

## Effective Aid Delivery in Conflict and Post Conflict Environments.

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NZODA disbursements in the 1999 calendar year amounted to approx \$252.6 million. This represented 0.27 percent of GDP.

NZODA is an important part of New Zealand's external relations. It demonstrates this country's willingness to assist with the development needs of other countries. It forms part of New Zealand's role as a responsible international citizen. NZODA sees development as people centred and a process of enlarging people's choices and helping provide opportunities for them to take control of their lives and to realise their potential. One of our key guiding principles, however is that of partner responsibility, where NZODA is reactive rather than proactive. We respond to requests for assistance instead of pushing our ideas of what assistance is required onto our partner Governments.

The bulk of NZ's ODA is administered as part of bilateral programmes and the majority of this is administered in partnership with our Pacific partner governments. The administering of quality development assistance is a complex business in times of political stability but becomes far more complex in times of political instability.

There has been an increasing level of political instability in the wider Pacific region over the last decade. We have seen the conflict in Bougainville - which lasted the best part of a decade and the more recent coups and the aftermath of these in Fiji and the Solomon Islands.

The current level of political instability tests the government to government relationships that are the cornerstone of NZODA.

The NZODA presentation will investigate the provision of effective development assistance in unstable political environments. There will be speakers from within the Ministry and speakers who are involved in our development assistance programme from outside the Ministry. Speakers will cover a range of countries that New Zealand has a relationship with and that have recently experienced conflict and instability. Each speaker will initially concentrate on the country of their experience. They will do an individual presentation where they will identify the issues that arise and the challenges of delivering aid in a particular unstable environment. Then there will be time for a panel discussion in response to audience questions.

While speakers are not all confirmed we are attempting to cover Bougainville, Fiji and the Solomon Islands. The presentation will focus on administering aid both from the relevant country desk here in New Zealand, and from on the ground in unstable situations. It will also draw parallels and highlight the lessons we have learned over the last few years.