

Independent Evaluation of Samoa Programme

Key findings from Adam Smith International



Results highlights

New Zealand's investments in private sector development and renewable energy have produced some good results, particularly its Small Business Enterprise Centre (SBEC) support. Results in health and tourism have been mixed. Further investments in tourism need to consider efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability.

Context

Samoa and New Zealand have strong ties, underpinned by the 1962 Treaty of Friendship. The Treaty continues to influence and shape our relations.

New Zealand has been one of Samoa's most important development cooperation partners and has funded a range of economic and human development investments.

The relationship

The Government of Samoa has strong ownership of its development agenda, which donors are expected to align with. The evaluation noted that New Zealand's Samoa Country Programme is guided by a solid strategic framework. Both countries continue to have free and frank dialogue about the purpose and direction of New Zealand's investments.

Aid Quality

New Zealand provided NZ\$4.1 of general budget support through an effective 'Incentivising Public Financial Management (PFM) Reform in Samoa' Programme over 4 years. The evaluation recommended a strong focus on performance management within line ministries. We also provide support at sector level in health, education and tourism with some positive results but with room for improvement.

There is some weakness in Samoa's PFM system but the evaluation noted minimal barriers to providing higher levels of budget support. The evaluation commented that policy dialogue between the countries should be strengthened considerably.

Samoa has faced a huge increase in aid flows, partly in response to the Tsunami in 2009 and to Cyclone Evan in 2012. Development aid increased more than 300% between 2008 and 2010. This increase was difficult for the country to absorb. New Zealand has made a significant effort to reduce its Activity numbers particularly since 2011, in sharp contrast to proliferation of other donors' activities that has taken place since 2009. A more coherent approach to New Zealand support is recommended.

Adam Smith International recommendations

To improve development effectiveness, New Zealand should consider increasing the level of direct budget support it provides. It also needs to address more directly the constraints that underpin the effective delivery of aid. New Zealand could also focus on consistent provision of high level and evidenced based policy dialogue and the deployment of appropriate New Zealand resources to engage with the Samoan government on development effectiveness issues.

Insights into Economic and Human Development Outcomes in Samoa



Tourism

Tourism is important to the economy making a 25% contribution to GDP in 2013. Tourism is a focal point of our development cooperation. Over the last three years, New Zealand has been supporting three programmes in the sector with variable performances. The evaluation found that the tourism sector in Samoa could be better coordinated and more cohesive.



Renewable energy

We made significant investments in renewable energy helping increase energy security. One solar farm provides 4.5% of Samoa electricity production and is one of the Pacific Island's largest solar energy project ever constructed. The project displaces 1.1 million litres of diesel fuel per year, which is expected to save approximately SAT\$3.4 million per year (NZ\$2m) in diesel fuel importation costs.



Private sector development

Our support for the Small Business Enterprise Centre (SBEC) was impressive. A 2015 impact assessment confirmed its importance for the small to medium enterprises sector. The assessment found that every NZ dollar facilitated by the SBEC provides economic value for the Samoan economy. According to the evaluation, New Zealand could deploy a more strategic and analytical approach to improving the enabling environment for private sector development through the use of its non-bilateral programme.



Health

Between 2008 to 2015 the Health Sector Programme (SWAp) saw significant New Zealand investment. This was the first of its kind in Samoa's health sector. It aimed to improve the Government's effectiveness in managing and implementing its Health Sector Plan and improving access and utilisation of health services. A 2013 Mid-Term Review of the SWAp showed some mixed results. While there were important outputs in workforce development and health promotion, the review noted that the "SWAp fell short of expectations in a number of programme areas". It highlighted fundamental issues which undermined the SWAp's performance, chief amongst these was the lack of effective sector planning, prioritisation and costing.

We also support an Institutional Linkages Programme (ILP) to increase the capability of Samoan National Health (NHS) to provide medical treatment to international standards. The Counties Manukau District Health Board (CMDHB) works with NHS to strengthen governance and management, improve clinical services and policies and procedures, and implement the visiting medical specialist scheme. A 2014 Mid-Term Review recommended extension with modifications to improve its effectiveness and sustainability.



Education

Between 2007/8 and 2014/15 New Zealand supported three major initiatives: the Education Sector Project II (ESPII), the Samoa School Fee Grant Scheme (Primary), and the Samoa (Secondary) School Fee Grant Scheme. The evaluation found mixed results emerging from the various education programmes.

The adoption of the school grant fee schemes into the Samoan budget and the capacity that has to improve access over the long-term is a definite positive. Investment in education has yet to demonstrate improvements in the quality of education and significant increases in numeracy (particularly science and maths).

This document is informed by Adam Smith International's independent evaluation of the Samoa country Programme completed in 2015.

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