

Annotated Bibliography

Evidence review of social protection in the Pacific and Timor-Leste

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Partnerships for Social Protection (P4SP) contributes to greater coverage of quality, sustainable social protection systems in Pacific Island Countries and Timor-Leste, that reduce poverty and exclusion, address vulnerabilities through the life-course, and stimulate economic growth.

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List of abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
APRCWG	Asia-Pacific Regional Cash Working Group
ARC	African Risk Capacity
CCRIF	Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility Segregated Portfolio Company
CROP	Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific
CTP	Cash Transfer Programming
CVA	Cash and Voucher Assistance
DFAT	Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRSP	Disaster-responsive Social Protection
FCOSS	Fiji Council of Social Services
GBV	Gender-based violence
GDN	Global Development Network
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HCVA	Humanitarian Cash and Voucher Assistance
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IPC-IG	International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth
LGBTQI+	Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, Bisexual, Queer and Intersex+
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations Human Rights Commissioner
PALOP	Portuguese-speaking African countries (Países Africanos de Língua Oficial Portuguesa)
PCPP	Pacific Cash Preparedness Partnership
PCRAFI	Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative
PIANGO	Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations
PICs	Pacific Island Countries
PRCWG	Pacific Regional Cash Working Group
P4SP	Partnerships for Social Protection
SAIL	Pension for Older Persons and People with Disabilities (<i>Subsídio de Apoio a Idosos e Inválidos</i>)

SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SFP	School food/feeding programs
SOGIESC	Sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics
SPACE	Social Protection Approaches to COVID-19 Expert Advice Service
SPC	South Pacific Community
SPI	Social Protection Index
SWP	Seasonal Worker Program
UN	United Nations
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund / United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNOG	United Nations Office at Geneva
UNRISD	United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
USD	United States Dollar
USP	University of the South Pacific
WFP	World Food Programme

1 Introduction

This *Annotated Bibliography* is a comprehensive collation of publicly-available literature on social protection in the Pacific and Timor-Leste. To ensure a broad and thorough coverage of the topic, our systematic literature search and screening process encompassed multiple sources, including Google Scholar and a selection of curated priority websites. We used this bibliography as the evidence base for the *Evidence Review*, a companion resource that analyses the literature we identified in more depth and includes key debates, trends, challenges and notable geographic and thematic gaps.

The relevant literature in this bibliography is organised alphabetically by author but also includes a system of hyperlinked thematic and geographic tags. This means that policymakers, researchers and stakeholders interested in the field of social protection in the Pacific region can readily identify and access the literature associated with specific countries, regions and thematic areas of interest.

We developed the literature search and screening methodology, including the conceptual framework and search terms, in collaboration with Partnerships for Social Protection (P4SP). Our aim was to streamline the process, making it both efficient and comprehensive. We summarise the methodology here but it is presented in more detail in Annex 1.

Methodology

Our Google Scholar scanning process focused on one geographic location at a time and coupled specific search terms with the relevant section of the conceptual framework. The geographic locations in our scanning process included: American Samoa, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Melanesia, Micronesia, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Polynesia, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Wallis and Futuna.

We also examined key websites for relevant publications. We took an adaptive approach to this wider website search to cater for the diverse nature of the websites and their functionalities. We used a uniform general search term, 'social protection' but also any further search filters where available (region, country, language, date, and so on) to ensure efficient and comprehensive coverage across the various websites included in the study. P4SP, the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and other development partners also provided some additional resources for consideration.

We searched the following websites:

- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Australia Pacific Climate Partnership
- DFAT
- Fiji Women's Rights Movement
- International Labour Organisation (ILO)
- New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT)
- Oxfam (Australia)
- Pacific Data Hub
- Pacific Disability Forum

- Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (PIANGO)
- Pacific Islands Forum e-Library,
- Pacific Regional Cash Working Group (PRCWG)
- Pacific Theological College
- Pacific Women Lead
- Partnerships for Social Protection (P4SP)
- Rainbow Pride Foundation Fiji
- ReliefWeb
- Save the Children (Australia)
- Socialprotection.org
- The Pacific Community (SPC)
- Timor-Leste Studies Association
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP)
- United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women),
- World Bank
- World Food Programme (WFP)

We identified more than 7,000 search results and then screened them to exclude publications from before 2010, those that were not written in English and those not published by a named, reputable author or organisation. We then assessed the results for geographic and topic relevance, resulting in a final list of 242 unique, relevant documents. This *Annotated Bibliography* provides references, summaries and tags for these 242 documents.

User guide

This *Annotated Bibliography* is a user-friendly database with the references organised alphabetically and enhanced with clickable tags for easy navigation to related resources. These tags encompass both thematic and geographic categories so users can retrieve topic-based resources efficiently. Annex 1 explains the tagging system and defines all the thematic tags.

Example:

Knox-Vydmanov, C. & Satriana, S. (2022). *Social protection in the Pacific and Timor-Leste:*

The state of play. Partnerships for Social Protection.

<https://p4sp.org/resources/state-of-play/>

Click here (or ctrl + click) to view the web location of the resource

This blog post by Partnerships for Social Protection (P4SP) shows that contrary to the common perception that formal social protection is limited in the Pacific and will dry up post-COVID-19, most Pacific Island countries have invested significantly in social protection systems. The article analyses: the Pacific Island countries spending on tax-financed social protection; planned social protection expenditure; and improved coverage of population groups through social assistance schemes for the elderly, people with disabilities and children. It analyses the reasons for increased spending on universal benefits and the benefits gained from capitalising on existing social protection systems as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This article is most likely aimed at Pacific Island country policymakers and the public.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [other social inclusion](#), [disability](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#).

Click here (or ctrl + click) to view all resources tagged 'Pacific region'

Click here (or ctrl + click) to view all resources tagged 'cash transfers'

Each tag links to a list of all documents relevant to that tag. To view the full summary of any reference under a tag heading, simply press ctrl + click the title of the reference and you will be returned to the entry for that reference in the alphabetical annotated list.

2 Annotated bibliography (A-Z)

Aelbers, E., Basu, A., Boumphrey, R., Connell, J., Cruz, P., Castillo, N. D., Faber, E., Homasi, L. A., Kuari, M., Rabanal, R., Tinio, C., Wainiqolo, I., & Webb, J. (2020). *Pacific Economic Monitor: December 2020*. Asian Development Bank.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.22617/SPR200390-2>

This edition of the Pacific Economic Monitor broadly discusses the global outlook in 2020 and the key issues of COVID-19 recovery in the Pacific. This policy brief presents a broad overview of the various economic stimulus and social protection programs undertaken by each country in the Pacific region in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The article ‘Social protection and COVID-19 in the Pacific: Economic inoculation to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic’ by Ninebeth Carandang and Noel Del Castillo discusses the specific types of social protection programs pursued by different countries in the Pacific. This includes wage subsidies and unemployment support schemes, targeted social assistance, expanding existing social protection mechanisms, cash for work programs and funding for food security. It also presents existing limitations to social protection within each Pacific country, and more broadly, recommendations for sustaining protection beyond the pandemic. This policy brief is useful for policymakers looking to understand how social protection measures have been integral to responding to the COVID-19 pandemic in the Pacific.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [in-kind transfers](#), [subsidies](#), [labour market programs](#), [wage subsidies](#), [employment incentives](#), [cash/food-for-work](#).

Aelbers, E., Basu, A., Boumphrey, R., Connell, J., Cruz, P., Castillo, N. D., Faber, E., Freedman, D., Homasi, L. A., Rabanal, R. and Tinio, C. (2019). *Pacific Economic Monitor: July 2019*. Asian Development Bank.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.22617/SPR190271-2>

This edition of the Pacific Economic Monitor presents an overview of international and regional economic developments in the Pacific and discusses the social development gains in the Pacific underpinned by improvements in social protection, among other policies. The policy brief ‘Social protection in the Pacific’ highlights the ongoing work of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on the Social Protection Indicator (SPI). It quantifies social protection in 13 of the ADB Pacific developing member countries, analyses its components, impacts on beneficiaries, and across categories such as poverty levels and gender. One finding is that social insurance is the dominant component of social protection expenditures across the Pacific; however, this has not translated into a corresponding wide range of beneficiaries. It determines that further progress in social protection is necessary towards strengthening support for vulnerable groups, particularly women, children, unemployed people and the elderly. This policy brief is useful for policymakers looking to compare social protection outcomes across the Pacific and determine areas of improvement.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [social assistance](#), [social insurance](#), [labour market programs](#), [gender](#), [other social inclusion](#).

Alatoa, H. (2012). *Vanuatu: Updating and improving the Social Protection Index*. Asian Development Bank.

<https://www.adb.org/projects/documents/vanuatu-updating-and-improving-social-protection-index-tacr>

This case study of Vanuatu, prepared for the ADB, provides updated information and data on social protection arrangements, legislation and institutions, and calculates the SPI for Vanuatu in view of revised methodology. The case study describes the limited existing Vanuatu social protection programs. The overall SPI for Vanuatu is 0.025 (indicating that the average per capita social protection in the country is about 2.5% of the poverty line expenditures). This figure indicates a relatively low level of formal social protection, except for government and formal sector employees. The case study reports that elderly people and people with disabilities are overlooked in social protection systems.

Tags: [Vanuatu](#), [social assistance](#), [social insurance](#), [labour market programs](#), [other social inclusion](#), [disability](#).

Amosa, D., & Samson, M. (2012). *Samoa country case study. AusAID Pacific social protection series: poverty, vulnerability and social protection in the Pacific*. Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/samoa-case-study.pdf>

This research paper prepared for the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) assesses Samoa's experience of social protection, highlighting achievements and areas for further work. Amosa and Samson provide a country profile for Samoa, considering hardship, vulnerability and inequality, current social protection systems (both formal and informal) and crises and shocks. The authors express support for the Senior Citizens Benefit Scheme (despite its political controversy) and suggest that it could be built on to extend social protection to people with disabilities. This paper includes discussion of gender and social protection, disability, and informal social protection networks (notably the church).

Tags: [Samoa](#), [informal social protection](#), [church networks](#), [gender](#), [disability](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [social insurance](#), [contributory pensions](#).

Amosa, D. U. (2012). *Social Policies in Samoa*. Commonwealth Secretariat and United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.

<https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/content/publication/9781849290821-en>

Written by Desmond U. Amosa, this booklet discusses in depth the fundamentals that have enabled Samoa to uplift the quality of its society since independence from New Zealand, i.e., the welfare state, social cohesion, participative democracy and the rule of law, and highlights critical social issues such as poverty and crime that still need to be addressed. This book discusses post-independence social protection policies in Samoa, which includes several social insurance schemes (contributory pensions and insurance), cash transfers (pensions) and the conflict between formal social protection and traditional informal social protection (such as the role of family, kinship networks and community) that prevents governments from

introducing large-scale social protection policies. The intended audience for this book likely includes academics and development practitioners.

Tags: [Samoa](#), [social insurance](#), [contributory pensions](#), [cash transfers](#), [informal social protection](#), [kinship](#), [other social inclusion](#).

Anderson, K., Barnes, R., Raoof, A., & Hamilton, C. (2017). *Situation Analysis of Children in the Pacific Island Countries*. United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund.

<https://pacificdata.org/data/dataset/situation-analysis-of-children-in-the-pacific-island-countries/resource/09571769-d2df-45a5-bfc1-713a7e9543e5>

This report by United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) summarises findings from 14 situation analyses of children and women implemented in the following Pacific Island Countries (PICs): Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Chapter 7 in particular discusses the importance of comprehensive social protection systems in these countries for reducing vulnerabilities among the most deprived, particularly children. It emphasises how these systems can strengthen families, remove barriers to essential services and reduce inequality. The intended audience is likely policymakers, development practitioners and academics. Chapter 7 is important for highlighting disparities in social protection across the Pacific region, including gender and disability biases. It also mentions the decline of traditional support systems (informal social protection networks) due to modernisation. Overall, this report underscores the need for more effective and inclusive social protection systems in the Pacific to combat poverty and vulnerability.

Tags: [Cook Islands](#), [Federated States of Micronesia](#), [Fiji](#), [Kiribati](#), [Republic of Marshall Islands](#), [Nauru](#), [Niue](#), [Palau](#), [Samoa](#), [Solomon Islands](#), [Tokelau](#), [Tonga](#), [Tuvalu](#), [Vanuatu](#), [informal social protection](#), [gender](#), [disability](#), [social insurance](#), [labour market programs](#), [other social inclusion](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [kinship](#).

Asia-Pacific Regional Cash Working Group. (2019). *Asia-Pacific Regional Cash Working Group Meeting Minutes*. Asia-Pacific Regional Cash Working Group.

<https://reliefweb.int/report/world/asia-pacific-regional-cash-working-group-rcwg-meeting-minutes-q3-2019>

These meeting minutes summarise a meeting held in September 2019 at the World Food Programme (WFP) Regional Bureau in Bangkok, discussing Cash and Voucher Assistance programs (CVA) in the Pacific. The minutes discuss CVA feasibility, blockchain technology and an electronic voucher system. Updates on CVA initiatives in Vietnam, Indonesia and Laos are also provided. The intended audience for this document is likely to be NGOs and development practitioners. It is relevant for understanding social protection challenges and innovations in cash transfers in the region.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [humanitarian assistance](#).

Asia-Pacific Regional Cash Working Group. (2021). *Strategy 2022-2023 – Asia-Pacific Regional Cash Working Group*. Asia-Pacific Regional Cash Working Group.

<https://reliefweb.int/report/world/strategy-2022-2023-asia-pacific-regional-cash-working-group>

This strategy report authored by the Asia-Pacific Regional Cash Working Group (APRCWG), Focuses on the need for inter-agency coordination and early action in response to climate-related disasters and crises in the Asia-Pacific region. It emphasises the use of CVA and its links with national social protection systems, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The intended audiences for this likely include policymakers, humanitarian and development stakeholders involved in cash programming in the region. The strategy outlines several strategic objectives including technical support, capacity building, and knowledge sharing, and highlighting priority thematic areas such as preparedness, anticipatory action, social protection and collaborative cash approaches.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [Fiji](#), [Vanuatu](#), [Papua New Guinea](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [climate-resilient social protection](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [gender](#), [humanitarian assistance](#).

Asian Development Bank. (2010). *Weaving Social Safety Nets*. Asian Development Bank.

<https://www.adb.org/publications/weaving-social-safety-nets>

This report by the ADB discusses the importance of social safety nets in the Pacific to protect vulnerable populations from economic crises and shocks. It explores various safety net forms, dispels the notion that only wealthy countries can afford them, and emphasises the need for investment into social protection programs. This report is likely intended for policymakers and development practitioners. It offers insights into designing effective programs, monitoring, evaluation and forward-thinking planning. It also mentions an ADB project supporting vulnerable populations in several Pacific nations. It is a valuable resource for understanding social protection's significance in the Pacific and practical insights for its implementation.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [subsidies](#), [cash/food-for-work](#), [other social inclusion](#), [informal social protection](#), [church networks](#), [remittances](#).

Asian Development Bank. (2016). *The Social Protection Indicator: Assessing Results for the Pacific*. Asian Development Bank.

<https://www.adb.org/publications/social-protection-indicator-pacific>

This ADB report is the first report to specifically assess the social protection systems of 13 PICs. Based on data from 2012 and building on the 2013 ADB report 'The Social Protection Index: Assessing Results for Asia and the Pacific', it measures SPI across Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Pacific countries, analyses its components, subcomponents, and impact across gender, poverty levels and temporal scales. A key finding is that although social insurance continues to be the dominant component of social protection expenditures in the Pacific (63.8%), this does not translate into a comparably high level of actual beneficiaries reached. While social assistance accounts for one third of social protection expenditures (32.3%), it accounted for more than half of actual social protection beneficiaries. The report provides recommendations to policymakers and Pacific Island governments to improve social protection in their countries and is useful to academics and policymakers of the region.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [social assistance](#), [social insurance](#), [labour market programs](#), [gender](#), [other social inclusion](#).

Asian Development Bank. (2017). *Civil society briefs: Vanuatu*. Asian Development Bank.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.22617/BRF178677>

This ADB report provides a broad overview of the various civil society organisations in Vanuatu, from the foundational principles of Vanuatu civil society (Wantok, “big man” and kastom), the relationship between civil society and various entities such as the government, Church groups, foreign country governments and international organisations. It includes lists of key civil society organisations in Vanuatu, including Church-based organisations, and local and international NGOs. The report provides an overview of the various avenues for social protection that exist in Vanuatu, particularly social assistance and informal social protection, how they are funded and the challenges they face. It is useful for policymakers and development practitioners, especially those associated with international donor organisations such as the ADB.

Tags: [Vanuatu](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [social assistance](#), [informal social protection](#), [church networks](#).

Asian Development Bank. (2017). *Strengthening public pensions and health coverage in the Pacific: Proceedings of the 2016 ADB-FNPF-PPI Forum on Public Pension Systems in Asia, Focus; Pacific region*. Asian Development Bank.
<https://www.adb.org/publications/pension-systems-health-coverage-pacific>

This ADB publication is a conference paper from a two-day forum convened by the ADB and the Fiji National Provident Fund, which focused on how pensions and health coverage could be strengthened in the Pacific. The paper reports that there is a lack of comprehensive and coordinated social protection policies and programs, and highlights the high proportion of elderly people in the Pacific who live below the poverty line. The key recommendations from the paper are that retirement age should be raised to a minimum of 60 years, and that options for early, lump sum withdrawal from pensions should be limited.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [social insurance](#), [contributory pensions](#), [other social inclusion](#).

Asian Development Bank. (2018). *Asia’s fiscal challenge: Financing the social protection agenda of the sustainable development goals*. Asian Development Bank.
<https://www.adb.org/publications/asia-fiscal-challenge-social-protection-agenda>

This ADB report assesses the fiscal requirement to achieve the social protection agenda within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across 16 countries (including Timor-Leste). It focuses on four elements of social protection: provision of cash transfers for income security, health services, education services, and other essential goods and services. Although there is a wide geographic scope, a chapter is focused on Timor-Leste as a case study. ADB reports that Timor-Leste has a fairly comprehensive social protection system in place, but that it consumes a large proportion of national spending. The assessment finds that Timor-Leste is likely to face major challenges to meet the social protection goals of the SDGs, owing to major governance challenges, dire fiscal stress and economic challenges.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [Timor-Leste](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [subsidies](#), [social insurance](#), [contributory pensions](#), [other social inclusion](#), [disability](#).

Asian Development Bank. (2018). *Asian Development Outlook 2018: How technology affects jobs*. Asian Development Bank.

<https://www.adb.org/publications/asian-development-outlook-2018-how-technology-affects-jobs>

This extensive ADB report focuses on how technological advancements will influence jobs and economic conditions across Asia and the Pacific. Chapter 2 is most relevant to social protection in the Pacific, and key findings include that economic changes caused by technological developments will require strong social protection frameworks. ADB state that social protection will be needed to help reduce income inequality, with a particular view of supporting workers whose jobs are changed or lost as a result of technological changes. The report also discussed the need to adjust tax and expenditure policy to ensure sufficient resources for social protection.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [in-kind transfers](#), [subsidies](#), [cash/food-for-work](#), [social insurance](#), [contributory pensions](#).

Asian Development Bank. (2018). *Enhancing ADB's Support for Social Protection to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals – 2018 Social Protection Indicator the Cook Islands*. Asian Development Bank.

<https://www.adb.org/projects/52012-001/main>

This report evaluates the Cook Islands' social protection system using 2018 SPI data and the COVID-19 response. It underscores a well-established system since 1965. At the time of publishing, social protection expenditure was \$20.79 million, 3.97% of GDP, with 86.26% directed to social assistance. Noteworthy COVID-19 initiatives included a wage subsidy and unemployment benefit. Disability assistance, mainly the infirm benefit, featured prominently. The SPI analysis recommends targeted policy measures, emphasising the need for a comprehensive social protection policy, improved data collection, poverty alleviation through enhanced destitute benefits, and strengthened gender responsiveness. Despite economic growth, identified gaps in policy guidance, inefficient social assistance management, and inadequate disaggregated data collection highlight the call for strategic improvements in the Cook Islands' social protection framework.

Tags: [Cook Islands](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [social insurance](#), [social assistance](#), [gender](#), [disability](#).

Asian Development Bank. (2018). *Enhancing ADB's Support for Social Protection to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals – 2018 Social Protection Indicator the Federated States of Micronesia*. Asian Development Bank.

<https://www.adb.org/projects/52012-001/main>

This assessment of the FSM's 2018 SPI data reveals a predominant reliance on social insurance programs, which cover retirement, disability, and survivor's benefits. Social

assistance is limited, with the Special Education Program being the primary initiative. In 2018, social protection expenditure amounted to \$25,701,716, representing 6.39% of GDP. The SPI is estimated at 4.99% of GDP per capita, with social insurance programs accounting for 4.24%, social assistance for 0.75%, and labour market programs contributing none. This analysis emphasises the need for a more comprehensive social protection strategy, improved data collection, and a focus on poverty alleviation.

Tags: [Federated States of Micronesia](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [social insurance](#), [social assistance](#), [disability](#).

Asian Development Bank. (2018). *Enhancing ADB's Support for Social Protection to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals – 2018 Social Protection Indicator Fiji*. Asian Development Bank.

<https://www.adb.org/projects/52012-001/main>

This report on Fiji's SPI in 2018 indicates a decrease in social protection spending from 2012 (6.4%) to 2018 (4.3%), with a marginal increase from 2015 (3.9%). Notably, social assistance spending surged from F\$54.3 million in 2015 to F\$151.4 million in 2018, comprising 31% of total social protection spending. The programs include diverse initiatives like micro-insurance schemes and targeted assistance for vulnerable groups. Social insurance, mainly through the Fiji National Provident Fund, accounted for 67.7% of spending, with reduced depth but broader distribution. Labour market programs constituted 1.6% of total spending. Gender disparities favoured men, and people with disabilities benefited from new programs, including the Disability Allowance. The COVID-19 pandemic revealed limitations in a tightly targeted system during emergencies, emphasising the need for adaptive social protection. The report serves as a valuable resource for policymakers, practitioners, and social protection stakeholders involved in Fiji's social protection landscape.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [social insurance](#), [social assistance](#), [gender](#), [disability](#), [other social inclusion](#).

Asian Development Bank. (2018). *Enhancing ADB's Support for Social Protection to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals – 2018 Social Protection Indicator Kiribati*. Asian Development Bank.

<https://www.adb.org/projects/52012-001/main>

This report on Kiribati's social protection landscape reveals an SPI of 11.1% of GDP per capita in 2018, a slight increase from 2015. Social protection programs lack specific targeting for the poor, women, children, and people with disabilities. While social insurance depth declined, labour market programs grew in importance. The SPI for the poor increased significantly to 6.0% in 2018, attributed to copra price hikes. Gender-wise, men's SPI is notably higher than women's. Despite improvements, people with disabilities receive only 0.7% of GDP per capita in social protection benefits. With the onset of COVID-19, the report suggests strengthening social protection programs to address adverse economic impacts since 2020. This document, relevant for policymakers and development practitioners and sheds light on the challenges and opportunities for enhancing social protection in Kiribati.

Tags: [Kiribati](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [social insurance](#), [social assistance](#), [gender](#), [other social inclusion](#).

Asian Development Bank. (2018). *Enhancing ADB's Support for Social Protection to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals – 2018 Social Protection Indicator Nauru*. Asian Development Bank.

<https://www.adb.org/projects/52012-001/main>

This report on Nauru's social protection outlines the government's efforts to allocate budgets for existing programs, focusing on vulnerable groups like women, children, people with disabilities, pensioners, and the elderly. In 2018, Nauru's social protection expenditure represented 3.4% of GDP and 2.9% of GDP per capita, with social insurance and assistance as the primary categories. Notable findings include a high depth of coverage (7.9% of GDP per capita) but relatively low breadth (36.9% of total target beneficiaries). Expenditure favoured the nonpoor (2.1% of GDP per capita) over the poor (0.8%), with women receiving a higher proportion (1.6% of GDP per capita) compared to men (1.3%). People with disabilities received a smaller share (0.4% of GDP per capita) compared to those without disabilities (2.5%). The absence of labour market programs in 2018 is highlighted. This report provides valuable insights for policymakers and practitioners aiming to enhance social protection in Nauru.

Tags: [Nauru](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [social insurance](#), [social assistance](#), [gender](#), [other social inclusion](#).

Asian Development Bank. (2018). *Enhancing ADB's Support for Social Protection to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals – 2018 Social Protection Indicator Niue*. Asian Development Bank.

<https://www.adb.org/projects/52012-001/main>

This report on Niue's social protection landscape using 2018 SPI data, provides a comprehensive overview of the country's unique social protection system. It explores Niue's distinct position as an independent nation whose citizens are also New Zealanders, influencing the structure of its social protection programs. The SPI, calculated at 7.8% of GDP per capita in 2018, positions Niue favourably within the Pacific region. Notably, the analysis unveils a significant focus on the older demographic, with superannuation and the Niue Pension accounting for a substantial portion of social protection spending. The report emphasises gender, income, and disability disparities, revealing that women, the poor, and individuals with disabilities receive comparatively fewer benefits. The government's acknowledgment of social protection benefits as a crucial element in population strategy adds a strategic dimension to the analysis, potentially guiding future policy development.

Tags: [Niue](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [social insurance](#), [social assistance](#), [gender](#), [disability](#), [other social inclusion](#).

Asian Development Bank. (2018). *Enhancing ADB's Support for Social Protection to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals – 2018 Social Protection Indicator Palau*. Asian Development Bank.

<https://www.adb.org/projects/52012-001/main>

This report assesses Palau's social protection landscape in using SPI data from 2018, covering 11 programs with expenditures totalling \$39.7 million. The SPI stands at 10.38%, showcasing the significant role of social insurance, which constitutes 88.91% of total expenditures. Notable findings include a high breadth of coverage (113.28%), reflecting beneficiaries accessing multiple programs, and a depth of coverage at 9.17% of GDP per capita. Unique aspects include an emphasis on older persons, with pensions contributing to 73.92% of total expenditures. The report provides crucial insights for policymakers and development practitioners offering valuable perspectives on Palau's social protection landscape and guiding the development of targeted interventions.

Tags: [Palau](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [social insurance](#), [social assistance](#), [other social inclusion](#).

Asian Development Bank. (2018). *Enhancing ADB's Support for Social Protection to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals – 2018 Social Protection Indicator Samoa*. Asian Development Bank.

<https://www.adb.org/projects/52012-001/main>

This assessment of Samoa's social protection landscape using 2018 SPI data revealed a total expenditure of ST70 million, indicating a 9.3% rise from 2015. The distribution of spending across social insurance, social assistance, and labour market programs contributed to an overall increase in social protection as a percentage of GDP, growing from 3.24% to 3.33%. Specifically, the SPI reflects a share of 2.40% for social insurance and a consistent 0.93% for social assistance, with a slight uptick of 3.4% observed in labour market programs. Notably, the nonpoor demographic received a higher share of benefits, contrasting the SPI for the poor that increased from 0.47% to 0.62%. Gender disparities persisted, and efforts towards persons with disabilities centred on inclusive education.

Tags: [Samoa](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [social insurance](#), [social assistance](#), [gender](#), [other social inclusion](#).

Asian Development Bank. (2018). *Enhancing ADB's Support for Social Protection to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals – 2018 Social Protection Indicator Solomon Islands*. Asian Development Bank.

<https://www.adb.org/projects/52012-001/main>

This report focuses on the Solomon Islands examining key aspects of social protection in the country such as expenditure, coverage, and benefit sizes. The document discusses Solomon Islands three main categories of social protection programs—social insurance, social assistance, and labour market programs. The SPI was calculated at 3.0% of the GDP per capita in 2018. Noteworthy findings reveal the distribution of expenditure, with social protection spending reported by the ADB to favour the nonpoor over the poor and include gender disparities. The report emphasises the distinctiveness of Solomon Islands' social protection landscape, portraying a scenario where social insurance benefits a specific subset of workers, while social assistance and labour market programs play more modest roles.

Tags: [Solomon Islands](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [social insurance](#), [social assistance](#), [gender](#).

Asian Development Bank. (2018). *Enhancing ADB's Support for Social Protection to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals – 2018 Social Protection Indicator Tonga*. Asian Development Bank.

<https://www.adb.org/projects/52012-001/main>

This report on Tonga's social protection highlights the shift from traditional support structures to more formal programs. In 2018, social protection expenditure reached T\$18.52 million (1.73% of GDP), with a focus on social insurance (69.5%) and elderly assistance (24.8%). The aggregate SPI was 1.5% of GDP per capita, reflecting a low level of formal protection for key groups, except the elderly. The depth and breadth of coverage are relatively low, with government pensions dominating. Labour market programs show potential for improvement, especially with seasonal worker schemes. Poverty focus is weak, and gender imbalances persist, favouring males. Social protection for people with disabilities remains limited. Remittances, comprising 30% of GDP, play a crucial role in supporting vulnerable families. The COVID-19 impact, especially on tourism, emphasises the need for targeted and effective long-term social protection strategies. The report serves as a valuable resource for policymakers, practitioners, and social protection stakeholders.

Tags: [Tonga](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [social insurance](#), [social assistance](#), [gender](#), [other social inclusion](#).

Asian Development Bank. (2018). *Enhancing ADB's Support for Social Protection to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals – 2018 Social Protection Indicator Vanuatu*. Asian Development Bank.

<https://www.adb.org/projects/52012-001/main>

This report on social protection in Vanuatu, assesses the country's social protection landscape. The SPI reflects a notable increase from 1.2% of GDP in 2015 to 2.9% in 2018. Social insurance, led by the Vanuatu National Provident Fund (VNPF), contributes 0.9% to GDP per capita. Social assistance, emphasising school grants, scholarships, and health aid, constitutes 73% of total social protection in 2018, with an SPI of 2.5%. Labour market programs, including the Pacific Labour Scheme, saw a decrease to 1% of total expenditure. The report underscores a non-poverty-targeted approach and a growing trend towards gender equity in social protection expenditure. Recommendations advocate for improved disability data collection, strengthened commitment to disability-inclusive policies, and prioritisation of noncommunicable disease reduction. The report serves as a valuable resource for policymakers, practitioners, and social protection stakeholders.

Tags: [Vanuatu](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [social insurance](#), [social assistance](#), [gender](#), [other social inclusion](#), [disability](#).

Asian Development Bank. (2019). *The Social Protection Indicator for the Pacific: Assessing progress*. Asian Development Bank.

<https://www.adb.org/publications/social-protection-indicator-pacific-assessing-progress>

This ADB report assesses the nature and effectiveness of social protection within and across Pacific countries using the SPI. This analysis draws on comprehensive 2015 data on social protection programs in 13 Pacific developing member countries of the ADB. The SPI categorises social protection into three parts: social insurance, social assistance and active labour market programs. Of these, social insurance is by far dominant in terms of spending. The report found that there has been substantial progress in social protection across the Pacific. Average social protection expenditure in 2015 across the region was 6% of aggregate GDP, but coverage was only 31.2% of intended beneficiaries. Furthermore, the report states that social protection spending (as a percentage of GDP per capita) was higher for the nonpoor than the poor, and for men than women. This report includes extended discussion of gender and social protection.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [social insurance](#), [contributory pensions](#), [social assistance](#), [labour market programs](#), [cash/food-for-work](#), [gender](#), [disability](#), [other social inclusion](#).

Asian Development Bank. (2020). *Empowering the vulnerable in Tonga: A success story on social protection services*. Asian Development Bank.

<https://www.adb.org/publications/empowering-vulnerable-tonga-social-protection>

This ADB report draws on the positive impact of a social protection program in Tonga ‘Social Protection of the Vulnerable in the Pacific’ funded through the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction and administered by the ADB. It was one of the first formal social protection initiatives in Tonga that catered to the essential needs of vulnerable families and people, particularly children with disabilities and elderly people in need of care, in collaboration with the Tongan government and civil society organisations such as Ma’a Fafine Mo e Famili. The report shows that if designed properly, formal social protection programs can reflect and deepen existing informal community support networks in Tonga, and concludes with broader lessons for sustainable, scalable care in the Pacific. It is useful for practitioners and policymakers as a specific example of a successful social protection program in the Pacific, particularly for children with disabilities and the elderly.

Tags: [Tonga](#), [social assistance](#), [disability](#), [other social inclusion](#).

Asian Development Bank. (2020). *Lessons from ADB’s Social Protection Interventions: A Synthesis of Learning on Social Assistance Support*. Asian Development Bank.

<https://www.adb.org/documents/lessons-adb-s-social-protection-interventions-synthesis-learning-social-assistance-support>

This report reviews evaluations completed between 2001 and 2020 regarding the ADB’s support for social assistance. The main argument centres on the significance of social assistance programs in the economic architecture of a country, particularly in mitigating the impacts of crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic. The report emphasises the relevance of social protection in achieving the SDGs, promoting social justices, and realising the human right to social security. This report is likely targeted at policymakers, development practitioners and organisations involved in social assistance programs. It provides lessons and insights drawn from ADB’s two decades of experience in supporting social assistance initiatives in the Asia-Pacific region. It is important for understanding the role, challenges, and opportunities of social protection in the context of ongoing and future crises.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [social insurance](#), [labour market programs](#).

Asian Development Bank. (2021). *Country Diagnostic Study on Long-Term Care in Tonga*.

Asian Development Bank.

<https://www.adb.org/publications/tonga-country-diagnostic-study-long-term-care>

The document under consideration is a country diagnostic study focused on long-term care for older people in Tonga. Primarily aimed at policymakers, NGOs, and development practitioners, the country diagnostic study delves into the demographic, economic, and healthcare aspects of Tonga, emphasising the challenges and opportunities in long-term care for Tonga's aging population. Covering issues such as poverty levels among older individuals, gaps in service provision, and the government's policy stance, the document underscores the need for increased attention to aged care. This comprehensive study contributes valuable insights into Tonga's social protection landscape, highlighting the pressing issues related to elderly care and proposing necessary interventions.

Tags: [Tonga](#), [other social inclusion](#), [social insurance](#), [contributory pensions](#).

Asian Development Bank. (2021). *Pacific Economic Monitor – July 2021*. Asian Development Bank.

<https://www.adb.org/publications/pacific-economic-monitor-july-2021>

This report which is a part of the Pacific Economic Monitor series focuses on the experiences and lessons learned by PICs in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Sections specific to social protection focus on Kiribati, Tuvalu and the Federated States of Micronesia and outlines the COVID-19 preparedness and response packages introduced to address health and economic related challenges. These sections emphasise there is a balance required between immediate needs and long-term development goals, urging cautious use of scarce public resources. It also discusses the role of development partners such as the ADB and World Bank in providing financial and technical support. It argues the importance of social protection measures as incentives for vaccination and the cautious reopening of economies in the context of ongoing health risks. This report is likely intended for policymakers, government officials and organisations involved in economic and health-related decision-making in the Pacific region.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [Kiribati](#), [Tuvalu](#), [Federated States of Micronesia](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [social assistance](#), [social insurance](#).

Asian Development Bank. (2022). *Southeast Asia rising from the pandemic*. Asian Development Bank.

<https://www.adb.org/publications/southeast-asia-rising-from-pandemic>

This report from the ADB examines different recovery scenarios, long-term challenges and growth drivers for Southeast Asia in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. It includes extended case studies for eight countries, including a chapter on Timor-Leste. This chapter demonstrates how public financial management-related interventions enables the Timor-Leste government to carry out a series of social protection measures (including cash transfers, food and in-kind

distribution to vulnerable households). The chapter also includes a set of recommendations about how to improve the efficiency and quality of public expenditure, noting that the emergency response to the pandemic coupled with falling oil revenues have created a precarious fiscal situation.

Tags: [Timor-Leste](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [in-kind transfers](#), [subsidies](#), [social insurance](#).

Asian Development Bank. (2022). *The Road to Better Long-Term Care in Asia and the Pacific: Building Systems of Care and Support for Older Persons*. Asian Development Bank.

<https://www.adb.org/publications/better-long-term-care-asia-pacific>

This report addresses the pressing challenges of long-term care in the Asia-Pacific region, including a case study on Tonga. It underscores the growing need for long-term care policy, services, and personnel due to an ageing population. The intended audience likely includes policymakers and development practitioners involved in socially-inclusive social protection measures and social protection for the elderly. The document delves into Tonga's long-term care ecosystem, emphasising the importance of aging in place and family-centred care, while discussing challenges in financing, workforce, and technology. Notable initiatives, like Tonga's home care pilot program, offer insights for policymakers in the Pacific tackling social protection issues tied to an aging demographic.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [Tonga](#), [social insurance](#), [contributory pensions](#), [other social inclusion](#).

Asian Development Bank. (2022). *The Social Protection Indicator for the Pacific: Tracking developments in social protection*. Asian Development Bank.

<https://www.adb.org/publications/social-protection-indicator-pacific-tracking-developments>

This ADB report uses the SPI to assess social protection within the Pacific. It uses 2018 data on social protection programs in 14 Pacific developing member countries of the ADB. The report finds that overall expenditure on social protection in the study's Pacific countries is rising at modest rates, and that social insurance is the dominant social protection instrument, though social assistance programs are expanding and diversifying. Labour market programs remain modest. The ADB also report that benefits tend to be small and narrowly distributed, and that social protection expenditure continues to be higher for the nonpoor than the poor, men than women and those without disabilities over those with disabilities.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [social insurance](#), [contributory pensions](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [subsidies](#), [labour market programs](#), [wage subsidies](#), [gender](#), [disability](#), [other social inclusion](#).

Asian Development Bank. (2023). *Strategy 2030 Social Protection Directional Guide*

***Summary: Inclusive and Resilient Social Protection for Asia and the Pacific*. Asian Development Bank.**

<https://www.adb.org/publications/strategy-2030-social-protection-directional-guide-summary>

This document outlines the ADB's strategic directions in social protection. Aligned with the ADB's strategy 2030, the guide emphasises social protection as crucial for poverty reduction and inequality alleviation in the region. The primary argument centres on the need for comprehensive social protection policies and systems, especially given the challenges posed by COVID-19, climate change and demographic shifts. The intended audience likely includes policymakers, development practitioners and stakeholders involved in social protection in the Asia-Pacific region. Its relevance lies in offering insights into the ADB's vision, strategic objectives and operational pillars for advancing inclusive and resilience social protection. Key themes include the importance of comprehensive systems, integrated solutions and adaptive, shock-responsive approaches.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#).

Australian Agency for International Development. (2012). *Social cohesion and social protection in Pacific Island countries*. Australian Agency for International Development.

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/pacific-social-protection-series>

This AusAID published research paper explores different perspectives on social cohesion and protection in the Pacific, specifically case studies from Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. It covers the importance, strengths and weaknesses of social protection in the Pacific, with an emphasis on traditional social protection; its relation to poverty, inequality and social cohesion, and its role in strengthening social cohesion and nation building. It concludes by highlighting the need for greater evidence about the role of social protection within the cultural setting and specific agendas of PICs. The intended audience for this paper likely includes academics, development practitioners and policymakers.

Tags: [Kiribati](#), [Samoa](#), [Solomon Islands](#), [Vanuatu](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [informal social protection](#).

Australian Agency for International Development. (2012). *Social protection and economic growth in Pacific Island countries, AusAID Pacific social protection series: poverty, vulnerability and social protection in the Pacific*. Australian Agency for International development.

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/economic-growth.pdf>

This research paper by AusAID assesses the potential role of social protection in stimulating economic growth and employment, enabling PICs to better cope with the local impacts of global economic downturns. It discusses the emerging global evidence base demonstrating that social protection promotes pro-poor economic growth and applies them to the Pacific context. It documents the applicability of global lessons to the Pacific in the face of the global economic downturn and identifies effective counter-cyclical instruments to enable PICs to cope. It concludes that social protection can help poor and vulnerable groups better cope with economic shocks and is an investment with potentially high social and economic returns. This research paper is likely useful for PIC policymakers, government officials or development practitioners.

Tags: [Kiribati](#), [Samoa](#), [Solomon Islands](#), [Vanuatu](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#).

Australian Agency for International Development. (n.d.) *Informal social protection in Pacific Island countries - strengths and weaknesses*. Australian Agency for International Development.

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/informal-social-protection-in-pacific-island-countries-strengths-and-weaknesses>

This briefing paper from AusAID shows that traditional safety nets in the Pacific do not entirely avert poverty and social exclusion. It argues that informal social protection is eroded by diminishing flexibility in land allocation, increasing reliance on markets, rising poverty levels, weakening social obligation, greater inequality and urbanisation. It concludes that formal social protection such as pensions or grants can complement informal social protection in the Pacific, particularly in the realm of inclusive social protection for the elderly, children and those with disabilities. It is likely that this briefing paper is targeted at general audiences or practitioners.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [informal social protection](#), [other social inclusion](#), [social insurance](#), [contributory pensions](#).

Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. (2012). *Achieving education and health outcomes in Pacific Island countries – is there a role for social transfers?* Australian Agency for International Development.

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/pacific-social-protection-series>

This DFAT research paper considers the role of social protection in achieving health and education outcomes, based on case studies in Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. This paper outlines a variety of education and health challenges facing these countries, including poor secondary school attendance, low quality education, growing burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases and low-quality health services. The key argument is that social transfers can help to address poverty, which lies at the root of many of these issues.

Tags: [Kiribati](#), [Samoa](#), [Solomon Islands](#), [Vanuatu](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [informal social protection](#), [gender](#), [other social inclusion](#).

Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. (2012). *Kiribati country case study. AusAID Pacific social protection series: poverty, vulnerability and social protection in the Pacific*. Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/kiribati-case-study>

This DFAT report details the state of social protection in Kiribati, encompassing formal and informal social protection. The study emphasises the need for expanded formal social protection programs as an investment, particularly for human capital, economic development and poverty reduction. The intended audience includes policymakers, researchers and development practitioners. It is relevant for understanding Kiribati's social protection

challenges, including gender-based violence, child malnutrition, youth unemployment and the impact of informal care structures.

Tags: [Kiribati](#), [informal social protection](#), [church networks](#), [social insurance](#), [contributory pensions](#), [other social inclusion](#), [gender](#).

Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. (2012). *Micro-simulation analysis of social protection interventions in Kiribati*. Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/micro-simulation-analysis-of-social-protection-interventions-in-pacific-islands>

This DFAT brief outlines the results of a micro-simulation model which analysed the potential impact of different social protection measures which could be implemented in Kiribati. The models use data from the 2006 Kiribati Household Income and Expenditure Survey to examine how different spending levels across different programs would influence poverty. The micro-simulations suggested that a combined package of benefits to children under five and adults over 65, costing two per cent of government expenditure, would reduce Kiribati's poverty gap by 15 per cent. Furthermore, a high value social pension to all those over 65 years (costing two per cent of GDP) would have greater pro-poor impact and poverty-reducing efficiency than a child benefit or any of the combined child grant and social pension packages modelled for Kiribati.

Tags: [Kiribati](#), [social assistance](#), [informal social protection](#).

Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. (2012). *Micro-simulation analysis of social protection interventions in Pacific Islands*. Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/micro-simulation-analysis-of-social-protection-interventions-in-pacific-islands>

This research paper by DFAT reports on results of micro-simulation analyses of Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. It analyses how different social protection interventions would impact poverty levels and the equity effects of social protection spending. The data is drawn from household income and expenditure surveys for the four countries. The micro-simulations reveal that different social protection packages will vary in their effectiveness and efficiency across the four countries, reflecting differences in demographic distribution of poverty, available government resources and definitions of the poverty line.

Tags: [Kiribati](#), [Samoa](#), [Solomon Islands](#), [Vanuatu](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#).

Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. (2012). *Micro-simulation analysis of social protection interventions in Samoa*. Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/micro-simulation-analysis-of-social-protection-interventions-in-pacific-islands>

This DFAT brief outlines the results of a micro-simulation model which analysed the potential impact of different social protection measures which could be implemented in Samoa. The models use data from the 2008 Samoa Household Income and Expenditure Survey to examine how different spending levels across different programs would influence poverty. The micro-simulations suggested that a combined package of benefits to children under five and adults over 65 (costing two per cent of GDP) would reduce Samoa's poverty gap by 20 per cent. Furthermore, a high value child benefit (costing 1.5 per cent of GDP) would have the greatest pro-poor impact and poverty-reducing efficiency of all the modelled interventions in Samoa.

Tags: [Samoa](#), [social assistance](#), [informal social protection](#).

Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. (2012). *Micro-simulation analysis of social protection interventions in Solomon Islands*. Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/micro-simulation-analysis-of-social-protection-interventions-in-pacific-islands>

This DFAT brief outlines the results of a micro-simulation model which analysed the potential impact of different social protection measures which could be implemented in Solomon Islands. The models use data from the 2006 Solomon Islands Household Income and Expenditure Survey to examine how different spending levels across different programs would influence poverty. The micro-simulations suggested that a combined package of benefits to children under five and adults over 65 (costing 2.6 per cent of GDP) would reduce Solomon Islands' poverty gap by 21 per cent. Furthermore, a high value child benefit (costing 0.8 per cent of GDP) would have greater pro-poor and poverty-reducing efficiency than either a child benefit or a social pension alone.

Tags: [Solomon Islands](#), [social assistance](#), [informal social protection](#).

Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. (2012). *Micro-simulation analysis of social protection interventions in Vanuatu*. Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/micro-simulation-analysis-of-social-protection-interventions-in-pacific-islands>

This DFAT brief outlines the results of a micro-simulation model which analysed the potential impact of different social protection measures which could be implemented in Vanuatu. The models use data from the 2008 Vanuatu Household Income and Expenditure Survey to examine how different spending levels across different programs would influence poverty. The micro-simulations suggested that a combined package of benefits to children under five and adults over 65 (costing 1.2 per cent of GDP) would reduce Vanuatu's poverty gap by 20 per cent. In the case of Vanuatu, either a universal child benefit on its own or a universal pension on its own would have pro-poor impact, with the child benefit being slightly more pro-poor and having marginally higher poverty-reducing efficiency.

Tags: [Vanuatu](#), [social assistance](#), [informal social protection](#).

Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. (2012). *Social protection and gender in the Pacific – a lifecycle approach*. Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/social-protection-and-gender-in-the-pacific-a-lifecycle-approach>

This briefing paper underscores the need to integrate gender considerations into social protection, emphasising experiences of poverty and vulnerability faced by both women and men in PICs. It argues that social protection can contribute to gender equality beyond focusing solely on women, considering the complex gender relations influenced by traditional norms and evolving socio-economic dynamics in the Pacific. This brief is likely targeted at policymakers and development practitioners and highlights that gender inequality in the Pacific is attributed to factors like traditional beliefs, poverty, migration, urbanisation, globalisation, and poor governance. The paper advocates for a nuanced understanding of gendered experiences in poverty and vulnerability, particularly in the design and implementation of social protection programs in the Pacific.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [gender](#).

Axelson, H., & Leopold, N. (2021). *Social Protection in Action: Building social protection floors for all. Country Brief: Timor-Leste*. International Labour Organisation.

<https://www.social-protection.org/qimi/ShowRessource.action?id=57667>

Axelson and Leopold discuss social health protection in Timor-Leste, a lower middle-income country with a focus on universal health coverage. It provides an overview of the country's social protection system, which includes various cash transfer schemes, social services for vulnerable groups and affordable national health and education services. The primary argument is that while the government-funded national health services offer free affordable healthcare to the population, there are challenges in extending coverage to rural and hard-to-reach areas. The intended audiences are likely policymakers and health practitioners interested in healthcare in Timor-Leste. This article is relevant for understanding social protection efforts in Timor-Leste, specifically on issues related to healthcare access, particularly along the axes of gender and disability, and affordability. It specifically recommends the need for increased resources to improve health services, particularly in rural areas.

Tags: [Timor-Leste](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#).

Bailey, R-L. (2014). *Working the Vines: seasonal migration, money, and development in New Zealand and Ambrym, Vanuatu*. University of Otago.

<https://ourarchive.otago.ac.nz/handle/10523/5063>

Bailey's thesis focuses on how migrant earnings from New Zealand are recirculated into communities in Ambrym, Vanuatu. They found that the remittances have contributed to school fees, new housing, water infrastructure projects, community projects, new businesses, and have been included in funding the ceremonial exchange economy. The thesis includes chapters on development in Ambrym and locating remittances within the local economies. They also discuss spousal relationships in the context of migration.

Tags: [Vanuatu](#), [informal social protection](#), [remittances](#), [gender](#).

Barca, V., Sharpe, J., & Flower, C. (2021). *Social protection “killer facts”*, Social Protection Approaches to COVID-19 Expert Advice Service (SPACE). DAI Global United Kingdom Ltd.

https://socialprotection.org/sites/default/files/publications_files/SPACE_Social%20Protection%20Killer%20Facts.pdf

Barca et al. present a summary of facts and figures about social protection across the world, drawing on current data and evidence. The report is written at a global scale but has one sub-section focused on the scale and types of social protection schemes in the Asia-Pacific region. This regional evidence highlights that spending on social protection is increasing (mostly social assistance) but is skewed towards non-poor population groups. The Asia-Pacific section also includes some country-level data, highlighting that benefit adequacy is low in many social assistance programs in the Asia-Pacific region. The report is intended for researchers and policymakers interested in social protection.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [social assistance](#).

Barrett, H., Barrett, S., & Livingstone, A. (2023). *Review of the Global Evidence on Social Protection Supporting Childhood Development Outcomes*. Save the Children.

<https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/document/review-of-the-global-evidence-on-social-protection-supporting-childhood-development-outcomes/>

This global evidence review on social protection's impact on childhood development outcomes is part of Save The Children Australia's broader initiative to enhance social protection policy and advocacy in the Pacific. The review focuses on stunting reduction, improved access to primary education, cognitive, social, and emotional development, and decreased violent discipline against children in the home. Key findings include the importance of additional interventions for feeding practices and parenting, the critical contribution of cash transfers for pregnant women and young children, and the nuanced effects of conditional cash transfers on childhood development. Transfer adequacy and the quality of supply-side services also play crucial roles. The review highlights a bias toward conditional cash transfers in Latin America and acknowledges limited evidence for Pacific contexts, cautioning against generalising to PICs. Nonetheless, the research offers essential insights for crafting tailored social protection programs in the Pacific.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [other social inclusion](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#).

Beazley, R., Gorman, H., Satriana, S., & Attenborough, J. (2021). *Social protection responses to the COVID-19 pandemic in the Pacific: A tipping point for the sector?*. Social Protection Approaches to COVID-19 Expert Advice Service. DAI Global United Kingdom Ltd.

<https://g2p-network.org/social-protection-responses-to-the-covid-19-pandemic-in-the-pacific-a-tipping-point-for-the-sector/>

This paper produced by Social Protection Approaches to COVID-19 Expert Advice Service (SPACE) examines the social protection responses to COVID-19 in the Pacific region, assesses how individual countries responded to the pandemic and draws operational lessons. It focuses primarily on social assistance and cash responses by governments, although it also includes some analysis of social insurance, active labour market programs and major responses by non-government actors. Where relevant and appropriate, the paper discusses how the response to COVID-19 in the Pacific region aligns or differs from the broader global response trends and the experiences of other regions. It concludes with policy implications for the future of social protection in the region.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [social insurance](#), [labour market programs](#), [informal social protection](#).

Boumphrey, R., Connel, J., Cruz, P., Del Castillo, N., Homasi, L., Kuari, M., Narain, A., Patagan, R., Rabnal, R., Schroder, M., Tinio, C., Wainiqolo, I., & Webb, J. (2022). *Pacific Economic Monitor: December 2022 – The Future of Social Protection in the Pacific*. Asian Development Bank.
<https://reliefweb.int/report/cook-islands/pacific-economic-monitor-december-2022-future-social-protection-pacific>

This series of articles delves into social protection in various PICs including: Cook Islands, Niue, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. It assesses the state of social protection systems and their fiscal impacts, particularly in light of COVID-19. The article explores how these countries can strengthen their social protection systems to address long-standing development concerns and enhance resilience to future shocks. In particular, it emphasises the importance of investing in universal social protection policies to reduce poverty and vulnerability. The intended audience includes policymakers, development practitioners and stakeholders interested in understanding and improving social protection in the Pacific. This series of articles is a significant resource holding valuable insights and lessons that can guide efforts to enhance social protection in the Pacific.

Tags: [Cook Islands](#), [Niue](#), [Fiji](#), [Federated States of Micronesia](#), [Kiribati](#), [Tuvalu](#), [Republic of Marshall Islands](#), [Nauru](#), [Papua New Guinea](#), [Samoa](#), [Tonga](#), [Solomon Islands](#), [Vanuatu](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [labour market programs](#), [gender](#), [other social inclusion](#), [social insurance](#), [social assistance](#).

Brown, & Jimenez, E. V. (2011). Subjectively assessed Welfare and International Remittances: Evidence from Tonga. *The Journal of Development Studies*. 47(6). 829–845.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00220388.2010.501376>

This article investigates remittances behaviour in Tonga, focusing on its role in social protection. The study extends a mixed-motives model and incorporates subjective assessments of recipient welfare. It finds that remittances exhibit altruistic tendencies for households below a subjective welfare threshold, providing vital social protection for the poor. Additionally, a positive relationship exists for households above the threshold, indicating the

complexity of remittance effects on welfare. Intended audiences for this article are likely academics and policymakers. This research contributes insights into the nuanced motivations behind remittances and their implications for poverty alleviation and income distribution in Tonga.

Tags: [Tonga](#), [informal social protection](#), [remittances](#).

Brown, P., Daigneault, A., Tjernström, E., & Zou, W. (2018). Natural Disasters, Social Protection, and Risk Perceptions. *World Development*, 104, 310–325.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2017.12.002>

This study examines how the December 2012 Cyclone Evan impacted risk attitudes and expectations regarding natural disasters in Fiji, with focus on how social protection influences these dynamics. It investigates how individuals belonging to different ethnic groups respond differently to the cyclone's impact and examines the role of social networks and protections in shaping these responses. Findings suggest that those with fewer social protections tend to deviate more from 'Bayesian probability updating' after experiencing natural disasters resulting in distorted risk perceptions. The study underscores the relevance of social protection post-disaster and its potential to mitigate the negative impacts of such events on individual's aspirations and risk perceptions. This research contributes insights for policymakers and researchers working on disaster risk reduction and social protection strategies specifically in Fiji and in similar contexts.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [informal social protection](#), [kinship](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#).

Brown, R. P., & Leeves, G. (2011). Comparative effects of migrants' remittances on composition of recipient household income in two small, island economies. *Applied Economics*. 43(27). 3965–3976.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00036841003742611>

Brown and Leeves compare the combined impact of migration and remittances on the composition of household income in households in Fiji and Tonga. They find that remittances in Tonga (the longer-established migrant economy) contribute to growth in productive capital and entrepreneurial activity. However, in Fiji (the more recently remittance-orientated economy) remittances have yet to impact business activity and are more closely linked to supporting consumption through supplementing low wage incomes. The authors propose that the duration and intensity of remittance-driven migration and the structure of economic activity within a community are important factors for understanding the influence of remittances on household resource allocation and production decisions.

Tags: [Tonga](#), [Fiji](#), [informal social protection](#), [remittances](#).

Brown, R. P. C., Connell, J., & Jimenez-Soto, E. V. (2014). Migrants' Remittances, Poverty and Social Protection in the South Pacific: Fiji and Tonga. *Population, Space and Place*. 20, 434–454.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/psp.1765>

In this academic article, Brown et al. focus on the role of international migration and remittances as components of national and household incomes. They use household-level data from Fiji and Tonga to demonstrate that where formal social protection systems are largely absent, remittances perform a similar function informally, and thus contribute to development objectives. They find that remittances have a positive impact on poverty alleviation and wealth creation but have mixed impacts on income distribution. The authors argue that remittances play an increasingly valuable role and that this informal social protection mechanism may be more effective in promoting development than policies designed to incorporate remittances into the formal financial system.

Tags: [Tonga](#), [Fiji](#), [informal social protection](#), [remittances](#).

Burkhart, S., Hayman, A., Lam, F., Jones, B., Horsey, B., Craven, D., & Underhill, S. (2022). School Food Programmes in the Pacific Islands: Exploring opportunities and challenges for creating Healthier School Food Environments. *Public Health Nutrition*. 26(2), 455–466.

<https://doi.org/10.1017/s1368980022001951>

Burkhart et al. examine School Food Programmes (SFP) in the Pacific Islands region, aiming to improve interventions. The authors explore constraints to SFP implementation and emphasise the need for strategic alignment, advocacy, leadership, and community collaboration. The intended audience includes policymakers, education and health professionals, and practitioners. It covers the Pacific Islands region, providing insights into SFP's relevance for social protection and nutrition. It contributes to understanding how SFP impacts households and promotes healthy behaviours.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [social assistance](#).

Burton, C., Ivaschenko, O., Doyle, J., & Bowen, T. (2015). *Fiji: Making social protection more responsive to natural disasters and climate change*. World Bank Group.

<https://socialprotection.org/discover/publications/fiji-making-social-protection-more-responsive-natural-disasters-and-climate>

Burton et al. detail the relationships between Fiji's exposure to natural hazards, climate-related risks, and social protection measures. This article underscores Fiji's vulnerability to a wide range of disasters and climate change-induced events and their profound impact on economic and human costs. It emphasises the urgency of integrating disaster risk management (DRM) and climate change adaptation (CCA) into Fiji's social protection programs, offering recommendations such as the implementation of a social protection grant to assist households affected by disasters. The audience for this article likely includes policymakers, government agencies and practitioners working on disaster resilience, climate adaptation and poverty alleviation in Fiji.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [climate-resilient social protection](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [gender](#).

Calder, R., & Tanhchareun, T. (2014). *Informal social protection: Social relations and cash transfers*. Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/informal-social-protection.pdf>

This report prepared for DFAT is focused on the differences and interplay between informal and formal social protection. The report has a broad geographic scope, but has significant discussion of the Pacific region, and includes country-specific comments about a variety of Pacific countries. The key argument of this report is that formal social protection needs to be designed and implemented in a way that allows it to support strengths and address weaknesses of existing informal social protection systems. Calder and Tanhchareun suggest that achieving this first requires a strong understanding of existing informal social protection systems to be built, so that formal social protection can then be intentionally designed to support these systems.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [informal social protection](#).

Camnahas, L. (2012). *Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste: Updating and improving the Social Protection Index*. Asian Development Bank.

<https://www.adb.org/projects/documents/regional-timor-leste-44152-012>

This case study of Timor-Leste, prepared for the ADB, provides updated information and data on social protection arrangements, legislation and institutions, and calculates the SPI for Timor-Leste in view of revised methodology. The case study finds that there were 8 major social protection programs in the country at the time of writing, which included both social assistance and labour market programs. The SPI for Timor-Leste for all social protection programs was calculated as 0.140 (indicating that the government's average per capita expenditure is about 14.0% of the poverty line expenditures). The report concludes that social protection programs in Timor-Leste remain largely undeveloped, particularly in terms of labour market and social insurance programs.

Tags: [Timor-Leste](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [social assistance](#), [labour market programs](#), [cash/food-for-work](#), [social insurance](#), [contributory pensions](#).

Campbell, D. (2020). *Work and Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific during the Fourth Industrial Revolution*. Asian Development Bank.

<https://www.adb.org/publications/work-social-protection-asia-pacific-4ir>

This report discusses the challenges and opportunities related to social protection in the context for the Fourth Industrial Revolution specific to the Asia-Pacific region. The primary argument revolves around the transformative impact of the Fourth Industrial Revolution on the region's labour markets, characterised by a majority of informal and non-standard forms of employment. It highlights the anticipated change in the quantity, quality, location, and nature of work, emphasising the need for social protection policies to adapt to technological advancements. Likely intended for policymakers, development practitioners and academics, the report addresses the evolving landscape of work and the implications of this on social protection. This report is useful for understanding ongoing shifts in labour markets and the necessary adaptations in social protection strategies to ensure inclusivity and support for various forms of employment.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [labour market programs](#).

Chattier, P. (2012). *Fiji: Updating and improving the Social Protection Index*. Asian Development Bank.

<https://www.adb.org/projects/documents/regional-fiji-44152-012>

This ADB Technical Assistance Consultant's report provides a broad overview of the extent and character of social protection programs and activities in Fiji, as measured by the SPI. Social protection is aggregated and analysed by category, 'depth' and 'breadth', poverty and gender to provide recommendations and policy options for social protection programs in Fiji. This report is useful for policymakers and government officials in Fiji to understand the trends in social protection and scope for improvement.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [social assistance](#), [social insurance](#), [labour market programs](#), [other social inclusion](#), [gender](#).

Costella, C., & Ivaschenko, O. (2015). *Integrating Disaster Response and Climate Resilience in Social Protection Programs in the Pacific Islands Countries*. (1507). World Bank.

<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/entities/publication/d9fa94da-fccf-5d56-b14a-1fab36ab0e5>

Costella and Ivaschenko's paper was written as a World Bank primer on social protection in PICs, Papua New Guinea, and Timor-Leste. They argue that there is a need for more formal social protection systems in these countries, given that they are highly exposed to natural hazards and climate change impacts. The report presents evidence, lessons, and context-specific recommendations, drawing from examples in other countries to provide guidance about tools and entry points for developing climate- and disaster-responsive social protection. A key finding is that having social protection systems in place before the occurrence of a disaster typically results in better outcomes. The authors argue that this should include a variety of targeted social protection instruments, including social assistance, social insurance and labour market programs.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [climate-resilient social protection](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#).

Costella, C., & McCord, A. (2023). *Rethinking Social Protection and Climate Change - Implications of climate change for social protection policy and programming in the Asia-Pacific region*. Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/development/rethinking-social-protection-and-climate-change-implications-climate-change-social-protection-policy-and-programming-asia-pacific-region>

This DFAT report presents a comprehensive analysis of the socio-economic impacts anticipated from climate change in the Asia-Pacific region. The main argument revolves around the urgent need for strategic engagement in planning responses, particularly through social protection measures, to mitigate the potential escalation of poverty, vulnerability, and disruptions in the face of climate-induced challenges. Targeted at social protection and climate policymakers and practitioners in the Asia-Pacific region, the document provides a framework

for understanding and addressing the broader set of risks arising from climate change. It explores the medium-term socio-economic impacts of climate change, advocates for a reconceptualization of social protection, and offers policy, practice, financing, and learning recommendations.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [climate-resilient social protection](#).

Cote, A. (2021). Disability Inclusion and Social Protection. Schuring, E. & Loewe, M. (Eds.), *Handbook on social protection systems* (pp. 354–367). *Elgar Handbooks in Social Policy and Welfare*.

<https://doi.org/10.4337/9781839109119.00049>

Cote's book chapter (directed to an academic audience) centres on disability inclusion within social protection systems. It explores the rationale behind social protection for individuals with disabilities and outlines steps toward creating inclusive systems that empower them. The article discusses multiple instruments for disability-inclusive social protection, but largely focuses on social assistance programs. Cote identifies barriers faced by people with disabilities in accessing social protection measures and underscores the importance of enhanced disability data to gain insights into their experiences. The analysis has a global scope, focusing on low- and middle-income countries, but includes some examples from Fiji, particularly about the disability allowance.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [disability](#).

Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific. (2021). *Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in the Pacific Region: CROP*. Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

<https://forumsec.softlinkhosting.co.nz:443/liberty/OpacLogin?mode=BASIC&openDetail=true&corporation=PacificIslandsForumSecretariat&action=search&queryTerm=uid%3D%22250286760a0200fd757022a0005f1614%22&operator=OR&url=%2Fopac%2Fsearch.do>

This Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) report examines the social dimensions and impacts of the pandemic in the Pacific region. It aims to address vulnerability, inequality and social exclusion while considering human rights, social support and resilience. Section 4 discusses the role of traditional and modern social protection systems, emphasising the need for inclusive and contextualised approaches. It is likely intended for policymakers, development practitioners and relevant Pacific-based organisations. The report provides valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities for social protection in the region, particularly in the context of external shocks and highlights the importance of culturally sensitive and gender-responsive social protection policies in achieving recovery and resilience for future shocks.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [gender](#), [informal social protection](#), [disability](#), [other social inclusion](#), [labour market programs](#), [remittances](#), [social insurance](#), [social assistance](#).

Dale, P., Lepuschuetz, L., & Umapathi, N. (2014). Peace, Prosperity and Safety Nets in Timor-Leste: Competing Priorities or Complementary Investments? *Asia & the Pacific Policy Studies*. 1(2), 287–296.

<https://doi.org/10.1002/app5.25>

Dale et al. examine the design and poverty impact of the primary cash transfer programs in Timor-Leste. They find that although Timor-Leste's level of social protection expenditure is high compared to other countries, the overall poverty impact is incommensurate with spending levels. The authors argue that this lack of impact is due to cash transfers being targeted towards veterans, which means a large proportion of the poor population is not being reached by the targeting mechanism. They highlight that the only program that explicitly targets poor households – the Bolsa da Mãe program – has small coverage and a low benefit level.

Tags: [Timor-Leste](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [social insurance](#), [contributory pensions](#), [other social inclusion](#), [disability](#).

David, M., Pabon, L., Pazmino, N., Schneider, M., Sibley, J., Tsirunyan, S., & Umapathi, N. (2011). *Fiji - Assessment of the Social Protection System in Fiji and Recommendations for Policy Changes*. (63568-FJ). World Bank.

<http://hdl.handle.net/10986/2819>

This report by the World Bank focuses on social protection in Fiji. It provides a comprehensive overview of Fiji's economic and social context, including aspects like GDP, poverty rates and demographics. It discusses the objectives and challenges of Fiji's current social protection system, particularly in providing a social safety net for vulnerable populations. The main arguments highlight the need to improve targeting accuracy, expand coverage and enhance the efficiency of social protection programs in Fiji. The intended audience for this report likely includes policymakers, government officials and development practitioners interested in the social protection landscape in Fiji and is relevant for understanding the specific challenges and policy recommendations related to social protection in the country.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [social assistance](#), [social insurance](#), [contributory pensions](#), [other social inclusion](#).

Davila, F., Bourke, R. M., McWilliam, A., Crimp, S., Robins, L., van Wensveen, M., Alders, R. G., & Butler, J. R. A. (2021). COVID-19 and food systems in Pacific Island Countries, Papua New Guinea, and Timor-Leste: Opportunities for actions towards the sustainable development goals. *Agricultural Systems*. 191, 1-11.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.agsy.2021.103137>

Davila et al. identify the food systems vulnerabilities, impacts, and opportunities for supporting resilience and sustainable development in the first six months of the COVID-19 pandemic. They found that the pandemic and associated economic contractions and disruptions to labour mobility led to varying socio-economic impacts throughout the region but noted that vulnerable groups had been disproportionately impacted by unemployment. They discuss the inclusion of agriculture as a social protection mechanism, through cash for work on agriculture projects and in-kind transfers of agricultural materials. They recommend that identifying policy and research

strategies that support innovative social protection measures that can be coupled with agricultural activities can support recovery from future shocks.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [Kiribati](#), [Papua New Guinea](#), [Samoa](#), [Solomon Islands](#), [Timor-Leste](#), [Tonga](#), [Tuvalu](#), [Vanuatu](#), [social assistance](#), [in-kind transfers](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [cash/food-for-work](#), [informal social protection](#)

Delforce, J., & Woyengu, N. (2023). *Ensuring inclusive cash and voucher programming in Solomon Islands*. Save the Children.

<https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/document/ensuring-inclusive-cash-and-voucher-programming-in-solomon-islands/>

This Save the Children report focuses on the expansion of cash and voucher programming in the Solomon Islands, aiming to overcome financial barriers and improve outcomes for children. This GEDSI analysis identifies barriers and opportunities for inclusive cash programming. The findings highlight the value of vouchers and cash transfers for vulnerable individuals in the Solomon Islands, emphasising the importance of context-specific design. The report recommends strategic collaboration with government authorities for GEDSI-sensitive programming and strengthening coordination mechanisms among NGOs and civil society organisations. It also emphasises the need for gender-responsive and disability-responsive programming, community engagement, and explicit targeting criteria for transparency and fairness. This report is part of a series, contributing to the understanding of cash programming specifically for the context of the Solomon Islands. **Tags:** [Solomon Islands](#), [gender](#), [disability](#), [other social inclusion](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#).

Delforce, J., & Woyengu, N. (2023). *Ensuring inclusive cash and voucher programming in Vanuatu*. Save the Children.

<https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/document/ensuring-inclusive-cash-and-voucher-programming-in-vanuatu/>

Save the Children's report focuses on expanding cash programming in Vanuatu to overcome financial barriers for families and improve outcomes for children. This Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) analysis identifies opportunities and barriers for cash programming, emphasising the value of cash transfers for vulnerable individuals and households in Vanuatu. The report underscores the need for targeted efforts to empower women and individuals with disabilities, stressing the importance of context-specific program design. The recommendations include close collaboration with government authorities for GEDSI-sensitive programming, strengthening coordination mechanisms among NGOs and CSOs, and incorporating safety protocols to reduce risks. This report is part of a series, contributing to the understanding of cash programming specifically for the context of Vanuatu.

Tags: [Vanuatu](#), [gender](#), [disability](#), [other social inclusion](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#).

Department for Community Development and Religion. (2015). *National Social Protection Policy 2015-2020*. Department for Community Development and Religion, Papua New Guinea.

<https://leap.unep.org/en/countries/pg/national-legislation/national-social-protection-policy-2015-2020>.

This Department for Community Development and Religion policy document outlines Papua New Guinea's National Social Protection Policy (2015-2020), with the overall goal of developing a national social protection system for all Papua New Guinea citizens. It provides an overview of social protection in Papua New Guinea, particularly for vulnerable and disadvantaged citizens and the framework for the policy within Papua New Guinea's cultural environment (integrated community development). It sets out the vision, principles and objectives underpinning the National Social Protection Policy, strategies that must be developed to implement it, relevant implementation infrastructure and a monitoring and evaluation model. It is useful for policymakers, government officials and development practitioners looking to gain a comprehensive picture of the Papua New Guinea Government's Social Protection Policy.

Tags: [Papua New Guinea](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [informal social protection](#), [social assistance](#), [social insurance](#), [labour market programs](#), [other social inclusion](#).

Devi, D. R. (2012). *Examining Occupational Hazards and Lifestyle Diseases -related Disability in Fiji: A case study of Nadi and Lautoka in Western Province*. University of the South Pacific.

<http://uspaquatic.library.usp.ac.fj/gsdl/collect/usplibr1/index/assoc/HASH2b59.dir/doc.pdf>

Devi's thesis is focused on lifestyle diseases and occupational hazards related to disability in Fiji. Building on fieldwork data from Western Province, Devi highlights the experience of people with disabilities living in Fiji. The thesis describes the financial assistance that some people with disabilities have access to (either through institutions or informal social protection networks such as family), while also noting that barriers to formal employment for people with disabilities exacerbates issues of lack of access to formal social protection systems.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [social assistance](#), [informal social protection](#), [disability](#).

Doyle, J. (2018). *Manna from Heaven – Cyclones, cash transfers, and the role of social protection in disaster response*. Development Policy Centre.

<https://reliefweb.int/report/tonga/manna-heaven-cyclones-cash-transfers-and-role-social-protection-disaster-response>

This article explores the role of social protection in disaster response in the Pacific region, focusing on examples from Fiji and Tonga. The article highlights how social protection programs such as cash transfers can effectively support vulnerable populations in the aftermath of natural disasters. It discusses the positive impact of using existing social protection systems for disaster response as has been demonstrated in Fiji and Tonga. The intended audience for this likely includes policymakers, government officials, NGOs and civil society stakeholders interested in understanding the role of social protection in disasters.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [Tonga](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [cash transfers](#), [social assistance](#), [humanitarian assistance](#), [other social inclusion](#).

Dwyer, M. (2013). Social protection in Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands. *Policy Quarterly*. 9(2), 63-69.

<https://ojs.victoria.ac.nz/pg/article/view/4447>

Dwyer's article examines social protection possibilities in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands, addressing the economic and social context, current programs, and potential for expansion in each of these countries. Dwyer emphasises the growing recognition of the limitations of informal social protection in the context of urbanisation and climate change impacts, advocating for increased formal social protection programs to support development. The article also highlights the importance of extending social protection to those outside the formal workforce. It is intended for academic and policymaker audiences.

Tags: [Solomon Islands](#), [Vanuatu](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#).

Edge Effect. (2021). “We don’t do a lot for them specifically”: A scoping report on gaps and opportunities for improving diverse SOGIESC inclusion in cash transfer and social protection programs, during the COVID-19 crisis and beyond. Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

<https://socialprotection.org/discover/publications/we-dont-do-lot-them-specifically-scoping-report-gaps-and-opportunities>

This scoping study by Edge Effect explores how social protection measures have or have not met the needs of people with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC). The study particularly focuses on cash-based social protection responses to COVID-19 and their effects on people with diverse SOGIESC. Case studies are included from Fiji, Bangladesh and Indonesia. This study is part of a small body of literature on the social protection needs and experiences of people with diverse SOGIESC. The key findings include that although informal and semi-formal social protection mechanisms meet some needs, there are significant barriers for the participation of people with diverse SOGIESC in ‘universal’ programs of formal social protection. The authors argue that unconditional cash-based assistance, supported by complementary programming, would help to address many needs of people with diverse SOGIESC. They also suggest that identifying, understanding and addressing indirect discrimination is key to improving social protection for people with diverse SOGIESC.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [other social inclusion](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#).

Edwards, R. (2020). Letters on Urgent Issues: Bubble in, bubble out: Lessons for the COVID-19 recovery and future crises from the Pacific. *World Development*. 135, 1-2.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2020.105072>

This short academic letter from Edwards summarises the experience of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Pacific Island countries. Edwards highlights that social protection systems in the Pacific are less common than elsewhere in the world, making these countries less prepared

to deal with sudden economic shocks (such as those caused by lockdowns). The letter also notes that aggressive travel restrictions, effective domestic policy and learning from the responses of Australia and New Zealand served as effective measures for preventing the spread of COVID-19 in many Pacific Island countries in the early stages of the pandemic.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#).

Emberson-Bain, A. (2021). *Inequality, Discrimination and Exclusion: Assessing CRPD Compliance in Pacific Island Legislation*. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

<https://repository.unescap.org/handle/20.500.12870/4043>

This report assesses the compliance of constitutional and legislative frameworks in seven PICs with the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which has been ratified by 11 PICs. It examines issues of inequality, discrimination, and exclusion faced by individuals with disabilities, with one section focused on the intersection of social protection and disability-inclusive development. Historically, people with disabilities have been excluded from the formal social protection programs present in the Pacific, notably superannuation schemes (due to the requirement for formal employment). The report provides legislative opportunities for Pacific countries and highlights urgent rights violations. It targets policymakers and those interested in legal reform.

Tags: [Federated States of Micronesia](#), [Solomon Islands](#), [Tonga](#), [Tuvalu](#), [Vanuatu](#), [Nauru](#), [Republic of Marshall Islands](#), [disability](#).

Eves, R. (2017). *Conflicts over Credit: Challenges to Women's Economic Empowerment in Solomon Islands*. In Brief 03: *State, Society & Governance in Melanesia*. Australian National University.

<https://openresearch-repository.anu.edu.au/bitstream/1885/141291/1/IB2017.3%20Richard%20Eves.pdf>

Eves examines the challenges of women's economic empowerment in the context of cultural pressure to engage in giving in the *wantok* system of Solomon Islands. The brief, written to an academic and policymaker audience, argues that although the system of giving can be considered a social safety net and social protection, the system results in greater pressure upon women to give money to others. Women in the research reported facing pressure, threats and intimidation to give money to others, resulting in difficulties saving money, and, in some cases, pushing women and their families back into poverty.

Tags: [Solomon Islands](#), [informal social protection](#), [kinship](#), [gender](#).

Fargher, S., & Hallegatte, S. (2020). *Best Investments for an Economic Recovery from Coronavirus: An Illustration Based on the Fiji Climate Vulnerability Assessment to Pinpoint Stimulus Options*. World Bank Group.

<https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/670391598366609382/pdf/Best-Investments-for-an-Economic-Recovery-from-Coronavirus-An-Illustration-Based-on-the-Fiji-Climate-Vulnerability-Assessment-to-Pinpoint-Stimulus-Options.pdf>

This brief discusses the need for COVID-19 stimulus packages to balance short-term recovery with long-term sustainability and resilience. It introduces a sustainability checklist to screen projects for their economic and environmental benefits. Using Fiji's Climate Vulnerability Assessment as an example, they identify interventions that achieve both immediate job creation and long-term development. This brief targets policymakers, economists and development practitioners interested in shock and disaster recovery. Although the brief uses Fiji as its case study, it also offers adaptable principles for other Pacific Island nations to integrate sustainability and resilience in to shock response strategies.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [climate-resilient social protection](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#).

Faulaautoalasi-Walter, S. (2012). *Independent State of Samoa: Updating and improving the Social Protection Index*. Asian Development Bank.

<https://www.adb.org/projects/documents/regional-samoa-44152-012>

Faulaautoalasi-Walter discusses the development and updating of the SPI, focusing on strengthening social protection programs in developing member states and improving the methodology for defining social protection. This report uses the case study of Samoa, and provides information on social protection arrangements, legislation, institutions and SPI calculation. The SPI assesses various aspects of social protection including, coverage, expenditures, gender-responsiveness and poverty targeting. It highlights the need for further evaluation and improvements in social protection strategy, particularly in terms of targeting programs for the poor and vulnerable. The intended audience includes policymakers and researchers.

Tags: [Samoa](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [social assistance](#), [social insurance](#), [labour market programs](#).

Feeney, S., & McDonald, L. (2016). *Vulnerability to Multidimensional Poverty: Findings from Households in Melanesia*. *The Journal of Development Studies*. 52(3), 447–464.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/00220388.2015.1075974>

Feeney and McDonald examine households' vulnerability to multidimensional poverty in rural areas of Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. They explain that households in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are at high risk of experiencing poverty in the future (i.e., are highly vulnerable) due to their exposure to external shocks and their limited capacity to cope with shock impacts. The key finding from this academic paper is that despite the existence of strong informal social protection networks, there is a very high prevalence of vulnerability to multidimensional poverty in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. In fact, a larger proportion of households are deemed vulnerable than are currently living in multidimensional poverty. To reduce vulnerability, Feeney and McDonald advocate for implementation of formal social protection systems which build upon traditional social support systems.

Tags: [Vanuatu](#), [Solomon Islands](#), [informal social protection](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#).

Fernandes, R., Onishi J., & Sviridova, T. (2015). *Assessing the Bolsa da Mãe benefit structure. A preliminary analysis*. World Bank Group.

<https://socialprotection.org/discover/publications/policy-note-assessing-bolsa-da-mae-benefit-structure-preliminary-analysis>

This policy note reviews the benefit size and structure of the Bolsa da Mãe program, discussing the cash transfer size and its adequacy, drawing on evidence from international cash transfer programs. The key finding of this policy note is that increasing the average monthly grant amount under the Bolsa da Mãe program could have a significant impact in helping the program to reduce poverty in Timor-Leste. This finding is based on a simulation conducted using household income and expenditure survey data from 2011. The policy note recommends that the Bolsa da Mãe cash grant and the coverage of households is increased. It also suggests that further assessment and review of the program is needed.

Tags: [Timor-Leste](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#).

Fiji Government & World Food Programme. (2017). *Tropical Cyclone Winston: Fiji Government and World Food Programme joint emergency response – Lessons learned workshop report*. Fiji Government & World Food Programme.

<https://www.wfp.org/publications/tropical-cyclone-winston-fiji-government-and-wfp-joint-emergency-response-2017>

This report describes how WFP supported the Fiji Government in responding to the impacts of Tropical Cyclone Winston. It provides a set of recommendations based on a stakeholder workshop for improving policymaking and social protection (described as ‘social safety nets’) to better incorporate shock-responsive components. The main recommendation is to develop standby agreements and standard operating procedures with potential stakeholders, which specify roles, responsibilities and timeframes for implementation of emergency responses through shock-responsive social protection.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [humanitarian assistance](#).

Fiji Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation. (2021). *Social Assistance Policy: Protecting the poor and vulnerable*. Government of Fiji.

<https://wrd.unwomen.org/practice/resources/fiji-social-assistance-policy>

Fiji's Social Assistance Policy aims to protect the poor and vulnerable through six major government programs. These include the Poverty Benefit Scheme, Care and Protection Allowance, Social Pension Scheme, Disability Allowance, Rural Pregnant Mothers' Food Voucher, and Bus Fare Subsidy program. The policy emphasises five key strategic areas, focusing on adopting gender-responsive and affordable programs, achieving cost-effective selection processes, developing an Integrated Social Protection Information System, building administrative and human capacity, and implementing monitoring and evaluation measures. It underscores gender-responsive social assistance, aligning with the 2030 Agenda, and seeks to reduce poverty, promote security, and build resilience in the face of crises, particularly climate-related disasters. The Ministry of Women, Children, and Poverty Alleviation will lead policy

implementation in collaboration with various stakeholders. The likely audience for this policy includes policymakers and social protection development practitioners focused on Fiji.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [gender](#), [other social inclusion](#), [social assistance](#), [social insurance](#), [labour market programs](#).

Fiji Women's Right Movement. (2019). *Social Protection Schemes in Fiji (Factsheet)*. Fiji Women's Rights Movement.

<https://www.fwrp.org.fj/publications/research-analysis/social-protection-factsheets>.

This factsheet published by Fiji Women's Right Movement focuses on Fiji's social protection system for women and girls. It offers an overview of state-funded social protection programs across five areas: education, health, economic and livelihoods, legal provisions and other essential services. It targets policymakers, NGOs and women's rights advocates. It is relevant for understanding Fiji's social protection landscape, particularly in terms of schemes addressing poverty and vulnerability among women and girls and highlights challenges such as limited access to information and the lack of gender impact assessment data. It concludes by emphasising the need for accessible and transparent social protection schemes in Fiji.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [gender](#), [other social inclusion](#).

Finau, G., & Kant, R. (2021). Bartering as a Form of Resilience During COVID-19: Case Study of Barter for Better Fiji Facebook Page. In Ratuva, S., Ross, T., Crichton-Hill, Y., Basu, A., Vakaoti, P., & Martin-Neuninger, R. (Eds.), *COVID-19 and Social Protection*. 1st., pp. 193–204. Springer Nature.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-2948-8>

Finau and Kant explore the re-emergence of bartering in response to economic impacts of COVID-19 on Fiji, in particular the emergence of a Facebook page called 'Barter for Better Fiji' as an alternative form of community-based and internet-mediated social protection mechanism during the crisis. The chapter explores the emergence of the page, bartering as a form of resilience, and the page as a community-based 'digital sharing economy'.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [informal social protection](#).

Gentilini, U., Laughton, S., & O'Brien, C. (2018). *Humanitarian capital? Lessons on better connecting humanitarian assistance and social protection*. (1802). World Food Programme & World Bank.

<https://www.wfp.org/publications/humanitarian-capital-lessons-better-connecting-humanitarian-assistance-and-social-protection>

Gentilini et al. discuss findings from 12 country case studies examining the connections between humanitarian assistance and national social protection systems in low- and middle-income countries. Fiji is one of the 12 case studies, with analysis delving into the interaction between humanitarian assistance and the national social protection system, with a focus on Fiji's response to Cyclone Winston in 2016. It highlights how Fiji utilised its already established social protection system by providing cash top-ups to help address immediate needs. The

intended audience includes policymakers and development practitioners in the fields of humanitarian assistance and social protection.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [humanitarian assistance](#).

Gibson, J. (2015). Circular Migration, Remittances and Inequality in Vanuatu. *New Zealand Population Review*. 41, 153–167.

https://www.palmscheme.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-08/7b329a_1b919720c85b42048183a21ffc468e04.pdf

Gibson examines the impacts of participation in a seasonal migration program to New Zealand on migrants and their households in Vanuatu. Gibson highlights that such programs add another economic activity onto households' portfolios while temporarily changing household composition. They find that this added economic activity has added to average income without being associated with notable rise in inter-household inequality.

Tags: [Vanuatu](#), [informal social protection](#), [remittances](#).

Global Development Network. (2014). *Evaluation of Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu's Social Protection Policies post-2008 Global Economic Crisis*. Global Development Network.

<https://socialprotection.org/discover/publications/evaluation-fiji-solomon-islands-and-vanuatu%E2%80%99s-social-protection-policies-post>

This research paper by the Global Development Network (GDN) provides an overview of the social protection systems in Fiji, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands and evaluates whether these countries have progressed with their social protection policies to promote 'inclusive growth'. It particularly looks at how limited social protection policies meant that vulnerable communities in the Pacific were impacted significantly by the global economic crisis, and what policymakers in Fiji, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands have done to rectify this. This report is useful for PIC policymakers to understand the impacts of the global economic crisis on their communities and devise corrective social protection policy measures to mitigate these effects in the future.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [Solomon Islands](#), [Vanuatu](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [gender](#), [disability](#), [informal social protection](#).

Gounder, A. (2022). Developing Social Security Schemes for Small Island Economies: Lessons from Fiji's COVID-19 Experience. *Pacific Affairs*. 95(1), 99–117.

<https://doi.org/10.5509/202295199>

Gounder uses the COVID-19 pandemic to explore the resilience of Fijian households to profound and prolonged income shocks, given the households' social, cultural, and economic setting. The article explores this topic through evaluations of the national response strategies, household coping mechanisms, and the gaps in the social security measures in Fiji. Gounder presents recommendations for policymakers in Fiji and other countries in the region, including recommendations relating to having social safety nets for both formal and informal workers, the use of data and technology, and the importance of traditional social protection networks.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [informal social protection](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#).

Government of Fiji, World Bank, and Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery. (2017). *Fiji 2017: Climate Vulnerability Assessment - Making Fiji Climate Resilient*. World Bank.

<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/b7b9a706-7506-5b6f-a993-dee13dcc434a/content>

This report quantifies Fiji's vulnerability to climate change and assesses the threat of natural hazards to the achievement of objectives in Fiji's National Development Plan. The report considers the physical threats to the country created by climate variability and change, and the development needs and opportunities of the country, as described in the 20-year and 5-year Development Plan. The report looks at multiple dimensions of vulnerability, including socio-economic resilience, finding that Fiji's relatively strong social protection systems enhance socio-economic resilience to climate change impacts. The report recommends expanding and modernising the Poverty Benefit Scheme database so that it provides near-poor households with support after natural disasters. It is intended for policymakers.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [social assistance](#), [social insurance](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [climate-resilient social protection](#).

Guo, S., & Narita, F. (2018). *Self-insurance Against Natural Disasters: The Use of Pension Funds in Pacific Island Countries*. International Monetary Fund.

<https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WP/Issues/2018/07/06/Self-insurance-Against-Natural-Disasters-The-Use-of-Pension-Funds-in-Pacific-Island-Countries-45972>.

Guo and Narita analyse the use of early pension withdrawals as a disaster relief measure in PICs, specifically focusing on Fiji's policy after Cyclone Winston in 2016. The study presents a normative analysis using a life-cycle saving model to examine the trade-off between building retirement savings and ensuring access to savings during natural disaster shocks. It sheds light on the welfare implications of early pension withdrawals. The document is intended for an academic audience and contributes to the understanding of social protection in the Pacific by exploring the use of pension withdrawals in response to natural disasters.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [social insurance](#), [contributory pensions](#).

Ha'apio, M. O., & Ha'apio, L. V. (2017). Investment Policy Shift of the Solomon Islands National Provident Fund Board, the Country's Only Superannuation Scheme. *Elk Asia Pacific Journal of Finance and Risk Management*, 8(4).

<http://repository.usp.ac.fj/10594/>

Ha'apio and Ha'apio focus on the Solomon Islands National Provident Fund and the interaction between the board of directors and the fund's primary social benefit objective. The fund's primary social benefit was to assist members still in employment with loans to acquire housing, and to provide a lump sum payment or pension after employment. However, the authors conclude that the previous boards of directors have diverted the fund's primary objective from a

social benefit to focus more corporate-focused economic benefits. They argue that the board of directors must not compromise the fund's primary social benefit objective in order to ensure members benefit directly from any investments.

Tags: [Solomon Islands](#), [social insurance](#), [contributory pensions](#).

Ha'apio, M. O., Gonzalez, R., & Wairiu, M. (2019). Is there any chance for the poor to cope with extreme environmental events? Two case studies in the Solomon Islands. *World Development*, 122, 514–524.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2019.06.023>.

Ha'apio et al. analyse the patterns and factors that explain household's responses to extreme environmental events, using case studies of two Indigenous communities in Solomon Islands that experienced a tsunami and flash flood. The authors found that the *wantok* system, aid and support from family and community were key to recovering from the disasters. The authors argue that the *wantok* system and household net worth (including the availability of common pool resources) are critical for long-term adaptation to extreme environmental events and climate change risks.

Tags: [Solomon Islands](#), [informal social protection](#), [kinship](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [climate-resilient social protection](#).

Handayani, S. W. (2014). *Gender dimension of the Social Protection Index: Assessing Results for Asia and the Pacific*. Asian Development Bank.

<https://www.adb.org/publications/gender-dimension-social-protection-index-assessing-results-asia-and-pacific>.

This ADB report assesses the extent to which gender has been incorporated in social protection programs in the Asia-Pacific region, using the SPI. It finds that overall, women received fewer benefits and less coverage from social protection programs, particularly as they are less likely than men to work in the formal economy. Furthermore, while women have less equitable access to social insurance than men, they appear less disadvantaged in terms of social assistance and labour market programs. This report is useful for PIC policymakers to consider and incorporate gender-related dimensions while developing and expanding social protection policies, strategies and programs.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [gender](#), [other social inclusion](#).

Handayani, S., (2014). *Poverty Dimension of the Social Protection Index*. Asian Development Bank.

<https://www.adb.org/publications/poverty-dimension-social-protection-index-assessing-results-asia-and-pacific>

This report assesses the social protection programs focused broadly at the Asia-Pacific regional level. The main argument highlights the need to address persistent poverty and inequality. It is likely targeted at policymakers, development practitioners and academics interested in the intersection of poverty and social protection at the Asia-Pacific regional level. The report covers the Southeast Asia, East Asia, South Asia, and Pacific Islands analysing the

effectiveness of social insurance, social assistance, and labour market programs through the SPI. Emphasising that social insurance primarily benefits the nonpoor, it suggests broadening its coverage to reduce poverty. The relevance of this report lies in its comprehensive analysis, offering insights for refining social protection strategies in the Asia-Pacific region.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [social insurance](#), [social assistance](#), [labour market programs](#).

Handayani, S. R., Carraro, L., Villarroel, M. I., & Bongestabs, A. F. (2018). *Fiscal challenges to financing social protection to achieve the sustainable development goals. A case of three countries*. (55). Asian Development Bank.

<https://www.adb.org/publications/fiscal-challenges-financing-social-protection>.

Handayani et al. discuss the fiscal requirements for achieving social protection-related SDGs focusing on Mongolia, Myanmar and Timor-Leste. The primary argument centres on estimating the additional government resources required to fulfill social protection related SDG targets in the case study countries. In the context of Timor-Leste, despite the country's comprehensive social protection system, there is a significant gap in meeting the SDG social protection agenda due to fiscal issues. The recommended approach involves maintaining higher social protection spending and improving program efficiency while gradually shifting the budget toward addressing key issues like access to services and poverty reduction. The intended audience for this report includes policymakers as it addresses fiscal challenges and strategies for advancing the SDG social protection agenda.

Tags: [Timor-Leste](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [other social inclusion](#).

Handino, M. (2018). *Pacific Regional Shock-Responsive Social Protection Conference Report*. Australian Aid, World Food Programme, World Bank Group & Government of Fiji.

<https://reliefweb.int/report/fiji/pacific-regional-shock-responsive-social-protection-conference-report-20-22-march-2018>.

This report summarises the key themes discussed at the 2018 Pacific Shock-Responsive Social Protection Conference. It emphasises the need for robust social protection systems in the Pacific due to its vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change. It is likely intended for policymakers and humanitarian practitioners, offering insights to enhance social protection mechanisms and make them responsive to shocks. Given the region's disaster risk, this report is relevant for understanding how social protection can aid disaster response and recovery in the Pacific.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [climate-resilient social protection](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [humanitarian assistance](#), [other social inclusion](#), [social assistance](#), [social insurance](#), [contributory pensions](#), [labour market programs](#), [disability](#).

Hobbes, C., & Jackson, R. (2016). *Cash transfers programming in the Pacific: A feasibility scoping study*. The Cash Learning Partnership Network.

<https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/cash-transfers-programming-in-the-pacific-a-feasibility-scoping-study/>.

In this extended feasibility scoping study, Hobbes and Jackson consider the feasibility of scaling up the use of cash transfers as a social protection measure in emergency contexts in the Pacific. The study has a Pacific region focus, as well as case studies on Fiji and Tonga. Data is drawn from stakeholder interviews and research of existing literature. Hobbes and Jackson find that Cash Transfer Programming (CTP) is not new to the Pacific, but that acceptance of CTP as a crisis response option varies. The lack of developed markets and access to financial services providers in the Pacific are identified as barriers to CTP as an emergency response. The report includes five recommendations, which include undertaking country-specific CTP research, incorporating CTP into DRM planning, enhancing the use of tools to guide programming decisions in disaster situations, ensuring CTP is designed with resilience, sustainability and dependency concerns in mind, and working to ensure CTP addresses gender dynamics and supports marginalised people.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [Fiji](#), [Tonga](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [other social inclusion](#), [gender](#), [disability](#), [climate-resilient social protection](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [informal social protection](#), [humanitarian assistance](#).

Holmes, R. (2023). *Scoping Study on Enhancing Food Security and Nutrition and Managing Risks and Shocks in Asia and the Pacific Through Support to Social Protection Systems – Samoa*. World Food Programme.

<https://reliefweb.int/report/samoa/scoping-study-enhancing-food-security-and-nutrition-and-managing-risks-and-shocks-asia-and-pacific-through-support-social-protection-systems-samoa-february-2023>.

This scoping study on food security and nutrition in Samoa discusses the evolving social protection landscape in Samoa and highlights challenges relating to informal and traditional forms of support due to economic changes, environmental issues and shocks. The study examines current social protection policies and systems and their link to achieving zero hunger. This study is likely intended for policymakers and development practitioners. It offers recommendations for strategic engagement, particularly in addressing gender inequality and promoting food security in the country.

Tags: [Samoa](#), [gender](#), [informal social protection](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [in-kind transfers](#), [other social inclusion](#).

Holmes, R., & Slater, R. (2012). *Social protection and gender - A life cycle approach*, AusAID Pacific social protection series: poverty, vulnerability and social protection in the Pacific. Australian Agency for International Development.

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/gender.pdf>.

This AusAID research paper analyses social protection in the Pacific from a gender and life-cycle perspective. It argues that social protection can strengthen gender equality beyond merely targeting women, as gender relations in PICs are embedded in traditional socio-cultural norms but are also affected by rapid economic and social changes. It concludes that social protection in the Pacific must assess differential experiences of poverty and vulnerability faced by women and men, and provides a broad range of possible context-specific policy recommendation options for ensuring a gender-sensitive approach to social protection in the

Pacific. The likely audience for this research paper includes policymakers, government officials and development practitioners.

Tags: [Kiribati](#), [Samoa](#), [Solomon Islands](#), [Vanuatu](#), [other social inclusion](#), [gender](#).

Holt, C., & Hart, S. (2019). *Vanuatu cash transfer feasibility assessment*. Oxfam.

<https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/vanuatu-cash-transfer-feasibility-assessment/>.

This report prepared for Oxfam assesses the feasibility of CTP in Vanuatu as a means of humanitarian assistance for response, recovery and resilience programs. The report identifies feasible locations within Vanuatu for CTP as an emergency assistance mechanism, which stakeholders could benefit, when CTP is most effective, and preliminary recommendations about what form cash transfers should be delivered in. The key finding is the feasibility of cash transfers varies greatly across Vanuatu's islands, and that different mechanisms and modalities should be adapted according to the context. In general, areas most connected to commercial centres have higher feasibility for CTP.

Tags: [Vanuatu](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [humanitarian assistance](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#).

Housen, T. (2014). *Migration Patterns and the Impact of Internal Transfers on Consumption and Human Capital in Timor-Leste*. Curtin University.

<https://espace.curtin.edu.au/handle/20.500.11937/2623>.

Housen's thesis focuses on the potential impacts of internal migration and remittances on poverty reduction and development of human capital in households of origin in Timor-Leste. The definition of remittances used in the thesis includes transfers from migrants, 'government solidarity' pensions, and NGO transfers. Housen finds that the majority of internal cash transfers received are from government pensions and pensions result in an increase in human capital expenditure. The research for this thesis is also presented in the Housen et al. (2012) study.

Tags: [Timor-Leste](#), [informal social protection](#), [remittances](#), [cash transfers](#), [social assistance](#), [social insurance](#), [contributory pensions](#).

Housen, T., Hopkins, S., & Earnest, J. (2012). *Migration Patterns and the Impact of Internal Remittances on Poverty and Human Capital in Timor-Leste*. Curtin University.

https://espace.curtin.edu.au/bitstream/handle/20.500.11937/4407/189281_72130_RESEARCH_REPORT_Migration_patterns_and_the_impact.pdf?sequence=2

Housen et al. analyses migration patterns and the impact of internal remittances on poverty and human capital within Timor-Leste. The definition of remittances used in the study includes cash transfers, in-kind transfers, as well as 'government solidarity' pensions and NGO transfers. The authors found that migrant households have higher incomes (irrespective of remittance receipt), have a larger asset value base, have gender differences compared with other households, and have different spending behaviours. They found that the government pensions were far more common than private remittances, resulting in different spending

behaviours on housing, education, and health, and less spending on ‘conspicuous’ consumption.

Tags: [Timor-Leste](#), [informal social protection](#), [remittances](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [in-kind transfers](#), [social insurance](#), [contributory pensions](#), [gender](#).

Hoy, C., & Naidoo, D. (2019). The Marginal Benefit of an Active Labour Market Program Relative to a Public Works Program: Evidence from Papua New Guinea. *Journal of Development and Migration*, 10(7), 1–26.

<https://doi.org/10.2478/izajodm-2019-0003>

Hoy and Naidoo investigate the impacts of active labour market programs and labour-intensive public works programs. In particular, they investigate whether active labour market programs achieve their longer-term employment goals and complement the labour-intensive public works programs, which are a form of social protection that creates temporary employment opportunities. The research focuses on two programs implemented in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. The authors find that participation in both programs increased employment of youth, which is contrary to other evidence that suggests that active labour market programs have little effect.

Tags: [Papua New Guinea](#), [labour market programs](#).

Human Rights Unit. (2021). *COVID-19 and Human Rights: The case of Samoa*. Office of the Ombudsman National Human Rights Institution Samoa.

<http://sadii.ws/handle/123456789/3682>

The report provides an analysis of the Samoan Government’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the impact of the pandemic on the nation’s most vulnerable groups. The report advocates for a human rights-based approach in managing the pandemic, which aims to protect the rights and freedoms of all the people of Samoa. The report includes description of the Samoan Government’s support actions which included cash transfers, in-kind transfers, subsidies for rent, electricity and water, and reduced pension contribution requirements. Social protection is presented as one component of a human rights-based approach to shocks such as COVID-19, with consideration given to universal coverage, gender-sensitive measures, and vulnerable populations. The report is primarily aimed at Samoan Government stakeholders and policymakers.

Tags: [Samoa](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [in-kind transfers](#), [subsidies](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [gender](#).

Humanitarian Advisory Group. (2022). *Pacific Cash Learning Event 2022: Report*. Save the Children Australia & Pacific Regional Cash Working Group.

<https://reliefweb.int/report/world/pacific-cash-learning-event-2022-report-december-2022>

This report summarises the key insights from the Pacific Cash Learning Event held in October 2022. It highlights five key messages: the need for innovation, local leadership, partnerships, preparedness, and the potential for CVA to strengthen social protection systems. It likely

targets humanitarian practitioners, policymakers and organisations in the Pacific region focusing on the role of CVA in responding to disasters, climate change and shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [climate-resilient social protection](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [humanitarian assistance](#), [gender](#).

International Labour Organisation. (2014). *Cash for work: Pilot programme 2013-2014 – Fiji and Solomon Islands experience*. International Labour Organisation.

https://www.ilo.org/suva/publications/WCMS_338071/lang--en/index.htm

This short brochure from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) provides a summary of what cash for work programs are, and then provides a short case study from cash for work pilot programs in Solomon Islands and Fiji (both implemented in 2013-2014). Each case study is described in four to five phases, outlining the steps of implementing the program from design through to post-crisis development support. The brochure is largely descriptive and offers limited analysis, but is useful for its simple explanation of the process of implementing a cash for work program. There is some discussion of gendered considerations in social protection programs.

Tags: [Solomon Islands](#), [Fiji](#), [labour market programs](#), [cash/food-for-work](#), [gender](#).

International Labour Organisation. (2016). Timor-Leste: Universal old-age and disability pension. In Ortiz, I, Schmitt, V, De, L (Eds.). *Social Protection Floors. Volume 1: Universal Schemes* (pp. 131-142). International Labour Organisation.

https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2895420

This book chapter reviews Timor-Leste's old-age and disability pension, the Pension for Older Persons and People with Disabilities (Subsídio de Apoio a Idosos e Inválidos (SAII)) which is a universal non-contributory (tax-funded) pension. It also includes brief discussion of some social insurance programs both current and future. The chapter concludes that the case of the SAII demonstrates that universal coverage can be achieved in a relatively short amount of time, even in post-war contexts and countries with limited infrastructure and financial resources. This chapter is part of a broader book that looks at 16 experiences from 12 countries which have achieved universal or near-universal social protection coverages. The edited book is intended for academic and policymaker audiences.

Tags: [Timor-Leste](#), [social assistance](#), [disability](#), [other social inclusion](#).

International Labour Organisation. (2020). *COVID-19: Policy responses in Timor-Leste*. International Labour Organisation.

https://www.ilo.org/jakarta/whatwedo/publications/WCMS_755040/lang--en/index.htm

This ILO brief outlines the initial responses to COVID-19 in Timor-Leste. It summarises the Timor-Leste Government policies, which included a household cash grant and unemployment payments. Many of the Government priorities and actions were yet to be finalised at the time the brief was written. The supporting actions of ILO are also described, which included advice,

support in designing and implementing the CTP and providing funding support. This brief has some coverage of gender and social protection.

Tags: [Timor-Leste](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [gender](#).

International Labour Organisation. (2023). *Building rights-based social protection systems in the PALOP countries and Timor-Leste: Mobilizing the potential of ILO social security standards to implement the human right to social security*. International Labour Organisation.

<https://socialprotection.org/discover/publications/social-protection-spotlight-building-rights-based-social-protection-systems>

This brief from the ILO is focused on the human right to social security, with a focus on the ILO Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102) and ILO Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202). The brief includes a short case study on Timor-Leste, which outlines ILO actions in Timor-Leste to progress social protection. With support from ILO, the first National Strategy for Social Protection 2021-2030 was approved and launched, and includes a goal of establishing a universal cash transfer to children and pregnant women. In 2023, a national dialogue was started (with support from the ILO) with the aim of promoting and ratifying Convention No. 102.

Tags: [Timor-Leste](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [other social inclusion](#), [gender](#).

International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth & United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund. (2019). *Social protection in Asia and the Pacific: Inventory of non-contributory programmes*. International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth.

<https://www.unicef.org/pacificislands/reports/social-protection-asia-and-paci%EAC%81c-inventory-non-contributory-programmes>

This report from International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG) and UNICEF presents an inventory of non-contributory social protection programs in South and East Asian countries and the Pacific Islands. The included case studies of relevance are for "East Timor" (Timor-Leste) and nine Pacific Island countries. For each case study, the report includes a detailed tabulated summary of each of the non-contributory social protection programs in place. The summaries include program objectives, target groups, eligibility criteria, description of benefits/payments and the involved institutions and agency. This report could serve as a useful reference document for identifying and understanding non-contributory social protection programs across the Pacific.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [Timor-Leste](#), [social assistance](#).

Ismail, L., Kos, J., & Outhred, R. (2011). *Fiji access to quality education program – Review of the international literature on social protection programs*. Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/fiji-access-to-quality-education-program-review-of-the-international-literature-on-social-protection-programs>

Ismail and Outhred provide a review of global literature concerning social protection programs and their impact on education. It looks at informal and formal social protection systems for education in Mexico, Brazil, Fiji and Bangladesh and examines the relevance and effectiveness of such mechanisms in a Pacific context. It is intended for policymakers, researchers and development practitioners in the field of education. This literature review provides a foundational understanding of social protection's broader implications for education in the Pacific, emphasising the importance of community engagement, pilot testing of programs, inter-agency collaboration and support for existing social protection systems.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [informal social protection](#), [other social inclusion](#), [gender](#).

Ivaschenko, O., Doyle, J., & Burton, C. (2015). *Tonga: Making social protection more responsive to natural disasters and climate change*. World Bank Group.

<https://socialprotection.org/discover/publications/tonga-making-social-protection-more-responsive-natural-disasters-and-climate>

This case study prepared for the World Bank analyses Tonga's DRM, climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster/climate-related social protection frameworks and mechanisms. Ivaschenko et al. highlight that Tonga is highly vulnerable to climate and other shocks, and detail the current institutional frameworks for DRM, CCA and social protection in Tonga. The authors argue that Tonga's formal social protection system could be developed to include a systematic focus on DRM and CCA, including through developing an overarching national policy and strategic plan on social protection. This case study includes discussion of gender and disability as they relate to social protection, as well as climate change.

Tags: [Tonga](#), [climate-resilient social protection](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [gender](#), [disability](#).

Ivaschenko, O., Doyle, J., Kim, J., Sibley, J., & Majoka, Z. (2020). Does 'manna from heaven' help? The role of cash transfers in disaster recovery—lessons from Fiji after Tropical Cyclone Winston. *Disasters*, 44(3), 455–476.

<https://doi.org/10.1111/disa.12411>

Ivaschenko et al. evaluate the impact of cash transfers provided to poor households in Fiji after Tropical Cyclone Winston. In this case, cash transfers were channelled through existing social protection systems. The study finds that recipients of cash transfers are more likely to recover quickly from a variety of shocks, with cash providing maximum flexibility to households in how they allocate assistance. The authors suggest that cash transfers are most effective when markets have recovered after a disaster event.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [humanitarian assistance](#).

Ivaschenko, O., Naidoo, D., Newhouse, D., & Sultan, S. (2017). *Can public works programs reduce youth crime? Evidence from Papua New Guinea's urban youth employment project*. (104). World Bank.

<https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/793401524633953102/pdf/125692-NWP-PUBLIC-POV104-PRWP8032.pdf>

Ivaschenko et al. examine the Urban Youth Employment Project implemented in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. This was a labour market program which provided out-of-school and unemployed youth with short-term public works employment (less educated youth) or classroom and on-the-job training (more educated youth). This paper outlines the estimated impacts of program participation on youth crime and anti-social behaviour, finding that the program had strong and lasting effects on social behaviour of participants, though less clear impacts on the likelihood of being involved in crime. The likely audience of this paper is development policymakers.

Tags: [Papua New Guinea](#), [labour market programs](#).

Jimenez, E. V. and Brown, R. P. C. (2013). How Responsive are Remittances to Recipients' Welfare? Evidence from Fiji. *International Migration*. 51, 179-201.

<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-2435.2012.00764.x>

This article examines the role of remittances in providing social protection in Fiji using household survey data. It tests whether migrants' remittances are motivated by the desire to offer social protection. The study finds strong evidence that remittances significantly contribute to social protection for the poorest households, with a weaker effect for those above the poverty threshold. The intended audience is likely academics and researchers studying remittances' impact on social protection and offers insights into how remittances serve as informal social protection in the Pacific.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [informal social protection](#), [remittances](#).

Jolly, M., Lee, H., Lepani, K., Naupa, A., & Rooney, M. (2015). *Falling Through the Net?: Gender and Social Protection in the Pacific*. United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

<https://www.un-ilibrary.org/content/books/25216112/6>

Jolly et al. describe the constraints faced by women in the Pacific due to gender inequality and violence, and their portrayal as vulnerable victims. Focusing on Papua New Guinea, Tonga and Vanuatu, this paper explores existing social protection systems – both formal and informal – in depth and considers how social protection can be implemented in a way that promotes gender equality rather than exacerbating gender inequalities. It emphasises the importance of women's agency and the need to move beyond traditional economic divisions in social protection strategies. This paper provides valuable insights for policymakers, academics, and development practitioners.

Tags: [Papua New Guinea](#), [Tonga](#), [Vanuatu](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [informal social protection](#), [gender](#).

Jowitt, A. (2015). *VCCI Position Paper on Leave Entitlements for Employees*. Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

<https://repository.usp.ac.fj/8635/>

This report from Vanuatu's Chamber of Commerce and Industry presents their position on leave entitlements for employees. The paper presents evidence on the negative consequences of the then current leave benefits regime and presents employers' proposals for fair leave benefits. The analysis in the paper compares Vanuatu's regime to other Pacific countries across annual leave, sick leave, and maternity leave, and includes further survey data on these types of leave. This paper is primarily relevant to policymakers and employers in Vanuatu.

Tags: [Vanuatu](#), [labour market programs](#), [employment incentives](#).

Kakhkharov, J., Archer, L., Tuisawau, M., Taito, A., Cama, M., & Sharma, P. (2022). *Remittances Vis-à-vis Bank Credit and Investment: Evidence from Fiji*. *Review of Pacific Basin Financial Markets and Policies*, 25(1), 1–36.

<https://doi.org/10.1142/S0219091522500035>

Kakhkharov et al. investigate the impact of international remittances on bank credit and household investment, using Fiji as a case study. The authors find that remittances significantly increase the likelihood that households receiving remittances obtain income from investing, including investments in property, capital, and money markets, and that this investment is facilitated by the stability of the financial sector in Fiji. Additionally, they find that remittances positively influence the value of bank credit, although not to a significant degree, which the authors suggest may stem from the quality of financial services and/or lack of financial competency.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [informal social protection](#), [remittances](#).

Karacsony, S., Kawasoe, Y., Parsons, K., Tzimas, G., & Zhang, L. (2022). *Connecting the dots: Toward a social protection interoperability framework in Fiji*. World Bank.

<https://policycommons.net/artifacts/3182190/connecting-the-dots/3980770/>

This brief was developed by the World Bank's Fiji Social Protection and Jobs team. It presents the case and options for a social protection interoperability and e-services provisioning framework in Fiji, intended to support capacity development within the Government of Fiji. The brief outlines how the ability of different data systems from various stakeholders to work together benefits social protection provision generally, and how interoperability would be beneficial for Fiji in particular. It argues that interoperability is a key enabler of a more adaptive and gender-responsive social protection system in Fiji.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [social assistance](#), [gender](#), [climate-resilient social protection](#).

Katosang, M. (2012). *Republic of Palau: Updating and improving the Social Protection Index*. Asian Development Bank.

<https://www.adb.org/projects/documents/regional-palau-44152-012>

This case study of Palau, prepared for the ADB, provides updated information and data on social protection arrangements, legislation and institutions, and calculates the SPI for Palau in view of revised methodology. The case study describes Palau's five social assistance programs and three social insurance programs; Palau had no labour market programs. The SPI for Palau was calculated as 0.148 (indicating that the average social protection expenditure on each actual beneficiary is about 14.8% of the per capita poverty line). The SPI was higher for men than women, and non-poor than poor. There is discussion of gender and disability in the context of social protection, as well as informal social protection networks.

Tags: [Palau](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [social assistance](#), [social insurance](#), [labour market programs](#), [other social inclusion](#), [gender](#), [disability](#), [informal social protection](#).

Keen, M., Sanderson, D., Osborne, K., Deo, R., Faith, J., & Ride, A. (2022). Area-based approaches and urban recovery in the Pacific: Lessons from Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. *Environment and Urbanisation*, 34(1), 151–169.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/09562478211072668>

Keen et al. discuss the importance of empowering local communities in disaster response efforts, particularly in PICs. The authors employ principles from area-based approaches to review urban disaster recovery efforts in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. They find that community ownership, use of local resources and implementation of traditional knowledge in disaster response are critical components of disaster response. This article refers extensively to examples of humanitarian assistance, but does not specifically identify other kinds of social protection within the disaster-response context.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [Solomon Islands](#), [Vanuatu](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [humanitarian assistance](#).

Kent, L., & Wallis, J. (2014). *Timor-Leste's Veterans' Pension Scheme: Who are the Beneficiaries and Who is Missing Out?*. In Brief 13: State, Society & Governance in Melanesia. Australian National University.

<https://openresearch-repository.anu.edu.au/handle/1885/143160>

Kent and Wallis describe the key beneficiaries and exclusions from Timor-Leste's veterans' pension scheme. The pension provides benefits to only about one per cent of the Timorese population; however, spending on this pension scheme exceeds spending on health, education or any sector except for infrastructure. The authors also find that the long-term ramifications of the scheme relate to the political landscape in Timor-Leste, intergenerational impacts, risk of dependency, and the development of a national identity.

Tags: [Timor-Leste](#), [social assistance](#).

Kidd, S. (2012). *Poverty, vulnerability and social protection in the Pacific: The role of social transfers*. Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/pacific-social-protection-series>

This research paper prepared for DFAT examines the evidence on poverty and vulnerability in the Pacific. It explores the causes of poverty in the region, and assesses whether social

transfers could have a role in addressing these issues. The paper highlights that there are a range of misconceptions about poverty and social protection in Pacific countries, including assumptions that poverty is limited and that informal social protection systems – built upon egalitarian values – prevent anyone from going hungry. The paper concludes that further research is needed to understand poverty in the Pacific, the strengths and weaknesses of existing social protection systems (formal and informal) and the possible impact of expanding formal social protection systems. There is some discussion of social protection for people with disabilities.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [informal social protection](#).

Kidd, S., Abu-el-Haj, T., Watson, C., Sibley, J., Gelders, B., & Smith, G. (2015). *Child-sensitive social protection in Fiji: Assessment of the Care and Protection Allowance*. UNICEF Pacific & Fiji and Poverty Alleviation.

<https://www.socialserviceworkforce.org/system/files/resource/files/Child-Sensitive%20Social%20Protection%20in%20Fiji.pdf>

This joint report from UNICEF and the Fijian Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation examines the level of child poverty and vulnerability in Fiji. It reviews key policy and design issues, the operations of the Care and Protection Allowance, and the impacts on recipients. The report extensively covers the Fijian context, the broader social protection environment, the specifics of the Care and Protection Allowance, and provides recommendations for policymakers relating to an expansion of the child grant system in Fiji.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [other social inclusion](#).

Knox-Vydmanov, C., & Satriana, S. (2022). *Social protection in the Pacific and Timor-Leste: the state of play*. Partnerships for Social Protection.

<https://p4sp.org/resources/state-of-play/>

This blog post by Partnerships for Social Protection (P4SP) shows that contrary to the common perception that formal social protection is limited in the Pacific and will dry up post-COVID-19, most PICs have made significant levels of investment towards social protection systems. The article analyses the spending of PICs on tax-financed social protection, planned social protection expenditure, and improved coverage of population groups through social assistance schemes for the elderly, people with disabilities and children. It analyses the reasons for the increased spending on universal benefits, and the benefits gained from capitalising on existing social protection systems as a COVID-19 response. It is likely that this article is aimed at PIC policymakers and the public.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [other social inclusion](#), [disability](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#).

Knox-Vydmanov, C., Soni, N., Satriana, S., & Attenborough, J. (2023) *From historical trends to investment pathways: Social protection expenditure in Pacific Island countries and Timor-Leste*. Partnerships for Social Protection.

<https://p4sp.org/resources/financing-social-protection-in-pacific-island-countries-and-timor-leste/>

This P4SP research report provides a comprehensive study on social protection financing in PICs and Timor-Leste, covering their expenditure size, composition and historical evolution. It shows that many PICs are making meaningful investments in social protection, with universal old age and disability benefits forming the core of social assistance expenditure across the region. It identifies challenges and opportunities in financing social protection programs, particularly as a way of supporting economic recovery, and emphasises the need for innovative financing mechanisms and increased government commitment. As this report aims to aid analysis of social protection financing for decision-making purposes, likely audience includes PIC policymakers, government officials and development practitioners.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [social assistance](#), [other social inclusion](#).

Lann, T. (2020). *The benefits of agile implementation in social protection development interventions: A comparative analysis of social protection information system implementation in Timor-Leste, the Bahamas and Indonesia*. International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth.

<https://ipciq.org/publication/29290>

This IPC–IG paper analyses three cases of cash transfer programs (including one in Timor-Leste) through the lens of agile program implementation. ‘Agile’ programs are defined as those that start small and scale incrementally using social protection information (rather than seeking to introduce or overhaul a national-level program at one time). The Timor-Leste Bolsa da Mãe and Pension for Older Persons and People with Disabilities (Subsídio de Apoio a Idosos e Inválidos) programs were assessed to be ‘agile’, based on their progressive scaling up. However, the Timor-Leste case is complex, with concerns around budget imbalances between these two programs and the veterans’ benefits program. Furthermore, the programs are existentially threatened by Timor-Leste’s low level of economic complexity, with the economy being heavily reliant on petroleum as the primary source of social protection funding.

Tags: [Timor-Leste](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#).

Le Dé, L. (2015). *Remittances in the Face of Disaster: A Case Study of Samoa*. University of Auckland.

<https://researchspace.auckland.ac.nz/handle/2292/27650>

This thesis focuses on the role of remittances in disaster contexts in SIDS, specifically Samoa's experience with the 2009 tsunami and the 2012 Cyclone Evan. It highlights the significance of remittances in facilitating emergency response and faster recovery, while also acknowledging their economic impacts on migrants. The study examines the social implications and strengthening of social ties through remittances. It is relevant for understanding social protection in the Pacific, providing insights into resilience and vulnerabilities in the face of disasters.

Tags: [Samoa](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [informal social protection](#), [remittances](#).

Le De, L., & Jackson-Becerra, F. J. (2021). COVID-19 and Transnational Remittances in Samoa: Maintaining Family Ties in the Face of Crisis. In Campbell, Y., & Connell, J. (Eds.), *COVID-19 in the Islands: A comparative perspective on the Caribbean and the Pacific* (1st Edition, pp. 279–297). Springer Nature.

https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-5285-1_16

Le De and Jackson-Becerra explore remittances as both financial and social resources, particularly in the context of disasters such as COVID-19. They highlight the transnational nature of family and community connections, emphasising that the increase in remittances sent to Samoa during the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrates the strength of these ties. Le De and Jackson-Becerra argue to their academic audience that while Samoa and other Pacific Island countries are generally regarded as highly vulnerable to shocks, they have a long history of dealing successfully with these shocks through mechanisms based on social ties.

Tags: [Samoa](#), [informal social protection](#), [remittances](#), [kinship](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#).

Le De, L., Defosse, S., & Leone, F. (2020). Disaster resilience of traditional societies from Small Islands Developing States: The 2015 tropical cyclone Pam in Vanuatu. *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters*, 28(3), 373–397.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/028072702003800305>

Le De et al. investigate the resilience of traditional societies in the face of disaster, using the impact of Cyclone Pam on Tanna Island, Vanuatu as a case study. They emphasise that traditional societies' resilience involves both absorbing and recovering from large events and recurrent small-scale hazards. In particular, the article highlights the need to reinforce traditional practices while supporting newly adopted mechanisms such as transnational kinship networks and remittances. The authors discuss how top-down external aid intervention can have negative effects on traditional societies' resilience if it competes with local initiatives.

Tags: [Vanuatu](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [informal social protection](#), [kinship](#), [remittances](#).

Le De, L., Gaillard, J. C., & Friesen, W. (2013). Remittances and disaster: a review. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*, 4, 34–43.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ijdrr.2013.03.007>

Le De et al. focus on understanding the role of remittances in times of disaster, using PICs as their case study. The authors suggest that remittances can be both a weakness created within the vulnerability context and a strength that enables people to cope with and recover from shocks. They argue that because remittances are rooted in people's everyday livelihoods and because of the complexity of social practices, adopting a people-centred approach that is more sensitive to communities' perceptions and values is important. They conclude that building on remittances as a coping mechanism in times of disaster would help in achieving goals of vulnerability reduction.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [informal social protection](#), [remittances](#).

Le De, L., Gaillard, J. C., Friesen, W., & Matautia Smith, F. (2015). Remittances in the face of disasters: a case study of rural Samoa. *Environment Development and Sustainability*, 17, 653–672.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10668-014-9559-0>

Le De et al. investigate the role of remittances in households' responses to disasters, using the impacts of a tsunami and cyclone on rural Samoa as a case study. They find that remittances are very fast at reaching those households affected and remain high in the long term for the recovery from the disaster. They also find that remittances interact with external aid since remittances tend to increase when external aid is low and decrease when external aid is higher. The authors observed that remittances allowed households to deal more easily with immediate security needs and recover more quickly than those with limited or no remittances, and that remittances benefit the wider community. They conclude that governments and aid agencies should take remittances into account in their relief efforts and programs.

Tags: [Samoa](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [informal social protection](#), [remittances](#).

Le De, L., Rey, T., Leone, F., & Gilbert, D. (2018). Sustainable livelihoods and effectiveness of disaster responses: a case study of tropical cyclone Pam in Vanuatu. *Natural Hazards*, 91, 1203–1221.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11069-018-3174-6>

Le De et al. compares the responses of external aid agencies and disaster-affected communities in the wake of Cyclone Pam hitting Vanuatu. They sought to find convergences, duplications, and gaps in the different responses. The article includes a section discussing the central role of social resources and local knowledge in the disaster responses, in particular how significant informal social protection systems within families, communities, and between communities were after the cyclone. The authors conclude that external aid, including humanitarian assistance, should support existing cooperation systems at different levels in order to avoid duplication of responses and ensure responsiveness to local needs and priorities.

Tags: [Vanuatu](#), [informal social protection](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [humanitarian assistance](#).

Leweniqila, L. (2010). *The Effectiveness of Government Pro-poor Strategies in Fiji: A focus on the Welfare Program*. University of the South Pacific.

<http://www.uspaquatic.library.usp.ac.fj/gsdll/collect/usplibr1/index/assoc/HASHd672.dir/doc.pdf>

Leweniqila's thesis examines Fiji's poverty alleviation programs (Family Assistance Scheme, Poverty Alleviation Fund and Public Rental Housing Program) and concludes that the program has significantly improved the welfare recipients' self-worth, independence, self-confidence, and status within their individual households. They found that the income generation, which is

encouraged by the program, has had a positive impact on the standard of living of poor people and on their lifestyles. This included a reinforcing effect between different social protection mechanisms. The thesis concludes with recommendations for policymakers, including the need for greater focus on poverty and its interconnection with other social issues.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [in-kind transfers](#), [labour market programs](#), [other social inclusion](#).

Lin, T. (2019). Americans, Almost and Forgotten. *California Law Review*, 107(4), 1249-1302.

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/26850864>

Lin critiques the inequality in government assistance given to the unincorporated territories of the United States (Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, The US Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands) compared to the rest of the United States. This article examines why past efforts to aid these territories have failed. The article also highlights that people residing in these American territories do not have access to the same social protection systems as those living in the United States, with particular reference to veterans and disaster impacts. This article has a strong focus on policymakers, advocating for 3 specific changes: a waiver of the Jones Act maritime law; most-favoured states status in federal veterans and disaster relief appropriations (i.e. better provision of social protection measures), and special economic empowerment zone designations.

Tags: [Samoa](#), [Guam](#), [Northern Mariana Islands](#), [social assistance](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#).

Lucas, B. (2015). *Disaster risk financing and insurance in the Pacific*. Applied Knowledge Services.

<https://gsdrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/HDQ1314.pdf>

Lucas provides insights into the low insurance penetration in the Pacific region compared to other parts of the world, focusing on the barriers to disaster insurance uptake and the potential of parametric insurance. It is relevant for understanding social protection in the Pacific, as it highlights the challenges faced in accessing insurance and offers a cost-effective solution. The intended audience include policymakers, development practitioners, and researchers interested in enhancing social protection.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [social insurance](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#).

Machado, A., & Goode, M. (2023). *Microinsurance and social protection: Fiji country case study*. World Food Programme.

<https://www.wfp.org/publications/social-protection-and-microinsurance-series-case-studies-ethiopia-zambia-madagascar>

This case study from WFP describes a recent collaboration between WFP and Fiji's Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation to implement the first parametric insurance targeted at social protection beneficiaries living in Fiji in high-risk locations. The project launched in 2021 and selected 274 social welfare beneficiaries to receive microinsurance coverage against cyclones and windstorms. The goal is to scale up the program, which WFP suggest will require

greater participation from private actors and development partners, alongside effort to generate evidence and impact evaluation on the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of microinsurance solutions (in comparison to other crisis response approaches).

Tags: [Fiji](#), [social assistance](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [climate-resilient social protection](#).

Madan, N., & Isgut, A. (2022). *Enhancing Digital G2P Transfer Capacities in the Asian LDCs*. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.
<https://repository.unescap.org/handle/20.500.12870/5176>

Madan and Isgut look at the rise of digital government-to-person (G2P) payments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in eight Asian least-developed countries (including Timor-Leste). These G2P payments are largely digital cash transfers which are particularly useful in emergency situations as they allow payments to occur remotely. The paper reviews and identifies lessons on 3 key building blocks for an efficient government-to-person payment system: unique ID (preferably digital with biometrics), socio-economic databases that are linked to the unique ID, and a channel for digital delivery. The report also raises the importance of having alternative measures for payments, noting that many vulnerable people such as those who are older, have disabilities or are in low-income households, are least likely to have access to the necessary mobile technology. The paper is intended for policymakers.

Tags: [Timor-Leste](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#).

Mahul, O., Cook, S. J., & Prasad, R. (2016). *Enhancing the financial resilience of Pacific Island Countries against natural disaster and climate risk: (PCRAFI) Program: Phase 2*. World Bank.
<https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/716481495545738079/pacific-catastrophe-risk-assessment-and-financing-initiative-pcrafi-program-phase-ii>

This World Bank Working Paper discusses the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative (PCRAFI) program, which launched in 2007 and aimed to provide PICs with disaster risk assessment and financing tools for enhanced disaster risk management and climate change adaptation. The paper provides information on the design principles of the program, the facility, role of donor partners and further steps to develop the program. Although the program discusses climate and disaster insurance for PICs, it makes no reference to it as a form of social protection/ insurance. The paper is useful for policymakers seeking to understand PCRAFI and its components, such as disaster and climate insurance.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [climate-resilient social protection](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#).

Mansur, A., Doyle, J., & Ivaschenko, O. (2017). *Social Protection and Humanitarian Assistance Nexus for Disaster Response: Lessons Learnt from Fiji's Tropical Cyclone Winston*. World Bank Group.
<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/26408>

Mansur et al. analyse the role of social protection in enhancing the humanitarian response and supporting disaster assistance efforts in Fiji following Tropical Cyclone Winston. This discussion paper examines the impact of the cyclone on social protection systems and outlines the achievements and challenges faced during the response phase. Specifically, the authors argue that social protection and humanitarian assistance can be implemented in complementary ways to effectively respond to disasters. The paper concludes with recommendations for future disaster-responsive social protection, providing valuable insights for policymakers and practitioners in the field of disaster management and social protection.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [humanitarian assistance](#).

Mansur, A., Doyle, J., & Ivaschenko, O. (2018). *Cash transfers for disaster response: lessons from Tropical Cyclone Winston*. Development Policy Centre.
https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3143459

Mansur et al. report on an impact evaluation of cash transfers for disaster response in Fiji following Tropical Cyclone Winston. The authors found that the Fiji Government's provision of cash transfers through existing social protection programs ('top-up transfers') was effective, particularly after markets were restored. In-kind humanitarian aid was also crucial in the initial stages when markets were disrupted. Mansur et al. recommend improving government communication about social protection systems during disasters, working to have government social protection be complementary to humanitarian assistance, and develop standard procedures for disaster response. The main audience of this paper are policymakers and academics.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [in-kind transfers](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [humanitarian assistance](#).

Manu, S., Taumoepeau, S., & Towner, N. (2016). *Where do remittances go? A Tongan case study*. Conference paper. CAUTHE 2016: The Changing Landscape of Tourism and Hospitality: The Impact of Emerging Markets and Emerging Destinations. Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School.
<https://search.informit.org/doi/abs/10.3316/informit.936609063214751>

Manu et al. focus on how remittances are spent by receiving households in Tonga, and what this expenditure means for the long-term sustainability of Tongan livelihoods. They find that the remittances were mainly used to pay for utilities, church offerings, food, and traditional celebrations, while only few households used remittances to repay loans or mortgages. The authors illustrate that without remittances most Tongans would struggle to afford their daily expenditures.

Tags: [Tonga](#), [informal social protection](#), [remittances](#), [church networks](#).

Martinez-Diaz, L., Sidne, L., & Mc Clamrock, J. (2019). *The future of disaster risk pooling for developing countries: where do we go from here?*. Analysis & Policy Observatory.
<https://apo.org.au/node/258236>

Martinez-Diaz et al. examine the use of sovereign parametric insurance as a financial tool to help developing countries cope with climate-related disasters. It focuses on 3 regional risk pools: Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility Segregated Portfolio Company (CCRIF SPC), African Risk Capacity (ARC), and Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance Company (PCRIC). The study aims to answer questions regarding the deployment of multiple disaster risk financing instruments, the utilisation of insurance solutions by governments, and the support provided to protect vulnerable populations. The analysis is based on a literature review and interviews with stakeholders from various organisations and governments. The findings contribute to understanding social protection in the Pacific and the effectiveness of these risk pools in addressing climate change challenges.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [social insurance](#), [climate-resilient social protection](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#).

McClanahan, S., Hillson, D., & Chirchir, R. (2021). *Global research on governance and social protection (case studies on Mauritius and Fiji)*. International Labour Organisation and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

<https://socialprotection.org/discover/publications/global-research-governance-and-social-protection-case-studies-mauritius-and-fiji>

McClanahan et al. explore social protection systems in two small island states, Mauritius and Fiji. Mauritius is considered a welfare leader among small states, implementing broad-based, inclusive schemes, while Fiji has faced challenges with fragmented and scheme-based social protection systems. The report targets policymakers and researchers interested in the governance and policy development of social protection in small island states. The relevance of this chapter lies in its exploration of how governance decisions influence social protection policies and the potential implications of socio-economic development of these countries. In terms of Fiji, it highlights the importance of expanding its social security system to enhance economic development, adhere to international human rights commitments and align with the SDGs.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#).

McDonald, L. (2018). Household coping behaviour and its contribution to resilience to global macroeconomic shocks in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands. *Review of Development Economics*, 22(4).

<https://doi.org/10.1111/rode.12522>

McDonald examines the resilience of households in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands to global macroeconomic shocks, focusing on the 2008 Global Economic Crisis. The author highlights the importance of education, income-generating activities, and wealth in enhancing household resilience. The academic study reveals that local food gardens and informal insurance provide partial safety nets, while harmful coping strategies weaken overall resilience. The findings contribute to understanding household resilience in the Pacific and emphasises the relevance of social protection in mitigating economic shocks.

Tags: [Vanuatu](#), [Solomon Islands](#), [informal social protection](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#).

McDonald, P. L. (2014). *The Vulnerability and Resilience of Households in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands to Global Macroeconomic Shocks*. Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University.

https://researchrepository.rmit.edu.au/esploro/outputs/doctoral/The-vulnerability-and-resilience-of-households/9921861443401341?institution=61RMIT_INST

McDonald's thesis examines the vulnerability and resilience of households in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands to global economic shocks, especially during the Global Financial Crisis. The study focuses on culturally sensitive measurements of household poverty, considering social support systems, exposure to macroeconomic shocks, and coping mechanisms. McDonald finds that various strategies are employed to deal with shocks, with domestic food gardens and informal social protection networks playing a crucial role in risk management. McDonald's research underscores the importance of enhancing social protection measures in these countries to alleviate households' risk management burdens.

Tags: [Vanuatu](#), [Solomon Islands](#), [informal social protection](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#).

McKinley, T., & Handayani, W. (2013). *The Social Protection Index: Assessing Results for Asia and the Pacific*. Asian Development Bank.

<https://eprints.soas.ac.uk/25576/1/mckinley-social-protection-index.pdf>

This ADB report presents the results from the ADB's SPI, including capturing the adequacy of social protection in each country through examining program expenditures, coverage, distribution, and impact. Although the report covers the whole Asia-Pacific region, it highlights the Pacific as a region and individual countries where relevant. The report explores the SPI and its results by country and by specific ADB program (social insurance, social assistance and labour market programs), the depth and breadth of social protection benefits, their poverty impact, and gender dimensions. This high-level regional social protection overview may be of use to policymakers, academic audiences and development organisations.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [gender](#).

Meo-Sewabu, L. (2021). *Vulnerability of Children in Fiji: The Impact of COVID-19*. In Ratuva, S., Ross, T., Crichton-Hill, Y., Basu, A., Vakaoti, P., & Martin-Neuninger, R. (Eds.), *COVID-19 and Social Protection* (1st., pp. 279–290). Springer Nature.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-2948-8>

Meo-Sewabu examines the vulnerability of children in Fiji, specifically related to the impact of COVID-19. They seek to understand what factors contribute to children's vulnerability and what the key social protection issues are for children. They conclude that contributions and the re-emergence and reinforcement of the informal economy have been forms of social protection that have united communities, provided assistance, and maintained the wellbeing of communities.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [other social inclusion](#), [informal social protection](#).

Mohanty, M. (2011). Informal Social Protection and Social Development in Pacific Island Countries: Role of NGOs and Civil Society. *Asia-Pacific Development Journal*, 18(2), 25–56.

<http://repository.usp.ac.fj/5557/>

Mohanty's article examines the nature of traditional, informal, and semi-formal social security and protection mechanisms within Pacific Island countries. Mohanty highlights that both formal and informal social protection systems in Pacific Island countries are currently insufficient, and that a greater integration of social policy, social planning and social development is needed to achieve a cost effective and sustainable social protection system. The author argues that this will require a strengthening of NGO networks and partnerships between civil society, governments, and the private sector. The target audience of this article may include policymakers, NGOs and academics.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [informal social protection](#), [kinship](#), [church networks](#), [remittances](#).

Moroz, H. E. (2020). *The Role of Social Protection in building, protecting and deploying human capital in the East Asia and Pacific region*. World Bank.

<http://hdl.handle.net/10986/34783>

This World Bank discussion paper highlights the role of social protection in addressing poverty, economic growth and building, protecting and deploying human capital in the East Asia and Pacific region. It discusses social protection policies that relate directly to the Human Capital index and the role of social protection in engaging with countries who are a part of the World Bank's Human Capital project. Although the paper considers the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, it frames its discussion of social protection and human capital to identify implications relevant to the pandemic and beyond. This paper is useful for policymakers, academics and practitioners in the Asia-Pacific region who want a detailed understanding of the role of social protection in building, protecting and deploying human capital.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [other social inclusion](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#).

Nanau, G. L., & Labu-Nanau, M. (2021). *The Solomon Islands' social policy response to COVID-19: Between wantok and economic stimulus package*. CRC 1342 (no.18) Social Policy Response Series. Global dynamics of Social Policy.

<https://socialprotection.org/discover/publications/solomon-islands%E2%80%99-social-policy-response-covid-19-between-wantok-and-economic>

This research paper describes the social policy response of Solomon Islands to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was written at a time when community transmission in Solomon Islands was extremely low, and highlights that peoples' survival and livelihoods were primarily supported through a combination of informal and formal social protection (the *wantok* system and the Economic Stimulus Package, respectively). The paper describes in detail the initial response to the outbreak of the pandemic and the subsequent Economic Stimulus Package. Nanau and Labu-Nanau recommend a new legislation focusing on public health emergencies is needed,

and highlight that the Solomon Islands government has commenced consultation for this to occur.

Tags: [Solomon Islands](#), [informal social protection](#), [social assistance](#), [subsidies](#).

O'Keefe, P. B., Umapathi N., Somanathan, A.; Palacios, R. J. Giles, J. T.; Flochel, T., Van Doorn, R., Pradelli, J., Huang, Y., Moroz, H., Edmund; Sen, S., Velamuri, M., Hasegawa, N., Ozden, C., Testaverde, M., Tong, M. H., Hu, Y., Nakayama, R., Beath, A., & Ikeda, Y. (2015). *Live long and prosper: aging in East Asia and Pacific (English)*. World Bank Group.

<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/832271468184782307/Live-long-and-prosper-aging-in-East-Asia-and-Pacific>

This World Bank East Asia and Pacific region report provides a comprehensive review of aging demographics in the East Asian and Pacific region, documents and compares policy frameworks for aging across the region and explores the implications of alternate reform options. It discusses living standards and other indicators of welfare for elderly people in the region, such as social inclusion support, the effects of aging populations on the economy, and policy options for countries in the region looking to provide comprehensive systems of care to their elderly populations. It is useful for policymakers in the Asia-Pacific region to understand the suite of social inclusion options available to support demographic transitions in the region.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [other social inclusion](#).

Olsson, J.J. (2012). *Nauru: Updating and improving the Social Protection Index*. Asian Development Bank.

<https://socialprotection.org/discover/publications/nauru-updating-and-improving-social-protection-index>

Olsson focuses on the development of the SPI by the ADB and its application to Nauru. The main argument is centred on the importance of assessing and improving social protection programs in Nauru and other developing member countries. The intended audience includes policymakers and researchers interested in social protection programs in Nauru. It is relevant for understanding the country's social protection landscape, including expenditures and coverage.

Tags: [Nauru](#), [social assistance](#), [social insurance](#), [labour market programs](#), [gender](#).

Oxfam. (2021). *Oxfam's humanitarian social protection approaches in the context of COVID-19*. Oxfam International.

<https://socialprotection.org/discover/publications/oxfam%E2%80%99s-humanitarian-social-protection-approaches-context-covid-19-learning>

This Oxfam learning brief showcases examples of their work on social protection in their humanitarian responses in the context of COVID-19. It includes 12 Oxfam humanitarian programs – including Vanuatu and Timor-Leste – which are intended to illustrate how crisis responses can engage with and strengthen social protection systems. The Timor-Leste case

study discusses support for existing civil society organisations in their work, finding that in this case, collaboration between NGOs and civil society organisations is an important way to hold governments to account, as well as directly providing services to people. The Vanuatu case study discusses the Unblocked Cash project which utilised blockchain technology to deliver monthly e-vouchers to 6,000 households across 11 islands, demonstrating the potential of digital systems for remote social protection delivery.

Tags: [Timor-Leste](#), [Vanuatu](#), [humanitarian assistance](#), [social assistance](#).

Pacific Advisory. (2023). *Going digital: What's next for Vanuatu in Blockchain innovation? Policy and regulatory recommendations for financial and economic inclusion*. Pacific Advisory.

<https://socialprotection.org/discover/publications/going-digital-what%E2%80%99s-next-vanuatu-blockchain-innovation>

This report by Pacific Advisory explores the UnBlocked Cash Project in Vanuatu, focusing on the use of blockchain technology for humanitarian assistance and its potential for broader adoption. It highlights the innovative use of blockchain infrastructure and payment systems in delivering humanitarian aid, with emphasis on Vanuatu's unique challenges including limited digital infrastructure and exposure to natural hazards. The intended audience for this report includes policymakers, regulators, the private sector and development partners and researchers interested in blockchain technology's application in humanitarian contexts. It delves into the potential for broader adoption of blockchain technology within the country, especially in the private sector and government.

Tags: [Vanuatu](#), [social assistance](#), [humanitarian assistance](#), [cash transfers](#).

Pacific Community. (2019). *Pathway to 2030: progressing with our past toward a resilient, sustainable and equitable future*. Republic of Palau.

<https://purl.org/spc/digilib/doc/s5i9j>

This report covers Palau's Voluntary National Review of its progress towards the SDGs. It discusses Palau's achievements in areas such as governance, healthcare, education, poverty reduction and environmental protection, while also acknowledging challenges related to being a small island developing state, global economic forces and climate change. It also touches on social protection measures in Palau (pages 25-26), including support for senior citizens, persons with disabilities and protection from unemployment and low income. This report is likely intended for policymakers, development practitioners and stakeholders interested in Palau's progress towards achieving the SDGs.

Tags: [Palau](#), [disability](#), [other social inclusion](#), [social insurance](#), [contributory pensions](#).

Pacific Regional Cash Working Group. (2022). *Pacific Cash and Voucher Assistance – Capacity Building Gap Analysis – Individual Training Needs*. Pacific Regional Cash Working Group, Oxfam & World Food Programme.

<https://reliefweb.int/report/fiji/pacific-cash-and-voucher-assistance-capacity-building-gap-analysis-august-2022-individual-training-needs>

This report by the PRCWG in collaboration with CashCap, presents a capacity-building gap analysis for CVA in the Pacific region. It identifies the training needs of various stakeholders, including humanitarian and development teams, sector/cluster leads and individuals across the Pacific. It highlights challenges faced by organisations, such as insufficient technical capacity and limited institutional CVA experience in emergency situations. It emphasises the need for training in CVA design, targeting, conditionality and payment mechanisms and outlines preferred learning methods. Its intended audience is likely humanitarian and development practitioners. This report ultimately provides insights into enhancing CVA capacity to deliver effective social protection responses in the face of disasters and crises.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [humanitarian assistance](#).

Pacific Regional Cash Working Group. (2022). *Key Messages and Evidence on the Use of Cash Based Transfers in Fiji*. Pacific Regional Cash Working Group.

<https://reliefweb.int/report/fiji/key-messages-and-evidence-use-cash-based-transfers-fiji>

This report discusses the effectiveness of cash-based assistance in emergencies, particularly in Fiji. It emphasises the benefits of cash aid, such as flexibility and local economic support and dispels misconceptions about its misuse. The article provides examples of successful cash programs in Fiji, including responses to cyclones and the COVID-19 pandemic, and highlights the role of digitisation for efficiency and transparency. It is relevant for policymakers, humanitarian agencies and NGOs interested in understanding cash aid's effectiveness in the Pacific and offers insights for social protection and emergency response in Fiji and similar contexts.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [humanitarian assistance](#), [climate-resilient social protection](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [other social inclusion](#).

Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development Program. (2017). *Pacific Women Women's Economic Empowerment Synthesis Report*. Australian Agency for International Development.

<https://pacificdata.org/data/dataset/pwl-pacific-women-women-s-economic-empowerment-synthesis-report/resource/074b5e78-284c-4752-96f4-98559484d49d>

This report by the Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development Program focuses on women's economic empowerment in the Pacific region. It outlines the program's goals to improve opportunities for Pacific women, supported by DFAT. The report aims to guide future investments and provide a strategic framework for funding decisions regarding women's economic empowerment and social protection. It reviews global best practices, identifies key issues and suggests the need for a comprehensive and sustained approach to bring meaningful and sustainable changes. This report is relevant to policymakers, development practitioners and organisations interested in gender equality and social protection in the Pacific.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [gender](#), [social insurance](#), [social assistance](#), [labour market programs](#).

Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development Program. (2021). *Gender and COVID-19 in the Economic Recovery Measures in the Pacific*. Australian Aid.

<https://pacificdata.org/data/dataset/pwl-pacific-women-thematic-brief-gender-and-covid-19-economic-recovery-measures-in-the-pacific/resource/89af96d1-e0d9-4523-a7da-cd607c59dcfc>

This brief provides a gender analysis of COVID-19's economic impacts and recovery measures in the Pacific region. It emphasises that women and girls face disproportionate challenges, including increased unpaid work, economic vulnerability and limited access to support. It underscores the necessity of gender-sensitive economic policies and recovery measures to address the specific needs of women and girls during the pandemic. Additionally it outlines five key messages that highlight the gendered impacts of COVID-19, the importance of assessing economic measures through a gendered lens, concerns about social protection and austerity, the need to support businesses and employees, and the significance of recognising and supporting sectors in which women participate.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [gender](#).

Parker, J., Arrowsmith, J., & Boyd, A. (2017). Papua New Guinea: Work and care in a subsistence economy. In Baird, M., Ford, M., & Hill, E. (Eds.), *Women, Work and Care in the Asia-Pacific* (1st., pp. 245–259). Routledge.

<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315652467>

Parker et al. examine the formal and informal work-care regime for women in Papua New Guinea. The chapter includes sections on women's work, care responsibilities, interaction with and support from the state, regulating work and care, and existing pressure points. The authors argue that the minimalist state presence in many areas of Papua New Guinea means that there is a profound lack of state support for women, whether at work or in the home, particularly due to a lack of social or welfare provisions. This results in reliance on customary *wantok* systems and other informal mechanisms. The intended audience for this chapter may include policymakers and academics.

Tags: [Papua New Guinea](#), [informal social protection](#), [kinship](#), [gender](#).

Partnerships for Social Protection. (2022). *P4SP poster series: Investing in Timor-Leste's children through the Bolsa da Mãe - Jersaun Foun*. Partnerships for Social Protection.

<https://p4sp.org/resources/poster-series-timor-leste/>

This P4SP blog post discusses the expansion of the Government of Timor-Leste's child-focused social protection scheme Bolsa da Mãe to include pregnant women and children through the new Bolsa da Mãe - Jersaun Foun (new generation) program. It provides details of the social protection features in the new program, which include direct cash transfers and access to financial and health services. It discusses the timescale of implementation and scaling up of the program, as well as additional funding and technical support provided by international donors such as the Australian Government (including P4SP). It is likely the targeted audience is PIC development practitioners and the public.

Tags: [Timor-Leste](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [other social inclusion](#), [gender](#), [disability](#).

Partnerships for Social Protection. (2022). *P4SP poster series: Fiji's social protection system responds to the COVID-19 crisis*. Partnerships for Social Protection.

<https://p4sp.org/resources/fiji-poster-series/>

This P4SP blog post discusses the social protection systems in Fiji and how they were an asset in Fiji's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In response to the pandemic, the Fiji government topped up existing schemes for the elderly, people with disabilities, households with vulnerable children and those living in poverty, and introduced new schemes for workers, particularly to address the lack of existing support for informal workers. The blog post also discusses overseas support payments from the Australian Pacific COVID-19 Response package and Australia's Disaster READY program that helped the Fiji government maintain funding for its social protection schemes, particularly for vulnerable households, and respond effectively to COVID-19. It is likely that this blog post is targeted at general audiences.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [other social inclusion](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#).

Partnerships for Social Protection. (2023). *Database of Social Protection Expenditure in Pacific Island countries and Timor-Leste*. Partnerships for Social Protection.

<https://p4sp.org/resources/database-of-social-protection-expenditure-in-pacific-island-countries-and-timor-leste/>

This P4SP spreadsheet provides a classification of social protection expenditure in a selection of PICs and Timor-Leste, according to the economic and functional classification of government expenditure described in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Government Finance Statistics Manual of 2014. It shows how expenditure on different social protection schemes has been classified across these countries. The expenditure data was collected and classified as part of a P4SP activity focused on financing investments in social protection. Likely audience includes PIC economic analysts, statisticians, researchers and policymakers.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [Kiribati](#), [Nauru](#), [Papua New Guinea](#), [Samoa](#), [Solomon Islands](#), [Timor-Leste](#), [Tonga](#), [Tuvalu](#), [Vanuatu](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#).

Plange, N-K. (2021). Ageing Vulnerability and COVID-19. In Ratuva, S., Ross, T., Crichton-Hill, Y., Basu, A., Vakaoti, P., & Martin-Neuninger, R. (Eds.), *COVID-19 and Social Protection* (1st., pp. 135–152). Springer Nature.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-2948-8>

Plange explores the vulnerability of older persons in Fiji to COVID-19. The chapter includes sections on poverty and livelihoods of the ageing population in Fiji, including the role of the National Provident Fund, Social Pension Scheme, and informal social protection, and a section on the responses of the Fijian government and other entities to COVID-19. Plange concludes that COVID-19 exposed weaknesses in the government's social protection schemes.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [social insurance](#), [contributory pensions](#).

Prasad, N. (2023). Past, current and future social transformation in Pacific Island countries. In Baehler, K. J. (Ed.) *The Oxford Handbook of Governance and Public Management for Social Policy*. (pp 366-384). Oxford University.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/370958335_Past_Current_and_Future_Social_Transformation_in_Pacific_Island_Countries

This book chapter written by Naren Prasad outlines some of the challenges in designing and implementing social policies in the PICs. It explores the distinctive characteristics of PICs, and how these characteristics affect public administration and implementation of social policies, such as social protection. The sectors of health, education, and social security are assessed. The chapter concludes by highlighting possible areas of improvement and emphasising the need for affordable and accessible social security and insurance now and in the future. Likely audiences include academics, development practitioners and general interested audiences.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [informal social protection](#).

Prasad, N., Hypher, N., & Gerecke, M. (2013). *Seeing big: Transformative social policies in small states*. United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.

<https://www.unrisd.org/en/library/publications/seeing-big-transformative-social-policies-in-small-states>

This paper summarises findings of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) Commonwealth Secretariat research project on social policy in small states. The geographic focus of the study includes Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu among other small states. This research used a comparative economic and political analysis to attempt an explanation of small countries' divergent historical evolution. A key finding was that transformative social policy is essential for positive socioeconomic outcomes, noting that affordable and accessible social services and social insurance against risk help to develop a skilled labour force and increase social cohesion.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [Samoa](#), [Solomon Islands](#), [Vanuatu](#), [social insurance](#), [remittances](#).

Pruce, K., Hudson, D., McLoughlin, C., do Céu J.O. Gusmão, M., Brancher, L., Carvoeiras do Nascimento Pires, C., Noronha, R., Noano Ximenes, D., & Da Ressureição Das Neves Baptista, L. (2023). *"This is our right": Social protection and fairness in Timor-Leste*. Development Leadership Program.

<https://dlproq.org/publications/research-briefs/this-is-our-right-social-protection-and-fairness-in-timor-leste/>

Pruce et al. examine how people in Timor-Leste perceive fairness and deservedness related to social protection, and how that shapes opportunities for social protection in the political context of Timor-Leste. The paper examines three social assistance schemes, finding that there is a strong social motivation for assisting others (based on local norms), but that there are equity concerns about differences in payments between existing schemes. Furthermore, there are generational differences in views, particularly related to veteran payments. This study has a

strong focus on social protection as it relates to veterans, elderly people, people with disabilities, and children in vulnerable households.

Tags: [Timor-Leste](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [other social inclusion](#), [disability](#).

Puliyel, G., Kim, H., & Mitra, S. (2020). Paid maternity leave and child mortality in Asia and the Pacific. *Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Journal*, 27(1), 95-120.

<https://www.un-ilibrary.org/content/journals/26178419/27/1/5>

Puliyel et al. evaluate the impact of paid maternity leave on infant and child mortality in 34 countries of Asia and the Pacific between 1991 and 2016. The authors find that national guarantees of paid maternity leave are associated with lower infant mortality overall and lower under-5 mortality, especially in upper-middle income countries. The authors advocate for an extension of much-needed maternity protection coverage to women workers beyond the formal sector to match the realities of the Asia and Pacific context. Analysis is primarily provided at the regional level of Asia and the Pacific. Some Pacific countries (Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu) are included in this analysis; however, the article has a greater focus on Asian countries. The article is intended for academic and policymaker audiences.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [Papua New Guinea](#), [Solomon Islands](#), [Vanuatu](#), [Pacific region](#), [labour market programs](#), [employment incentives](#), [gender](#).

Rafisura, K., Rui, J., Ngo, L., & Hendy, L. (2020). *Disaster-Responsive Social Protection in the Pacific Small Island Development States*. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

https://unog.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/41UNOG_INST/seghtc/alma991002357276602391

This policy brief focuses on Samoa and provides insights into designing disaster-responsive social protection (DRSP) systems. It emphasises the potential of DRSP in addressing poverty, social service accessibility and resilience to shocks. The brief advocates for integrating disaster risk, hazard intensity, exposure, and coping capacity into the design of social protection programs. It stresses the importance of predictable and adequate financing for DRSP and suggests innovative measures like contingency reserves and climate finance alignment. The intended audience may include policymakers and development practitioners focused on disaster risk and disaster-responsive programming. It is relevant for understanding how social protection can mitigate the impacts of disasters, build resilience and reduce poverty and inequality in Samoa and similar Pacific island contexts.

Tags: [Samoa](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [climate-resilient social protection](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#).

Ramachandran, V., & Masood, J. (2019). *Are the Pacific Islands Insurable? Challenges and Opportunities for Disaster Risk Finance*. Centre for Global Development.

https://www.cgdev.org/sites/default/files/WP516-Ramachandran-Are-The-Pacific-Islands-Insurable_0.pdf

Ramachandran and Masood discuss the role of market-based solutions in mitigating disaster risk in PICs. It examines successful disaster insurance schemes and emphasises the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration involving governments, private sector entities, and international institutions. It highlights factors such as affordability, risk modelling, and regulatory frameworks that contribute to the effectiveness, scalability, and sustainability of these schemes. It is relevant for understanding social protection in Pacific countries, particularly in relation to financial resilience and risk reduction.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [social insurance](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#).

Ratuva, S. (2010). Back to basics: towards integrated social protection for vulnerable groups in Vanuatu. *Pacific Economic Bulletin*. 25(3), 40-63.

<https://devpolicy.org/PEB/2019/06/28/back-to-basics-towards-integrated-social-protection-for-vulnerable-groups-in-vanuatu/>

This article by Steven Ratuva explores the dynamics of social protection in Vanuatu. It argues that both formal and informal social protection systems are essential in addressing social risks, given Vanuatu's unique socio-cultural context and its transition from subsistence to a market economy. The article emphasises that formal systems alone are limited in reach and relevance, as even urban employees rely on informal mechanisms. The article suggests that integrating and reinforcing informal and formal social protection systems is crucial, highlighting the importance of community-based, culturally relevant approaches in mitigating social risks. The intended audiences for this article are likely policymakers, academics and development practitioners interested in understanding the complex interplay of social protection in a Pacific context.

Tags: [Vanuatu](#), [informal social protection](#), [church networks](#), [kinship](#), [social assistance](#), [labour market programs](#).

Ratuva, S. (2014). 'Failed' or resilient subaltern communities? Pacific Indigenous social protection systems in a neoliberal world. *Pacific Journalism Review*, 20(2), 40–58.

<https://search.informit.org/doi/10.3316/informit.720006458528310>

Ratuva argues for the re-examination of the factors which are considered to shape the resilience and adaptability of local communities. Writing to an audience of academics, policymakers and governments, Ratuva critiques common metrics such as the SPI. The author examines the informal social protection systems in the Pacific and how they support community resilience and adaptation in the face of neoliberalism and globalisation. The article contains four case studies on kinship, reciprocity, communal obligation, and communal labour as social protection mechanisms. Ratuva highlights the important role of critical and progressive journalists and media in deconstructing the ideological and cultural bias within social protection discourses.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [Kiribati](#), [Samoa](#), [Vanuatu](#), [informal social protection](#), [kinship](#).

Rey, T., Le De, L., Leone, F., & Gilbert, D. (2017). An integrative approach to understand vulnerability and resilience post-disaster: The 2015 cyclone Pam in urban Vanuatu as

case study. *Disaster Prevention and Management*, 26(3), 259-275.

<https://doi.org/10.1108/DPM-07-2016-0137>

Building on a case study of Vanuatu's 2015 Cyclone Pam, Rey et al. develop a multidimensional approach for managing natural disasters. The authors find that living in urban areas increases a population's exposure to disaster risks. The article has been written for academics but may present relevant information for policymakers. Although this article primarily focuses on the geographic and human vulnerabilities of communities impacted by the cyclone, it includes some discussion of perceptions of the government's response to the disaster and the use of informal networks for support by those affected.

Tags: [Vanuatu](#), [informal social protection](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [humanitarian assistance](#).

Rooney, M. N. (2017). Social protection and social safety nets in urban Papua New Guinea. *The Development Bulletin*. 78, 71–74.

https://dpa.bellschool.anu.edu.au/sites/default/files/publications/attachments/2017-09/development_bulletin_78_web_version.pdf#page=78

Rooney focuses on key considerations for social protection in urban Papua New Guinea and argues for the need to move the focus of social protection beyond income, labour markets, transfers and social insurance towards a holistic approach that encompasses vulnerabilities and risks faced by those who are poor. Rooney argues that social protection should address social injustices arising from prevailing inequalities in society and the law, and that policymakers need to find a balance between a development agenda that promotes formal social protection interventions and that support local social practices.

Tags: [Papua New Guinea](#), [informal social protection](#), [kinship](#), [other social inclusion](#), [gender](#).

Rose, M. (2022) Global labour, local frameworks: Timor-Leste and Australia's Seasonal Worker Programme. *Asia & the Pacific Policy Studies*, 9(2), 165-177.

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/app5.354#>

Rose explores the impact of Australia's Seasonal Worker Programme (SWP) on individuals from Timor-Leste who participate in low-skilled work in regional Australia. It emphasises that despite Timorese earning money individually in a capitalist economy, their spending habits are influenced by collectivist socio-economic principles tied to their cultural identity, family, and wealth concepts from their place of origin. The article combines ethnographic research with anthropological perspectives on the influence of indigenous customs and beliefs in the modern economy and governance. The intended audience for this article includes policymakers and researchers interested in economic and social development through SWP. It highlights the role of extended families in mediating remittances and prioritising social and educational capital accumulation over other forms of wealth. It showcases the significance of cultural and familial influences on spending behaviours among Timorese SWP participants.

Tags: [Timor-Leste](#), [labour market programs](#), [remittances](#), [informal social protection](#).

Sakaio, M. (2012). *Republic of Marshall Islands: Updating and improving the Social Protection Index*. Asian Development Bank.

<https://www.adb.org/projects/documents/regional-marshall-islands-44152-012>

This case study of Marshall Islands, prepared for the ADB, provides updated information and data on social protection arrangements, legislation and institutions, and calculates the SPI for Marshall Islands in view of revised methodology. The case study describes Marshall Islands' two social assistance programs, six social insurance programs and one labour market program. The SPI for Marshall Islands was calculated as 0.167 (indicating that average per capita social protection expenditure is about 16.7% of the poverty line expenditure). The SPI was higher for men than women, and for non-poor than poor. There is discussion of gender and disability in the context of social protection.

Tags: [Republic of Marshall Islands](#), [social assistance](#), [social insurance](#), [labour market programs](#), [gender](#), [disability](#).

Sammon, E., Low, I., & Robinson, L. (2021). *The case for including persons with disabilities in social protection in Pacific Island Countries*. Social Protection Approaches to COVID-19 Expert Advice Service (SPACE). DAI Global United Kingdom Ltd.

<https://socialprotection.org/discover/publications/space-case-including-persons-disabilities-social-protection-pacific-island>

This paper produced by SPACE has been developed specifically for organisations of people with disabilities in PICs to support their advocacy for the inclusion of people with disabilities in social protection programs. It discusses social protection for people with disabilities as a response to the socio-economic effects of COVID-19 and reflects the global discourse on developing robust, inclusive social protection systems. It is useful for policymakers, development practitioners and non-government organisations seeking to create a more inclusive social protection system in PICs, particularly for those with disabilities.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [disability](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#).

Samoa Ministry of Finance. (2023). *National Social Protection Policy Framework*.

Government of Samoa.

<https://www.mof.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/National-Social-Protection-Policy-Framework-2023.pdf>

This policy document offers a strategic overview and development analysis of the social protection systems within Samoa. The primary argument centres on the necessity of integrating traditional support structures with formal social protection programs to effectively address short-term shocks and risks faced by vulnerable populations. Tailored for policymakers, development practitioners, and academics, it underscores the importance of a coordinated approach involving community, civil society organisations, faith-based organisations, and NGOs. The policy delves into the challenges associated with informal social protection, proposing measures to enhance predictability and regularity. It emphasises the need for a cohesive and integrated approach to building resilience, reducing vulnerabilities, and ensuring efficient responses to crises.

Tags: [Samoa](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [social assistance](#), [social insurance](#), [informal social protection](#).

Samson, M., & Miller, E. (2012). *Social protection and economic growth in Pacific Island countries*. Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/pacific-social-protection-series>

This research paper prepared for DFAT assesses the potential role of social protection in stimulating economic growth and employment in Pacific Island countries. Samson and Miller describe how social protection promotes pro-poor economic growth, before outlining the impact of the 2008 global financial crisis on Pacific Island countries and detailing how social protection can be used as a response to such global shocks. They argue that emerging evidence demonstrates strong links between social protection and pro-poor economic growth and development, and therefore that social protection can help poor and vulnerable groups to better cope with the local impacts of global economic shocks.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#).

Satriana, S., Jowi, A., & Saltrukro, J. (2014). *Developing Social Protection in Vanuatu: Consultation paper*. International Labour Organisation.

<https://repository.usp.ac.fj/8566/>

Satriana et al. briefly present several reform options focused on improving income security for workers and their families in Vanuatu. Options for reform and their associated advantages and disadvantages are presented across different social protection mechanisms, including unemployment insurance, maternity benefits, elderly and survivors' benefits and employment injury benefits. The paper is intended to inform consultations with tripartite social partners as part of a consensus building process on desired options for reform. The paper is primarily aimed at 'social partners' involved in consultations on Vanuatu's social protection and income security.

Tags: [Vanuatu](#), [social insurance](#), [other social inclusion](#).

Satriana, S., & Attenborough, J. (2023). *Protecting Women's Futures: from provident funds to government-funded pensions for older people in Pacific Island countries and Timor-Leste*. Partnerships for Social Protection.

<https://p4sp.org/resources/protecting-womens-futures/>

This blog post by P4SP draws on P4SP's (2023) research paper 'From historical trends to investment pathways: Social protection expenditure in Pacific Island countries and Timor-Leste' to analyse how government-funded universal old age pensions can promote greater gender equality in the Pacific and Timor-Leste. It shows that many governments in the Pacific have rolled out universal old age pensions, marking a shift from the earlier focus on contributory provident funds which disproportionately excluded women. In contrast, universal old age pensions provide women with a minimum level of income security not contingent on previous earnings. The article concludes by highlighting the need for gender-responsive design and implementation of social protection schemes that ensure old age benefits support women's economic security.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [other social inclusion](#), [gender](#), [social insurance](#), [contributory pensions](#).

Satriana, S., Jowitt, A., & Saltukro, J. (2014). *Developing Social Protection in Vanuatu:*

Tripartite Constituents Consensus Policy Position. International Labour

Organisation, Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Vanuatu Council of Trade Unions.

http://repository.usp.ac.fj/8568/1/Vanuatu_Social_Protection_Policy_Paper_Final.pdf

This policy position paper summarises the policy discussions undertaken among ILO and social partners in Vanuatu. The paper presents a consensus position on the options for reform in 5 areas: unemployment benefits, maternity benefits, retirement/survivors' benefits, workplace injury compensation, and broader policy development issues. The overarching focus of this paper is on income security for workers and their families, predominantly through the Vanuatu National Provident Fund. The authors note that the vast majority of Vanuatu workers are not engaged in formal employment, and that provision of social protection for these people is very difficult. This policy focuses on social protection for those that are formally employed as an easier starting point, noting that these are not necessarily the most vulnerable part of the population.

Tags: [Vanuatu](#), [social insurance](#), [other social inclusion](#).

Save the Children Australia. (2023). *Pandemic, Climate Change, Inflation: Pacific Families Need Safety Net.* Save the Children Australia.

<https://www.savethechildren.org.au/our-stories/pandemic-climate-change-inflation-pacific>

This blog post highlights the pressing need for social protection systems in the Pacific region due to the impacts of COVID-19, inflation and climate change on PICs. It emphasises the effectiveness of small-scale cash and voucher assistance initiatives and urges policymakers and development practitioners to integrate these lessons into permanent social protection systems. It underscores the limited coverage of social protection in PICs, particularly for children, and recommends an initial investment to develop these systems. It advocates for a “cash-plus” approach that combines cash transfers with essential services and stresses the importance of evidence-based assessments to justify long-term investments in the wellbeing and future of children in the Pacific.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [climate-resilient social protection](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#).

Save the Children. (2019). *Introductory research on the feasibility of cash and voucher assistance in rural Fiji.* Save the Children Australia.

<https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/introductory-research-on-the-feasibility-of-cash-and-voucher-assistance-in-rural-fiji/>

This Save the Children report examines the feasibility of using CVA in disaster response in Fiji, primarily focusing on humanitarian aid. It notes Fiji's geographical diversity, with varying

challenges for implementing cash-based assistance in different areas. The study is part of the Pacific Cash Preparedness Partnerships (PCPP), involving Save the Children, Oxfam and the World Food Programme. The report assesses the feasibility and appropriateness of CVA in Fiji and finds that CVA is feasible after natural disasters, but specific factors like targeting vulnerable groups and market access must be addressed. Recommendations include blanket targeting, raising awareness, analysing markets, pilot studies and collaboration with financial service providers. The intended audience includes policymakers, researchers and humanitarian practitioners.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [humanitarian assistance](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#).

Save the Children. (2022). *Fiji Cash Assistance Project – FinCap*. Pacific Regional Cash Working Group & Save the Children.

<https://reliefweb.int/report/fiji/fiji-cash-assistance-project-fincap>

This report by Save the Children outlines a cash assistance program implemented in response to the economic impact of COVID-19 and cyclones in Fiji. The program, funded by a philanthropic donor, aimed to support vulnerable households in Fiji by providing unconditional cash payments via mobile phone cash transfers. The report uses four case studies of individuals who received payments and discusses the program's objectives, outcomes and lessons learned. It is likely intended for policymakers, NGOs and development practitioners. It offers insights into the practical aspects and impacts of cash assistance programs, making it relevant for those involved in social protection and humanitarian efforts in Fiji and similar contexts.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [humanitarian assistance](#), [climate-resilient social protection](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#).

Save the Children. (2022). *Pathways for more coherent and coordinated Humanitarian Cash and Voucher Assistance (HCVA) and Social Protection (SP)*. Pacific Regional Cash Working Group & Save the Children.

<https://reliefweb.int/report/world/pathways-more-coherent-and-coordinated-humanitarian-cash-and-voucher-assistance-hcva-and-social-protection-sp>

This presentation by Save the Children explores the relationship between humanitarian cash and voucher assistance (HCVA) and social protection systems, highlighting their potential synergy. It offers approaches like design adjustments, piggybacking and alignment to connect HCVA with SP. The intended audience is likely humanitarian and social protection practitioners. It is relevant for the broader Pacific region, addressing resilience-building and response improvement in the face of increasing shocks. Overall the document provides insights into integrating HCVA and social protection for enhanced effectiveness.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [humanitarian assistance](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [in-kind transfers](#), [other social inclusion](#).

Save the Children. (2023). *Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) Analysis: Rapid review to inform cash programming in Solomon Islands and*

Vanuatu. Save the Children.

<https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/document/gender-equality-disability-and-social-inclusion-gedsi-analysis-rapid-review-to-inform-cash-programming-in-solomon-islands-and-vanuatu/>

This literature review summary provides a rapid review for cash programming in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. It focuses on considerations and risks, emphasising the need for context-specific design. The document argues for the positive impacts of cash transfers on gender relations, child development, and access to services for people with disabilities. The intended audience includes practitioners and policymakers. The report identifies risks related to gender-based violence, child protection, and social norms, highlighting the importance of careful analysis and complementary interventions. It covers both Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, offering insights into inclusive cash programming in the Pacific context, emphasising themes of gender equality, disability, and social inclusion.

Tags: [Solomon Islands](#), [Vanuatu](#), [gender](#), [disability](#), [other social inclusion](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#).

Serra Mallol, C. (2018). Monetary income, public funds, and subsistence consumption: The three components of the food supply in French Polynesia — a comparative study of Tahiti and Rapa Iti Islands. *Review of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Studies*, 99, 37–55.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s41130-017-0057-2>

Serra Mallol explores the impact of food supply on food practices in French Polynesia, focusing on the sociocultural context and comparing 2 islands, Tahiti and Rapa. The analysis reveals the variability of intracommunity food exchanges and their symbolic significance. It emphasises Rapa's collective control of food resources through gifting, exchanges, and pooling. Its relevance lies in understanding social protection and resource management in the Pacific, particularly in relation to food practices and the sociocultural context.

Tags: [French Polynesia](#), [informal social protection](#).

Sibley, J., Ivaschenko, A., Pagau, K., & Tanchareun, T. (2014). *The New Ireland Social Pension: A review of the New Ireland Social Pension and implications for the Papua New Guinea National Social Pension*. World Bank & Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/entities/publication/53bb0787-a239-5cf0-84bd-7a79e0ed3610>

Sibley et al. review the New Ireland Old Age and Disability Pension scheme in the Papua New Guinean province of New Ireland. The report reviews the design and operation of the scheme and identifies lessons learned to inform a potential national social pension scheme. The report finds that the New Ireland Old Age and Disability Pension scheme has been successful and is a significant achievement for social protection in Papua New Guinea. The report concludes the New Ireland social pension scheme, with modifications, can provide a suitable basis for the old

age component of the national social pension. However, the New Ireland Pension scheme does not provide a basis for the rollout of the disability component of the national social pension. This report is intended for policymakers in Papua New Guinea, and stakeholders involved in the implementation of the New Ireland Pension scheme.

Tags: [Papua New Guinea](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [gender](#), [disability](#), [other social inclusion](#).

Singh-Peterson, L. (2023). Transitions and Intersections between Communalism and Possessive Individualism in Rural Fiji: Repercussions for Responding to Climate Change. *The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology*, 24(2), 116–133.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/14442213.2022.2146739>

Singh-Peterson examine the tensions between the capitalist cash economy and other forms of engagement in the market, including ‘possessive communalism’ which prioritises sociocentric values and rural traditions of social protection. This tension is examined in the context of responding to ongoing climate change impacts in Fiji. Singh-Peterson argues that aid organisations and government programs need to recognise and support the diverse forms of capitalism that retain traditional values and practices, including traditional social protection.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [informal social protection](#), [climate-resilient social protection](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#).

Singh, H. (2020). *Examining Economic Inclusiveness of Persons with Disabilities in Fiji*. University of the South Pacific.
<http://uspaquatic.library.usp.ac.fj/gsdl/collect/usplibr1/index/assoc/HASHb8be.dir/doc.pdf>

Singh’s thesis examines the economic inclusion of people with disabilities, using greater Suva in Fiji as a case study. Singh focuses on the livelihood activities undertaken by people with disabilities, exploring barriers and enabling factors in this area. The thesis contains sections relating to the financial assistance available to people with disabilities through different government programs, the Government of Fiji’s Economic Empowerment Programme for people with disabilities, and brief analysis on use of government assistance by employed people with disabilities. Singh also provides a set of recommendations which are directed towards the Fiji Government, but may be of interest to other policymakers and academics.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [labour market programs](#), [disability](#).

Slater, R., & Holmes, R. (2012). *Social cohesion and social protection in Pacific Island countries*. Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.
<https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/pacific-social-protection-series>

This research paper prepared for DFAT explores different perspectives on social cohesion in Pacific Island countries, considering how social protection systems could be used to strengthen social cohesion and support nation building. Slater and Holmes note that social cohesion is difficult to define, and that there is a lack of empirical evidence on the impact of social protection on social cohesion. They argue that prior to setting policy objectives relating to social

cohesion, there needs to be an effort to better define social cohesion, to understand the scale at which policies should be deployed, to ensure that social protection systems are designed based on empirical evidence, and to allow non-state institutions (including Indigenous and community institutions) to be involved in the design and implementation of social protection programs. This paper includes discussion of informal social protection networks.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [informal social protection](#).

Soares, B. B. (2015). *Transnationalism and Development: The Impact of Remittances to Timor-Leste*. Victoria University of Wellington.

<http://researcharchive.vuw.ac.nz/handle/10063/6123>

Soares' thesis explores the impact of remittances on the development of Timor-Leste. The thesis explores the migration processes and remittance service providers, the use of remittances by receiving households on the consumption of durable and non-durable goods, and the use of remittances by receiving households on human capital and business investment. The thesis contains chapters on unproductive remittances (relating to consumption, property investment and staging of traditional events) and productive remittances (relating to human capital investment and small to medium business investment). Soares finds that the unproductive remittances have both positive and negative impacts on households and the broader community, and that productive remittances have a positive impact on human capital and business investment.

Tags: [Timor-Leste](#), [informal social protection](#), [remittances](#).

Stein, W., & Parsons, K. (2023). *Social Protection in times of need: Top-up transfers in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Gita in Tonga*. World Bank.

<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/099062323062597100/P17163819ca388891141d148a61a2021f8073d4c1fbf>

This report assesses the Social Welfare Scheme (SWS) top-up implemented by the Government of Tonga in response to Tropical Cyclone Gita in 2018. It primarily focuses on the impact of the top-up on the elderly population on Tongatapu and 'Eua, examining areas such as income sources, assistance received, usage of the top-up and its effects on independence and well-being. The intended audience is likely policymakers, government officials and development practitioners involved in social protection and disaster response. It highlights the successful adaptation of existing social protection mechanisms to address the immediate needs of vulnerable populations after a natural disaster, emphasising the importance of adaptable delivery systems in disaster response.

Tags: [Tonga](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#).

Stein, W., Parsons, K., & Petrou, K. (2022). *Towards Adaptive Social Protection in Vanuatu: Lessons from a Humanitarian Cash Transfer Program in Sanma Province in Response to Tropical Cyclone Harold and COVID-19*. World Bank.

<https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents->

reports/documentdetail/099062323062541329/p1716380d09ccd06c08c4c0e8798abb95bd

This report outlines the outcomes of a multi-purpose Cash Transfer Program (CTP) in Vanuatu conducted between October 2020 and May 2021. It addresses the impact of the dual shocks of Tropical Cyclone Harold and COVID-19 on the vulnerable households in Sanma, Shefa and Tafea provinces. The main argument emphasises the effectiveness of the CTP in complementing informal social protection mechanisms and supporting vulnerable households in their recovery. The intended audience of this report is likely policymakers, government officials, NGOs and CSOs involved in social protection and disaster recovery. It is particularly relevant for understanding social protection in the Pacific by showcasing the role of cash transfers in addressing the immediate needs of vulnerable populations after natural disasters.

Tags: [Vanuatu](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [informal social protection](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#).

Tafoa, J. (2012). *Solomon Islands: Updating and improving the Social Protection Index*. Asian Development Bank.

<https://www.adb.org/projects/documents/regional-solomon-islands-44152-012>

This case study of Solomon Islands, prepared for the ADB, provides updated information and data on social protection arrangements, legislation and institutions, and calculates the SPI for Solomon Islands in view of revised methodology. The case study finds that there were nine social protection programs in Solomon Islands at the time of writing, which included social assistance programs, social insurance programs and labour market programs. The SPI for Solomon Islands was calculated as 0.045 (indicating that the average per capita social protection expenditure constitutes 4.5% of the poverty line expenditure). The case study also highlights that the SPI for men is much larger than for women, with the share of social protection expenditure for men being almost triple that of women. There is discussion of gender and disability in the context of social protection, as well as informal social protection networks.

Tags: [Solomon Islands](#), [social assistance](#), [social insurance](#), [labour market programs](#), [informal social protection](#), [gender](#), [disability](#).

Takasaki, Y. (2011). *Groups, networks and hierarchy in household private transfers: Evidence from Fiji*. *Oxford Development Studies*, 39(1), 97–130.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/13600818.2010.551004>

Takasaki examines different kinds of informal social protection in rural Fiji. This journal article focuses on ‘network-based transfers’ – transfers between households via kinship networks – and ‘group-based transfers’ – transfers exchanged directly with groups to which the household belongs, such as church groups, women’s groups, and school groups. Takasaki finds that group-based transfers are much greater than network-based transfers, though the two systems influence each other. By analysing original household survey data, the paper provides empirical evidence for the importance of studying private transfers beyond income, focusing on groups and hierarchy. This article is directed at policymakers and development practitioners.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [informal social protection](#).

Taua'a, T.S. (2011). Aging and the universal non-contributory pension scheme in Samoa. *The Journal of Samoan Studies*, 4, 17–29.

<https://www.sadil.ws/handle/123456789/2685>

Taua'a explores the impact of the non-contributory pension fund on the social-economic welfare of the elderly population in Samoa. They find that the pension payments are shared among the household and have become an important additional source of income for many households in their efforts to provide for basic needs as well as meeting church and cultural obligations. The article includes sections on individuals' views on the pension scheme and detailed analysis on the expenditure of the pensions. It is targeted to an academic and policymaker audience.

Tags: [Samoa](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [other social inclusion](#), [social insurance](#), [contributory pensions](#).

The Asia Foundation. (2020). *Timor-Leste COVID-19 household cash transfer: Initial effects on welfare and gender dynamics*. The Asia Foundation & Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

<https://socialprotection.org/discover/publications/timor-leste-covid-19-household-cash-transfer-initial-effects-welfare-and>

This brief from The Asia Foundation summarises research conducted into the socio-economic effects of the COVID-19 household cash transfer. The audience of this brief is specified as the Government of Timor-Leste, particularly the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion. The research found that the payment provided necessary livelihood support during the State of Emergency, and that the cash payment did not have a significant negative effect on intra-household dynamics. Payments were mostly spent on food and in the interests of the whole family. However, women living in domestic violence situations and Lesbian, Gay, Trans, Bisexual, Queer, Intersex, plus (LGTBQI+) people were largely excluded from payments.

Tags: [Timor-Leste](#), [cash transfers](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [gender](#), [other social inclusion](#), [disability](#).

Timor-Leste Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion. (2021). *National Strategy for Social Protection 2021-2030*. Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

<https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC214765/>

This policy document focuses on Timor-Leste's social protection landscape. The comprehensive policy outlines approximately 26 social protection programs designed to address various socioeconomic risks, combat poverty, and promote human capital development. The main argument revolves around the need for an integrated and efficient operation of social protection programs to achieve the goals of peace, social cohesion, and resilience. Intended for policymakers and development practitioners, the document provides a comprehensive overview of both contributory and non-contributory schemes, including education and healthcare initiatives. It is crucial for understanding Timor-Leste's social protection landscape, offering insights into effective coverage, benefits adequacy, and broader challenges.

Tags: [Timor-Leste](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [social insurance](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#).

Tønning, M. (2020). *Gender equality and gender-based violence risk mitigation in cash and voucher assistance: Vanuatu case study*. Plan International & Key Aid Consulting.
<https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/gender-equality-and-gender-based-violence-risk-mitigation-in-cash-and-voucher-assistance-vanuatu-case-study/>

Tønning's article focuses on gender-related issues and cash-based assistance in Vanuatu. The primary argument centres on mitigating gender-based violence (GBV) risks and enhancing gender equality through the integration of these considerations into CVA. The intended audience includes development practitioners, humanitarian organisations and policymakers. It discusses how blockchain technology is used to deliver CVA, increase financial inclusion and empower women economically. It also addresses issues such as GBV risk mitigation, capacity building, sensitisation within communities and the involvement of small-scale women vendors.

Tags: [Vanuatu](#), [gender](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#).

Umpathi, N., Dale, P. & Lepuschuetz, L. (2013). *Timor-Leste – Social assistance public expenditure and program performance report*. World Bank Group.
<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/193531468117251571/Timor-Leste-Social-assistance-public-expenditure-and-program-performance-report>

This report prepared for the World Bank summarises the status, challenges and opportunities for social protection programs in Timor-Leste. Umpathi, Dale and Lepuschuetz explain that Timor-Leste spends a relatively large and unsustainable amount on social protection, but existing programs provide low levels of national welfare improvement. This report explains why welfare improvement is low, and provides a set of recommendations for how social protection could be improved. The authors also argue that social assistance should not be the only (or main) instrument to improve household welfare. The report includes extensive discussion of disability and social protection.

Tags: [Timor-Leste](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#).

United Nations Children's Fund. (2020). *Timor-Leste: Adding to the Government's social protection response for a 'cash plus' scheme*. United Nations Children's Fund.
<https://www.unicef.org/timorleste/stories/adding-governments-social-protection-response-cash-plus-scheme>

This UNICEF brief outlines the social protection response to the outbreak of COVID-19 in Timor-Leste. The Timor-Leste Government implemented the first near-universal cash transfer in the country's history, providing a one-off cash transfer of USD200 to all households with a monthly income of less than USD500. The brief suggests that this action has significantly increased government support for universal social protection in Timor-Leste. UNICEF provided technical and financial support for the implementation of the emergency cash transfer scheme. This brief highlights the importance of effective partnerships between NGOs and national governments to respond effectively to social protection needs amidst emergency situations.

Tags: [Timor-Leste](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [humanitarian assistance](#).

United Nations Development Programme. (2014). *Fast facts: Post cyclone livelihoods recovery and cash-for-work*. United Nations Development Programme.

<https://www.undp.org/pacific/publications/post-cyclone-livelihoods-recovery-and-cash-work>

This two-page article discusses the cash for work project initiated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Ian which hit Tonga in 2014, and caused significant damage across 18 villages in the island group of Ha'apai. The project provided a temporary source of cash income in exchange for work related to debris clean up, restoration of livelihood activities and improving preparedness for future cyclones. The intended audiences for this article are likely humanitarian practitioners and policymakers involved in humanitarian response. The article highlights the importance of social protection systems in the wake of disasters which will be exacerbated by climate change.

Tags: [Tonga](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [cash/food-for-work](#), [humanitarian assistance](#).

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. (2011). *The promise of protection: social protection and development in Asia and the Pacific*.

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

<https://repository.unescap.org/handle/20.500.12870/1582>

This report provides analysis and commentary on the direction of social protection in the Asia-Pacific region. The report highlights that the coverage of existing social protection programs is low, but that these programs can nonetheless be the building blocks of more integrated social protection systems. The report provides an overview of social protection in the region (including gender considerations), the potential for social protection to reduce poverty and enhance wellbeing, existing opportunities to scale-up social protection in the region, and a call to action to mobilise political will and resources towards social protection. Analysis is provided primarily at the regional level of Asia-Pacific, however, some country-level data and examples for Pacific countries are also included. This report is intended for policymakers.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [gender](#).

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. (2012). *Disability at a Glance 2012: Strengthening the Evidence Base in Asia and the Pacific*. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

<https://www.unescap.org/publications/disability-glance-2012-strengthening-evidence-base-asia-and-pacific>

This report provides an overview of disability policies and practices across the Asia-Pacific region. The report highlights the complexity of interpreting disability data and stresses the urgent need to work towards a greater common understanding of disability, related data and data collection practices. While the report is primarily focused on the broader Asia-Pacific

region, a sub-section on the Pacific provides brief country-level breakdowns of demographic data and disability policies. In the Pacific, the majority of disability support schemes take the form of social assistance (cash transfers, in-kind transfers and subsidies) though some rely on social insurance schemes. The report is intended for policymakers, statisticians, and civil society organisations seeking to support persons with disabilities in the Asia-Pacific region.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [disability](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [in-kind transfers](#), [social insurance](#).

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. (2013). Providing Income Security for the Elderly. *MPDD Policy Briefs*, 18, 1-3.

<https://www.unescap.org/resources/mpdd-policy-briefs-no18-december-2013-providing-income-security-elderly>

This policy brief provides an overview of old age pension schemes across Asia and the Pacific. The brief finds that coverage of the labour force is typically low, with many workers in rural areas and the informal economy not receiving old age pensions. Many countries in the region, moreover, take a fragmented approach to the provision of income security for older persons, with separate schemes for the public service and formal sector. The main focus of this brief is on non-contributory universal old-age pensions, though it does discuss some contributory programs. The brief provides analysis at the regional level of the Asia-Pacific but also includes a few brief examples from old age pension schemes in Pacific countries. The brief is intended for academic and policymaker audiences.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [social insurance](#), [contributory pensions](#), [other social inclusion](#).

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. (2014). *Income support schemes in Pacific Island Countries: A brief overview*. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

<https://docplayer.net/34973014-Income-support-schemes-in-pacific-island-countries.html>

This UN ESCAP paper seeks to discuss which formal income support schemes administered by the state exist in PICs, especially regarding vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities, older persons, children or the poor. It assesses vulnerabilities by discussing the socio-economic environment in PICs, briefly lists existing income support schemes and assesses their adequacy in terms of coverage, access, benefits, and targeting compared to needs in society. It concludes with a summary of recommendations on the adequacy of existing income support schemes to build resilience in societies and is useful to policymakers as it provides recommendations on policy interventions to move towards universal coverage of social protection.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [social assistance](#), [social insurance](#), [cash transfers](#), [other social inclusion](#), [disability](#), [gender](#).

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. (2015). *Towards income security in Asia and the Pacific: A focus on income support schemes*. United

Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

<https://www.unescap.org/resources/towards-income-security-asia-and-pacific-focus-income-support-schemes>

This report looks at the factors that contribute towards inclusive, effective, and sustainable income support schemes in the region. A key policy change identified is going beyond ‘minimum support’ to ensure that people have income support throughout their lives, and in events of shocks, and that support is gender-responsive. A variety of social protection mechanisms are identified as supporting this. Analysis is primarily provided at the regional level of Asia and the Pacific but some data is provided on Pacific countries. Within the Pacific, the report highlights the importance of informal social protection systems, including remittances, and notes that the limited coverage of old-age pensions mean many older people continue to work. The report is intended for policymakers and development practitioners in the Asia and Pacific region.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [Fiji](#), [social assistance](#), [gender](#), [disability](#), [cash transfers](#).

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. (2015). *Time for Equality: The Role of Social Protection in Reducing Inequalities in the Asia-Pacific Region*. (ST/ESCAP/2735). United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

<https://www.unescap.org/resources/time-equality-role-social-protection-reducing-inequalities-asia-and-pacific>

This report addresses the issue of inequalities in the Asia-Pacific region and the role of social protection in addressing them. It highlights the persistence of inequalities despite economic growth and identifies inequalities as multidimensional, affecting different population groups. It also emphasises the importance of social protection as a means to reduce inequalities, promote sustainable development, and enhance economic growth, social integration and environmental sustainability. It is likely intended for policymakers, governments and development stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region. It provides recommendations for strengthening social protection systems to achieve a more inclusive, sustainable and resilient society and is highly relevant for understanding the significance of social protection in addressing inequalities and fostering development in the Asia-Pacific region.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [Kiribati](#), [Samoa](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [subsidies](#), [social insurance](#), [contributory pensions](#), [labour market programs](#), [remittances](#), [gender](#), [disability](#), [other social inclusion](#).

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. (2016). *Income security for older persons in Fiji*. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

<https://www.unescap.org/resources/income-security-older-persons-fiji>

UN ESCAP’s working paper discusses income security and social protection for the elderly in Fiji. It addresses demographic changes, the government’s pension scheme and disparities

within the Fiji National Provident Fund. The paper emphasises data collection, participation of informal workers, financial literacy and raising the retirement age. It also calls for gender-responsive services, civil society partnerships and expanding coverage. The intended audience includes policymakers and researchers. It is useful for understanding Fiji's income security challenges due to population aging, particularly concerning older women.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [social insurance](#), [contributory pensions](#), [other social inclusion](#), [gender](#).

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific & the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Samoa. (2020). *Disaster-responsive social protection: Policy brief for the Pacific Small Islands Developing States*. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific & the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

<https://repository.unescap.org/handle/20.500.12870/3509>

This joint policy brief from UN ESCAP and Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Samoa is focused on Samoa's social protection system and implementing disaster-responsive social protection in particular. It also includes discussion of disaster-responsive social protection in the Pacific Island Countries more generally, including case studies from Fiji and Tonga. It was produced for the United Nations and Government of Samoa program Strengthening Resilience of Pacific Islands States through the Universal Social Protection Programme. The report covers the importance of social protection in general, why disaster-responsive social protection is important, and how to make social protection disaster-responsive. Recommendations include using data and evidence, ensuring availability of predictable public finance and coordination across sectors.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [Samoa](#), [Tonga](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [climate-resilient social protection](#).

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. (2017). *Addressing the Challenges of Population Ageing in Asia and the Pacific: Implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing*. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

<https://repository.unescap.org/handle/20.500.12870/1290>

This report documents progress and challenges for UN ESCAP member governments on support and protection for ageing populations across Asia and the Pacific region. Analysis is primarily provided at the regional level, with a stronger focus on Asian countries, however, some data is provided on Pacific countries. The report concludes that population ageing will have immense effects on various socioeconomic issues, including poverty, both income and gender equality, and health care throughout Asia and the Pacific region. The report makes several recommendations for policymakers, centred on expanding social protection measures for older persons. It is recommended that this includes the provision of basic income security, expanded coverage and benefits for contributory pensions, and expanded universal social pensions for older persons who are poor.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [other social inclusion](#), [social insurance](#), [contributory pensions](#).

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. (2018). *Building Disability-Inclusive Societies in Asia and the Pacific: Assessing the Progress of the Incheon Strategy*. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

<https://repository.unescap.org/handle/20.500.12870/3040>

This report presents baseline data on progress made by 2017 on the Incheon Strategy – a framework that promotes disability-inclusive development goals in Asia and the Pacific region. The report analyses data from multiple sources, identifying disadvantages faced by persons with disabilities. A section of the report focuses on social protection, highlighting that social protection often fails to include those outside of formal employment, which often includes persons with disabilities. Analysis is primarily provided at the regional level of Asia and the Pacific, with a stronger focus on Asian countries, however, some data is provided on Pacific countries. The report is designed to provide policymakers in the region with comprehensive data on the Incheon Strategy.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [disability](#).

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. (2018). *Social Outlook for Asia and the Pacific: Poorly Protected*. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

<https://repository.unescap.org/handle/20.500.12870/1567>

This report looks at poverty levels, access to basic services and social protection across Asia and the Pacific. The report argues that greater investment in social protection has the greatest potential to reduce poverty in the region. The report found that none of the countries analysed met the world averages of social spending on social protection. The report makes several recommendations, including that governments in Asia and the Pacific need to boost the amount of public spending on social protection, education and health care in order to reduce poverty. Social protection is discussed broadly, across social assistance and insurance as well as labour market programs. Analysis is primarily provided at the regional level of Asia and the Pacific, with a stronger focus on Asian countries, however, some data is provided on Pacific countries. The report is intended for policymakers.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#).

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. (2021). *Informal and Traditional Social Protection in Samoa*. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

<https://repository.unescap.org/handle/20.500.12870/4698>

This UN ESCAP policy brief examines traditional and informal social protection mechanisms in the context of Samoa. It includes analysis on different traditional and informal social protection mechanisms, the access and benefits from these mechanisms for vulnerable groups, the interaction between informal, traditional, and formal mechanisms, and an evaluation of advantages, gaps, changes, and issues of informal and formal mechanisms. The brief

concludes with lessons and recommendations for policymakers for bridging protection gaps created by the short-term availability of traditional and informal mechanisms.

Tags: [Samoa](#), [informal social protection](#), [kinship](#), [church networks](#), [remittances](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [other social inclusion](#), [disability](#).

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. (2021). *The Protection We Want: Social Outlook for Asia and the Pacific*. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

<https://repository.unescap.org/handle/20.500.12870/1561>

This report uses the COVID-19 pandemic as a clear example of the need to extend social protection coverage across Asia and the Pacific and that doing so would help the region's recovery after the pandemic. The report argues that social protection is a human right and society's primary line of defence to shocks and crises. Increased investment in basic social protection would also reduce poverty and inequality in the region. The report makes several recommendations, including that social protection needs to be embedded into national development agendas, further resourcing of social protection is required, and social protection measures need to be inclusive of women and those engaged in informal work. The analysis provided in the report is primarily at the regional level of Asia and the Pacific, however, country-level data for Pacific countries are also included. The report is intended for policymakers.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [gender](#), [other social inclusion](#).

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Asian Development Bank & United Nations Development Programme. (2022). *Building Forward Together: Towards an Inclusive and Resilient Asia and the Pacific*. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Asian Development Bank & United Nations Development Programme.

<https://repository.unescap.org/handle/20.500.12870/4324>

This report considers how countries across Asia and the Pacific have been responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, and highlights key elements of a policy agenda aimed at a long-term recovery that is inclusive, resilient and aligned with the 2030 agenda for the SDGs. The report finds that the pandemic has exacerbated pre-existing vulnerabilities and inequalities within and between countries. It argues that social protection should be one of several key policy priorities to ensure a more inclusive and resilient recovery and that existing biases within social protection systems need to be addressed. Analysis is primarily at the regional level of Asia and the Pacific, however, some country level data is also provided. The report is designed for policymakers across Asia and the Pacific.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#).

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund. (2022). *Ministry of Internal Affairs Launch TOP1.5 million Humanitarian Cash Transfer Program*. United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund.

<https://www.unicef.org/pacificislands/press-releases/unicef-ministry-internal-affairs-launch-top15million-humanitarian-cash-transfer>

This press release reports the launch of a Humanitarian Cash Transfer Program in Tonga by UNICEF and the Ministry of Internal Affairs. It aimed to support Tongan families affected by the Hunga Tonga Hunga Ha'apai underwater volcanic eruption and tsunami. The program targeted over 3,000 beneficiaries, including people with disabilities and children, offering financial assistance for accessing essential goods and services. This press release is intended for policymakers, humanitarian and development practitioners and news media organisations, and provides insights into the role of cash transfer programs in disaster recovery efforts.

Tags: [Tonga](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [humanitarian assistance](#), [disability](#).

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights & United Nations Population Fund. (2023). *Are governments investing in caring and just economies? A gender and human rights assessment of COVID-19 fiscal stimulus measures in Asia and the Pacific*. United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights & United Nations Population Fund.

<https://www.developmentpathways.co.uk/publications/are-governments-investing-in-caring-and-just-economies/>

This report, developed in collaboration between UN Women, United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), is based on an assessment of COVID-19 fiscal stimulus response and policy measures in nine countries in Asia and the Pacific (including Fiji and Papua New Guinea). It specifically focuses on how these actions affected demographic groups that are discriminated against, including women and girls, people with disabilities, informal workers, ethnic, religious and caste-based minorities, and people with diverse SOGIESC. A key finding was that the fiscal stimulus measures reflected existing government priorities in each of the countries, with continued failure to meet commitments relating to rights to social security, universal health care and quality services. Most countries had weak and fragmented social protection systems and no social protection floor, and lacked data to make assessments of the impact of fiscal stimulus packages on the above-mentioned groups of focus.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [Fiji](#), [Papua New Guinea](#), [gender](#), [disability](#), [other social inclusion](#).

Van der Auwera, M., Van de Meerendonk, A., & Kumar, R. (2021). *COVID-19 and Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific: Projected Costs for 2020–2030*. Asian Development Bank.

<https://www.adb.org/publications/covid-19-social-protection-asia-pacific-projected-costs-2020-2030>

This report discusses the impacts of COVID-19 on social protection systems in the Asia-Pacific region. It argues that the pandemic has revealed gaps and challenges in social protection

across the region. The primary audience for this report is likely policymakers, government officials and organisations involved in social protection and development in the Asia-Pacific region. The key findings are relevant for understanding social protection dynamics in the broader Asia-Pacific context. The report introduces a new costing model, the Social Protection Reform Simulation (SPRS20), to analyse the costs associated with delivering standardised social protection packages during various phases including emergency response, recovery and the SDGs. It estimates costs, financing mechanisms, and potential challenges, offering insights for planning and expanding national social protection systems in the region.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [social assistance](#), [social insurance](#).

Villanueva, R., & de Neubourg, C. (2023). Social Protection Responses to COVID-19:

Building a Better Future for Every Child in East Asia and Pacific. In Rossi, A & Villanueva, R (Eds.). *Social Protection in East Asia and Pacific: From Evidence to Action for Children*. (pp.146-175). United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund.

<https://www.unicef.org/eap/media/13666/file/UNICEF%20From%20Evidence%20to%20Action%20for%20Children.pdf#page=159>

This chapter looks at the social protection responses to the COVID-19 pandemic from countries across Asia and the Pacific from January 2020 to August 2021. The chapter examines social protection interventions in the region with the aim of identifying lessons learned, best practice and opportunities for scaling up investment in social protection. The analysis has a strong focus on the factors that underpin 'child-sensitive' social protection, as children are disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Analysis is primarily provided at the regional level of Asia and the Pacific, with a stronger focus on Asian countries, however, some data is provided on Pacific countries. This chapter is part of a book intended for researchers and policymakers.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [other social inclusion](#).

Walton-Ellery, S., & Low, I. (2022). Cash Responses in Fiji: 2020-2021 – What has been learned and where are we now?. Fiji Cash Working Group.

<https://reliefweb.int/report/fiji/cash-responses-fiji-2020-2021-what-has-been-learned-and-where-are-we-now>

This report commissioned by the Fiji Cash Working Group offers insights into cash responses in Fiji during 2020 and 2021. It highlights the importance of cash-based responses in addressing shocks such as COVID-19 and natural disasters. The report discusses good practices and lessons learned from these responses, emphasising the shift towards cash as a preferred option for support. It is likely intended for policymakers, humanitarian and development actors and NGOs. It is useful for understanding the role of cash assistance in social protection and humanitarian efforts in Fiji.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [humanitarian assistance](#), [climate-resilient social protection](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#).

Wehrhahn, R., Oza, A., Savage, L., Walsh, R., Veisamasama, G., & Pascual, M.C. (2019). *The Enabling Environment for Disaster Risk Financing in Fiji: Country Diagnostics Assessment*. Asian Development Bank.

<https://fhta.com.fj/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/fiji-environment-disaster-risk-financing.pdf>

This ADB report is an assessment of the disaster risk financing landscape and enabling environment in Fiji. The report has a particular focus on risk transfer instruments – insurance, reinsurance, and capital markets. It reviews 6 areas, including government policy; social protection policy; unlicensed competition; economic conditions; credibility of insurance, reinsurance, and capital market providers; and product appeal. The report concludes with recommendations for specific branches of the Fijian government and public service. There is discussion of social protection in the context of existing disaster-responsive social protection mechanisms and the possibility of assisting low-income populations to access disaster insurance coverage.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [social insurance](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#).

Whiteford, P., & Yoshihara, R. (2011). *Social protection in small island states in the Pacific: a case study of child wellbeing in Vanuatu*. Institute of Development Studies.

<https://www.academia.edu/download/78684868/WhitefordYoshihara2011SociaprotectioninVanuatuCSPconferencedraft.pdf>

Whiteford and Yoshihara examine the role of social protection in a small island state by analysing disparities in child wellbeing in Vanuatu. The paper includes sections on the disparities in child wellbeing, the role of social protection in addressing these disparities, and the likely implications of their findings for other Pacific Island countries. The authors find that despite policy developments relating to children's issues, key policy elements for children's wellbeing were absent in high-level policy statements and strategies and Vanuatu did not have the resources for national programs to support children, such as a family income support scheme. Furthermore, social protection in Vanuatu almost entirely relies on informal and traditional systems, with the national provident fund being the only formal social protection system in place.

Tags: [Vanuatu](#), [informal social protection](#), [kinship](#), [other social inclusion](#).

Wigglesworth, A., & dos Santos, A. B. (2023). Migrant work and homecoming experiences of Timorese seasonal workers. In Silva, K., Palmer, L., & Cunha, T. (Eds.), *Economic Diversity in Contemporary Timor-Leste* (1st, pp. 255–274). Leiden University Press.

<https://doi.org/10.24415/9789087283957>

Wigglesworth and Dos Santos focus on the development outcomes of migration programs that allow young Timorese to work overseas. The authors seek to understand how migrant work impacts the family financial circumstances and wellbeing. Although a substantive part of the chapter focuses on migrant worker demographics and experiences, there is a section on remittances and on the impact of migrants once they return home.

Tags: [Timor-Leste](#), [labour market programs](#), [remittances](#).

World Bank. (2011). *Fiji – Assessment of the social protection system in Fiji and recommendations for policy changes*. World Bank.

<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/495351468253761196/Fiji-Assessment-of-the-social-protection-system-in-Fiji-and-recommendations-for-policy-changes>

This World Bank report was produced in collaboration with the Fijian Government, assessing the state of social protection systems in the country and making recommendations for policy changes. The assessment found that Fiji's existing social protection resources are small but well targeted, that impact of social transfers on national-level poverty is limited, that eligibility criteria for targeted social assistance needs to be more clearly defined, and that the operational capacity of Fiji's Department of Social Welfare is adequate but processes and practices could be made more efficient. This report outlines not only an assessment of the state of social protection in Fiji in 2011, but also highlights key risks and makes policy recommendations.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [social insurance](#), [disability](#).

World Bank. (2013). *Policy Brief: Key considerations for provision of social pension in Papua New Guinea (1st draft for deliberation)*. World Bank.

<https://socialprotection.org/discover/publications/policy-brief-key-considerations-provision-social-pension-papua-new-guinea>

This World Bank policy brief highlights key considerations and the rationale for the potential introduction of social pension in Papua New Guinea. Drawing on the World Bank's mission and discussions with Papua New Guinea Government in May 2013, the document highlights examples of social pensions in other PICs, discusses the key design parameters for social pension in Papua New Guinea, expected challenges to implementation and presents a preliminary estimate of the fiscal costs of various program scenarios. The document aims to facilitate a dialogue surrounding potential social pension inclusion at the national level in Papua New Guinea. Therefore, it is useful for policymakers and government officials in Papua New Guinea and other PICs.

Tags: [Papua New Guinea](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [social insurance](#), [contributory pensions](#), [other social inclusion](#).

World Bank. (2014). *Creation of a reformed pensions system for civil servants in Timor-Leste*. World Bank.

<https://socialprotection.org/discover/publications/creation-reformed-pension-system-civil-servants-timor-leste>

This report from the World Bank explores the desire of the Government of Timor-Leste to reform the civil servant pension, considering the reasoning, feasibility and options for doing so. The report includes an analysis of the pre-existing civil services pension law, a section on international experience in civil service pension systems from other relevant countries (including Papua New Guinea and Fiji) and a set of recommended design options for the

reformed system. It also includes a fiscal analysis of different scenarios based on variations to the pension scheme.

Tags: [Timor-Leste](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [social insurance](#), [contributory pensions](#), [gender](#), [disability](#), [other social inclusion](#).

World Bank. (2022). *Timor-Leste Economic Report, December 2022: Honouring the past, securing the future*. World Bank Group.

<https://doi.org/10.1596/39439>

This is a bi-annual World Bank report that assesses macroeconomic developments, outlook, and risks, as well as specific development challenges for the Timorese economy in 2022. It discusses the high level of social protection spending yet low level of welfare improvements in Timor-Leste. It proposes specific reform areas in social protection, including veteran's benefits, pensions and funds, expanding coverage to include the most marginalised and the poor, reducing fragmentation of social protection implementation and following the recent National Social Protection Strategy as a policy guide. It is intended for the general public, government, private sector, civil society organisations and domestic and international stakeholders.

Tags: [Timor-Leste](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [other social inclusion](#), [social insurance](#), [contributory pensions](#).

World Bank. (2018). *The State of Social Safety Nets 2018*. World Bank.

<https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/427871521040513398/the-state-of-social-safety-nets-2018>

This book benchmarks expenditure and key performance indicators for social safety nets and social assistance across countries, regions and the world. The empirical data presented in this book is based on World Bank program-level data for 142 countries and household survey data for 96 countries. The book focuses on thematic areas of age-inclusive social protection and adaptive social protection. It shows that increased coverage and adequacy of social safety nets also reduces poverty and inequality levels. The book highlights that there are significant gaps in coverage of social protection, particularly in low-income countries. Analysis is mostly at the regional level, with data on East Asia and the Pacific included. The report is intended for policymakers and academic audiences.

Tags: [Pacific region](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [climate-resilient social protection](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [other social inclusion](#).

World Bank. (2023). *Raising Pasifika: Strengthening government finances to enhance human capital in the Pacific*. World Bank.

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/pacificislands/brief/2023-public-expenditure-review-per-for-nine-pacific-island-countries>

This World Bank report aims to improve the efficiency of public spending in the health, education and social sectors and increase domestic revenues across nine PICs (PICs-9). It argues that public finance has a critical role to play in building human capital, particularly in the recovery from shocks such as COVID-19, and includes a section on investing in and expanding

social protection in PICs-9. It concludes with a series of social protection recommendations for PICs-9 countries to meet their public spending needs and challenges. It is likely that the audience for this report includes PIC policymakers, government officials and development practitioners.

Tags: [Kiribati](#), [Nauru](#), [Republic of Marshall Islands](#), [Federated States of Micronesia](#), [Palau](#), [Samoa](#), [Tonga](#), [Tuvalu](#), [Vanuatu](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#).

World Bank. (2023). *The Role of Ongoing Social Assistance and the Poverty Benefit Scheme in Fiji After Tropical Cyclone*. World Bank.

<https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/099062323062029196/p1716380fd0bc60670a6bc0940d1ee399af>

This brief investigates the impact of ongoing social assistance, in particular the Poverty Benefit Scheme (PBS), on recovery and resilience in Fiji post-tropical Cyclone Winston. This brief is a part of the “Pathways for Disaster Recovery and Resilience” series conducted in Ba, Rakiraki, Tavaya and Korovou districts in December 2019. The primary argument is that ongoing cash transfers, including PBS payments play a crucial role in supporting household resilience after significant shocks such as Cyclone Winston. The intended audience for this brief likely include policymakers, government agencies and NGOs working in social protection and disaster recovery in the Pacific region. It is relevant for understanding social protection in Fiji, showcasing how ongoing assistance programs contribute to household recovery in the face of repeated natural disasters and highlights the need for inclusive disaster risk reduction strategies.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#).

World Bank & International Labour Organisation. (2016). *Universal social protection: Country Cases. Global partnership for Universal Social Protection*. (USP2030). World Bank Group & International Labour Organisation.

<https://socialprotection.org/discover/publications/universal-social-protection-country-cases>

This publication from the World Bank and ILO presents a wide variety of country examples which document different pathways to achieve universal social protection coverage. Case studies come from across the globe, including Timor-Leste. The case studies indicate that there is no ‘one size fits all’ approach to achieving universal social protection. The Timor-Leste case study describes the existing social protection system and the pathways to reaching that system, the outcomes achieved and some brief recommendations for future improvements. Recommendations include improving registration and payment systems and increasing the coverage of the disability pension.

Tags: [Timor-Leste](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [disability](#), [social insurance](#), [contributory pensions](#).

World Food Programme. (2023). *Pacific Multi Country Strategic Plan 2023-2027*. World Food Programme. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/pacific-multi-country-strategic-plan-2023-2027-summary>

This report outlines a multi-country strategic plan by the WFP for 14 Pacific Island countries including Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The main argument is that these small island developing states face significant risks from climate change, impacting various aspects of their societies. The document emphasises the vulnerabilities exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and global food crisis, particularly in terms of food systems, nutrition and economic shocks. WFP's approach aims to strengthen national and regional capacity to reduce vulnerability to food insecurity and malnutrition while providing rapid, coordinated responses during and after shocks. The intended audiences for this likely includes policymakers, regional stakeholders, governments and humanitarian and development practitioners interested in enhancing food security and resilience in the Pacific region.

Tags: [Cook Islands](#), [Federated States of Micronesia](#), [Fiji](#), [Kiribati](#), [Nauru](#), [Palau](#), [Republic of Marshall Islands](#), [Samoa](#), [Solomon Islands](#), [Tokelau](#), [Tonga](#), [Tuvalu](#), [Vanuatu](#), [social assistance](#), [cash transfers](#), [climate-resilient social protection](#), [shock-responsive social protection](#), [informal social protection](#), [humanitarian assistance](#).

Wrondimi, G. H. (2012). *Papua New Guinea: Updating and improving the Social Protection Index*. Asian Development Bank. <https://www.adb.org/projects/documents/regional-papua-new-guinea-44152-012>

This case study of Papua New Guinea, prepared for the ADB, provides updated information and data on social protection arrangements, legislation and institutions, and calculates the SPI for Papua New Guinea in view of revised methodology. The case study describes existing Papua New Guinea social protection programs. The overall SPI for Papua New Guinea is 0.0045 (indicating that the average per capita social protection expenditure is about 0.5% of the poverty line expenditures). Most of this spending is in social insurance programs, rather than social assistance or labour market programs. The report concludes that the Government of Papua New Guinea has taken initial steps to make social protection a priority; however, financing formal social protection remains a significant challenge.

Tags: [Papua New Guinea](#), [social protection \(overview\)](#), [social assistance](#), [social insurance](#), [labour market programs](#).

Wu, A., & McWilliam, A. (2023). Remittances for marriage: Quality of life changes among seasonal worker households in Timor-Leste, *Australian Geographer*, 54(2), pp. 193–212. <https://doi:10.1080/00049182.2023.2174597>

Wu and McWilliam examine the Australian SWP and its impact on Timorese households. It argues that remittances from the program can improve living standards and build social and financial capital in Timor-Leste. The authors emphasise the importance of investing remittances in social relationships, such as ceremonies and customary exchange, to enhance

social and financial networks. These remittances support various aspects of social life, including consumption, education, housing, and bride-wealth demands. The findings highlight the significance of social networking for accessing resources and opportunities in Timor-Leste. This analysis is relevant for policymakers, researchers, and development practitioners interested in labour migration and remittances in Timorese society.

Tags: [Timor-Leste](#), [labour market programs](#), [remittances](#), [informal social protection](#).

Wu, A., Neilson, J., & Connell, J. (2023). Remittances and social capital: livelihood strategies of Timorese workers participating in the Australian Seasonal Worker Programme. *Third World Quarterly*, 44(1), 96–114.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/01436597.2022.2131519>

Wu et al. focus on the impact of remittances on different capital assets of receiving households in Timor-Leste. They find that remittances assist in strengthening livelihoods by consolidating financial, physical, social, natural, and human capital, improving the quality of life for returning workers, their households, and communities. Despite the benefits delivered to migrants and their households, and the spill over to the community, the authors find that migration programs adversely affect inequality as the requirements for program participation are most likely to be able to be met by middle class people.

Tags: [Timor-Leste](#), [informal social protection](#), [remittances](#), [labour market programs](#).

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Xing analyses the contribution of remittance income for agriculture and rural development in Fiji at a household level. The author finds that, contrary to the general belief that remittances are mostly used for food consumption among Pacific households, remittances have alternative uses by households in Fiji, including education expenditure and housing. The author notes that expenditure patterns differ between urban and rural areas, and between different ethnic groups. The article includes literature reviews on the remittance-household consumption nexus, remittance-agricultural production nexus, and modelling and analysis of these.

Tags: [Fiji](#), [informal social protection](#), [remittances](#).

3 Thematic categories

3.1 Social protection (overview)

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3.2 Social assistance

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3.2.1 Cash transfers

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3.3 Social insurance

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4 Cross-cutting themes

4.1 Gender

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United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Asian Development Bank, United Nations Development Programme. (2022). *Building Forward Together: Towards an Inclusive and Resilient Asia and the Pacific.* United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Asian Development Bank & United Nations Development Programme. <https://repository.unescap.org/handle/20.500.12870/4324>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights & United Nations Population Fund. (2023). *Are governments investing in caring and just economies? A gender and human rights assessment of COVID-19 fiscal stimulus measures in Asia and the Pacific.* United

Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights & United Nations Population Fund.
<https://www.developmentpathways.co.uk/publications/are-governments-investing-in-caring-and-just-economies/>

Villanueva, R., & de Neubourg, C. (2023). Social Protection Responses to COVID-19: Building a Better Future for Every Child in East Asia and Pacific. In Rossi, A & Villanueva, R (Eds.). *Social Protection in East Asia and Pacific: From Evidence to Action for Children*. (pp.146-175). United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund.
<https://www.unicef.org/eap/media/13666/file/UNICEF%20From%20Evidence%20to%20Action%20for%20Children.pdf#page=159>

World Bank. (2018). *The State of Social Safety Nets 2018*. World Bank.
<https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/427871521040513398/the-state-of-social-safety-nets-2018>

Annex 1: Methodology

We compiled this bibliography using a systematic literature search and screening process, encompassing multiple sources, including Google Scholar and a curated selection of websites. These sources ensured a comprehensive and wide-ranging exploration of the subject of social protection in the Pacific region and Timor-Leste. However, government departments and international organisations are likely to have additional ‘grey literature’ that is not publicly available or that was not picked up by the literature search and therefore is not included in this bibliography.

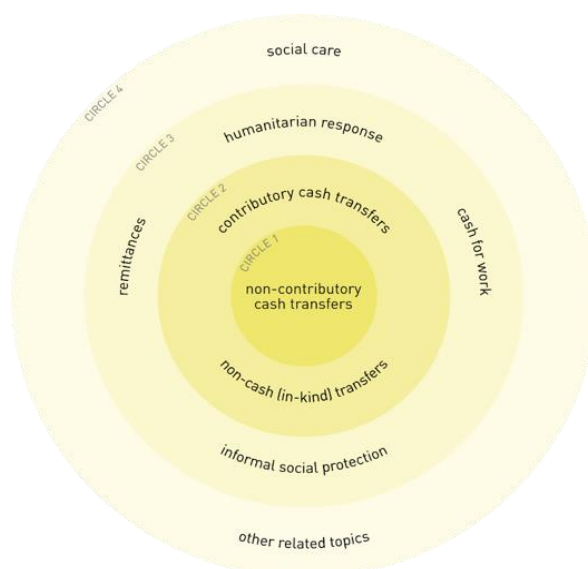
This annex describes the methodology and approach we used to conduct the literature search and develop the bibliography. This includes outlines of the Google Scholar and website searches, followed by a summary of the results. We also explain how we created the bibliography and devised the tagging system.

Google Scholar search

Conceptual framework and key search terms

We organised the topics and specific terms for the Google Scholar search under a conceptual framework that enabled us to prioritise certain topics ([Figure 1](#)). We developed the framework in collaboration with the P4SP team and the design reflects P4SP’s interests in relation to social protection in the Pacific and Timor-Leste. The framework was to help focus the review rather than to provide an understanding of social protection in general.

Figure 1: Conceptual framework



Each concentric circle includes its own search terms that we used during the evidence scan to identify related literature.¹ While we considered a wide range of possible search terms, we needed to account for both variations in terminology (for example, between references to a grant, allowance or benefit) and efficiency in implementing the scan. The search terms associated with topics in circles 1 to 3 of the framework are presented in [Table 1](#). In addition to the terms in the framework, we included general search terms to capture a broader spectrum of literature.

We adopted a phased approach, starting with the topics in circle 1 and the associated search terms and then we completed the searches for the topics in circles 1 to 3 across all countries and territories. The search process identified an unexpected volume of documents so we did not have the resources to review the circle 4 topics.

Table 1: Search terms aligned with the elements of the conceptual framework

Conceptual framework section	Key terms	Related search terms
General	Social protection	social protection social assistance social welfare social security social services cash transfers shock-responsive social protection adaptive social protection gender and social protection
1st circle	Non-contributory cash transfers/social assistance	non-contributory cash transfers child grant maternal grant maternal and child grant maternity benefit paternity benefit maternity payment paternity payment disability benefit disability pension disability allowance old age pension old age allowance unemployment payments veteran payment social pension child allowance senior citizen's benefit

¹ The conceptual framework uses the terms 'non-contributory' and 'contributory' rather than social assistance and social insurance (as applied elsewhere). This reflects a shift in preferred language as the project progressed. However, as indicated in Table 1, both sets of terms were included in the search.

Conceptual framework section	Key terms	Related search terms
2nd circle	Contributory cash transfers/social insurance Non-cash (in-kind) transfers	contributory cash transfers social insurance risk insurance public servant benefits pension fund provident funds health insurance vouchers school feeding in-kind transfers non-cash transfers unemployment scheme school fee grant scheme transport allowance transport assistance scheme subsidies
3rd circle	Cash/food-for-work Remittances Informal social protection Humanitarian assistance	cash for work remittances informal social protection traditional social protection <i>wantok</i> reciprocity <i>wantok</i> obligations traditional reciprocity kinship reciprocity humanitarian response labour market programs employment graduation scheme
4th circle (Excluded)	Social care Other related topics	social care universal health care scholarships

Geographic scope

The geographic scope covered the following set of countries, territories and sub-regions:

- American Samoa
- Cook Islands
- Federated States of Micronesia
- Fiji
- French Polynesia
- Guam
- Kiribati
- Melanesia
- Micronesia
- Nauru
- New Caledonia
- Niue
- Northern Mariana Islands
- Palau
- Papua New Guinea
- Polynesia
- Republic of Marshall Islands
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands
- Timor-Leste
- Tokelau
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu
- Wallis and Futuna

Identifying the documents

Using Google Scholar and filtering for documents only from 2010 to 2023, we entered the search terms for the specific circle into the search bar. When we were planning this process, we decided to consider the first 100 items in the evidence scan across all terms, across all locations and across all databases. However, after doing this for two initial locations (Fiji and Kiribati), we realised it was excessively time-consuming considering the constraints of the project. Consequently, after consulting with P4SP, we refined the scope of the searches to consider the first 50 items for most locations but we extended to 60 items for Fiji and Timor-Leste, given the abundance of literature for these locations. We used a pre-set template to record the following information:

- Date search completed
- Exact search terms
- Author(s)
- Title
- Source
- Year/date
- Abstract
- Type (for example: journal article/ book chapter/ report)
- Search terms in title
- Link
- Any notes

We skipped any items on Google Scholar that were listed as ‘citation only’ but we recorded all other items up to the designated threshold.

This process was repeated for search terms in circles 1, 2 and 3 and all locations.

Since we added the search term ‘fee waiver’ to circle 2 after we had started the search process, P4SP agreed we should do a separate search for this additional term and limit it to 10 items per location.

Removing duplicates (within each set of terms)

Once we had identified the items, we combined the lists for each location to create a master document by circle. We added ‘decision’ and ‘reason’ columns to the document and coded the options to ‘keep’ or ‘remove’ and for ‘unique’, ‘duplicate’ or ‘remaining after others removed’. We

sorted the items by title and checked each entry for duplicates. A separate file was saved that just contained the duplicates that we removed.

Title and abstract screening

Building on the previous step, we kept the 'decision' and 'reason' columns but with options to update and standardise the 'reason' column. The options for removing items were standardised as:

- Relevant (only used when an item was staying)
- Country focus outside Pacific/Timor
- No mention of social protection in the title/abstract
- Topic too far removed from social protection
- Date outside scope
- Duplicate
- Not in English

For circle 3, the option of 'remittance-based but too far from social protection' was added after discussion with P4SP. While the literature on remittances is significant, we agreed with P4SP to include only those items that focus on the household or community level and on changes to household dynamics in response to remittances. We removed items on topics such as changes to countries' gross domestic product at a national level, based on this extra criterion.

We considered items first by title and then by abstract. We also looked at whether they talked about social protection without using the exact term and whether the item covered any of the topics or search terms relevant for that circle. We used the justification of 'topic too far removed from social protection' when items were clearly outside the scope of the activity (for example, biology entries for plants and animals). However, when items were in a field of study that could include an analysis of social protection (for example, economics) but there was no information in the abstract close enough to social protection to warrant including it, we used the reason 'no mention of social protection in the title or abstract'. Where the content was unclear, we left the items on the list so we could review the full document later.

As with the previous step, we saved a separate file containing the items removed.

NOTE: The 'fee waiver' list was not combined with the results of the rest of the circle 2 search terms at this stage since it was done much later.

Removing duplicates (between each set of terms)

We checked the master lists for each circle against the other circles and removed duplicates, reducing the number of items to be retrieved. During this process, we coded each item with a unique document number that would be the document's name when retrieved. The code comprised the circle number and the number down the list when sorted by title. For example, 'C1_036' is the 36th item in the circle 1 list when sorted by title. Documents identified as duplicates between circles retained their first document number and were highlighted so that they would not be retrieved but remained on the list.

NOTE: Initially we planned to list the items hierarchically, starting with the 'first' or most important search, as follows: general, circle 1, circle 2, circle 3. However, we composed the list of documents for the general search terms after we started the circles 1 and 2 topic searches. This means that

some documents that appeared 'first' in the general term search list were coded as C1 or C2 and retrieved with the other documents for those circles.

Retrieving full documents

Using the coded lists, we retrieved the documents from their online source and saved the PDFs. Where a document was not retrievable, we highlighted the item in red in the master list and added an explanatory comment. The reasons ranged from inaccessible journal articles to books not available in their full form online.

Each document retrieved was named using their unique document number and saved in a folder for each circle.

We compiled a list of the documents we could not retrieve and asked separate consultants to try again to retrieve them in two more searches. This led to more documents being retrieved that were then correctly named and saved into their respective folders.

We then created a final list of the unretrievable documents for reference purposes with a column added for the reason why they were unretrievable.

Full document screening (for location and topic relevance)

At this stage, we used the lists of retrieved documents for each circle and added the 'decision' and 'reason' columns to each list. The 'decision' column was coded with only 'keep/remove' options. The 'reason' column was not standardised so we could include any extra unique details.

We reviewed the full documents for the locations included and the relevance of the topics to social protection. For location, we assessed whether our countries or regions were covered sufficiently in the text. If documents only mentioned a Pacific country in a footnote or table or only included brief (one or two) mentions of that country in the text, we removed them.

For topic relevance, we considered whether the documents covered the topic related to social protection or the agreed related concepts sufficiently. We removed documents that did not adequately analyse the aspect of social protection.

We then compiled new lists for each circle to use in the next step.

Final appraisal or writing stage

If the documents were considered sufficiently relevant after the full document screening process, then we wrote the bibliography entry using the APA 7th edition referencing style. Based on guidance from P4SP, each summary includes:

- The content or scope of the document
- The document's main argument (and conclusions, if applicable)
- Intended audience (for example, is it a journal article for academics, a UN piece for policymakers or non-government organisation piece for development practitioners?)
- How the document is relevant or useful for understanding social protection in the Pacific, the country or the territory
- Whether the document covers one or more cross-cutting issues

Our project leader cross-checked the entries written by different team members to ensure consistency.

Website search

We conducted the website search after the Google Scholar search. Recognising the diverse nature of the websites and their functionalities, we took an adaptive approach for the website search. This included using a uniform general search term 'social protection' as well as search filters where available. This made the process more efficient and ensured comprehensive coverage across the various websites included in the study.

Identifying website functionality

Our initial step was to check whether the websites had a dedicated search filter for publications. Where these specialised publications search filters were available, we used them to search for the keyword 'social protection', along with other relevant filters to refine the search results. We recorded how the search filter functioned and the total number of search outcomes.

Where the websites had no dedicated search filter for publications, we used the general website search bar as the primary tool to search for the keyword 'social protection'. We also used relevant filters to refine results. As in the previous scenario, we recorded how the search tool functioned and the total number of search outcomes.

Revised website search methodology

The methodological approach we used for the Google Scholar search included a preliminary screening step based on titles and abstracts. This approach was effective within the confines of Google Scholar but had limitations for the website searches (notably as not all sources included an abstract). Since we could not complete the title and abstract screening for some of the websites, we had to proceed to the full document scan.

The lack of abstracts on some websites meant that we initially excluded documents that could help shape the broader narrative surrounding social protection in the Pacific. Consequently, we revised and expanded the search inclusion criteria to capture a wider spectrum of materials.

We also wanted to ensure that the perspectives and voices of Pacific organisations are adequately represented in the final *Evidence Review* by including their narrative-forming documents. These are documents that do not contain substantive evidence about social protection in the Pacific and/or Timor-Leste but offer some insight into the authors' perspectives on relevant issues or showcase how certain issues are framed in different contexts (see the evaluation criteria). Subsequently, we ran the search again for narrative-forming documents after consultation with P4SP. We did not include these narrative-forming documents in the *Annotated Bibliography* but we used them to inform the complementary *Evidence Review*.

Results screening

We used a structured system to categorise the diverse range of websites and streamline the process of screening and prioritising the results.

Bucket 1 included websites that produced up to 30 results. For these websites, we screened the full documents to identify those suitable for the bibliography and for forming the narrative. All relevant results were recorded.

Bucket 2 included websites that generated more than 30 results and featured abstracts. We examined the titles and abstracts to identify suitable documents. For the first 10 results that were excluded from the bibliography we screened the full documents to check for narrative-forming material. To ensure all documents were examined, we screened the remaining documents by title. All relevant results were recorded.

Bucket 3 included websites that produced over 30 results but lacked abstracts. For this category, we screened full documents for the first 30 titles to identify any relevant material to include in the bibliography or use for narrative forming. To ensure all documents were examined, we screened the remaining documents by title. All relevant results were recorded.

In addition to these categories we reviewed the *socialprotection.org* website separately. Since this website focuses on social protection, we reviewed all the relevant material we identified. Following the same process as for other website searches, we recorded all relevant results.

Evaluation criteria for documents to be considered for the bibliography

- The document must have a specific focus on the Pacific region or focus country.
- The document should predominantly focus on the subject of social protection or closely related topics.
- Eligible documents must have been published within the timeframe of 2010 to 2023.
- Documents must be written in or translated into the English language.

Evaluation criteria for documents to be considered for forming the narrative

- The document must have a specific focus on the Pacific region or focus country.
- The document must reference social protection or related terms to a significant extent and/or must offer insights into the broader context of social protection. To ensure documents contributed substantively to the wider narrative, results with only superficial mentions (for example, one or two brief references) were not included.
- Eligible documents must have been published within the timeframe of 2010 to 2023.
- Documents must be written in English.

Documents were assessed for their alignment with the cross-cutting themes, including: gender, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI); climate-resilient social protection; shock-responsive social protection; and humanitarian assistance. However, the presence of these cross-cutting themes was not a prerequisite for inclusion in either the narrative-forming documents or in the bibliography.

P4SP, DFAT and other development partners also provided lists of known and relevant documents related to social protection in the Pacific. We reviewed how these documents aligned with the listed criteria.

Removing duplicates

After recording all the results, we removed the duplicates in a two-step process. First, we filtered the list based on titles, labelled any duplicates as internal duplicates and segregated them into a distinct 'record of duplicates' list. Second, we made a master list from the Google Scholar search

(Google Scholar Master List) referring to all results at the ‘title and abstract screening’ stage. We copied and pasted each title from the remaining website search results into the ‘find in document’ search bar in the master list to check for external duplicates. We labelled any identified as ‘external duplicates’ and put them into a separate ‘record of duplicates’ list. The result was a list of all unique results relevant for inclusion in the *Annotated Bibliography* or for forming the narrative.

Final appraisal and writing stage

Just as for the Google Scholar search results, we wrote the *Annotated Bibliography* entries for the relevant documents based on the screening process using the APA 7th edition referencing style. This followed the same structure as for the entries from Google Scholar.

Summary of search results

Through the search process, we reviewed over 7,000 items and aligned them with the criteria listed earlier. A total of 379 items were relevant for the bibliography after screening across different search processes and 242 items remained once we removed the final duplicates. [Table 2](#) shows all results across sources before and after the screening processes for the Google Scholar and website searches. This list does not include items that we identified as being narrative forming.

Table 2: Summary of results from the Google Scholar and website searches²

Source	Total number of items	Number of items after screening process
Google Scholar		
General search terms	1,360	97
Circle 1 search terms	1,270	45
Circle 2 search terms (plus ‘fee waiver’)	1,520	33
Circle 3 search terms	1,311	15
Total	5,461	190
Website search – socialprotection.org		
‘Social protection’ search term	114	68
Total	114	68
Website search – Bucket 1		
Asian Development Bank	27	6
Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	19	4
Fiji Women's Rights Movement	3	1
International Labour Organization	28	2
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade New Zealand	3	0
Partnerships for Social Protection	10	6

² Searches were also completed for the websites of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency, Fiji Council of Social Services and Pacific Council of Churches but no relevant items were identified.

Source	Total number of items	Number of items after screening process
Pacific Regional Cash Working Group	16	6
Pacific Disability Forum	5	0
Pacific Islands Association of NGOs	3	0
Rainbow Pride Foundation Fiji	3	0
Save the Children (Australia)	27	1
UNESCAP – flagship reports ³	7	1
United Nations Development Programme	6	0
United Nations Women	2	0
World Food Programme	29	0
Total	188	27
Website search – Bucket 2		
Pacific Women Lead	65	2
Pacific Data Hub	143	2
ReliefWeb	214	9
UN ESCAP	61	8
World Bank	104	6
Total	587	27
Website search – Bucket 3		
Australia Pacific Climate Partnership	76	0
Oxfam (Australia)	115	0
Pacific Islands Forum e-Library	100	2
Pacific Theological College	100	0
Pacific Community	222	0
Timor-Leste Studies Association	70	0
UNICEF	38	0
Total	721	2
Additional documents	65	50
Total	7,136	379

³ We undertook two searches for UNESCAP materials. We reviewed the UNESCAP flagship reports that aligned with the Bucket 1 approach but we also used the broader UNESCAP search function that aligned to the Bucket 2 approach.

Creating the *Annotated Bibliography*

In developing the *Annotated Bibliography*, we brought all the summaries together in a single document and reviewed the references to ensure they adhered to the APA 7th edition referencing style.

We arranged the references in alphabetical order and this step revealed further duplicates. This was because the grammar sometimes differed for similar titles or the publisher was sometimes cited as the author. Any duplicate entries were combined to create an A-Z list of all unique references.

In consultation with P4SP, we established a tagging system to categorise the resources effectively based on thematic and geographic attributes. We reviewed each reference in the bibliography and added relevant tags. Program categories are listed in [Table 3](#) while all cross-cutting issue categories are listed in [Table 4](#). A list of all geographic tags is included after the tables.

Applying tags

We used a systematic approach to apply tags to the resources in this bibliography where the thematic or geographic category featured substantially in the analysis. Brief mentions of a theme or location were not tagged. However, the tags do not represent the number of resources in the bibliography that are specifically about that subject. Instead, they indicate that the resource includes some analysis of that subject.

For example, if a resource broadly focuses on the Pacific region but includes case studies on Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu, the tags would include 'Pacific region', 'Fiji', 'Samoa' and 'Vanuatu'. This means users can quickly identify the relevant themes or geographic locations within the resources.

Applying hyperlinks

By applying the tags, the entries were categorised into the appropriate thematic and geographic lists in the bibliography. Including hyperlinks in the title of the references means users can link directly from the thematic and geographic lists to the original entries in the A–Z list. Hyperlinks are embedded within the tags so users can also navigate directly to specific thematic or geographic lists within the *Annotated Bibliography*, making the references more accessible and the system easier to use. Separate hyperlinks are included under each title that link directly to the online version of each publication.

Tagging system used in the *Annotated Bibliography*

Table 3 outlines the tagging system used for the bibliography. Note that the team devised the definitions in the table to maximise consistency in how we applied the tags so they are not necessarily fully correct or exhaustive. Variations in definitions and terminology are discussed further in the *Evidence Review* report. Where available, we drew the definitions from socialprotection.org, including where it references external documents.

Program category tags:

Table 3: Summary of program category tags used as part of the tagging system

Category tag	Sub-category tags (only applied where relevant)	Definitions	For reference (not tags) this category includes
Social protection (overview)		Social protection: ‘programs that address risk, vulnerability, inequality and poverty through a system of transfers to people in cash or in-kind. It has three core functions: 1) protection of the poor from the worst impacts of poverty, 2) prevention against income shocks and drops in well-being, 3) promotion of opportunities and livelihoods’ (DFAT, 2015: 2). ⁴	This tag is applied to sources that provide an ‘overview’ of social protection. We assume that some users may be seeking documents that give a high-level overview of social protection, rather than documents that focus on particular types or elements of social protection.
Social assistance	Cash transfers In-kind transfers Subsidies	Social assistance: ‘The provision of social security benefits financed from the general revenue of the government rather than by individual contributions, with benefits adjusted to the person’s needs. Many social assistance programmes are targeted at those individuals and households living under a defined threshold of income or assets. Social assistance	<u>All non-contributory social protection</u> Cash transfers: All non-contributory pensions, benefits or allowances (e.g. disability, veteran, old age, parental, unemployment benefits)

⁴ Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) (2015). *Strategy for Australia’s aid investments in social protection*. Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. <https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/strategy-for-australias-aid-investments-in-social-protection>

Category tag	Sub-category tags (only applied where relevant)	Definitions	For reference (not tags) this category includes
		<p>programmes can focus on a specific risk (for example, social assistance benefits for families with children), or on particularly vulnerable groups (for example, poor elderly people)' (ILO, 2016:238).⁵</p> <p>Cash transfers: 'Money distributed to individuals and households' (socialprotection.org, n.d).⁶</p> <p>In-kind transfers: 'Non-cash transfers, e.g. wheat, flour, food' (socialprotection.org, n.d).⁷</p> <p>Subsidies: 'Government or private sector subsidies are sometimes classified as social protection if they enhance access for the poor or act as safety nets. Subsidies can keep prices low for basic goods and services consumed by the poor' (socialprotection.org, n.d).⁸</p>	<p>Both conditional and unconditional transfers</p> <p>Family/child/housing/utility grants and allowances</p> <p>Scholarships</p> <p>In-kind transfers</p> <p>School feeding programs</p> <p>Subsidies</p> <p>Food, fuel, housing etc. subsidies</p>
Social insurance	Contributory pensions	<p>Social insurance: 'Social insurance schemes are contributory programmes in which beneficiaries make regular financial contributions in order to join a scheme that will reduce risk in the event of a shock' (Browne, n.d.).⁹</p>	<p><u>All contributory social protection</u></p> <p>Sickness/injury leave</p> <p>Maternity/paternity leave</p> <p>Health insurance</p>

5 International Labour Organization (2016). *Social protection assessment-based national dialogue: A global guide*. International Labour Organisation. https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---integration/documents/publication/wcms_568693.pdf. Note that this is the only listed definition for social assistance in the socialprotection.org glossary.

6 Socialprotection.org (n.d). *Theoretical content classification guidelines*. Socialprotection.org. https://socialprotection.org/sites/default/files/Theoretical%20Content%20Classification%20Guidelines_0.pdf

7 Socialprotection.org (n.d). *Theoretical content classification guidelines*. Socialprotection.org. https://socialprotection.org/sites/default/files/Theoretical%20Content%20Classification%20Guidelines_0.pdf

8 Socialprotection.org (n.d). *Theoretical content classification guidelines*. Socialprotection.org. https://socialprotection.org/sites/default/files/Theoretical%20Content%20Classification%20Guidelines_0.pdf

9 Browne (n.d) cited in socialprotection.org. (n.d). *Theoretical content classification guidelines*. https://socialprotection.org/sites/default/files/Theoretical%20Content%20Classification%20Guidelines_0.pdf

Category tag	Sub-category tags (only applied where relevant)	Definitions	For reference (not tags) this category includes
		Contributory pensions: Pension schemes where both the individual to receive benefits and another party (usually an employer or the government) contribute money (socialprotection.org, n.d). ¹⁰	Contributory funeral grants/insurance Unemployment/injury/disability insurance (contributory) Contributory pensions Old age, survivors, disability pensions
Labour market programs	Wage subsidies Employment incentives Cash/food-for-work	Labour market programs: 'provide protection for poor people who are able to work. Interventions can be both active and passive: active programmes include training and skills development and employment counselling, while passive interventions include unemployment insurance, income support and changes to labour legislation, for example in establishing a minimum wage or safe working conditions. Labour market interventions can run alongside various social assistance and cash transfer programmes and can be integrated into longer-term development strategies' (socialprotection.org, n.d.). ¹¹ Wage subsidies: 'payment to worker or firm based on wages earned or paid; in developing countries they are mostly addressed to workers and introduced in response to an economic crisis or spike in unemployment' (socialprotection.org, n.d). ¹²	

¹⁰ Socialprotection.org (n.d). *Theoretical content classification guidelines*. Socialprotection.org. https://socialprotection.org/sites/default/files/Theoretical%20Content%20Classification%20Guidelines_0.pdf

¹¹ Socialprotection.org (n.d). *Theoretical content classification guidelines*. Socialprotection.org. https://socialprotection.org/sites/default/files/Theoretical%20Content%20Classification%20Guidelines_0.pdf

¹² Socialprotection.org. (n.d). *Theoretical content classification guidelines*. Socialprotection.org. https://socialprotection.org/sites/default/files/Theoretical%20Content%20Classification%20Guidelines_0.pdf

Category tag	Sub-category tags (only applied where relevant)	Definitions	For reference (not tags) this category includes
		<p>Employment incentives: Employment incentives refer to the various measures and policies put in place by governments or organisations to encourage individuals to participate in the work force and maintain employment. These incentives are distinct from employee incentives which typically focus on benefits and perks provided to individuals already employed.</p> <p>Cash or food-for-work: 'Cash or food transfers distributed to vulnerable individuals or households in exchange for labour' (socialprotection.org, n.d).¹³</p>	
Informal social protection	<p>Church networks</p> <p>Kinship</p> <p>Remittances</p>	<p>Informal social protection: 'Informal social protection encompasses those arrangements and actions taken by an individual or groups of individuals that are not guided by formal legal regulations but are not necessarily contravening these laws and regulations' (socialprotection.org, n.d).¹⁴</p> <p>Church networks: Refers to informal support systems within religious groups where members offer assistance to each other during challenging times.</p> <p>Kinship: 'A term that describes the structured societal system which prescribes responsibility that First Nations people position themselves within, which establishes</p>	

¹³ Socialprotection.org. (n.d). *Theoretical content classification guidelines*. Socialprotection.org. https://socialprotection.org/sites/default/files/Theoretical%20Content%20Classification%20Guidelines_0.pdf

¹⁴ Socialprotection.org. (n.d). *Theoretical content classification guidelines*. Socialprotection.org. https://socialprotection.org/sites/default/files/Theoretical%20Content%20Classification%20Guidelines_0.pdf

Category tag	Sub-category tags (only applied where relevant)	Definitions	For reference (not tags) this category includes
		<p>their relationship to others and to the universe' (AIHW, 2023).¹⁵</p> <p>Remittances: 'When migrants send home part of their earnings in the form of either cash or goods to support their families, these transfers are known as workers or migrants' remittances. They have been growing rapidly in the past few years and now represent the largest source of foreign income for many developing countries' (Ratha, 2020).¹⁶</p>	

¹⁵ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) (2023). *Glossary*. Australian Government. <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports-data/australias-welfare/summaries/glossary>

¹⁶ Ratha, D. (2020). *Remittances: Funds for the folks back home*. International Monetary Fund. <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/basics/remitt.htm>

Cross-cutting themes tags:

Table 4: Summary of cross-cutting theme tags used in the tagging system

Cross-cutting theme tag	Application
Gender	This tag is applied to any documents that include discussion of gender in the context of social protection. This includes discussion of gender-based violence, gender dynamics in the household and gender-responsive social protection.
Disability	This tag is applied to any documents that include discussion of disability in the context of social protection. This includes discussion about how people with disabilities are included or excluded from social protection programs and systems.
Other social inclusion	This tag is applied to any documents that include discussion of social inclusion in the context of social protection, other than social inclusion as it relates to gender and disability. This commonly covers social inclusion (or exclusion) of: people with diverse ethnicities; people who are lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender, queer, intersex and others (LGBTQIA+); or older people.
Climate-resilient social protection	This tag is applied broadly to discussion of how social protection can operate/has operated in relation to climate change. This includes discussion of how social protection needs are changing due to climate change and how social protection may be involved in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction efforts. For the sake of simplicity in tagging, this includes adaptive social protection.
Shock-responsive social protection	This tag is applied to discussion of social protection in responding to shocks, including climate-related shocks, natural disasters, economic shocks and other shocks, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.
Humanitarian assistance	This tag is applied to documents that include discussion of humanitarian action in relation to social protection. This includes, for example, cash and in-kind transfers from non-state actors implemented in response to natural disasters.

Country tags:

- American Samoa
- Cook Islands
- Federated States of Micronesia
- Fiji
- French Polynesia
- Guam
- Kiribati
- Nauru
- New Caledonia
- Niue
- Northern Mariana Islands
- Palau
- Papua New Guinea
- Republic of Marshall Islands
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands
- Timor-Leste
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu
- Wallis and Futuna

Regional tags:

- Pacific region
- Asia-Pacific region



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