New Zealand is not included in the overall ranking, as insufficient survey responses were obtained to calculate the qualitative indicators that make up the index.

New Zealand’s overall scores in the HRI’s quantitative indicators were below the OECD/DAC and Group 3 averages. New Zealand scored below the OECD/DAC and Group 3 averages in all pillars, with the exception of Pillar 2 and Pillar 4 (Protection and international law), where it scored above the OECD/DAC and Group 3 averages.

New Zealand did best compared to its OECD/DAC peers in the indicators on Funding reconstruction and prevention, Un-earmarked funding and Human rights law. Its scores were relatively the lowest in indicators on Funding NGOs, Funding accountability initiatives, Timely funding to complex emergencies, Funding UN and RC/RC appeals and Reducing climate-related vulnerability.
AID DISTRIBUTION

In 2010, Official Development Assistance (ODA) comprised 0.26% of New Zealand’s Gross National Income (GNI), and humanitarian assistance made up 10.9% of its ODA, constituting .026% of its total GNI. According to data reported to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs’ (OCHA) Financial Tracking Service (FTS), in 2010, New Zealand channelled 81.9% of its humanitarian aid to UN agencies, 6.0% to the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, 3.0% to NGOs and 2.4% bilaterally to affected governments. In 2010, New Zealand funded four emergencies in Africa, three in Asia, three in the Americas and one in Oceania (OCHA FTS 2011).

POLICY FRAMEWORK

The International Development Group, a division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), directs New Zealand’s humanitarian aid through the New Zealand Aid Programme. The New Zealand Aid Programme draws on the expertise gained by its predecessor, the New Zealand Agency for International Development (NZAID), which was dissolved in April 2009 when its semi-autonomous status was rescinded and it was reintegrated into MFAT and renamed (New Zealand Aid Programme 2011a). This restructuring was intended to improve effectiveness and efficiency and better situate the programme to link development, trade and diplomacy in New Zealand’s foreign policy (MFAT 2010a). During this transition, the Humanitarian Action Fund was discontinued, and the Humanitarian Response Fund was created to provide disaster relief, recovery and reconstruction assistance through non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the wake of disasters. The New Zealand Aid Programme coordinates with New Zealand’s Emergency Task Force (ETF) to respond to disasters and the New Zealand Defence Force and the New Zealand Police to support peace-building and conflict prevention efforts (New Zealand Aid Programme 2011b). A new humanitarian action policy is expected to be completed in late 2011.

New Zealand Aid Programme representatives are stationed at four embassies in countries in Southeast Asia and the Pacific (MFAT 2011). The New Zealand Aid Programme often plays a leading role in responding to humanitarian needs in the Pacific, taking a “hands-on, whole of government approach” to such crises (New Zealand Aid Programme 2011d). Responses beyond this region are generally part of a larger international effort in collaboration with United Nations (UN) agencies, the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement and local, international or New Zealand NGOs (New Zealand Aid Programme 2011d).

HOW DOES NEW ZEALAND’S POLICY ADDRESS GHD CONCEPTS?

GENDER

NZAID strives for “gender mainstreaming” and more recently, the 2011 International Development Policy Statement named gender as a cross-cutting and thematic issue that will be taken into account in all New Zealand Aid Programme activities. In 2007, NZAID published Achieving Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, which plans to reduce gender-based violence and take into account women’s and men’s differing needs, priorities and experiences, particularly in conflict and post-conflict settings. Preventing Conflict and Building Peace further emphasises gender sensitivity in peace-building and conflict prevention work and recognises the specific roles for women in these efforts.
PILLAR 1
RESPONDING TO NEEDS

New Zealand has affirmed its commitment to providing need-based assistance; the scale and human impact of a crisis as well as requests for assistance from the affected country’s government guide New Zealand’s humanitarian responses (New Zealand Aid Programme 2011d). MFAT also identifies needs in the wake of a disaster before funding NGOs through the Humanitarian Response Fund (MFAT 2010b). Through this mechanism, the New Zealand Aid Programme supports timely humanitarian assistance funding by delivering “fast and effective relief, recovery and reconstruction via non-government organisations (NGOs),” (MFAT 2010b). NZAID’s 2005 publication Preventing Conflict and Building Peace similarly mentions the need for targeting “at risk” sections of society. This document also highlights the need for humanitarian assistance to be neutral, impartial and independent although it remains to be seen if efforts to link development more closely with diplomacy and trade will affect the independence of humanitarian assistance.

PILLAR 2
PREVENTION, RISK REDUCTION AND RECOVERY

The New Zealand Aid Programme has asserted its commitment to providing humanitarian assistance in the Pacific, spanning from disaster preparedness to response and recovery (New Zealand Aid Programme 2011d). It also emphasises the importance of disaster risk reduction (2011d), and NZAID’s 2006 Environment in International Development mentions the goal of enhancing preparation for natural disasters. NZAID’s peace policy also highlights measures for conflict prevention (NZAID 2005), and the Humanitarian Response Fund provides funding to NGOs for disaster response preparation (MFAT 2010). In addition, Preventing Conflict and Building Peace explains the importance of ensuring a “seamless transition from humanitarian relief work to longer-term development activities.” The New Zealand Aid Programme has articulated its commitment to building local capacity and fostering beneficiary participation for all its undertakings in the 2011 International Development Policy Statement (New Zealand Aid Programme 2011e), while Preventing Conflict and Building Peace stresses the importance of these principles in conflict prevention and management activities.
PILLAR 4
PROTECTION AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

New Zealand’s humanitarian engagements prioritise the safety of civilians (New Zealand Aid Programme 2011d), and NZAID asserted a strong commitment to human rights in its 2002 Human Rights Policy Statement. NZAID also upheld its support for international humanitarian law in peace-building activities and followed the principle ‘Do No Harm’ and Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) guidelines for the delivery of humanitarian assistance (NZAID 2005). New Zealand’s formal policy on safe humanitarian access and advocacy toward local authorities is not clear.

PILLAR 5
LEARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The 2011 International Development Policy Statement explains that the New Zealand Aid Programme carries out reviews and evaluations to assess programme performance and effectiveness and to foster learning and accountability. MFAT also publishes an annual report to this effect. The New Zealand Aid Programme has an Evaluation and Research Committee to oversee evaluative activities and ensure that their findings inform future programme planning. It also stresses the need to share knowledge within the Aid Programme and with development partners and other donors (New Zealand Aid Programme 2011f). The former NZAID published the 2007 NZAID Evaluation Policy Statement which highlights fairness and accountability towards beneficiaries.
RECOMMENDATIONS

 Eid ENSURE CRISIS SELECTION IS BASED ON NEED

New Zealand received a low score for the indicator Funding vulnerable and forgotten emergencies, which measures funding to forgotten emergencies and those with the greatest vulnerability. New Zealand was slightly below average for its support of forgotten emergencies – 25.9% of its funding, compared to the OECD/DAC average of 32.1%. New Zealand tends to prioritise crises in its geographic region. As a result, it provides less funding to crises with high levels of vulnerability when compared to other donors. New Zealand designated 41.6% of its humanitarian funding for these crises, compared to the Group 3 average of 63.0% and the OECD/DAC average of 63.9%. New Zealand could review its funding criteria to ensure it responds to crises with the greatest need at the global level while maintaining its niche in the Asia-Pacific.

 Eid LOOK FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SOLUTIONS TO CHANNEL MORE FUNDING TO NGOS

New Zealand channelled only 3.0% of its humanitarian funding to NGOs, compared to the OECD/DAC average of 15.3%. As New Zealand may not be able to handle a large number of smaller contracts to NGOs, it could explore flexible working models, such as shared management arrangements with other donors and supporting NGO umbrella organisations or NGOs of other nationalities.

 Eid EXPLORE OPTIONS TO EXPEDITE FUNDING TO COMPLEX EMERGENCIES

New Zealand does fairly well in responding in a timely manner to sudden onset emergencies, but could improve the timeliness of its funding to complex emergencies. New Zealand provided 21.2% of its funding for complex emergencies within the first three months of a humanitarian appeal. The OECD/DAC average was 59.4%.

 Eid LOOK FOR Options TO EXPEDITE FUNDING TO COMPLEX EMERGENCIES

New Zealand received a low score for Funding UN and RC/RC appeals, which measures the extent to which donors provide their fair share of funding to UN and Red Cross/Red Crescent (RC/RC) appeals, coordination and support services and pooled funds. It scored well below average in all components that comprise this indicator, with the exception of its funding for pooled funds, where it is close to average. New Zealand provided 12.6% of its fair share to UN appeals, compared to the OECD/DAC average of 41.0%; 0.0% of its fair share to coordination and support services, compared to the OECD/DAC average of 47.5%; and 71.8% of its fair share to Red Cross/Red Crescent (RC/RC) appeals, compared to the OECD/DAC average of 117.1%.

 Eid RENEW SUPPORT FOR LEARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

New Zealand could improve its support for learning and accountability initiatives. In 2010, New Zealand dedicated 0.10% of its humanitarian aid for these initiatives; the OECD/DAC average was 0.43%.

 Eid STRENGTHEN SUPPORT TO REDUCE CLIMATE-RELATED VULNERABILITY

New Zealand provided only 62.5% of its fair share to Fast Start Finance, which supports climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts, compared to the OECD/DAC average of 102.4%. Furthermore, New Zealand has fallen short on its commitments to reduce emissions, which seems to indicate that New Zealand could augment its support to reduce climate-related vulnerability.

 Eid ENHANCE SUPPORT FOR UN AND RC/RC APPEALS, COORDINATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES AND POOLED FUNDS

Please see www.daraint.org for a complete list of references.