



BIG 
HEARTS
 CONNECTED
 WORLD



HOW NEW ZEALAND CAN STAND
 WITH THE WORLD
 TO OVERCOME CORONAVIRUS AND CLIMATE CHANGE





The Big Hearts Connected World campaign calls for a Collective Resilience Plan to build a strong global community.

Christian World Service, Oxfam New Zealand, the Wellington Anglican Diocese, and World Vision power the campaign, with the support of ten other international non-governmental organisations, including New Zealand Family Planning and UnionAID.

The Collective Resilience Plan requires:

- a 20% boost to the overseas aid budget, to be focused on healthcare, social protection and resilience, plus,
- a doubling of finance for climate action overseas from new and additional sources, and,
- a timeline for getting aid spending to 0.7% of gross national income by 2030.

WHY IS THIS NECESSARY?

Decades of progress to end global poverty and discrimination are unravelling as the impact of the coronavirus continues to expand. The United Nations University estimates that as many as half a billion people could fall back into poverty because of the coronavirus pandemic and the economic recession it has caused.

The pandemic is not over anywhere until it is over everywhere. To overcome this together, workers in developing countries need social safety nets to get through lockdowns and job losses, families in refugee camps need sufficient clean water and soap to stop the spread, and people everywhere need functional health systems so they can get testing and treatment for the coronavirus and other conditions.

Before the coronavirus hit, the climate crisis was already harming millions of people. Rising temperatures threaten to increase poverty rates all over the world. Right now, over two billion people do not have enough food each day to meet their nutrition needs.

This will only get worse if we're unable to keep global heating below 1.5°C. Experts warn us that we only have ten years to make changes to avoid an irreversible temperature rise. Our neighbours in developing countries need our support to face this challenge, build carbon-neutral economies and adapt to the trials they are facing right now.

WHAT IS NEW ZEALAND'S RESPONSIBILITY?

At a time of unprecedented global challenges, New Zealand's aid and funding for overseas climate action helps build a thriving global community. In places where poverty and discrimination lock down people's potential, New Zealand's aid opens critical pathways that allow people to offer their unique contributions to the world.

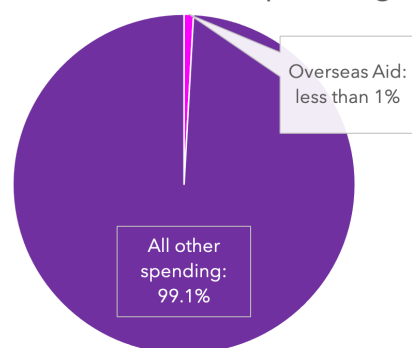
Our aid helps people who experience poverty and discrimination to be healthy, get support when times are tough, and make it through the climate crisis. Women and girls often experience severe discrimination and poverty, and our aid needs to focus more on supporting them to get the opportunities they need to flourish.

HOW MUCH AID AND CLIMATE FINANCE DO WE CURRENTLY GIVE?

New Zealand has given overseas development assistance (ODA) since the end of World War Two. It has been 50 years since we committed with other wealthy countries to get ODA to 0.7% of Gross National Income. Currently we are still a long way from that goal, at 0.33%.

For the three year period of 2018 to 2021, New Zealand has committed less than one dollar for every one hundred dollars our government spends towards aid.

NZ Government Spending



New Zealand's aid as a proportion of government expenditure

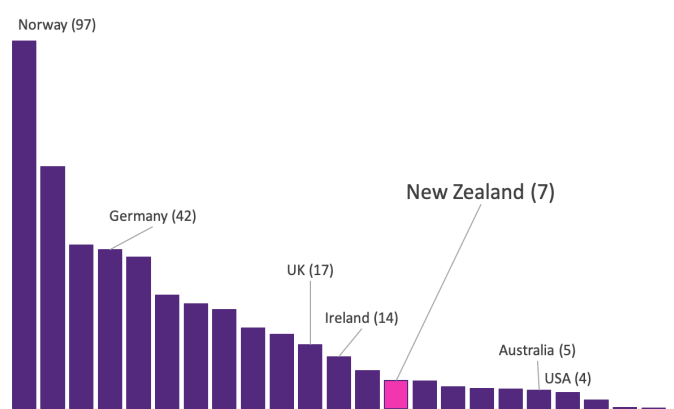
If government spending were a cake, you could not cut a piece slim enough to represent overseas aid.

Currently, New Zealand funds its climate action overseas through its aid. Under the global climate change frameworks, these funds are called climate finance.

In 2018, New Zealand gave \$63.7 million in climate-specific finance through the aid programme, and has committed to providing \$75 million in climate finance each year until 2022.

Compared to other donor countries, New Zealand is not a generous climate finance donor.

Climate Finance Levels



Climate finance provided to developing countries 2017-2018 average (USD per capita)

WHERE DOES OUR AID GO AND WHAT DOES IT FUND?

New Zealand spends approximately 60% of its aid in the Pacific region.

In 2018, over 44% of New Zealand's aid went to economic development. Economic development is a crucial component of a quality aid programme, but people need good governance, a safe environment and quality public services to benefit from engagement in economic activity.

New Zealand needs to expand aid expenditure in health and social protection, especially for women and girls.

In 2018, New Zealand's aid to health increased to 10%, which was a welcome increase from only 5% the year before, but still short of the global average of approximately 14%.



Photo: Belinda Bradley/OxfamNZ

**BIG HEARTS
SO EVERYONE IS
LOOKED AFTER
DURING COVID-19**

Additionally, New Zealand provides scant aid for social protection - mechanisms that support people when they lose their job, have to leave work to care for a sick relative at home, or when they are too old to work.

New Zealand's contribution to humanitarian disasters was 10.4% of the Aid Programme in 2018, a much-needed increase on previous years, but still below the OECD average of 12.5% of ODA.

"The artificial lines between what we call domestic policy and international policy are just that - artificial. When we're trying to address issues such as climate change, or infectious diseases, or trans-national crime, borders do not matter - these are borderless challenges and they demand a collective response."

Prime Minister Ardern, Suva, Feb 2020

WHAT YOU CAN DO

There is no time to lose. The May 2021 Budget is coming up fast and government departments are already preparing their Budget bids. New Zealand's aid is allocated in three-year tranches, with the next triennium beginning in July 2021.

You can talk to your parliamentary colleagues, your constituents, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Minister of Climate Change, and highlight your concern that New Zealand must step up to help people across the world, particularly in our Pacific region.

New Zealand's 2021 Budget will signal to the rest of the world whether or not we are a global player, contributing what we can to help humanity collectively overcome the coronavirus pandemic, economic recession, and global heating.

New Zealand has enough to both provide for its citizens and make a small contribution to the rest of the human family, many of whom experience incredible challenges, such as daily hunger or the loss of their homes.

The Australian government increased its aid in its recent October Budget (postponed from earlier in the year) with a AU\$211 million fund to support coronavirus recovery – a 4% increase.



**CONNECTED WORLD
TO GET THROUGH
THIS PANDEMIC
TOGETHER**

New Zealand can and should do the same.

THE TIME HAS COME TO WORK TOGETHER AS A HUMAN FAMILY

Viruses, just like our climate, pay no heed to national borders. These challenging and uncertain times show us how connected we are as a global community, and that our response has to be this connected, too. Now more than ever, we need to pull together as one human family, so that we all make it through the triple crises of a public health pandemic, worldwide economic recession, and climate destruction. We can afford to invest in overseas aid and climate finance, and we must.

This is the way forward if we want to overcome these challenges, and thrive, together.



bighearts.org.nz