strength
Neither strength nor weakness
Moderate weakness
Great weakness
Don't know
Don't want to answer/Not applicable

Adequate and predictable funding
Quick decision making by MFAT management
Avoidance of micromanagement by MFAT management
Strong monitoring

Rigorous evaluation
Transparency
Realism of expectations

[Comment box]: If you would like to expand on any of your answers in this subsection, please do so here. (Please indicate which question you are referring to in your response.)

3C. Engagement with MFAT

The following questions relate to the activity or activities you have identified at the start of this section, which must be an activity or activities that are at least partly funded by the New Zealand aid programme.

1. Is there an MFAT employee designated as manager/facilitator/contact point ('manager' for short)?

Yes
No
Don't know
Don't want to answer

If you have answered yes please fill out the next two questions. If not please continue to question 4.

In the next two questions, 'manager' is defined as per question 1, that is, as the MFAT employee designated as manager/facilitator/contact point.

2. How long has the current 'manager' been in their current position?

Less than 6 months
6 months to a year
1-2 years
2-5 years
5+ years
Don't know
Don't want to answer

3. To what extent do you agree with the following statement: "The 'manager' appointed to my project has been in place long enough to be effective."

Strongly agree
Agree
Neither agree nor disagree
Disagree
Strongly disagree
Don't know
Don't want to answer

4. How would you identify the transaction costs of dealing with MFAT?

- High
- Medium
- Low
- Don't know
- Don't want to answer/Not applicable

5. To what extent have transaction costs changed in the last two years?

- Increased
- Stayed the same
- Decreased
- Don't know
- Don't want to answer/Not applicable

[Comment box]: If you would like to expand on any of your answers in this subsection, please do so here. (Please indicate which question you are referring to in your response.)

Section 4. Questions about the volume of aid

The 2015-16 New Zealand aid budget is \$603 million, or 0.26% of New Zealand's Gross National Income (GNI). This represents an increase from the previous year's budget, which was \$588 million, but a small decrease as a percentage of GNI, which was 0.27% in 2014-15.

(Note that answer choices are given in descending order).

1. If a National-led Government is formed after the election in 2017, what do you believe will happen to the aid budget by 2019-20?

- Increase substantially as a percentage of GNI
- Increase somewhat as a percentage of GNI
- Approximately stay the same as a percentage of GNI
- Approximately stay the same in real terms (that is, roughly increase at the rate of inflation)
- Approximately stay the same in nominal terms (no increase from current level of \$603 million)
- Fall in nominal terms
- Don't know
- Don't want to answer

2. If a Labour-led Government is formed after the election in 2017, what do you believe will happen to the aid budget by 2019-20?

- Increase substantially as a percentage of GNI
- Increase somewhat as a percentage of GNI
- Approximately stay the same as a percentage of GNI

Approximately stay the same in real terms (that is, roughly increase at the rate of inflation)
Approximately stay the same in nominal terms (no increase from current level of \$603 million)
Fall in nominal terms
Don't know
Don't want to answer

3. What do you believe should happen to the aid budget by 2019-20?

Increase substantially as a percentage of GNI
Increase somewhat as a percentage of GNI
Approximately stay the same as a percentage of GNI
Approximately stay the same in real terms (that is, roughly increase at the rate of inflation)
Approximately stay the same in nominal terms (no increase from current level of \$603 million)
Fall in nominal terms
Don't know
Don't want to answer

[Comment box]: If you would like to expand on any of your answers in this subsection, please do so here. (Please indicate which question you are referring to in your response.)